

East Medina

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

ARCHDEACON'S INTRODUCTION

The Isle of Wight lies 2 miles off the coast of Hampshire, covering 150 square miles, much of which is idyllic countryside. Having moved here two years ago, I can say it is a beautiful place to live, work, and raise a family.

Our diocese longs to be a community of Jesus-abiding, kingdom-seeking disciples. We believe that as we pursue this vision our relationship with God will quicken, we will see the impact of his love in our lives, and we will flourish and grow together. We believe this is within the grasp of every worshipping community and forms our deepest prayer together.

Our approach to growing our churches, as multi-generational communities, is three-fold. We want to:

- see a personal revival of Jesus' life in us, so that through his Holy Spirit we might know God's love more deeply;
- revitalise our churches' mission to existing and progressively younger generations, via clear pathways into the heart of our worshipping life; and
- renew our presence in towns where the gospel is struggling to connect, through church planting initiatives.



THE VEN STEPHEN DAUGHTERY,
ARCHDEACON OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT

We want every person on our island to have access to an enriching and compelling community of faith. Therefore, we are progressively adopting the model of Ministry Clusters evolving out of the vision from the parishes themselves. Each cluster will comprise of a ministry leadership team who will eat, pray, lament, laugh and thus work together. This leadership team may include self-supporting ministers, lay or ordained focal ministers, and paid and volunteer lay staff.

We would like to pour our energy and prayerful focus on the East Medina area. We plan to seek to bring together our churches in Wootton, Whippingham and East Cowes, honour our traditions, and to renew and refresh our missional ministry. If these key values resonate with you, and if you sense God's calling to be a part of his growing Kingdom here, we would love to hear from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Daughtery".

Ven Stephen Daughtery
Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight



WELCOME

A very warm welcome from the East Medina Mission Area. We value your interest in our parishes and ask you to pray for us and with us. This profile is offered as an aid to those seeking to discern whether they are called to be considered for appointment as our next incumbent. We commit, with God's help, to nurture the faith and the future ministry of our new leader.

INTRODUCTION

The East Medina Missional Cluster is a newly formed plurality occupying the north-central section of the Isle of Wight. It consists of the United Benefice of St Mildred's at Whippingham and St James's at East Cowes, which has recently joined with the neighbouring parish of St Edmund's and St Mark's at Wootton. We enjoy regular worship and our three congregations, although small, are slowly growing and are made up predominantly of local people. We have an ambitious roster of church events across the parishes and aim to be welcoming, cheerful, and eager to live our lives in the light of Christ.



In terms of organisation, we are a loose plurality. A new incumbent would have the exciting opportunity to bring its constituent parishes into closer partnership, and to lead a ministry team in taking the churches forward into a new future. It is important to note that the churchwardens and the PCCs are fully committed to meeting the challenges presented by bringing this new plurality into dynamic growth. A period of consolidation and thoughtful reflection and prayer could be useful. Our churchwarden and PCC teams are no strangers to hard work and are wholly mindful of the need to support a new incumbent and their team, embrace change, and move forward in the Spirit.

VISION STATEMENT

Believing in Jesus Christ as the source of our hope and salvation, we are called to: live our lives in ways that are formed by his life, death, resurrection, ascension, and coming again; pray, on our own and together in community, for the growth and caring of the Kingdom; and serve the people among whom we live and work, caring for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor.

We aspire for East Medina to be a healthy, growing mission area that proclaims the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in thought, word, and deed, both within our congregational activities and out in the wider community. Across the three parishes, there is a keen desire to: restart activities that were forced to cease operation due to COVID-19; continue successful existing church-based and outreach projects; and spearhead new avenues of mission and evangelism, particularly amongst young people and families.

OUR CHURCH LIFE

Regular Sunday services are held in all churches across the mission area and thanks to the support of our retired clergy, Holy Communion is held twice a month. We are blessed with faithful PtO clerics as well as devoted lay worship leaders who conduct services for All-Age Worship and Morning Worship. These Sunday services are important to the congregations across the plurality both as an act of prayer and worship as well as fostering a sense of community. St Edmund and St Mark are able to provide Café Communion and an All-Age Brunch, as well as BCP Communion and Evensong. All churches have thriving coffee mornings after the service and the importance of this connection with the local community is vital, especially amongst the older members of the congregations. However, we also think this is important in fostering multi-generational connections and strengthening our communities within and across the different parishes.

As a plurality, we are united by our desire to strengthen our church worship in order to deepen our relationship with God and seek ways for his Kingdom to grow in our own lives and the lives of the community around us.



