

Blackmoor & Whitehill

PROFILE



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Diocese
of Portsmouth

CONTENTS

Bishop's Welcome	3
Introduction from the Archdeacon	4
Petersfield Deanery	5
Role Description	7
Person Specification	8
Deanery Role (0.3) for Lay Ministry Development	10
Life of the Congregation in the Community of Blackmoor & Whitehill	14
Key features of our benefice	17
Who We Are and What Happens at St Matthew's	20
Where we are	27
Who we work with	30
Our ministry team	32
The buildings and what happens in them	34
Our finances	36
Where will you live?	39
Appendix A: Petersfield Deanery – All Parishes	40
Appendix B: Blackmoor & Whitehill Parish	41
Appendix C: Blackmoor & Whitehill Parish Boundary	43
Appendix D: Petersfield Deanery AWA 2011 – 2019	44
Appendix E: Finances 2022 and 2023	45
Introduction to the Diocese of Portsmouth	47

BISHOP'S WELCOME

I am delighted you are seeking to discern whether Jesus is calling you to serve with His beautiful people in Blackmoor and Whitehill. Be assured of our prayers in the diocese for you and those you love as you step into a time of discerning.

The Diocese of Portsmouth is a community of communities focused and centred in Jesus, and seeking the Father's heart of love for the world. We shall be praying fervently for you as you discern your next step of faith in response to God's faithfulness.

With love, in Christ,

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

Colossians 3: 12-13



THE RT REV JONATHAN FROST,
BISHOP OF PORTSMOUTH

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

INTRODUCTION FROM THE ARCHDEACON

St Matthew's, Blackmoor and Whitehill is a beautiful church building in a delightful setting, but its real treasure is a lively, committed and friendly congregation, reaching out in love to the communities they serve. Though St Matthew's immediate surroundings are rural, this is a diverse parish with a mixture of demographics and housing. With the church school and large numbers of young families in the area, there is already much to celebrate, and also great promise and possibility for the future.

This role is characterised by both stability and opportunity. The Bishop intends to lift the suspension of presentation shortly after appointment, meaning that the new priest will in due course be Vicar of this single-parish benefice. In addition, this post, in common with other incumbent-status posts in Petersfield Deanery, comes with a Deanery responsibility – in this case Lay Ministry Development. (You can read more about this in the Area Dean's introduction and in the relevant part of the Profile.) This aspect will bring wider interest for the priest, and enrich the life of both deanery and parish.

We are praying for a priest of vision, care, and pastoral insight, who, with teams of ordained and lay colleagues will join in with the joyful labour in this place and help to lead it forward with purpose and skill. If this is you, you will find yourself part of a collaborative and supportive deanery, and a vibrant and lively archdeaconry, within a diocese whose will is to be centred in Jesus Christ and seeking the Kingdom.

Do get in touch if you would like an informal conversation.

*Ven Kathryn Percival
Archdeacon of the Meon*

PETERSFIELD DEANERY

Not all deaneries are the same! We may be biased, but we think that Petersfield Deanery is quite special.



The Deanery Chapter has developed into a warm and supportive community of stipendiary and self-supporting clergy. Meeting on alternate weeks over a lunchtime enables us to keep in touch, to share and pray in an enjoyable environment of mutual respect, learning and encouragement. We have also spent a valuable Residential together which we aim to repeat. It is important for us to keep growing together and for anyone joining us to become a full and positive part of this community.

The Deanery Synod, and its active Standing Committee has become a place of energy (surprising, I know!) which has been learning to work well together as its members have prayerfully forged a plan to build the Kingdom of God here, in the Deanery Mission Action Plan. We want to value the best of what we are while reaching and praying for the 'more' that we could be.

An essential part of our progress is the 'Deanery Lead Roles' attached to all the full-time parish incumbent posts. These include: 'Growing Faith' (children and young people), Mission, Evangelism and Outreach, Developing Lay Ministry



(connected with this post at Blackmoor and Whitehill), and Area Dean.

This is an exciting time to be part of life here as we continue bringing that innovative vision into reality. The next few years are important ones as these roles are established and developed. Crucially, each individual works across the deanery in their lead area, linking with lay people wherever possible and coordinating with fellow clergy who in turn provide support in different areas. Firmly based in parishes (0.7), deanery lead roles will constitute 0.3 of the post, and will be reviewed after 3 years. This allows role holders either to continue to develop their work in the same role, or to move focus for new challenge and pick up a developing area of need. The lead roles provide the opportunity for their holders to think creatively and strategically and to act sensitively and energetically across the diversity of the deanery.

A role description for the 'Developing Lay Ministry' Deanery Role is included later in this profile.

We hope that you will be excited by the prospect of working here, being embedded in your own parish community, while making the most of the rare chance to use and develop your experience of working and relating beyond parish boundaries.

Do feel free to contact me to talk about the post and deanery aspects of the role if that would be helpful.

We look forward to meeting you and serving Christ alongside you.

*Rev Dr Susie Collingridge
Petersfield Area Dean
susie.collingridge@gmail.com*

ROLE DESCRIPTION

This Role Specification for our new Priest-in-Charge (Vicar Designate) should be read in conjunction with the Person Description and the vision, aims and priorities as set out in the Parish profile as this role comes with a commitment to champion "Developing Lay Ministry" across the deanery.

We are seeking a Priest-in-Charge (Vicar Designate) to lead worship at St Matthew's and to provide spiritual and pastoral care to the parish of Blackmoor and Whitehill.

Our Priest-in-Charge (Vicar Designate) will be supported by an Associate Priest, and will hold legal responsibility for the parish and give collaborative mentoring support to the Associate Priest.

Our new Priest-in-Charge (Vicar Designate) will:

- lead worship that engages people and draws them to God;
- enhance our engagement with our school and with local families, and enrich their experience of God;
- develop opportunities for small groups to share bible study and prayer and deepen faith;
- work well with others, both ordained and lay, in developing services and outreach;
- support activity which strengthens the connection between our communities and St Matthew's;
- work with our Anna Chaplain to nurture the spiritual lives of older members of the communities which St. Matthew's serves.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

This Person Specification for our new Priest-in-Charge (Vicar Designate) should be read in conjunction with the Role Description and the vision, aims and priorities as set out in the Parish profile.

We are seeking a priest who has the skills, experience and attributes described below.

SPIRITUALITY

- Is a person of prayer, following an ordered spiritual life of daily prayer and Bible study, and is able to share the fruits of their discipleship with others.
- Is a confident and creative spiritual leader, drawing on the riches of scripture and the traditions of the Church of England.
- Is able to balance time outside working life with the demands of the parish, and can say 'no' graciously.

WORSHIP AND PREACHING

- Is skilled, confident and comfortable leading and participating in the current pattern of parish services using Common Worship, and the Book of Common Prayer; has experience of leading family orientated worship.
- In preaching, can present and interpret the Christian message in relevant and inspiring ways that will encourage us to live and witness as Christians in the 21st century.

LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

- Is a team player, approachable and happy to work collaboratively with others.
- Is an active listener, and is committed to building and sustaining relationships.



DISCIPLESHIP, LEARNING AND NURTURE

- Is open and creative in developing Christian discipleship and spiritual growth, committed to seeing God's people, of all ages, grow and mature in faith and use their gifts in God's service.
- Is able to lead and encourage discipleship
- Has an open and inclusive vision for church within the community and will contribute to its visible presence.

PASTORAL CARE

- Is approachable and sensitive to the pastoral needs of the church family and the wider community.
- Has an open and inclusive approach, is welcoming and able to journey with individuals at different stages in life and faith.
- Enjoys pastoral encounters made through occasional offices and is able to build on these links.



DEANERY ROLE (0.3) FOR LAY MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT

The Role of Petersfield Deanery Lead Role for Lay Ministry Development is to work with Deanery colleagues, supporting ministry and mission in the Deanery parishes, building teams of lay people to lead ministry in parishes, schools and other settings.

We are all members of the Body of Christ. The Petersfield Deanery Mission Action Plan commits to valuing the many and varied ways in which people serve God and bear witness to the love of Christ. We seek to encourage the contribution of each one and draw more people into lay ministry and service in its widest sense.

The future flourishing and growth of our churches is dependent on engaging, equipping and releasing lay people to bring their gifts in the service of the Kingdom of God in our area.

Our audit of existing resources in the Deanery shows that, although starting from a strong base, we can do much more. In the past two years building on this base has included:

- increasing the number of lay worship leaders – a Deanery training course took place Autumn 2022, and a Lay Preachers' Course in 2023/4 with 9 being commissioned from our Deanery in September 2024;
- network meetings for parish Churchwardens and Treasurers, to enhance learning from each other and sharing challenges and resources. The next planned for October 2024.

