

Where are they now?

Photo: South-West News Agency



PETER HANCOCK

Was: Curate, Christ Church, Portsdown (1980-83); Vicar, St Wilfrid's Church, Cowplain (1987-99); Archdeacon of the Meon (1999-2010)

Now: Bishop of Bath and Wells

"I LOOK back on my years in Portsmouth with such affection and thanksgiving. I learnt so much from colleagues and parishioners that it is impossible to describe how much I owe to the diocese.

"In the ordination service of bishops it says: 'Bishops are called to serve and care for the flock of Christ...they are to love and pray for those committed to their charge, knowing their people and being known by them.'

"During my time in Portsmouth I served under four bishops and learnt from their example just how important it is to know people and to be known by them. The size of the diocese made that possible and the culture was one of mutual support and fellowship. Diocesan occasions were always marked by joyful worship and real fellowship. There was a sense of fun about all we did, which is not always replicated elsewhere. It taught me that being a disciple is meant to be joyful.

"I was ordained in Portsmouth Cathedral nearly 37 years ago and from day one I received such love and encouragement from so many people. This has taught me how important it is to support, love, encourage and pray for each other. As I seek to 'serve to care for the flock of Christ' here in Bath and Wells, I continue to draw upon all that I learnt whilst with you in the diocese. Like St Paul 'I give thanks always for you because of the grace of God that has been given to you in Christ Jesus.'"

THEY learnt about ministry and mission in our diocese. Now many of them have senior responsibilities in the Church of England.

The list of clergy who have moved from Portsmouth diocese to more high-profile roles across the Church is a long one. It seems we have nurtured several of the Church's future leaders within our ranks of parish clergy. Each of those featured on this page can point to formative experiences they had as part of our diocesan family that have helped them in subsequent roles.

It may be an illustration of how a small diocese, which often requires its post-holders to hold down parish and diocesan roles simultaneously, is actually a good training ground for future ministry.

There are numerous examples of clergy who have gone on to perform important roles elsewhere. **The Rt Rev Graeme Knowles** was precentor at our cathedral from 1981-87, vicar of Leigh Park from 1987-93, and then Archdeacon of Portsmouth from 1993-99. He then took on three high-profile roles as Dean of Carlisle Cathedral until 2003, Bishop of Sodor and Man until 2007, and Dean of St Paul's Cathedral until 2011.

He is now retired and is serving as honorary assistant bishop in St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese.

"Portsmouth diocese was definitely a place where I felt nurtured," he said. "I learnt most of my trade there, at Leigh Park, at the cathedral and as an archdeacon. It prepared me for what was to follow, and I had lots of very good role models.

"One of the things about it being a small diocese is that it was possible to know all the clergy in the diocese, and it really felt like a family. I'm still in touch with some



The Rt Rev Graeme Knowles with the Queen at St Paul's Cathedral

people. In my time in the C of E, there were a number of us in senior positions who have done big parochial jobs in large parishes like Leigh Park. Often it was those kind of parishes that produced bishop material."

Other ex-Portsmouth clergy who have found themselves in senior roles include **the Ven Mark Steadman**. He was a curate at St Mary's parish in Portsmouth from 2002-05, and is now Archdeacon of Stow and Lindsey in Lincoln diocese, working alongside another Portsmouth alumni, Bishop Chris Lawson.

The Rev Jamie Hawkey was also curate at St Mary's, from 2007-10. He went on to be precentor at Westminster Abbey and is now Dean of Clare College in Cambridge University and Assistant Director of Ordinands for Ely Diocese.

Holy Trinity and St Columba, Fareham, has also nurtured some key leaders in the Church of England. As well as Jane Hedges and Andrew Tremlett, **the Ven Ian Jagger** was team rector there from 1994-98, and Canon Missioner for our diocese from 1998-

2001. He went on to become Archdeacon of Auckland in Durham Diocese, and is now Archdeacon of Durham.

Canon Steve Hance was a curate at St Jude's Church, Southsea, from 1993-96 and is now a Canon at Southwark Cathedral.

The Rev Mark Rodel, who was also a curate at St Jude's, and then became our first pioneer minister at St Luke's and St Peter's in Southsea, now lectures in pioneer ministry at St John's College, Nottingham.

"One of the things I learnt in Portsmouth and tell my students is that pioneer ministry is not a job for a lone ranger," he said. "It's actually about creating a missional community who can discern and share the task. Then when the pioneer minister leaves, that new community is sustainable. The chief role of a pioneer minister is actually to lead others into pioneering work."

And **the Rev Charlie Allen** was vicar at St Mary's Church, Portchester, from 2007-12 before she was appointed Diocesan Director of Ordinands for the Diocese of Salisbury.

