

# Ventnor & Bonchurch

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 Ventnor and Bonchurch. 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 for you as you discern your next step of faith in response to God's faithfulness.

With love, in Christ,



THE RT REV JONATHAN FROST,  
BISHOP OF PORTSMOUTH

*'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*

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

# VENTNOR AND BONCHURCH

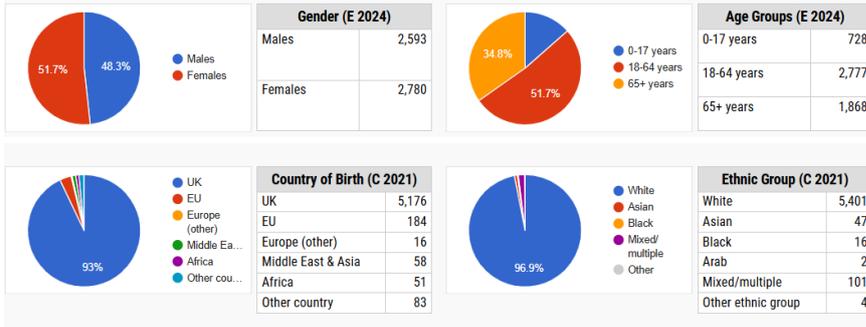
Name	County / District	Population Census 2001-04-29	Population Census 2011-03-27	Population Census 2021-03-21	Population Estimate 2024-06-30
Ventnor	Isle of Wight	6,257	5,976	5,567	5,373

## Ventnor

- **5,373** Population [2024] - Estimate
- **2.676 km<sup>2</sup>** Area
- **2,008/km<sup>2</sup>** Population Density [2024]
- 📉 **-1.1%** Annual Population Change [2021 → 2024]

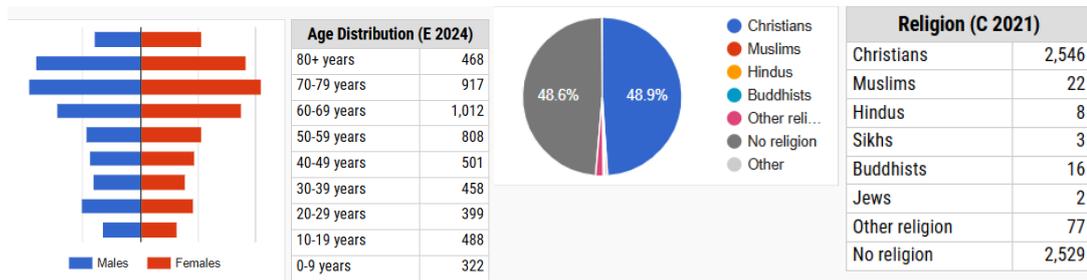
Ventnor: town and civil parish on the Isle of Wight, in England, UK - [Official Website](#) - Local dialing code: 01983 - Postal code: PO38

### Further information about the population structure:



The almost **one in three** of Ventnor's population over retirement age compares with the **just over a quarter** (27.77%) of the Island's 142,000 whole population and **one in five** of the population of **England and Wales**.





Ventnor and Bonchurch enjoy a spectacular coastal setting on the southern tip of the Isle of Wight. At 791 ft, St Boniface Down is the highest point on the Island, sheltering Ventnor and Bonchurch from northerly air flows and creating the warm and sunny micro-climate which gave rise to the area being known in Victorian times as “The English Mediterranean”. The area remains a holiday destination for visitors, a vibrant locality for residents.



Ventnor is well known for its quirky arts scene, exemplified by the annual Ventnor Fringe, and attracts a diverse range of talents to live and work, especially now that home working is accessible to many. It is also a place where employment is largely seasonal, with challenges of social deprivation and poverty of aspiration amongst many of its young people. But there is a strong sense of community and an almost universal friendliness amongst its residents.

Bonchurch is a village adjacent to Ventnor but with its own separate identity. The village expanded greatly in early Victorian times in a series of wooded terraces that made the most of its dramatic setting, overlooking the sea and graced with stone houses, many inhabited by an artistic community which included Charles Dickens and Algernon Swinburne. Karl Marx and Ivan Turgenev were holiday visitors.



Today the sense of a local neighbourhood is strong: Bonchurch is fortunate to have an inn renowned for its food and hospitality, and a local Community Association which does much to make sure this beautiful village is kept clean and tidy.

## **GEOGRAPHY/TOPOGRAPHY**

The local topography naturally divides Ventnor into three levels (Upper, town-level and seafront) and Bonchurch into Upper and Lower.



## **TOWN**

The main sources of employment in Ventnor are in retail, hospitality and catering, and in the care sector. Independent businesses trade in the High Street – shops, cafés, restaurants, and taverns offering live musical entertainment – and there are two national-chain supermarkets. The town also has a Health Centre and GP practice, two dentists, a Post Office, an independent Food Bank, and a Community Pantry and Baby Box.

The community supports two mental health initiatives: the Better Days Café, an independent operation offering drop-in and mentoring, and the Town Council-sponsored Well-Being Café, which offers activities and support.



All of the churches have a good relationship with the Town Council. During the Covid lockdown especially there was much collaboration to meet people's needs – for example, for shopping and prescriptions. Currently there are collaborations in various community initiatives, including the weekly *Thursday Kitchen* (a Warm Space initiative) and the monthly *Really Useful Thursdays* at St Catherine's.

There are two residential care homes in Ventnor. The church community has one Anna Chaplain who accepts social referrals as well as making visits at the request of the churches, with other helpers drawn from the congregations. The churches visit the homes regularly.

## **SCHOOLS**

St Francis Catholic and Church of England Primary Academy – part of the Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust – is situated in new buildings in Upper Ventnor and was rated GOOD in all categories of the most recent OFSTED Inspection in November 2021. The school hosts Messy Church one Saturday a month and is the venue for “Open the Book”.





Across the road from St Francis Academy is the Island Free School, a secondary comprehensive which has an all-Island catchment of 600+ in the 11-16 age group. The school selects 10% of its intake on the basis of musical aptitude, and these pupils receive access to an instrument and additional tuition. An 'ungraded' OFSTED Inspection in 2023 confirmed the judgement of GOOD from the 2017 Inspection.

St Catherine's School, on town-level, is a small non-maintained residential special school for the education of students between the ages of seven and 19 years who have speech, language and communication needs.

# CHURCHES OF THE PLURALITY



*VISION: 'For Christ and the Community': to be churches that display the love of Christ and connect with people of all walks of life.*

*MISSION: 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all Creation.'*  
(Mark 16: 15)

- ✝ St Catherine's Church
- ✝ Holy Trinity Church
- ✝ St Boniface Parish Church
- ✝ St Boniface Old Church

The churches of the plurality collaborated to create our Vision, Mission and Strategy Plan, holding a series of workshops to produce a cohesive initiative that we revised at the end of 2024 and plan to continue to develop.

Our churches work to spread the Christian mission in Ventnor and Bonchurch, and endeavour to support the large numbers of people in need across our socially diverse communities. Each church treasures and celebrates its different traditions and contexts, while appreciating and respecting each other's expressions of faith. A new incumbent will have a real opportunity, through the word of God, to make a positive impact on people's lives.



Our Messy Church, staffed by congregation members from our churches, is held at St Francis school one Saturday a month during school term time. It is always a joy to welcome families for these afternoons when we create, play, worship and then eat together. Several members from our congregations participate in “Open the Book” (dramatised bible stories for primary-school children, acted out by volunteers) and regularly take this into St Francis school as part of their programme for collective worship.

At Easter, Baptists, Methodists and Roman Catholics walk together through the town alongside members of the Anglican churches on our Good Friday “Walk of Witness”, spending time in each church at this pivotal time in the church’s year.

Proceeds from the annual Town Carol Service are sent to the Christian development charity “Embrace the Middle East”. Members of our churches support many local initiatives, contributing to the Foodbank, to BabyBox, to SWAY (South Wight Area Youth partnership), and to PATCH (a local cancer charity), as well as to international charities such as Christian Aid. We respond generously and quickly to appeals for help in situations of emergency.

## **ST CATHERINE’S CHURCH**

In the beginning the foundation stone was laid. That was in 1836. Since then, the church building has seen a number of additions and alterations, which have provided enhanced amenities for church members and the local community. The pews have been



replaced with upholstered chairs, enabling us to use our church building for concerts, community meetings, weekly lunches and exhibitions, as well as offering a quiet sanctuary for prayer during the week. In recent years, a drop-down projection screen has been installed, which allows us to display words to songs for worship, visuals and illustrations. Outside a garden has been created, with a grassed area for community events and a meditative area.

St. Catherine's benefits from its very prominent position in the town centre, with a panoramic vista over the sea to the south and the Downs to the north. This visibility explains the perception of many of the local population (and visitors too) that it is the 'official' church of Ventnor. St Catherine's is a key venue for civic services, including an annual service on Remembrance Sunday, and a Town Christmas Carol Service.



Our current monthly service pattern is:

<b>1st Sunday</b>	'Come and See' (café style)	10:45am
<b>2nd and 4th Sundays</b>	Holy Communion	10:45am
<b>3rd Sunday (and 5th)</b>	Morning Worship (informal)	10:45am
<b>Wednesday</b>	Holy Communion	11 am

The music at all our Sunday services is a blend of traditional hymns and worship songs, played on our Binns organ or Blüthner grand piano. Our café style service provides an accessible form of worship and includes a free continental style breakfast. These services aim to embrace all ages and often include drama sketches and an interactive time of prayer. They are an opportunity for families to worship together and we are encouraged to see attendance at these services is growing.



We have a small children's group – 'Young Explorers' – that meets during services of Holy Communion. In the church we also have a children's activity table and carpeted area for babies and toddlers: we recognise that making families and children feel welcome is really important.

Since 2023, working in partnership with Ventnor Town Council, weekly free lunches have been provided every Thursday, with often over fifty people attending. It is an opportunity for us to

share the love of Jesus in a practical and supportive way. Following the pattern of Jesus, we are offering openings for those in the community who are not in the practice of attending church, or even entering the building.

We extend a warm, inclusive welcome to everyone to our Sunday worship and during the week. Our church building is open from 10 am to 4 pm every day of the year. In the church side-hall we offer refreshments four mornings a week, providing a welcoming place and a listening ear to people.

To encourage us to grow in our knowledge and experience of the Holy Spirit, we had a renewal weekend entitled 'Soak in the Spirit', to which we invited a guest speaker. We hope to have another of these weekends in the future.

Our congregation has a strong desire for spiritual growth and a longing to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others in our community. In recent years, we have run Alpha courses. We have a weekly prayer meeting, several homegroups and fortnightly midweek Bible studies.

Within our church there are people from different church backgrounds and we are on a journey towards greater unity, whilst respecting our diversity.

Our church benefits from the Friends of St Catherine's, a group which seeks to encourage local people to join with the congregation in preserving and improving the church building and grounds. The Friends organise film nights, quizzes and other social events which aim to show the church as a group of people, not the building.

## **HOLY TRINITY CHURCH**

People have been worshipping in Holy Trinity since it was consecrated in 1862. An example of the influence of the Oxford Movement in architecture, fine wood carving, and famous stained glass, Holy Trinity is a Grade II\* listed building.

The congregation actively cares for the church's fabric with a rolling programme of maintenance. The slender Gothic spire and striking of the clock are visible and audible landmarks in the town – greatly appreciated by the community, as local people and visitors showed in their generous donations last year when we set up crowd-funding for repair to the historic turret clock.



We also greatly value our Anglican choral tradition, our robed choir, and the church's fine three-manual organ. Holy Trinity has for many years enjoyed active membership of the Royal School of Church Music, hosting choral events and visits by the Isle of Wight Organists' Association.

Our services are traditional in format, using the variety afforded by Common Worship, and celebrating the Seasons, Festivals and Feasts of the church's year. We offer a sung service every Sunday, in which the congregation play a full part as members of a robed



choir and a team of servers, as leaders of prayer and as readers, as welcomers and providers of refreshment, all as an integral part of services. Full vestments are worn; we use bells and, on occasion, incense.

Holy Trinity is a wholly inclusive church. We try to have the church open every day, relying on a small team of volunteers, and offering a warm welcome to all as they seek to explore and deepen their relationship with God.

