

St Simon's, Southsea

PARISH PROFILE



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Diocese
of Portsmouth



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BISHOP'S WELCOME

I am delighted you are seeking to discern whether Jesus is calling you to serve with His beautiful people in the parish of Southsea St Simon's. 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,

Jonathan Portsmouth



THE RT REV JONATHAN FROST,
BISHOP OF PORTSMOUTH

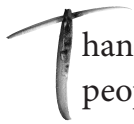
'As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.'

Colossians 3: 12-13

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



ARCHDEACON'S WELCOME


 Thank you for taking the time to consider if God is calling you to serve the people and Parish of St Simon's.

I need to declare an interest as this is the Parish that I was born in (although my family attended the neighbouring Parish Church). I hope in reading this profile you will discern that this is a community with a heart and vision for the Gospel and the Kingdom. As the Archdeacon I have been impressed, on recent visits, at the strong sense of hospitality and life in the building and the congregation. Although recent years have been challenging for them the congregation has remained faithful and active in serving God and his people. Under the last Incumbent many steps were taken to improve the building and to make it a place of welcome. There are longstanding and growing connections with the wider community and, especially through the work of Sunday Suppers and other projects, with those on the margins. There is a good and faithful lay leadership team who are longing for a partner and leader who will enable them to deepen their discipleship and faith and continue to find ways to serve God's kingdom.

They are honest in this profile about the journey they have had and as well as their joys and strengths some of the challenges they face.

I hope that in your reflection on this post and profile you may discern God's call to you and will explore further how you may serve him in this place.

Ven Bob White
Archdeacon of Portsdown





WELCOME

Warm greetings to you from the church family of St Simon's, Southsea. Thank you for your interest in our church and in this exciting role as vicar of St Simon's. These are indeed exciting times for the church, as we seek to continue the growth that has transformed our church in so many ways over the past few years.

After several years of uncertainty leading up to the disruption of Covid, God has brought us new strength, new vision and a new commitment to work with others, to build his Kingdom in Southsea. We seek to be a prayerful church, directed by God's Word, working with compassion at the heart of our community.

Our church is located in the centre of a highly diverse community and as such we seek to reflect and respect that diversity. Our welcome has always been central to who we are as a church. That welcome extends to all. We believe that being a diverse and inclusive church must involve not just our congregation, but also our leadership.



As a church family we are praying for all who are considering whether God is calling them to this role at St Simon's. We hope that this profile will help you to understand who we are as a church and the community we serve, so that we can continue to build a church for his glory in Southsea.

PURPOSE, VALUES AND VISION

As we emerged from the dislocation of Covid and began to rebuild, we asked our church family what they thought characterised St Simon's and what was most important. The responses centred on welcome, community, caring for others, spirit and ministry, resilience, creativity and growth. Our work to develop our purpose, values and vision clearly reflects these ideas.



OUR PURPOSE

Sowing hope, growing disciples.

We recognise the challenges faced by many people in our community, whose life experiences have slowly drained their hope. We look to be a place where that hope can be restored through the Christian love we extend to all and through sharing God's word.



OUR VALUES

Jesus centred: welcoming, inclusive, loving, creative, joyful.

So many people's experience in our community is one of rejection. That is why we open our arms to welcome all, however weak or strong their faith may be. This has led to a remarkable transformation in the diversity of our church family over the past few years. Recognising the importance of inclusiveness in our welcome, our PCC has agreed to the use of the Prayers of Love and Faith.

Creativity is at the heart of much that we do in our worship and in many other aspects of our church life. We have an evangelical style of worship that is informal and joyful and seeks to engage the skills, talents and creativity of our church family.

We recognise those whom we serve within our community through Sunday Suppers, Friday Friendship and other ministries as a core component of our church. We furthermore recognise that our efforts to ensure genuine inclusion of these people can present challenges to us collectively and individually and disrupt our valued traditions and behaviours. We seek to embrace this challenge and to learn to build our church on the energy and dynamism that this can bring.



OUR VISION

Building God's Kingdom by sharing his love in our community.

