

Locks Heath

PARISH PROFILE



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Diocese
of Portsmouth



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MOST PHOTOS IN THIS PROFILE @ LAURA SCOTTORN

BISHOP'S WELCOME

The Diocese of Portsmouth is in good heart and together we have heard God's call to Live, Pray and Serve the Kingdom of Christ, in and for the world.

If you sense the good Lord is calling you to join in with this beautiful work of retrieval and love we will be ready to receive you – all that you bring – in the days ahead.

With my prayers and blessing,

Jonathan Portsmouth



THE RT REV JONATHAN FROST,
BISHOP OF PORTSMOUTH

ARCHDEACON'S WELCOME

This post is an exciting leadership opportunity within and beyond the parish. St John's has achieved a huge amount through a long vacancy, and is looking for a priest and leader who can enable and energise the parish for the next step in its life and ministry. We're looking for a priest to give energy and direction to this parish, and to help it to fulfil its potential as a Resource church across the town and deanery. If you have a calling to enable a community and every person in it to find and respond to their calling and vocation, I hope you'll explore this role further.

Portsmouth diocese is delighted to be appointing clergy again, and is prioritising the places where there is greatest potential for ministry and mission, engaging with children, young people and young adults, and supporting ministry to older people through the resources of Anna Chaplaincy. Locks Heath is one of these priority places, and we believe that this appointment has the potential for a renewed engagement with the community across the whole area. We're committed to supporting ministry here, and look forward to exploring whether you could be the priest to lead and serve the parish into the next chapter of its life.

CHURCHWARDENS' WELCOME

We are delighted that you are reading our Parish Profile. Our hope and prayer is that you might find it intriguing, engaging, and compelling.

Locks Heath is a suburb of the Borough of Fareham. St John the Baptist Church is a large intergenerational parish church that supports Christians from a broad set of traditions that include liturgical Anglican, evangelical and charismatic, to worship, be fed spiritually, and serve.

St John's is a busy and friendly church, with a wide range of services, events, and activities throughout the week. Our mission is to grow in faith and discipleship so that in turn we may be led by the Spirit to bring others to encounter the living God. The church family includes toddlers through to the elderly and whether at Messy Church, Monday Café, home groups, or in our church services, we desire to be an open and welcoming community seeking to share the love of Jesus.

The church is in one of Fareham's most westerly wards and this term has been adopted to describe a developing Covenanted Partnership which is being set up with our three neighbouring parishes; St Mary's Hook with Warsash, St Paul's Sarisbury Green and St Peter's Titchfield. The Western Wards Covenanted Partnership is integral to the Deanery Plan and there is growing enthusiasm as collaboration gains momentum through the development of missional support working alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ. The outline of the partnership is located at the end of this document.



St John's has an active PCC, a Children and Families Team Leader, some incredibly talented lay leaders, and an amazing operations team but we are seeking someone at this time who can lead, encourage, enable, and most importantly help us envision and prioritise missional activities at St John's and take a leading role within the Western Wards Partnership.

In this profile we have tried to paint a clear picture of our church community, one which is authentic and inviting. Be assured that as a church we are praying that God will clearly call out our next Priest-in-Charge to guide and help us to be a blessing to the community.

Ian and Paul, Churchwardens



DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

VISION STATEMENT

We delight when people hear the Good News of Jesus and are drawn to follow him. We want the church to support this mission through flourishing and varied worship, relevant outward looking groups and intriguing activities. We aspire to be recognised as loving, enthusiastic Christians who, as living sacrifices make a difference across our community and beyond, reaching out with the love of Jesus to bring Life, Hope and Joy.

St John's is a busy, faithful, and welcoming congregation. We frequently see new people engage and join with us: young mums with toddlers, families new to the area, others coming to retire near their children.

We are a community of living faith and our worship demonstrates different expressions and outworking of our faith, we seek to grow disciples and deepen love and service of the living Lord Jesus.

Faithful service, prayerful ministries, uplifting worship, and selfless acts are all features of the church family. God has blessed us with many gifts and there are a large number who engage in different forms of lay ministry.

