

Join us to mark 100 years of our diocese

YOU can join us to celebrate the centenary of our diocese and of our cathedral in a series of exciting events and activities next year.

We aim to look back at the faithful worshippers who have shaped our diocese and cathedral in the past; to celebrate how God is working across our diocese in the present; and to launch activities that leave a legacy for the future.

Among the celebrations will be special services, exhibitions, displays and mission events. You may want to ensure that these dates are in your parish's calendars for next year, to ensure that you don't miss out.

The Spring 2027 edition of our **@CofEPortsmouth** magazine will be a special commemorative brochure, detailing the history of our diocese and cathedral, and telling stories of the past 100 years. We'll also look back with an exhibition within our cathedral, which will include artefacts from the past, including the pectoral cross belonging to our first bishop - Bishop Neville Lovett - and copies of some of his sermons.

We have been focussing on the present day by taking photos of 100 current worshippers from our churches and cathedral. Our '100 Faces' project is designed to be a snapshot of just who is part of our diocese in 2027.

Our models have been nominated by those in our parishes and our cathedral, and include those who have been worshippers for many years, those with interesting stories



Above: We'll gather worshippers from across our diocese for our outdoor service, as we did for Thy Kingdom Come in 2019, when we met at Portchester Castle: right: Tano Owi-Bovi, one of our '100 Faces' whose photo will be displayed



of faith to tell, and those who have recently embraced Christianity.

Those 100 photos should fill the nave of our cathedral from **April 4-24** next year, alongside moving stories about their faith. Those photos, stories and some videos of these amazing people will also be shared on our website and social media every few days during 2027.

We're delighted that the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Sarah Mullally, will be joining us on **Saturday 1st May** to mark precisely 100 years since the Diocese of

Portsmouth was formed - on May 1, 1927.

Archbishop Sarah will help lead a service in our cathedral, which will allow us to thank God for the past 100 years, with invited guests from our history, civic dignitaries, and representatives from our parishes and church schools.

Because we can only fit so many people within our cathedral, we also want to hold an outdoor celebration to which everyone across the diocese can be invited.

We're hoping thousands of you will join Bishop Jonathan for this special outdoor service from 11am on **Sunday 18 July**, on Governors' Green in Old Portsmouth. It will be a colourful, lively celebration of everything that God has done and is doing within his Church in

Your guide to our centenary events

October 11, 2026 (7pm): Launch of centenary year

The launch of our centenary year happens around the 99th anniversary of the enthronement of our first bishop. You'll get a sneak preview of our plans.

January 12, 2027 (2pm): Bishop Jonathan's Desert Island Discs

Join Bishop Jonathan at this event, organised by the Friends of Portsmouth Cathedral and hosted by former BBC South Today presenter Bruce Parker. The bishop will select his favourite music.

April 4-24, 2027 (10am-4pm): '100 Faces' display

See the photos of our 100 current worshippers and reflect on their stories of God's faithfulness.

April 16, 2027 (6.45pm): An evening with Alan Titchmarsh

This Friends of Portsmouth Cathedral event will happen after Evensong. TV gardener and presenter Alan Titchmarsh will be our special guest.

May 1, 2027 (2pm): Centenary celebration service

The Archbishop of Canterbury will join us to mark 100 years precisely since the creation of our diocese.



Archbishop Sarah Mullally and Alan Titchmarsh will help us to celebrate



May 5, 2027 (3pm): Choral Evensong on BBC Radio 3

The BBC will broadcast Portsmouth Cathedral Choir singing Evensong to mark our centenary.

July 18, 2027 (11am): Outdoor centenary service

Join worshippers from across the diocese on Governors' Green, Old Portsmouth, for a family-friendly, lively celebration of 100 years.

Bank Holidays:

A series of pilgrimages on Bank Holidays during 2027 will retrace the steps of the pilgrims who first brought Christianity to this area.

October 4, 2027 (3pm): Centenary of the hallowing of our cathedral

We'll mark exactly 100 years since our cathedral was hallowed, ahead of the consecration of the first Bishop of Portsmouth, Neville Lovett, on October 6, 1927.

October 16, 2027 Diocesan Choir Festival

Our cathedral will host a day-long festival at which choirs from across the diocese will sing together.

See www.portsmouth.anglican.org/100 for details of these events and more as they are planned.

this diocese, and suitable for all the family. We would be delighted if parishes cancelled their main morning service that day, so we would all be available to celebrate together.

And in October, we'll be marking precisely 100 years since our cathedral was hallowed, on October 4, 1927 - ahead of the enthronement of Neville Lovett as the very first Bishop of Portsmouth two days later. This special Evensong on **Monday 4th October** will use some of the liturgy from the 1927 service.

We also hope to organise special mission weeks in each of our archdeaconries, so that our centenary celebrations don't just dwell on the past, but also secure

a legacy for the future. Helping to bring new people into a Christian faith is a major way to help the Church thrive in south-east Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

There will be many other events and activities to mark our centenary during 2027, some of which are detailed on these pages. We're also hoping that parishes can organise events to mark our centenary. If you are already planning next year's summer fete or community fair, why not also make it a celebration of our 100 years?

You can download a '100 Years' logo to add to your publicity, and also find out more details about our centenary plans as they evolve on www.portsmouth.anglican.org/100