Being at the heart of our community has been central to the work of St Simon's since it was established in 1864. For more than thirty years the church has provided ministry through a shared meal on Sunday evenings, known as Sunday Suppers. Many of our guests are affected by poverty, unemployment, homelessness, addiction and mental health challenges. Sunday Suppers aims to foster relationships and a sense of community, introducing guests to the love of Jesus and the Gospel, through the simple act of sharing a meal. A short talk on a Christian theme is given each week and it has been a joy to see some guests find faith through their engagement with Sunday Suppers.



In February 2022 the arrival of Ukrainian refugees in the city coincided with the opening of a hotel on Southsea seafront, within the Parish of St Simon's, as a lodging for people seeking asylum in the UK. There was a mixed response to the opening of the hotel within the city. In response, St Simon's began a ministry known as Friday Friendship every Friday morning for migrants and asylum seekers in the city. The ministry provides a safe space for people from many different countries to meet and share time together in a safe and welcoming environment. Several of the guests have now become active members of our church. Friday evening worship was reviewed in the light of demonstrations on the seafront, opposite the asylum seekers hotel and we now hold Evening Prayer with prayers for peace.



Strengthening our family by nurturing and using each other's God-given skills and talents.

We recognise our diversity as our strength. This diversity embodies an array of God given skills and talents, that so often have been ignored or suppressed. Growing as a church means releasing this creativity, allowing individuals to flourish and grow in faith. We encourage people to explore and share their faith, using all the gifts God has given them, for his glory.



ROLE DESCRIPTION

We are seeking a leader who will embrace the diversity of our church, helping members to grow prayerfully in faith and discipleship, in ways that are relevant and accessible to all. We are praying for a leader who will put God's Word at the centre of all that we do, seeking ways to share his Word with all who will hear in our community.

SPIRITUALITY

Our leader will be someone who:

- In their own life is able to model what it is to be in Christ.
- Through their personal faith seeks and waits upon God and his will.
- Is able to maintain a personal discipline of prayer.
- Acknowledges God's call to discipleship for themselves and those among whom they minister.



WORSHIP AND PREACHING

Our leader will be someone who:

- Rejoices in leading and sharing in an informal and engaging style of worship.



- Is faithful in reading, reflecting on and teaching the Scriptures, encouraging us to grow in our understanding of God's Word.
- Is a creative and imaginative spiritual leader, pointing others to Christ.
- Is capable of adapting their style of spiritual leadership to embrace the broad needs of our church family and community.
- Has a willingness to share the lead in worship with others and encourage others to lead.



LEADERSHIP

Our leader will be someone who:

- Has a collaborative style of leadership.
- Can help us to discern where God is calling us and to identify priorities based on this calling.
- Has the vision to identify strategic opportunities to build God's Kingdom in our community and has the courage to pursue them.



- Is able to discern the gifts and skills of others and demonstrate a willingness to develop and use them.
- Is willing to work as part of a team and in particular with ministerial colleagues, our staff, churchwardens and PCC.
- Recognises their limitations and delegates to others.

DISCIPLESHIP

Our leader will be someone who:

- Recognises the importance of welcome in making our church a place where everyone can build a spiritual home.
- Seeks to develop relationships and promote spaces where all feel included, whether long-standing members, or those exploring faith and who engages comfortably with all ages and backgrounds.
- Has a strong commitment to nurture our work with children and their families and with youth.
- Has an understanding of the need for and approaches to discipleship in our community.

EVANGELISM

Our leader will be someone who:

- Is creative in developing ways of sharing the Gospel with different groups within our church and within the wider community.



- Can enable others to articulate and share their faith.
- Is active in developing links with a range of organisations within our community.

PASTORAL CARE

Our leader will be someone who:

- Is approachable and accessible to all, capable of balancing the often high demands of pastoral care with other responsibilities.
- Understands the importance of spiritual healing.
- Demonstrates the love of God through their support and care for others.
- Is an active presence in our community, seeking to understand and respond to its needs.

STEWARDSHIP

Our leader will be someone who:

- Is able to lead and support all those involved in the administration and finances of our church.
- Can manage and support the development of our staff.
- Builds a positive working relationship with the PCC, leadership team and churchwardens.

