

Paper: Portsmouth LINC Commitment

For: Portsmouth Diocesan Synod

By: Nick Ralph

Date: Feb 2026

In July 2024, Sara Barron, once one of our pioneer workers in Leigh Park, sent an email to everyone in the National Estate Churches Network along with a document from the Estates Evangelism Task Group of which she was then Executive Director and chair. The task group had drafted what they were calling a Diocesan Manifesto which contained 12 bullet points in no particular order for dioceses to consider.

The identification of different sorts of parishes has changed over the years from Urban Priority Areas (UPAs) through Areas of Disadvantage, to Regeneration Areas. We have also had some designated as estates churches as above. Each definition comes with its own drawbacks and limitations. The Church of England nationally has decided to denote certain parishes as 'Lowest Income Communities' (LINC) and to allocate to them some dedicated national funding. There will be a separate briefing about the funding allocated to the Diocese of Portsmouth at Diocesan Synod on March 7th.

There used to be an Urban Ministry Group in the diocese that met for mutual support, but it hasn't met since Covid. It was also clear from the list of parishes included in the LINC list from the national church, that neither Urban Priority Churches nor Estate Churches were really appropriate. The Ven Bob White and I agreed to convene a group based on the LINC list and this has now met several times over the last year or so. It has discussed the original document and decided that it was worthwhile but needed adaptation and more clarity. It was also not helpful to call it a manifesto. The document you now have is this new draft Diocesan Commitment which sets out some of the key differences faced by parishes in these various challenging contexts, as well as the opportunities. The group as spent time thinking carefully about what it wants to say and the understanding they are looking for from colleagues, recognising at the same time that each parish has a uniqueness of its own.

The definition of a LINC parish has been decided nationally and is based on calculating a parish score from the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2019). (New scores were only issued in Oct 2025.) From the way it is calculated a parish would need to be in the top 25% most deprived parishes). This led to the list overleaf. The interesting thing about this list is that it reflects the whole variety of traditions in the Church of England. Parishes of all churchmanship are represented in it.

PTO

Parish	IMD	Population	WC Adult	WC Child	AWA Adult	AWA Child	WC Over 70
Portsea: St Mary	429	22,398	266	63	145.75	42.5	89
Saint Luke and Saint Peter, Southsea	430	13,715	95	18	61.25	8.25	16
Warren Park: St Clare	454	3,285	30	5	16	2.75	20
Paulsgrove: St Michael & All Angels	488	12,353	54	11	57.25	19.75	18
Leigh Park: St Francis	496	13,038	68	17	41.5	3.25	33
Wymering	557	6,842	44	6	40	3	14
West Leigh: St Alban	569	9,735	71	34	24.75	4.75	21
Barton: St Paul	623	6,773	77	23	41.5	7.5	47
Harbour Church, Portsmouth	674	16,978	1029	229	246.25	57	8
Ventnor: St Catherine	822	1,855	60	7	70.25	14.5	20
Oakfield: St John	1,105	10,233	44	15	30.25	9	29
Shanklin: St Saviour-on-the-Cliff	1,110	1,477	47	6	58.5	0	17
Yaverland: St John the Baptist	1,147	460	18	0	7	0	8
Sandown: St John the Evangelist	1,291	4,270	24	0	22.5	0.5	18
Ventnor: Holy Trinity	1,318	1,071	27	1	28.5	0.75	21
Chale: St Andrew	1,417	609	12	0	9.75	0	8
Ryde	1,629	10,543	111	14	108.5	4	40
Haven Church Gosport	1,631	19,989	208	71	244	42	91
Whippingham: St Mildred	1,712	3,705	29	3	88	14.25	19
Sandown: Christ Church	1,877	3,586	62	11	76	11.25	20
St Saviour and the Ascension, Portsea	1,941	14,226	56	10	54	10	33
Godshill: All Saints	2,043	3,603	22	2	30	0.5	18
Bonchurch: St Boniface	2,099	484	65	0	25.5	0	32
Hart Plain	2,105	8,803	115	8	57.75	7	45
Portsea: St Mark, St. Francis, St. Nicholas	2,203	21,415	97	25	76.75	5.5	51
Shanklin: St Paul, Gatten	2,327	5,721	26	0	18.75	0.25	19
Brook: St Mary the Virgin	2,339	123	27	0	10.75	0	12
Newtown: Holy Spirit	2,346	308	19	1	9.25	1	13
Newport Minster, Saint John and Carisbrooke	2,434	18,393	162	12	176.25	3.25	60
Lake: The Good Shepherd	2,445	3,843	12	1	9.75	0	5
Rowner	2,525	18,000	62	51	124	36.5	30
Calbourne: All Saints	2,535	360	8	0	12.25	0.5	5
Crookhorn: The Good Shepherd	2,543	2,967	118	28	79.5	29.75	34
Niton	2,560	1,341	21	0	33.25	0	10
Brading: St Mary the Virgin	2,598	2,529	36	1	28	0.25	25
Shanklin: St Blasius	2,645	1,908	98	2	29.25	1.5	78
Southsea: St Jude	2,731	8,289	198	130	190.75	46	40
Shorwell w Kingston: St Peter	2,739	698	25	0	18.75	0	22
Wroxall	2,823	1,689	15	4	19.5	2	10
Gatcombe: St Olave	2,878	676	18	0	14.75	0	10
Freshwater: All Saints	2,910	5,574	72	6	57	2	50