Specific needs to address in the coming year include:

- refreshing our lay pastoral assistants programme (which was a successful Deanery initiative five years ago);
- supporting any churches which are not able to fill key offices.

WHAT ARE DEANERY LEAD ROLES?

To fulfil our hopes and aspirations for each priority area of ministry and mission, Petersfield deanery has initiated an innovative pattern where every full-time stipendiary priest in the deanery will carry a deanery leadership responsibility alongside their parish-based ministry. The lead roles are allocated according to an individual's skills, expertise and interest. They will be reviewed every three years, updated and potentially renewed or swapped, to maintain momentum and freshness, as well as offering professional development to clergy over time. The first Lead Role holders were recruited in June 2023.

Role descriptions clarify deanery roles, expecting 0.3 of the holders' headspace/energy/time on deanery leadership and 0.7 on parish/benefice duties.

Lead roles involve working with the different parishes sensitively, connecting with existing work wherever possible, developing lay ministry in all areas of work and building teams of people with expertise and commitment to further the work. It is important to respect and affirm different church traditions and encourage a diversity of approach, so that we all learn from good practice. There are regular reports on progress to each Standing Committee meeting and annually to Deanery Synod.

WHAT DOES THE LAY MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT LEAD ROLE LOOK LIKE?

Potential: As just the second holder of this role, there is exciting scope to innovate prayerfully, strategically and thoughtfully, and make the most of the opportunities that are present and could develop. There will be important work to be done in continuing to forge and establish the role and communicating about the work effectively across the deanery.

- Research: time should be devoted to research parishes' current situations and future needs in this area of work, in partnership with clergy and



others in the different parishes and benefices, identifying strengths and opportunities for future focus.

- Foundations: building relationships with others across the parishes, generating prayer support.
- Growing a network of lay volunteers in support of the work.
- Multiplication: sharing best practice and training with volunteers and clergy.
- Prioritise safeguarding in every area of the work.

NEXT STEPS

Cooperation: Working with deanery colleagues where roles coincide, e.g. explore the potential for combined events for older adults and for supporting volunteers.

Work with the Lead in Older People and their Carers for the training and support of Lay Pastoral Assistants.

BALANCING PARISH AND LEAD ROLE

This can involve devoting careful attention to managing expectations (others' and your own), ensuring you have support, both ordained and lay, in your parish and deanery activities, drawing on deanery clergy colleagues for their input in their lead role areas, helping to establish good boundaries between parish and deanery time/energy. Lead role holders are meant to be working a total of 1.0 not 1.3!

RESOURCES

The Area Dean supports and oversees colleagues in their deanery roles, assisted and supported by the Lay Chair and Standing Committee where appropriate.

There are some funds available via the deanery for training and equipment in relation to deanery roles, agreed in advance with the Area Dean and Deanery Treasurer.

Chapter colleagues are here to help, encourage and support each other, and deanery roles work best when holders work cooperatively, professionally and positively with each other.

Because of the unusually integrated relationships involved with the deanery role model, chapter meetings are normally twice a month over lunchtime. These include space for fellowship and prayer as well as sharing the joys and frustrations of ministry, and opportunity to discuss aspects of deanery role focus. Some involve a visitor to bring a particular focus of training or information (e.g. Safeguarding, Archdeacon, etc).

A Chapter Residential is held every couple of years for all members, as a valuable opportunity offering space for spiritual and ministerial refreshing and resourcing.

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION IN THE COMMUNITY OF BLACKMOOR & WHITEHILL



BARN DANCE IN WHITEHILL VILLAGE HALL



QUIZ NIGHT IN BLACKMOOR VILLAGE HALL



COMMUNITY WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP



CAROL CONCERT AT LOCKWOOD DONKEY SANCTUARY



CAROL SINGING AT TESCO STORE BORDON



JANE AUSTEN-THEMED GARDEN PARTY



PLATINUM JUBILEE VILLAGE CELEBRATION



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT IN THE CHURCHYARD

KEY FEATURES OF OUR BENEFICE

VISION

To bring the love and truth of Jesus Christ our Saviour to the community. To demonstrate through faith and fellowship the beauty of God's Kingdom.

VALUES

St Matthew's is a church with a heart for God and a heart for the people of the parish which it serves. A church that is engaged in active work within the community and a congregation that has shown growth in recent years. Join us as we go forward in our next steps to advance the Kingdom of God.

PRIORITIES

We recognise that in order to advance good news of the gospel of Christ in Blackmoor and Whitehill we need to enhance our mission and to become more accessible to the community which we serve. We are open to new leadership and willing to explore thoughtful changes to support our future growth.

We are praying for an enthusiastic, spiritual leader to join with us to meet this challenge – someone who can further encourage our Christian discipleship and help us apply the principles of Holy Scripture to our everyday lives.

STRENGTHS

- Congregation that is strong, with a stable average weekly attendance.
- We have a resident Permission to Officiate priest providing regular ministry, officiating for weddings and funerals, and who is a trained Anna Chaplain.
- Good relationships between clergy, within the neighbouring parishes.
- High level of competence and experience among parishioners, congregants and lay officers, with three parishioners commissioned as lay worship leaders, and others seeking to follow this path.
- Excellent existing engagement with St Matthew's C of E Primary School.



- Excellent pastoral and community outreach work.
- Strong connection with traditional forms of church.
- Good variety of worship styles.
- Strong choral ministry.
- Financially stable and paying the full parish share every year.
- Attractive for weddings with many from outside the parish, with a qualifying connection.
- Strong committed PCC with all posts filled.

WEAKNESSES

- Low number of children and, particularly, young people among the congregation.
- Secondary school is just outside the parish boundary so issues with contact and continuity for growth among young people.
- Ageing congregation may lead to a potential for decline in numbers over coming 10-15 years.
- More households in the parish living on a restricted budget compared with the relative wealth perceived in the surrounding parishes.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Housing growth in Whitehill and surrounding area of Bordon bringing young families.
- Mission potential with families of school children from the neighbouring St Matthew's C of E Primary School.
- Toddlers group, 'Natterjacks', welcomes parents/carers and toddlers into the church.
- More people working from home and present in the area; potential to use IT to reach a wider congregation.
- Potential for further development of wedding, baptism and funeral ministries.
- Development of the Anna Chaplaincy ministry is proceeding.

THREATS

- As committed ageing congregations are lost over time, there is a risk that their regular committed giving is not replaced.
- Reliance on fundraising and legacies to finance the church rather than growth of regular giving.



YOUNG PEOPLE MASTERING PANCAKE TOSSING!



PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION AROUND THE CHURCH

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT HAPPENS AT ST MATTHEW'S

St Matthew's serves a parish covering both rural and urban communities and has a good-sized, active congregation. We currently follow a middle-of-the-road Anglican tradition and offer an inclusive welcome to all people regardless of their race, sexual orientation or creed. We pride ourselves on our inclusivity, and it is important to us as a congregation that all new members and visitors to St Matthew's find a loving welcome amongst us.

PATTERN OF OUR CHURCH SERVICES

We have a Eucharist each Sunday at 10am, which may incorporate baptisms during or after services. We have a mid-week Holy Communion service on Wednesdays at 7pm.

On the 3rd Sunday of the month, the Ministry team provide a time for listening and healing during the service. On the 4th Sunday we hold a 9am said Eucharist followed by a more informal "Church Light" service offering coffee and croissants with worship and fellowship. The service centres around a theme, such as Taizé, Celtic, Prayer & Praise, Iona, Rogation, with discussion and is



BLACKMOOR APPLE DAY CHURCH REFRESHMENTS

open to suggestions by the congregation. On the last Sunday evening of each month, we offer a service of Choral Evensong.

A new initiative for the autumn/winter of 2024 is a shorter 45-minute Sunday afternoon family service called, "45 at 4", with a 10-minute introductory theme with familiar hymns, and children leading the worship, as they are accustomed to at St Matthew's school. Craft activities, refreshments and further songs are then incorporated into the service.

We hold special services for Holy Week and Easter, including a Palm Sunday procession, The Passover Supper, Stations of the Cross, The Seder Meal followed by a vigil. The Good Friday Walk of Witness provides the opportunity for members of the congregation to walk with the Cross from Blackmoor through Whitehill, to meet in the shopping precinct in the centre of Bordon. There an open-air service is held with other churches in the area. An Hour at the Foot of the Cross; The Easter Day Dawn Service and Festival Eucharist are held. For Christmas we have Nine Lessons & Carols, Carols by Candlelight in the churchyard, a Crib service, Midnight Mass and Christmas Morning Eucharist.