JANE HEDGES

Was: Deaconess, Holy Trinity & St Columba, Fareham (1980-83); Diocesan stewardship adviser (1988-93); Residentiary Canon, Portsmouth Cathedral (1993-2001)

Now: Dean, Norwich Cathedral

"My time in Portsmouth diocese, and particularly my role as a Residentiary Canon, taught me a huge amount about the importance of the relationship between the bishop and his cathedral, and of the cathedral being there to serve the whole diocese and everyone in the community.

"In Norwich I have used the same model of speaking about the cathedral as 'your cathedral' - emphasising that this is a place where all people should feel welcome, whatever their background.

"We also enjoy a very close relationship with Graham, our bishop, praying and working together to serve the people of our diocese, city and county."



Photo: Paul Hurst

ANDREW TREMLETT

Was: Team Vicar, Holy Trinity & St Columba, Fareham (1995-98); Bishop's Chaplain (1998-2003)

Now: Dean, Durham Cathedral

"WORKING at St Columba's, in a diocese where the expectation was that every parish priest also had some deanery, diocesan or national responsibility, was a great training for the future. I learnt to balance day-to-day pastoral work with the vision of the wider church.

"As Bishop's Chaplain I was exposed to the full range of church life - every liturgical style imaginable in so many different contexts; researching speeches for the House of Lords; engaging with business, local authorities and MPs; realising how outward-facing the Church of England can be; seeing up-close how costly and sacrificial ministry can be, in the lives and dedication of lay and ordained people who keep their parishes alive.

"And, of course, who could forget working with Bishop Kenneth!"



ALEX HUGHES

Was: Bishop's Chaplain (2003-08); Vicar, St Luke's & St Peter's Churches, Southsea (2008-14)

Now: Archdeacon of Cambridge



"I ARRIVED in Portsmouth in 2003 when I moved from my curacy in Oxford to become Bishop Kenneth's chaplain.

"My experience as a curate was very positive, but when I joined the bishop's senior staff, I began to see how complacent I was about the missionary challenges facing the church today, and how urgently we need to work together to address them in bold and creative ways.

"I hope that I carried this insight into my ministry in inner-city Portsmouth, where I worked with some wonderful colleagues and congregations to overcome practical problems and renew the spiritual life and mission of the church.

"As an Archdeacon, I draw on these experiences of oversight and working at the 'grass roots' to give encouragement, advice - and the occasional prod - to the parishes of the Diocese of Ely in my area."

CAROLINE BASTON

Was: Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight (2006-11)

Became: Vicar, St Andrew's, Swindon North (2011-16)



"I WAS appointed to rebuild a parish and provide the foundations for a permanent appointment in an area of new housing. By the time I left, we had 100 kids on the books, the congregation were mostly under 45, and they were ready for a long-term appointment.

"What I learnt from being in Swindon is that good, traditional Anglican ministry where you take care of the people, and preach and worship in the right context, does work. Bishop Kenneth always used to say that we should 'love God and love the people and leave the rest to the Holy Spirit', and that's one thing that stayed with me.

"The idea that people in their 20s, 30s and 40s aren't interested in faith is rubbish, but you might have to relate to them slightly differently. Good, simple parish ministry does work.

"Having dealt with conflict and difficulties, which is part of the role of an Archdeacon, having to deal with difficult situations didn't phase me. I'm now waiting on what God has for me next."

CHRIS LAWSON

Was: Vicar, St Peter's, Petersfield & Rector, St Mary's, Buriton (1991-99); Rural Dean, Petersfield (1995-99); Archdeacon of Portsdown (1996-2006)

Now: Bishop of Lincoln

"MY long ministry in the Diocese of Portsmouth provided me with hugely valuable experiences as parish priest and archdeacon which undoubtedly helped shape the ministry I exercise now as a diocesan bishop.

"As a parish priest in Petersfield and Buriton, I gained first-hand experience of the challenges and opportunities of ministry in different contexts.

"When I became Bishop of Lincoln, where almost half the population live in urban or suburban areas and yet the vast majority of parishes are in rural settings, I realised just how beneficial my experience in Portsmouth would be.

"I hope my understanding has helped parishes in Lincolnshire

develop their ministry and mission grounded in my experience of what worked back in Portsmouth diocese.

"As Archdeacon of Portsdown, my ministry included more large scale strategic work, and I was delighted to chair the group that created and implemented 'Kairos' - a new strategic course for the whole diocese.

"It was a chance to help reshape perceptions and work with colleagues to discern a vision for the future, charting new ways in which parishes might respond to their communities.

"That experience has helped me as we grapple with many of the same issues in the Diocese of Lincoln and seek God's guidance for our future direction."

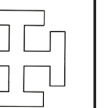
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