ECUMENISM

Our leader will be someone who:

- Is willing to work with other churches when relevant opportunities arise.
- Will fully participate in and contribute to the life of the deanery (including synod and chapter) and diocese.

RECENT CHURCH HISTORY

This is the fourth period of vacancy that St Simon's has experienced since the retirement of a long-standing vicar in April 2015. The resignation of our priest in charge in October 2020, during the Covid pandemic, led to a very challenging period of vacancy for the church. The church was closed for most activities during the periods of lockdown. When the normal life of the church began to resume, there was an urgent need to develop new leadership and unite the church, after a painful period of fragmentation.



Following the resignation of the priest in charge in 2020, the diocese entered a period of “presumptive pause”, meaning that no clergy appointments could be made. This was due to the financial challenges facing the diocese. There was therefore no immediate prospect of an appointment to the vacancy at St Simon's. The church was therefore highly dependent on a retired PTO vicar within the church family, to officiate at Sunday worship and occasional



offices. St Simon's partnership with its sister church, St Jude's in Southsea, played a major role in supporting St Simon's during this challenging period.

In July 2022 a new priest in charge was appointed, initially on a one-year basis. This was later extended to a permanent position, as the "presumptive pause" was discontinued under the new Bishop Jonathan. In 2025 the suspension of the benefice of St Simon's was removed, allowing for the appointment of a vicar. In 2025 the CPAS patronage of St Simon's was concluded and St Simon's is now under the patronage of the Bishop.



Our most recent priest-in-charge identified the need for healing at St Simon's as a priority for our growth, after the years of dislocation and uncertainty. Her pastoral approach and strong spiritual leadership were a major factor in the regeneration of the church. It was therefore with great sadness that we received the news of her retirement through ill health. However, we are confident in God's guidance and in our resilience to lead us through this latest period of vacancy.

CHURCH BUILDING AND PREMISES

The foundation stone for the church was laid in 1864 and the building consecrated in 1868. A major redevelopment took place in 1979, when the end of the nave was converted into two large meeting halls, allowing much greater flexibility in the use of the church building.



Over past decades, a number of major developments have been undertaken. The costly and inefficient oil heating system was replaced with infra-red overhead heating. Despite the installation of further heating in the north aisle, the church can still be uncomfortably cold during the winter months.

The organ was sold and the organ space has been turned into a dedicated area for prayer. Further significant work also took place in the nave, where the Victorian pews were removed in 2016, to be replaced with modern stackable chairs.

More recently, considerable work has been undertaken to improve conditions



in the upper and lower halls. Ceiling baffles have been installed to improve the acoustics, which has made an enormous difference, particularly for people with hearing impairment. Both halls are frequently in use both by the church and external groups. The church has an arrangement with a local school, which regularly uses the upper hall for activities and exams.



There is currently a project to develop the dedicated prayer space in the east end of the church. This area was badly affected by water ingress. Considerable funds were raised by the church family to repair the leaking roof. Plans to further develop the space as a quiet meeting area have been delayed, due to additional problems with the roof.



We are planning to install glass doors in the south-east door of the church, if certain fire safety issues can be overcome. We hope that this will make the church more visible and accessible to the wider community.

The church has a dedicated car park situated on the north side of the church building, which is formally owned by a church trust. Management of the car park has been devolved to a private company, which has drastically reduced abuse of the facility.

The church also owns a three bedroomed terrace house in the parish, that was formerly used by the curate. This is currently let and provides an important source of income for the church.



SERVICES

The pattern for services is as follows:

First Sunday	9:30am 10:30am	Shipmates (children and families) Holy Communion
Second Sunday	10:30am	Morning Praise
Third Sunday	10:30am	Intergenerational Holy Communion
Fourth Sunday	10:30am	Morning Praise
Fifth Sunday	10:30am	Café Church
Fridays	4:30pm	Evening prayers with prayers for peace.

On the first Sunday there is a service at 9:30am for children and young families called “Shipmates”. On the second and fourth Sundays, groups are run for children and young people.

Our style of worship is informal. Our sung worship is led by a band, by a group of singers and through the use of recorded music. We would like to recruit more musicians to strengthen and enliven our sung worship.

