

St Cuthbert with St Aidan, Copnor

PARISH PROFILE



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Diocese
of Portsmouth

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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

INTRODUCTION TO THE DEANERY

As a Deanery we are looking forward to welcoming the new Priest in Charge of St Cuthbert with St Aidan, and are excited at this opportunity to have a priest serving this Church and community and being part of our shared response to the Diocesan vision and plan.

As part of the Diocesan vision and strategy the Deanery has a 'plan' which has evolved over a number of years and responds to changes of context and circumstance. At its heart is a vision of local Parishes developing strong relationships and sharing resources, gifts and skills in the service of God and the community.

Within that plan, St Cuthbert with St Aidan is part of the 'Northern Cluster' and we wish to explore with how we might develop a collaborative ministry and relationships with The Churches the North End Team Ministry; and the parishes of Cosham and Wymering; Paulsgrove and Drayton and Farlington and the northern part of the city that they all seek to serve and minister to.

It is hoped that there will be the development of a partnership built on trust and mutual respect and would expect the person appointed to this post to play their part in building such a relationship.

This parish is within the 'care' of Rev Annie McCabe as Associate Area Dean, (the Deanery has three areas each cared for by an Associate or the Area Dean) and she is always willing to meet, listen and talk with the clergy in the area.

Rev Canon Bob White, Area Dean

INTRODUCTION TO OUR PARISH

'The first thing that strikes you when you walk into the building is the warmth of the welcome, the friendliness of the smiles...'

This welcome is found whether you come to the weekday morning café, Tuesday services, Wednesday's Stay and Play for parents or carers with babies and toddlers or lunch club on a Thursday, as well as our Sunday services.

Why have we started with this? Because we feel this is the best way to describe what makes us tick as the parish of St Cuthbert with St Aidan, and because we need someone as a priest in charge who gets this, understands our approach and can help us link all of this together with a view to further developing every aspect of our mission and work in our local community.



Community is a huge part of what we stand for – in both areas of our parish. St Cuthbert's was converted (2012) into a fantastic space for worship co-existing with a thriving community centre.

Our church at St Aidan (set up 30 years ago) operates from a community centre and is firmly embedded in the life of its community – the Anchorage Park estate to the north of Portsea Island, a 1980s/90s housing development.

The Baffins and Anchorage Park areas of Portsmouth, in which our parish sits, are often described as villages within a city. We enjoy more green space than most on Portsea Island and wherever you are in the parish you are just

We're looking forward to extending a warm welcome, and a friendly smile, to our new Priest in Charge, someone with energy, ideas, dedication and commitment to lead us in worship and in our outreach into the community.

Last summer we asked our congregation to choose three words that they each felt best described St Cuthbert with St Aidan. We collated all of those to develop the word cloud you can see on this page, to identify which words were most popular.



A photograph of the interior of St. Paul's Church, showing the nave. The architecture is made of brick with large arches. There are several stained glass windows, including a large one in the center and smaller ones in the side arches. The ceiling is high and vaulted.

- Is comfortable leading and participating in the current diversity of our parish services, and will enrich them.
- Supports and encourages the ministry of lay people in leading services.

- In preaching and other communication, presents and interprets the Christian message in relevant and inspiring ways that encourage us to live and witness as Christians in the 21st century.

LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

- Is a servant leader and proven team player, committed to working collaboratively with all in the parish, and can lead or be a team member, as appropriate.
- Is an effective delegator and decision maker, able to manage their workload and capable under pressure.
- Is a capable chair of meetings who will ensure that voices are heard and valued and also clear decisions are reached and implemented.



DISCIPLESHIP, LEARNING AND NURTURE

- Is open and creative in their approach to Christian discipleship and spiritual growth, strongly committed to seeing God's people grow and mature in faith and use their gifts in God's service.
- Will actively encourage others in their discipleship.
- Is prepared to lead or co-lead discipleship, nurture courses and is committed to the growth of small groups.

EVANGELISM AND ENGAGEMENT WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Is proactive and persuasive in sharing their faith with others and can enable others to gain confidence to do the same.

- Understands the imperative and breadth of parish outreach and mission and will work and encourage others in mission, fair trade and outreach activities.
- Is experienced in working with schools and is committed to further develop our relationships with local schools and with young people beyond schools.

PASTORAL CARE

- Is approachable and sensitive to varied pastoral needs of our church family and wider community and willing to share pastoral care with our PCT.

STEWARDSHIP AND PARISH ORGANISATION

- Exhibits and proactively encourages generosity in the discipleship of church members, in the giving of their time, talents and money.
- Brings and displays the proven ability to plan, organise, manage, chair meetings and communicate effectively with the clergy team, Churchwardens and Operations Manager.

ECUMENISM AND LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES

- Is committed to working with local churches, and encouraging others to do so.
- Plays an active part in Deanery (through chapter and synod) and Diocesan life.

The role description should always be read in conjunction with the Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of the Clergy.

OUR CHURCH LIFE AND MISSION

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We believe St Cuthbert's and St Aidan's are called by God:

- to worship God, personally and corporately;
- to make known the good news of Christ;
- to serve those in need, locally and globally;
- to continue to grow as a loving, open Christian community, filled with the Holy Spirit.

We have already described the importance we place on a friendly welcome. However inclusivity is also important to us in faith and we are an inclusive church, part of the national Inclusive Church network. We are proud to display the inclusive church logo and being accepting of all, and welcoming to all is a significant factor in our work and worship.



AT PRESENT AT ST CUTHBERT'S, WE PROVIDE:

- 8am Holy Communion fortnightly on a Sunday;
- 10am Holy Communion each Sunday with a variety through each month of traditional and more informal service settings;
- Sunday@7 – our more modern and informal, lay-led and topic-focused service in the evening once a month.
- 9:30am Holy Communion said service every Tuesday morning.

AT ST AIDAN'S WE HOLD:

- 9am Holy Communion.

Healing ministry is offered at each church once a month in the main morning service. Services at St Cuthbert's are streamed. Music at and between services is either led by our music group or involve recorded music.



We have a range of church-run groups and activities including:

- Encompass – a social event with a service for older people;
- Messy Church – for children and families;
- Stay and Play – a regular group for parents, carers, babies and toddlers with play, activities, crafts, songs and stories;
- Social groups – including Lunch Club, Life Matters, and Footsteps;
- a Board Games afternoon;
- a drop-in bereavement group.

Bible study groups are organised in sessions of 4-6 weeks in Lent and at other times of year.

In addition to their pastoral care our Pastoral Care Team (PCT) manages our Prayer Chain and Prayer Card initiatives.

At St Cuthbert's we have requests for between 5 and 10 baptisms each year; one or two families who attend Stay and Play have since gone on to request baptisms, a trend we are keen to see continue.

ST AIDAN'S CHURCH

St Aidan's is the only 'church' in Anchorage Park and meets in the Lodge Community Centre at 9am on Sundays. The altar, and all other resources needed for the services are set up and put away each week.

The community café meets each month in The Lodge and attracts many members of the community who live in Anchorage Park. Prayer meetings are held each month, too.

ENSURING THE EFFICIENT RUNNING OF OUR CHURCH

We have an active and enthusiastic PCC and standing committee that hold monthly meetings and ensure that both churches and the centre are managed effectively and efficiently.

We pay our Parish Share in full each year. We currently have a loan to pay off – the loan was taken out to enable the completion of the redevelopment project and is secured against rental income from our resident surgery. The loan is likely to complete in late 2028.

Each year we support various charities, at home and abroad.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

'Church Chat', as its name implies, is an informal weekly newsletter to around 120 subscribers and we produce a monthly centre update to reflect regular activities in the building and highlight special events.

OUR ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

For more details on the variety of groups and activities that happen in the Church and Centre please visit our website: stcuthbertandstaidan.org.uk.

ANNUAL EVENTS AND ONE OFFS!

We love a get together when we can so we have an active social calendar to provide all sorts of opportunities for fun and enjoyment. Our range of events include a regular quiz night; board games afternoons; Fayres; Christmas Tree Festival; concerts such as the Solent Gay Men's Choir; The Madding Crowd and even guitar impresario Gordon Giltrap.

Every summer we hold a parish camp across a weekend, again much loved and enjoyed and a wonderful opportunity for our different age groups to mix informally in a country setting and with a variety of activities to pursue, including a Sunday service!



THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE



THE CHURCH/WORSHIP SPACE

St Cuthbert's church is just over 100 years old and following re-ordering comprises three main areas – the church space; the community centre and a doctor's surgery on two floors with a community hall in the dome. The centre has a lift to all floors, toilets on the ground and second floors and the whole building has been designed to be entirely accessible.



The worship space is very flexible, adaptable and accessible. It includes a quiet prayer space, an area for the music group to play from and a play area for children. A balcony overlooks the worship space and this houses much of our audio/visual technology.

During the week about half of the worship space becomes our community café with tables grouped around a hatchway connecting the kitchen with the church.

THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The community centre includes a purpose-built pre-school.

The building seeks to connect health of body, mind and spirit in its layout as well as outreach.

We have a range of rooms spread over three floors, from large function space with adjacent kitchens to small offices or counselling rooms.

The doctor's surgery has its own discrete entrance.

As well as the GP surgery and the pre-school, the centre presently accommodates several regular groups including Jiggy Wrigglers, The Connors Toy Library, yoga classes, exercise classes for the less mobile, Lunch club and two other church congregations.



MAINTENANCE

The whole church building is in regular need of the usual small-scale maintenance (and other larger) projects to keep the building in good order. The roof needs some attention to become completely watertight. Re-pointing of the brickwork is also almost certain to be on the 'to do' list of our Quinquennial Inspection Report which is currently being undertaken.

LIVING HERE

THE VICARAGE

The vicarage stands next to the church with parking to the front. There are 6 bedrooms, two reception rooms, a toilet and a study on the ground floor with a large kitchen, a walk-in larder and utility room. There are back stairs going from the utility room to the bedrooms upstairs, as well as a main staircase. It has a relatively new kitchen and bathroom and solar panels on the roof.

The garden is large and laid mainly to lawn with flower beds and shrubs around the boundaries. There are 2 side entrances to the garden and a sizeable garage.



LOCAL AMENITIES

The green spaces and accessibility to the sea make the area pleasant to live in. Much of Baffins' community life focuses on the area around the large pond and the many natural habitats it provides. The Baffins Pond Association has a centre here and they run several community events a year.

In Anchorage Park there is a large green space and playing field behind The Lodge and a play park. There is a golf course and a retail park with shops including an M&S food store, Lidl, Boots and Costa.



The bus service will take you to the centre of town and into Gunwharf Quays retail outlet and the seafront. Nearest train stations are at Portsmouth and Southsea, Fratton, Cosham and Hilsea.

SCHOOLS

There are several schools in the area, as well as the Portsmouth College which provides 'A' Level and further education.

The Corner Pre-School, within St Cuthbert's Church and Community Centre, is rated 'Good' by OFSTED, as are the local primary schools, Langstone and Westover.

There are two senior schools in the local area, Admiral Lord Nelson ('Good') and Milton Cross ('requires improvement'). Portsmouth College is also rated good.

CENSUS DATA

The 2021 census told us that there are 15,019 people living in the Baffins ward, an almost equal split between male and female. 61.3% are aged 18-64 (with slightly higher rates of those in the 30-39 and 50-59 age categories), 21.4% under 17 and 2,601 are over 65 years old. The ethnic group is very predominantly white British, that is 93.1% of the population. With regard to religion, 6,365 described themselves as 'Christian' (around 40%) and 7,407 people claimed to have 'no religion'.

CONCLUSION

We value our vision of being a place where the health and wellbeing of everyone is important, and this is an integral part of our ministry.

We look forward to growing even closer to God through vibrant worship, personal and corporate prayer, Bible study and meaningful fellowship in our communities of faith and by being hospitable, welcoming, open and loving in our relationships within our communities.

Visit our website stcuthbertandstaidan.org.uk.

Facebook: [@StCuthbertCofE](#); Instagram [@StCuthbertCofE](#).