We are seeking a Priest-in-Charge at this time who will lead us in:

1. discerning a cohesive vision and direction which will draw together the many aspects of St Johns, and help us to grow;
2. understanding how our spirituality, skills and interests can be honed to become more faithful, impactful, and missional;





- 3. growing younger as a community, especially reaching out towards teenagers and the under-represented 20s, 30s and 40s within our parish;
- 4. growing older with grace and holiness as we empower and support older members of our community;
- 5. being light and salt in our community, sharing the love, compassion, and good news of Jesus.



BENEFICE LIFE AND MISSION

The Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Locks Heath.

THE CHURCH IN NUMBERS

Number in the parish:	12,000
Pastoral Register:	435 – all who have any connection to the church
Electoral Roll:	275
ER change since 2022:	-1
Children and adults on group registers:	367 Sunday groups, toddlers and Messy Church
Average number attending Toddlers:	80 Children and adults
Average number attending Messy Church:	35 Children and 20 adults
Average number attending Sunday groups/church:	20 Children
Fellowship Members:	35 (For retired people)
Number of home groups:	10
Alpha Courses in the past 12 months:	3 – Some in conjunction with the Western Wards
Number attending Alpha in past 12 months:	100+
Parish Share (2022-23):	£118,197 – The church meets its share every year
Tithe (2022-3):	£8,000 – Our tithe of surplus above the Parish Share
Income from venue rental:	£23,204



CHURCH SERVICES

SUNDAYS

We have two Sunday morning services with distinctive spiritual expressions. While both services are thriving and growing, they have yet to return to pre-covid numbers.

9:30am Holy Communion – Common Worship Holy Communion. The sung worship is led by a robed SATB choir with organ, and robed clergy. The service is streamed each week for those who cannot attend in person. Adults: 96, Children: 3, Live Stream: 13 (April 2023 average)*

11am Informal Worship – a service of contemporary worship led by a worship band and unrobed clergy or laity. First Sunday: All-age worship followed by a simple shared lunch, third Sunday: Holy Communion. Children’s groups meet weeks 2-5. Adults: 54, Children: 25 (April 2023 average)**

COMBINED SERVICES

Our worshipping congregations come together for major feast days and other special services. At the main festivals we often involve our local CofE primary school and uniformed organisations. The combined services are developed through collaboration between the leaders and musicians of both Sunday services.

MIDWEEK

10:00am Wednesday Common Worship Holy Communion – this is a popular mid-week said communion service. Adults: 32 (April 2023 average)*

SEASONAL SERVICES

Christmas Eve/Day Services 2022	761 Adults	203 Children	(5 services)
Good Friday 2023	139 Adults	18 Children	(3 services)
Easter Sunday 2023	215 Adults	38 Children	(2 services)

* (Three week average excluding Easter) ** (A baptism boosted the average a little)



CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

We are committed to growing this ministry through generous resourcing. This is exemplified by employing an outstanding Children and Families Team Leader. Over the past 2 years we have seen an increase in young families coming into the wider church community via Toddlers, Messy Church, Alpha and more recently the Holiday Grub Club.

SUNDAYS

Alongside the 9:30am Holy Communion

- **First Sunday** – Activities for children (all ages 21 months to 15yrs) that follow the liturgy laid out by the Church of England where children are part of the service but have the ability to explore and understand it at their own level. Often contributing to the service.
- **Third Sunday** – an all-age Sunday Group

Alongside the 11am Informal Service (all except the first Sunday of the month All Age Worship)

- **Scramblers** – for pre-school children to Year 1. Encountering Jesus through the Bible, singing, prayer, activities and games in an age-appropriate way.

- **Explorers** – for children in Years 2 to 5. Encountering Jesus through the Bible, singing, prayer, activities and games in an age-appropriate way.
- **Encounters** – this group for young people in years 6 and secondary school provides a safe space for fellowship, teaching, and discussion.
- Scouts (Occasional) – we have links with two local scout groups and encourage participation in St John's life such as at feast days and Remembrance services.

Sunday evening, 7pm

- **Connect** – a mainly social group for those in Years 6 and above to help wrap up the weekend. In Spring 2023 Youth Alpha ran in this time slot with teenagers also coming from other Western Wards churches.