Clergy do not normally wear robes when leading services. Prayer ministry is available to all at the end of each service. Average attendance at Sunday services was 147 (adults and children) in 2025.

Gathering together for refreshments after every service is an important time for St Simon’s, when we can meet visitors and new people, get to know each other better and share our ideas and visions for the future of our church.

OUR CLERGY AND STAFF

We currently have two self-supporting curates at St Simon's, one who is in her second year and one in his third year. We have a Reader, and also a retired clergyman with PtO.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PASTOR (PART-TIME)

Leads ministry among children and families, including weekday activities, Shipmates services, intergenerational services and Sunday groups.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR (PART-TIME)

Provides administrative support and first-point-of-contact responsibilities, including the management of church bookings.

CLEANER (PART-TIME)

Undertakes general cleaning duties for the church.



A vertical stained glass window on the left side of the page, featuring a large, ornate floral design at the top and a series of smaller, repeating geometric and floral patterns below. The colors are vibrant, including red, blue, green, and gold.

FINANCE

St Simons is blessed in many ways when it comes to finance. Firstly we are blessed by our generous donors who give through the Parish Giving Trust, as well as individually, on which we are able to claim gift aid. This makes up about 50% of our income. We also have a church centre which we rent to a range of tenants, some on long term contracts. This makes up about 30% of our income. St Simons have an investment property purchased many years ago for a curate and some investments locked with fund managers, that generates about 10% of our income.

We are also blessed to receive funding for capital projects from a trust established many years ago for the welfare of St Simon's. The trust has supported many major capital projects over the years, as well as staff salaries and other costs. We are also supported by a smaller trust which has covered important costs such as insurance and staff costs. The church has also received generous support from Portsmouth City Council towards activities such as Sunday Suppers and Friday Friendship.

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Our children's ministry, for under elevens, comes under the banner of Shipmates led by our Children and Families Pastor.



On Sundays we have a monthly Shipmates children and families service, which is also attended by some of our youth, a monthly intergenerational service, which is partially led by the children and young people and on the remaining Sundays we have the following children's groups:

- Shipmates early years
- Shipmates primary years
- Bridge builders youth group for children in school years six and above, led by one of our curates.



Over the last few years, thirteen of our children have been baptised and this spring eleven of them were confirmed by Bishop Jonathan.

We have forty-two children and youth that attend regularly, from newborn to age fourteen. Our work with children and young people is supported by a committed group of volunteers.

During the week we run several Shipmates groups:

- Little Shipmates stay and play – a parent, carer and toddler group for up to thirty families.
- Wrigglers Crawlers and Wobblers – a fairly new group that was introduced for parents attending groups with much younger babies. Over the last term twenty families have attended.
- Play and Praise – a smaller group with a soft play and a twenty minute toddler praise session. Currently attended by sixteen families.
- Shipmates Café – an afterschool group for up to thirty primary school children and their families. Currently attended by sixteen families including foster carers.
- Shipmates Childminders Group- a weekly opportunity for childminders to have exclusive use of our facilities.



All the groups have a weekly Christian or Biblical theme which runs through sensory play, crafts, stories and a Shipmates Challenge for the Café children.

We have links with Southsea Infants School and Mayville High School, with services and visits to the church, as well as assemblies and class visits.

A youth club, Simon's Crew, meets once a month on a Friday evening with fun, food and games and a Christian focus. Young people from St Simon's also participate in High Tide, a diocese wide monthly youth gathering, which we have hosted at St Simon's on several occasions. Following the success of the confirmation groups this year, we are planning to begin a Sunday afternoon youth cell group.





DISCIPLESHIP

St Simon's has several active home groups. Home groups have been a key resource for discipleship in St Simon for many years. Many of the groups have been meeting for several years. Others have been more recently created, as the church develops and grows.

The Explorers Course, based on the Church of England's Emmaus Course, has been completed four times at St Simon's in the past two years. This is a ten-week course designed for people wanting to explore Christianity and faith. There were eight to ten participants on the first course.

People who attended were a mixture of unchurched people, some of lapsed faith and some of none. Following the courses several people have come newly to faith, many have had their faith strengthened and one was baptised. Subsequently two home groups have been created and continue to run with people from the Explorers course.



SAFEGUARDING

St Simon's has well established safeguarding practices in place across the church community with key personnel (Church Wardens, Ministry Leaders and Group Leaders) fully up to date with safeguarding training. All volunteers undertake the "Safer Recruitment" process and are monitored to ensure they remain current with their safeguarding training and awareness

The current Parish Safeguarding Officer has been in place for six years and utilises the C of E parish dashboard to ensure that the church remains fully compliant with the safeguarding requirements. The PCC receives a written report and update from the parish dashboard at each meeting, with an annual audit and review of safeguarding policies and practices undertaken at the July PCC meeting.

Where safeguarding incidents do occur (in recent years they have been comparatively minor) the PSO will draw on the expertise of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team to ensure that matters are managed swiftly and appropriately.



OUR CITY AND PARISH



Portsmouth is a city of around 216,000 people and is considered to be the most densely populated city in the UK. The city is renowned for its naval history and is home to the historic ships HMS Victory, HMS Warrior and HMS Mary Rose. Some of the old naval dockyard has now been redeveloped into a leisure and shopping complex called Gunwharf Quays, that brings many tourists into Portsmouth. Gunwharf includes many places to eat and socialise and in addition to its shops, has a 15-screen cinema complex and the Spinnaker Tower.

Portsmouth is a university city. The university has grown remarkably over the past few decades. The university now has around 30,000 students, including more than 5,000 international students. The student population makes up around 14% of the city's population. Student accommodation is located across the city, including Southsea.

Southsea is a seaside resort within the city of Portsmouth. Southsea seafront is currently undergoing a major sea-wall development project, to protect the city from flooding. This has seen some areas of the seafront beautifully transformed for recreation and



leisure activities. Southsea benefits from a large area of open grassland, Southsea common and is also the location for other attractions including the D-day Museum, the Pyramids gym and soft-play centre and tennis courts (both hard courts and grass).

The Mountbatten Centre in Portsmouth is the main leisure centre for a wide range of sports, including an Olympic sized pool. Within the St Simon's Parish there is the Wimbledon Park Sports Centre, that offers facilities for several sports.

There are frequent car and passenger ferry crossings from Portsmouth to the Isle of Wight. There is also a hovercraft service which operates from Southsea seafront, with a crossing time of approximately ten minutes. Portsmouth is also an international port with regular sailings to Caen, Cherbourg, Le Havre and St Malo, Bilbao, Santander, Guernsey and Jersey.

Rail links to London are good (1 hour 30 minutes to London Waterloo) and there is also a good south coast line to Brighton and beyond, as well as direct rail services to other cities including Cardiff and Bristol.

A vertical stained glass window with a complex geometric and floral pattern in shades of red, blue, green, and gold. At the top is a circular medallion featuring a blue and gold design.

PARISH STATISTICS (2021 CENSUS)

Population	8,697
Employed	57%
Unemployed	3%
Students	7%
Retired	20%
Aged 60 and over	24%
Aged 0-19	14%
White	86%

There are a considerable number of HMOs in the parish, particularly in the area around the church. Many of these are of poor quality. Waverley Road, where St Simon's is located, has gained a reputation for poor housing, often occupied by people facing addiction and mental health challenges.

THE VICARAGE

The vicarage is owned by the Diocese of Portsmouth and is approximately ten minutes walk from St Simon's. After a period when the property was let to tenants, it has now been returned for use by the incumbent of St Simon's.



The property has three reception rooms on the ground floor, one with double doors leading to the rear garden. There is a modern kitchen, and also a large cellar. On the first floor there are two large double bedrooms at the front of the house, one with an en-suite shower room. There is a smaller double bedroom and a box room to the rear of the house, a bathroom with toilet and a separate toilet.

The property has a garage and off-road parking. Parking is also possible on the road, which is in a controlled residents' parking zone and requires a permit from the City Council.

There are gardens to the front and rear of the property. The vicarage is a short walk from Southsea sea front.



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.



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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THE CHURCH
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