The school holds many of its services in the church to celebrate our major festivals and the local pre-school holds its Christmas service in church.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

The average weekly attendance figures, in the period before the Covid-19 pandemic, were overall showing an increase over the period from 2011 to 2019 of 24% from 51.3 to 63.5 people. This was in a period where overall congregations were in decline (by 16%) across the deanery (see Appendix D).

The effect of the pandemic has impacted most congregations but the attendance at St Matthew's has recovered very well. The live streaming of services during lockdowns reached out to a worshipping community. During 2023 there was an average attendance of 44 adults and 1 child for the twice weekly Eucharist services. St Matthew's is the largest of the churches in the area that might be considered for grouping in a single benefice and is in the upper end of middle-sized churches in the deanery.

There were 14 baptisms, 14 weddings and 18 funerals/committal of ashes services

during 2022 and 10 confirmations over a year 2021/2022. In 2023 there were slightly fewer, with 12 baptisms, 6 marriages and 19 funerals. The Carols by Candlelight service held outside in the church grounds attracted over 180 people. There were four acts of Collective School worship held in the church, attended by 204 pupils.

The Bordon Air Cadets are affiliated with St Matthew's and visit our church services regularly throughout the year. They will be looking for a Chaplain attached to St Matthew's.



MONDAY SOUP CAFÉ IN WHITEHILL VILLAGE HALL



FRIDAY CHURCH CAFÉ

PEOPLE'S MINISTRY

St Matthew's highly values the ministry of its people at work, at home, in the community and in the Church. This is demonstrated

as people are involved in the leading of worship, reading the lessons, interceding, assisting with the Eucharist, cleaning, maintaining the churchyard, producing the rotas for all of this and most important our ministry of welcome.

From among the congregation of St Matthew's there have been four people that have gone onto become priests, one reader and another entering training, and two have completed training as lay worship leaders. There is a Pastoral Care Team who meet on a regular basis for prayer, visiting the sick and giving Holy Communion.

People's ministry is an area we would like to encourage and develop, and we are excited to forge closer links with the Petersfield Deanery Lay Ministry Development programme.



CHORAL EVENSONG IN MEMORIAM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

CHOIR

St Matthew's has a robed four-part, mixed voice choir, which sings the service setting and an anthem at the weekly Sunday service and at services of Choral Evensong. The choir's repertoire includes plainsong and Anglican chant, and well over a hundred anthems and canticles covering the whole period of the choral tradition, from the 16th Century to the present day. We also have our own song book. Our ministry is to offer the best music to God.

MUSIC GROUP

St Matthew's is fortunate to have two accomplished organists to call upon for



Sunday and other services, which provides the foundation to our choral worship. There is also a small enthusiastic group of musicians who regularly embellish the worship within the main Sunday services and some of the monthly evening services, adding a musical alternative to the organ or piano accompaniment and including songs written and composed by the group's leader. The instruments played include the keyboard/piano, acoustic guitar, classical guitar, flute and recorder.



ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH 150TH ANNIVERSARY 2019 SERVICE

BELL RINGERS

The church bells ring out to announce the worship for each Sunday Eucharist and Choral Evensong. The practice of bell ringing attracts a diverse range of people from within and beyond the parish. The enthusiastic band of ringers participate in ringing events at other churches within and beyond the deanery. Blackmoor has hosted the district BBQ and district ringing competition for the last two years. The church bells are also rung for weddings, commemorations as required and other special occasions such as the Platinum Jubilee, and fully muffled bells were rung on the death of Queen Elizabeth II. The annual Blackmoor Apple Day provides the opportunity for visitors to see the bells and be invited to join the ringing band.



OUR TEACHING

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND (AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

We at St Matthew's are proud to have our own thriving primary school, with a roll of approximately 210 children. It is one of the Church Aided Schools in the deanery and is within safe walking distance from the church. The outgoing Headteacher was appointed in September 2017 and retired in July 2024. We are, however, delighted to report that a new Headteacher has started in September 2024.

In March 2023 the school was graded as "Good" by Ofsted, with behaviour and attitudes rated "Outstanding". It is rated as "Good" in its current SIAMS, with the last inspection completed on July 2023. The whole school visits the church once every half term for themed worship and for all principal festivals. The Junior Alpha Course was led by the previous incumbent for Year 6 pupils and many children choose to go forward for Confirmation following on from this. Four children from the school were confirmed in summer 2024. The incumbent leads weekly collective worship sessions and there is a morning prayer group for parents in school. The children are enthusiastic about worship, with nearly one third of the school voluntarily forming the 'worship leader team' which leads all assemblies. The current Chair of Governors is a member of St Matthew's Church and the church provides seven Foundation Governors to the governing



body of the school, in addition to the Vicar, who is an ex-officio governor. Easter and Christmas Workshops are run by the church for the children of the school and surrounding area. Many past pupils return to be married at St Matthew's Church.

YOUTH GROUP

In recognition of our need to attract younger members to the church community, a Youth Group for 12-15-year-olds was led by the previous incumbent and met monthly on Sunday. This was formed with an Eco Christian focus that was thought to be of special appeal. The group enjoyed a variety of activities including themes such as, "Jesus Christ Superstar", who do you admire, the Good Friday, Walk of Witness to Bordon, BBQ and Bible Tour. We hope that we can return to offering similar opportunities to young people of the parish in future, joining with neighbouring parishes as appropriate.

JUNIOR CHURCH

There is provision and the resources for a Junior Church, to meet within the church. We are currently looking for a new leader. The children are always welcomed into church and provision made for them during the service. The children take part in our very popular crib services where families have the chance to dress up as shepherds, kings and angels, and a play is performed.

NATTERJACKS

During school term time "Natterjacks" offers an opportunity for outreach to the parents or carers of babies and toddlers to meet in a play environment within the body of the church. During the sessions worship in the form of a bible reading is provided.

FURTHER TEACHING

There is a regular bible study group that meets on Zoom using the WordGo App to follow study courses offered by the Bible Study Fellowship. Lent courses, confirmation classes as required, and a monthly Julian prayer meeting are also offered.

WHERE WE ARE

The parish of St Matthew's Blackmoor and Whitehill is situated at the northern edge of the Diocese of Portsmouth and is a single church serving a population of well over 6,400 as part of the small and mutually supportive Petersfield Deanery. Neighbouring parishes are: to the West, Selborne and Oakhanger, in the Diocese of Winchester; to the North, Bordon and Headley, in the diocese of Guildford; to the South, Greatham; and to the East, Bramshott and Liphook, all of which lie in the Petersfield Deanery, in the Diocese of Portsmouth.

The parish of Blackmoor and Whitehill has a large and expanding population, with a more diverse make up than much of the surrounding area. It represents the largest mission field within the deanery.

Blackmoor presents itself as an idyllic rural community with church, vicarage, school, and estate-owned and privately owned cottages. The village is a conservation area which lies in the South Downs National Park. The population of Blackmoor (at census 2011) is small at around 150 living in 63 households.

Whitehill, with more of an urban feel, is continuing to grow and has several shops, fast food establishments, restaurants, newsagents and Village Hall. All other amenities (i.e., hospital, doctors' surgeries, post office, leisure facilities and library) lie over the ecclesiastical and diocesan boundary in Bordon. The population of Whitehill (at census 2011) is around 6,300 living in 2,586 households.

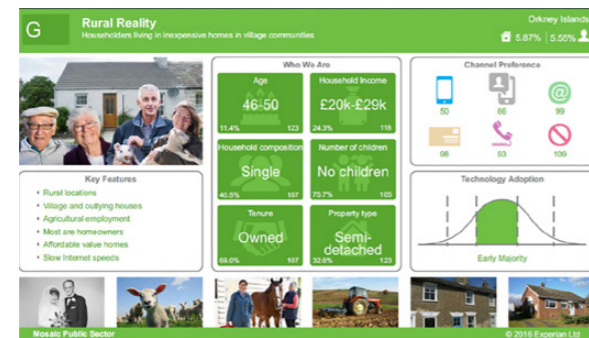
The data from the 2001 and 2011 census shows that the parish population has increased from around 4,500 to 6,450. Preliminary data from the 2021 census shows significant population growth, with the Whitehill and Bordon population at 14,800 people. This is due to the significant local housing developments on land previously used by the military in Bordon. The towns of Whitehill and Bordon merge seamlessly. There continues to be large scale housing development and the population growth in Bordon has impacts that are felt in the Blackmoor and Whitehill parish. The diocesan boundaries of Portsmouth and Guildford divide Bordon from Blackmoor and Whitehill, but the civil



boundary, forming the town council, is that of Whitehill and Bordon and has councillors that represents the people in the areas of both Whitehill and Bordon. (See Appendix C for parish boundaries.)