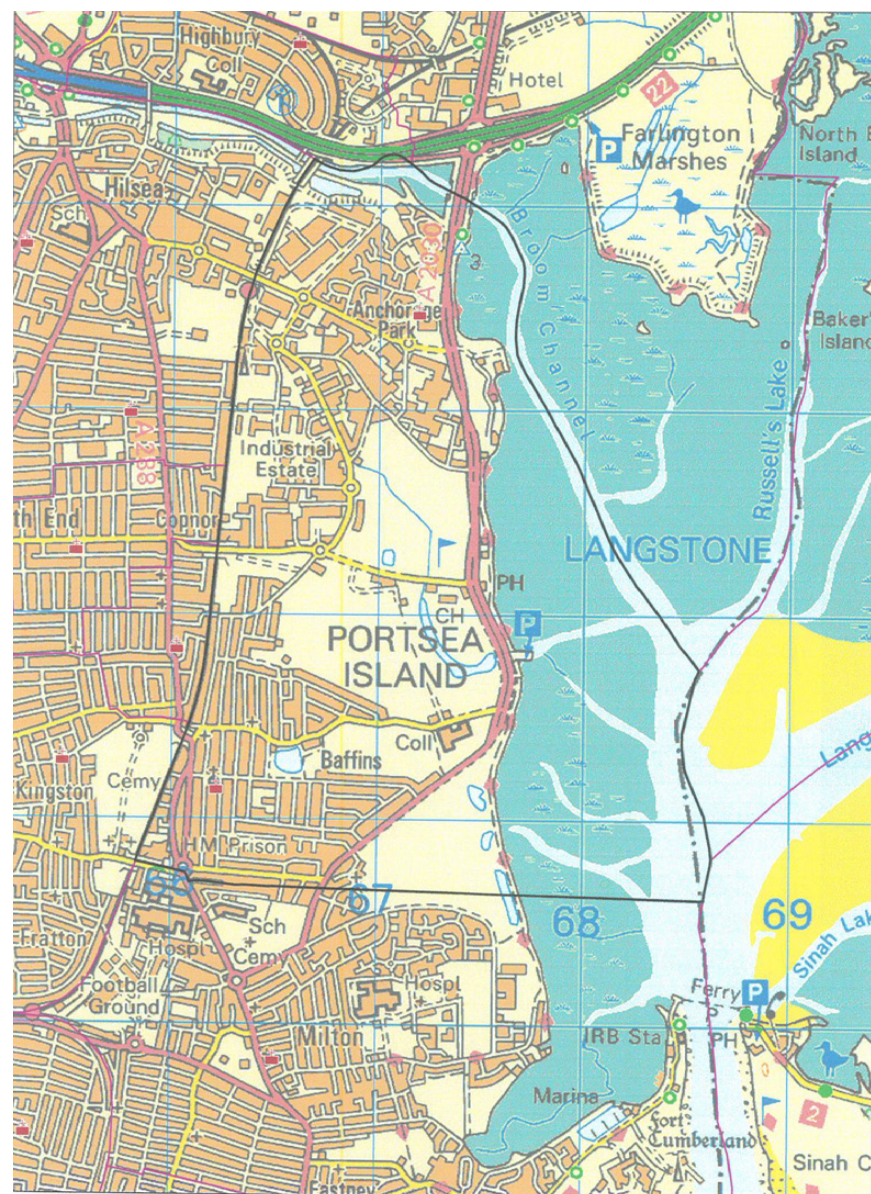
APPENDICES

ST CUTHBERT WITH ST AIDAN MISSION ACTION PLAN SPRING 2023

Vision	Priority	Detail	Who responsible	Timescale
Growth in Depth (Individuals growing in discipleship and relationship with Jesus)	Bible Study	1 pop up Bible Study per term, theme to be agreed each term.	Ministry Team	Ongoing
	Quiet Day	Location, theme, promotional materials, leader	Ministry Team	Spring 2024
	Opportunities to encounter God through creation	Outdoor services, ie Easter dawn service at pond.	Ministry Team	Ongoing
Growth in Impact (Sharing God's love with our community and the world through loving service)	Better advertising of what we do	Social Media and printed media, ensure all media has appropriate branding, look for opportunities to communicate.	David Barker, Becky Justice	Ongoing
	Specific charity project we can adopt, local and international	Communicate the ways in which we're already supporting charities. Review charity giving after interregnum.	PCC	Ongoing
	Foodbank/ Pantry	Support the work of the Pantry	PCC	Ongoing
Growth in Number (More people coming to faith in Jesus)	How to get beyond just being here to faith	Ensure people available in café to talk to enquirers.	All	Ongoing
	Focus on Children, youth and families	Continue to support Stay and Play, Messy Church, Youth Group and occasional All-Age Services	PCC	Ongoing
	Training/ development in how to talk about faith with confidence	Include in sermons, consider a course such as talking Jesus or just walk across the room	Ministry Team	Ongoing

During the interregnum the focus will also be to continue to consolidate the existing good work, loving, supporting and praying for one another and for our community.

MAP



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MEET THE TEAM

ASSISTANT PRIEST: CAROL GULLY

In addition to my role at St Cuthbert's and St Aidan's, I work full time as a hospice chaplain. I have always felt really supported by the congregations of both churches.

CHURCH WARDEN: SALLY HARRY

I have lived in the parish for nearly my whole life – my roots go deep, and this parish church is central to my Christian calling in spreading the work of God in our area, by enabling our building to welcome in everybody. Keeping the fabric of the building together is a priority for me.

CHURCH WARDEN: ANNE GARD

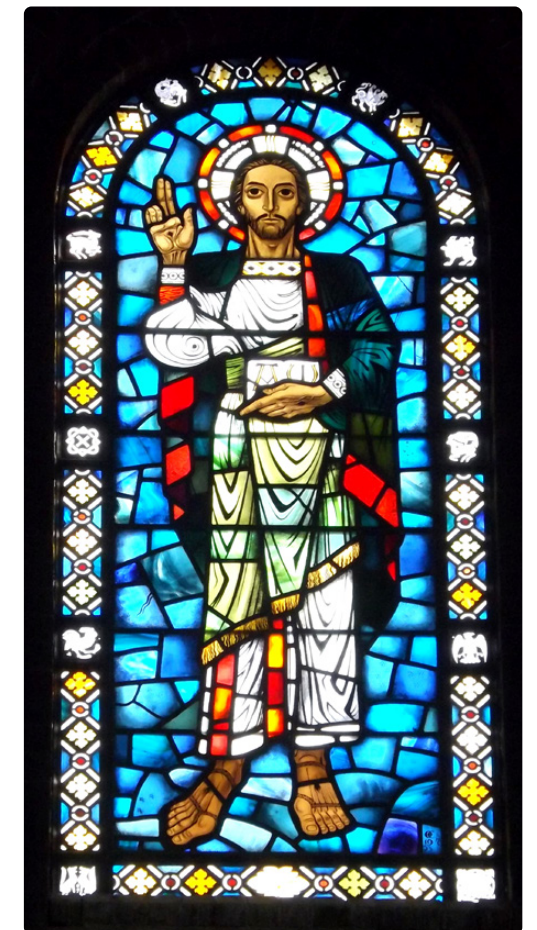
I enjoy the various work I can be involved in, ranging from leading morning prayer services to helping with the weekly lunch club and the general organisation of the church. I believe prayer is a major part of the outreach work and am a member of the Prayer Chain and Pastoral Care Team and like to encourage the study of the Bible.

LAY READER: RICHARD SHURMER

I love the people of St Cuthbert's and St Aidan's. They are warm and generous, welcoming and have hearts of gold to serve the local community. It's a privilege and a joy to exercise Reader ministry here and to join everyone in a wide range of activities – including parties!

TREASURER: ALAN PHILLIPS

I would like to hope since becoming Treasurer I have managed to convey, in understandable terms, how our finances look and work. I'm always conscious that I am merely a custodian of the church monies. I find the role particularly rewarding as much of what we do revolves around engagement with the local





community – mainly through our weekday cafes and also our room hire activities.

DAVID BARKER: PARISH MANAGER

I've only been here in this role for a year but I can't imagine being anywhere else now...it's wonderful to come to a place where, every day, so many people will greet you with a genuine smile and ask how you are. I see my role as helping good people to do good things – the volunteers here are dedicated and tireless, their support for their church and community immense, and you feel better every day for being here and being part of that.



INTRODUCTION TO THE DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH

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.





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