



The West Door and Tree of Life



**Farewell from
the President**

The Bishop

Pompey Sundays

Canon Kathryn Percival

Plague and

Pestilence

Joanna Godfree

Being a

Churchwarden

Sue Ward

FRIENDS OF
PORTSMOUTH
CATHEDRAL

YEARBOOK

2021

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THE FRIENDS OF PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL

President Post currently vacant

COUNCIL OF THE FRIENDS

Chair Colonel Jonathan Lloyd MBE (retired)

The Dean The Very Revd. Dr Anthony Cane

Residentiary Canon The Revd. Canon Kathryn Percival

Lay Representatives
Canon Sheila Picton
Mrs Marian Pottinger
Professor (Emerita) June Purvis
Captain Andrew Slater, Royal Navy

Ex Officio:-

Honorary Treasurer Captain Andrew Slater, Royal Navy

Membership Secretary Mrs Liz Snowball

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND FRIENDS FESTIVAL 2020

This will take place on **Sunday 4th July at 4.00 pm by Zoom**. The Agenda and Accounts for 2020 can be found on Pages 33 to 35 of this Yearbook; all other relevant papers will be available on the day. Friends are all most welcome to attend Choral Evensong at 6.00 pm.

We hope for a good attendance of Friends at both the AGM and Evensong.

FUTURE EVENTS

Please see the Chair's Annual Report on Pages 5 to 7 for details

December 2021 - Visit to Winchester Cathedral and Christmas Market

April 2022 - visit to Highclere Castle

Details of these other events in 2022 will be sent out with future Newsletters.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

It is hoped that there will be a Friends' Christmas Card again this year. This will be on sale from the Cathedral Shop in due course once details are finalised to support the work of the Friends and the Cathedral.

IMPORTANT NOTE - ALL THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO THE FURTHER RELAXATION OF COVID RESTRICTIONS

Please Remember 'The Friends' in Your Will

For the convenience of those who would like the Friends to benefit from their estate, the following form of bequest is suggested.

"I bequeath to The Friends of Portsmouth Cathedral a sum ofpounds and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said Friends shall be good and sufficient discharge for the same."

THE RIGHT REVEREND CHRISTOPHER FOSTER



A farewell message from our President as he leaves the Diocese. We wish him well for his retirement.

For the last 11 years it has been my privilege to be part of the Cathedral community. For a Bishop having a seat in the Cathedral is more than having a place to sit, it is about having a place to pray and to worship, a place of community, and a visible expression of our communion with the great tradition that is so embodied in the prayer-soaked walls of the place. For a Bishop, a cathedral provides a very particular location in the midst of a ministry that requires a great deal of being out and about. I have been very fortunate to have a location in our Cathedral, a physical space to go out from, to return to, a location where we have marked and celebrated all sorts of occasions in the life of the Diocese. That the Cathedral is a witness to the great sweep of human emotion is important, for when we are tempted to forget the complexities of life the witness of the Cathedral over time is a reminder of all that goes on. Over time this great mix of emotions is given expression in our buildings, our music and words, our art and the shape of our community. Those things do not just happen, they require care and attention. We need to give thought to them and thought to the occasions that we mark in the Cathedral, thought to the nature of God so that our worship and our mission reflect mercy, grace, love and welcome.

Because of this I have much to be thankful for. I have indeed found friendship here, support and encouragement, partners in conversation and prayer, pilgrims in the faith. Coming to the end of my time as Bishop of Portsmouth I want to record how deeply grateful I am for the Cathedral and for those who support it.

Leaving a place offers a chance to look back. Doing that towards what we hope will be the end of a national lockdown means I am perhaps more alert to the fact that no organisation, no community of the faithful is immune from the challenges of life. Neither should we be. The Gospel calls us to be alert to all that is around us in the present moment. We have much to be alert to! We have much that will require us to adapt to new situations. That has been the case throughout the history of the Cathedral. At the same time, just like those who have gone before us, we have a great many resources to aid our thinking, our praying and our mission. There are particular financial challenges, but the deep resource in the love of Christ, the blessing of the Spirit, the presence of this merciful God enables us to be creative and imaginative. As you continue to support the work of the Cathedral, I urge you to hold on to that reality as the Cathedral continues to reflect God's offer of mercy to the City, the Diocese and all who come into contact with the place.