THE PARISH AND THE COMMUNITY IT SERVES

The population of the parish is generally younger than the average for East Hampshire and has more children. Generally, people also live in smaller houses and have lower incomes than the surrounding more rural parishes, and the percentage of households with no car is higher than average. There is a far greater variety in the type of households within Blackmoor and Whitehill than in the neighbouring parishes, which are predominantly classified as being in the more prosperous, “Country Living” or Prestige Positions household sector (See Appendix A).



The largest proportion of the households (29.7%) are classified as “Rural Reality” – that is, householders

living in inexpensive properties in village communities.



There is a much lower proportion (13.4%) of the community than in the surrounding parishes that are classified as being

“Country Living” – that is well off owners in rural locations enjoying the benefits of country living.



“Suburban Stability” (14.3%) form the next largest category, defined as mature suburban owners living settled lives in mid-range housing, often property rich but cash poor.

“Prestige Positions” (11%) are a lower proportion than surrounding areas and are established families living in large detached houses enjoying upmarket life styles.



There is a larger proportion of “Aspiring Homemakers” (8.7%) than in the surrounding parishes; younger people settling down in housing priced within their means. These are members of the community likely to be living with young children and

representative of people who attend church on an occasional basis for weddings, baptisms and special services such as our popular out door “Carols by Candlelight” service (See Appendix B).



‘NATTERJACKS’ – PARENTS/CARERS AND TODDLERS GROUP



WHO WE WORK WITH

OUR FELLOWSHIP AND OUTREACH

MONDAY SOUP CAFÉ

The Monday Soup Café is held in Whitehill village hall. St Matthew's had been working hard to bring the church into the heart of Whitehill for some time and, by providing soup and refreshments and somewhere for local residents to meet and chat in cordial surroundings, St Matthew's church (which is physically remote from Whitehill) has brought help to overcome the loneliness many people experience.

A small but energetic team is responsible for welcoming visitors and chatting to them, as well as providing refreshments. We are confident that this outreach will continue to grow.

FRIDAY CHURCH CAFÉ

The Friday Church Café is held in the body of St Matthew's Church and is successful in outreach to people who do not normally attend regular Sunday church services.

DONKEY GROUP

The Donkey Group initially formed when a group of ladies embarked on making a life-size nativity scene to go into the porch at St Matthew's one Christmas time. The group meets weekly and is a core team in the arranging of fun, social and fundraising events such as an Open Garden, Karaoke and BBQ's. The Donkey group also arranges craft workshops at Christmas and Easter. An average of 50 local children attend each workshop. Five years ago, we invited the men to join us, this has helped those that are alone and struggle to get out and socialise.

FUNDRAISING

Prior to 2009 when the church's 140th Anniversary was due and many repairs required, a fund-raising programme was

launched in 2007 and a target of £25,000 set. The organising of the fund-raising was undertaken and the Donkey Group lived up to their name and reputation. They are hardworking, loyal, loving and prepared to help carry the heavy load. They helped raise over £31,000 for the anniversary, and have since raised an average of £10,000 a year. Subsequently they, along with the Friends of St Matthew's, have been fundamental in fund raising for the replacement of the Church roof and in the remediation work required for the chancel floor, which was sinking. Thanks to their efforts, we were able to meet the entire cost of £140,000.

An enormous variety of successful events have been held, and at each event appropriate food was served, which created a great feeling of friendship and unity within the community. Fund-raising still continues and during 2022 an Open Garden, a Jane Austen-themed event, and a Platinum Jubilee Party attracted people from the across community who enjoyed socialising with the congregation. The Open Garden event was held again in 2024, and raised over £2,400 in an afternoon. Further events are planned in September, including a Jane Austen-themed tea and Tea and Trains.

FRIENDS OF ST MATTHEW'S

The Friends is very active in supporting the PCC with the cost of improvements repairs and maintenance of the church. This has been achieved through their success in arranging a variety of enjoyable social fundraising events that have been of benefit to the community and the church.



OUR MINISTRY TEAM

PCC

St Matthew's PCC is enthusiastically committed to the work of the church. The PCC typically meets on a bi-monthly basis, although much of the work is carried out by five sub-committees: - Fabric, Mission and Unity, Social, Worship and hymn choosing. Church members outside the PCC are often co-opted to aid in the work of these sub-committees.

CHURCHWARDENS

We have two churchwardens that are available to support the incumbent in the maintenance of the church and the conduct of the services. They are active members of the PCC sub-committees and active in the social and pastoral activities in the parish.

SAFEGUARDING

As a parish we encourage an environment where all people are able to worship, develop their faith and experience friendship and fellowship. We are committed to ensuring that vulnerable individuals are safe and protected. Our Parish Safeguarding Officer ensures that we abide by the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, and have our own Parish Policy and Policy Statement, which is reviewed annually. We have formally adopted the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy 'Promoting a Safer Church'. We utilise the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and are on the highest level 3. All members of the PCC and others involved in working with children, young people and vulnerable adults are required to complete at least the basic and foundation training in Safeguarding. Leadership, Safer Recruitment and People Management and Domestic Abuse training is also undertaken by those required by the nature of their responsibilities.

ANNA CHAPLAIN

We currently have one of our clergy members, supported by the PCC, who undertook the diocesan Anna Chaplaincy training. She completed the training and was commissioned in 2022. The PCC has agreed that she be our Anna Chaplain, to enable us to fulfil this important ministry in the parish.

TREASURER

We are fortunate to have a treasurer, as a member of the PCC, who is a fully qualified accountant to keep on top of our financial situation and ensure that all accounts submitted are fully audited.

THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

We have a paid Parish Administrator who works a few hours a week, carrying out many general day-to-day administration tasks, including maintaining our Church web-site, completing official records, and dealing with the administration relating to baptisms, funerals and weddings.

WEBSITE

Our website st-matthews.org contains lots of information and is regularly updated by the parish administrator.

THE BUILDINGS AND WHAT HAPPENS IN THEM



ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH

St Matthew's Church was built by Sir Roundell Palmer, designed by Mr Alfred Waterhouse and consecrated on 18th May 1869. The church is a grade II* listed building.

Built of pale grey malmstone, quarried near Selborne, the church contains some fine stained-glass windows by Heaton, Butler and Bayne, and Hendry.

Inside there are fixed pews made from pitch pine, with panelling in the chancel and a beautiful reredos screen behind the Altar. There is a small kitchen, a cloakroom with WC and a baby changer facility. The tower contains six bells dated 1870.

Sound engineers have been employed to install an up-to-date, wireless enabled sound system, together with a projector and large drop-down screen. This, with the hearing aid loop

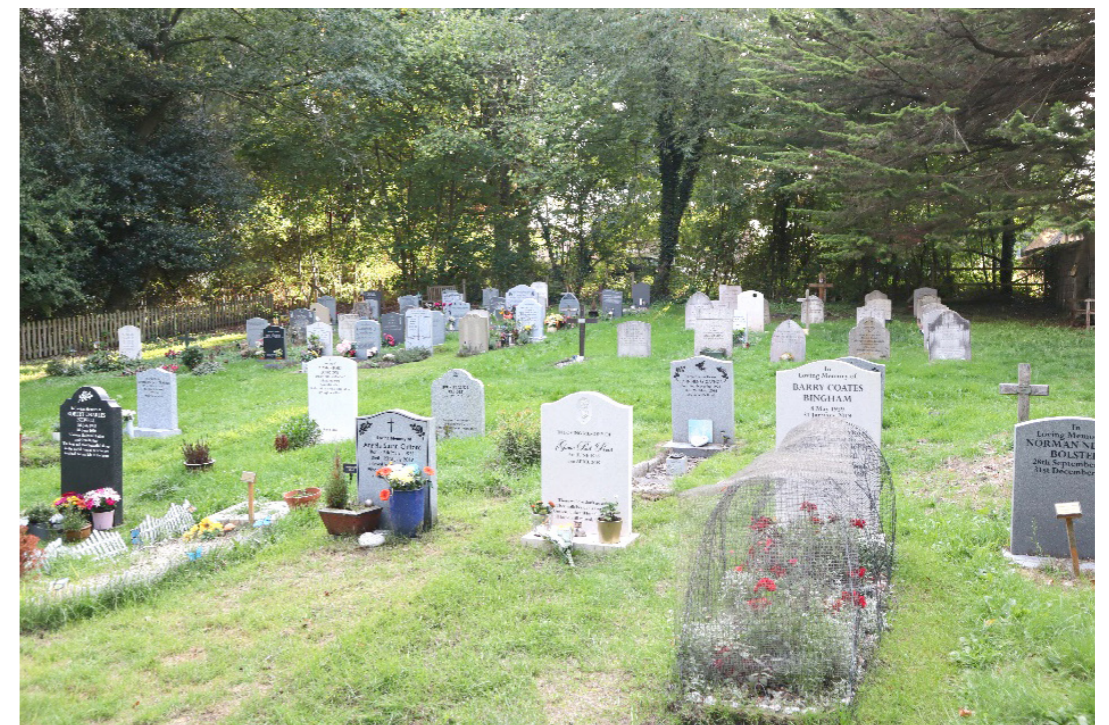
system, has benefited the services and has been used to show films. A camera system was also installed and can be used to record or livestream services.

The PCC has sufficient funds and a desire to progress with some re-ordering of the church. The church architect has been engaged to draw up plans to build an extension, with entry from the nave, to provide an enlarged kitchenette, wheelchair accessible and disabled ambulatory toilets and a social/meeting place. The existing ground level "socialising area" would be expanded by relocation of the baptismal font.

St Matthew's continues to fulfil its original purpose and is open each day for prayer, space and peace, to the glory of God.

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCHYARD

St Matthew's churchyard is a designated Site of Interest Nature Conservation and is part of East Hampshire Conservation Area. It is still used for burials and ashes. There is diverse structure to the grass, which has a mass of spring flowers and some large specimen trees, probably planted when the church was consecrated. The churchyard is managed to retain a diversity of flora and a woodland glade feeling, while welcoming visitors to enjoy its peace and tranquillity.



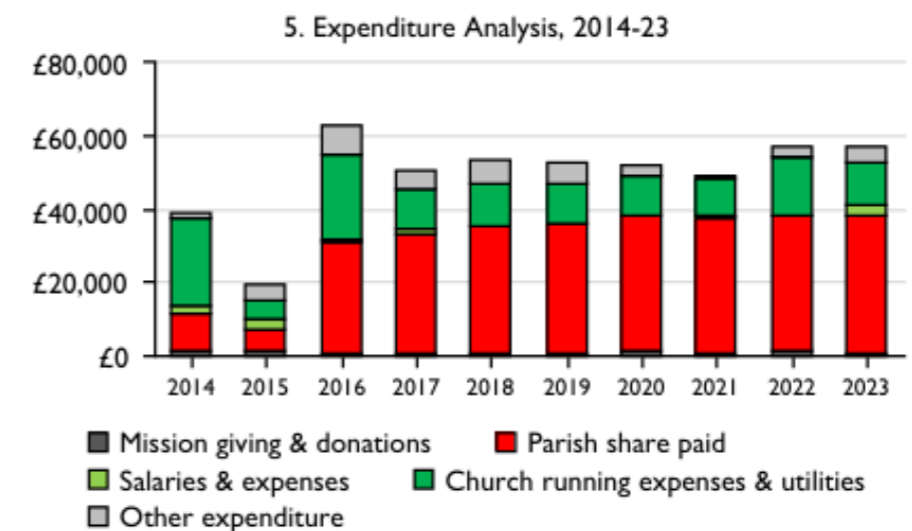
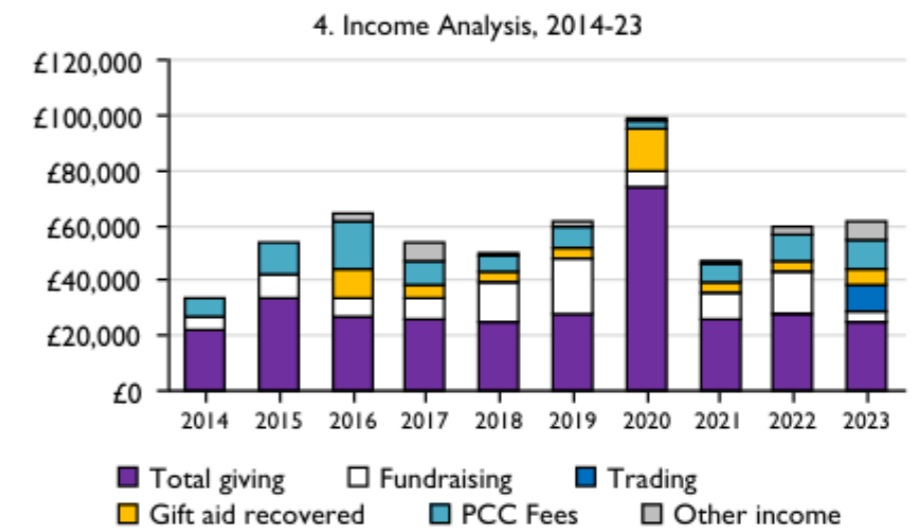
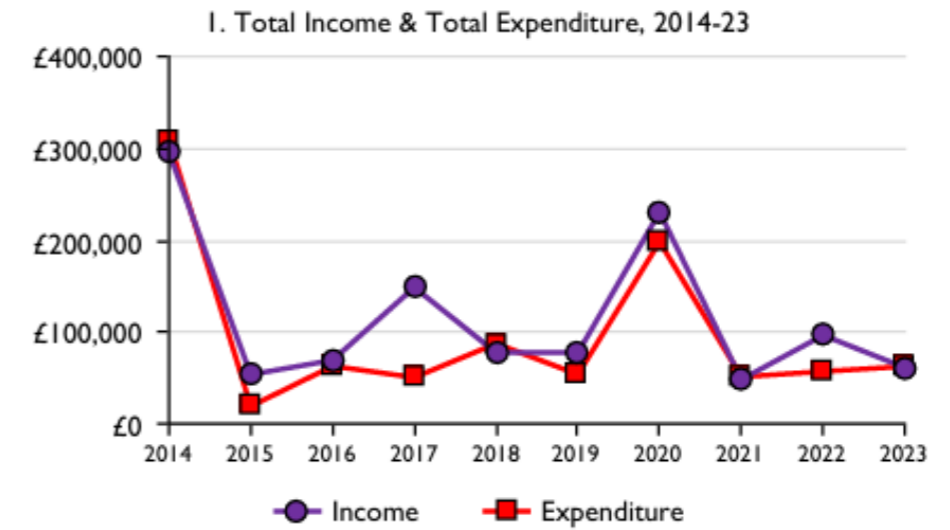
OUR FINANCES

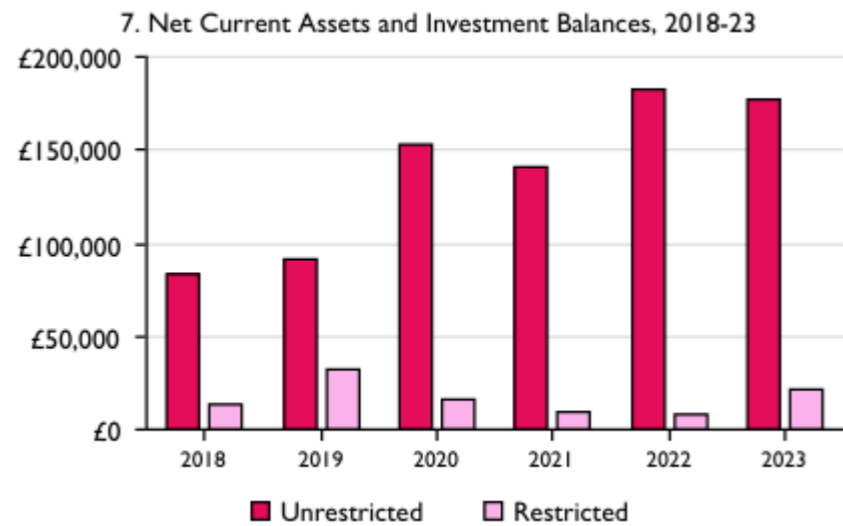
The Pandemic brought many challenges during 2021, but despite this we managed reasonably well with collection from services starting again from April of that year. Fundraising was of course affected, as were weddings, some of them postponed to 2022 or even 2023. 2023 saw us stabilise our income, with income matching regular expenditure, and a small deficit for the year caused by one-off costs preparing for the redevelopment of the church's socialising space, which was paid for out of our own reserves.

Our financial position is sound, mainly due to generous donations and legacies. In 2020 the restoration of the chancel floor was completed at a total cost of some £140,000 with about half covered by grants and donations with the rest from our reserves.

Throughout the last nine years the PCC has not only paid off arrears in 'Share' from 2014 and 2015 to the Diocese, but we have paid our 'Share' in full every year.

The following are extracts from our parish's Finance Dashboard, taken from parishreturns.churchofengland.org.





Report	Field	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1. Total Income & Total Expenditure, 2014-23	Income	295,190	53,783	89,344	148,628	77,602	77,417	230,401	48,397	96,498	61,259
	Expenditure	309,322	19,226	62,976	50,563	87,474	53,904	198,248	51,252	57,110	62,655
2. Giving & Gift aid recovered, 2014-23	Planned giving	11,273	12,378	13,155	14,325	13,103	13,541	16,043	18,128	18,735	17,256
	Collections at services	5,396	14,115	9,164	6,750	7,373	7,926	5,928	4,137	6,085	5,183
	All other giving	5,041	6,951	4,277	4,407	4,352	6,281	51,489	3,763	3,014	2,980
	Gift aid recovered	0	0	10,666	4,769	3,968	4,447	15,643	4,077	4,673	5,451
	Weekly average planned giving per Planned giver	6.19	11.90	14.05	13.77	13.26	13.02	11.02	12.02	14.41	9.48
3. Planned giving & Planned givers, 2014-23	Number of Planned givers	35.00	20.00	18.00	20.00	19.00	20.00	28.00	29.00	25.00	35.00
	Total giving	21,710	33,444	26,596	25,482	24,828	27,748	73,460	26,028	27,834	25,419
4. Income Analysis, 2014-23	Fundraising	5,305	8,736	7,188	7,862	14,435	19,945	6,049	9,072	14,966	3,640
	Trading	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,767
	Gift aid recovered	0	0	10,666	4,769	3,968	4,447	15,643	4,077	4,673	5,451
	PCC Fees	6,462	11,413	16,607	8,774	5,939	7,648	2,974	6,825	9,056	10,734
	Other income	43	190	2,787	6,925	704	1,929	975	1,458	2,549	6,248
	Mission giving & donations	1,147	1,267	878	746	1,077	801	1,113	921	1,161	1,028
	Parish share paid	10,712	6,000	29,815	32,597	33,893	35,033	37,195	36,738	37,060	37,063
5. Expenditure Analysis, 2014-23	Salaries & expenses	2,081	2,740	1,325	1,173	445	0	0	257	85	3,009
	Church running expenses & utilities	23,331	5,373	22,670	11,105	11,287	11,091	10,445	10,427	15,520	11,645
	Other expenditure	1,738	3,846	8,268	4,942	6,493	5,903	3,192	1,024	3,284	4,030
6. Legacies, Grants and Capital expenditure, 2014-23	Legacies	0	0	0	91,066	0	0	91,000	0	35,500	0
	Grants	261,670	0	5,500	3,750	27,728	15,700	40,300	937	1,900	0
	Capital expenditure	270,313	0	0	0	34,279	1,076	146,303	1,885	0	5,880
7. Net Current Assets and Investment Balances, 2018-23	Unrestricted					83,347	90,758	152,808	141,343	182,296	176,920
	Restricted					13,230	32,495	15,519	8,934	7,887	22,057

WHERE WILL YOU LIVE?



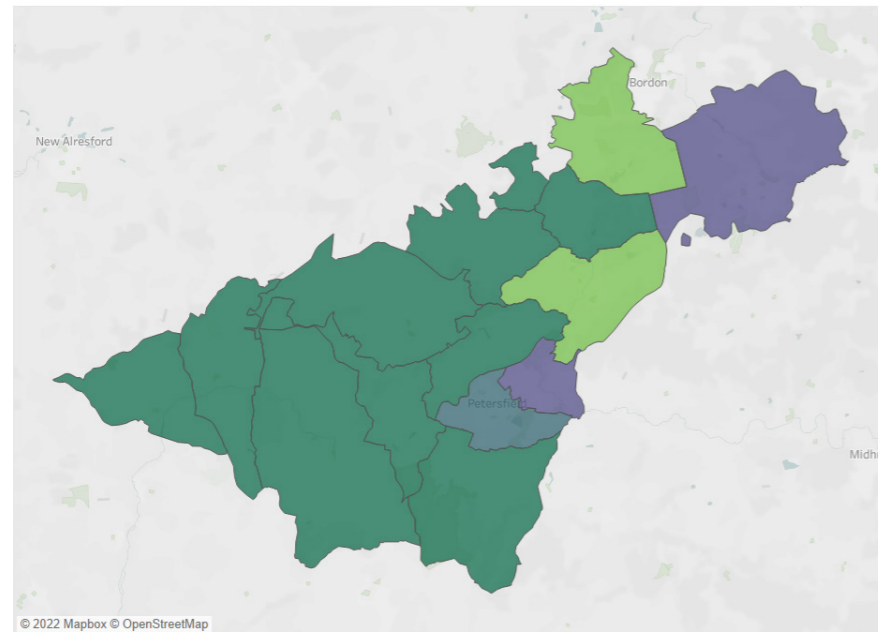
The Vicarage is set within easy walking distance of the church. It is a conversion of the Victorian stone stables and coach house, built to serve the original Vicarage next door. There is oil fired central heating and all the windows are double-glazed. The sitting room has a solid fuel stove, brick fireplace and views across the countryside.

The study is near the front door; there is also a kitchen with utility room, separate dining room, and downstairs cloakroom with WC. The main bedroom has beautiful views eastward over the Longmoor Ranges. It has three further bedrooms, all with fitted cupboards, lots of storage space off the hallways, plus a bathroom and extra toilet upstairs.

Outside is a garage and gravel drive, with plenty of parking space. The garden is extensive, mainly laid to lawn with trees, shrubs and flower beds.

APPENDIX A PETERSFIELD DEANERY – ALL PARISHES

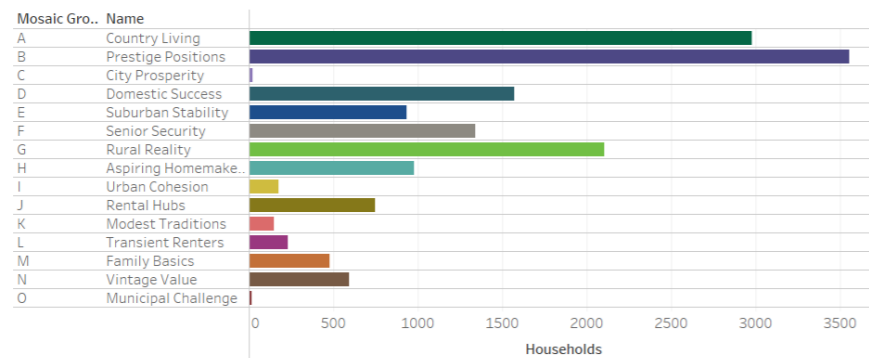
Dominant mosaic group



Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows details about Mosaic Group. Details are shown for Local Name. The data is filtered on dominant group and Deanery. The dominant group filter keeps True. The Deanery filter keeps Petersfield. The view is filtered on Local Name, which keeps multiple members.



Households (for selected areas)

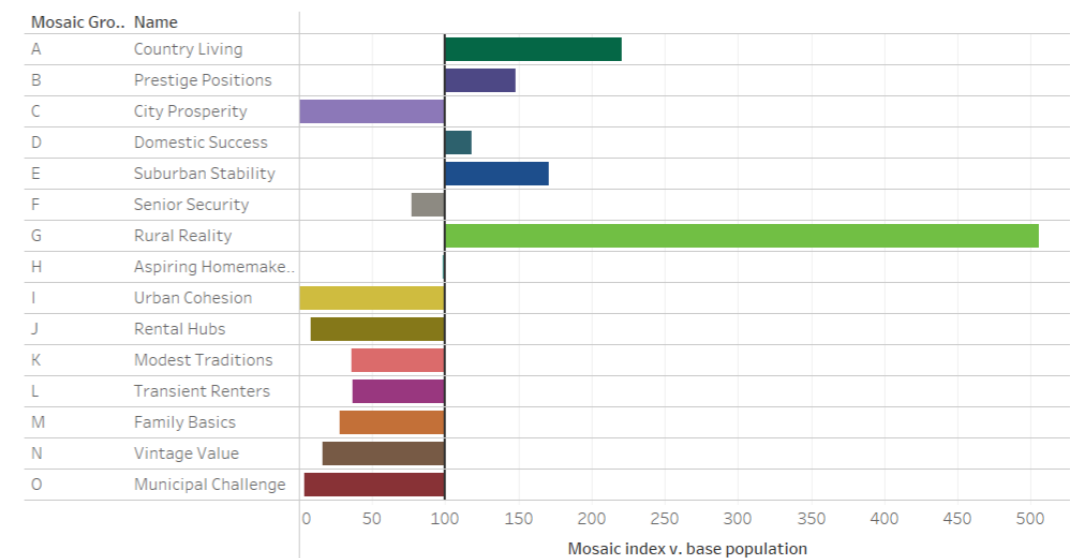


APPENDIX B BLACKMOOR & WHITEHILL PARISH

Household numbers

Deanery	Local Name	Mosaic group/ty..	Households	% of Parish
Petersfield	BLACKMOOR and WHITEHILL ST MATTHEW	A	185	13.4
		B	152	11.0
		C	0	0.0
		D	112	8.1
		E	198	14.3
		F	90	6.5
		G	411	29.7
		H	120	8.7
		I	0	0.0
		J	8	0.6
		K	29	2.1
		L	33	2.4
		M	28	2.0
		N	15	1.1
		O	3	0.2
		Total		

Mosaic Index (for selected parishes)

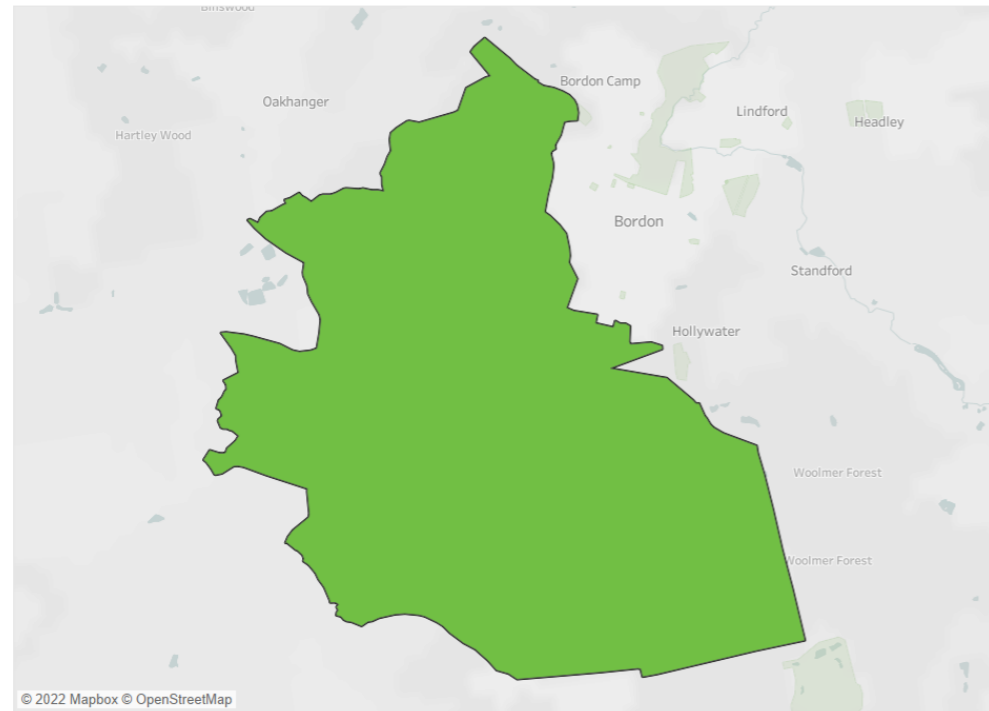


An index of 100 means that the percentage of members of this mosaic group/ type is the same as the UK population percentage.

(ABSTRACTED FROM THE MOSAIC DATA FOR THE PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE, JAN 2019)



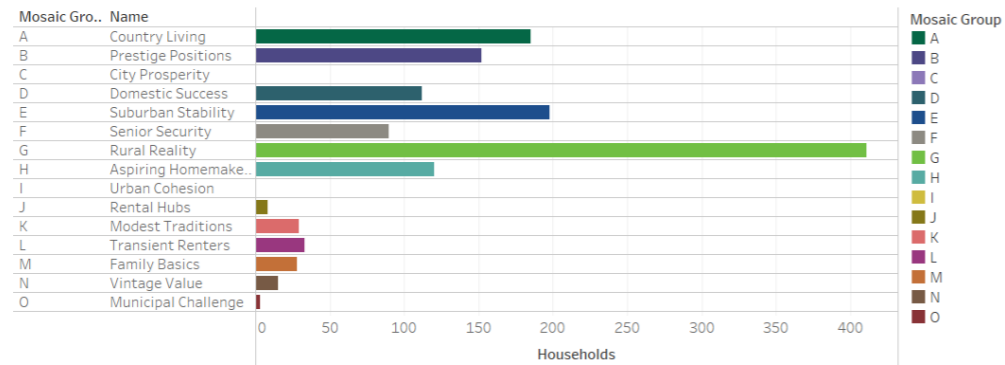
Dominant mosaic group



Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows details about Mosaic Group. Details are shown for Local Name. The data is filtered on dominant group and Deanery. The dominant group filter keeps True. The Deanery filter keeps Petersfield. The view is filtered on Local Name, which keeps BLACKMOOR and WHITEHILL ST MATTHEW.

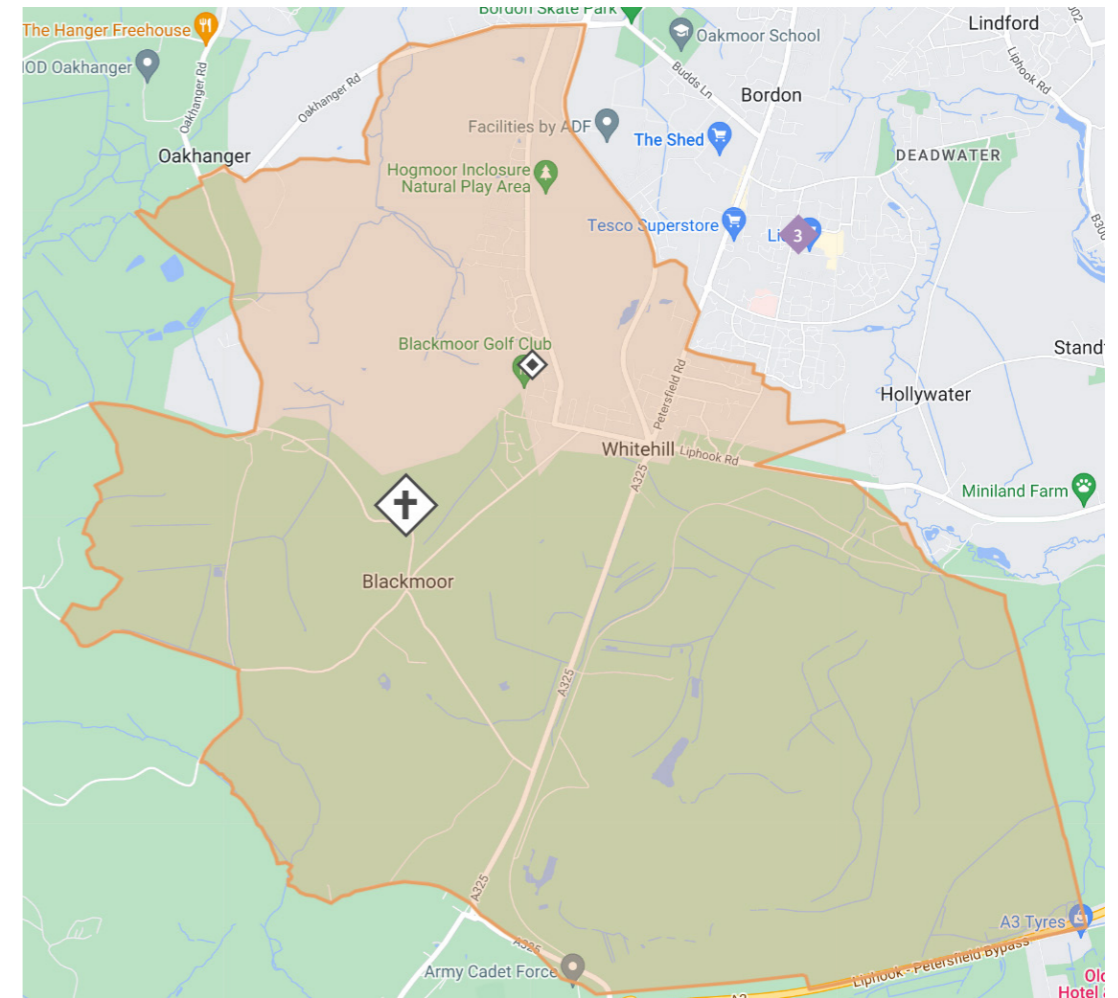
Dominant Mosaic Group
■ G

Households (for selected areas)

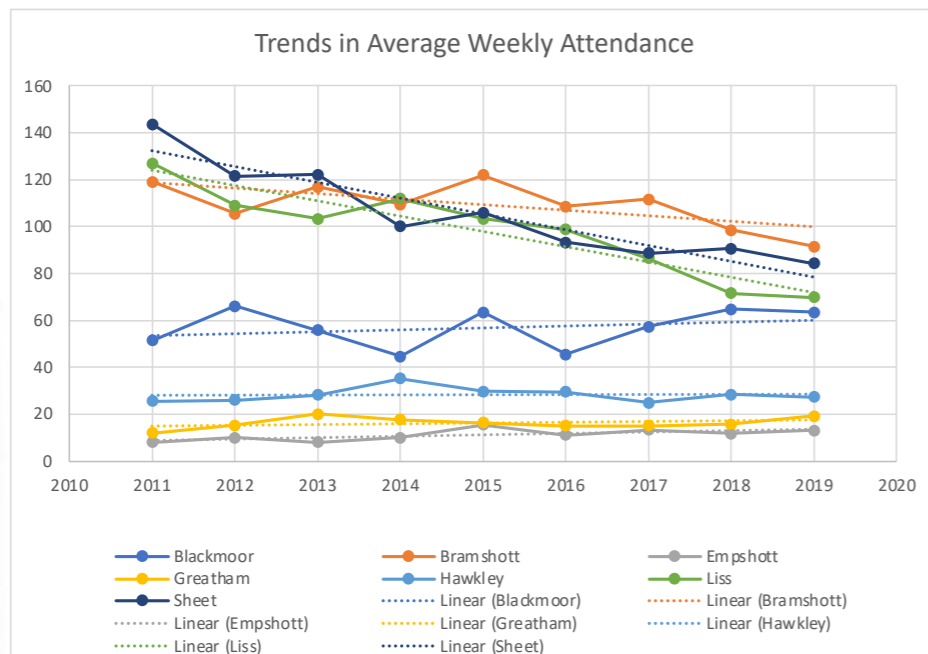


Sum of Housholds for each Name broken down by Mosaic Group. Color shows details about Mosaic Group. The data is filtered on Local Name, Deanery and Action (Local Name). The Local Name filter keeps BLACKMOOR and WHITEHILL ST MATTHEW. The Deanery filter keeps Petersfield. The Action (Local Name) filter keeps 1 member.

APPENDIX C BLACKMOOR & WHITEHILL PARISH BOUNDARY



APPENDIX D PETERSFIELD DEANERY AWA 2011 – 2019



PARISH	PETERSFIELD DEANERY									Change in AWA 2011-2019	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Number	%
BLACKMOOR	51.3	66.0	55.75	44.5	63.5	45.5	57.3	64.8	63.5	12.3	24%
BRAMSHOTT/LIPHOOK	119.0	105.5	116.8	109.5	121.8	108.5	111.5	98.5	91.5	-27.5	-23%
BURITON	39.5	43.3	40	54	50.3	49.75	51.3	48.8	41.3	1.8	5%
EAST MEON	36.3	40.8	40	46.5	36.0	42	40	41.3	39	2.8	8%
EMPSHOTT	8.0	10.0	8	10	15.5	11	13.3	11.8	13	5.0	63%
FROXFIELD/PRIVETT	28.5	21.0	19.5	20.5	18.5	20.75	18.3	21.5	24.5	-4.0	-14%
GREATHAM	12.0	15.3	20	17.75	16.3	15	15	15.8	19.3	7.3	61%
HAWKLEY/PRIORS D	25.5	26.0	28.25	35.25	29.8	29.5	24.8	28.5	27.3	1.8	7%
LANGRISH	12.5	13.3	10.75	17	12.5	12.75	11.5	14.3	13.3	0.8	6%
LISS	127.0	109.0	103.3	111.75	103.3	98.75	86.5	71.5	69.8	-57.2	-45%
PETERSFIELD	167.3	162.0	172.5	169.75	182.3	179.25	216.8	187.5	160	-7.3	-4%
SHEET	143.5	121.5	122	100	105.8	93.25	88.5	90.5	84.3	-59.2	-41%
STEEP	58.3	55.3	55	48.25	53.3	48	45.6	44.8	46.5	-11.8	-20%
WARNFORD	12.3	12.5	14.75	15.5	16.3	15	11.5	10.3	12.8	0.6	4%
WEST MEON	17.5	13.5	13	16.75	24.3	18.5	21.3	15.8	15.3	-2.2	-13%
TOTAL	858.25	814.75	819.5	817	849.5	787.5	813.2	765.7	721.4	-136.9	-16%

APPENDIX E FINANCES 2022 AND 2023

	Year to 31 December 2023	Year to 31 December 2022
	£	£
Balance brought forward	182,296.03	141,342.97
Unrestricted Income		
Direct giving	17,256.04	18,734.95
Church collections	5,183.13	6,085.42
Donations	2,404.35	2,866.38
Legacies	-	35,500.00
Grants	-	-
Fees received (net)	7,366.00	6,846.00
Gift aid tax recovered	5,451.13	4,320.29
Fund raising (net of expenses)	2,928.51	3,108.77
Interest	5,499.78	2,275.80
Soup Café & Church coffee mornings	8,103.25	7,186.26
Sundry income	175.4	1,340.00
	54,367.59	88,263.87
Unrestricted Expenditure		
Diocesan Share	37,063.47	37,060.00
Ministry costs	953.53	1,537.54
Improvements	-	-
Sundry expenses	-	89
Church running costs (see analysis)	7,378.23	9,338.50
Church administration (see analysis)	7,251.02	4,026.92
	52,646.25	52,051.96
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	1,721.34	36,211.91
Restricted Income		
Fabric Fund - donations	-	93
- grants (see analysis)	748.49	1,500.00
VAT recovery	-	683.14
Junior Church	210	56.95
Sponsored Child	610	893.5
Mission fund	-	-
Choir fund	1,215.19	1,200.00
Tower fund	2,152.56	3,097.84
Church Yard fund	-	400
	4,936.24	7,924.43
Restricted expenditure		
Fabric fund - Main contract	5,880.00	-
- Fees	-	-



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

- Other work		-	-
Junior Church		15.83	59.62
Sponsored Child		432	596
Mission fund		-	-
Choir fund		713.42	420.88
Tower fund		13.33	1,599.29
Church Yard fund		1,000.00	507.49
		8,054.58	3,183.28
RESTRICTED FUNDS SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	C	-3,118.34	4,741.15
Balance carried forward (A+B+C)		180,899.03	182,296.03
Lloyds current account		6,387.73	6,565.35
Lloyds deposit account		13,866.78	15,034.48
Lloyds fee account		350	400
CCLA deposit account		165,393.68	160,026.20
Cash in hand		2,062.21	270
Cash at bank & in hand at end of period		188,060.40	182,296.03
Please turn over for analysis on next page			
		2023	2022
		£	£
Grants and legacies			
Lord Selborne, unrestricted legacy		748.49	1,000.00
David Ward, 3rd instalment of unrestricted legacy		-	34,500.00
Portsmouth Diocese, Energy grant		-	1,500.00
Wolfson Trust		-	-
Friends of St Matthew's Church		-	-
Hampshire & Islands Historic Churches Trust		-	-
Tylers & Bricklayers Guild		-	-
Garfield Weston Foundation		-	-
		748.49	37,000.00
Church Running Costs			
Insurance		2,906.83	2,157.04
Maintenance		596.02	2,957.55
Heating		3,105.41	3,326.29
Lighting		555.92	749.44
Water rates		214.05	148.18
		7,378.23	9,338.50
Church Administration Costs			
Printing & Stationery		1,282.05	544.74
Website		493.11	400.71
Books & magazines		-	106.24
Broadband, telephone & postage		352.54	392.2
Church secretary		2,971.00	1,993.51
Equipment & hall hire (excl soup café)		687.12	589.52
Sundry costs (Quinquennial Report)		1,465.20	-
		7,251.02	4,026.92

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.





Diocese
of Portsmouth

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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND