

The Benefice of St Mary de Haura, New Shoreham
and the Church of the Good Shepherd,
Shoreham Beach

THE PARISH PROFILE 2024





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I. Foreword by The Rt Revd William Hazlewood, The Bishop of Lewes

Sussex Calling?

Thank you for seeking to discern God's will in exploring the beautiful coastal Benefice of New Shoreham and Shoreham Beach. We are sorry that Andrew's fruitful ministry in the diocese was so short, but we would not want anyone to think that the short tenure of his incumbency was indicative of anything calamitous or scandalous.

As you will read in this profile, the church communities in Shoreham play a central role in this vibrant, diverse, creative, and community-minded town. We seek a confident, pastorally hearted, visionary priest to lead the ordained and lay team in the call of the diocese to nurture, encourage and grow the communities of faith in Sussex which we have the privilege to serve.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with myself or Archdeacon Martin if a conversation would aid further discernment of God's will.

+William Lewes
9th April 2024



II. The Person we are looking for

1. St Mary's has immense potential as a prominent town centre church to become a focal point for the life of Shoreham, both to reach out into the community with the Christian message of the God of freedom, and also to welcome in those of all faiths and none to use our facilities. Some of this potential has been realised, and the church is well used outside times of formal worship for private prayer, quiet thought and contemplation, and organised events for townspeople. We see our mission as being a place where people of all ages can come and feel fully accepted. An openness to the world outside our west door is at the heart of our thinking, both now and for the future. We aspire to reflect Christ's message of love and hope in our plans for church reordering, our attempts to make worship accessible, the development of work with young people and families, and in our approach in pastoral care, preaching, and community involvement. Such work is never completed, but we believe the journey has begun towards an inclusive community of faith which breaks down the barriers to the communication of the Gospel to those with whom we share our town of Shoreham-by-Sea.

2. The Church of the Good Shepherd seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh in ways that speak meaningfully into our contemporary context. We aspire to be an inclusive church, rooted in our local community, where all people can belong and find fellowship. We rejoice in the blessings of our unique shoreline location and seek to cherish the earth. There is an informal, creative, and joyful spirit in the church and a genuine warmth of welcome. We seek to offer diversity in our worship, recognising the different spiritual needs of people. Our Eucharistic worship can be lively and playful during the monthly all age, and there are also services of quiet for contemplation and healing. We try to put our faith into action by engagement with a range of mission partners, alongside charitable giving. We long to build a better world for all and see God's kingdom come on earth.

3. We seek someone who is confident of the calling which has drawn them to apply to be our vicar; and who has the capacity and the capability to lead us and to learn with us as together we consolidate the benefice's strengths and meet the challenges we face. We believe that the person we seek will:

- Be an exceptional team leader and team player so they will work very well with the Associate Vicar at the Church of the Good Shepherd with the Lay Readers, with the group of retired clergy, with the volunteers who support the work of both parishes, and with our partners in the local community.



- Be committed to sustaining and growing our broad Catholic liturgical tradition and able to engage through their ministry with different congregations, the entire church membership and the varied communities within the benefice.
 - Be particularly committed and interested in promoting the development of young people in their Christian faith and their engagement in the life of the church, so as to help them to sustain their faith and make the transition from young childhood through teenage to adulthood.
 - Have experience in work and life which will enable them to face the challenges and take the opportunities we face outside. This will be particularly important in providing confident leadership in taking forward plans for both the redevelopment of the New Road/East Street property and the installation of toilet facilities in the church.
 - Nurture the strengthening relationships we have with the primary schools by, for example, helping to bridge the gap between school and church for those families who are not drawn to the church at present.
 - Encourage more younger families with parents in their 20s and 30s to engage with the church by nurturing that social support among the full membership a social support that helps underpin and sustain their faith.
 - Be mission-minded with a vision of renewal and outreach.
 - Have the gift to connect providing spiritual guidance and pastoral care.
 - Be able to establish a high and respected profile in the community by forming a range of strong links with those organisations which complement our endeavours as a church.
 - Bring to bear a perspective on contemporary ethical issues from a well-informed Christian viewpoint.
 - Encourage the lay members of the church who do not hold office so as to embolden their vocation, enrich their contributions and provide continuity and succession in the lay leadership of church activities.
 - Be able to play their part with the PCC and office holders and others in ensuring that both building projects are well managed, particularly by recognising the need to look for and accept help in these demanding but exciting challenges.
 - As the chair of various church bodies, bring to bear a wisdom and administrative competence to steer the business they are required to conduct with clarity and by judicious and supportive delegation engaging the talents of all those who support their objectives and activities.
4. Finally, at this time of change, we believe that for our new incumbent as well as ourselves, being attentive to the work of discernment will be very important.

III. The Benefice

5. The benefice was established in 2015 and comprises St Mary de Haura, New Shoreham, and the Church of the Good Shepherd, Shoreham Beach. Both parishes are part of Shoreham-by-Sea which also comprises the parishes of Old Shoreham and Kingston Buci. About 6,500 inhabitants live in the parish of St Mary de Haura and about 5,120¹ in the parish of the Church of the Good Shepherd. The Diocese of Chichester has confirmed that no 'parish reorganisation' is planned or contemplated.

6. The incumbent of the benefice is responsible for both parishes and provides the strategic leadership for the benefice as a whole. About 90 per cent of the incumbent's time is devoted to the parish of St Mary de Haura, and 10 per cent to the parish of the Church of the Good Shepherd, where a part-time Associate Vicar is based. A lay reader and retired clergy provide strength in breadth and depth to the ministries of both parishes.



The beautiful footbridge linking both parts of the benefice

7. St Mary's and the Church of the Good Shepherd work well together by respecting their separate and distinctive histories, identities and the communities they each serve. This profile has been developed by both parishes together. It is presented to those applying to be our new incumbent on the assumption, and with the wish and belief, that the mutually respectful and cooperative relationship which exists between the two continues to provide a sure footing upon which the insightful leadership and teamworking of the new vicar can be confidently based.

¹ <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/resources-publications-and-data#na>

IV. Shoreham-by-Sea

8. Shoreham is a thriving town situated in the middle of a ribbon of coastal urban development between Brighton and Worthing. With a population of 23,676² it has a good train service to London, Gatwick and the rest of the rail network, and good road connections too, such that many live here and commute from it. It is a town whose population is planned to grow substantially which the construction of several residential units alongside the river Adur will facilitate. The town has many local non-retail businesses employing local people, a lively day-time economy and has two state-funded secondary schools and three primary schools including a St Nicolas and St Mary's Church of England Primary School, which is now an Academy in the recently established Bishop Otter Academy Trust³. The town's amenities include a large recreational park, sports clubs, the Ropetackle arts centre, a range of smaller shops, cafes and restaurants. There are regular farmers' and artisan markets. A library and civic centre host various social activities.



Pedestrian precinct in the centre of town

9. The once largely older population of the **parish of St Mary de Haura** now has a more youthful complexion. The increase in house prices in Brighton has boosted interest in Shoreham which has seen the building of a lot of new homes and which the availability of desirable local amenities has encouraged. Also meeting the needs of children and young families are the three primary schools in the parish. Data from the 2021 census⁴ provides demographic information about the character of the

² Census 2021

³ <https://www.boat.academy/>

⁴ <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/resources-publications-and-data#na>

people living in the parish: on the index of multiple deprivation the parish ranked 5,135 out of 12,302 (where 1 is the most deprived); just over seven per cent of those living in the parish are from a minority ethnic background; twenty per cent of those living in the parish are aged under 20 years; 27 per cent are aged 20 to 44 years; and 53 per cent aged 45 with just under 19 per cent aged over 70s.

10. The population of the parish of the **Church of the Good Shepherd** is culturally diverse, open and social with little deprivation. It is considered by many a desirable place to live, and architect-designed seafront properties sell for high prices. There is a strong artistic heritage to the area - it was once home to people from the music hall theatre and early film industry. It now has a large bohemian houseboat community. Shoreham Airport (officially Brighton City Airport) is within the parish boundaries, and there are a number of shops and small businesses as well as its own Primary School.



River Adur with its boating connections

11. The largest increase in the population in recent years is among those aged 25-44 years, so the Beach is getting younger, although a third of the population is older and currently the average age of members of the congregation is over sixty. The congregation has a range of social backgrounds; and on the electoral roll, 82 are from within the parish and 69 beyond the parish mainly from Shoreham but there are some from Worthing, Southwick and Hove too.

V. St Mary de Haura

Church Life

12. Thirty-nine per cent of those living in the parish identify as Christian, and 254 on our Electoral Roll sustain an engaged and committed membership of a church with a flexible approach to worship within a broadly catholic tradition.

13. The location of the church in the centre of the town and at the focal point of its conservation area, symbolises an important part of church life, in and with the community: it is one of its particular attractions and strengths. The church is fully open daily as a place of worship and as a place of prayer and quiet reflection for everyone in the town as well as for visitors⁵. In recent years we have succeeded in strengthening the church's links with the community and have partnerships with the Local Authority, the local schools, the Shoreham Society which has a conservation focus and the Shoreham Centre which provides a venue for a wide range of community activities and which is close to the churchyard. The churchyard is a prominent focus of attention of the church's A Rocha Eco working group which has engaged several local interest groups in drawing up a plan for its management. More broadly, we recognise that as St Mary's occupies the focal point of the town centre, we have a tremendous opportunity to develop our role in the community, to develop the use of the church by the community.



St Mary's situated in the centre of the town

⁵ It is estimated that over 3,500 people visit the church in addition to those who attend services.

14. The church hosts a range of local community activities including well attended concerts – the charity ‘Music at St Mary’s’ which is accountable to the PCC plays an



Create Music Youth String

important part in these – art exhibitions and other events which are part of the town’s annual literary festival ‘Wordfest’. Our links with the local charities and voluntary organisations continues to grow. With a capacity of 600 the church also holds civic services such as the annual service of Remembrance and the Town’s Carol Service. The church takes part in the national Heritage Open Day’s festival each September as well as offering tours of the church each week in the Summer months. The church’s central location also enables us to put on a range of activities to support the homeless, and hosting stalls complementary to the monthly farmers’ market.

15. Our practice of worship is broad church so as to welcome and include a range of traditions within the church family and those not formally members. It is sacramental, scriptural and spiritually focussed. So, for most services vestments are worn and candles are lit, the sacrament is reserved and there is a robed choir. Our services also embody the importance of scripture through the Ministry of the Word and the biblical basis of personal faith. And in all our services and activities beyond, we seek to discern and receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit to guide us in all that we do.



Christmas Tree Festival

16. There are three **church services** every Sunday: a communion at 8 o’clock and the sung Parish Eucharist at 10 o’clock, both with a sermon; and an evening service, which alternates between Choral Evensong, Compline, a Taizé-style service of reflection and a Tea Time service for young children (although children are welcome at all our services). On the third Sunday of the month, the 10 o’clock service is an all-ages communion. There is also a said Eucharist at 11am each Tuesday; and the main feast days and Holy days are observed.

At each of these services vestments are worn and the choir is robed at sung services. Evening prayer is said six days a week at 5.30pm without robes.

17. Our commitment to nurture new members of the church and to support family life is undimmed and is reflected in the work of our **Children & Families** Coordinator which forms a very vibrant, successful and important part of our ministry to reach out. This will be an important focus of our new incumbent's ministry and interest. Our Children & Families activities include:

- **'Sunday Shine'**: our weekly Sunday School, attracts on average eight and 15 children each week and their parents/carers
- **'Toddler Time'**: an hourly session each Wednesday mornings is held in the church (furnished appropriately) involves interactive play, story-telling and crafting as well as singing and prayer. Attendance is up to 20 children.
- **'Mary's Music'**: a two-hour session each Monday morning engenders an informal atmosphere with time to chat and have light refreshments, sharing fellowship. Up to 15 children (plus their parents/carers) attend
- **'Teatime Workshop'**: takes place once-a-month on Sunday afternoons. It comprises a short service in church and attracts an average attendance of up to 40.

18. Over the Summer holiday period, we continue to run the regular weekly events and supplement these with 'Summer Family Fun', an annual Teddy Bears' Picnic and a Family Walk. Highlights of our Christmas events for children and their families include the 'pop-up Nativity' which in 2023 over 100 attended, and the Christingle and Crib services which 200 attended.

19. In addition to our formal links with St Nicolas and St Mary's C of E Primary School of which the vicar is an *ex officio* governor, we are developing closer links with the other two primary schools, Swiss Gardens and Buckingham Park. Two nearby secondary schools, Shoreham Academy and Shoreham College, also use the church for seasonal services.



20. St Mary's maintains a strong **musical and choral tradition** with a robed SATB choir, affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music, and a professional Director of Music. Sung services use *Hymns Ancient & Modern* (2013). The church has a fine 3-manual Norman & Beard organ of 1894 (restored in 1994). As well as the enrichment of church services, we support the local community in being able to provide music at

weddings, funerals and memorials, and school services. In addition, the belfry's full English style of eight bells is rung by a dedicated band of campanologists.



St Mary's bell ringers

21. St Mary's is committed to the **Shoreham Churches Together** collaboration which brings together the Methodist, Baptist, Roman Catholic and Free churches – all located within a quarter of a mile of St Mary's. Its most visible activity is its cooperation in the work of Shoreham food bank. There is scope for further development of ecumenical activities in Shoreham.

22. Sustaining the life of the church's range of activities are us, its **people**. We are a training parish and it was in September 2023 that our most recent curate left who has not yet been replaced. Our vicar is currently supported by a licenced Lay Reader, and three members of the church are training to become LLMs. We are fortunate too in the support provided by retired clergy who are members of the church. In addition, we have four salaried, part-time members of staff: the Director of Music, the Children & Families Coordinator, the Parish Administrator and the Verger. Adding life and reach to our activities are our committed team of volunteers – our sidespeople, servers, cleaners, flower arrangers, coffee servers and those who take particular interest in the fabric of the church and the state of the churchyard. St Mary's is keen to further develop lay involvement in the work of the parish. The Parish Centre and Parish Office close by provide a venue for small meetings and an administrative base for our activities.

Attendance at services	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Baptisms	36	30	7	12	21	8
Confirmations	8	4	0	0	6	1
Admission to Communion before Confirmation	3	2	0	0	0	0
Easter Communicants	263	237	0	89	155	235
Christmas Communicants	179	227	0	144	153	211
Church attendance on an average Sunday	194	189	c.75	c.90	c.100	c.105
Weddings and Marriage Blessings	7	7	5	5	12	4

23. There is an active Mothers Union which includes younger members, occasional bible study groups, annual Lent groups, a book group, and a Julian Group. As well as these, each week Lectio Divina, meditation with prayer, takes place in the church followed by refreshments and discussion in the Parish Centre.

Church Buildings

24. Founded in c.1103 the stunning Grade 1 listed **church of St Mary's**⁶ is the largest church between Brighton and Worthing. In his book *England's Thousand Best Churches*, Simon Jenkins describes it as "a magnificent church with a superb Choir, a textbook of comparative 12th century style." It sits in its large churchyard which is crossed by public footpaths and has considerable footfall. It is no longer used for burials but has a Garden of Remembrance. Its lovely trees, quiet ambience and seating make it an attractive place to pause and ponder. It is well used by townspeople and visitors. The maintenance of the churchyard is the Local Authority's responsibility. All these features strengthen the role of the church as a focal point in the town and as a hub of church activities embedded in and with the community.



St Mary's Churchyard

25. In his report of our latest Quinquennial Review which was conducted in May 2023, our inspecting architect commented:

"this church remains on the Historic England 'Churches at Risk' register and the condition is listed as "poor". As I have commented before, this is no reflection of neglect, only of the effect of *anno domini* and a marine environment on the Caen stone of which the church is substantially built. While the masonry continues to decay, inside and out, the parish continue to look after the fabric conscientiously as much as their funds allow".

⁶ <http://history.stmarydehaura.org.uk/>

26. The report also noted that “Internally the church is in generally good order”; that “The roof slopes are generally in sound order”; and that “the external masonry warrants repair on most elevations. The worst are the south-facing windows on the south transept and south aisle.” The latter which require repairs to the external stonework on the South aisle South wall and the East wall, the internal masonry in the bell ringing chamber and the opening of the Nave. The cost of this is estimated at c.£36,000 + VAT to meet which the PCC has resolved to repurpose a restricted fund and apply for grants the preparation of which the diocesan adviser has helped. Additionally, other priority works identified in the Quinquennial inspection – clearing the gutters and removing vegetation from the stonework - were completed.

27. Inevitably, responsibility for a heritage site entails continuous attention and work. We are very fortunate in having the support provided by **The Friends of St Mary’s**, a charity of which the vicar and churchwardens are the trustees. Last year alone The Friends provided £10,526 towards the cost of a number of necessary repairs. There is scope to develop The Friends by building on its excellent work to enable it to become a heritage charity with potential wider reach and appeal.

28. Through the charity the **New Shoreham Church Trust**, which has been incorporated as a limited company and of which the vicar and churchwardens are the sole trustees, the church owns the freehold of a large two-storey property beside the churchyard. This has long been in need for substantial refurbishment or development. Plans for its redevelopment are being advanced and a project to implement will be a central feature of the parish’s strategic development in the next few years.

29. The **Vicarage** lies to the West of the church just outside the churchyard. It is a large house with five bedrooms, a sitting room, dining room, study, kitchen and small breakfast room, a utility room, two bathrooms and a downstairs cloakroom, as well as a garage and a small walled garden. It was modernised in the 1990s. It underwent extensive refurbishment during the last vacancy in 2021. All the sash windows will be replaced and a new kitchen will be installed before the new incumbent arrives.



The Vicarage

Church Finances

30. The pandemic saw more giving through the parish giving scheme (PGS) which helps regularise income and cash flow. As the table below indicates, the Parish Share is our largest item of expenditure followed by the costs of staff and maintenance and day-to-day running costs. This has meant that fund raising is very important – and unlike many churches, we do not have a church hall from which we might derive a rental income – although as outlined below (paragraph 29 and in the Appendix) we are exploring options for the redevelopment of property the church owns which may provide a future income stream. We are also fortunate to have a very enthusiastic fundraising team.

31. Our budget for 2024, summarised in the following table, anticipates a small deficit which we hope will be turned to a surplus as the full range of fund-raising activities take place, and if not, it will be covered by our reserves which we maintain at the level of three months’ operating costs.

2024 Forecast Income	£	2024 Forecast Expenditure	£
Planned giving	55,000	Parish Share	60,000
Other donations	37,000	Clergy expenses	6,000
Fund-raising	20,000	Staff	34,000
Other income (fees etc)	21,300	Maintenance, other running costs	34,000
Total	£133,300	Total	£134,000

Church Prospects

32. This summary of our prospects reflects the consideration we gave to the strategic development of the parish as part of the Diocese of Chichester’s *Vision for Growth 2020 – 2025* which resulted in our *Mission Action Plan* which was developed in 2020. As we approach 2025, we recognise the opportunity to refresh our ambition



and aspirations, which we look forward to our new vicar leading. As well as other important features of our new plan, careful consideration to the arrangements to manage two significant building projects will need to be given.

33. One involves the redevelopment of the **New Road/East Street** property. The property has been in a poor state and under-used for many years. It is becoming a potential embarrassment as it occupies a prominent site in the town centre. The accommodation comprises a large hall on the upper floor with adjoining offices/rooms; and the income from three retail lets on the ground floor is below market rate because of the sub-standard accommodation it provides. Previous attempts to address these shortcomings, which included selling the property, were not successful. At the time this profile was written, the precise nature of the arrangements for this project are still to be determined. If we are able to proceed with the option of working in partnership with a developer, there is the prospect of us securing a regular income stream from the completed project as well as, potentially, better parish office facilities. The Appendix to this document provides further details.

34. The second major building project, which has still to be finalised, involve the installation of toilet and simple refreshment facilities in the church. We are at quite an advanced stage in agreeing with a charitable benefactor the substantial sum of money required to enable this happen. Preliminary architects plans and indicative costs have been drawn up. A critical feature of this very exciting development will be to ensure that we have in place robust arrangements to manage a project of this scale, duration and potential complexity (given that it will necessarily entail altering some church activities from time to time).

35. Among the other features of our contribution to the *Mission Action Plan* are our commitments to:

- continue to reduce the environmental impact of the church – which the Eco Church Working Group is taking forward with success;
- improve our understanding of local need and opportunity, and to strengthen and diversify our local partnerships in the delivery of our ministry; and to,
- consider how to embed bible groups which attracted sustained interest throughout the pandemic into a more regular part of parish practice.

36. We also see opportunities to develop discipleship and work to make provision for our children as they enter their teenage years, along with the development of appropriate support and encouragement for younger parents.



37. Finally, we need also to consider how the layout of the church might enable as many people as wish to take advantage of the spirit of the building. This will mean considering how we might offer better hospitality and access, particularly for those who are disabled, and the forms of our worship. For example, our church building needs to be able to accommodate the more informal and shorter services that appeal to young families. This means not just installing modern facilities – better heating, lighting, sound systems and simple catering and loo arrangements – but making sure that there is sufficient flexible space to allow alternative seating layouts. We think there is scope too to enhance the amenity the churchyard provides and have thought how we might achieve this. Inevitably, the context which our nine centuries old church provides will continue to present challenges as well as opportunities.

VI. The Church of the Good Shepherd

Our vision

38. Our vision is the outcome of the work we undertook to contribute a Mission Action Plan to the Diocese of Chichester's Vision for Growth 2020-2025. Our Vision is for the little church on the beach is to have a big welcome, a big heart and a big journey. By having a **BIG welcome**, we seek to be an inclusive community, affirming diversity and welcoming to all. By having a **BIG heart**, we seek to bless our neighbourhood, contribute to the common good, cherish the environment and look after each other. And by having a **BIG journey** we seek to know God, rejoice in our creative gifts and the spiritual life of abundance given to us in Christ.



Easter Day sunrise service on the beach

39. In growing our **BIG welcome**, we:

- Joined the Inclusive Church network as a visible sign of our inclusive welcome.
- Have become a Dementia Friendly church
- Host a welcome party for newcomers in the vicarage.
- Better publicise our existing groups and make sure they are reaching out to newcomers.
- Are in the process of developing a new church website.
- Have installed the internet into the church so that we can better live stream our 10 am service.
- Amplify, strengthen and continue to offer our children's services and activities as a priority: monthly All Age service and our Sunday group for children, called Sea Lights.

40. In developing our **BIG heart, we:**

- Look for opportunities for the church to be used by the wider community. For the first time in 2023 the church was on the Adur Arts trail as a venue.
- Have a Bronze Eco Church Award and are on the cusp of being able to apply for our silver award.
- Have increased our stewardship by having an annual Sunday service to dedicated to generosity, focusing on financial giving, as well as time and talents offered to the church

41. In setting out on our **BIG journey** we will:

- Build up our variety of services, including non-Eucharistic and special services, aimed at newcomers.
- Look for opportunities to use outdoor space as appropriate. These include a pet service, a sunrise service at Easter, a special Sea Sunday event.
- Develop our new Taizé healing service and bring on a leadership team capable of leading this monthly evening service.
- Strengthen our existing partnership with the Brighton and Hove Centre for Spirituality, hosting more labyrinth walks in church and on the beach.

The Church Team, People and Activities

42. Revd. Jane Bartlett is our Associate Vicar, who lives in the vicarage next to the church and oversees the running of the Good Shepherd. She is supported by several retired priests and two licensed lay readers under the oversight and with the support of the vicar. We also have a part-time family and children's co-ordinator and an authorised lay minister who helps with pastoral care.

43. Our worship is Eucharistic focussed, in the broad and central church tradition. There are two Sunday Communion services: a said service at 8am and a sung at 10am. A talented team of church musicians accompany the small choir in leading the worship. We have servers and a procession at the 10am service.



Revd Jane with the donkey on Palm Sunday



There is a relaxed and joyful quality to the worship. Our choir and servers do not robe. A few well-behaved dogs attend with their owners. The church is friendly and welcoming. We are an inclusive church which celebrates and affirms diversity. We can expect 60-70 people at the 10 a.m. service and 12 – 15 at the 8 a.m. service.

44. The first Sunday of the month is 'All Age Service'. This is an informal service with a worship band (ukulele, flute, violin, cello, double bass and piano accordion!) and interactive talk. There is a Tuesday morning informal said service of Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m. Additionally, we offer a mixed ecology of services to meet people at different stages of their spiritual journey.

45. We have recently relaunched our monthly Sunday evening healing service, which had been on-hold during the pandemic. This is now a candlelit service with readings, Taizé music and quiet reflection. Healing prayer is offered by our healing team. Our healing ministry is supported by a healing book and many parish members pray regularly for those who are recorded both in the book and on the prayer board in church. There exists a prayer chain whose members are notified of the need and requests for prayer from a central contact. We offer a Celtic Evening prayer service every Wednesday at 6pm. Since the pandemic this has taken place on Zoom and we continue to offer it online. On Friday morning we join St Mary de Haura at 8am for Morning Prayer with Meditation, a group of about 20 people, followed by breakfast and discussion in the parish centre.

46. On Saturday at 8am we have a meditation with lectio divina group at the Good Shepherd and also online using Zoom. It attracts 12 -16 people. We run this group in partnership with the Brighton and Hove Centre for Spirituality. This is followed by breakfast and discussion. We also offer regular labyrinth walks. These are either in the church hall, using a canvas labyrinth, or on the beach at low tide, built with pebbles.

47. Regular Bible study groups are run in partnership with St Mary de Haura. We also have regular Lent and Advent study groups each year. Occasional retreat days with art are run by retired priest Revd Jess Aidley. The church is open every day 9am to 5pm for prayer and peace. There are regular visitors who sit and enjoy the quiet space.

48. Many groups use the church hall. Pebbles Pre-school regularly use the hall on weekdays during term time. At other times, the hall is used by the Brownies, Guides, Rainbows, a Tai Chi group, WI, a children's drama club, a ukulele group and the hall is the venue for children's parties and some local committee meetings.



The church's flexible space in use for a Christmas fayre

49. Within the congregation there are a considerable number of talented people, flower arrangers, needle-workers, knitters and artists who all contribute to the beauty in our church. We have been experimenting with art exhibitions in the church which it is hoped will encourage visitors. We also run a very successful Christian Aid fundraising week each year and have a committed team which organises this.

50. Our family and children's co-ordinator runs a weekly Sunday school, Sea Lights. We have an all-age service on the first Sunday of most months. We also host family craft drop-in sessions during the school holidays. We have plans to re-launch a parent/carer and toddler drop-in during the spring in the church, in the hope of building relationships with more local families. This was paused after covid because of low numbers in attendance. Building up our ministry with families remains a challenge and a priority.



Harvest donations for the local foodbank

51. We are seeking to build our connections within our local area. Emerald Quay is an example, a significant housing development on the beach where many young families live. Shoreham Airport is within our parish boundary. Revd. Pat Alden is Airport Chaplain. The Shoreham Dogs Trust is in our parish and is a large charity. Positive relationships have been built with the Shoreham Dogs Trust through inviting them to our pet service, and having a collection for them. Our church magazine is sold in local shops.



Fun social activities



52. We have a small residential community on the beach run by Leonard Cheshire for adults with learning difficulties. They are regular attenders at our church and are offered good pastoral support. We are also part of Shoreham Churches Together.

Church Buildings

53. Shoreham Beach has been the home of a Beach Mission since the early part of the 20th century. At a service on 26 June 1912 the Bishop of Chichester, Dr Charles Ridgeway, said he had hoped for some time that "Bungalow Town" would have its own church building but, in the meanwhile, he proposed to appoint a Missioner to hold services on the beach, or, if the weather was bad, in local bungalows. By the following year the land had been purchased and the church built at a total cost of less than £750. It was dedicated on 16 July 1913.

54. After the outbreak of World War II, the military occupied Shoreham Beach giving residents 48 hours to leave. Everything was demolished but the church. Later a request was made to destroy the church too. An elderly resident tells how two officers were sent to decide the matter but on entering the church found fourteen men of the Northamptonshire Regiment saying their prayers and the faith and simple devotion of these men saved it. Following the arrival of the Revd Ken Clinch in 1967 the congregation rapidly expanded and, by 1970 had insufficient room. The church was enlarged in 1971/72. The "big storm" of October 1987 ripped off the roof of the new section of the church and the rain flooded in. Daily prayer continued in the church whilst the main services moved to the church hall. Repairs were virtually completed and the church reopened on Christmas Eve 1987. In January and February 1988, the opportunity was taken to update the Eastern end of the church.

55. The church has achieved Bronze Eco Church award and is now working towards the Silver Eco award. A children's garden (with hens) has been developed and the church offers some recycling bins for selected plastics.

56. The recent five yearly inspection (October 2021) exposed some aspects of the fabric of the church that needed maintenance. This inspection and subsequent work will be overseen by a member of the congregation with the required expertise, and who has also now put in place fire and risk safety policies and procedures for both the church and church hall.

Finance

57. We have a very active fundraising group. As well as raising much needed money for the church, they also create enjoyable social opportunities, many of which are great outreach, such as summer and Christmas fairs, quiz nights and other assorted evening entertainment.

2024 Forecast Income	£	2024 Forecast Expenditure	£
Planned giving	54,000	Parish Share	50,000
Other donations	15,000	Office Share	8,000
Fund-raising	7,000	Wages	16,000
Hall Income	22,000	Maintenance, other running costs	20,000
Total	£98,000	Total	£94,000

The St Francis Fund

58. The Fund has full charitable status and was founded in 1986 to benefit parishioners who regularly worship at the Good Shepherd and who are in need of help. Members of the St Francis Fund Committee are elected annually. They are members of the Church of the Good Shepherd and are on the Electoral Roll. Grants are made following discussion by committee members with parishioners in need. Most of the St Francis Fund's income is generated through donations made at Healing Services, Bible Study Classes and through fundraising events. Since the Fund was founded, numerous grants have been made. There continues to be a great need for this support.

VII. Appendix – Summary of Major Building Project at St Mary's

59. Through the charity the New Shoreham Church Trust, the church owns the freehold of a large two-storey property beside the churchyard, which occupies the corner East Street and New Road, in close proximity to St Mary de Haura church. It comprises a hall, a Parish Centre and office, a study room where the choir rehearse and two commercial units which currently are let at a low rent due to the poor condition of the building. The hall has not been used for a number of years due to its poor condition.

60. The building is in very poor state and requires major works and updating – either by a partial demolition and redevelopment, or by maintaining the structure and redeveloping it. Leaving the building in its current state is not an option due to the continued high costs of maintenance and as time goes on it will become unsafe.

61. A committee of the PCC has been exploring options since 2016 in order to secure a stable income stream for the church, while providing space for a meeting room for Church activities, and an office. Plans had been drawn up for demolition and a brand new redevelopment, which included flats to be rented out to provide an income for the PCC and a Parish Centre facility. Due to the Covid pandemic, progress was held up and a planning application was never submitted although a pre application meeting with the local authority planning department was held, and a positive response was received.

62. However, this option is no longer financially viable given the combined rise in interest rates and building costs. This required the committee to consider other options. The decision was made to explore a joint venture with another party. We now have three interested parties, each with different ideas on how to develop the property and how they would work with us. A meeting has been arranged with each party and the committee in mid-April to discuss their ideas and decide on the best option to present to the PCC, taking into account factors such as space available for Church use, the ongoing income that can be made and how sympathetically it fits in with the town.

63. From the start, the committee have taken professional advice and been supported by Fludes Property Consultants for advice on the feasibility of the development project, together with planning advice from Planning Resolutions, town planning and property development consultancy.



64. Completion of this project will have a very positive impact on not only the Church, but also the entire town, as the property sits in a prominent position and its poor condition is evident. The outcome of the meeting with the potential joint venture partners and the current status of the project can be provided on request.