CHILDREN AS DISCIPLES

We believe strongly in the need to rejuvenate our congregations and seek to encourage families and young people to come into the church community. Teddy Club is run by members of St Mildred's congregation in St James's church centre, both churches coming together to provide a place for mums, dads, and carers to meet and bring their babies and toddlers.

St Mildred's runs a Sunday School during their All-Age Worship service. St Edmund and St Mark run the Little Lions Toddler Group and a Sunday school. Volunteers from St Mildred's also provide the backbone of leadership for Rock Solid, a monthly ecumenical youth club for younger teenagers on a Friday night in East Cowes, which is growing in popularity from a standing start.



The plurality puts a great emphasis on this part of our church life, seeing these groups as stepping stones on the path which leads children and young people into a fuller participation in church activities and services. We aim in the long-term to try and help them become core members of the church, rather than on the periphery.

St Edmund's and St Mark's and St Mildred's have relationships with their local primary schools, and this is something which has great potential to be built upon by an enthusiastic mission leader. Across the plurality there is a healthy list of baptisms and weddings for 2023 and 2024, to which we hope to welcome and encourage participants as part of young families' journey towards faith.



CHERISHING OUR OLDER MEMBERS

In common with the general parish landscape across the country, our congregations are mainly comprised of devoted Christians who are older or elderly. They are the worshippers who attend regularly, and they are the volunteers that run all the events that make up church life. They are the people that keep our churches open and beautiful, and they are the people that provide refreshment and entertainment at community gatherings.

St Edmund's and St Mark's run the Elephant Club dementia group, while St James's holds a monthly Friendship Group. A member of St Edmund's and St Mark's is licensed as an Anna Chaplain and, together with a lay worship leader and a member of the congregation, takes regular services at local care homes.

At St Mildred's there is a strong volunteer body which opens the community centre daily throughout the summer for refreshments and welcomes the thousands of visitors that pass through the church each year. There are fish and chip quiz nights, jazz evenings, cream teas, and the May fair. St Mildred's also holds a Christmas Tree Festival in December.

St James's has monthly coffee mornings, a fête, a bazaar and the six-day annual Jigsaw Puzzle Festival which attracts visitors from across the globe.

We are a welcoming and inclusive group of people and feel strongly that a thriving and Jesus-loving community should cherish all its members whatever their age, recognizing all the gifts we have been given in the service of God.

MUSIC

An exciting development which has helped unify this very new plurality is the recent formation of a choir at St Mildred's. Singing twice a month at communion services, the choir is made up of members from all three parishes and from further afield on the island.

As well as enriching our worship at the service with beautiful music, it has increased the regular worshipping congregation at the church. We are also blessed to have weekly music from our regular organist, plus a further guitarist who joins our organist on a keyboard at All-Age Worship. St Mark's and St Edmund's also have a small choir and an organist. St James's also has a long-established choir and shares an organist with St Mildred's.

We have enthusiastic and gifted musicians, and we feel their talents could be used more to provide different sorts of worship in a more structured way than we have managed so far.

Also based within the Mission Area is *Cantus Vesperi*, a flourishing and unique peripatetic choral ensemble with membership drawn from singers across the island, that provides regular services of Choral Evensong and seasonal carols at a variety of local churches. Previously led by the choirmaster at St Mildred's and rehearsing in East Cowes church hall, the choir is now led by the organist at St Edmund's and St Mark's and rehearses in Wootton.





BIBLE AND PRAYER

We have an active Seventh Wave group which meets for Bible study and prayer fortnightly. The group makes visits to local churches and gardens and provides thoughtful fellowship. We have also explored different styles of prayer through lay-led Celtic Prayer services, which happened on summer evenings in the churchyard. Churches Together is active in East Cowes an ecumenical service is held for Remembrance Sunday and the town carol service is held in St James's.

This is an area of ministry which we want to develop, with an eye to encouraging a deeper understanding of God and promoting a Jesus-centered life to as many of our congregation as we can reach.



LIVING HERE

The Isle of Wight is home to about 138,000 souls. It has stunning coastline and beaches, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which has been given a UNESCO Biosphere rating and historical interest in the way of Carisbrooke Castle, Osborne House and Brading Roman Villa alongside attractive towns such as Yarmouth and Cowes. It has thousands of holiday makers enjoying its climate, its wonderful local produce and its tourist attractions like Tapnell Farm and Blackgang Chine. Its annual music festival welcomed 50,000 ticket holders this year. It is undoubtedly a unique place to live. However, the Island faces challenges to its population from expensive Solent crossings that place limits on working options, a heavy reliance on seasonal work, and limited investment from major employers. That said, it has benefited recently from a developing marine engineering industry and Ascensos, the customer management outsourcing company opening in Cowes. The population ranges from second homeowners and retired people, through to local young families and people relocating from the mainland. It is an eclectic and inspiring community which is both a blessing and a challenge.





East Cowes is a thriving small town, with just over 4,000 people. There is a small shopping area, and a supermarket (Waitrose) as well as the Town Hall, GP surgery and library. It is kept busy as one of the three car ferry docks on the island, linking with the port of Southampton. Cowes (just over the floating bridge) has streets of small shops and good places to eat. Famous for Cowes Week, when it is full of visiting sailors and yachts, it is also home to the Red Jet which is the passenger link to Southampton. East Cowes is a growing settlement, with new housing estates and major employers such as GKN Aerospace, RNLI (repair and building of inshore lifeboats) and Red Funnel. Red Funnel currently have plans to expand the port, with the addition of new shops and a hotel.



There are many new families moving to the town. St James's church is in an excellent position in the middle of East Cowes and has the benefit of its own community centre and some parking.

Whippingham is a rural parish with the historic church of St Mildred's and a population of about 3000, living mostly on two



housing estates. The site of the church has been a place of worship since Norman times, but its recent historical significance is as Queen Victoria's church when she was in residence at Osborne House. The church volunteers run a wonderful service for visitors and coach parties throughout the summer months, opening the coffee shop and providing tours of the church and churchyard. Hundreds of people pass through the church and community centre each week in the tourist season, and this is at present an untapped opportunity for spreading God's Word. Nearby within the parish is Queensgate Primary School, as well as the independent Priory School, which despite being affiliated to the Roman Catholic Church, nevertheless maintains a good relationship with St Mildred's and uses the church for school services and events. Also within the locality is CECAMM, part of the Isle of Wight College which offers engineering courses and apprenticeships, and the GKN factory site.

Wootton Bridge has developed into a community of about 4,000 and is one of the largest villages on the island. It has two churches. St Edmund's is a smaller church dating from 1087, holding Sunday Holy Communion and Evensong services. St Mark's is larger, built in 1909, and holds the majority of the services and community events. It is home to a skateboard school, probably the only church to do so! Wootton Bridge has a variety of shops, pubs, and a small Tesco as well as Wootton Community Primary School, with which the parish has a close relationship. There is a recreation ground with rugby, cricket, and football clubs as well as Scouts and Brownies, and a large community centre next to the GP's surgery.

OUR TEAM

WHIPPINGHAM & EAST COWES

REV PETER HUTCHINSON
RETIRED CLERGY

I am a retired clergyman who moved into the East Cowes area upon my retirement in 2017. I have PtO and, along with another retired colleague (Mike), I help out with presidency at Communion services. My early life was spent on the Island, working in hovercraft and aircraft engineering, before moving to the mainland to train and serve as a clergyman. My experience was dominated for many years by my leadership of an Ecumenical Partnership Church; this has resulted in me being accredited as a Methodist and a URC minister!

REV MIKE EXELL
RETIRED CLERGY

I have been on the Island for thirty-four years and during this time I have been school governor of six schools. I was curate at Holy Trinity Church, Ryde and St Michael's Church, Swanmore, and whilst there oversaw the renovation of the crypt at Holy Trinity so that we could open daily to provide hot meals to single-parent families and those who were homeless. I retired to East Cowes in 2010, worshipping regularly at St James and St Mildred. I served as College Chaplain at Christ the King College, a joint Catholic and Anglican College, for just short of ten years.

SUE RICHMOND
PCC TREASURER AND COFFEE SHOP MANAGER

I am St Mildred's Church Treasurer and I also manage the church's coffee shop with the help of nine willing volunteers. The coffee shop is open for four days every week, seven months of the year. Each week we welcome on average ninety regular local customers as well as up to eight coach parties of visitors to the island. I have lived and worshipped in Whippingham for over forty years.



CHURCH WARDENS, LEFT TO RIGHT: PETER ROBINSON, ROSE MITCHELL, ROBERT HALL, ANN CAPPS, HARRY KIRBY, MARY PETERS, LIZ WILSON

NIGEL MOORE
MUSICIAN

I have lived on the island for fourteen years, worshipping at St Mildred's and St James. I currently lead the music with Jane during All Age Worship and Family Communion. I have helped with Messy Church, volunteered as a guide in St Mildred's Church, and am a member of the PCC. I live with my partner in Whippingham.

JANE CARTER
ORGANIST

I am the church organist for St James and St Mildred's. I am a 'caulkhead', originating from St Helens where I was in the church choir and later church organist for a few years. I lived in Trinidad for ten years playing for various musical organisations. I have three children and three grandchildren.

PETER ROBINSON
LAY WORSHIP LEADER AND CHURCH WARDEN

Queen Victoria's Church takes up much of my retired life, either through its worship life or as the visitor attraction that it is. I have many roles, and thankfully my retired wife, Sue, helps with me.



COLIN DUTTON
LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANT

A member of the St James congregation since 2000, I have served as sideman, Church Warden, PCC member and minuting secretary to the PCC. I was trained as an LPA (Lay Pastoral Assistant) and, in that context, I give home communion to the infirm. At the invitation of a previous vicar, I was appointed a governor of Osborne Middle School and subsequently the Chair of governors.

ROSE MITCHELL
CHURCHWARDEN ST JAMES'S

I have lived in East Cowes my entire life and have been connected to St James's since I was a child. I was christened, confirmed and married in St James's Church and have been a member of the choir since 1960.

JILL TRAILL
PCC TREASURER

I have been a member of St James's church for around 40 years and I live in Wootton. I have been PCC Treasurer for over 20 years and also served on the Diocesan Parish Share Review Group. I am an amateur organist and over the years have played for services in all three parishes.

WOOTTON

Left to right in the team picture (top of opposite page) for Wootton are:

- Rev Len Fox, PtO priest resident in Wootton Parish, who leads a number of our Communion Services, in particular the Wednesday Café Communion (informal Eucharist followed by lunch);
- Sue Beynon, Lay Worship Leader and children's work;
- Steve Beynon, Lay Worship Leader and Parish Safeguarding Officer; leads informal Services including Sunday Brunch;



- Margaret King, sacristan and Home Communion visitor;
- Hilary Baldwin, Anna Chaplain and Lay Worship Leader; leads Evensong and other Services;
- Mary Peters, Churchwarden, leads Matins and Evensong as required;
- Canon David Bennison, Lay Worship leader and PCC Treasurer; leads non-Eucharistic worship, Matins and Evensong; prepares audio-visual material for services.

Not in the picture are:

- Rev Sandie Osborne, PTO priest resident in Wootton, whose main worship leading focus at present is in the Ryde plurality, though she also leads Communion Services in Wootton;
- David McCulloch, former monk of Quarr Abbey, organist and Choir Leader; also PCC Secretary and Assistant Treasurer.
- Mike Broadsmith, Deputy Churchwarden and server, buildings and churchyard maintenance.
- Warwick Hammerton, website and Facebook page, layout of *The Bridge* magazine.

THE HOUSE

The East Cowes and Whippingham Rectory is situated on Victoria Grove in East Cowes, about halfway between St James's and St Mildred's churches. The house has a large garden, five spacious bedrooms and three reception rooms. The front of the property overlooks the park and is a five-minute drive from the centre of East Cowes with the shops and the ferry port.



The Wootton Bridge Rectory is a good-sized property in a convenient location, situated halfway between St Edmund's and St Mark's Churches. It was built on the grounds of the former rectory in 1968. The ground floor comprises a study, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room and toilet. Upstairs are four bedrooms, a separate shower, toilet and bathroom. There is a garage and a large garden with a patio area.



ROLE DESCRIPTION

We pray that our next incumbent will embody the following qualities.

- A balance of active and contemplative spirituality: leading and inspiring others in a practical expression of the Gospel message, whilst modelling and facilitating a prayer life that is both grounded and explorative;
- A balance of inward and outward focus: spearheading new initiatives, outreach projects and partnerships, whilst equally valuing and caring for the existing people and needs of the parishes;
- Visibility of presence both in our churches and especially in engaging with the wider local community;
- Sensitivity and tact in leadership and communication, with the ability to acknowledge personal limitations and to appreciate and nurture the gifts of others;
- Respect for the moderate Anglican theological and liturgical tradition of the parishes, and a desire to encourage those involved in its provision;
- Strong administrative and organisational skills, with the capacity and willingness to delegate to others where appropriate.





APPENDIX 1: REGULAR SERVICE SCHEDULE

ST EDMUND AND ST MARK, WOOTTON

Sunday:

- All-Age Brunch (1st week of the month)
- BCP Communion (1st week of the month)
- Holy Communion (2nd + 4th week of the month)
- Morning Worship (3rd week of the month)
- Evensong (2nd + 4th week of the month)

Wednesday:

- Café Communion (1st week of the month)
- BCP Communion (2nd, 3rd + 4th week of the month)

ST MILDRED'S, WHIPPINGHAM

Sunday:

- Holy Communion (1st + 3rd week of the month)
- All-Age Worship (2nd week of the month)
- Morning Worship (4th week of the month)

Friday:

- Morning Prayer (each week)

ST JAMES, EAST COWES

Sunday:

- Holy Communion (1st + 3rd week of the month)
- Morning Worship (2nd + 4th week of the month)

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF MISSION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

ST EDMUND AND ST MARK, WOOTTON

- Little Lions Toddler Group
- Elephant Club Dementia Group
- Marks Brothers Men's Group
- Explorers Sunday School
- *The Bridge* magazine, 10 editions per year delivered free to every house in Wootton

ST MILDRED'S, WHIPPINGHAM

- Teddy Club Toddler Group*
- Rock Solid Ecumenical Youth Club
- Sunday School
- 7th Wave Prayer Fellowship*

ST JAMES, EAST COWES

- Teddy Club Toddler Group*
- Friendship Guild
- 7th Wave Prayer Fellowship*

(* = joint venture between churches)



APPENDIX 3: CURRENT PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES

ST EDMUND AND ST MARK, WOOTTON

Stipendiary clergy	0
Non-stipendiary clergy	1
Readers/LLMs	0
Other Lay Worship Leaders	4
Churchwardens	2
Other PCC Members	8
Total Parish Electoral Roll	80
Usual service attendance (over-18s)	28 Holy Communion 25 Café Communion 22 All-Age Brunch 19 Morning Worship 13 BCP Communion (Wed) 10 BCP Communion (Sun) 7 Evensong
Usual service attendance (under-18s)	6 Holy Communion 0 Café Communion 8 All-Age Brunch 1 Morning Worship 0 BCP Communion (Wed) 0 BCP Communion (Sun) 0 Evensong

Usual participation in mission and outreach activities (over-18s)	12 Little Lions 12 Elephant Club 8 Marks Brothers 2 Explorers
Usual participation in mission and outreach activities (under-18s)	12 Little Lions 0 Elephant Club 0 Marks Brothers 13 Explorers
Income (2022-23)	£53,000
Expenditure (2022-23)	£50,000
Current Parish Share	£26,100
% forecast to be paid for current year	100%
Free Capital Reserves	£0
Restricted Capital Reserves	£2,000
Number and type of buildings owned by the parish	2 Church Buildings 1 Church Hall

ST MILDRED'S, WHIPPINGHAM

Stipendiary clergy	0
Non-stipendiary clergy	0 (1 shared with St James)
Readers/LLMs	0
Other Lay Worship Leaders	2
Churchwardens	2
Other PCC Members	9
Total Parish Electoral Roll	50



Usual service attendance (over-18s)	32 Holy Communion 29 All-Age Worship 25 Morning Worship 4 Morning Prayer
Usual service attendance (under-18s)	2 Holy Communion 5 All-Age Worship 2 Morning Worship 0 Morning Prayer
Usual participation in mission and outreach activities (over-18s)	20 Teddy Club 4 Rock Solid 2 Sunday School 8 7th Wave
Usual participation in mission and outreach activities (under-18s)	27 Teddy Club 20 Rock Solid 7 Sunday School 0 7th Wave
Income (2022-23)	£60,060
Expenditure (2022-23)	£45,130
Current Parish Share	£12,400
% forecast to be paid for current year	100%
Free Capital Reserves	£40,800
Restricted Capital Reserves	£1,840
Number and type of buildings owned by the parish	1 Church Building 1 Church Hall

ST JAMES', EAST COWES

Stipendiary clergy	0
Non-stipendiary clergy	2
Readers/LLMs	0
Other Lay Worship Leaders	0 (1 shared with St Mildred's)
Churchwardens	2
Other PCC Members	9
Total Parish Electoral Roll	53
Usual service attendance (over-18s)	28 Holy Communion 24 Morning Worship
Usual service attendance (under-18s)	1 Holy Communion 1 Morning Worship
Usual participation in mission and outreach activities (over-18s)	20 Teddy Club 12 Friendship Guild 8 7th Wave
Usual participation in mission and outreach activities (under-18s)	27 Teddy Club 0 Friendship Guild 0 7th Wave
Income (2022)	£38,160
Expenditure (2022)	£40,500
Current Parish Share	£22,000
% forecast to be paid for current year	100%
Free Capital Reserves	£87,200
Restricted Capital Reserves	£6,900
Number and type of buildings owned by the parish	1 Church Building 1 Church Hall

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 133 parishes, from Botley in the west to Emsworth in the east, and from Blackmoor in the north to Ventnor on the 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 44 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/our-strategy.

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.





Diocese
of Portsmouth

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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND