

# Rowlands Castle

## PROFILE

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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 Rowlands Castle. 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.'*

*Colossians 3: 12-13*



THE RT REV JONATHAN FROST,  
BISHOP OF PORTSMOUTH

# INTRODUCTION FROM THE ACTING ARCHDEACON

As I look at the pages of adverts in the Church Times each week I find myself wondering how people decide which ones they want to apply for? What makes them consider that this is a ministry that God is calling them to? The wording of the advert may help; some knowledge of the area or the parish may nudge people, or is it the profile when they look at it?

It is inevitable that the profile merely gives an insight, but can never present the full picture of the role being considered. This is true of this profile for Rowlands Castle which as Archdeacon I have been working on with Andrew, the Area Dean and the PCC. I have only been in role for a few months but from my experience of developing this profile it reflects the people I have met and worked with.

The recent history has been of the parish being held in plurality with some neighbouring parishes. But it is now a sole half time appointment. In discussions with the PCC there is clearly a desire to welcome others into the church community and especially to find ways of engaging with and growing the faith of young families and young people. This could be supported by work with the local church school, which the Area Dean has been developing good links with during the vacancy.

There is also a valuing of the fellowship that people find within them. There has also been heritage of strong biblical teaching which is valued by some.

However, there needs to be a recognition that there are also



challenges in this role. There is a need to draw together the breadth of thinking and spirituality. The issue of LLF has raised concerns from some, while a desire to be more welcoming in others. The role will require a priest who can help to bridge the different views and responses. The priest will also need to develop the work with children and young families and help review and refresh the home groups that exist.

This appointment comes at an important stage in the life of this parish and we look forward to exploring with applicants the opportunities that this presents, as well as some of the challenges to be aware of.

*Bob White*  
*Acting Archdeacon of Portsdown*

# SUMMARY

## WHO WE ARE

We are a warm and friendly church family situated in the village of Rowlands Castle, Hampshire. We have a heart for Jesus and a small, committed congregation who have a real desire to reach out further into our local community. We embrace both traditional and evangelical styles of worship.

## WHAT WE OFFER

We are an active, although ageing, church family with many skills and interests. We have some licensed lay ministers who are willing to lead services. We strive to serve each other and the community with love, prayer and practical help.

## OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

During the Interregnum we have developed a Mission Action Plan to provide us with some focus going forward.

### OUR PURPOSE

*Building God's Kingdom through Christ's Love in Action*

### OUR VISION

*To be a growing, thriving, multi-generational community where people are transformed and renewed by encountering God and responding to his love in Jesus.*

## OUR VALUES:

**Worship:** We seek to offer worship that enables all to encounter God in Christ by the Spirit.

**Welcome:** We seek to be a welcoming, generous, loving community.

**Discipleship:** We seek to enable people to grow into the likeness of the humanity of Christ.



**Service:** We seek to demonstrate Christ's love in action through service to our local community

A SWOT exercise shows we have opportunities for Mission and growth focused on:

- Building upon our successful Little Fishes toddler group
- Developing a more productive relationship with our Church school hoping to engage more young families
- Developing our welcome

## WHAT WE EXPECT

We are looking for a new 0.5 stipend Priest-in-Charge who can continue to help us develop and implement our vision. Someone with collaborative leadership skills who will work with and alongside our Church School and members of the congregation in so doing.

## THE BROADER CONTEXT

- Historically, we have had good links with the neighbouring Benefice (our previous vicar was also the vicar of Blendworth, Chalton and Idsworth.)
- We have a good working relationship with the United Reformed Church on the Green, sometimes joining resources for services on the Village Green. Most recently a very well-attended Village Carol service.
- We are part of Churches Together in Havant. A by-product of that is the Havant Passion Play, last performed at Easter in the centre of Havant. Several members of the congregation are enthusiastic participants.
- We have an active presence in Havant Deanery, with 2 lay Synod reps who attend the meetings when possible; one is on the Deanery Finance Committee.
- We have three licensed lay ministers who take active roles in leading, preaching and taking funerals. We also have a retired ordained Minister who has been invaluable since our previous vicar resigned.
- We have a paid administrator, (8 hours/week) who handles the booking of our modern (2001) Church Centre, as well as the organising of Parish Registers, and the record-keeping of the churchyard.
- We manage Church family communications and administration using ChurchSuite software.
- Financially, we manage to pay all our bills (even last year, with fuel bills of £12,500 and our Parish share of £46,458) and give 10% of our donated income to charity.

## WHAT WE ARE HOPING FOR

- a leader who can continue to help us develop and, importantly, implement our vision;
- a leader who identifies and nurtures skills and gifts in others;
- a collaborative leader who can work with and alongside others in ministry;
- a gifted biblical teacher and passionate communicator of the Gospel;
- someone with a heart and gift for relating to young families and children, in particular maintaining close relationships with the school;
- a pastorally sensitive listener;
- an encourager of prayer, evangelism and the sensitive development of spiritual gifts;
- a leader who can work across the differing traditions encompassed by our congregation.



# ABOUT THE PARISH

## ROWLANDS CASTLE AND THE LOCAL AREA

Rowlands Castle is a village of about 3,000 people situated in the south-east corner of Hampshire. It is some three miles north of Havant and Emsworth. Portsmouth is about ten miles away to the southwest, Chichester lies a similar distance to the east and Petersfield seven miles to the north. To the south, the interesting coastline of Langstone and Chichester harbours are easily accessible as are the hills of the South Downs National Park a few miles to the north. It is on the main railway line from London to Portsmouth.

The majority of the land within the parish boundary is woodland or farmland. The housing in the village ranges from large detached houses to small terraced properties and flats, with some council and housing association properties, providing homes for a cross-section of society. Current development on three sites within the Parish will provide just under 200 new homes, and there are plans to develop some 800 new homes within two miles of the village, of which 150 will be within the Rowlands Castle Parish boundary.



In the centre of the village is the Green, with a Post Office (located in the Hardware store); a local Supermarket; GP Surgery and Pharmacy; a vehicle service and repair garage; tearoom; three public houses; petrol station with shop, and hotel and restaurant (both opposite the church); estate agent and the Church-on-the-Green (URC).



There is also a Village Hall, Recreation Ground and Golf Club. The village is blessed with many organisations catering for a wide range of interests. U3A is very active and each July there is a very popular Village Fair on the Green. There is a local historical society and a branch of the Women's Institute. The tennis, golf, cricket and football clubs are thriving. There is a village website ([rowlandscastle.com](http://rowlandscastle.com)) and Facebook Page providing a comprehensive view of activities and interests in the area and a Rowlands Castle Village Grapevine which is an email list intended for sending urgent or important messages to everyone in the village, such as dates of public meetings or road closures. The Village Fair, local businesses and a list of places for walks and recreation are also covered. There is a Parish Council and the local authority is the East Hampshire District Council. The parliamentary constituency is East Hampshire.

To summarise: Rowlands Castle is an attractive, upper/middle income, mostly white rural village community in a beautiful area, probably too comfortable to appreciate how much it needs God's saving love and grace.



HERE ARE THE C OF E PARISH MAP STATISTICS:  
 Parish: Rowlands Castle: St John the Baptist

Deprivation rank (1=most deprived, 12,239=least deprived)	10,646
Parish population (2021 census)	2,889
Parish number of occupied households	1,337
Area (square miles)	3.6
Population density (people per square mile)	799
% aged 0-4	4.4
% aged 5-19	14.2
% aged 20-29	8.8
% aged 30-44	15.2
% aged 45-69	37.3
% aged 70 and over	20.1
% Asian ethnicity	0.6
% Black ethnicity	0.5
% Mixed ethnicity	1.2
% White ethnicity	97.2
% Other ethnicity	0.6
% Buddhist	0.2
% Christian	53.6
% Jewish	0.2
% Muslim	0.0
% Other religion	0.7
% No religion	40.3
% Religion not stated	4.9

## ABOUT THE CHURCH

St John's is a warm and friendly church with strong roots in prayer and a committed pastoral care network which provides care and support for one another. Like many churches we look back with nostalgia to the '90s and early '00s when we were a lively evangelical and charismatic church of young families. Over the years numbers have dwindled as children have grown and left home. The congregation now consists of predominantly retired people, with just a few younger families. We desire to become more attractive to the young families in the area, particularly with the new housing estates being built nearby. We have links with the adjacent church school which we would like to make stronger, and also a thriving bible-based toddler group (Little Fishes). We want to continue building these links and hope for a new minister who will share our desires.

### **BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES**

#### THE CHURCH

The foundation stone of St John's Church was laid in the year Queen Victoria came to the throne, 1837. The church has been extended twice, first in 1853 and again in 1929 when the nave was extended. It is a traditional cruciform design built in flint and brick. In 2009 the old pews were replaced by chairs throughout the church, giving much more comfort and flexibility. The original organ is no longer fit for purpose, but a smaller electronic one is available. As with many churches, the church roof (external and internal) needs expensive repair. A quinquennial inspection is currently taking place, which is expected to reveal further issues regarding the pillars and dampness. There are other items which need attention with varying degrees of urgency, and there is a constant need for regular maintenance. However, if serious issues arise about the state of repair of the church, it is always possible to use the Church Centre for services.

#### THE CHURCHYARD

The churchyard is currently open for both burials and interment of ashes. It is generally maintained by a small but active team of church members. In Spring, it is spectacularly beautiful, carpeted with a succession of flowers, from



snowdrops to crocuses, wood anemones, primroses and bluebells, and an occasional Early Purple Orchid if we're lucky. Among the memorials are some to members of Jane Austen's family and some war graves.

#### THE CHURCH CENTRE

The 1926 church hall was replaced in 2001. The current centre consists of a large hall which can hold 120 seated; a small side hall capable of seating 60 persons; and an upper room of 20-25 seated capacity. The centre has a modern well-fitted kitchen, toilet facilities including disabled facilities and an office for the parish administrator. There is a full-immersion baptistry under the stage at the front of the main hall.

As well as for church activities, the church centre is regularly used by local organisations such as the local Pharmacy for vaccinations, the PTA for the School, 2 Bridge Clubs, Pilates, and Line Dancing. It is also used to hold conference and training events by organisations including Community First, East Hampshire District Council, Portsmouth Diocese and NHS. It is also regularly hired out for parties, wedding receptions, baptism celebrations and funeral teas.

More details can be found on the [St John's website](#).

#### IN RESPECT OF PRAYERS OF LOVE AND FAITH

"Church members have given much prayerful consideration to this matter. We held a whole church event to hear both sides of the debate in order to inform and enable people to come to their own conclusions. The responses from this meeting showed that although the majority were in favour of supporting the introduction of Prayers of Love and Faith a sizeable minority were opposed.

In consequence the PCC acknowledge that we are, like many others, a divided church on this issue. We are endeavouring, with God's grace, to learn to live with our differences. We would seek a minister who can continue this journey with us.

## OUTREACH

In recent years we have held a carol service on the Green on Christmas Eve, jointly with the United Reformed Church, and (last year for the first time) using a local brass band.

Every year, we erect a cross on the Green on Maundy Thursday, adorned with a crown of thorns which is replaced by flowers on Easter Sunday morning.



During Covid we set up a full-size tableau of Christmas scenes on the green and a garden of reflection on the green at Easter.

Also during Covid, we initiated a village-wide scheme to help with shopping and other necessities that were difficult because of lockdown.

All significant events and services are publicised on the Village Grapevine.

#### LITTLE FISHES

We run a weekly Monday morning toddlers' group called Little Fishes for





babies, young children and their parents or carers. It includes structured play, Bible stories and songs, crafts, healthy snacks for the children and tea/coffee and homemade cake for the adults. It is proving very popular with up to 40 children attending.

#### ECO CHURCH

St John's has been awarded the A Rocha Bronze Award for Eco Church. To get this we undertook a survey to consider how the environment is addressed within:

- Worship and Teaching,
- Buildings,
- Land,
- Community & Global Engagement, and
- Lifestyle.

Further work on our Churchyard environment forms part of our Mission Plan. We have a range of recycling initiatives.



## DISCIPLESHIP

We want to disciple everyone who joins us in an atmosphere of love, prayer and bible teaching to encourage each other to follow and become more like Jesus day by day, whether they have just started their journey of faith, or have been a believer all their lives. We want to see that faith and knowledge are grounded in Kingdom-building actions and activities.

#### HOME GROUPS

There are currently four home groups meeting in homes weekly – one in the afternoon and the others on various evenings. These are to give an opportunity, which Sunday services don't always provide, to discover what the Bible says about living life today and to have a chance to talk it through with a small group of friends. Approximately 30 people attend these groups. The format of each varies but typically includes fellowship, worship, playing teaching videos, bible study and prayer. Teaching material is chosen by each group in consultation with the home group coordinators. There are regular meetings with the group leaders.

#### LENT AND ADVENT COURSES

The whole church family also comes together from time to time to study particular subjects. These are advertised on the village Grapevine so that villagers who don't attend the church but may be interested in the subject are aware. This Lent has seen 30-35 folk meeting over 5 evenings looking at material provided by Open Doors about the place of Lament in our lives in the light of the persecuted church. After singing and a video we broke into small groups for discussion. There was also a video link to church members who couldn't attend or had moved away (to Scotland and France).





#### LIBRARY

There is a comprehensive library available for the congregation at the back of the church, including study guides, theology, bible notes, biographies and books focussing, for example, on Advent and Lent. Books are available for loan after the services and there is also a stock of bible study resources available for home group use or private study.

#### SERMON SERIES

Occasionally, instead of using the Lectionary to guide the sermon content, we run a series of sermons for several weeks based on a subject chosen by our licensed lay ministers/preachers. For instance, we have run a series based on the book *Developing Healthy Churches*, *Returning to the Heart of Mission and Ministry* by Robert Warren and recently on Amy Orr-Ewing's book *Why Trust the Bible*.

#### EVENING STUDIES

Although we don't usually have evening services, we occasionally have a series of study sessions (a talk followed by a time of discussion) on Sunday evenings.

#### COURSES

We have in the past run Alpha courses, more recently a *Christianity Explored* course and also one on prayer with videos by Pete Greig.

## FELLOWSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE

### PRAYER ACTIVITY

The church seeks to make prayer a regular and important part of its life. A regular Zoom prayer meeting takes place at 7:30 pm every Monday. Prayer is also a vital ingredient of the weekly home group meetings.

### THE PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

We have a small, dedicated Prayer Ministry Team. Prayer ministry offers individuals the opportunity to be prayed for by trusted and authorised team members. Those prayed for can be confident of being treated with sensitivity, respect and confidentiality. Any need, either for themselves or others, may be brought for prayer, with laying on of hands if permitted.