MIDWEEK

Toddlers (Weekly) – a weekly gathering of babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers accompanied by their parents/grandparents or carers. A safe place for play for little ones, with chat and friendship for all, finishing with a short Bible story and nursery rhymes.

Messy Church (Monthly) – children welcome with accompanying grown up. Activities, games, craft, all based around a Bible story, finishing with a short worship time and tea together.



FINDING OUT ABOUT FAITH

The Alpha Course is our primary tool for helping people explore the essentials of the Christian faith. We usually run the course three times during the year both as lunch time and evening activities. Some courses are held on site and others in people's homes. Alpha is run by both clergy and lay leaders.

Currently St John's is working alongside the neighbouring Western Ward churches to run joint Alpha courses with course members attending from all four churches alongside some with no affiliation.

For those who have completed Alpha, we also offer the Bible Society's 'The Bible Course'. This year we also offered the 'Making Disciples' course for more mature Christians.

OTHER ADULTS GROUPS

- Eco Group – encouraging a greening of our parish
- Fellowship – a monthly talk and a cuppa for older people
- Grub Club – providing meals for families during the school holidays
- Hearing Helpers – with twice a month support for hearing aid wearers
- Mainly 4 Men (Mainly 4 Everybody) – a monthly curry and a talk for men, mainly
- Monday Café – a busy weekly social gathering for older people
- Spirit Café – a monthly social evening of home-produced music hosted by the house band Cahoots
- Women's Prayer breakfast



ROLE DESCRIPTION FOR A PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

*THE PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, LOCKS HEATH
IN THE FAREHAM DEANERY*

ROLE DESCRIPTION FOR THE PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

A broad picture of St John the Baptist, Locks Heath and our relationship with other parishes in the Western Wards is given in this Parish Profile. This Role Description should be read in conjunction with our vision and priorities along with the details in this Profile. It should also be read in conjunction with the Diocesan Vision and Strategy, with particular emphasis on the following three dimensions:

- To encourage passionate personal spirituality
- To encourage a pioneering faith community
- To encourage prophetic global citizenship

The role is for a parish priest who will lead, support, and nurture the people of Locks Heath and build on recent achievements to develop the mission of the Church in the community and ensure that our Spiritual and Missional needs are met.

We are looking for a priest who:

SPIRITUALITY

- Acknowledges God's call to discipleship for themselves and those among whom they minister;
- Is a creative and imaginative spiritual leader, pointing others to Christ;
- Can maintain a balance in their own daily spiritual life of prayer, the study of scripture and ministerial work, recreation, family, and friends;



WORSHIP AND PREACHING

- Possesses the capacity to develop inspiring styles of worship which are attractive to different people;
- Applies the insight of Scripture to daily life and can communicate the Christian message effectively;
- Is open minded and celebrates diversity, respecting, supporting, and contributing towards different forms of worship;

LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

- Has the ability to set out a vision for mission and ministry and works towards it, ensuring that through excellent communication the congregation travels with them;
- Seeks opportunities to collaborate in the Western Wards Covenanted Partnership for mutual growth and encouragement with a willingness to take the lead in developing locally delivered training programmes such as Alpha and The Bible Course;
- Is committed to working as part of a team;

DISCIPLESHIP, LEARNING AND NURTURE

- Has a commitment to nurture and develop the discipleship of all;

EVANGELISM AND CONCERN FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Enables others to articulate and share their faith;
- Understands Fresh Expressions and other forms of pioneer ministry and has an appreciation of how these forms of ministry might become part of the Western Wards collaborative working;
- A willingness and ability to build relationships and engage with the wider community;
- Will help us become more sensitive to issues of social justice within and beyond our community;

PASTORAL CARE AND SAFEGUARDING

- Is proactive in the delivery of safeguarding practice and policy;
- Has a sensitivity for and understanding of the varied pastoral needs of the community;
- Enables the provision of effective pastoral care through oversight of 'every-member pastoral care' alongside other specialist teams such as the Pastoral Care Network and Baptism preparation teams;
- Is approachable, enjoys getting to know people and is an active listener;

STEWARDSHIP AND PARISH ORGANISATION

- Is a confident user of information technology such as office software, databases, email, social media, and communications apps;

ECUMENISM AND LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES

- Is willing to take a leading role in the development of the covenanted partnership of the Western Wards churches;
- Will fully participate in and contribute to the life of the deanery (including synod and chapter) and diocese.

