

# Cowes cluster

PROFILE



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



Diocese  
of Portsmouth





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# BISHOP'S WELCOME

I am delighted you are seeking to discern whether Jesus is calling you to serve with His beautiful people in Cowes, Northwood and Gurnard on the Isle of Wight. Be assured of our prayers in the diocese for you and those you love as you step into a time of discerning.

The Diocese of Portsmouth is a community of communities focused and centred in Jesus, and seeking the Father's heart of love for the world. We shall be praying fervently for you as you discern your next step of faith in response to God's faithfulness.

With love, in Christ,

*'As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.'*

*Jonathan Portsmouth*

*Colossians 3: 12-13*



**THE RT REV JONATHAN FROST,  
BISHOP OF PORTSMOUTH**



# ARCHDEACON'S INTRODUCTION

The Isle of Wight is a county that is committed to investing in infrastructure, amenities and commercial development. It covers the busy towns of Newport and Ryde, through to pretty villages, and Victorian seaside resorts. Having moved here two years ago, I can say that it is a great place to live and enjoy life. The developing vision of our Diocese is to be a humble and joyful church 'in and for the world'; a courageous church which abides in Christ and seeks God's Kingdom; a church in which younger and older people grow in faith, find their voice and, by God's grace, offer their lives in service of God's Kingdom. The churches on the Island are at the leading edge of developing an "every member in ministry" model with licensed lay ministry being a crucial element. We have a way to go, but Anna Chaplaincy is being developed across the Deanery and many parishes benefit from people who have been commissioned to specific ministries, including Lay Pastoral Assistants, Lay Preachers, and Lay Worship leaders. We are committed to helping all our churches to:

- deepen their discipleship of Jesus;
- demonstrate the way God's love impacts our communities; and
- grow to be larger, multi-generational communities who are able to engage with children and young people whilst continuing to treasure the older generations.

## POTENTIAL OF COWES CHURCHES

The Church of England in Cowes is at a unique, pivotal moment in its history and mission. The churches in and around the town of Cowes are at an important and exciting point on their journey, as they seek to work in collaboration to serve the whole town and

its closest village neighbours Northwood and Gurnard. The vision for Cowes is for one united Cluster of four distinct parishes, with multiple expressions, locations, worship styles, ministries and missions across the town and villages, to proclaim the gospel afresh to every generation. Each of the four churches involved is committed to working together in a seamless way, which aims to enhance and develop the present base of traditional Anglican worship, expanding its scope to include regular charismatic and contemplative opportunities, while also being generous and welcoming to new and generous ways of being Church.



THE VEN STEPHEN DAUGHTERY,  
ARCHDEACON OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Those involved in this new plurality believe that the best way to ensure the financial, spiritual and physical renewal of their church communities is through genuine collaboration between expressions of Church that are ancient and modern, sacramental and charismatic, urban and rural, young and old. This is what we're calling generous orthodoxy, where different traditions sit side-by-side and genuinely seek to enhance each other's ministry and mission. Welcoming, preserving and enhancing the present base of traditional Anglican worship, at the same time as expanding its scope to include regular charismatic and contemplative opportunities. It involves working together in plurality, while still preserving distinct parish identities and traditions. It involves embracing what might be seen as difference and celebrating the strength of diversity in Cowes where there are at least four different churches and associated buildings that can be used for these different expressions of worship. We would like to pour our energy and prayerful focus on Cowes where we plan to launch some major missional initiatives that seek to bring together our churches in Cowes, honour our traditions, and renew and refresh our missional ministry. If these key values resonate with you, we would love to hear from you.

*Ven Stephen Daughtery*  
*Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight*



# THE ISLE OF WIGHT AND COWES TOWN

The four parishes – Holy Trinity Cowes, St Mary’s Cowes, St John the Baptist Northwood and All Saints Gurnard – are currently exploring working together as four distinct parishes in plurality.

Our astonishingly beautiful Island lies five miles off the south coast of England. Cowes, to the west of the River Medina, with a population of about 15,000, is at its northern tip. Many people speak affectionately of life on the Island as being a bit behind the times and certainly it’s different from the mainland. People have time to talk, there is a strong community spirit and an appreciation of the beauty which, through God’s good grace, surrounds us.



Historically, the Island’s economy has relied on boat and shipbuilding, farming, and sea-borne commerce. Currently, it hosts businesses in the eco-energy sector and in the hi-tech sector for the design and manufacture aircraft composite structures, electronics, and computer-based control systems. Tourism is a major source of income with a wide variety of attractions, from Carisbrooke Castle and Osborne House, the Military Museum, Blackgang Chine and Alum Bay to beautiful beaches and numerous walks across the Island. Those who live here appreciate the county showground events such as the county show and the Lionheart Christian Festival, and enjoy a diverse cultural life with four theatres, lots of choirs, concerts, the IOW proms at Northwood house and the Isle of Wight Symphony Orchestra.



Cowes is a world-renowned centre for sailing and home to the prestigious Royal Yacht Squadron (to which our incumbent will be honorary chaplain). The high point of the year is Cowes Week and throughout the summer there are a wide variety of other local, national and world-class championship regattas.

Transport links to the mainland are good, with fast passenger ferries taking twenty-five minutes between Cowes and Southampton. These connect with a free bus service to the railway and coach stations and to the shopping centre. Cowes to London takes about 2½ hours by Red Jet and train. Vehicle ferries also operate regularly from East Cowes to Southampton, from Yarmouth to





Lymington, and from Fishbourne to Portsmouth, all taking less than an hour. Newport, the county town, with its minster, modern hospital and hospice is four miles from Cowes and can be reached in 20 minutes by the frequent bus service. A quirky chain ferry – the Floating Bridge – connects Cowes to East Cowes.

Cowes has four primary schools and one secondary school, Cowes Enterprise College.

Christ the King, a joint Church of England and Roman Catholic secondary school is not far away in Carisbrooke, and in the independent sector there is the Ryde School. Further Education is offered by the Isle of Wight College in Newport which offers degree courses through Bournemouth University, and its associated Centre of Excellence for Composites, Advanced Manufacturing and Marine (CECMM) in East Cowes. There is a broader choice of Sixth Form Colleges and Universities, within easy reach, on the Mainland.

The town and its adjacent villages of Gurnard and Northwood are well served by a medical centre and two dentists. There are four supermarkets, several convenience stores and a wide variety of independent high street shops and restaurants. Social and sporting needs are also well catered for. There are five yacht clubs and a good selection of other sports clubs, most with provision for children as well as adults.

However, there are some serious pockets of poverty on the Island. Cowes now hosts a well-established island-wide foodbank and there is a strong network of charities and voluntary organisations in the town.





# THE CHURCHES OF COWES



## ST MARY THE VIRGIN

St Mary's church is located in the heart of Cowes town, on the edge of Northwood House and Park. The church is only a short walk from the shops, local transport (buses and foot ferry), and a large car park, and is conveniently located near local schools. The church began as West Cowes Chapel in 1657 as a Puritan Meeting House, was consecrated in 1662 and was then rebuilt in 1868. The building includes a John Nash tower and is Grade 2\* listed. St Mary's currently can hold 250 in the main body of the church, with a further 50 in one of the balconies overlooking the nave. Its size means it's used for large civic services for Cowes and the Island alike. It has fine acoustics, together with a Father Willis organ, making it a popular venue for musical performances. St Mary's is supported by the Friends of St Mary's Church charity which was set up in 1999 to raise funds for the repair and maintenance of the church building. These have included the nave, north side gallery and



chancel. Although the churchyard was closed for burials in 1857, part of the churchyard is now designated as a memorial garden and this includes an area reserved for the interment of ashes and a memorial stone to record the names of those interred. The churchyard, which includes a dedicated wild garden, is kept tidy by a weekly group of volunteers.

The Church Hall is a useful addition to church resources and provides us with great mission opportunities as it's available for the wider community of Cowes to hire. Currently it's used for Pilates, Table Tennis, as a practice venue for three bands and as an Art and Craft Group. The hall facilities include a fully equipped kitchen and toilets (including disabled and baby changing). We would like to encourage the Toddler Group, which was halted by Covid, to return so we can re-establish our links with them. The church and hall were used last year for the Island Law and Coronation Services and the Isle of Wight Literary Festival held many of their talks in the church.





Our mainly mature congregation averages 45 weekly with Home Communion being taken to the housebound. A team of friendly and supportive sides people and welcomers greet those who come to worship, and after Sunday services most worshippers enjoy refreshments and an opportunity to socialise in the hall. We keep in touch with each other through our weekly Pew Notes which are provided online, with paper copies available in church. A rota of lay readers and lay intercessors contribute to our Sunday worship which is further enhanced by an organist and small robed choir. Members of St Mary's congregation take part in a Julian meeting which is led by one of the Licensed Lay Ministers, and others among us attend Bible Studies which take place in All Saints' Gurnard but are led by a Licensed Lay Minister and those clergy with PtO. We seek to reintroduce Taizé and healing services, a pastoral group, and to experiment with Café Church.

There is a strong sense of fellowship at St Mary's and the big annual events which bind together the church community also

provide opportunities for us to reach out in inclusive and generous welcome to those on our fringes and people in the town. These include the Remembrance Service, our Jigsaw Festival, Seasonal Fayres, A Christmas Tree Festival and monthly Coffee Mornings. During Cowes Week each August, we are open every day with an art exhibition, stalls, and refreshments. This year's Harvest Festival resulted in us donating food and toiletries weighing in at 163.50kg to the Cowes Foodbank. In the summer particularly, we regularly have visitors from the mainland and abroad, partly because we are ideally located next to Northwood Park, and we are planning to extend our outreach to them by identifying appropriate days to open, perhaps when cruise ships are moored off Cowes. St Mary's supports Churches Together in Cowes through prayer breakfasts, attendance at joint services, in singing in local care homes.

We know we need to 'grow younger'. To that end, we plan to develop a closer relationship with a local primary school which currently holds its Christmas and Easter celebrations in the church by offering to help out with their RE curriculum. We have also re-established our links with the local Scout Group and are discussing with their leaders how we can strengthen our ties to the benefit of both the church and the children.

Our vision is to share God's kingdom by strengthening relationships within the church family and reaching out to the wider community.







## HOLY TRINITY

We are a relaxed, welcoming, and inclusive congregation; amongst us are those who are new to faith, alongside the majority who are mature Christians. Since 1983 we have been in plurality with St Mary's Cowes, sharing a vicar with them. We welcome the opportunity to extend the plurality to the parishes of All Saints and St Faith's and St John the Baptist to make best use of our coordinated resources.

Holy Trinity Church was consecrated in 1832, uniquely, as a Seafarers' Church. It has a wonderful position, close to the sea, overlooking the Solent. The Parish itself is relatively small, but its footprint includes all the yacht clubs in Cowes, which between them host some of the most prestigious national and international regattas in the world. There is a significant proportion of second homes in the parish and a large transient population of sailors,

tourists, and visitors. More than half of Holy Trinity's parishioners live in single-person households. The Church itself is in good repair. It is a lovely light-filled building which has a capacity of over 400 and a unique collection of memorials. These include memorials to Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip (who attended most Cowes Weeks), and a memorial outside by the North wall to the 15 sailors and 4 rescuers who died in the 1979 Fastnet Race. Holy Trinity Church has a closed churchyard, an open plot for ashes, a vestry, a toilet, a fully equipped kitchen, and a narthex where social events are held. It has a West end gallery, with the organ console, which looks down the nave to the spectacular apse.



Our Sunday worship alternates between Holy Communion and a Morning Praise service. From the narthex, the parents and young children who worship with us hear and can see the services. Most Sundays our sung liturgy and hymns are accompanied by a digital system, but we love to hear our magnificent Victorian organ played when we have a visiting organist. On 5th Sundays and for some festival services, we join with St Mary's Cowes. We also have occasional themed services, such as a Nativity Service, Hymns and Pimms, Carols and Croissants, and the Cowes Week Regatta Service and the Seafarers Carol Service, which usually attract about 200 people. We are a



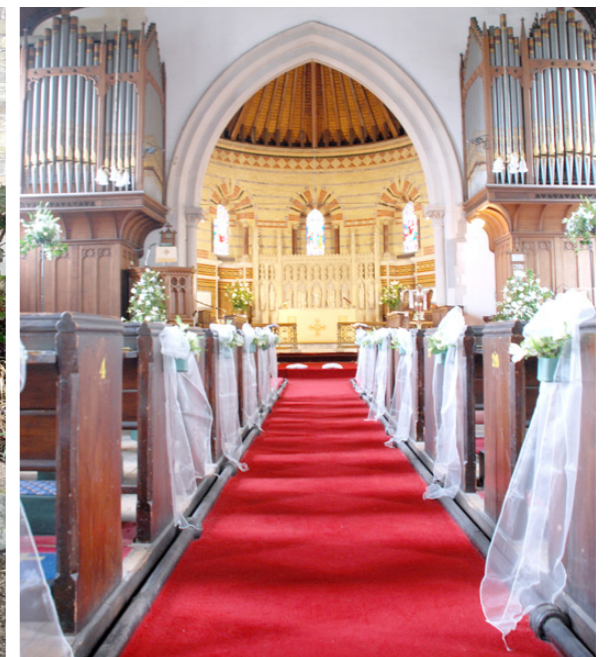


popular church for weddings and have a small, growing following online: people who either watch our services live or later via YouTube. On Wednesday evenings we stream an Evensong service from a cathedral, to offer a mid-week time of reflection. Members of our congregation also meet as part of the Julian prayer group and take part in Bible Study with those from St Mary's, All Saints and St John's.

Among our church members we have volunteers for a wide variety of community charities, for example: IoW Foodbank, Dogs for Young People, Street Pastors, Prayer Pastors & Armed Forces veteran organisations. Members of our PCC are involved with local schools, the Cowes Sea Cadets, the Lieutenancy and the Royal Yacht Squadron Foundation and we have a small team of parishioners who sing in old peoples' homes.

Much of our fellowship at Holy Trinity is geared to outreach. Specifically for the congregation, we keep in touch via WhatsApp, and we have quarterly pub lunches. In the context of the town,

we enjoy good relationships with the sailing clubs, especially The Royal Yacht Squadron, and we support Cowes Churches Together through their meetings and activities. Our monthly Supper and Cinema evenings are attended by members of our church fringe, as well as by members of our own and St Mary's congregations. During Cowes Week the church is open each day, providing refreshments for visitors and hosting an exhibition of local art. We host a growing number of secular events (e.g. concerts and talks) which usually have a charitable angle: recent donations have been made to Ukraine, the RNLI, Cowes Sea Cadets, and the local Foodbank. We have a dedicated team who clean and decorate the church, tidy the garden, read lessons, ring bells and serve coffee and cake.



We believe our mission in the coming years is to continue to provide a generous welcome, encouraging both current worshippers and those on our fringes to deepen their faith in God. We would love to re-introduce informal family worship and establish a crèche and a 'Young Church' group. To help meet the needs of older people, especially those who are lonely or in Care Homes, we aspire to identify and appoint an Anna Chaplain. We plan to continue to improve our facilities, with better lighting, new carpets, and more toilets and to draw more newcomers into our lovely church we are keen to host more secular events.





## WORSHIP PATTERN

Our monthly Sunday worship pattern across St Mary's and Holy Trinity is currently:

Sunday	St Mary's at 11am	Holy Trinity at 9:30am
1	Holy Communion	Morning Praise
2	Morning Praise	Holy Communion
3	Holy Communion	Morning Praise
4	Morning Praise	Holy Communion
5	Joint Holy Communion Service	

In addition, on Wednesdays there is a mid-week Holy Communion Service at St Mary's which is attended by members of both congregations, and which is alternated with All Saints Gurnard. Also each Wednesday at Holy Trinity, Evensong, is streamed from a Cathedral.

## ALL SAINTS CHURCH

All Saints' is a Victorian Church built in 1893. It has a brick façade and spire and is very well maintained and cared for. The spire was replaced in 2001. The building is fitted with gas central heating. There is a pipe organ and traditional choir stalls in the chancel. A small grand piano is located on the north side of the Nave. The fixed pews have been replaced with red upholstered individual chairs. Additional seats are readily available which could provide a total seating capacity for some 170-180 people. In the south transept the extended vestry has a kitchenette, toilet and storage area. We have installed a purpose-built kitchen in the northwest corner of the church to be able to serve refreshments at services and events.

A separate building, known as 'the Garden Room', was built in 2010 and located in the South East corner of the Church grounds. It is fitted with a kitchen and a disabled person's toilet, and is suitable for small events for a maximum of 30 people.



Outside, the Church has some grounds around it which include a lawned area, flower beds, mature trees, shrubs, and a small garden of remembrance. The Church is located in the heart of the village, and there is ample roadside parking nearby.

### 1st Sunday of the Month

9:30 am All Age Worship led by different groups from the Church with a live worship band

### Other Sundays

9:30 am Sung Eucharist taken from Order 1 of Common Worship with adaptations

Celtic Morning Prayer

Celtic Communion

Taste of Taizé





Wednesday (Shared with St Mary's alternate weeks)  
9:30 am Said Holy Communion from Order 1 of Common  
Worship

Booklets have been printed including seasonal and other material  
for use during Ordinary Time and the Church's 'Seasons'.

#### Other Services

- Programme for Holy week, including Sunrise service on the beach when possible
- Weekly bible study held in Church, approximately 25 attendees
- Gurnard Primary School and Pre-school Christmas services (In future they may be held in the schools, owing to the increased distance from the new school).
- Christmas Eve Crib Service
- Christmas Eve "Midnight in Bethlehem" communion (starting at 9:30 pm)
- Annual 'toy service'
- Christingle service
- Service for Baptism Families (held beginning of December)
- Service for recently bereaved families (held beginning of December)
- Remembrance Day service
- Taste of Taizé services on a 2nd Sunday evening – this is made up of two parts: a free simple meal of homemade soup and bread from followed by a simple Taizé service based on the daily services at Taizé in France. In this 45-minute service, there are simple repetitive chants, prayer, scripture and times of silence.

There is something happening at All Saints Gurnard every Thursday. On the first Thursday we have Circle Dancing, with

refreshments including homemade cakes, aimed at folk who who need physical and mental exercise. We currently have about 20 participants, with a group from Old Charlton care home joining us each time. On the second Thursday we have Singalong, led by Dave on his guitar. Lots of fun and laughter and more cake!

On the third Thursday we enjoy Elephant Club, a special time for those with memory challenges, reminiscing and enjoying music with quizzes and more cake!

The fourth Thursday brings Coffee and Chat, a very popular time with about 40 guests, enjoying each others company and a vast array of refreshments.

On the odd month which has five Thursdays we have Crafternoon, where we make something to take home and eat, you guessed it, more cake!

All these activities are completely free of charge and everyone is welcome. Mandy, our Anna Chaplain, is running or present at each group.

On regular Religious Education days through the year at Gurnard Primary school, we have been invited to run their assemblies, one for Key Stage 2 and another Key Stage 1.

### **ST JOHN THE BAPTIST**

St John the Baptist is a very welcoming, friendly church. Primarily made up of the older generation, they pull together and work hard to ensure everyone feels included and the wider community know they are there for them to turn to. Working in plurality with All Saints Gurnard for some years, the PCC is looking forward to building new friendships and a wider church family with Holy Trinity and St Marys.

St John the Baptist, Northwood Parish Church is a 12th Century Grade 1 listed building and was originally a chapel within the area of the large medieval parish of Carisbrooke, later becoming the Mother Church of Cowes. It is situated on the outskirts of Northwood Village, down a country lane. The church has many beautiful stained glass windows, Norman arches, a Jacobean pulpit, Victorian pews and a Grade 1 listed organ.





Although the pews are still in the centre of the church, the pews down both side aisles were removed some years ago. The south side can be used as a side chapel but all fixtures are removable so the space can be used for mission, events, fundraising and meetings. The north aisle area has chairs and is used to serve teas before the Sunday service. In the vestry is a small kitchen area and at the back of the church is a sound system providing music and microphones for services and events. In the churchyard is a large purpose-built disabled toilet with baby changing facilities. The church has a small step into the building and a ramp is kept nearby for disabled access. Large print service sheets are available if needed.

The church building is in a good state of repair, a faculty has been approved and work will commence in 2024 to install a new heating system. The church building is surrounded by a walled,



closed churchyard which holds a garden of remembrance where ashes can still be interred. Many people pass through or sit in the churchyard daily as it is a beautiful tranquil setting.

We have been working towards the Diocese Carbon Neutral Target and the local council have been taking saplings from the churchyard which are rare and difficult to cultivate, these are being grown on and planted across the Island at various sites. We have switched to LED bulbs in the church and have an area where batteries, stamps and printer cartridges can be recycled, we aim to expand this in the future.

## **OUR VISION**

Our Vision is for the church to be open and welcoming to everyone, to be present within the community and to be there for those who need us and want to turn to God or explore their faith. We want to grow in numbers, faith, and friendship.

To help us move this vision forward we are blessed with the support of Dion Mabey, Diana Netherway, David Heatley as well as our trainee Lay Worship Leaders Graham Simpkins and Steph Burgess.

We have been working in Plurality with All Saint's Gurnard for some years, sharing Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Patronal Services, we are excited that this has now progressed and that we have joined the Cowes Cluster growing our church family and giving us greater opportunity to deepen our faith.





## OUTREACH

Wanting to give back to the community, Northwood Church formed two groups to help combat loneliness as there are many in our community who live alone, these groups are held in our local Scout Hut which is in the heart of the village. The first is Coffee and Chat, which is a relaxed group that meets once per month and enjoys free tea and friendship. The second group formed which is also held once per month is Coffee, Craft and Cake, where attendees bring along their own craft and enjoy free tea and cake whilst crafting with friends. We provide these groups to the community without expectation, we do, however, invite those who attend to special services within the church, and many attended our Christmas services.



## YOUTH OUTREACH

We have recently reconnected with our local Primary School in Northwood; they have held their Christmas Carol Service in church, and we have attended their fundraising events as well as their Remembrance Day celebrations. We started a new tradition of giving Bible story books to all the children entering Reception Class and hope to do something similar for those leaving to High School.

Biannually we hold a Balloon Festival (a twist on the traditional Flower Festival). This is a free event that sees the church filled with life-size balloon models. We provide a free bouncy castle and a quiz with prizes, as well as refreshments. Last year saw almost 400 people through the church and was a great success.

We have many projects that we would like to explore together and have discussed church representatives listening to children read as well as share time over a meal with them.

They have been invited to our craft group as well as our Coffee and Chat which is a 3-minute walk from their school in the local Scout Hut. There, they will be able to share their craft skills and take time to read and play games





with those who attend. The school is in walking distance from the church, so plans are being made to use the church and the graveyard in their learning.

At Christmas, our crib service saw a huge increase of families attending and as a result of this, we are planning a children's, interactive, Easter Saturday service in church.

2024 sees plans of a retro assembly, children's craft days during the summer holidays, a new coffee morning for parents of new pupils at the school to help them to get to know each other and we'd like to restart community carols at the school. Positive plans have been made and we are looking forward to a reignited fellowship with them, planting the seeds of faith in young minds.

### OTHER EVENTS

A number of the congregation attend our monthly 'Fellowship Feast' which is a meal at a local pub after the Sunday service, this is also attended by some of our outreach group members who are on the peripheral and are forming good friendships. We have four coffee mornings each year with our church congregation attending as well as many ad hoc visitors and regulars. Our annual plant sale is very popular as are band



concerts and our regular congregation enjoy a harvest supper in church as well as the occasional bring and share meal after a Sunday service.

### SERVICES

Services commence at 11 am with refreshments served from 10:30 am every Sunday.

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion BCP
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	All Age Worship
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	BCP Morning Prayer
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Celtic Communion





# FINANCE

2023	ST MARY'S	HOLY TRINITY	ALL SAINTS	ST JOHN'S
<b>INCOME</b>	£57,368	£41,279	£53,100	£41,278
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	£56,861	£36,867	£60,300	£28,538
<b>BALANCE</b>	£507	£4,412	£37,218	£36,784.
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	0	£47,111	£2,346	£12,720.
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	£111,375	£87,045	£42,358	£103,037.
<b>PARISH SHARE</b>	£34,405	£15,263	£39,888	£18,201
<b>% OF PARISH SHARE PAID</b>	87%	100%	100%	100%



# VICARAGE HOUSING

## ST MARY'S – HOLY TRINITY

The vicarage which is a detached house with full gas-fired central heating stands in a quiet location, a few steps away from St Mary's Church. It's surrounded by a few trees and a small apple orchard, with manageable gardens to the front and rear of the building. There is ample parking for three cars in the driveway.

The house is within easy walking distance of Holy Trinity as well as the shops, ferries, buses and schools, and is adjacent to Northwood House and grounds. The accommodation consists of 5 bedrooms, 3 with a wash basin, and a bathroom and a shower room on the first floor. On the ground floor, through the front door, there is private access to the study, and from the hall, a cloakroom. There's a good-sized dining room with patio doors leading to a secluded patio. The cosy lounge has a fireplace and patio doors overlooking the garden. The kitchen which was refitted 7 years ago, leads to a utility room. This has a back door into a small enclosed courtyard and the garage, which can house two cars.

## NORTHWOOD

The current rectory, serving the parishes of Northwood and Gurnard, is situated in Northwood some 200 yards from Northwood Church, a five-minute drive from Gurnard Church, and 10 minutes from Holy Trinity and St Mary's. Both Northwood Church and the rectory are about a quarter of a mile from the main village of Northwood, positioned in a very quiet, rural lane.

The Rectory is a pleasant, 1960s-style detached house in a large garden. It commands beautiful views across the River Medina, to the sea in the north and to the downs in the south.

Downstairs, a good-sized lounge, dining room, study, new kitchen, and cloakroom lead off the hall. To the rear of the kitchen is a new, large utility





room. Upstairs there are 5 bedrooms, a full bathroom, a separate toilet, and a separate shower room. There is an integral garage. Gardens are mainly to lawn, with mature trees and shrubs. Solar panels have been installed on the roof, which may serve to reduce electricity bills.

## ST FAITHS

*currently set aside for a Curate*

Adjacent to St Faith's Church, which is redundant but used by the Apex Church, is the Vicarage, to which access is obtained from St Faith's Road by a private drive. Built in 1971, the house comprises an entrance hall, cloakroom with WC, lounge, kitchen-diner, study, and utility room. Upstairs there are four bedrooms, a bathroom with shower and separate WC. Outside, there is a brick-built garage and workshop, and a small garden laid mainly to lawn with shrubs. The house is approximately one hundred yards from a bus stop on the Cowes-Newport route, and within easy walking distance of the Red Jet service from Cowes to Southampton.



## WHAT WE CAN OFFER

Cowes and the Isle of Wight is a great place to live, with stunning beaches, a warm micro-climate and magnificent landscape. We will support you to settle in, and provide a stipend and a well-located and recently refurbished vicarage. We also want to ensure that you are released from everyday administrative tasks to be able to focus fully on ministry and mission. We will offer you 20 hours a week of administrative support and a youth/children's worker, also for 20 hours.

We understand that time off is important in a demanding role and we want to help ring-fence your holiday time. We will help to protect at least one whole day off each week, more if possible. An annual personal retreat will be encouraged. Your work expenses will be paid. We are also aware of the cost involved in ferry travel across to the mainland and would offer vouchers for 10 single car crossings each year for personal/family use. On top of this, you can also take advantage of the vastly reduced car crossing tickets available to Island residents.

As this is a team ministry, we would expect to be able to cover sickness, holidays, and any vacancies. This will bring relief and support from stressful work or lone working and offer an experienced skill base to interact better with the whole community. The existing ministry team across the plurality is made up of:

- 1 PT SSM Associate Priest
- 3 PtO Priests
- 1 PtO Distinctive Deacon
- 3 Licensed Lay Ministers
- 1 Licensed Anna Chaplain
- 3 lay ministers who commence training in Spring 2024
- A few lay pastoral assistants



# ROLE DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION

CRITERIA	ATTRIBUTE	ESSENTIAL OR DESIRABLE	IDENTIFIED BY APPLICATION OR INTERVIEW
QUALIFICATIONS	• Ordained priest within the Church of England, or a Church in communion with it, or a Church whose orders it recognises.	E	A
	• Anglican ministerial training	E	A
EXPERIENCE AND COMPETENCE	• Experience of ministry to more than one church	D	A
	• Passionate leader of liturgy, and sacramental worship	E	A
	• Working with musicians and choirs	D	A
	• Ability to lead a Team Ministry, whilst working on own initiative, balancing own workload and demands on time.	E	A/I
	• A knowledge and understanding of changing patterns of mission and ministry in the church.	E	I
	• Experience in developing new styles of worship	D	A/I

SKILLS	• Committed to growing the church through prayer, sacramental worship, the bible, discipleship and mission.	E	A/I
	• Competent user of IT, with good verbal and written communication skills.	E	A/I
	• Growing a younger congregation	E	A/I
	• An engaging preacher	D	I
	• The ability to lead inclusive congregations with confidence	E	I
	• Developing and identifying new leaders.	D	A/I
	• Compassionate and sensitive approach to leading others through change.	E	A/I
LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF OTHERS	• Ability to lead, focus and direct a team collaboratively, working sensitively with clergy and laity, balancing the needs of each church.	E	A/I
	• Capacity to handle conflict effectively, and to lean towards reconciliation.	E	A/I
	• Willingness to engage with, and give and receive, feedback.	D	I
ENGAGING IN COMMUNITY LIFE	• Able to work with and engage schools in Christian ministry	D	A/I
	• Capacity for compassionate pastoral visiting of people in the parishes	E	A





# 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](https://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  
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