The current monthly service pattern is:

<b>1st 3rd &amp; 4th (and 5th) Sunday</b>	Choral Eucharist	9:30am
<b>2nd Sunday</b>	Healing Eucharist	5pm
<b>Thursday</b>	BCP (said) Eucharist	10am

Holy Trinity has developed a significant on-line presence. We record our weekly Choral Eucharist service, which is then published on our [YouTube channel](#). Holy Trinity uses its FaceBook page to advertise coming services and events, linking these to the local on-line Ventnor Notice Board. We also have dedicated space on the shared Ventnor Churches website.

Our Church Hall, a separate building from the church, equipped with toilet facilities and a kitchen, is our venue for coffee and cake after Sunday morning services and brunch after the Thursday BCP Communion, as well as for our monthly “Jam & Tea” afternoon of communal music-making (folk and traditional). It is also well used by community groups, including the Bonchurch Social Club, and for private parties.

As part of our ‘Green initiative’ Holy Trinity has joined the A Rocha Eco Church scheme. We have experimented with an eco-café and a recycling and repair café.



All of our lighting is now LED and our hospitality supplies are made from recycled products.

A varied programme of social activities – for example, highly successful Jigsaw Festivals twice a year – strengthens ties with our neighbours and boosts income. Both church and hall have proved excellent venues for concerts as well as for the varied theatrical productions of Ventnor Fringe, the church space being used in a particularly imaginative manner for productions of Shakespeare and Marlowe by renowned theatre company Scena Mundi and a marionette theatre which performed a shadow play. Recent sell-out shows include concerts by the Isle of Wight Scottish Fiddlers and a Bob Dylan tribute band fronted by our former vicar, Hugh Wright.

Members of the congregation regularly join with others to study during Lent. The church has a children's area, accessible during services and whenever the church is open.

Holy Trinity's congregation includes retired clergy who help with services within the plurality and across the Island. We support the works of the diocese of Tamale in Ghana and respond to their needs through the West Africa link. Holy Trinity has always been generous in response to appeals from various charities, donating 10% of all income generated from social events. The church has contributed to the funds of the South Wight Area Youth partnership (SWAY), and we hope to continue supporting this charity as it reaches out to young people across the South Wight.

Currently we are working to re-establish a regular pattern of BCP Evensong, incorporating the choirs of Holy Trinity and St Boniface and alternating the hosting church. This is just one of the ways we are hoping to grow, as expressed in our Vision and Mission Plan. Other aspirational initiatives include Advent Groups and "The Bible Course" (a digital resource from the Bible Society). A parish Reading Group/Book Club is up and running, and there are plans to run Baptismal courses to cater for adults as well as infants.

## THE CHURCHES OF ST BONIFACE

The Parish of Bonchurch boasts two churches dedicated to St Boniface who, according to legend, preached to the local fishermen in the 8th Century, before moving on to Germany, whose patron saint he is. The Old Church, Saxon in origin, was rebuilt in 1070. The atmosphere of both churches is warm and welcoming, exemplified by both being open from 10:00 to 16:00 every day of the year.



Built in 1847, the very fine Parish Church is adorned with beautiful stained glass, particularly the East Window by William Wailes, and many features of historical interest. Here we meet together to worship God in Word and Sacrament each Sunday. Our Services are centred on the Holy Eucharist, which we celebrate using Common Worship Traditional Language Order One. The congregation is very proud of its choral tradition and organ; we occasionally have Choral Evensong, sharing this with Holy Trinity, to mark Festivals of the Church's Year.

The Old Church hosts candlelit services on Sunday evenings in the summer, led by the Plurality's lay leaders, as well as Baptisms and Weddings, and an annual Christmas Carol Service. Prayer-soaked and idyllically located on the coastal path, this very special building is visited and used by people from all over the world. Written prayers left in the Old Church are offered up in the Parish Church each Sunday.



Community outreach from the Parish is very strong, with much work devoted to keeping an eye on (and helping) the vulnerable on an individual basis. Our parishioners are conscientious in their regular visiting of people in their homes, and we enjoy being a part of the work that goes on in the other two churches in the benefice. During the pandemic we were a lifeline to many, bringing food and other support.

