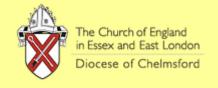
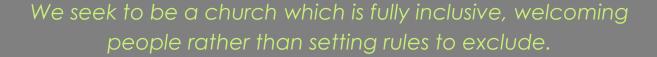
Holy Trinity Southchurch Parish Profile







www.holytrinitysouthchurch.org





Summary

Holy Trinity is a community whose main focus is the Eucharist; who value the Prayer book but draw our main Sunday liturgy from Common Worship; we seek to blend the finest traditional worship with the very best of the new. We value dignity in worship and the use of vestments, organ, choir and musical settings in the liturgy. We respect the liturgy, even in freer services like the All-Together Service. We seek to be an open church welcoming people from other denominations and differing traditions. We aim to be a church which is fully inclusive, welcoming people rather than setting rules to exclude.

Holy Trinity is an historical gem and speaks of the way people have been worshipping God here for countless generations. Today we are a friendly, welcoming community of all ages that seeks to make the love of God known to all Southchurch and beyond. We have a traditional form of worship, offering Common Worship and Book of Common Prayer services and a strong choral tradition with a robed choir.

Southchurch is a mixed parish of approximately 13,000 souls within the borough of Southend-on-Sea. We have five schools within the parish and excellent train connections to London. Our previous priest has left us after just under three years to take up a post as a school chaplain. We wish to build on the various initiatives started under his ministry, for instance the youth group and various bible courses.





Who we're looking for

We are looking for someone who is able to engage with our church and the wider community. He or she will value our various styles of worship, support our musical traditions and offer new ideas with sensitivity.

We believe it would be helpful if you were:

- an inspirational preacher and leader offering strong spiritual and pastoral guidance;
- able to communicate effectively with all ages;
- willing to listen and be sensitive to the beliefs and values of the congregation;
- a good administrator and organiser;
- a 'people person' with a good sense of humour;
- keen to take God's work out into the community.

Might this be you?





Challenges for the Parish

We recognize that there are various challenges facing our parish. Under the ministry of our last priest, a number of initiatives were started and it is our wish as a parish, to build on these.

We would wish to:

- encourage more people to worship with us;
- grow our contribution to the community;
- become more visible;
- improve our pastoral outreach;
- further our engagement with the younger generation;
- continue to modernise sensitively;
- maintain and grow the empowerment the PCC;
- grow our Sunday Club and youth group;
- create stronger ties with the uniformed groups;
- help shape the future of the Mission and Ministry Unit in the east of Southend.

We aim to be more representative of our community.





Our recent survey of the congregation has enabled us to be reflective and thoughtful about the future. A sample of the range of diverse opinions is shared below.

OUR STRENGTHS...

- Traditional form of service
- The choir and musical traditions
- Friendship
- Warm welcome and friendly congregation
- An atmosphere that reflects the continual worship for over a thousand years
- An historic and beautiful church
- The use of both BCP and Common Worship
- Bible study groups give an opportunity to discuss our faith in more detail

AND OUR WEAKNESSES

- An ageing congregation
- Not enough young people and families
- Lack of presence in the local community
- People slow to volunteer, but are willing when asked
- Lack of mixing between the congregations of the 8:00 and 9:30 services
- Not enough social events for everyone

Our worshipers particularly liked:

"The solemnity, spirituality and the music"

"Holiness and respect"

"The Sunday Eucharist is relaxed, yet dignified and reverent"

"A strong musical tradition"

"The warm and friendly congregation"

"Peace, stillness and holiness of HT Church"

"Tradition, but also occasionally something different"

"Evensong is delightful"



The Diocese: A message from Bishop Stephen

In the Chelmsford Diocese we believe that God is calling his church to be a transforming presence. Our vision is that the church - that is the people of God here in Essex and East London - should be a transforming presence in every one of our parishes.

These are our priorities –

- To inhabit the world distinctively
- To evangelise effectively
- To hold ourselves accountable to one another and to God for the stewardship of the gospel
- To re imagine the way we minister so that each ordained minister and each individual Christian discovers their part in God's ministry and so that each church flourishes.

To this end we are looking for priests who are excited by this vision of becoming a church which is itself transformed, and which is becoming a more visible and effective presence in the huge diversity of communities that make up this most exciting and energetic part of England. There are many challenges ahead of us.

- We are a diocese generously subsidised by the national church. We need to become financially self-sufficient.
- Leadership often seems distant. We are creating patterns of leadership that are closer to the
 parishes. And we are looking to develop missionary leadership at all levels of church life. Nearly
 half our clergy will retire in the next ten years. We need to find out how to minister with fewer
 stipendiary clergy and with a re-imagining of how stipendiary ministry works. We need to reorganise the way parishes relate to each other in what we are calling Mission and Ministry Units.
- Some of our congregations still think ministry is what Vicars do. We have a vision of ministry
 where the whole people of God are involved in the whole of God's ministry. We are also
 experimenting with new forms of authorised lay ministry.



- Church must be a safe place. All those in ministry will be expected to undergo training that will equip them to respond well in situations associated with safeguarding.
- Levels of church going are below the national average. We need to get evangelism on to the
 agenda and into the lifeblood of every church. We encourage and train churches to put on
 weekends of mission and outreach. One of our aspirations is that every benefice should have a
 trained lay evangelism enabler.
- We are developing missionary discipleship, so that every church in the diocese is a place where Christians are formed in order to be sent out in witness and service.

Despite planning for a future with fewer stipendiary clergy, we remain as committed as ever to the local church. And what is the local church, but that community of men and women gathered around Christ, and living and sharing the gospel in the networks and neighbourhoods of their lives? But we need priests to lead and to serve. We know we need to change. We can only be a transforming presence when we have allowed God to transform us. Therefore at the heart of all we do is a longing for intimacy with God and a renewed life of prayer. First and foremost a priest is a minister of the word and sacrament. All ministry flows from this. But a priest shares the ministry of the bishop, therefore presbyteral ministry will increasingly be a ministry of oversight, guiding, nurturing and directing the mission of God's church in the communities we serve.

It is an exciting time to be part of God's missionary movement for the world, and the Diocese of Chelmsford is an exciting place to serve. We have a clear vision and we are looking to appoint clergy who will share this with us. In every parish we long to see each person and each community grow in faithfulness and ministry so that together we may serve in the world and Christ may be made known.

+Stephen



Our People



Les churchwarden



Father Frank



Philip churchwarden



Paul treasurer



PCC Meeting

A view from the Area Dean

The deanery of Southend is a very varied one, not only in terms of the sort of area it covers but also in terms of church traditions. It is nonetheless true that there is a high level of mutual respect between the clergy and the parishes, and this is reflected in a preparedness to offer cover, to engage in chapter meetings, and to work collaboratively at a local level. The development of the ministry and mission units envisaged by 'Reimagining Ministry' is at an early stage in Southend, which will provide every opportunity to the new priest at Holy Trinity to shape the future of the provision of ministry. There is a ministers' fraternal meeting across the denominations in east Southend which is a source of encouragement and ecumenical friendship. Holy Trinity Southchurch, by virtue of its history, location, and traditions will play an important part in the way the Church of England serves the growing population and large number of educational institutions east of the town centre.

Jonathan Collis, Area Dean, Southend



Services

Holy Trinity has a regular pattern of services which seeks to blend the best of the old and the new. (A fuller breakdown of services can be found on our website).

The main weekly services are:

Sundays:

8:00am Holy Communion
 9:30am Family Eucharist
 6:30pm Evensong
 Book of Common Prayer
 Book of Common Prayer

Weekdays:

 10:00am Holy Communion (BCP) on Wednesdays and on Saints Days

In addition, there are seasonal services, such as:

- Weekly Compline in Advent
- Healing services
- Service of commemoration
- Taize
- Christingle
- Ash Wednesday
- Holy Week services





Activities and Events

Sunday Club:

We have a small group of young children, with numbers attending varying between a handful and a dozen. They have enjoyed their teaching during the Family Eucharist, but the Sunday Club is currently not meeting and is seeking a new leader.

Youth Group:

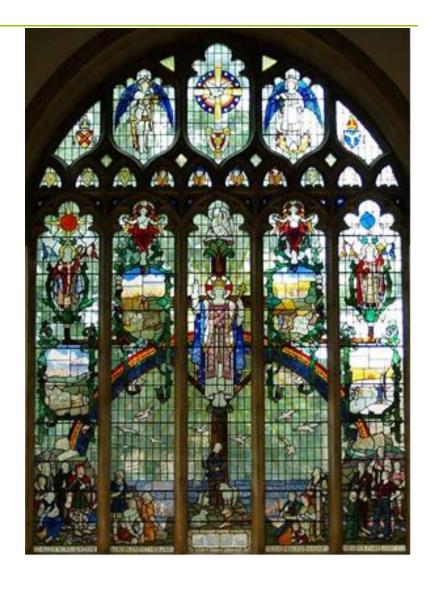
Our previous priest started a monthly youth group in the rectory. It would be wonderful if this small group could continue.

Links with Guiding and Scouting:

The Rainbows, Brownies, Beaver Scouts and Cubs are represented at our All-Together Service each half term. With some encouragement these groups could have greater participation.

Church Attendance:

In 2016 78 adults and 9 children attended church services on a normal Sunday. At the annual parish meeting in April 2016 there were 136 names on the Electoral Roll.





Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals: In the past year, there were 16 baptisms, 5 weddings, 1 service of prayer and dedication (after civil marriage) and 6 funerals in the church. The total number of funerals including those at the crematorium was 30. In the churchyard 5 cremated ashes were interred.

Coffee Mornings: held in church every Wednesday morning at

10:30am following the 10am Holy Communion. We have a growing mixture of visitors and regular members, some of whom stay on following the Holy Communion Service.

Curry Nights: a very popular fund raising event.

Fun Day: a community event for all ages with bouncy castle and barbeque for the whole parish not just the congregation.

The church organises a variety of social events throughout the year, including lunches, trips and a pancake party.

Concerts:

Holy Trinity church is a beautiful building with superb acoustics, which regularly hosts concerts, including recent concerts by a group of choral scholars from St Martin in the Fields, Hamburg Girls' Choir, Canterbury Cantata and Southend Boys' and Girls' Choirs.

Pastoral Care:

The church's pastoral care is being led during the interregnum by Fr Frank Smith, a self-supporting priest who has been ministering in the parish for the last nine years, together with a small team of Eucharistic lay ministers who visit people in need.

There is regular administration of communion to the sick and housebound.

Lent Group:

During Lent we hold a Lent bible study group. We have also had other courses and bible studies reflecting on Christian life and teaching for members new and old.

Community Projects:

A small working party was formed to consider how we can help the local community. So far, we have supported the nearby Children's Centre by painting a mural; a number of people have been trained to offer the Christians Against Poverty money management course, although we have had trouble reaching those who might benefit in the community.







These are ongoing projects. During the year, we regularly support other charities such as Embrace the Middle East, HARP (a local homeless charity), the women' refuge, Christian Aid and the Children's Society.

Church Magazine:

A group of volunteers produces and distributes the parish magazine 'Trinitas' and it is funded by advertising from local businesses.



Flower Arranging:

There is a group of volunteer flower arrangers of a high standard who prepare imaginative arrangements, in preparation for the following Sunday and any weddings that may take place during the weekend. The linen is regularly laundered and the church professionally cleaned.

Mothers Union:

There has been a branch of M.U. at Holy Trinity since 1911. We have a small but active branch. It has hosted many events including Deanery meetings and quiet mornings and has been involved in many social events at the church. The present group meets on the second Thursday of each month.



Music at Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity Church has had a strong choral tradition for many years. The robed choir has an adult membership of over 20 experienced musicians. The choir sings at the Family Eucharist and Evensong every week, as well as full choral evensongs on several occasions during the year. We have a very well attended traditional Nine Lessons and Carols service. The music at Holy Trinity Church, lead by the choir, is traditional in the Anglican nature, adding to the liturgy of the services. The choir leads the worship at Cathedrals across the UK every year, and recent visits have included Norwich, Canterbury and Lincoln Cathedrals.

The Church promotes and hosts many concerts during the year, both from within the area, London and overseas, and has one of the finest acoustics in the area. In recent years we have welcomed the choir of St Martin in the Field, visiting choirs from Europe, Canada and America, and a group formed of members of Canterbury Cathedral choir. The Church has hosted performances by Trinity Consort, an extended ensemble from Church members and further afield, and works have included Bach's B Minor Mass and The St John Passion.





The Director of Music, Roger Humphrey, is a leading figure in the musical life of the Borough, and director of the acclaimed Southend Boys' and Girls' Choirs.

The Church has the luxury of two organs, a traditional 2 manual tracker -action pipe organ and an electronic Makin organ, a piano and a keyboard, all of which are used within the Church services and by visiting musicians in concerts.



The Parish

The modern parish of Southchurch has long been part of the unitary authority of Southend-on-Sea. It broadly covers the area between central Southend to the west and Shoebury to the east and there are approximately 13,000 residents within its borders. The area is predominately residential, with owner occupation mainly in the south and east and a large amount of social housing to the north. More than half of households are white British families though retired people make up over a quarter of the population. The parish is in the bottom 10% for deprivation in the Diocese. More statistics can be found on the Diocese website.

Within the parish there are seven schools – two infant and two junior schools, a secondary comprehensive, secondary special school and a selective girls grammar school. We have good relationships with several schools – including taking assemblies, hosting visits from classes to the church and three hold their Christmas concerts at Holy Trinity.

Just outside its borders there are popular shopping areas, a retail park, leisure centre, farmland and Southchurch Hall, a medieval manor with which Holy Trinity once had strong links.





Southend-on-Sea

Southend is a lively, thriving town with many Victorian conservation areas, seven miles of seafront with a number of blue flag beaches, attractive Cliff gardens and the world's longest pleasure pier.

Southend has a busy shopping centre, a pedestrianised high street and a wide range of places to eat and drink. The town centre is also within easy reach of the seafront, its amusements and rollercoasters. It attracts large numbers of tourists during the summer months.



The town benefits from good transport links by road, rail and air. There are two rail lines to London, which is less than an hour away, with the nearest station being Southend East on the C2C line to London Fenchurch Street (a 10 min walk from the Rectory). London Southend Airport is rapidly expanding and offers flights to destinations throughout Europe.

There is a flourishing cultural scene with art galleries, two theatres, museums, a cinema and several performance venues. There are various annual music events held in our local parks and the parks themselves are very popular and well maintained.

Popular watersports include windsurfing, kayaking, kitesurfing and sailing. There are a wide range of other leisure activities available for both residents and visitors, including football, rugby, golf, cycling and running clubs. The leisure centre at Garon Park was used as a training pool for the 2012 Olympic games and holds national diving events, whilst the park at Hadleigh hosted the Olympic mountain bike events.



The Church

The building is a Grade II* listed building, dedicated to the Holy Trinity. The dedication reflects that of the cathedral priory of the Holy Trinity at Canterbury.

Recent developments

The church underwent a major renovation in 2006, including the installation of new lighting and a sound system. The rear of the New Church was re-ordered to create an open area and a servery, which is used for coffee after services, Wednesday coffee mornings etc.

In 2015 urgent repairs to the 15th century spire, which had suffered from woodpecker attack, and then squirrel attack, were carried out with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Repairs to a valley gutter and improvements to the ferramenta on the windows on the 'Old Church' were also carried out. A new central heating boiler was installed in 2013.

This has left the church in good repair. The 2017 quinquennial inspection has identified very little



urgent work and the first item on the summary states 'The church is in a good state of repair, fully wind and weathertight.'

The church is open for visits three days a week.

Early history and links to Canterbury

Holy Trinity is the oldest surviving building in the community, and is the 'south church' in the name of the local area. There has probably been a church on the site, as a dependency of the Minster at Wakering, since the 7th century.







Holy Trinity's links to Canterbury almost certainly go back to the Anglo-Saxon period, when a Saxon thegn named Leofstan presented the manor and church of Southchurch to the monks at Canterbury. Holy Trinity was for many years a 'Canterbury particular', and the Archbishop of Canterbury remains our patron.

Later history

The nave of the Old Church is circa mid-twelfth century, and the chancel was added in the mid-thirteenth century. The Victorians 'restored' the Old Church in 1857- it is difficult to say whether this improved the church as we do not know how it looked before the restoration, but it did provide a fine set of Victorian stained glass windows.

In the 20th century a major extension took place in 1906 by Sir Ninian Comper, reducing the Old Church to an aisle. The New Church chancel was added in 1931-2 by F C Eden. The stained glass in the New Church

includes a memorial window by Comper and a beautiful East Window representing the Benedicite.

A full history of the church and a tour guide are on our website

The Churchyard

The large churchyard is closed for burial, and maintained by the Local Authority. There is an area at the bottom of the churchyard for the interment of ashes.





The Church Hall



The church hall provides ancillary accommodation to the Church for church and community related activities. It comprises the main hall (with stage), toilets, kitchen, a smaller room at the rear, and storage. It was redecorated by volunteers from the parish in 2013. The hall is currently used by uniformed organisations, a 'keep fit' class and a private tuition organisation. The PCC are hoping to carry our minor alterations to the kitchen area to create an office and additional lettable space.





The School House

The School House is a 19th century residential property of two bedrooms owned by the PCC (the former verger's house). The property is let and the rents received are used for church funds. Between the School House and the Church Hall is a garden which is used for church events including social events and children's activities.



Church Finance

Following a period of several years where we had been unable to pay our parish share in full, we paid in full in 2016, and are on course to pay in full in 2017. We have achieved this by improved budgeting, keeping expenditure under better control and increasing income.

We joined the <u>Parish Giving Scheme</u> in 2016 and this has helped increase giving and improved cashflow. The parish is financially stable but we are not building up any reserve to cope with unforeseen expenditure.

Key highlights of Parish finances include total income of £90,000 (of which £1,000 was restricted) in 2016. The expenditure total in this period was £92,000 (of which £4,000 was restricted). Parish Share was £56,745 in 2016 (£57,553 in 2017). At the end of 2016 cash funds totalled £21,000 (of which £2,000 was restricted).

THE PARISH CHURCH OF HOLY TRINITY, SOUTHCHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Year to 31 December 2016

	General Fund	Restricted Funds	Total 2016
	Ł	£	£
Incoming resources			
Voluntary income from parishioners	66,444		66,444
Other voluntary incoming resources	6,700	1,205	7,905
Incoming resources from operating activities to further			
the Council's objectives	9,312	-	9,312
Income from investment	5,931	- 1	5,931
Total incoming resources	88,387	1,205	89,592
Kesources expended			. -
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	84,658	2,513	87,171
Grants and donations	1,461	1,405	2,866
Costs of generating funds	44	- [44
Church administration	2,296	-	2,296
Total resources expended	88,459	3,918	92,377
Net (outgoing) / incoming resources	(72)	(2,713)	(2,785)
Gains / (losses) on investment assets on revaluation	6,390	-	6,390
Net movements in funds	6,318	(2,713)	3,605
Balances brought forward At 1 January 2016	222,302	15,863	238,165
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2016	228,620	13,150	241,770



The Rectory

The spacious 1980s purpose built centrally-heated Rectory, refurbished in 2014, is in a quiet cul-de-sac in a central location adjacent to church land. From the entrance lobby there is a Study/Office and a lavatory. A further door leads into the private house, which has a large reception room, dining room and large kitchen. Upstairs there are four good sized bedrooms, a bathroom and shower room. There is also an integral garage and an off-road parking space. The Rectory has a medium sized garden at the rear laid to lawn with herbaceous borders. There is a back gate which leads directly into the churchyard.