WHAT OUR CHURCH FAMILY SAY ABOUT US

We asked the congregation to describe St John's. This is a small selection of some of the comments.

"Showing the love of God through Christ in our actions in and outside the church building."

"The rich diversity of people with disparate views and church experience."

"Having a broad outlook to service structures, good communications and a strong church family."

"We have a large number of very caring people at SJ with lots of different skills. I believe their work and ministry should be embraced and the aims and goals will be more easily achieved."

"The warm welcome everyone is given and the friendliness of the people there, making you feel at home."

"SJLH has great potential for growth both spiritually and numerically. I pray we seize the opportunity."

"A body of faithful people, welcoming and flexible in outlook."

"The so-willing volunteers, many of them, who give so much of their time."

"Long-lasting spiritual love and companionship."



MEET THE TEAM

CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

The church has the following paid staff:

Hazel Foster – Children and Families Team Leader – 20 hours per week – Hazel is employed to lead Toddlers, Messy Church, and coordinate Sunday groups at St John's. She also leads and speaks in services, works with local nurseries as well as helping to lead worship on the piano at the Informal Service.

Operations/Communications Manager, 25 hours a week – in vacancy

Liz Morgan – Priest-in-Charge's PA and PCC Secretary – 20 hours per week (Monday – Thursday) Alongside this role Liz is also a co-leader of the Pastoral Care Network.

OTHER OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH:

Paul Barrow – Churchwarden

Ian Coombs – Churchwarden

The Leadership Team, comprising the Wardens and paid operational staff, meet weekly and primarily focussed on management, operational and maintenance issues. The team works alongside the PCC, which meets monthly (except August).



OTHER KEY ROLES:

Baptism Co-ordinator – meets and supports all families requesting a baptism or blessing for a child.

Retired Clergy – We are blessed with five retired clergy with Permission to Officiate. They play a huge part in supporting services and pastoral needs.

Choir Leader – The choir is currently led by one of the choristers who also oversees hymn choosers and organist rotas.

Cleaner – works 10 hours per week over four days.

Lay-Readers – we do not have any active lay readers.

Organists – the 9:30am Holy Communion is supported by a team of three organists.

Safeguarding – our safeguarding is led by two experienced former police officers.

Service leaders and speakers – we have around a dozen lay members who can lead services and deliver talks/sermons. During the last year there has been an increase in lay-leadership contribution within both Sunday services.

Verger – Roger Pickard.

Wedding Coordinators – supports couples preparing for their wedding.

Worship Leaders – a group of four lead the worship of the 11am Informal Service.

Lay and volunteer leadership is a strength of St John's. Pastoral care, adult discipleship, small groups, youth and children's activities, buildings and maintenance, catering, administration, stewardship, and outreach are all areas of church life led by lay members.

APPENDICES

ACCOMMODATION

Completed in 1992 the Vicarage is an attractive modern four-bedroom house adjacent to the church. It has a private drive, garage, parking space for four cars and a good-sized secluded garden with a lawn. A useful feature is the large private study suitable for small meetings, which is accessed from the front door without entering the home. A full description, with photographs is available [here](#).



OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

The parish has around 5,400 households with an estimated 12,000 population. While our parish has no land available for significant new housing developments there are developments underway in each of the three neighbouring parishes.

OUR COMMUNITY

The parish of St John the Baptist, Locks Heath is in Fareham a town located between Portsmouth and Southampton. The area has good transport links, including the A27 and M27 which link to the A3 and M3. There are railway connections to Southampton, Portsmouth, Gatwick Airport and London via

the local Swanwick Station. Also, ferry services to the Isle of Wight and the continent are nearby.

The parish has a popular district shopping centre with two supermarkets, restaurants, a library and a pub, alongside other specialist shops. Along the eastern edge of the parish there are eight out-of-town superstores.



There are two primary schools in the parish, St John the Baptist CofE (Controlled) and Park Gate Primary. We have good relationships with them. The local area has a good selection of nursery, primary and secondary schools. Fareham, Southampton and Portsmouth have diverse Sixth Form provision and there are respected independent schools too.

There are no other churches in the parish, but we are less than a mile from Waypoint – a large Baptist Church; St Margaret Mary – a Roman Catholic church, and Duncan Road – an evangelical free church.

The local area provides opportunities for urban, country, and coastal recreation. The Solent is a 30-minute walk away. Warsash offers opportunities for sailing and The New Forest and South Downs National Parks are short drives away.

OUR MISSION FIELD

In 2019, our PCC commissioned the Community Audit which supplied detailed information about the parish's demographic. The Community Audit tells us that the three largest social groups within the parish are; established families living up-market lifestyles in detached houses (31%), young couples or singles following their careers and bringing up children (18%) and older people who are comfortably off enjoying their retirement (16%). Less visible perhaps are the one-in-twenty who are elderly but who are reliant upon financial and/or practical support.



The audit has provided a better understanding of our area. We have been looking for areas of unmet need in our community, so that we can better ‘go out’ to serve, transform and bring hope. While analysis of the 2019 audit suggests deprivation is low, we are aware that due to the pandemic, financial instability, and the energy crisis there are increasing points of need locally particularly with young families and some retired. This has led us to support the Fareham and Gosport Basics Bank and initiate the Holiday Grub Club scheme to provide meals for local families during the school holidays.

We are also aware of the need for the church to be seen as “a place for people like me”. The church needs to grow in a manner that closely resembles the demographic of our community, giving us a much better opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus and reach out into parts of our community that we currently do not touch.

OUR OUTREACH

While we have growth with our children’s and families work, we are aware of the need to develop our offering to older youth. We are seeking to develop links with the local secondary school, Brookfield Community School.

Another area with growth potential is ministry to older people both in the church family and beyond. With that in mind we



have re-envisioned the St John’s Pastoral Care Network, and the PCC has agreed to consider working towards the creation of an Anna Chaplaincy network within Western Wards and maybe other denominations. The PCC is waiting for the new Priest-in-Charge before taking this further.

SCHOOLS

LINKS WITH ST JOHN THE BAPTIST C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

St John’s has excellent links with St John the Baptist Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School. Members of our Congregation have active roles as foundation and ex-officio governors sitting on the Christian Character Committee which discusses all aspects of the Christian nature of the school; leads assemblies and develop Prayer Spaces twice a term. Others volunteer by participating in the pupil coaching and mentoring scheme. The school participates in some special services at St John’s.

The Priest-in-Charge is contracted to act as an ex-officio governor or chaplain at the school.

LINKS WITH BROOKFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL (11-16 COMPREHENSIVE) IN A NEIGHBOURING PARISH

Prayer meetings have taken place recently to seek God’s will for the youth of our community. This is a significant area for increased outreach. We envisage this being a collaboration opportunity for the four Western Wards churches.

WHAT NEXT FOR YOUTH?

There are signs of growth but there is still much to be done. Youth remain on our hearts as an area requiring significant input, along with developing new ways to engage with some of the older primary school aged children. There is a need to develop a clear Mission Action Plan.



PRAYER

Prayer is central to personal and community spiritual journeys. At St John's prayer is encouraged through:

- Prayer Chain – a telephone and social network of committed individuals who undertake intercessory prayer in response to identified needs
- Prayer in our services – we name people in response to prayer requests
- Monthly Ladies Prayer Breakfast
- Prayer in the Attic – a weekly informal gathering in our Prayer Attic

- Occasional Prayer Events – held in the church building on an evening where the needs of the church are shared
- Western Wards Prayer Services – a cycle of prayer to which all from the Western Wards churches are invited.
- Home Groups – several home groups recently completed Pete Greig's Prayer Course
- Prayer Corner – a space in church with resources supporting prayer



PASTORAL CARE

We have recently reviewed, renewed, and re-envisioned the work of our Pastoral Care Network. It is currently led by a team of three, but it would be expected that the Priest-in-Charge would join this leadership group.

There are three strands to our Pastoral Care strategy.

1. The development of every-member pastoral care. This is an acknowledgement that everyone attending St John's has a responsibility to care for and support those who they encounter. Be they sat alongside in the pew, in the home group or within any groups they attend. For the congregation this is a concept that remains embryonic and little discussed.
2. A dedicated Pastoral Care Network which is deployed by the leadership group to support individuals as needs arise; this group is small and dedicated but we know that it needs to grow.
3. Specialist groups such as the Baptism Preparation Team, Hearing Helpers and Monday Café.

Several retired clergy also play a key role in our pastoral care. We are looking at ways to extend and grow the lay team, especially from the younger members of the church family. Our goal is that pastoral care is seen to be a natural expression of discipleship and that we find new ways of offering this to our local community.

PCC

During the period of vacancy, the PCC has continued to move the church forward and has:

- Agreed in principle to support a 'Covenanted Partnership' in the Western Wards;
- Agreed alongside diocesan priorities to support Anna Chaplaincy at St John's and within the Western Wards; however, we are waiting for a new Priest-in-Charge before taking further steps;



- Approved 'Hearing Helpers' – a new initiative supporting older people with their hearing aids which started in January 2023;
- Approved modifications to the audio system and 2 new projectors in the church;
- Supported Alpha in Western Wards through leading the training local churches in the hosting the course;
- Conducted comprehensive reviews of the 9:30am Holy Communion Service and the 11am Informal Service;
- Refreshed our Pastoral Care Network;
- Reviewed the Welcome that we give at St John's Church;
- Established and approved the remit for an Eco group;
- Supported the establishment of 'Holiday Grub Club' to provide meals for struggling families;
- Actively working towards reordering the church – including consideration of replacing/renewal of the church organ.

FINANCES

At the start of 2022 the General Fund balance was £2,145 and the PCC Reserve Fund £2,604. During 2022 these reserves changed to £5,744 and £1,950. In 2022 total income to the General Fund was £207,270 sufficient to cover our £204,270 expenditure and increase the General Fund reserve.

In addition to the working reserves at the start of 2023 there was £28,098 in the Special Projects Fund designated for capital projects. This is from legacies and donations given for other than general expenses. £28,177 was spent in 2022 on the AV system upgrade. There is also £6,250 in the Church Renewal Fund donated to seed future re-ordering of the church. In June 2022 we held a Gift Day to raise funds towards our special projects. We raised more than £20,000 which by the year end had contributed to repair of faulty hall lights, removal of a dead yew tree, resurfacing part of the car park and fixing a roof.

The Youth Ministry fund (restricted), stood at £41,600 at the start of 2023. The major call on this is the salary of our Children and Families Team Leader and costs related to youth and children's activities. The salary was largely



covered by pledged giving in 2022: most of the current pledges end in 2023, but we are confident that as youth and children's work flourishes, it will continue to attract funding. Our rental income in 2022 was £23,205.

Regular giving to the General Fund was £122,285 gift aided and £10,413 non gift aided. At present a total of 112 of our regular givers do so through the Parish Giving Scheme. The church meets its parish share which is currently £118,198. The next biggest item of expenditure was staff costs of £34,174 from the General Fund plus £12,660 from the Youth Fund.

CHARITABLE GIVING

St John's is a generous church and for some years we have followed a policy of 'tithing', in which we give away 10% of our disposable income (total income minus parish share). This is allocated and organised by our External Giving Team and endorsed by the PCC. We were able to honour our planned tithe last year (£8,000). We also have a tradition of giving all of

our Christmas 'plate' donations to charities. Christmas 2022 plate donations were £740, in addition £342 was given at Christingle services, £576 at Curry and Carols (for Motor Neurone Disease) and £190 at Spirit Cafe (for Macmillan Nurses). A special event, the well-attended Christmas Tree Festival attracted donations of £4,550 for the local charities: Two Saints (homeless shelter Southampton) and Friends of the Homeless Fareham & Gosport (Basics Bank).





THE WESTERN WARDS COVENANTED PARTNERSHIP

The Western Wards Partnership is a voluntary clustering of the four churches to the west of Fareham in the Diocese of Portsmouth. This relationally-based structure of equal partners is modelled on the biblical concept of Covenant, with the aim of sharing in the many outreach and ministry opportunities across the local area.

Church	Incumbent Status
St John's, Locks Heath	In vacancy
St Mary's, Hook with Warsash	0.5 – A couple in ministry
St Paul's, Sarisbury Green	In vacancy
St Peter's, Titchfield	In vacancy

Broadly, the aims of the Partnership are:

- To deepen discipleship of individual worshippers;
- To impact our communities;
- To facilitate numerical growth in the partnership churches by joint mission initiatives in the Western Wards;
- To foster closer co-operation and co-ordination between the partnership churches in order to support each other.

Some recent examples of our partnership working includes:

- A regular Clergy/Wardens' Meeting
- Monthly Steering Group meeting
- Safeguarding Steering Group comprising of PPC members from each church
- Church General Administrators Networking
- Joint courses such as Making Disciples, Alpha and Youth Alpha

- Joint meeting of Pastoral Care teams
- Joint Prayer Services hosted by each church
- Prayer for each other
- Administration of occasional offices
- Promotion of events and services in each other's churches
- Consideration of Anna Chaplaincy to offer spiritual care in later life
- Combined services or celebrations when this is appropriate



INTRODUCTION TO THE DIOCESE

The Diocese of Portsmouth stretches across south-east Hampshire and includes the whole of the Isle of Wight. It includes 139 parishes, from Botley in the west to Emsworth in the east, and from Blackmoor in the north to Ventnor on south side of the Isle of Wight. It includes diverse communities, ranging from the densely populated and relatively deprived parts of inner-city Portsmouth, to rural villages in Hampshire; and from a range of seaside towns on the Isle of Wight to suburban communities west of Fareham and Gosport. In total, it covers 420 square miles and has a population of 784,000.

The Diocese of Portsmouth has 170 churches, ranging from historic listed buildings to brand new, purpose-built churches. There are around 150 clergy serving in those churches and their parishes, around 50 of whom are self-supporting. There are also around 70 licensed lay ministers who help with leading services and pastoral work. Around 13,500 people regularly worship in our churches, on Sundays and during the week. Attendance numbers have been declining over the

past 10 years, but there are particular congregations that have grown. Only a tiny number of churches have been closed in recent years.

Parishes and chaplaincies within the diocese are supported by a small diocesan team, based in Peninsular House, Portsmouth. These officers support parishes and church schools, administer

clergy housing and stipends, manage its property portfolio, promote social justice, handle communications, manage safeguarding procedures, and run a variety of training courses. The Diocesan Secretary oversees these staff. Separate teams of staff are employed in the bishop's office and for the three archdeacons. There is no suffragan bishop.

The diocese includes 41 Church of England schools in south-east Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. These are still mostly schools funded by the local authority, but the diocese supports them with regard to governance and admissions, building projects, Christian ethos, RE and recruitment of headteachers. The education team supports schools across both Portsmouth and Winchester dioceses, under the authority of a Joint Board of Education. Two schools on the Isle of Wight are joint Church of England/Roman Catholic schools.

Bishop Jonathan Frost was installed in March 2022, and has shared his vision for the diocese – a place where all are invited into a life-enhancing encounter with Jesus Christ. It should be a place where children, young people and young adults are given a particular priority; and where ministry to the elderly is supported by a network of Anna Chaplains, working in every locality. The vision is encapsulated by a vocational call to all Christians, entitled **Live | Pray | Serve**, which has been supported by strategic funding from the national Church of England to promote the planting of new congregations and a network of pioneer ministers. You can read more about our vision and vocation at portsmouth.anglican.org/liveprayserve.

The Diocese of Portsmouth is one of the smallest dioceses in the Church of England, but has often “punched above its weight”, with senior staff and diocesan officers involved in the national Church, managing joint projects or implementing innovative ideas. Financially, the payment of parish share has always been good – but the recent Covid pandemic has resulted in some financial challenges.

There is a range of churchmanship across all traditions within the diocese, few parishes deliberately exclude themselves from deanery and diocesan initiatives, and our smaller, family feel means that most clergy and lay leaders know and respect each other.



1st Floor, Peninsular House
Wharf Road
Portsmouth
PO2 8HB
023 9289 9650
portsmouth.anglican.org

@CofEPortsmouth



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