

THE SOLENT PASTORAL AREA A PROPOSAL FOR MEETING THE CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

The Present Situation: In our Pastoral Area we have 4 vibrant parish communities served by 4 full time priests & two deacons using 9 church buildings and providing 13 celebrations of the Sunday Eucharist. Two of our churches are buildings of historical significance, whereas, with exception of St Margaret Mary, Park Gate, others are either inadequate in terms of capacity or are in need of extensive refurbishment.

The Future: Even without taking into account unforeseen crises within the next 5 years it is probable there will only be three full-time priests in this Pastoral Area and in 10 years only two, but there continues to be significant population growth in the area. Rising energy, repair & maintenance expenses together with the compliance demanded by legislation in the areas of Health & Safety, Disability Access and the administration of registered charities, will place a heavy cost burden on our parish communities.

The Response: A positive response has to be made to this situation. The proposal outlined below arises out of extensive discussion and consultation among local clergy and parishioners prior to and during the 'Growing Together In Christ' process. The proposal works within the parameters of Canon Law and is guided by the central principles of our Diocesan Plan. The first and most important of these principles is the centrality of the Sunday Eucharist and the need to make this accessible to as many people as possible. The second is the development of the Pastoral Area as a community made up of the current parishes.

The Proposal: In order to provide Sunday Eucharist for as many people as possible a new and aesthetically inspiring church building is proposed that will include extensive community facilities. It will incorporate the latest energy saving and environmentally friendly technologies. In order to finance this project a phased programme of disposal of some church properties will be necessary over the next 5 to 10 years. The location of the new church will be as near as possible to the centre of the Pastoral Area, possibly between Daedalus, Newgate Lane & Peak Lane (see map overleaf). To ensure that all will have access to this church a transportation service will be developed using church owned, local authority and voluntary facilities.

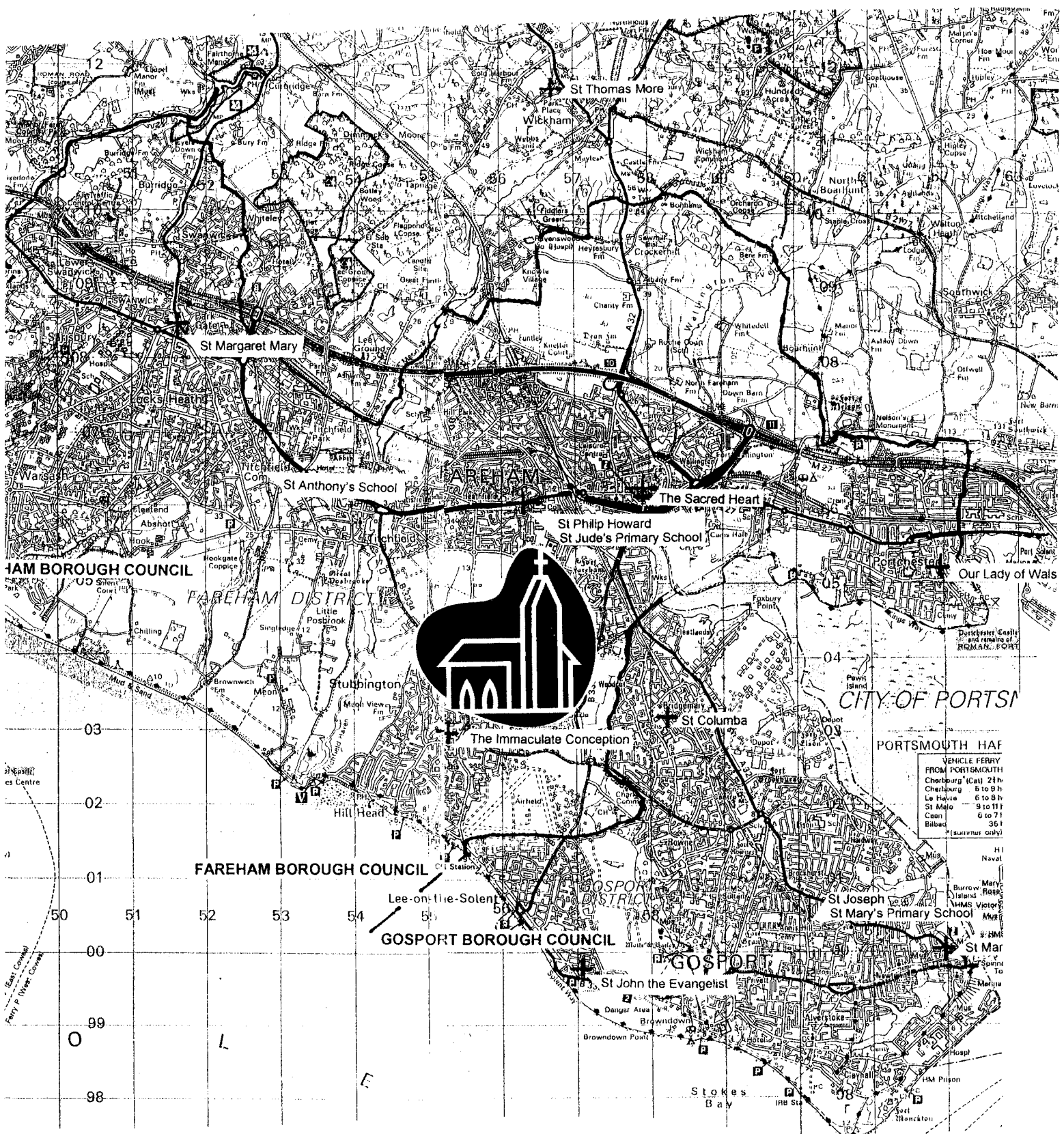
We realise this will have a serious impact on local communities therefore networks need to be strongly encouraged to enable all to experience real bonds of fellowship and communion. We will aim to provide opportunities for everyone to have some connection with a group locally, be it based in ministry, prayer, study, friendship, recreation or social activity.

The Church is a mystery of communion with God and one another in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. The more fully we enter into this communion the more fully the Kingdom is realised within us and among us.

We believe this will be an exciting opportunity for all of us in the new Pastoral Area to work together to provide for our needs and those of the next generation.

In the Autumn, after time for reflection and prayer, there will be opportunity to discuss this proposal, ask questions and provide comments. The clergy of the Pastoral Area believe this is the way forward if we are to make best use of resources and talents.

From the clergy of the Solent Pastoral Area with the approval of Bishop Crispian 18 June 2006



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FAREHAM DISTRICT

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PORTSMOUTH HARBOUR

VEHICLE FERRY	
FROM PORTSMOUTH	
Cherbourg (Call 24h)	8 to 24h
La Havre	6 to 8h
St Malo	9 to 11h
Caen	6 to 7h
Bibac	36 h
(Summer only)	

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