Our monthly coffee mornings are a major community focal point, attracting people from far and wide, as well as an important part of our fund-raising. Funds raised provide regular financial support to a range of local charities, which we regularly review. We are adept at raising funds for church and community projects, most recently providing five defibrillators which are now deployed across the different levels of the village and in nearby Steephill Cove. We also help with the funding of a youth worker for the South Wight area.

Both church buildings have been subject to considerable investment in recent years and are in good condition, with no major issues identified in the most recent quinquennial inspections. Improved heating and lighting in the Parish Church offer a warm welcome to all, with many visitors seen on a daily basis. We are financially solvent and blessed with good reserves. Our income derives from giving, coffee mornings, events such as concerts, and donations left by visitors.

All in all, we seek to worship God and serve one another and, whilst being proud of our rich and historical past, look to the future in which we can serve Him. A new incumbent will help us learn and grow in the framework of our worship and traditions, including our music, and will relish the opportunity to engage with the whole community and to help draw more of them to Christ, especially those outside our core demographic.

#### SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

<b>1st, 3rd &amp; 4th (&amp; 5th) Sunday</b>	Holy Communion	11am
<b>2nd Sunday</b>	Morning Worship	11am

#### AT ST BONIFACE OLD CHURCH

<b>Sundays through summer</b>	Evening worship by candlelight	8pm
<b>Christmas Carol service</b>	Held between Christmas and New Year	





# LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

All three PCCs meet regularly to ensure smooth running and care within the parishes. Each church has a team of church officers, elected at the APCMs, who in turn are supported by many in unnamed roles.

The new incumbent will be supported by a varied Ministry Team, who lead worship and share pastoral visiting. The Island has been in the forefront of lay training, running courses for lay pastoral, lay worship and lay preaching roles.

Until recently, the Ministry Team met once a month to generate worship rotas for each church and to collate pastoral and parish concerns. During the current Vacancy there have instead been 'Churchwarden Support' meetings, fulfilling a similar function, and led by the Assistant Curate.

A snapshot of the present Ministry Team:

Assistant Curate (ordained Priest in June 2025)	Assistant Curate (ordained Distinctive Deacon in Sept. 2023)	Licensed Lay Minister
Lay pastoral assistant	Anna Chaplain Lay preacher	

# FINANCE

All of the churches are generously supported by their congregations. The churches each have a Treasurer. Bonchurch's two churches are administered together, with a single PCC and Treasurer.

An overview of accounts at year-end 2025:

<b>St Catherine's</b>	
Income £60,550.57	Expenditure £72,208.57
Year-end current account balance £12,656	

<b>Holy Trinity</b>	
Income £40,705	Expenditure £43,766
Year-end current account balance £4,525	

<b>St. Boniface</b>	
Income £38,900	Expenditure £42,800
Year-end current account balance £10,200	

All three parishes have reserves/investments with the CCLA.



## WHAT WE CAN OFFER

We as a Plurality can offer a warm welcome, a wide range of worship, styles and activities, a friendly group of churches with multiple expressions, and a comfortable Vicarage with splendid views, giving a peaceful base in the centre of the area.

We understand that time off from a demanding role is important, and we want to help ring-fence your holiday time. We will help to protect at least one whole day off each week. An annual personal retreat will be encouraged.



# VICARAGE HOUSING



The Vicarage is a secluded and well-appointed modern house, centrally placed for all three parishes, and commanding spectacular views from its elevated position. It has both a garage and ample off-road parking, and offers generous manageable family accommodation, including a conservatory with panoramic views and a study with separate access.



The Diocese has recently completed some further work, having previously added ecologically beneficial features such as insulation, solar panels and smart meters.



# ROLE DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATION

The person to lead our Christian community should live as Christ in the world and have the heart of Christ in their approach to all people.

They should be able to offer Gospel-based teaching and preaching – a person grounded by prayer, and constantly seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

They will need to be adaptable in their approach to liturgy and tradition, rising to the challenge of a diverse community in a unique part of the Island.

They will need to commit to promoting spiritual growth, looking to increase common ground between parishes, congregations and individuals.

<b>Qualifications</b>	Ordained priest within the Church of England, or a Church whose orders it recognises Anglican ministerial training
<b>Experience</b>	A breadth of experience of parish ministry in varied contexts is essential
	Confident leader of sacramental worship, experienced in diverse forms of liturgy
	Understanding and experience of choral tradition, working with choirs
	Experienced in leading innovative/creative forms of worship

<b>Skills</b>	Proactive in seeking opportunities to share the Gospel, and to enable us to share our faith in Jesus Christ, in actions and words
	Able and willing to relate to and work with people and groups of differing backgrounds and traditions, inside and outside churches
	An engaging preacher, able to link Christ's teaching to modern life.
	Competent user of IT - able and willing to respond promptly and to use a range of communication media
	Able and willing to delegate and manage workloads
	Able and willing to see the church through the eyes of those who do not attend
<b>Leadership</b>	Having a flexible approach to encompass all traditions, and an understanding of differences and expressions of worship held within the Ventnor and Bonchurch plurality
	Compassionate and sensitive in supporting communities in times of adjustment
	Able to support any sense of vocation in a sensitive manner, and to identify and develop people for roles within the worshipping community
<b>Management</b>	Ability to handle conflict confidentially and facilitate reconciliation is essential
	Willingness to give, receive and engage with feedback – in church, Diocese and community
<b>Community life</b>	Able and willing to engage with and work within schools, to establish and maintain a Christian presence
	Willing to look out over the whole community and seek out those in need outside the church
	Work with secular bodies at all levels, alerting the church community of need and mobilising volunteers



## FROM THE PATRON

As Patrons, along with the Bishop of Portsmouth, CPAS are excited to see who God will call to Ventnor and Bonchurch.

As you prayerfully read the profile you will discover something of what makes these communities special and also recognise that in their mission and ministry the four churches reflect the light and presence of Christ in a rich variety of ways. Their traditions are different and so I am encouraged by the unity expressed in their Vision, Mission and Strategy Plan.

May God guide you as you ask, 'might God be calling me to serve here?'

Every blessing,

*Ven Andy Wooding Jones,  
Patronage Development Officer*



# DIOCESE VISION AND STRATEGY



Our vision in our diocese is to be a Church with Jesus Christ at the heart of everything we do, a Church in which we seek God's Kingdom, and where all are enabled to experience a life-transforming encounter with Jesus Christ in order to become disciples.

We have now crystallised that thinking into a phrase that we hope sums up what we aspire to be: a rejuvenating community (one that rejuvenates itself and seeks to rejuvenate others) of Jesus-centred (learners and followers of Jesus, with our actions shaped by him), Kingdom-seeking (including our devotion to God, our passion for social justice, our care for creation and fellowship with each other) disciples (we are committed to our faith, and want to keep on becoming more like Jesus).

That vision is supplemented by two further priorities:

- We deliberately prioritise our work with children, young people and young adults, to enable a new generation to grow in faith and find their voice. They are the Church of today.
- We value and treasure our older people, and ensure they are being cared for holistically, by the provision of [Anna Chaplaincy](#) to support them in every parish, benefice and cluster across the diocese.

As a diocesan community, we are invited to take part in the strategy that we pray will guide us towards the vision described above, as we are led by the Holy Spirit. This strategy aims to tackle some of the challenges we know that we face as a diocese: declining attendances, older congregations, expensive buildings, over-stretched staff, and a gap between the costs of our ministry and our income.

So our REJUVENATING strategy aims to place children and young people at the heart of our planning, and also seeks to REVIVE, REVITALISE and RENEW our network of parishes, chaplaincies and church schools. Creating thriving churches with an emphasis on children and young people is a watermark that runs through these parts of our strategy:



- **REVIVE:** a call to spiritual renewal for all our clergy and lay leadership to experience a continued personal refreshing of the wonder of God's presence in our lives.
- **REVITALISE:** to grow our existing churches, connecting ministries together to form a pathway that reaches people who are unconnected with church, and supports them as they journey to become committed disciples who own for themselves Jesus' mission.
- **RENEW:** in communities where there is no effective church presence, we believe it is right to plant/transplant new congregations and build New Worshipping Communities to focus on outreach and younger generations.

Our STRATEGY is summarised in this diagram:



# 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](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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THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND