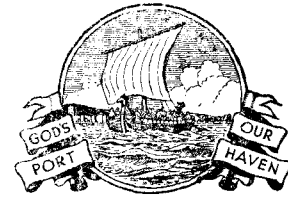


HOLY TRINITY GOSPORT

IN THE
COUNTY OF HAMPSHIRE



CHURCH, PARISH

AND

PEOPLE

1696 — 1954

Catherine M. Barclay

FOREWORD

The old town of Gosport has seen many changes in its long history, but now in the year 1954 its features are altering so rapidly and to such a great extent, with the building of new lofty flats, and the widening of roads, that in order that some of its past characteristics may not be entirely forgotten, this short chronicle of events is being written. It seems well, too, to remember the men and women who have lived and worked in that part of the town, which for over two hundred and fifty years has been known as Holy Trinity Parish.

EARLY DAYS

John Leland, who lived during the first half of the sixteenth century, made a tour of the kingdom in the reign of Henry VIII. After visiting Gosport, he described it as "A little village of Fisschat Men". This seemed "somewhat remarkable" to W. H. Charpentier, writing three centuries later, "as it is known that Bishop Blois, in the reign of King Stephen, granted it a charter, entitling the inhabitants to hold a market weekly, and two fairs in the year, viz. on the 4th May and 10th October".

According to Leland, too, "Here stood a prophanid Chapelle near the shore of Portsmouth Haven, scant half a mile from the very Mouth of the Haven". The word "Prophanid" probably meant unholy, owing to its neglected condition at the time, and it seems likely that it had completely disappeared a hundred and fifty years later.

During the Civil War this little fishing village was rudely awakened by the arrival of a company of Cromwell's forces, who set up their pieces of ordnance "the one behind a barn with ten pieces and the other behind a pile of faggots with two pieces" and proceeded to fire across the harbour and shatter the tower and nave of the Church of St. Thomas a' Becket and did much damage in the town of Portsmouth.

With the capture of Southsea Castle in 1643, and the defeat of Charles I, there was no need for Cromwell's men to remain, but the people of Gosport, having had more contact with the outside world, had begun to realize that there were other and more profitable ways of earning a livelihood than by fishing, and turned their attention to trading and to the victualling and manning of ships.

In 1665 the dreaded Plague reached the town, causing many deaths. Some people fled to the village of Forton, where they pitched tents or lived in barns or huts. When the danger was over they returned to their old homes, or built other and better houses, and during the reigns of Charles II and James II, Gosport had become a prosperous small market town.

The Market House, which was situated in the High Street, near the harbour, was the centre of buying and selling on market days, and also the meeting place of the merchants, who might well have discussed the good French wines and the ladies dresses, made of silks, satins and laces straight from the Continent.

They also discussed the need for a Church in their midst. Alverstoke was two miles distant, and thither they had to go, to the Church of St. Mary, for Divine Service on Sundays and Holy Days, and for Christenings, Weddings and Burials.

This journey was full of hazards, not only because of the roughness of the roads, which made travelling difficult for those in chaises, on horseback, or on foot, but also because of the footpads and other felons, who would lurk by the side of the creek, and harry the unprotected Churchgoers.

And so it was that in 1694 Captain Henry Player called together Mr. John Manfield, Mr. James Blinkhorn, Mr. C. Andrews, Captain Thomas Stepney and other merchants and friends, and they all agreed that they would like to build a Church near at hand.

The Building of Holy Trinity Church

The site chosen was an area of gorse and bracken called Gosport Common, not many yards from the waters of the harbour. It may have been the same piece of ground on which had stood the earlier chapel, but of this there is no certainty.

First they asked the Rector of Alverstoke, the Reverend John Hunt, for his approval of their project, and having received it, they asked the Bishop of Winton (Winchester) for permission to build. The Bishop was the Right Reverend Peter Mews, who " bore on his right cheek the scar of a wound received at Sedgemoor fight, where he was engaged in battering with his own hands the Monmouth men of his late Diocese of Bath and Wells". Not only did the Bishop give his consent, but he also promised to send, at his own expense, by oxen-cart, fourteen of the stoutest oak trees in his park at Farnham, to be used as pillars.

The site was cleared, and in September 1694 the Foundation Stone was laid. Some of the workmen who had been repairing the Church of St. Thomas a' Becket, across the harbour were employed, and the merchants themselves helped with the work.

The building was of brick with stucco dressings of the Ionic order; there were arched windows, and a Cupola above the West entrance. The fourteen oak trees, seven on either side of the nave, provided the "firm upholding of a large projecting roof", with dormer windows in the old Dutch style, being a compliment to the Dutch King William III.

Two years later the work was finished, and the following is an extract from the beautifully written and well-preserved Vestry Book :

" The Act of Consecration of the Chapel of Gosport, the 24th day of September, Anno Domini 1696. In the name of God. Amen. Whereas Henry Player, Gent, and other the inhabitants of the Burro of Gosport in the County of Southampton, have, at their own proper cost and by the contributions of other pious and charitable Christians, upon a pious and religious account, built, set up, and finished this Chapel, in a waste piece of ground called Gosport comon, within the parish and the Liberties of the parish Church of Alverstoke in the County aforesaid, and in the Jurisdiction of our Diocese of Winton, containing within the walls of it in length from East to West, the space of Seventy and five feet, and in breadth from North to South fifty and five feet or thereabouts, and have adorned the same with a Communion table, handsomely furnished, with a Font, a Pulpit, with convenient seats, as well below in the space, as in the Gallery above, and all other necessaries, for the decent performance of Divine Worship, and have besought us, that by our Episcopal Authority in behalf of ourselves and Successors, would be pleased to separate the said Chapel from all profane and common uses, and dedicate the same for sacred and Divine Service, We Peter by Divine Permission Bishop of Winton yielding to the pious and religious request as well of the said Henry Player, as of the other inhabitants of the said Burro, do by our Episcopal Authority proceed to the Consecration of this Chapel built and beautified as before mentioned, and do separate the said Chapel, for ever from all prophane and comon uses, and devote, appoint and do Dedicate it for Divine Worship and Service only; and do moreover by our Power ordinary in behalf of ourselves and successors, Grant power and License in the Lord for the performance of Divine offices and publick prayers. . . . And we do Name and Decree that it shall go by this Name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity . . .

In Testimony whereof, We have caused this our Episcopal Seale to be affixed to these presents.

Dated the seven and Twentieth day of September in the yeare of our Lord 1696, of the reign of King William the third the Eighth, and of our Translation the Twelfth". There follows :

" We, Peter, by Divine permission Bishop of Winton do appoint this place, being a waste piece of Ground commonly called Gosport Comon . . . containing in length three hundred and fifty feet, and in breadth one hundred and eight feet or thereabouts to be separated from all common and profane purposes whatever, to sacred uses . . . for a Yard, or Burying place, for the interring the Bodies of persons deceasing after a Christian manner".

Gifts for the Church

There were many gifts for the use and beautifying of the Church, including:—

A Silver Chalice and Paten Cover. Marks, London Assay for 1683 and R. for the maker.

A plain Paten. Mark. London Assay for 1696, with the inscription "The Gifte of my Ld Bisshope and ye Rest of ye Communicants at ye First Communion in the Chapel, 27th. Sepbr. '96. On the back is "Gosport Chapel."

A Flagon. No Assay mark, but C O with a mullet beneath for the maker. The date is probably about 1680. The inscription is "Joanna the wife of Cap. Henry Player, Dedicateth this to the Serving God in this Chappell, 1696". On the back is "Gosport Chapel".

A plain Alms Dish. Marks, London Assay for 1696—maker's mark indistinct. The inscription is "The Gift of Elizabeth Manfeild and Sarah Creed to Trinity Chapel in Gosport. Dec. 25th. Anno Domini. 1696."

A Flagon—marks obliterated, probably about 1680. All these original gifts are still in use or in safe keeping. In the Priest's Vestry, contained in a gilt frame, is the Coat of Arms of Peter Mews, born 1619. President and Vice Chancellor of St. Johns College, Oxford. Bishop of Bath and Wells 1672–1684, and Bishop of Winchester 1684–1706. The Shield is divided into six perpendicular divisions, alternately gold and blue. The upper part is red, and on it are three Maltese Crosses. The right half contains the Arms of Winchester, two keys and a sword. Beneath the shield is the following inscription:

"Gift of Wm. Manfield. Wm. Manfield. C. Andrews. Chapell Wardens."

From The Register of Baptisms

Heading the list of "Christnings 1696" is

Sept. 27th. William son of Capt. Henry Player and Joanna his wife.

Sept. 27th. Isaac and Rebecca Son and Dr of W^m Speller, Mariner and Elizth his wife.

Sept. 27th. Tho^s Son of Jⁿ Love, Shipwright and Elizth his wife.

Sept. 27th. Anne Dr of Jⁿ Winter, Mason, and Anne his wife.

Sept. 28th. Jane Dr of Lawrence ffisher, Surgeon, and Jane his wife.

Capt. Henry Player and Joanna his wife were also the parents of Joanna, christened Jan. 1698; Henry 1700; and Margaret 1701.

Wm. and Elizabeth Manfield were the parents of Elizth, Dec. 1697; Sam^l Rob^t Henry, Dec. 1699; Frances, August 1701; and Anna Maria, Sept. 1703.

"March 5th, 1700. Tho^s, Son of Capⁿ Tho^s, and Anne Stepney Gent," and in "May 1702; Geo. Son of Capⁿ Tho^s, and Anne Stepney".

There were 110 Christenings in 1697, and it must certainly have been a blessing for not only the founders and builders of the Church, but also for many others, to have a Church in the Town.

From The Register of Marriages

The first two to be married in the Church, on Oct. 2nd, 1696 were Jⁿ Mullett and Elizth Robinson, and there were twenty five marriages in the first year.

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

The Rector of Alverstoke was given "full and free power from time to time of naming a fit Minister to perform Divine Service," and in 1701 the Bishop granted license to William Ogilvie to the Curacy.

In 1706 Bishop Peter Mews died, aged 87, "greatly honoured, after a chequered and exciting, not to say unique, career".

Money was needed for the upkeep of the Church, and in the month of April 1730, the sum of £121 10s. was collected by voluntary contributions from 198 people, ranging from £8 8s. 0d. given by Thomas Bemister to 1/- given by Widow Palmer, and the "Chapel being fully repaired and adorned and all things touching the same regulated and settled," the Reverend Charles Monckton, son of the Rector of Alverstoke, was appointed to the Curacy, and in the following year the Portico was added at an "expense of £40 12s. 4½d. including the Sheet Lead and Lead Pipes".

Another item of expenditure was "A young Elm planted 3/- and 11 Load of water used in watering the Trees by cash pd. 6/-".

Colonel Richard Norton of Southwick House gave £200 for repairs to the Church, and £1000 towards the maintenance of the Curate, and two years later in 1734, £296 was collected in the Parish for the same purpose, Mr. John Peachy giving £10 10s. 0d. and Mr. Thos. Bemister £7 7s. 0d.

Mr. James Bedford, Baker, and Mr. Francis Holloway, Tinsplate worker, were now Churchwardens having succeeded Captain Thomas Stepney and Mr. James Blinkhorn, who had for so many years kept pages of accounts, and who must have worked very hard for the good of the Church and parishioners.

Mr. Charles Childs also took great trouble with the accounts :—

	s.	d.
1735. For mending the Surplices to Goody Bastard	3	0
For Pens and Ink to the Vestry 6d. and Green-boughs at Easter 1/-	1	6
For a Chamber pot to D.		5
For Stuff and work, nails etc. to make the South Gate	3	0
For cutting down the weeds in the Chap-yard to Goody Bartholomew	1	0
For Candles three months at 1/6 a time	4	6

Mr. Wm. Jolliff in the year 1750 collected £4 from "Lieut. Jno Smith for Rent of ye Pew in South Isle" and £2 2s. 0d. for "Rent of ye Chapel Wardens and Sidesmens Pews", and from the "Executor of Mr. Chas. Childe for breaking Ground in the Chapell for his Interment as is Custom of Ch. Wardens in ye Parish Church £2 0s. 0d." and there follows "N.B. The Charity Money given at the Sacrament has been this year expended in 25 loaves of Bread each Sunday to the Poor and also the Bread and Wine for the Communion provided out of it. The Residue was distributed to such Proper Objects as the Chapel Wardens thought necessary of Relief".

Enlargement of the Church

In 1738 the Reverend Thomas Symonds was Curate and Abram Trecker and William Duckett were churchwardens, when the expenses for the upkeep of the Church, totalling £23 6s. 8½d. included "2/6 for candles, 8/6 for mending surplices and for making a blank book for raising money by giftes 2/-".

There was a disagreement concerning people reserving pews for their own use, and a letter was written to Bishop Benjamin asking that the Church be enlarged at the East End, and in his reply, dated March 14th, 1745, he wrote "The Town and Chappelry are becoming so populour that many of the Inhabitants for want of Convenient Seatroom cannott attend Divine Service in the said Chappel and that an Enlargement and Addition might be built and added to the East End of the said Chappel whereby about sixty convenient seats or pews may be added to the use of such of the Inhabitants as shall want and stand in need of convenient Seatroom".

The Curate, the Reverend W. S. Dugard, and his wardens, John Garrett and Samuel Norris, collected £289 for this purpose, which was duly carried out.

The Organ

The next requirement was an Organ, and the following is an extract from the Vestry Book :

"Item. An Organ, purchas'd from the Duke of Chandos Chappell at Cannons, near London, by the subscriptions of the Inhabitants.

Cost and Charges £342 16s. 7d. Open'd the 8th May, 1748."

The Duke of Chandos was James Brydges to whom George Frederick Handel was Master of the Duke's Music, and it was most probably on this organ that the oratorio *Esther* was composed. The subscribers to the Organ met to make a choice of an organist.

"The Candidates were Mr. Jas Peaceable, Organist of Southampton and Mr. Moses Hawker of Portsmouth. When upon casting up the Poll, there appeared to be, for Mr. Peaceable 141 votes, and for Mr. Hawker 28". Mr. Peaceable remained organist until 1759 when Mr. Thomas Trumain was elected.

Fire Engines

The danger of Fire was always present, and in 1762 two Fire Engines and Fire buckets were bought by subscriptions, Mr. Penfold and Mr. Charles Child being the wardens.

"N.B. Mr. Charles Child made the Town of Gosport a present of an Engine which was repaired by Mr. Cobb—£3 19s. 0d."

"Puddling"

One of the greatest of our national industries originated in Gosport, for in 1775 Henry Cort leased a forge and a mill, and in 1783 patented "grooved rolls", now known as "puddle rolls". It was due to this process known as "puddling" that there was a rapid increase in the manufacture of merchant iron in this country during the 19th Century.

Items of Expenditure

The Vestry Book contains many items of expenditure, such as

	£	s.	d.
1771. To wine and cake for Bp at Confirmn		7	9
For rails to the Isles at Confirmn		1	8
Mrs. Thomas for five mopps for Chapel		4	2
1773. To 1 Doz. Candles for preparation Sermon		6	9
To Chaise Hire to Visitation		8	6
1777. Paid for Beer for the Workmen	1	0	7

The Revd. I. M. Bingham

In 1779 The Reverend Isaac Moody Bingham was Curate and the following year he "made a present of, and affix'd to the Front of the West Gallery an eight day Spring-clock". There seems to be no record of what became of the "Spring-Clock". For many years the Royal Coat of Arms has adorned the centre of the West Gallery.

The Reverend Richard Bingham came to help his father in 1790. Two years later the "September massacres drove a large number of priests from France to the coast of Hampshire. They landed in the neighbourhood of Gosport, and were hospitably received by the local clergy and residents. An address was offered in gratitude by

about 120 refugees :—" To Messieurs J. Sturges Recteur de Clifton, Curé d'Alverstoke, et Messieurs J. M. Bingham et Ri. Bingham, Ministres de la Chapelle de Gosport" which expressed " in elegant and cultured French, the gratitude of the signatories for the sympathetic affection shown to them ".

Addition of the Vestry

The Church was in need of a larger Vestry, and " A Commodious Brick Vestry in the Chapel Yard on the South side of the Communion table, was built at a cost of £75, and the following year, 1796, trees were planted in the Yard at a cost of £4 7s. 0d.

The First Vicarage

A dwelling was needed for the Curate and his wife and family, and at the end of the eighteenth century, a tall house of white brick, with a hipped slate roof, was built to the East of the Church, a short distance from the point where the Creek joins the harbour, and it was said that there was an underground passage that entered the cellars of the house and went thence to the Church.

It was supposed that this passage was used for smuggling and that Mr. Bingham may have been involved. It was also rumoured that he hid in the passage to escape from his creditors, who had brought a battering-ram to beat down his front door. This, however, was contradicted in 1803 : " the falacy of the many reports which have been of late industriously circulated to his prejudice, after having for thirteen years performed the duties of his office with punctuality, zeal and ability ".

In the Church there is a Tablet on which is inscribed " Isaac Moody Bingham, died Jan. 30th, 1807, aged 73. Beloved, honoured and lamented by all who knew the Goodness and Integrity of his Heart ".

There are two beautiful portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Bingham, which were given to the Church by their great-niece. They now hang in the Church Rooms.

The Present Vicarage

About the same time, 1800, by order of the War Office, a residence was erected for the Commandant of the Royal Engineers.

This five-storey house, of peat-cooked bricks from Colden Common, was built on the land between the South of the Churchyard and Haslar creek.

At the top of stone steps is a six panel central door in arches recessed with stone springers, above which is a radiating and wreathed fan-light. The winding staircase has a fine laminated stair banister made of mahogany, and there are niches in the walls, similar to those in the first Vicarage, for lamps or candles. Another lamp probably hung from the centre of the ornate ceiling at the top of the staircase.

There are two large windows facing Portsmouth, from which there is an excellent view of shipping entering and going out of the harbour, with the Sally Port and the old Church of St. Thomas a'Becket in the distance.

Many of the rooms have two doors, the handles of which are made of gunmetal by Frenchmen held prisoner in the town.

Since England was at war with France, there was danger of invasion. To strengthen the defences a moat was dug, and ramparts were built of the gravel which had been excavated—in the old Roman manner, *vallum et fossa*.

On the top of these ramparts, facing the harbour and the creek, are gun emplacements, and in the ramparts themselves strongly built and well-ventilated chambers for ammunition. There are two steep brick connecting stairways.

A high wall divides the War Office Land from the road. In this wall are two large gateways, obviously for ammunition wagons.

From the ramparts would be seen the *Victory* sail out of the harbour before the battle of Trafalgar in 1805, and from the same place about one hundred and forty years later a most curious sight : a Mulberry Fort, looking like a castle floating down on the tide, on its way to Arromanches.

The C.R.E., during the time that the moats and ramparts were being built, was the uncle of Jane Austen, and it is a pleasing fact, and one that is perhaps not well known, that she stayed in this house with him. We do not know whether she was inspired to write any of the chapters of " Sense and Sensibility " or of " Pride and Prejudice," which appeared in 1811 and 1813 respectively, during her visit.

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

As thank offerings for the Victory of Waterloo, and the signing of the Second Treaty of Paris that followed the defeat of Napoleon, there were given to the Church a Chalice and Paten Cover, a reproduction of the one dated 1683, with the marks London Assay for 1815 and W.P. for the maker. The inscription on the Paten Cover is " Gosport Chapel 1815 ". There were also given a Flagon and Cover and two plain Alms Plates with the same marks and inscription, but with the date 1816.

Death of George III

" Sunday, Feb. 6th, 1820. This morning his most gracious Majesty George the Fourth was solemnly proclaimed in Gosport Chapel by the Revd. Mr. Thompson, officiating minister.

	s.	d.
Putting up the Chapel Mourning and taking down	2	6
Black Ribbon for Books	2	0
Horse and Gig to Fareham	7	0
Surplices { 26 yards Lawn 3/6	£4	11 0
{ 1 ditto Irish Linen	4	6
{ Makeing 2 Surplices	£1	1 0
	£5	16 6"

If only two surplices were made from the 27 yards of material, they must not only have been expensive but also very voluminous!

Repairs to the Organ

Three years later it was resolved "that the Organ be put into complete repair and that Mr. James Butler of London, Organ-builder, be employed to do the same provided the expenses to the Pew Owners do not exceed the sum of thirty guineas". Among those on the Committee which passed this resolution was Doctor Burney, who had "established his Academy, a seat of learning which counted many members of the Royal family among its students, in Clarence Square, which in its heyday was the fashionable quarter of Gosport".

Concerning the Churchyard

An Act was passed and given the Royal Assent on May 20th, 1825 which provided "for the Perpetual Maintenance and Support of the Chapel of the Holy and Undivided Trinity in the Town of Gosport, within the Parish of Alverstoke in the County of Southampton".

"Be it further enacted, that if any Person or Persons shall wilfully or maliciously injure, pull down, or break any Tree or Windows . . . or wilfully or maliciously break down or destroy any Head or Foot Stone or Monument . . . or during the time of Divine Service, shall play at Foot Ball, or any other game of Sport or discharge Fire Arms or Fire Works in the said Chapel Yard or street adjoining there to . . . or make any Noise, to the Disturbance of the Congregation assembled in the said Chapel . . . for every such Offence forfeit and pay any Sum not exceeding Forty shillings, nor less than Five shillings".

The Vestry Book does not state how many forfeits were paid. It is probable that in those days respect was given by the inhabitants to the place where their antecedents and friends were buried.

In the Register of Burials the first name is :

Oct. 31, 1696. Jeremiah Hatchor of Gosport.

There follow entries such as

Jan. 31, 1697. Buryed Sara Harris a Soldiers wife.

August 15, 1697. Buryed Elizabeth Hardon a Servant

and many seamen, coopers, shoemakers, fishermen, barbers, carpenters, chandlers and merchants, and servants, were among those buried, and interspersed are several entries in the following manner :

Oct. 25, 1700.	Buryed Elizabeth Cox of Gosport poor.
May 12, 1701.	Buryed Elizabeth Knight poor of Gosport.
Feb. 16, 1702.	Buryed Elizabeth Harris poor.
June 8, 1702.	Buryed Peter son of John Rogers poor.
Jan. 10, 1703.	Anne Sinclair poor was bury ^d .
Nov. 23, 1704.	Mary Wilton a parish maid was buryed.
Dec. 16, 1704.	John Skelton mariner buryed from the Hospital.
Jan. 7, 1704.	Mary Robinson a poor widows Child.
Oct. 4, 1704.	Morris a travelor was buryed.
Nov. 27, 1704.	Barber forreigner was bury ^d .

A great number have "poor" beside their name, and several have "Child", and it is sad to read "a poor cobbler of Gosport", "a poor servant", "a poor seaman's wife", "a child poor".

The hospital mentioned was the old Fortune Hospital, founded by Nathaniel Jackson.

Contemporary Details

In 1830, the Trustees for the Gosport Church of England School purchased for the sum of £300 "a most eligible site, with materials upon it consisting of three tenements, immediately opposite the West doors of the Church. The erection of a Commodious building will probably cost less than £300." The Rev. R. Bingham, who acted for many years as Curate to his father, collected £200.

The building was duly opened as a Church school for the children living in "the picturesque double range of eighteenth century cottages in Richards Terrace" and in Haslar Street and Chapel Row, flanking the Churchyard, and in Sweets Place, Bemister's Lane, South Street, Beach Street, Little Beach Street, Harlem Place and other nearby roads and courts.

Some of the old houses in the parish still remain and are scheduled as being of historic interest. Among these is number 12, Chapel Row, now the home of Mrs. Shenton. It was one of the first houses to be insured against fire. The policy was taken out in the early days of insurance, more than a century ago, and above the door is a plaque bearing the emblem of the insurance company and the policy number. At that time, in the event of fire, only houses bearing these plaques would be served by the local brigade. This house was originally joined to the house next door as one dwelling and has many fascinating architectural points of interest. It was probably built by a merchant who found it profitable to live near the harbour, and pleasant and convenient to live near the Church.

In "The new Portsmouth, Southsea, Anglesey and Hayling Island Guide, comprising a description of the Dock Yard, Gun Wharf, Royal Clarence Victualling Establishment etc.. published by W. H. Charpentier, Engraver and Printer, Artists' Repository, 50, High Street, Portsmouth, 1837" we read "From Alverstoke a variety of rural rides and walks present themselves; one of these,

through a large hamlet called Bingham Town, will bring the perambulator to the Town of Gosport. This town is fortified. . . . On arriving at Gosport beach by water, the High Street of the town will be seen immediately in front of the landing place, and on the south, South Street, where is a well-regulated Bridewell,* under the jurisdiction of the County magistrates, and Chapel Row." . . .

" Coaches from Gosport. To London. The Yeoman, at a quarter before nine in the morning from India Arms to 220 Piccadilly.

To Fareham : Omnibus at 6 p.m. summer and 5 p.m. in winter.

To Winchester : The Sovereign, at a quarter past seven in the morning, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Gosport Post Office. The Western Mail arrives at half past seven in the morning and departs at six in the evening by a cart that meets the Mail at Fareham. The London Mail arrives at half past six in the morning, and departs at eight in the evening".

The Vestry Book, which is full of interesting details concerning the Church, people and expenditure, and is in beautiful handwriting, ends in 1830, and after that date one has to rely on parish Magazines and other sources for information.

The Reverend Skipsey Sanders was appointed to the Curacy in 1858. Two years later Holy Trinity became a separate parish, and he went to live in the present Vicarage.

In 1876 the " Organ Swell was rebuilt for £200, but still retains the old pipes and Flute stops".

The Reverend Oliver S. Walford followed in 1884, and three years later the interior of the Church was remodelled, and the West end rebuilt at a cost of £2,300. The Church, however, was inconspicuous from the outside, surrounded as it was by trees, and the Revd. W. L. Nichols of Gosport decided to build a detached brick Campanile at the North West angle of the Church. This was erected in 1889, and contained eight bells. Mr. Joseph Taylor, a well-known one legged resident in South Street, claimed to be the last to come down from the scaffolding when the Tower was finished. All those who took any part in its erection would be glad to know what pleasure the sight of it has given to men returning from overseas. How often one has heard " The last thing we saw as we passed Spit-head was Trinity Church Tower, and when we saw it on our return journey we felt we were really near home again".

The cost of the Campanile and bells was about £2,500. Mr. Adolphus Nichols presented a four faced clock, and a Nichols Trust was started for the upkeep of the Tower.

*A *Bridewell* is the old name for a Gaol

The Reverend William Lee had become Vicar in 1889, and he and Mrs. Lee were well-known for their hospitality, for the beauty of the well-kept Vicarage garden with its greenhouses and smooth lawns and for his carriage and pair.

By Mr. Puttock's Brewhouse, near the corner of South Street and Haslar Street, there was a soup kitchen, where the needy who had been given tickets by the Vicar, could take their jugs and have them filled from a big cauldron; they were also given a piece of bread.

Farther down South Street were wash houses, which were part of the Thorngate Trust, here women could take their clothes and were supplied with hot water and soap. These were still in use, and were watched over by the deaf but voluble Mrs. Lambie until they were destroyed by the enemy in World War II.

Extracts from the First Log of Trinity School

" Monday, Jan. 9th, 1865. My first morning at Holy Trinity Infants School, Gosport. E. Rawlins.

I found the school very deficient in apparatus. The children were very disorderly. School visited by Rev. W. S. Sanders from whom I received orders to make out a list of things required . . .

March 29th. The Children were more troublesome than usual. I caned a boy for disobedience.

May 11th, 1887. Attended without notice and called the Registers, found all correct. O. S. Walford".

Later we read of the Rev. W. Lee also regularly visiting the school, and we read of Scarlet Fever, from which seven children died, and measles, and Diocesan Inspections, and children being " sent home for being very dirty".

The first Log Book closes on March 2nd, 1899 when " The Vicar visited the School and gave the children a half-holiday owing to Ladysmith being relieved".

Enrichments to the Church

The exquisite Reredos, painted by Floyce and representing the Nativity, was brought from Italy by Mr. Edwin Bishop, a merchant of Gosport, and was given to the Church in 1892. There was also added to the Church a Chancel screen of iron, set in an alabaster base, designed by Sir A. W. Blomfield, A.R.A., F.S.A. and given by the four daughters of Sir Andrew Clark, Bart., M.D.

The Pulpit of various marbles, was the work of Mr. Earp, and the brass Eagle Lectern was presented by the colleagues, pupils and friends of Mr. E. L. L. Shewell M.A., Principal of the Royal Academy, Gosport, who was drowned in a collision at sea on May 5th, 1887.

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

The Reverend Henry Woolsey became Vicar in 1911, and the following year the Organ was repaired "the work being arduous and expensive". In 1913 he wrote in the Parish Magazine, "We have renounced Pew Rents, all seats are free, and what I consider the greatest blessing of all, we have been enabled to maintain a daily Celebration of the Holy Eucharist".

At the beginning of 1914 Electric Lighting was installed in the Church. The Vicar wrote in the Parish Magazine these words, "The new installation was first used on January 18th. It means the total disappearance of gas from the Church, including, we trust, the pervading scent of that illuminant. . . . What chiefly pleased at the outset was the softness and unexpected warmth of the light, the ease with which it could be manipulated either to light up the Church or to throw an unoffending congregation into total darkness. . . . On the second Sunday a message (like Goethe's) for "More Light" procured the extinction of all we had, plus the lamp outside in the Churchyard. What will take the place in future years of this system? Doubtless our predecessors felt quite as up-to-date when they first put in the gas. It did its work well, and some of its appurtenances were generous gifts to the Church for which we renew our thanks".

The First World War

In July, 1914 the "Vicar's Letter" began "These lines are written in sight of the most wonderful fleet that the world has ever seen assembled. Two air ships are sailing over my head, some thirty planes have just flown past, the Royal Yacht with the King on board is leaving the harbour".

The following month he wrote "How little we thought when the last Magazine came out that this number would appear with Europe in a blaze, and England allied with France and Russia against Germany. It bids fair to be the greatest war in History".

In December, 1918 he wrote "How glorious is the feeling of peace! How often we have thought how delightful it is to go about our lawful occasions unworried by thoughts of lights to be shaded, and of special Constables thirsting for our blood, to have our clock striking all night and the blue shades off the lights in the Church. All this and the relief of thinking that there is no more that haunting nightmare of our men in the trenches. . . . There comes inevitably the regret, mingled with burning gratitude for those splendid lives unselfishly laid down".

Many Gosport men had joined the forces of whom fifty two gave their lives for their King and Country, whose names

Royal Navy—G. Batty, W. Benham, W. Best, W. Bowyer, E. Courtney, H. Dash, W. Diaper, A. Dyer, F. Dyer, F. Fletcher, H. Gamblian, W. Goring, C. Maidment, E. Mariner, W. McDonald, W. Riddle, F. Shilling, C. Tawney, R. White, F. Williams, W. Williams

Royal Marines—W. Elliott, A. Fuller, J. Grove, W. Tylee
Army—W. Alderman, C. Bailey, A. Baker, C. Benham, H. Cranks, W. Crutchfield, C. Felmingham, R. Ferguson, L. French, E. Goddard, C. Colledge, R. Henning, G. Livesay, A. Moffatt, W. Mundy, E. Newbold, E. Nobbs, W. Newman, R. Shilling, H. Shrubsole, G. Topham, G. Tuthill, I. Upsodell, H. Whittingham, J. Wiles.

Royal Air Force—R. Clark.

are inscribed on the War Memorial Crucifix, which was erected at the North West corner of the Churchyard. It is of Portland Stone, stands 16ft. above the ground and was made by Messrs. Rogers of Exeter. This was unveiled on April 27th, 1922 by Captain A. R. W. Woods, D.S.O., R.N. and was dedicated by the Bishop of Southampton in the presence of a large gathering, among them being many of those who had subscribed £304 for the Memorial.

Between the Wars

In 1921 the Churchyard trees which had been planted in 1782 were lopped, presumably for the first time.

The Revd. W. Lee died on April 8th, 1923 and in his memory there was given a very fine modern Chalice and Paten in silver gilt with the inscription, "Holy Trinity of Gosport. William Lee. Priest. Vicar 1889-1911. R.I.P."

On February 4th, 1926 the Bishop of Southampton dedicated the Jesus Chapel on the North side of the Church. The marble altar was added later, and on it were placed a silver Cross and Candlesticks, which were presented in memory of the former Vicar.

The Revd. Henry Woolsey died while on holiday in Venice in September 1926. To show appreciation of his life and work, a Choir vestry, at the Eastern end of the South aisle, and a Requiem Altar, placed against the West wall of this Vestry were erected in 1928.

Miss Woolsey died early in 1944. Mrs. Jellicoe wrote in the Parish Leaflet "Many of us will greatly miss her warm-hearted friendship and affection, her amusing letters and downright Irish manner of expressing her opinions." She can rightly be numbered among the benefactors of Holy Trinity.

Above the Requiem Altar there is a framed reproduction of Van Eyck's "Adoration of the Lamb", presented by Mrs. Earle. This famous picture was begun in 1420 by Hubert van Eyck and finished by his brother in 1432.

After the death of the Revd. Henry Woolsey, the Revd. R. O'Gorman Power, Vicar of St. Johns, Forton, was in charge until the Revd. William Mc. Watters was appointed Vicar in June 1927.

The same year there came into being the new Diocese of Portsmouth, Dr. Neville Lovett being the first Bishop, and the old Church of St. Thomas a'Becket, of which he had been Incumbent, became the Cathedral of the Diocese.

In 1929 an Electric Blower for the Organ was installed at the cost of over £150. When the organ was first used, the "Blower" was paid 2/- a month, and on occasions there was more than one candidate for the job. Doubtless, before the 20th Century this salary had been largely increased.

"Slum Clearance" began, and the people living in Trinity Square, Trinity View, Chapel Lane, and other old houses were moved to other parts of the Borough. One of the big Georgian houses called the Servants Home, where servants who were out of work could stay, was by now occupied by tenants, and several other large houses accommodated more than one family. Among these was Wingfield House in South Street, where in the front room of this once stately house, was to be seen the oak leaf pattern decorating the top of the walls, similar to that in the Vicarage and in Apsley House in London.

In the King's Arms passage there is still to be seen the hinge on which the gate used to hang to prevent the Press Gangs from coming through. In 1641 Parliament had declared it illegal to "impress" men into the Army and Navy. The system, however, was later adopted by Cromwell to obtain men for his land forces, and in the latter half of the eighteenth Century used with much harshness and scandal to recruit men for the Navy. Gosport was one of the chief places where the Press Gangs worked their evil ways. There were so many public houses down by the harbour that many sailors returning from a voyage lost their months' pay in a very short time. In living memory men rejoining their ships, or going to work in the early hours of the morning, could buy a tot of hot rum and milk for 2d.

Mrs. Hobbs, born in 1869, whose father, Mr. James, kept the Boar's Head in South Street, remembers that the opening hours were from 6 a.m. until 11 p.m., that beer was 4d. per quart; porter was the same price, and "very good porter it was!" Her father at times kept 100 pigs at the back of the premises, and killed one each Friday, selling any part of it for 6d. per pound. He also kept fowls, and sold new laid eggs at 1d. each.

Other Public Houses in South Street were the Blacksmith's Arms, the Red Lion, the Globe and Laurel, the Oak Brewery, Bunkers Hill, the George and Dragon, the Rose and Shamrock and the Artichoke.

At the corner of Upper South Street and South Cross Street there was Blake's Brewery, and there was a Malt house near the corner of New Road.

It is not altogether surprising that it was inadvisable for young women to walk down South Street unaccompanied!

There have been many benefactors to the Town and its people. Almshouses were built many years ago "for Widows and Spinsters who must not be guilty of inebriety, insubordination or unbecoming

conduct", and there still exist the Pauls Charity, Peachey's Charity, and the Thorngate Charity, to help the sick and needy with coal and other necessaries at Christmas.

Messrs. Camper and Nicholsons built the famous yachts *Shamrock*, *Endeavour I and II*, *Candida* and *Astra* at their yard in the town. In the summer the tall ships were sometimes to be seen under full sail in the Solent, a lovely sight; and in the winter months anyone walking down Little Beach Street would pass almost under their bows. These large craft are no longer being built, smaller craft having taken their place. The firm also build ships for the Admiralty, and it is interesting to see the various types of vessels on the stocks, which now come right across what was once Beach Street, and on to the waste ground beyond.

In August, 1935, the Revd. W. McWatters, whose health had not been too good, resigned. After his death in 1945, a Crucifix, a pair of Candlesticks and a Missal Stand for use on the Requiem Altar, were given as a memorial to him and to his faithful work as Vicar. These were dedicated on July 11th, 1948.

The Revd. C. L. T. Barclay came in his place, and is the present Vicar.

Lieut.-Colonel C. R. S. Woods and Mr. Arthur Thompson were Wardens. Mr. Thompson died in 1937, and the front pews in the Church were given in his memory and that of Mr. Sydney Barnard Smith, who had been Vicar's Warden from 1913-1925, and whose good work for the Church and Borough had been widely recognised.

The Lectern Bible was "Presented to the Parish Church of The Holy and Undivided Trinity of Gosport by George Miller Cox and Elizabeth Cox in thankful Commemoration of their Golden Wedding on Lady Day, 1936. Dedicated on Easter Day of that year by Neville, 1st Lord Bishop of Portsmouth, who himself read the first lesson therefrom".

The Church was badly in need of re-decorating, and this was done in 1938, at the cost of £250, which was paid by subscribers.

The Organ at the same time was thoroughly overhauled. Mr. Emanuel Churcher, himself an organist of no little repute, and a great lover of music, generously contributed the whole amount of £400.

Mr. James Newman had been appointed Organist in June 1914, and continued to play the organ, which he loved so dearly, until increasing age and infirmity caused him to retire in 1938. Many people still remember with pleasure his rendering of the Largo from Dvorak's New World Symphony.

In 1939, Mrs. Briggs, who with her daughter, lived in the Old Vicarage, renamed The Hall, presented to the Church the Grand Piano, which had belonged to her husband, Mr. Henry Bremridge Briggs. Mr. Briggs, with Dr. Frere, afterwards Bishop of Truro, formed the Plainsong and Mediaeval Music Society, and together they revised the Manual of Plainsong under the supervision of Sir John Stainer.

The Revd. H. D. Lyon came from Cornwall to live in Gosport, and it was a great pleasure to him, in his retirement, to be able to help at Holy Trinity. He died in 1939, and was missed by many friends.

Lieut.-Colonel Arthur Kitcat's death in 1939 brought great sorrow not only to his friends in the Church, but to many in the Borough who realised his sterling qualities. We remember him with his arms full of Harvest Thanksgiving fruit and vegetables, taking them round to the old people and those in need. He was Captain of the Bellringers, a Server, and Choirman for very many years.

The last twenty years have been, one has every reason to suppose, the most eventful in Gosport's long history. There was the joyous occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the reign of King George V and Queen Mary in 1935; but the King's death on Jan. 20th, 1936, caused much sorrow to his people.

Then followed the months when Edward VIII was King until his abdication on Dec. 11th, 1936, when through the gloom could be seen the dark shape of a destroyer moving down past the Sally Port, taking him away to foreign lands.

He was succeeded by his brother, George VI, who, with Queen Elizabeth at his side, was crowned King in Westminster Abbey on May 12th, 1937. This was the first time that the Coronation of a British Monarch was broadcast to all his subjects at home and in nearly every part of the Empire.

After the Coronation, there were 'street parties' and general rejoicings. Among those who always help in giving the children a good time is Mr. Charlie Gouge. It was due to his thorough and conscientious work that the roads in Holy Trinity Parish were kept so clean and tidy for twenty-six years.

The next two years passed all too quickly, with plenty of opportunities for the entertainment of those living in the Town. There was the Thorngate Hall, the foundation stone of which was laid by Emanuel Churcher Esq., Senior Trustee of the Thorngate General Charity, on November 1st, 1884, where, among other events, dances were held, and where the Mayors held their receptions. It was there also that a very successful Sale and Pageant was organised in aid of the Waifs and Strays Society, when children from several parishes in the Borough took part in different scenes.

There was also the new and spacious Ritz Cinema, opposite the Public Library, and the Gosport Theatre, which had some time previously been a Variety Theatre, but had been altered to serve as a Cinema.

By Walpole Park there is the Cockle Pond on which the beautiful Model Yachts are sailed with much skill and enthusiasm by their owners, and provide excitement for the spectators, especially in the International races, which take place each year at Gosport or at Fleetwood.

There is also a lake close by, where children can learn to row, or paddle a canoe; and there are the fine sea water Swimming Baths, with high and low diving-boards, where the schools hold their aquatic sports. A Swimming Gala is held there each year, when the Beauty Queen of the year takes a prominent part.

All these are in Holy Trinity Parish, and within half a mile of the Ferry which crosses to Portsmouth every few minutes.

A new Infant School had been built in South Street, and the old building opposite the West gates of the Church had become the Church Rooms. Here the Mothers' Union, with Mrs. Jellicoe as its excellent Enrolling Member, held its meetings. The M.U. Banner was due to their efforts. Another Banner, representing the Good Shepherd, was made by Miss Bushnell.

There were sewing parties and mother's meetings under the able direction of Mrs. Kitcat and Mrs. Lake, both indefatigable workers for the Church.

Plays were presented on an inadequate stage, and Parties, Whist Drives and other activities took place there.

Each year the Infants, shepherded by Miss Greer, who ruled them with originality and Irish good humour, marched from the School to the Vicarage garden to crown the May Queen. The accompanying songs, dances and recitations gave much pleasure and amusement to the parents. Patsy Janes, following in the footsteps of her elder sisters, was the last Queen to be crowned. The School was destroyed by enemy action, and now the Infants have to go some distance to school.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

In 1938 when Mr. Neville Chamberlain was Prime Minister, Britain realised that Hitler was not content only to be Dictator of Germany, but wished to increase his power elsewhere. However there was the meeting at Munich, and war was, for the time being, averted.

But the following year, peace with honour could no longer be maintained, and war with Germany was declared on September 3rd.

The people of Gosport realised that their town and surroundings would be one of the main targets of the enemy. Not only is Portsmouth Dockyard just across the harbour, but H.M.S. *Dolphin*, the Submarine Base, and H.M.S. *Hornet*, the Base of the Motor Torpedo Boats, are situated on the farther side of Haslar Creek, all within a short distance. Also on the North side of the town are Priddy's Hard and Clarence Yard, both very important Government establishments.

The district became an evacuation area, and Holy Trinity School was a hive of excitement, with gas mask practice, a certain amount of medical inspection, much arranging, collecting of belongings and labelling. There was a long train at Gosport station to take the children and those from Clarence Square and St. Matthew's schools to Droxford and elsewhere. Some of the teachers went with them and continued to teach in the new areas.

But by no means all the children went away, and it seemed a good thing that those who had stayed behind, and the few who quickly returned to their homes, should have something definite to do, so Holy Trinity School was re-opened in the mornings, and staffed by voluntary teachers, who had some difficulty in controlling over a hundred children between the ages of seven and fourteen. In December, however, Miss Greer returned from Droxford and did house to house teaching, as it was forbidden for many children to be together under one roof. Mrs. Hopper and the few remaining evacuees returned the following April.

The Home Guard was formed in case there should be an invasion, Wardens were enrolled and instructed, and there were regulations as to carrying identity cards, ration cards and gas masks.

There was also the Black-out.

The ferries still made their way across the harbour, but there was no other movement of vessels to be seen.

Early one morning, we saw a small motor launch, with apparently only one man aboard, going full speed with the tide, making for the open sea. She looked in need of a coat of paint, and we wondered what she was doing and where she was going. Later that day we heard about the evacuation from Dunkirk, and the gallant efforts made by men in ships, big and small, to bring back our men from the beaches. We knew then where that little ship had been going so fast. We constantly looked for her return, but we never saw her again.

With the collapse of France, the capture of Paris, and the German forces on the shores of Brittany and Normandy, Gosport could not expect to be immune from air raids much longer, and in August, 1940 the first bombs fell. One narrowly missed the Swimming baths and made a crater in Walpole Park, and others fell near by.

A big underground air raid shelter was built near the Baths, and others, some on the surface, were erected in various places. There were several "Andersons" in back gardens. During the winter, when night after night the sirens would give the alarm, mothers and children would hasten as best they could in the dark to one or other of these shelters for safety and to get what rest they could. It was pathetic to see old ladies, including Mrs. Brown and Miss Barnett, clutching their handbags containing their precious belongings, and with outward calmness, climb down the ladder into their shelter, light their candle, there to wait for the All Clear.

The Welcome Hut, opposite the Thorngate Hall, was opened as a Canteen by the Church Army. Many ladies from the Borough worked various shifts serving the men from the Forces, who were very glad of something to eat and drink, and friendly talk.

A Barrage Balloon was sited behind the Hall Guest House, and its R.A.F. crew lodged in the Church Rooms. Later the Balloon's hawser got involved with one of the Hall's chimneys, and it was moved elsewhere.

The N.F.S. store and Omnibus Depot in Beach Street were among the first to be set on fire by incendiary bombs, and the Boys Club in South Street, and the Thorngate Hall and Ritz Cinema were destroyed.

One remembers time after time looking through high up windows of a darkened house, and seeing that the sky to eastward was a lurid red, and murmuring "Poor old Pompey has caught it again."

On the night of November 16th, there had been no siren, and the rain was pouring down, when suddenly we heard a Plane swooping overhead and the scream of a falling bomb, such as we were to get to know all too well during the following months. The bomb fell on Dock House in Beach Street, and Mrs. Ruby Vallance was, trapped under the debris for six hours before she could be extricated and one of her legs had to be amputated. Houses near by were also badly damaged, and Mr. and Mrs. Jurd were fortunate in escaping without injury.

1941

It was on the night of January 10th, 1941, when the weather was so bitterly cold that boys had been skating and sliding on the Moat, that Gosport had its first major "Blitz". Several High Explosive bombs were dropped, and Incendiaries and "Molotov Cocktails", as they were called, started many fires. Much damage was done, but no one was killed.

The following are extracts from a Diary :

"Jan. 11th. No water, gas or electricity. More windows broken. Cooked on dining-room fire. Not even the Wireless. Bitterly cold . . . Jan 14th. Water came on . . . Jan 15th. Gas came on . . . Jan. 17th. Electricity came on . . . Jan 18th. Returned to normal."

On February 26th, five bombs were dropped along South Street, and the Police Station, among other buildings, was hit. Three men were injured.

On March 9th, a bomb fell on the Water Police Quarters. The occupants of No. 9, Mr. and Mrs. Land and family, were in a shelter dug into the ramparts a few yards away; they felt the blast, and looking out afterwards saw that their house and several others had been demolished.

The next night, March 10th, was the second major Blitz, when a great deal of damage was done. During the next few weeks there were several raids.

Sunday Services took place in Holy Trinity Church as usual throughout the whole war, although on one Sunday evening during a raid, the congregation crossed over to the Vicarage basement, where Evenson was held.

One early weekday morning, when Mrs. Hedger went, as she always did, sometimes treading over debris, and very often after very little sleep, to prepare for the daily Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, she found that an incendiary bomb had dropped on the Church, had pierced the roof, and had fallen on to the Children's Altar. It had burnt the hangings, the picture, the Altar cloth and the rug on the floor in front, and then must have miraculously burnt itself out, without doing any further damage. The hole which it made in the plaster of the ceiling above the Altar is still to be seen, and the wood floor shows in several places where it was burnt.

An incendiary also fell through the Vicarage roof, and burnt its way through the attic floor before it was put out by fire watchers and others. Previous to this many people had spent nights in the basement, either to get some rest, or because they had been bombed out of their own homes. Other floors were later occupied.

Miss Smith, a well-known character in her black bonnet and old-fashioned clothes, and the proud possessor of a parasol given to her by Miss Woolsey, but which she had never opened, used to go upstairs, as she had always done. Neither Hitler nor anyone else would make her change her ways! On the night of June 14th, 1941, an anti-personnel bomb fell on her roof, and partly destroyed her bed. She was injured, but recovered, only to die years later of a long and painful illness. A sailor, passing the house at the time, was killed, and Mr. Wilfred Jackson in the house over the road was pierced by a flying piece of window frame and died an hour or two later.

Later that same month, a new menace, Land Mines, came down upon the Borough, and caused much damage.

For many months, Britain by herself had been defying the might of the Germans. After the collapse of France and the capitulation of the Italians, it seemed likely that the enemy, with Norway, Belgium and Holland already in their grasp, would use all their efforts towards the conquering of these Islands. On June 22nd, however, Hitler attacked Russia, and many of his troops were occupied on that front.

On December 7th, the Japanese Air Force made their sudden and devastating attack on Pearl Harbour, bringing the United States into the war as our allies. Two days later, we heard that two of our battleships, H.M.S. *Prince of Wales* and H.M.S. *Repulse* had been sunk in Eastern waters.

Mr. Churchill, the Prime Minister, broadcast to the nation from Ottawa, on December 30th. On every occasion on which he spoke, however bad things seemed to be, he gave us fresh courage. Each September we are reminded of his words after the Battle of Britain, when the R.A.F. had driven back the "Luftwaffe", "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few".

1942

The early part of the year was very cold, but Gosport, though there were many Alarms, was free from Raids. We heard of attacks on York, Norwich, Exeter and other places.

The summer passed with many disturbed nights, but few actual raids. On August 19th, a Carnival was held, and the items included a Baby Show. It so happened that at that same time our ships were returning after the Dieppe Raid, and were being attacked by enemy aircraft, some of which flew inland and dropped bombs not far away from the place where the Carnival was in full swing. Everyone, however, got home safely, though the attacks continued throughout the evening.

The Welfare Clinic, in Stoke Road, under the capable control of Miss Tait, was held regularly each week. The largest number of babies weighed in one afternoon was 209; often there were more than 180. Miss Tait was in charge from 1934 until 1950, and, with Nurse Kennedy and Nurse Cavanagh, and aided by helpers who were with her most of that time, was always ready to give encouragement and advice to mothers, to whom the bringing up of small children in war time brought many problems and difficulties.

In November came the victory in the Battle of El Alamein, giving us at home the great hope that the successful ending of the war might not be long in coming. In Gosport, as in all places stricken by air raids, the people were friendly and helpful, and showed great unselfishness and kindness to any who might not be as able or mobile as themselves. There was always the thought that, however bad things might be at the time, everything would be all right after the War.

1943

Miss Greer returned to Ireland in July 1943, and Mrs. Hopper, who had been helping her for some time, became Headmistress of Holy Trinity Infant School. The year passed more quietly for us in Gosport, and we were encouraged by better news from the various Fronts.

1944

In March 1944 we were sorry to hear that Mrs. Pafford had died at Basingstoke, and Mrs. Trinnie at Romsey. Both these old ladies, faithful members of Holy Trinity, had been bombed out of their homes, never to return.

Mrs. Palliser, wife of the Fourth Sea Lord, who with her family had been regular worshippers at Holy Trinity, said she was amazed to find the Church looking so clean and tidy; even in places untouched by bombs, many Churches looked shabby, and she had been told it could not be helped because of the War. So it made her feel "very happy to see Holy Trinity still standing serene amid so much destruction, and with its beauty and atmosphere even enhanced".

The Church had been cleaned by voluntary workers, and to them some of the appreciation is due.

But the Luftwaffe had not finished with us, and on May 22nd, bombs were dropped in Church Path, killing four people, and in Roberts Lane, and South Street, where Holy Trinity School and Parish Hall were destroyed, and many homes had to be evacuated. The above-surface School Shelter, where, as so often before, many had gathered, stood up to the blast although it was badly shaken, and the mothers and children scrambled in the darkness over the ruins of the Parish Hall, and thirty seven, including sixteen children, made their way to the Vicarage, where they spent the rest of the night and next day. From the brave old grandfather, with the broken ankle and cut head, to Baby Valerie, we heard no complaints or moaning, in spite of their lack of day clothes, their "turned-up stomachs" and all the misfortunes which had befallen them and the discomforts which they knew were ahead. Six sons came to see how their mother was, and there were enquiries from all round the district, and many offers of help. There were several minor casualties, including Mr. Horsley who, with his family, stayed in their damaged home, so as to be ready to deal with fire, should one break out.

As the School was destroyed, the Infants went to Clarence Square School, where they had the use of two Classrooms. They had been rehearsing for the crowning of the May Queen, so with the help of Mr. Bennett and his boys from Clarence Square School, they dug up the concert clothes, flags, etc. out of the debris, and the next

afternoon the Show took place. Among the guests was the Mayor, Alderman Gregson, who was amazed that the programme had not been cancelled, and that all the children were present, apparently quite unperturbed by the fact that their old school no longer existed.

During May the Harbour had begun to take on a very different look. Whereas, previously, there had been very little shipping to be seen, now there were ships of many descriptions, and the strange Mulberry Forts seemed to glide along the surface of the water.

The roads leading to Gosport and Stokes Bay were crowded with Tanks and other vehicles, and we were told that from many parts of the Kingdom huge convoys were making their way to the South Coast.

The whole length of South Street was blocked for hours at a time by Tanks, which were to be driven on to landing craft moored by Beach Street.

The Welcome Hut was busier than ever serving the Tank crews, who enjoyed their last cup of tea before embarking on an undertaking of the greatest magnitude. We wonder how the Tank "Raby Castle" and her crew fared? We may never know what happened to them and to so many men and women of the Forces, and V.A.D. war-time friends, who passing through Gosport, perhaps came to supper after Evensong, and went their way.

Then we heard of the great Invasion and landing in France. We were thankful that there had been no attacks from the air while so many of the Forces were in and around Gosport, but soon, on June 16th, we were disturbed by "Pilotless Planes". On June 25th, many of the "Doodle Bugs" came over, and on July 12th, we constantly heard the warning given from Blockhouse, and saw nine of them streaking through the sky. But after that night our forces had gained control of the coast of Normandy, and Gosport was not troubled by them any more.

1945

During that winter and the spring of 1945 we learned of the bitter fighting in France and Holland, at Arnhem, the crossing of the Rhine, and the advance of the Allies towards Berlin. On May 2nd, Berlin was captured, and with the surrender of the Germans and Italians, we thankfully rejoiced at the coming of Peace in Europe.

On V.E. Day, May 8th, there was a Thanksgiving Service in Holy Trinity Church, and after Evensong the *Te Deum* was sung.

During that week there were street parties, fireworks and bonfires, and when on August 14th, the Japanese surrendered, there were renewed rejoicings and hopes of a lasting peace.

Flags were often to be seen flying above doorways, part of the welcome home for the men returning from the war.

But there were some who never returned home, having been killed at sea or on foreign soil. The names of

Frederick Boggeln	James Bouchier	Alan Habens
John Hindry	Harry Mawer	Joseph Pearce
Elliot Pease	Kenneth Woods	Peter Woods
	Frank Woolsey	

are remembered in Holy Trinity as men who gave their lives for God, King and Country.

POST WAR PERIOD

1946

Tuesday, September 24th was the 250th Anniversary of the Consecration of Holy Trinity Church. That morning the Mayor and Corporation of Gosport, the Commander-in-Chief, and many of the leaders of the Borough attended a special Service of Thanksgiving. The Bishop of Portsmouth, Dr. Anderson, preached the sermon.

During the week a Play "Well and Truly Laid" about the beginnings and the building of the Church, was presented in the Church Rooms. A large number of Old People were entertained to tea, and afterwards made an appreciative audience at the performance on September 25th.

1947

On February 1st, H.M.S. *Vanguard* looking gigantic in the morning gloom, steamed out of the harbour, and on May 11th, many people, from the ramparts, watched her return, bringing back The King and Queen and the Princesses after their visit to South Africa.

In July the new West Gates for the Churchyard were set up by the Town Council. The gates, including the Memorial Gate by the Crucifix, were removed (apparently in error) at the time during the war when there was an urgent call for iron for the making of munitions. The absence of gates had meant that new paths had been trodden between the graves for the purpose of short-cutting across the Churchyard, and a great deal of damage had been done. The erection of the Gates prevented short cuts being taken, but unruly children still persist in using "God's Acre" as a play ground.

On November 20th, in Westminster Abbey, Princess Elizabeth was married to Prince Philip. The Ceremony was broadcast and in Gosport many families listened to the magnificent Service.

1949

Several of the Church windows had been broken during the war. These were completely restored in the Spring of 1949.

After an interval of nearly nine years, residents in the Town area were glad to see that the clock of Holy Trinity Church was back in working order, and to hear the bells chime on Sundays. The absolute necessity of preventing anyone using the Tower during the war caused the stoppage, and it had been impossible to re-start the chimes until steeplejacks had made the necessary structural repairs.

At the beginning of September the repairs were completed, and "two of the Vicar's sons (Messrs. John and Peter Barclay) with some professional advice, set about the task of getting the clock working. Between them they managed to get back that accuracy for which the clock was always noted. It entailed a great deal of hard work and trouble, and it may stop occasionally until the oil gets properly into every part, but this will only be temporary. All the eight bells were chimed on September 14th."

During the winter of 1949-50 the Church Rooms, which had been damaged during the war, were repaired. The ceiling of the upper room was renewed and the walls were redecorated.

These rooms are now used for Parochial and other meetings. The Mothers Union meet there each month.

The C.O.B.S., which was started in 1925 by Mr. W. A. Coalbran, former headmaster of Clarence Square School, rehearse here for their pantomimes which are such a success each winter, Their Museum is housed in the downstairs room, where also the Scenery is painted.

On December 19th, 1950, the Parish of Saint Matthew, Gosport, was added to the Parish. In consequence the whole Town area became Holy Trinity.

The King Street Hall, which had been used by the people of St. Matthews, now took the place of the Church Rooms for the production of Plays and other activities. "Tons of Money" 1951, and "Fit for Heroes" 1952 were presented, and several One Act plays.

It is also used for parties, Whist Drives, Scottish Dancing and other functions.

The Melody Makers use it once a week.

In 1954 it was redecorated. It is a great addition to the parish, but we wish it were nearer the Church.

1952

The nation mourned the sudden death of "our most religious and gracious King". Requiems were said at Holy Trinity and the large congregation showed their affection for one who had set us all such a high example of devotion to duty and the righteous way of living. The greatest sympathy was expressed for his widow, Queen Elizabeth, his mother, Queen Mary, and his children, the Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret.

1953

On February 26th, 1953, Mr. Frederick Smallwood, aged 82, died in the War Memorial Hospital. For over forty years he had been a faithful member of the Church and the Choir. He was a real craftsman, proud of his craft.

On Good Friday, 1953, we heard with regret of the death of Miss Ellen Barnett aged 88. She had for some eighty years been a devout and regular worshipper at Holy Trinity, and had for a long time given devoted service in keeping the Church clean.

1953

The year of the Coronation of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Some people from Gosport were fortunate in being able to view the Coronation procession in London; others, even more fortunate, were in Westminster Abbey, and could watch the wonderful Ceremony. All of us could listen with real attention to the Service, and there was no doubt that the religious and spiritual significance of the Queen's Anointing and Coronation was deeply felt by her subjects, wherever they might be.

During the afternoon there were Street Parties. In Chapel Row there were sports and much fun and excitement. Unfortunately while tea was being laid, it began to pour with rain, and it says much for the competence of the organisers that in a very short time everyone was sitting down to an excellent tea in Haslar Drill Hall. Souvenirs of the occasion were given, and prizes were awarded to the winners of the Fancy Dress parade and other events.

The South Street party had their tea in the Church Rooms, and they and the party in Clarence Square School had an enjoyable time. All the organisers were to be congratulated on giving the neighbourhood something which they will gratefully remember for a long time.

A fortnight later, the Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, came to her Navy, and reviewed the long lines of ships anchored in the Solent. Alverstoke and Gosport were inundated with thousands of people who had come to see the Fleet, the Fly Past, and the Foreworks.

When King George VI and Queen Elizabeth reviewed the Fleet on May 20th, 1936, there were to be seen the mighty battleships *Queen Elizabeth*, *Barham*, *Revenge*, *Iron Duke*, *Hood*, *Repulse*, *Nelson*, *Rodney*, and many others. Alas! many of these were sunk by enemy action. In 1953 there was only one battleship, *H.M.S. Vanguard*. The many Aircraft-carriers and smaller craft are the result of modern warfare.

There were many ships from other nations.

On July 22nd, Colonel and Mrs. Woods celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Colonel Woods has been Vicar's Warden since 1925, and he and Mrs. Woods have been of inestimable help to the Church in many ways. On Sunday, July 26th, as a small tribute of the appreciation of the P.C.C. and the Congregation, the Vicar presented them with a photograph of the Church in a gilt frame.

1954

One of the biggest beams, made of oak, in the Church roof had been affected by dry rot (not by Death Watch Beetle), and was repaired in the same way as many other Cathedral and Church roofs have been repaired, with the assurance that after the treatment it would be good for many years to come.

New houses have been erected in Walpole Park, and in these some of those who had been bombed out from South Street are now living. But a great number of those who had been brought up in the Parish have gone to Bridgemary and other building estates. Some of them say they would like to come back to the Town. If they do come back, what a change they will find! Instead of the narrow beginning of Haslar Street, with Flux's Laundry on the one side, and old and decrepit houses on the other, there is now a wide road. Beyond it to the West there can be seen four blocks of five-story flats nearing completion. It is planned that South Street shall be widened, and more lofty flats shall be built nearer the harbour. In fact, the South of the High Street is to become a "Residential Area".

The dwellings will be very different from those in which lived the Merchants who decided to build the Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity over two and a half centuries ago, but it is to be hoped that some of the love for the Church, which filled the life of Henry Player and his friends, and has been shown so plainly in the lives of many generations of benefactors and faithful worshippers, will also be found in those who come to live in the part of Gosport known affectionately as Holy Trinity.

VICARS OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, GOSPORT

It is not easy to make a list of those who have had the Cure of Souls in this Parish; we have the registers complete from the beginning in 1696, but the early entries were not signed by the Priest; and with two exceptions there is no record of the death of a Vicar nor is there any record of an appointment. The earlier dates are based on the fact of the appearance of a name in the Registers or in the Vestry Book. The Revd. Richard Bingham, Senior, was buried here, aged 93, in 1858, by the Revd. E. L. Berthon, and it seems that he succeeded his father, the Revd. I. M. Bingham, who died in 1807, and that he was helped by his son, the Revd. Richard Bingham, Junior.

1696	
1701	William Ogilvie
1731	Dr. Monckton
1734	Thomas Symonds
1747	Samuel Dugard
1767	Michael Philipps
1779	Isaac M. Bingham
1807	Richard Bingham
1858	William Skipsey Sanders
1884	Oliver S. Walford
1889	William Lee
1911	Henry Woolsey
1927	William McWatters
1935	Cyril L. T. Barclay

Union of the Town Parishes 1950

After some four years of preliminaries, the *London Gazette* published on December 19th, 1950 an Order from the Church Commissioners, of which the following are extracts :

“The benefice of Holy Trinity, Gosport, and the benefice of St. Matthew, Gosport, shall be permanently united together, and form a new benefice with cure of souls under the style of ‘The Benefice of Holy Trinity, Gosport’.

The Reverend C. L. T. Barclay shall be the first incumbent of the new benefice.

The Church of St. Matthew, Gosport (being a church which under this Scheme will be no longer required as such) shall be closed by the Bishop for Divine Service.

The Church of Holy Trinity, Gosport, shall be the parish church of the united Parish of Holy Trinity, Gosport.”

St. Matthews Church was closed for Divine Service, after Evensong on January 14th, 1951.