

St Jude's Southsea

PROFILE



CONTENTS

Bishop's Welcome	3
Welcome from the Archdeacon	4
Welcome from the Churchwardens	6
Vision and Mission	8
Role Description	12
Key Responsibilities	14
What We Offer	16
Opportunities and Challenges	18
Our Story	20
Good News Stories	24
Our Staff	27
Finance	28
Our City and Parish	29
The Vicarage	31
Safeguarding	32
Diocese Vision and Strategy	33
Introduction to the Diocese of Portsmouth	35

BISHOP'S WELCOME

I am delighted you are seeking to discern whether Jesus is calling you to serve with His beautiful people in 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 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



WELCOME FROM THE ARCHDEACON

As Archdeacon I often wonder what it is people look for in a Profile to assist them in their discernment of God's call to them.

There are often many words, and many images all of which help us to gain an insight and 'flavour' of a community. However, it is only when we encounter that community and meet the people whose smiling faces we see that we fully discover the depth of that Parish.





I have been in the city for over 25 years and throughout that time have worked alongside St Jude's and their clergy and wardens. I have always been impressed by their commitment and passion for the Gospel which is expressed in a lively community of faith. I hope this profile helps you to discern the depth of that passion and life, as well as an awareness (and humility) of what challenges they face and what needs to be addressed.

St Jude's has for many years been one of the major churches in the Deanery and alongside its own life has sought to build partnerships and good relationships with others in the Deanery. In particular there is a close relationship between the four parishes in the southern part of the city and we hope that any new incumbent will continue to seek to build those relationships and play their part in the wider life of the Deanery.

I hope that in reading this profile and exploring further you feel called to come and continue to discern with us if God is calling you here!

Ven Bob White
Archdeacon of Portsdown





WELCOME FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

We are delighted that you are considering the role of vicar at St Jude's! This is an important time for our church, and we would love the opportunity to get to know you and share in God's work together, if you are appointed. Please know that, as you explore this calling, you are already being prayed for by our congregation. We hope you will sense something of the warmth and openness that characterise our church family.

Thank you for taking the time to reflect on the possibility of joining us. We hope this parish profile gives you a sense of who we are and what matters to us. St. Jude's is a community that seeks to be Jesus-centred, where people can explore faith, find peace, and experience belonging. For some, this has been the starting point in their journey with Jesus – a space to ask questions and encounter God's love. Others have been part of this fellowship for many years, helping to shape its life and witness.

Our congregation includes people of many ages, backgrounds, and cultures, which brings depth and richness to our worship and community life. Whether someone is new to faith or has walked with Jesus for many years, we want them to feel welcome and valued. Our vision is to make Jesus the heart of Southsea, and everything we do flows from this calling. As an evangelical church, we seek to respond to Scripture and the Spirit together in our worship and ministry, and our activities, from small groups to outreach, are designed to help people grow in faith, hope and love.

St Jude's is closely connected to the local community. We believe the church exists not only for those who gather on Sundays, but for the whole of Southsea. Through practical and spiritual support for those in need, we aim to offer hospitality and care and, in doing so, share Christ's love.

Our location, at the top of the shopping precinct and near the Common, which hosts many major public events, offers rich opportunities to meet and serve people from all walks of life. We look forward to working with our new vicar to strengthen these connections.

For many people, St Jude's has become a place of healing and renewal – a home where they can grow as part of God's family. If you feel called to join us, you will find a congregation ready to welcome you, pray for you, and work with you as partners in the gospel.

Jane Portlock and David Bacon

jane.portlock@sjs.church, david.bacon@sjs.church





VISION AND MISSION

Our vision is to make Jesus the heart of Southsea by being a community where people can encounter Him, find belonging and grow in faith.

See more details here: sjs.church/vision.

We seek to live this out in ongoing response to God's Word and His Spirit – listening to Scripture as our guide, and being open to the renewing work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our parish.



Our core values are:

- **Word** – Rooted in God's Word as the foundation of faith, growing in understanding, and allowing Scripture to shape our lives.
- **Spirit** – Welcoming the Holy Spirit's work so that we live in God's power and reflect the character of Jesus in our community.

Our mission:

- Growing Faith
- Offering Hope
- Sharing God's Love



GROWING FAITH

We want to help people grow in faith in ways that are accessible and life-giving, creating spaces where they can encounter Jesus through His Word and the work of His Spirit. We often describe discipleship as: being with Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and doing what Jesus did.

- Being with Jesus – seeking His presence in worship, prayer and shared life.
- Becoming like Jesus – letting His Word and Spirit shape our character and choices.
- Doing what Jesus did – serving others with compassion in our daily lives.

OFFERING HOPE

We want St. Jude's to be a place where people find comfort, freedom, and wholeness, where hope is experienced not as an idea, but in the person of Jesus. Many who come to us are carrying burdens, questions, or struggles, and we long to provide a safe and hopeful space for everyone.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

We want to share God's love in natural and compassionate ways, rooted in everyday life. Southsea is wonderfully varied, and people come to faith through many different experiences – conversation, kindness, worship, curiosity, and feeling welcomed. We hope to be a church where love is practical, and faith can be



explored without pressure. We envisage a pathway describing some of the ways people move through church life, while recognising that every story is different:

Link → Connect → Encounter → Grow → Follow

- **Link** – building friendships; creating spaces where people feel welcome.
- **Connect** – next, sharing the story of Jesus in accessible ways.
- **Encounter** – offering opportunities to experience God's presence and discover His love.
- **Grow** – providing courses and small groups that deepen faith.
- **Follow** – equipping disciples to live like Jesus and serve others.

We long to see people discover Jesus. We aim to be a community that welcomes questions and gently encourages each person towards faith, hope and love.



MEMBERSHIP AT ST JUDE'S

Membership at St Jude's is not about signing up to a list of expectations, but about choosing to belong, walking the journey of faith with this community, recognising that people participate as they are able and that belonging is never

conditional. For those who see St Jude's as their spiritual home, we encourage four intentions that help us grow together:

- **Praying** – Prayer is at the heart of our life together. Some join our gathered prayer times, others pray quietly at home. However we pray, we want to support one another and trust that God listens and acts.
- **Gathering** – We grow in relationship with others. Sunday services, small groups, spaces for prayer, and conversations over coffee all help us stay connected to God and to each other. People engage as they are able; there is no pressure to be everywhere.
- **Serving** – We give our time and gifts in varied ways: welcoming, children's work, practical help, or behind-the-scenes care. Serving is not about filling rotas but sharing in the life of the church.
- **Giving** – Generosity takes many forms. Many give financially, others through time or prayer. We speak honestly about the church's needs, but generosity is encouraged, never presumed.





ROLE DESCRIPTION

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A LEADER WHO....

We are looking for a leader who will point people to Jesus and help us to make Him the heart of Southsea. As a church committed to the values of Word and Spirit, we are praying for a leader who can help us embody these in every part of our life and ministry.

WHO IS PRAYERFUL AND CHRIST-CENTRED

Someone who leads from a place of prayer, seeking, listening, and responding to God, and helping us keep Jesus at the centre of all we do. They will encourage both personal and corporate prayer and nurture our life with God and one another.



WHO IS ROOTED IN SCRIPTURE AND OPEN TO THE SPIRIT

Someone who teaches the Bible faithfully and encourages us to be responsive to the Holy Spirit, helping to cultivate a culture of prayer, worship, and expectancy.

WHO IS STRATEGIC AND FORWARD-THINKING

Someone who can see the bigger picture and lead us in a thoughtful, prayerful approach to planning. They will help us discern where God is calling us, shape clear and achievable



priorities, and develop strategies that support sustainable growth and healthy ministry. They will hold an overview of church life and guide us with wisdom as we move forward together.

WHO IS PASSIONATE ABOUT DISCIPLESHIP

Someone who models being with Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and doing what Jesus did, and who equips others through preaching, mentoring, and creating pathways for spiritual growth.

WHO IS RELATIONAL AND WELCOMING

Someone who values authentic relationships and nurtures spaces where all feel included, whether long-standing members or those exploring faith, and who engages comfortably with all ages and backgrounds.

WHO IS EMPOWERING AND COLLABORATIVE

Someone who works well with staff, volunteers, and ministry teams, releasing people into ministry and encouraging the development of gifts and callings within the congregation.

WHO IS EVANGELISM AND COMMUNITY-FOCUSSED

Someone who shares the gospel creatively and courageously, engaging with those beyond the church walls through innovative approaches to evangelism.



KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

LEAD WORSHIP AND PREACHING GROUNDED IN SCRIPTURE AND ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT

- Preach and teach God's Word faithfully, attentive to Scripture and the Spirit.
- Lead worship, administer the sacraments, and intercede for local and global concerns.
- Model mature Christian faith, prayerful dependence on God, and sound doctrine.
- Demonstrate humility, integrity, and servant-hearted leadership.

PROVIDE STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

- Help us look ahead with faith, discern God's leading, and guide the church in shaping priorities that support healthy and sustainable ministry.
- Hold an overview of church life and help us see the bigger picture with prayerful discernment.
- Listen well—to God, to the congregation and to the community—before shaping direction.
- Identify opportunities and challenges, and help us choose clear, realistic priorities.
- Guide us through change with wisdom, collaboration and a steady, thoughtful approach.

INSPIRE US TO LIVE OUT OUR VISION OF GROWING FAITH, OFFERING HOPE, AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE

- Lead with clarity and encouragement.
- Oversee planning, administration, and decision-making.
- Manage projects, budgets, and staff effectively.



ENCOURAGE PRAYER AND DISCIPLESHIP ACROSS THE CHURCH

- Foster a culture of prayer and spiritual growth.
- Equip and mentor others in discipleship and leadership.
- Communicate and strengthen the church's vision and values.
- Work collaboratively with respect, empathy, and care.

DEVELOP EVANGELISM AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Create imaginative strategies for evangelism and mission.
- Build and empower teams for outreach and discipleship.
- Ensure clear communication and maintain best practice in safeguarding.

SUPPORT MINISTRIES SUCH AS OUTREACH INITIATIVES, SMALL GROUPS, AND OUR HOPE TEAM

- Champion outreach and community engagement.
- Be a visible presence locally and active within deanery, diocesan, and ecumenical partnerships.
- Recruit, inspire, and support volunteers.



WHAT WE OFFER

St Jude's is a vibrant, friendly church with a strong sense of community and a heart for mission. Here's what you'll find when you join us:

- A committed leadership team and staff who are enthusiastic about working collaboratively and supporting you in your ministry.
- A congregation full of life and faith, passionate about prayer, worship, and serving Southsea in practical and meaningful ways.
- Opportunities to shape and develop ministries that reflect our vision and meet the needs of our growing church family.



- A beautiful, historic church building right in the heart of Southsea.
- Strong connections with our church primary school, our own nursery, and community groups, offering real opportunities for connection and mission.
- A warm, welcoming community that will embrace you, pray for you, and walk alongside you in your journey.

- A gifted and diverse team, including:
 - » Over 20 trained preachers through the PRISCA course
 - » More than 120 DBS-checked volunteers
 - » Two experienced PtOs
 - » Our committed youth minister and children's minister
 - » Two Licensed Lay Ministers
 - » Three dedicated part-time administrators and an experienced Operations Director
 - » Individuals discerning ordination and mission work
- A dynamic parish setting, close to the sea, full of cultural events, and buzzing with opportunities for outreach and engagement.



At St Jude's, we seek to worship, serve, and grow together as a church family. We look forward to welcoming a vicar who will share their particular gifts with us and help shape our life and mission. Although we offer a range of ministries, we want to do so from a place of prayerful simplicity and sustainable rhythms rather than busyness.



OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

A DIVERSE AND LIVELY CHURCH FAMILY

- **Opportunity:** a warm, diverse church open to new ideas and friendships.
- **Challenge:** helping varied congregations feel connected amid high turnover and varied levels of attendance.

A WORD-AND-SPIRIT CHURCH

- **Opportunity:** hunger for biblical teaching, worship and prayer.
- **Challenge:** holding Word and Spirit together in wise balance.

GROWING IN FAITH

- **Opportunity:** clear discipleship pathway; people eager to grow.
- **Challenge:** busy lives need flexible, accessible small-group discipleship.



LEADING PEOPLE WELL

- **Opportunity:** committed staff and over 120 volunteers.
- **Challenge:** providing clarity, encouragement and shared vision.

EVANGELISM IN A CHANGING PARISH

- **Opportunity:** hundreds of new homes being built – this creates fresh openings for welcome and mission.
- **Challenge:** many newcomers will have little church background.

LIFE IN A TRANSIENT CITY

- **Opportunity:** students, service personnel and young professionals enrich church life.
- **Challenge:** high turnover requires helping people settle, grow and leave well.

PASTORAL CARE AND HOPE

- **Opportunity:** strong ministries offering support and prayer.
- **Challenge:** growing pastoral care for a diverse congregation.

STEWARDING FINANCES

- **Opportunity:** stable income, supportive nursery and good track record with grants.
- **Challenge:** staff and running costs, and net-zero commitments, require wise stewardship.

CARING FOR A HISTORIC BUILDING

- **Opportunity:** a beautiful Grade II listed landmark, and Demonstrator Church for Net Zero.
- **Challenge:** ongoing repairs, heating improvements and quinquennial works need planning and resources.

BALANCING FAMILY LIFE AND OUTWARD MISSION

- **Opportunity:** vibrant ministries and energy for mission.
- **Challenge:** ensuring sustainable activity.



OUR STORY

St Jude's has stood in the heart of Southsea since 1851. While its flint walls and spire are well loved, the real story of St Jude's is its people – a community gathered around Jesus and committed to serving Southsea. Key moments have shaped our character, including the Portsmouth Blitz, when incendiaries fell across the parish, and the spire glowed red-hot. Our curate spent the night on the roof, throwing off burning bombs, and the church was rescued. Experiences like this have helped form St Jude's into a community that seeks to trust Jesus in adversity and remain present with hope and compassion.



A distinctive thread of our history is our commitment to children and young people. From the 1860s onwards, the church established a school, a Sunday school, and practical schemes such as clothing clubs and coal funds. Youth ministry flourished too: a curate founded a boys' club that played some of the earliest football in the area and contributed to the beginnings of Portsmouth Football Club. Choirs and student ministry grew, giving young

people opportunities to belong and lead. This legacy continues today through our vibrant children's and youth ministries, and also St Jude's Nursery and St Jude's Primary School. The Nursery provides a nurturing, inclusive environment for more than ninety children, with subsidised places, long-serving staff, and strong links with the school. We own and operate the Nursery, and it plays a significant part in our mission. St Jude's Primary School – now in Old Portsmouth – has more than four hundred pupils, a strong Christian ethos, and an Ofsted "Good" rating. We enjoy an active partnership through assemblies, pastoral support, and governance.



Our building has developed with the congregation: expansions in the 1890s, reordering in the 1970s, new facilities in 2010, and, most recently, becoming the first Portsmouth church approved by Historic England to install solar panels, supporting sustainability and reducing energy costs.



Today St Jude's is a broad and changing community. Some worshippers live nearby; others travel from across Portsmouth. With students, young professionals, and service families often moving in and out, we aim to be a place where people quickly find friendship and belonging. For more than 170 years, St Jude's has prayed, served, and trusted Jesus through seasons of challenge and renewal. He continues to call us to be a church where people encounter Him, grow in faith, and join His mission to bless Southsea and beyond.

THE VIEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

As we pray for the next vicar and our life together, we invited everyone in the church family – adults, children, young people, nursery and school – to reflect on three simple questions. What follows is a selection of the many thoughtful responses.

1. WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST ABOUT SJS?

- "St Jude's feels like family."
- "I'm welcomed and genuinely known here."
- "The balance of Word and Spirit really shapes my faith."
- "Everyone has something to offer — it's a shared ministry."
- "Life Groups keep me rooted and growing."
- "There is a real hunger for God in this church."
- "We have a heart for blessing Southsea."
- "The children's and youth work is full of life."
- "Our staff and volunteers serve with real dedication."
- "People here show up for one another."
- "This church helps me grow and serve."

2. WHAT DO WE DO WELL AS A CHURCH FAMILY?

- "Community life here is a real strength."
- "People of all ages feel welcomed and at home."
- "Our children's work is a huge blessing."



- “Events like cream teas and Light Parties genuinely bless Southsea.”
- “Friday Fridge offers dignity and warmth to vulnerable people.”
- “I value the range of worship styles.”
- “Serving together.”
- “There are so many ways to get involved and grow.”
- “We look out for one another with practical love.”
- “This church is bible-based and open to the Spirit.”

3. WHAT COULD WE DO BETTER AS A CHURCH FAMILY?

- “We want to strengthen discipleship”
- “We need to draw in new people and deepen commitment across the whole church.”
- “We want to reconnect with teenagers and young adults”
- “We need to involve more people in leadership”
- “We want to reflect our ethnic diversity more fully in participation and leadership.”
- “We need to care well for all ages and ensure no one slips through the gaps.”
- “We want to be more rooted in the community and proactive in sharing the gospel.”
- “We need to grow in generosity and openness to the Spirit.”



GOOD NEWS STORIES

St Jude's is a church where faith, friendship and community life flourish. The following outlines key areas of our shared life and ministry.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

On Sundays, children aged 0-16 meet in age-appropriate groups during the 10:45 am service. Equip supports young people in Years 7-11 as they grow in discipleship, older teens meet for the BE Group on Sunday evenings, and monthly Verve events offer fun and welcome. We also join with churches across Portsmouth for High Tide, a united youth worship gathering. Further details: sjs.church/children and sjs.church/youth.