The team is available within or following Sunday or weekday Services. Prayer Ministry usually takes place in our dedicated prayer corner; however, arrangements can be made for more privacy if required.

There may be other occasions when this ministry may be exercised, for example during specific healing services or special services of celebration and/or commemoration.

As well as the Prayer Ministry Team, prayer requests are received by either our dedicated prayer line on the church website, by email or verbally. The request is then circulated to a group from the congregation who faithfully pray for those in need.

Requests and testimonies are shared with the group and follow the same requirements of confidentiality as for the Prayer Ministry Team.

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

This has a membership of mainly elderly but fairly active ladies and meets twice a month. The meetings are generally social with talks, demonstrations or discussions.



## **BEECHWOOD**

Regular visits are made to the Beechwood House Care Home for pastoral care, and communion when required.

## **FLORAL DISPLAYS**

There is a very dedicated team of flower arrangers who use their skills to ensure that flowers are regularly displayed in church. The church is specially decorated for Christmas and Harvest celebrations with multiple arrangements.

## **BAPTISM PREPARATION**

There was a small team that met with the families of baptism candidates before the ceremony and then continued to provide pastoral care afterwards. Our last vicar didn't use the team, but they are willing to continue this work if required.

## **CROISSANT BREAKFAST**

One Sunday a month, we serve breakfast (tea/coffee/juice and freshly cooked croissants) between the 8 am and 10 am services, allowing the 2 congregations to get together

## **QUIET MORNING**

A monthly quiet morning takes place on a Friday, followed by a shared picnic lunch.

# WORSHIP

## **SUNDAY SERVICES**

Holy Communion using Common Worship takes place every Sunday at 8 am. This is a spoken service and is usually attended by about 15 people mainly of retirement age. Church members who regularly attend this service appreciate the traditional style of the service.

The Main Service at 10 am varies in format and is typically informal in style. Robes are not typically worn. The average attendance is around 35 adults and 4 or more children. Coffee is available after the service.

Lay members of the congregation assist with the chalice at Communion as well as lesson reading and intercessions. A dedicated Welcoming Team is in place at every 10 am service and the team of sidesmen do a similar role at 8 am.

## **PATTERN OF SERVICES**

Sunday, 8 am	Holy Communion
Sunday, 10 am	1st Sunday All Age service is usually taken by the Young Church team
	2nd Sunday Morning Worship
	3rd Sunday Holy Communion
	4th Sunday Morning Worship
	5th Sunday Morning Worship
Wednesday, 9 am	Morning Worship led by a layperson

## **MUSIC GROUP**

We have a few musicians (keyboard, sometimes flute or violin, 2 or 3 singers, occasional hand percussion) who lead the music at some of the 10 am Morning Worship services. The songs we sing are mixed 'contemporary' and traditional hymns. At other 10 am services, videos are played for the congregation to join in.



## OTHER SERVICES

Home Communion visits to the house-bound or ill are undertaken by several lay members who have been licensed by the Bishop to offer this ministry.

Baptism services take place, during the 10 am service if the family are regular church members or at a time to suit the family and the vicar.

We have a full immersion baptism pool in the Church Centre (but there are issues with the plumbing).

Occasional services, including Cafe Church, and Messy Church have in the past been held in the Church Centre. We would like to see these happening again.

Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Christingle services are held annually and the school have in the past been invited to join us and take an active part in the service, a custom which we would like to see restored.

## OCCASIONAL SERVICES

In 2023:

Marriages	1
Baptisms	8
Funerals conducted at church	9
Funerals conducted at crematorium	2
Burial of Ashes	12

Our churchyard is still open, so we sometimes have village funerals in the church followed by burial, or interment of ashes after cremation.

# SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

## SUPPORTING THE HOMELESS

### HOPE INTO ACTION HOUSE

Between 2016 and 2023 we provided a house (using funds invested by church members and working with a couple of charities) for a refugee family and then for vulnerable women, supported in each case by a team of church volunteers. When the volunteer team wanted to hand over to a fresh team, not enough people could be found to continue to support the project, so the house was sold, continuing to be a home for refugees.

### 'POOR WANDERERS'

In recent years, the Lord has sent us several homeless folk who need time, space, love and acceptance to start the journey of getting their lives back on track. While they may stay for some months around the church, we have helped with food, equipment, access to showers, assistance with accessing the 'system' (health, social services, housing) and simply spending time with them. A couple found accommodation locally, stayed in contact and volunteered (unasked!) to help out with churchyard maintenance or other tasks around the church.

### FOOD BANK

As a church family we regularly collect and deliver food to a local Food Bank and two members volunteer there every week.

## OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICE

Many also do local volunteer work in the community for example at Good Neighbours, the Rowans Hospice, RVS Lunch Club, and Christian Youth Enterprises (sailing and activity centre).



## PASTORAL CARE

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The Pastoral Care Team, accessible through [email](#), is available to provide support to members of the church family and the wider community. This includes: a listening ear and support by phone or in person; providing meals for a short time during a period of need (e.g. birth of a baby, illness); and help with urgent shopping or collection of prescriptions. (People needing transport can be signposted to the Rowlands Castle Good Neighbours group). Requests for support from the team are made via the church office or [email](#).

### **OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ST JOHN'S SCHOOL**

St John's Primary School is a Church of England State-Controlled School for which the church currently provides a governor, (currently he is the chair of the board of governors). There is also a vacancy for a Foundation Governor, which it would be good if a church member could fill, but no one is available at the moment. The school also regularly uses the church for occasional services and class activities in support of the curriculum. Arrangements are currently in place for a neighbouring church (St James, Emsworth) to send in a team to conduct school assemblies. We see our relationship with the school as a vital means of service and outreach and an area of significant potential growth. Volunteers from the church usually help out at the school's summer fair.

## GIVING

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The PCC allocates a tithe (10%) of all direct gifts, offerings and covenants given to St John's for the support of predominantly Christian workers and projects outside the parish. There is a small committee which meets annually to consider requests for financial aid and the members aim to spread the gifts between local, national and international needs. The incumbent also holds a small discretionary fund to assist with emergencies in the parish. We regularly invite speakers from our supported charities and sometimes host a Tear Fund Sunday with a Hunger Brunch to raise funds for their work.

Each of the charities is assigned a 'champion' from the congregation and they promote or provide an update on their charity on a rotational basis as 'Charity of the Month'.

These are our current supported charities:

- Church Housing Trust,
- Hope into Action,
- Beacon Food Bank,
- Sovereign World Trust,
- Mission Aviation Fellowship,
- Emmanuel International,
- Mercy Ships,
- Release International,
- Medaille Trust,
- Barnabas Fund,
- Quicken Trust,
- Tearfund.

# GOVERNANCE

## THE PCC AND ADMINISTRATION

The Parochial Church Council consists of the Incumbent, Licensed Lay Ministers, Churchwardens, two deanery synod members and 9 other elected members. The PCC normally meets about 6 times each year. The APCM is usually held on a Sunday in April after a shortened morning service. The Standing Committee, consisting of the incumbent; churchwardens; treasurer and two PCC members (one of whom represents the Licensed Lay Ministers), meets as required.

## CHURCH STAFF

The Church employs a part-time administrator for a total of two mornings a week. In addition to undertaking secretarial and administration duties and church centre bookings, she also acts as Parish clerk (for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals).

There are three Licensed Lay Ministers (one of whom is an Anna Chaplain) who share leading and preaching in the services and help with pastoral care. In addition to this many people in the church willingly serve in many different capacities such as the Pastoral Team, Welcoming Team, Prayer Ministry Team, Leading Little Fishes, Homegroup coordination, Fabric and Maintenance. We actively encourage the use of God-given talents and gifts and strive to be a church where every member ministry is a reality.

## CHURCH WEBSITE

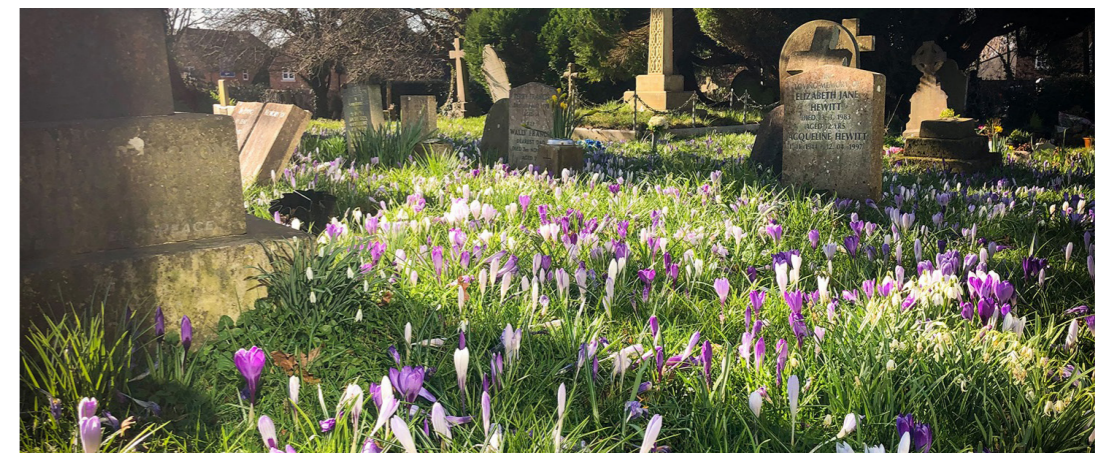
The church operates a website ([saintjohnschurch.org.uk](http://saintjohnschurch.org.uk)) which provides information on the life of St John's Church in the community of Rowlands Castle, as well as recordings of recent sermons, available for download.

## CHURCH FINANCE

In 2023 we received general funds of £82,087 with £65,375 from regular giving and fundraising £9,990 from Hall lettings and £5,260 from fees. As of 31/12/2023, we hold reserves of £25,641 in our unrestricted funds in line with Charity Commission guidelines of 3 months' expenditure. In addition, we have restricted funds of £6,244 spread across several funds for supporting a Parish Administrator, education of local children, baptismal families, and building repairs. We had a small deficit of income vs expense in 2023.

The financing of the Parish is by design conservative with no external debt. We intend to apply for grants from the local council for improvements to the Church Centre. The majority of planned (regular) giving is either by Bank Standing Order or through the Parish Giving Scheme. We will continue to encourage givers to use the latter (PGS) which alleviates the administration of Gift Aid, as well as encouraging annual reviews of giving amounts for individuals.

Our Parish Share is £48782 in 2024. We have always paid in full every year. The Budget for a paid Parish Administrator is c.£6,000. Several church members are giving extra each month to cover some of this particular cost. We anticipate some necessary work being carried out on a problem tree in our car park, which could cost £3-5,000. Significant expenditure is likely to be needed on the church building when the latest quinquennial report is received. 10% of our unrestricted donated income is given away to charities chosen by the PCC each year. In 2024 this will amount to £6,500. All clergy and other ministry expenses are paid in full.



# RECTORY IN ROWLANDS CASTLE

The Rectory in Rowlands Castle which will house the incumbent is a detached house built about 50 years ago, in a central position in the village. It is just a short walk from the church and is very suitable for a family. There are five bedrooms, one of which has an en-suite shower room. The house has a family bathroom, two reception rooms and a large study and meeting room. There is a double garage and a pleasant, secluded garden. The kitchen is well-fitted and there is an adjacent utility room.



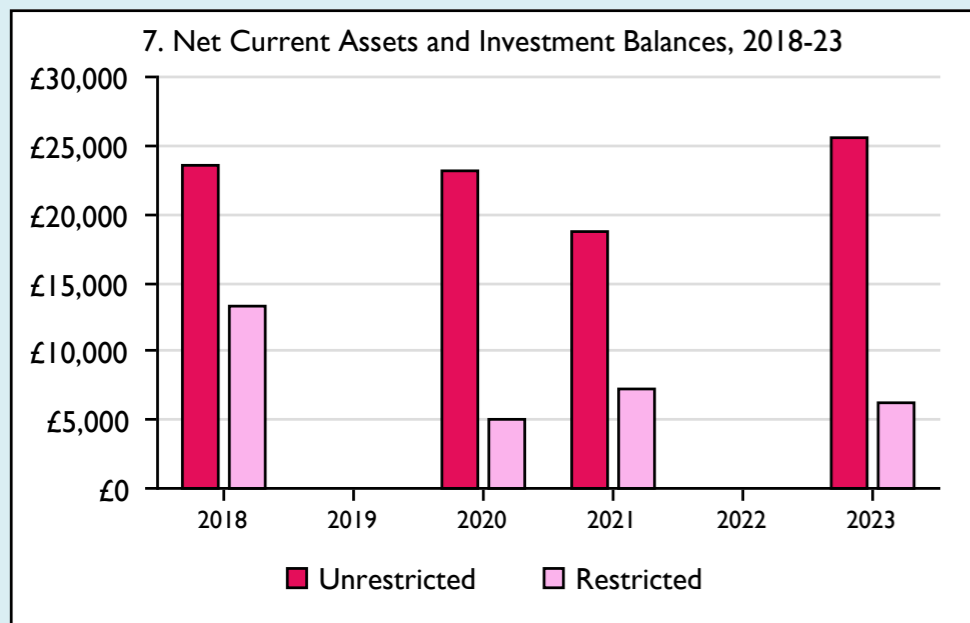
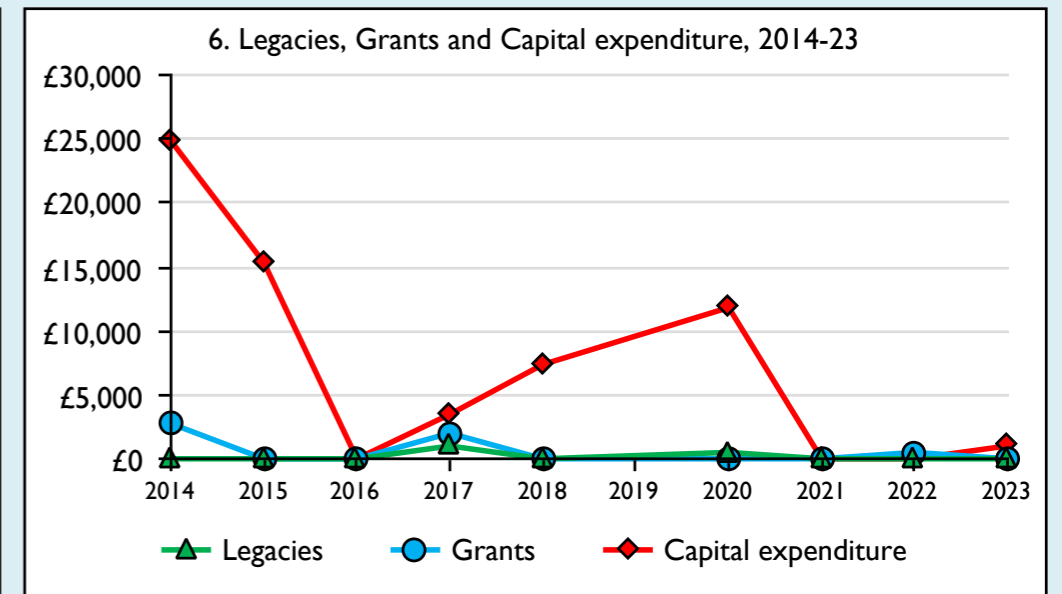
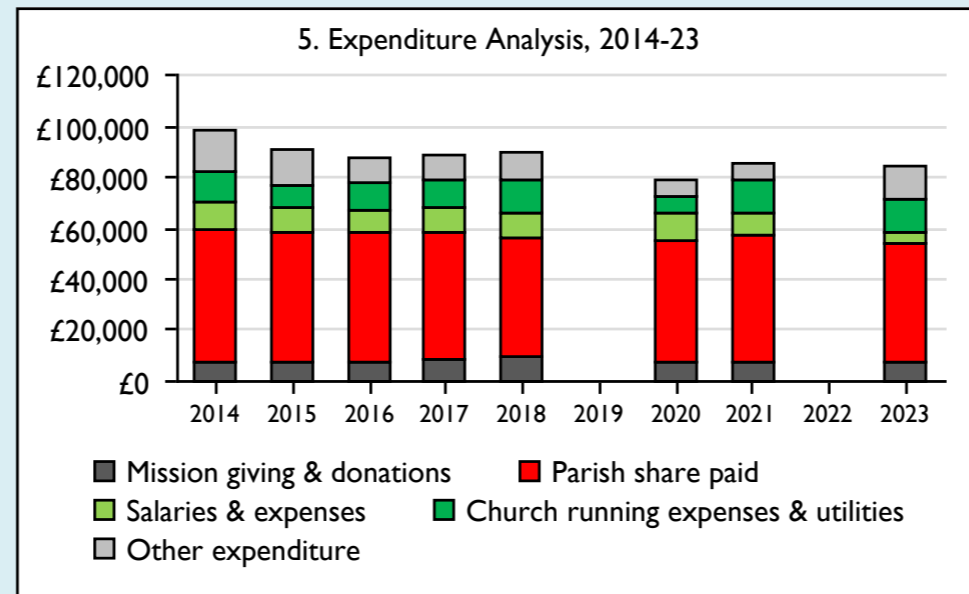
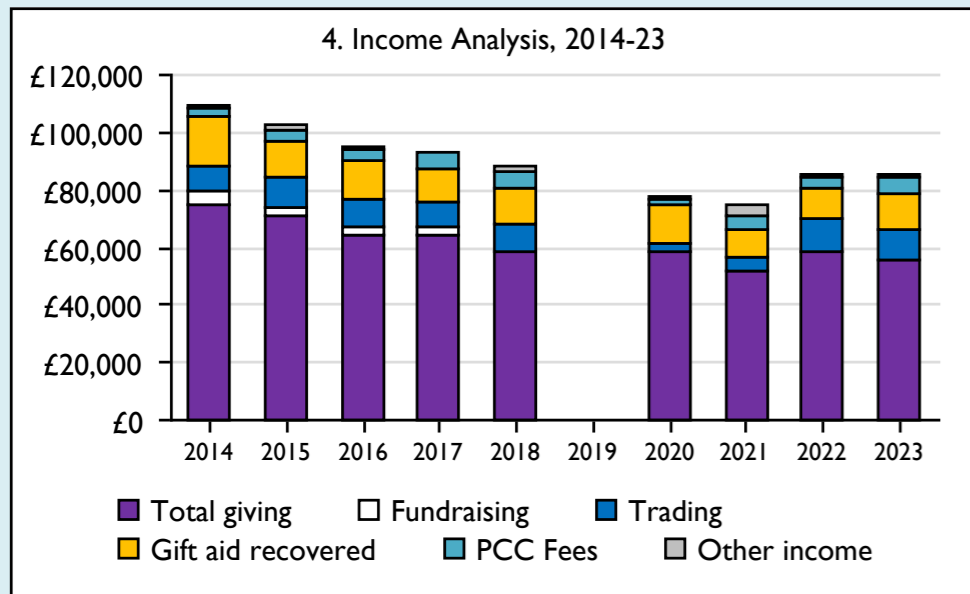
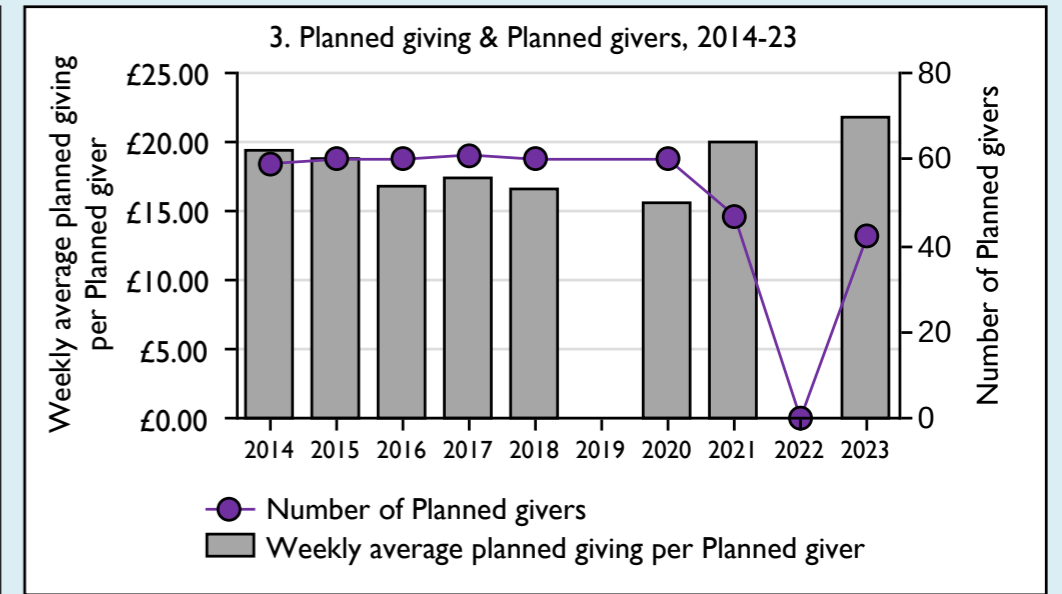
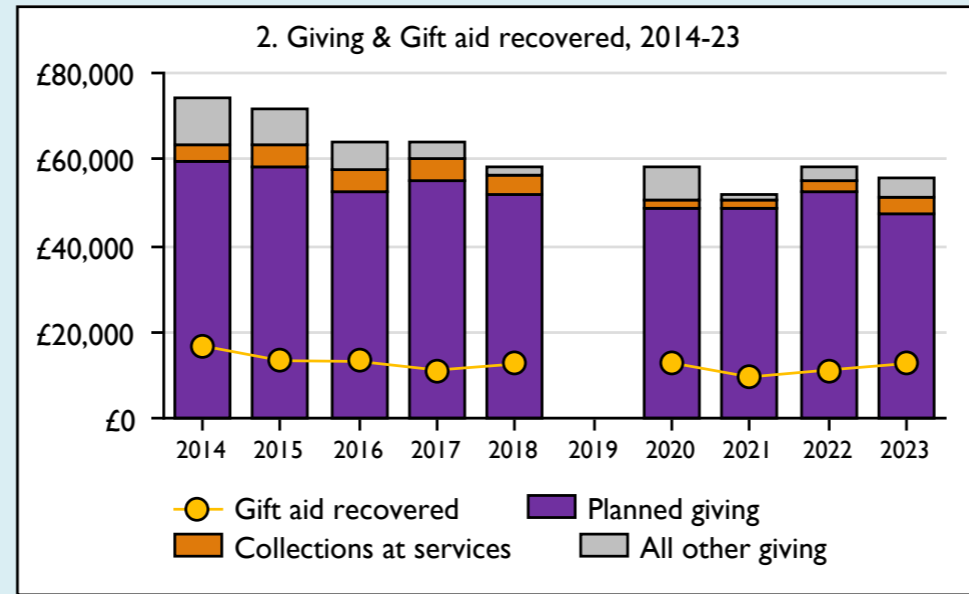
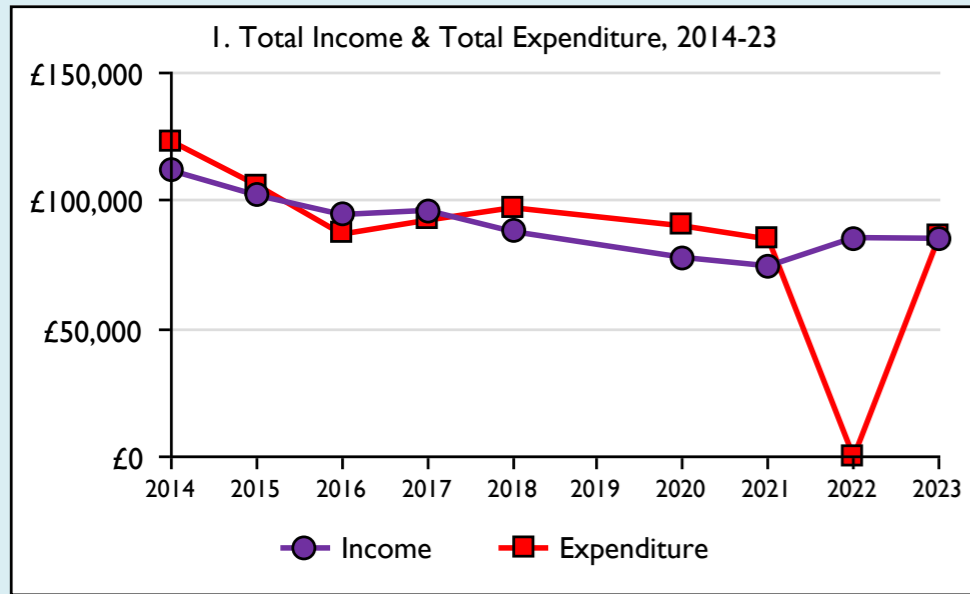
# PARISH CONTACTS

If you are inspired to pursue this ministry opportunity at Rowlands Castle and need further information or have questions, you are welcome to contact any of the following people.

- Churchwarden: Dr Raymond Youngs: [raymondyoungs@gmail.com](mailto:raymondyoungs@gmail.com)
- St John's Parish Office: Gill Whatley: [admin@saintjohnschurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@saintjohnschurch.org.uk)
- Area Dean: Rev Andrew Sheard: [andrewf.sheard@btinternet.com](mailto:andrewf.sheard@btinternet.com)
- Acting Archdeacon of Portsmouth: Rev Canon Bob White: [bob.white@portsmouth.anglican.org](mailto:bob.white@portsmouth.anglican.org)



# Finance Dashboard for the Parish of Rowlands Castle: St John the Baptist in the deanery of HAVANT



**Weekly average planned giving per planned giver (2023)**  
 Parish: £21.83  
 Diocese: £16.92

**Number of churches in parish (2024): 1**  
 Parish code: 290072

**Notes & definitions**

This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the parish; gaps may be the result of missing returns.  
 Graph 2 shows a detailed breakdown of the **Total giving** figure in graph 4.  
 Graph 3: **Planned giving** = Tax efficient planned giving + Other planned giving; **Planned givers** = Tax efficient planned givers + Other planned givers.  
 Graph 4 shows income other than grants and legacies.  
 Graph 4: **Total giving** = Tax efficient planned giving + Other planned giving + Collections at services + All other giving, including special appeals.  
 Graph 4: **Other income** = Dividends, interest, income from property + Any other income.  
 Graph 5 shows expenditure other than capital expenditure.  
 Graph 5: **Other expenditure** = Fund-raising activities + Mission and evangelism costs + Cost of trading + Other expenses.  
 Graph 5: **Running expenses & utilities** also includes governance costs.  
 Graphs 1-6: Unrestricted and Restricted amounts have been combined.  
 For further definitions please see the guidance notes attached to the Return of Parish Finance:

Variations from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.

Number of churches included in returns: 2014 1;2015 1;2016 1;2017 1;2018 1;2019 0;2020 1;2021 1;2022 1;2023 1.

Produced by Data Services, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 23/07/2024.

Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be pleased to be notified of any significant errors or omissions by email to [statistics.unit@churchofengland.org](mailto:statistics.unit@churchofengland.org)

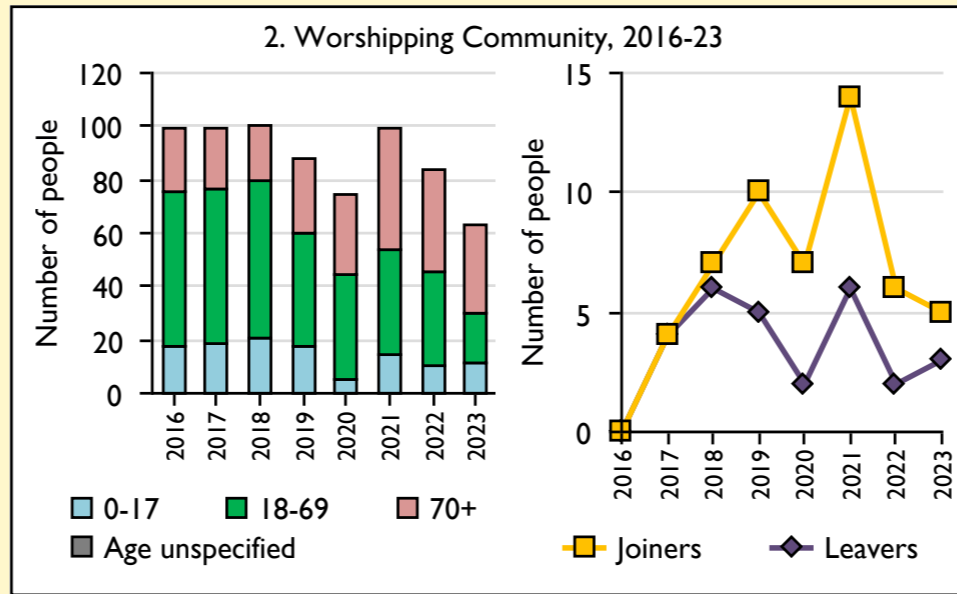
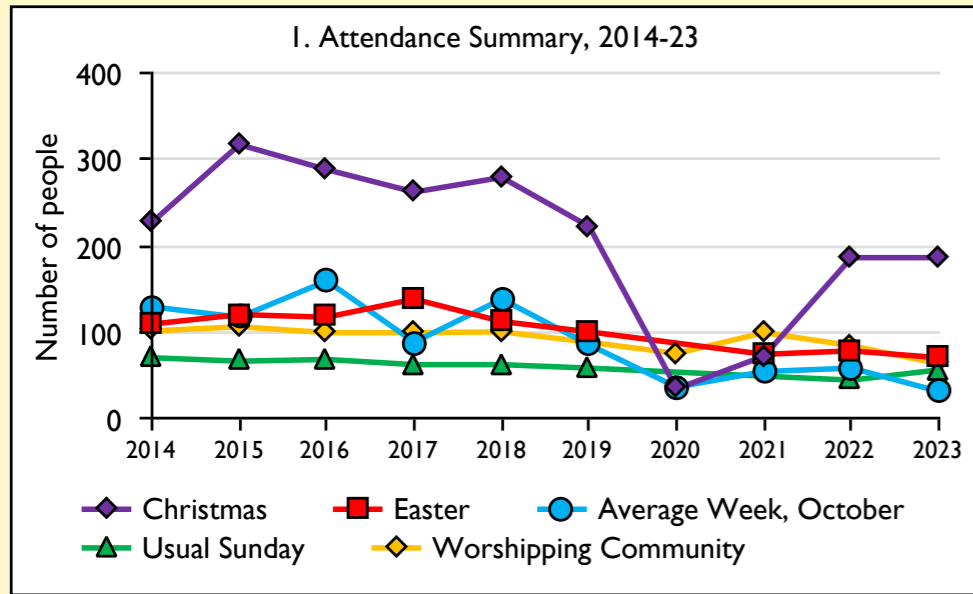


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# SfM Dashboard for the Parish of Rowlands Castle: St John the Baptist in the deanery of HAVANT



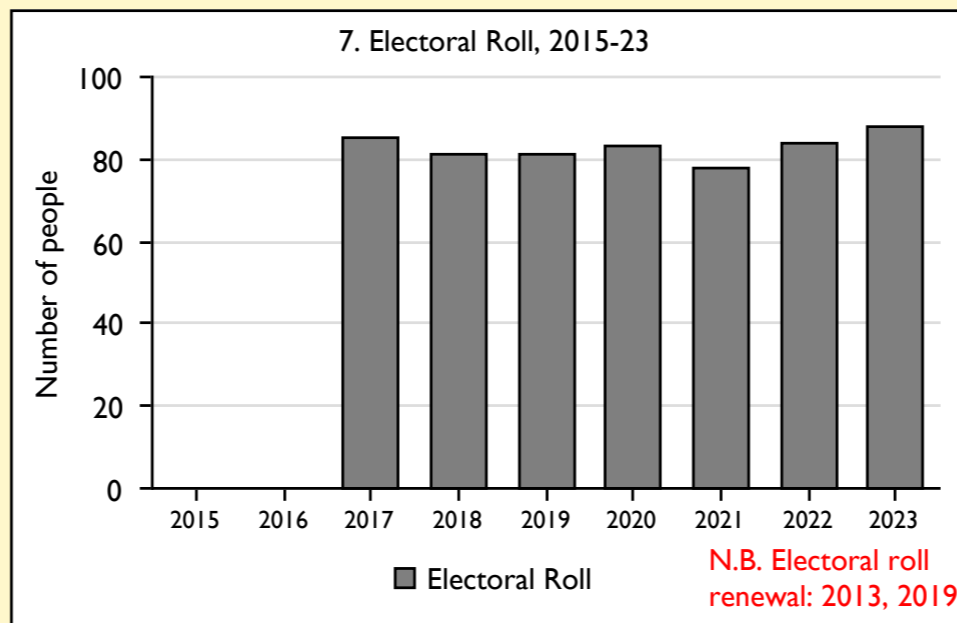
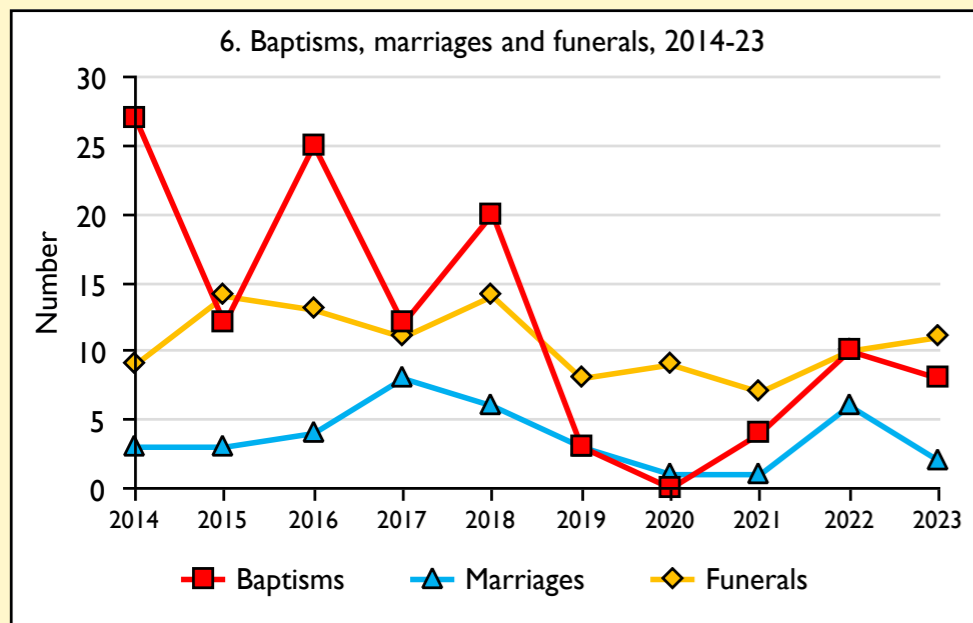
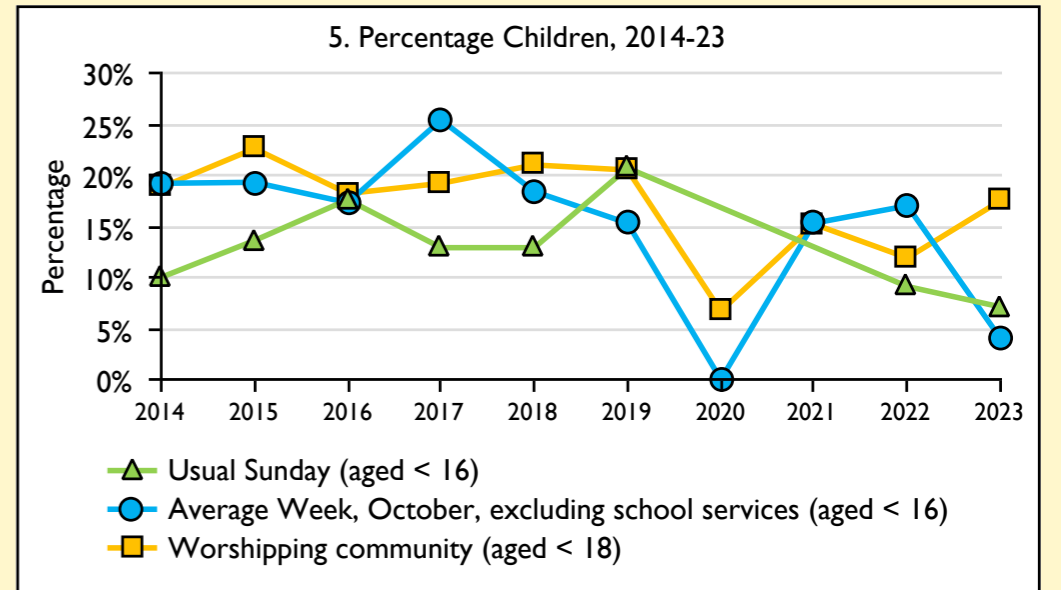
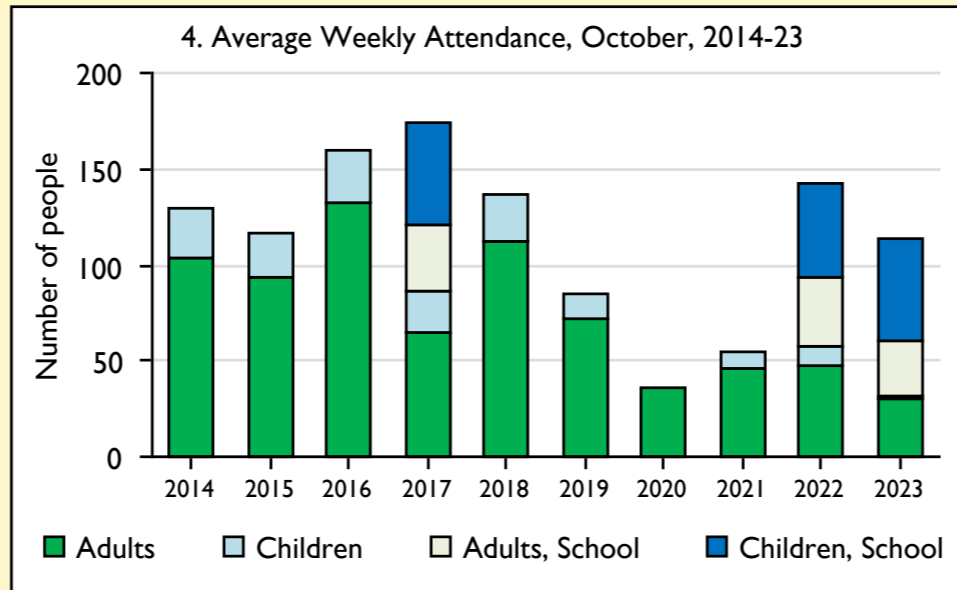
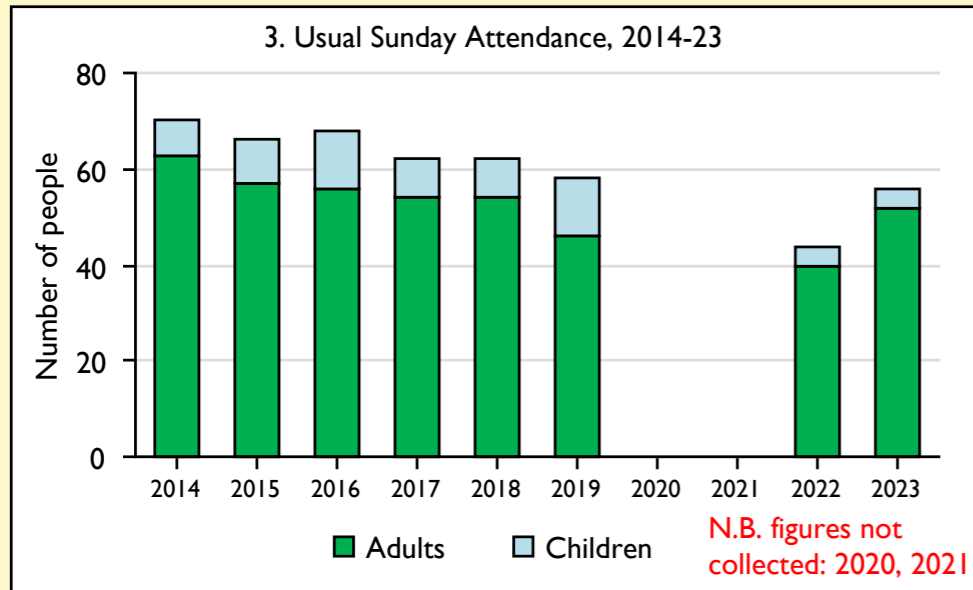
### Parish Census and deprivation summary

Parish population (2021): 2889

	Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-19	19%	21%	23%
% aged 20-44	24%	30%	33%
% aged 45-69	37%	32%	31%
% aged 70 & over	20%	17%	14%
% Christian	54%	45%	46%
% non-Christian religion	1%	3%	11%

Parish deprivation rank (IMD 2019): 10646  
(1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,239=least deprived)

For more detailed census & deprivation info: see <http://arcg.is/1RaS4CS>  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/researchandstats> and  
<http://www2.cuf.org.uk/poverty-england/poverty-map>



This dashboard contains figures as submitted by churches currently in the parish

**Attendance statistics:** taken from annual Statistics for Mission returns.

Average weekly attendance: attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October; Figs 1 & 5 do not include attendance at services for schools.

Easter: Easter Eve & Easter Day; Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day.

Baptisms: all baptisms & thanksgivings.

Marriages: marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.

Funerals: those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.

Because of pandemic-related church closures, Easter figures were not collected in 2020.

**Census data:** taken from the 2021 national Census.

**Deprivation statistics:** IMD taken from the English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Sept 2019.

The above statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries so are approximations.

For more information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/researchandstats>

Variations in attendance from year to year may be the result of changes in the number of churches that submitted returns, or changes in parish/benefice structure.

Number of churches included in returns: 2014 1;2015 1;2016 1;2017 1;2018 1;2019 1;2020 1;2021 1;2022 1;2023 1.

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## HAVANT DEANERY

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The Havant Deanery consists of around 21 parishes working in 15 different benefices or informal groupings. A few are quite rural and consist of smaller villages, whilst others are in towns or larger dormitory areas. As you would expect in any Anglican deanery the churches of the deanery express a variety of spiritualities and worshipping styles.

However, there is a genuine commitment and desire in our parishes and amongst our clergy to support one another, to respect each other and to celebrate one another's successes.

We welcome the new vision of the Portsmouth Diocese to be 'Jesus-centred and Kingdom seeking'. Within our Deanery Mission Action Plan there is an intention to:

1. Plant one or two new Christian communities where the context makes this appropriate.
2. Encourage and develop leadership at all levels to enable God's Kingdom to grow
3. Share good practice and especially to invest in ministry to reach families, children and young people.

In addition, we share a common desire that no clergy should be isolated and with this in mind, the deanery chapter meets quite frequently and normally over food. We are working to develop smaller networks of mutual support amongst the clergy.

We are praying as you consider this opportunity and I would always be open to a conversation should you find that helpful as you explore this possibility in Rowlands Castle.

*Andrew Sheard*  
*Area Dean*

## INTRODUCTION TO THE DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH

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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, 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.

*a Rejuvenating community of Jesus-centred, Kingdom-seeking disciples*



Diocese  
of Portsmouth

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