

St Luke's Southsea

PROFILE



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Diocese
of Portsmouth

Jesus-centred, Kingdom-seeking



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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 the parish of St Luke's and St Peter's Southsea. 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

Jonathan Portsmouth



THE RT REV JONATHAN FROST,
BISHOP OF PORTSMOUTH

ARCHDEACON'S WORDS

When you read an advert or look at a Parish Profile I often wonder what it is that catches your eye. The problem with such things is that they are trying to capture in words and some images the complex and dynamic life of a Christian community. We can sometimes fail to notice the life of the Spirit and the true nature of the parishes described.

I hope this profile begins to share something of the nature of St Luke's. It is certainly a complex and dynamic one. I have been the neighbouring Incumbent, Area Dean and now Archdeacon supporting and working with the previous incumbents and the congregation and have seen the journey that has led to this moment. As the profile suggests they are at a significant stage of that journey, having grown and developed some key projects, they now are looking for someone who will lead them to the next step and are aware of the areas and issues that need addressing. Alongside this (and as part of it) there is the opportunity to work with the Bishop and others in developing his vision for St Luke's to be a centre for spirituality, theological reflection and social action.

I hope there is enough in this profile that inspires you to seek to know more. I would be more than happy to have a conversation with you and share more insights into the welcoming and diverse community at the heart of our city.



Ven Bob White
Archdeacon of Portsdown

ST LUKE'S, SOUTHSEA

The parish of St Luke's and St Peter's lies at the heart of the city centre of Portsmouth, located in Somerstown. It is in one of the materially poorest communities in the country.

There are student halls of residence close by as well as many council tower blocks and workers. There are few houses in the parish and no care homes. The community is diverse and transitory in many cases. The demographics of the parish can be found [here](#).

Built in 1864, the church survived whilst buildings surrounding it suffered significant damage in the community during WW2. The church has had many ups and downs over the years including being shut for 7 years until 2014. A small





congregation from the neighbouring St Peter's moved across and the previous incumbent came to the parish in 2015. During the last 10 years, the church has come back to life and is a vibrant yet calm and stable presence in the city.

The hospitality of God underpins the Church's vision and values.

The building has been substantially renewed and reimagined. The church has a new roof. There is a new kitchen, community café and urban garden space. Within the church, the pews were refashioned into tables and other furniture. The Host Co working space based in the Church enables it to be open Monday to Thursday. The Host Café is also a welcoming hospitality space, and the church campus is well used by local business, council and charitable organisations. However, these initiatives are a challenge to financially sustain as well as being an important part of our call to mission and hospitality. There is also a car park which also generates income.



Street Pastors, Narcotics Anonymous, Daybreak, Portsmouth City of Sanctuary, Business Network International, Larkspur Entrepreneurs and Batala Samba Drummers, Portsmouth University and Portsmouth City Council are just some of the hall partners who regularly use the St Luke's campus.



On one level, this makes St Luke's an excellent place to host events, concerts, gigs and conferences. On a deeper level, it means that the welcome at St Luke's is warm and genuine. The congregation is therefore an eclectic mix of people of all ages, ethnicities and backgrounds. The church is established on the pillars of Benedictine spirituality – stability and radical hospitality where we say and mean “we are incomplete without you” The layout of the church also makes it a place for neurodiverse worshippers and seekers feel welcome.

All of this is supported by an active team of ordained and lay staff and many volunteers.

The current team includes a 0.5 stipendiary post focusing on families and children's ministry, 2 part-time self-supporting ministers, an LLM and another LLM in training. There is also a small lay paid team including part-time Operation, Finance and Café Managers and 2 part time Café Staff.

We are looking for a priest to help us to develop our vision while sustaining the strong sense of all being welcome, valued and respected in all aspects of our life.



OUR CURRENT CHURCH VISION

St Luke's – here for you

St Luke's Southsea is a community of ordinary people exploring life together. Everyone is welcomed and accepted.

OUR VISION

- To be formed into a warm, authentic and growing community of Christian people seeking to live and share their faith for real at the heart of the city of Portsmouth.
- To become a church with visible connection and meaning to those who live, work or study in this community: one that is open throughout the week for everyone, whether you express a faith or not.
- To offer a safe place of genuine welcome, creativity and surprise where the transforming love found in Jesus Christ is experienced and embraced.



The values that underpin the unique culture of the church are:

- We are joining in with God's mission here not imposing our agenda on Him;
- We want to build relationships with people not to do things to people;



- We want to make a positive and lasting difference in our community;
- We love diversity and having fun: “a bag of liquorice allsorts!”;
- We don’t have all the answers but are learners (disciples) together;
- We believe trying something new and learning from mistakes is a good thing;
- We want worship to be accessible and meaningful: simple but not superficial;
- We believe Spirit, Word and Sacrament are of equal importance in worship;
- We believe God’s Kingdom grows in us and among us;
- Prayer is central to all we are and will become.

The current mission action plan runs to the end of 2025. However there is scope to consider and develop a new plan for future years which continues to address:

- Encouraging passionate personal spirituality;
- Encouraging a pioneer faith community;
- Encouraging global citizenship.

WE CELEBRATE WHAT IS GOING WELL

- The depth and warmth of welcome;
- Growing a diverse and inclusive community of worshippers;

- Developing people for future ministry whether ordained or lay;
- The Prayerful nature of the space in church;
- No cliques or powerbases in the congregation;
- The quality of partnership with Charter Academy (our neighbours);
- Community links and connections;
- Character of the community.



WE RECOGNISE THAT WE NEED TO DEVELOP MORE

- Greater engagement with young people so that we may see more young people and families worshipping at St Luke's again;
- There is more to develop at our two community primary schools;
- The desire to enhance our musical worship;
- Exploring how we can encourage Occasional offices – in this inner-city parish are minimal, especially weddings.

The initial development phase of ministry has been done. This is a working church now with a distinctive culture. There is more to do here in deepening further the faith of those who come and continuing to grow the church through the sensitive sharing of the wonderful gospel of Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCING SOME OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY



"We love our family at St Luke's because they have accepted us as we are. We have been welcomed and are so welcome each and every time we enter the church."

"St Luke's have been a huge part of our journey with God and coming to faith."

"The welcome is very good, and the church is a safe place to be. God is with us whatever we do in our week after Sunday."

"Diversity. I was openly welcomed and made comfortable in my alternative gender. I value the friendship and local community opportunities to become involved."

"We are not afraid of making mistakes. We never forget that people who reject change are the architects of decline. We are church that tries not to be judgemental. We are a friendly family of people who look out for each other."

"Very friendly church. Welcome is important!"

"Inclusion of all. Diversity of people but also worship styles. Great to experience different ways to worship. Children's work is important. A church that is open to change and this is genuine."

"We are friendly church who gladly receive all people of different cultures. All are welcome. Hopefully we do not judge."

"Keep the quality of greeting at the door."

"I love the food at the end...the tea and toast at the end of services and the cake from the café."



ROLE DESCRIPTION

VICAR ST LUKE'S, SOUTHSEA

We seek a priest who will lead, support and nurture a community that is genuinely prayerful humble and open to change: building on what has been achieved, by God's grace, in the last 10 years of ministry in this part of the City.

A priest who:

SPIRITUALITY

- Is faithful and authentic in their own life of prayer and walking with God and can respond to the varied spiritual needs of our community, including space for contemplation

WORSHIP AND PREACHING

- Is comfortable with a mix of services and will enrich and expand them and is equipped to preach in a way that is accessible but never superficial, applying the word of God to living in a challenging inner-city context where literacy levels are variable.





LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

- Is a committed welcomer of people and can lead others to be welcomers. Can delegate effectively, to share his/her workload with others, and to model practical plural leadership.
- Has an aptitude for motivating, encouraging and inspiring others to work collaboratively and flourish in ministry.

DISCIPLESHIP, LEARNING AND NURTURE

- Encourages spiritual development, mission and social justice in practical action.
- Will help form the creation of a new Dolling Centre planned at St Luke's.
- Is able to build relationships with the wider community, encouraging an outward looking missional church, playing a full part in community life in the city.
- Experienced in working **with** people, rather than doing things to people.
- Is enthusiastic about and able to engage with children and teenagers.

PASTORAL CARE

- Understands and is sensitive to the varied pastoral needs of the community and can listen, care and nurture the congregation and those new to the church context including Host Co-workers.

STEWARDSHIP AND PARISH ORGANISATION

- Will encourage the church to continue living out generosity as a high value. (currently a proportion of parish income is set aside each year to be given to a range of local and national charities)
- Appreciates that administration is part of the day-to-day activities of the role but has the confidence to work well with the operations manager and others to ensure that pastoral and spiritual care is not neglected.

WIDER CHURCH

- Is actively involved in the life of the Deanery including the Central City Cairn gathering



DOLLING CENTRE

Earlier in the year, Bishop Jonathan shared a vision of a new centre to be developed in the diocese in the heart of the City of Portsmouth. It is hoped this might be at St Luke's. We seek a priest who will bring gifts to explore with the Bishop and others in the diocese the development of a space where we are able to explore our spirituality, reflect on our theology and engage in action which shows our commitment to the good news for the poor. The vision has a working title of the 'Dolling Centre' after the great parish priest of Inner City Portsmouth at the end of the 19th century, Father Robert Dolling.

Bishop Jonathan said: "We have a gospel for the whole creation, for the whole world, for society and for the peoples of this world, for a world so full of promise yet torn apart by violence. Don't just mull it over, don't just write endless papers about it, do something about it in Christ's name. Join in with works of transformation and justice wherever they pop up.





WORDS FROM JOINT PATRON CPAS

CPAS, the largest Church of England patron, is patron, along with the bishop, for St Luke's, Southsea, and is delighted to be able to support this next stage in their life and ministry.

Despite many challenges, the St Luke's PCC are determined to look outwards in welcome and mission to their local community and to the younger generation. As part of this, they have embraced a new vision to develop the Dolling Centre, a space to explore spirituality, theology and engage in action towards good news for the poor.

CPAS, in their supporting role as joint patron, has four principal aspirational prayers:

- Every Church a pathway to faith;
- Every leader a catalyst for evangelism;
- Every Christian a courageous witness;
- Every child the chance to explore Jesus.

May this be true for St Luke's in its next stage of growth. Our prayers are with St Luke's and with you as you read this profile.



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.

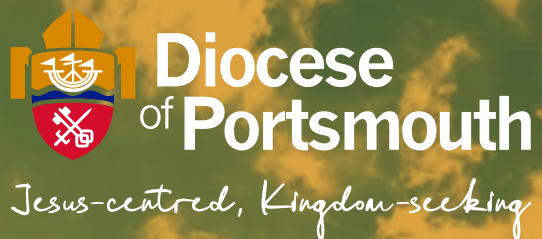
Bishop Jonathan Frost was installed in March 2022, and has shared his vision for the diocese – a place where all are invited into a life-enhancing encounter with Jesus Christ. It should be a place where children, young people and young adults are given a particular priority; and where ministry to the elderly is supported by a network of Anna Chaplains, working in every locality. The vision is encapsulated by a vocational call to all Christians, 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.

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





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