LITTLE TIDDLERS

Little Tiddlers meets on Wednesdays during term time, offering songs, stories and play for under-5s. It provides a warm, relaxed environment where parents and carers can connect while children enjoy a safe, faith-filled space.

LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups play a vital role in helping people belong, grow and flourish. Groups meet regularly for prayer, Bible study and mutual encouragement, providing a place where deeper faith and lasting friendships can take root. Further details: sjs.church/discipleship.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

The **Women's Ministry** includes: a monthly *Engage* evening Bible study, and occasional social events for fellowship and creativity. The **Men's Ministry** offers regular opportunities for fellowship, discipleship and community, including monthly gatherings like *UNITED Men's* (for social events such as curry nights or *Pint with a Point*) and a weekly *Men's Shed* group during term-time for coffee, bible study and discussion.)

FRIDAY FRIDGE

Friday Fridge is our long-standing outreach, offering free hot food, drinks and conversation every Friday evening. First launched in 2006, it has become a significant ministry for people who are homeless or vulnerable. During the pandemic, it operated as a takeaway service, feeding hundreds each week. Today it continues through a dedicated team providing hospitality, practical support and prayer. Further details: sjs.church/friday-fridge and [Facebook](#).

HOPE CAFÉ

Hope Café meets on the third Saturday of each month and offers a welcoming space for coffee, conversation, pastoral support and prayer. Many guests value the opportunity to encounter God's love, receive prayer for healing and wholeness, and find companionship. Further details: sjs.church/hope.

MISSION SUPPORT

St Jude's has a long tradition of partnering with mission organisations locally, nationally and globally. We support a wide range of mission partners, including CPAS, Tearfund, Friends International, Spirit in Sport, Interserve, CMS, OMF and MAF. A tithe from the church's unrestricted giving is set aside each year to resource these ministries. Representatives visit regularly, and our Mission Support Group meets to pray, maintain relationships and encourage mission-mindedness across the congregation. Further details: sjs.church/mission-support.



WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

St Jude's offers a variety of services that reflect the breadth of our congregation:

- **9am Sunday** – traditional service with organ and small choir (approx. 30)
- **10:45am Sunday** – family service with children's and youth groups, and "all-in" services during school holidays (approx. 120-130 adults and 30-40 children/youth)
- **7pm Sunday** – contemporary worship, including monthly Dwell evenings welcoming Christians from across the city (approx. 20-30)
- **11am Thursday** – quiet midweek communion (approx. 20-30)

Service information: sjs.church

OLDER ADULTS

We value and support older members of our community through Monday Fellowship (2nd and 4th Mondays), which includes refreshments, speakers and friendship, and Monday Lunch on the first Monday of the month, offering a shared meal. Each August, the Senior Citizens Holiday Club provides a week of activities, conversation and a cooked lunch, offering companionship and care. Further details: sjs.church/older-adults.

OUR STAFF



- **Children and Families Minister (part-time)**
Leads ministry among children and families, including Little Tiddlers and Sunday groups.
- **Youth Minister (full-time)**
Works with young people in the parish and across the city, including leading the Portsmouth Disciple Year programme.
- **Church Administrators – Job Share (part-time)**
Provide administrative support and first-point-of-contact duties, including safeguarding recruitment and building coordination.
- **Safeguarding Lead Recruiter (part-time, within Administrator role)**
Oversees safer recruitment processes and supports safeguarding administration.
- **Finance Officer (part-time)**
Manages financial systems, controls, reporting and statutory compliance.
- **Caretaker (part-time)**
Ensures day-to-day care, maintenance and practical readiness of the church buildings.
- **Operations Director (part-time)**
Oversees the strategic and practical running of church operations and support functions.
- **New Wine Discipleship Year Student (full-time placement)**
Serves across a range of ministries as part of a year-long discipleship and training programme.

A vertical photograph on the left side of the page shows three young people smiling. At the top is a Black woman with dark curly hair wearing a bright yellow-green shirt. Below her is a white woman with short blonde hair wearing a blue and white jacket. At the bottom is a young woman with long brown hair wearing a white shirt. The background is a light-colored wall.

FINANCE

St Jude's Parochial Church Council (PCC) is financially responsible for both St Jude's Church and St Jude's Nursery. Together, these two entities recorded a surplus of £22k on an income of £928k in 2024, and income is projected to exceed £1m for the first time in 2025. The Nursery contributes around 60% of the combined income, and the church around 40%, with a small additional contribution from investment trusts. In recent years, the church has benefited from significant grant income, both one-off and recurring, with clergy taking an active role in identifying appropriate funding bodies and making applications. Church expenditure divides broadly into three areas: parish share, staffing costs, and other expenditure, including ministry activities, equipment, and building maintenance. Within this final category lies our long-standing commitment to tithe 10% of voluntary income to mission partners and organisations, reflecting our desire to support ministry beyond our parish.

Recent investments have included the creation of paid youth and children's ministry roles, the development of internship programmes, and the installation of solar panels as part of our commitment to sustainability. Building expenditure is expected to remain significant in the coming years, shaped by the quinquennial inspection and our involvement in the Demonstrator Churches scheme as we plan towards net-zero heating. The Nursery is a self-sustaining part of our church, with its management team responsible for day-to-day operations and financial oversight.

Full financial information can be found through our Charity Commission page (see the "Accounts and Annual Returns" tab, followed by "Download" for the selected year). See: register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/en/charity-search/-/charity-details/5004976.

OUR CITY AND PARISH

Portsmouth is a vibrant and diverse island city with around 215,000 residents, shaped by centuries of naval history, global connections and shipbuilding. As the home of the Royal Navy, it retains a strong maritime identity, while in recent decades new industries in engineering, electronics, defence technology and the public sector have flourished. The city has undergone major regeneration, including Gunwharf Quays and the Spinnaker Tower, and continues to benefit from the dynamic University of Portsmouth. Its cultural life includes venues such as the Guildhall and the Kings and New Theatre Royal, and a passionate footballing community centred on Portsmouth FC (Pompey).



Southsea is the seafront district of Portsmouth, historically a resort and now a lively residential and leisure area with a strong sense of identity. Recent sea defence work has created attractive spaces for walking, cycling and outdoor activity while protecting the coastline. The area is known for its independent shops, cafés and creative businesses. Southsea Common – one of the largest open spaces on the South Coast – hosts major events such as Victorious Festival, naval commemorations and community gatherings, while also serving as a much-loved space for everyday life.



St Jude's Parish has about 8,000 residents and stretches from the top of the precinct to the seafront, including Southsea Common and Southsea Castle. Housing is varied, with HMOs, local authority flats, student accommodation, long-established homes and care homes, creating a community spanning every stage of life. Church Urban Fund data reflects this diversity: mixed incomes, some child and pensioner poverty, a high proportion of people living alone and a breadth of educational backgrounds, with life expectancy around 79 for men and 82 for women.



A major change ahead is the redevelopment of the Debenhams and St John's College sites, a short walk from St Jude's. These projects will bring hundreds of new homes – mainly apartments for young professionals, alongside family and older-person housing – into the heart of the parish. This presents a significant mission opportunity, as many new residents may be seeking connection, belonging and community. St Jude's can offer welcome, hospitality and the good news of Jesus in ways that meet people where they are.

PARISH STATISTICS

[Link to our Charity Commission page](#)

(see tab "Accounts and Annual Returns" and then the tab "Download" for the selected year).

THE VICARAGE

Our vicarage is a Victorian house, owned and maintained by Portsmouth Diocese. It is a five-bedroom detached family home, 0.3 miles (7 minutes walk) from St. Jude's Church.

The property is generously proportioned and well-maintained, with a large study and two further reception rooms on the ground floor, offering excellent space for family life and occasional pastoral meetings. It has an open-plan kitchen, diner and usable basement.

The property has a private, low-maintenance garden. There is on-street parking available with a resident's permit (managed by Portsmouth City Council).





SAFEGUARDING

At St Jude's, safeguarding is taken seriously as a core expression of our care for every person who comes into contact with the church. We work hard to ensure that children, young people and adults at risk are protected, valued and supported.

All staff and volunteers working with children or adults at risk follow a full "safer recruitment" process, including references and an enhanced DBS check. They are expected to complete the required Church of England safeguarding training and to be familiar with our local safeguarding policy and procedures.


St Jude's has adopted the Church of England's national safeguarding policy, Promoting a Safer Church, which can be accessed [here](#).

The PCC has formally agreed on this policy statement and reviews safeguarding arrangements regularly.



DIOCESE VISION AND STRATEGY



ur 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





Diocese
of Portsmouth



1st Floor, Peninsular House
Wharf Road
Portsmouth
PO2 8HB
023 9289 9650
portsmouth.anglican.org

@CofEPortsmouth



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND