

Holy Trinity Southchurch Parish Profile

HOLY TRINITY
SOUTHCHURCH



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford



Holy Trinity, Southchurch Boulevard, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 4XA

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Welcome

Thank you for taking time to read this, the profile of our historic church which will celebrate its 1200th anniversary in 2024. Is the Lord is calling you to be our spiritual guide and minister?

With much reflection we have sought to produce a document appealing to the right person for this post in which we have been honest in indicating our needs rather than our wants.

We are praying for every potential applicant that you will be guided and called in accordance with God's will. Are you the priest to lead us into our 1200th year?

A brief background

Our previous Priest in Charge left us in August 2022 when he felt called to chaplaincy work. Over the time he was with us he worked hard to keep the congregation together during the covid lockdowns including providing services online.



The place and geography

Southend is a lively, thriving city 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 city 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 (voted Best London Airport 2013 – 2017 by Which) still offers flights to destinations in 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 green flag parks themselves are very popular and well maintained.

Popular watersports include windsurfing, kayaking, kitesurfing and sailing. There is a wide range of other leisure activities available for both residents and visitors, including football, rugby, golf, cycling and running clubs.

The city also has four outstanding state grammar school.

The Parish

The modern parish of Southchurch, which is slightly to the east of the city centre 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. The parish is in the bottom 10% for deprivation in the Diocese. More statistics can be found on the [Diocese website](#) and the [Church Urban Fund](#).

Within the parish there are 9 schools – two infant and two junior schools, a secondary comprehensive, secondary special school and a selective girls grammar school as well as a private junior and a private secondary 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.

What role and person are we looking for

We are a middle of the road church. We are looking for someone who is able to engage with our church and the wider community, and is looking for a challenge. They will be sympathetic to our traditions and offer new ideas with sensitivity, and must be adaptable in new circumstances in running two churches.



We hope you will be :

a good communicator, recognise our spirituality and tradition and encourage our outreach;

an inspirational preacher and leader offering strong spiritual and pastoral guidance;

able to communicate effectively with all ages, and build on our existing initiatives with young people;

warm, friendly and approachable, keen to take God's work out into the community and continue to develop links with uniformed organisations and local schools;

full of enthusiasm and ability to help us as a parish to develop new ideas.

Might this be you?

Challenges for the Parish

We recognise that there are some significant challenges facing our parish. During the pandemic our congregation numbers have dropped and although they are slowly returning there is an opportunity to rebuild our community of worshippers, including reaching out to families and young people in particular.

We recognise we need to work together more effectively to enable us to grow and flourish as a church.



Current 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 | Book of Common Prayer |
| • 10:00am Family Eucharist
(9:30am from Easter 2023) | Common Worship (sung) |
| • 6:30pm Evensong | Book of Common Prayer |

Weekdays:

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

In addition, before covid, we had seasonal services, such as:

- Weekly Compline in Advent
- Healing services
- Service of commemoration
- Taize
- Christingle
- Ash Wednesday
- Holy Week services
- Choral Evensong on major festivals



Activities and events

Church Attendance

In 2022 43 adults and 3 children attended church services on a normal Sunday. At the annual parish meeting in April 2022 there were 133 names on the Electoral Roll.



Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

In the past year, there were 4 baptisms, 1 wedding and 3 funerals in the church. In the churchyard there were 8 cremated ashes interred.

Links with Guiding and Scouting

The Rainbows, Brownies, Beaver Scouts and Cubs are all affiliated to our church and some meet in our hall. Our relationship with these groups is not as strong as it should be and needs to be developed. We feel sure that with a little effort the links with these young people can be greatly improved and strengthened.

Links with local schools

We have good relations with several schools in the parish which in the past has included taking assemblies. We regularly host visits from classes from one school to the church and three schools held their Christmas concerts at Holy Trinity this year. We are trying to maintain this relationship during the interregnum.

Coffee Mornings

Led by members of the congregation are 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.

Open Church

A recent initiative by the church wardens is a monthly open church on a Saturday morning, offering refreshment, tours of the church and a friendly welcome.

Music

Holy Trinity Church has had a strong choral tradition for many years, with a robed choir of adult musicians. The services are usually accompanied by our experienced organist and director of music. However there is scope for development of new styles of music and worship to attract a more diverse congregation.

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, led by the choir, is traditional in the Anglican nature, adding to the liturgy of the services. The choir also leads the worship at Cathedrals



across the UK every year, and recent visits have included Norwich, Canterbury and Winchester Cathedrals. In 2023 the choir is returning to Bury St Edmonds.

Concerts

Trinity Consort, an ensemble comprising Church members and others from elsewhere unconnected with us, occasionally perform in concerts held in church to raise funds for the benefit of the church. 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

There is regular administration of communion to those unable to attend church.

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. We also hold Lent Lunches with any profit going to Christian Aid.

Southend Food Bank

We have a monthly collection of food which we deliver to the Southend Food Bank

Other Activities

In addition members of the congregation also act as stewards; lead intercessions; read lessons; arrange flowers and generally assist in the worship of the parish.

Southend Deanery

Southend Deanery sits entirely within the Borough of Southend which is a Unitary Authority. Rochford lies to the north and Leigh-on-Sea to the West.

Our city has much to offer: miles of beaches, the longest pleasure pier in the world, fast and frequent trains to London, a small, award-winning airport and a range of excellent schools. In Central Southend we have South Essex College and an Essex University campus. Our local football team, Southend United, has a loyal, not to say dogged following in the city. There are numerous sports and leisure facilities and the local mudflats are a haven for thousands of migratory birds. This is a good place to live and work.

The current population is around 180,000 with new housing being built across the Borough. There is a real mix of housing with areas of profound deprivation occurring alongside places of real affluence. The High Street has experienced a long period of economic decline but other shopping areas such as Leigh on Sea, Southchurch Road and Hamlet Court Road are showing greater resilience.

The Deanery Chapter meets monthly for lunch and conversation. We aim for it to be a place of encouragement and growing friendship. Deanery Synod has recently changed its practice of having visiting speakers at every meeting: we regularly take time to listen to each other's experiences of mission and ministry and to share good practice. A Quiet Morning for Lay Ministers and an awayday for the Synod are planned for the coming year.

We believe you will find Chapter to be positive, friendly and supportive and we pray that whoever is called to the Deanery will be both greatly blessed and a great blessing.

The Finances

The covid pandemic has had a major impact on our finances. With the church and the church hall closed for many months, our income has been severely reduced. However, with the resumption of public worship, and the hall re-opening things are beginning to improve.

We unfortunately had to reduce the amount we paid to the parish share in 2020, but still paid 86%. In 2021 we paid the parish share in full (£63,097), and again in 2022 (£63,223).

BALANCE SHEET

Year to 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	4	299,772	232,160
Other equipment	5	-	-
Investment assets	6	109,100	94,307
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		408,872	326,467
Current assets			
Tax recoverable	7	345	1,182
Debtors and prepayments	8	3,401	2,620
Cash at bank and in hand	9	33,416	53,367
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		37,162	57,169
Creditors: - amounts falling due within one year	10	39	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		(39)	-
Net current assets		<hr/>	<hr/>
		37,123	57,169
Total assets less current liabilities	11	<hr/>	<hr/>
		445,995	383,636
Represented by:			
General Fund		431,254	366,399
Restricted Funds	12	14,741	17,237
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		445,995	383,636

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Year to 31 December 2021

	Note	General Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Incoming resources					
Voluntary income from parishioners	1(a)	41,377	120	41,497	53,872
Other voluntary incoming resources	1(b)	10,868	1,845	12,713	9,151
Incoming resources from operating activities to further the Council's objectives	1(c)	13,086	-	13,086	9,475
Income from investment	1(d)	9,871	-	9,871	9,483
Total incoming resources		75,202	1,965	77,167	81,981
Resources expended					
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	2(a)	89,265	3,867	93,132	77,653
Grants and donations	2(b)	1,450	594	2,044	1,939
Costs of generating funds	2(c)	-	-	-	-
Church administration	2(d)	1,036	-	1,036	2,195
Total resources expended		91,751	4,461	96,212	81,787
Net incoming / (outgoing)		(16,549)	(2,496)	(19,045)	194
Gains on investment assets on revaluation		81,404	-	81,404	7,740
Net movements in funds		64,855	(2,496)	62,359	7,934
Balances brought forward At 1 January 2021		366,399	17,237	383,636	375,702
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2021		431,254	14,741	445,995	383,636

Fortunately, we joined the [Parish Giving Scheme](#) in 2016 and this has helped increase giving and improved cashflow, particularly during the pandemic.

Currently our expenses are higher than our income. However we are fortunate that we received a large legacy three years ago, which we have invested. Currently we have a total of £20K in our current and deposit accounts and £98K in our investment account. As attendance continues to improve, we hope to return to a stable position within the next year or two. Above are the Balance Sheet and Statement of Financial Activity from the 2021 accounts.

The Church and buildings

The Church

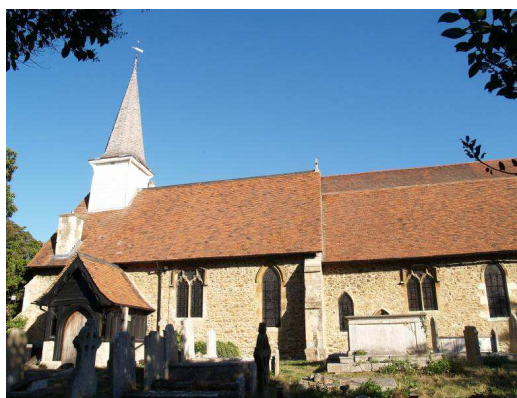
The building is a Grade II* listed building, dedicated to the Holy Trinity. The dedication reflects that of the cathedral priory of the Holy Trinity at Canterbury.

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 2022 quinquennial inspection has identified very little urgent work and the summary states 'The PCC is to be congratulated on keeping the church in good order despite lockdown etc.'

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.

Holy Trinity's links to Canterbury almost certainly go back to 823, when a Saxon thegn named Leofstan presented the manor and church of Southchurch to the monks at Canterbury. The church was probably consecrated in 824. Holy Trinity was for many years a 'Canterbury peculiar', 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. The hall is currently used by uniformed organisations, a 'keep fit' class

and a private tuition organisation. Administration, bookings and maintenance are managed by church volunteers, and in recent times the hall has been turned from a drain on church funds into a major contributor.



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.

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. There is a back gate which leads directly into the churchyard.



The Diocese: A message from Bishop GULI



Covering Essex and East London, Chelmsford is one of the largest, most diverse and exciting dioceses in the Church of England. We are home to more than 3 million people representing almost all socio-economic, ethnic and faith groups and a fantastic variety of cultures and traditions.

Our mission is to be a transforming presence in every community, open and welcoming to everyone and living out God's love for all people.

In the short time since I have been Diocesan Bishop, from March 2021, I have witnessed people's great warmth and heard stories about the wonderful things going on in our parishes.

We are looking for priests who are excited about our mission and excited about leading church communities; communities that are demonstrating the love of Christ in word and action, looking outwards to the needs of the world and sharing the good news of the gospel.

Of course, like many dioceses in the Church of England we face significant challenges. The decrease in national subsidy that helps us to pay clergy stipends has left us with a significant annual deficit that we must deal with. At the same time, we have a large number of vacant clergy posts that we have struggled to fill. Across the Church of England, church attendance has been in decline as has financial giving. In Essex and East London we also have some of the largest areas of population growth in the country where our challenge is to establish new and vibrant Christian communities. And of course, we do not yet fully understand the long-term impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

For these reasons and others, I sense the whole Church of God is at this current time in a liminal season when we cannot clearly see the future and we don't quite know what it will look like. It is in this context that I am starting my ministry as Bishop of Chelmsford. My plan is to listen, learn and discern with others what the best way forward is for our Church. To ensure that we build on the great work that is taking place in many of our churches and worshipping communities

and to enable us to change and adapt where we need to. I do so in the knowledge that the Church has faced profound challenges in the past and I do so with faith that when we open ourselves up to being changed and transformed, we are best placed to serve God and God's people.

Any new priest joining us in the Diocese of Chelmsford does so at a time of challenge, a time of change and most significantly a time of hope for our Church in this most diverse and exciting of dioceses.

+Guli

Conclusion

Thank you again for reading this profile and, if you are interested, we look forward to meeting with you to develop this appointment further in leading our church forward as we embark upon our 1200th anniversary.

Whatever your decision, we ask for God's blessing on you and for the Holy Spirit to guide you to a fruitful ministry.