I am deeply grateful for the friendship of the Cathedral, and for the support which you, its Friends, offer to the life and ministry of a place I shall always hold dear.

+ Christopher

DISBURSED TO/FOR PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL

Education Workshops	1000.00	1000.00
Pop-Up Cathedral Materials	0.00	800.00
Total Disbursements	1000.00	1800.00
UNDISTRIBUTED FUNDS ON	5171.79	3248.34
Represented by		
Bank Current Account	5166.55	3243.11
Bank Deposit Account	5.24	5.23
Total	5171.79	3248.34

Andrew Slater

Andrew Slater (Treasurer)

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

I am satisfied that the Receipts and Payments Account prepared by the Treasurer accurately summarises his full accounts. I have examined those accounts, together with the supporting Vouchers and Bank Statements, and found no reason to believe that the requirements of the Charity Commissioners have not been met, nor any aspect of the accounting worthy of any particular comment.

Bob Williams

Bob Williams

30, Highbury Grove

Cosham

Portsmouth PO6 2RR

Approved by the Friends' Council on 6th May 2021

Jonathan Lloyd

Jonathan Lloyd (Chair)

RECEIPTS

	2020	2019
Subscriptions	3225.00	2395.00
Donations	375.00	100.00
Sale of Xmas Cards	0.00	72.50
Events		
Highclere Castle/The Vyne	226.00	882.00
Canterbury/Southampton Trip	170.00	350.00
Deposit Interest / Time 4 Tea	0.01	0.02
AGM Lunch	0.00	196.00
Total Receipts	3996.01	3995.52

PAYMENTS

Highclere/The Vyne	226.00	655.00
Canterbury/Southampton	170.00	339.00
AGM Lunch	0.00	194.25
Printing - Yearbook & Newsletters	279.84	322.82
Printing - Christmas Cards	0.00	121.20
Stationary	107.50	99.83
Postage	256.70	372.83
Miscellaneous Expenditure	32.52	11.40
Friends' Conference	0.00	141.51
Peter Leonard Farewell Gift	0.00	25.00
Total Payments	1072.56	2282.84

NET RECEIPTS IN THE YEAR	2923.45	1712.68
Undistributed Funds on 1 January	3248.34	3335.66
AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR DISTRIBUTION	6171.79	5048.34

Note. Under the terms of the Constitution, the funds of the Charity are restricted to supporting the maintenance and development of Portsmouth Cathedral and its ministry and mission.

THE VERY REVEREND DR. ANTHONY CANE



The Dean talks about the challenges and achievements facing the Cathedral during the last year with the restrictions of Covid

Bishop Christopher preached his final two sermons in the Cathedral during April. The first was at a service in commemoration of HRH Prince Philip The Duke of Edinburgh, and the second at his own farewell. Both occasions were full of a 'great mix of emotions' (to quote +Christopher's article in this Yearbook) and marvellous examples of the way in which Cathedral worship - even while social distancing and wearing masks – can express the deepest aspects of our humanity and offer it all to God. How bereft we were when the Cathedral building had to be shut! It hardly needs saying that this has been a challenging year, dominated by the impact of Covid-19: a time of grief and loss, but also of compassion and kindness; of government restrictions, but also of innovation and ingenuity, as we have sustained the life and work of the cathedral in a whole variety of ways.

As the content of this Yearbook reveals, we have been able to make real progress in beginning to implement the Vision and Strategy launched in September 2020. I was delighted to receive an appreciative letter from one of the newer members of the cathedral community that echoed (whether consciously or unconsciously, I cannot say) the wording of the Vision, saying that over the 'last year the cathedral has been a true beacon and safe haven for me'.

The Cathedral has been fortunate to have financial support from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, the Cathedrals Sustainability Fund and the Culture Recovery Fund, alongside the incredible work of the volunteer, staff and ministry teams. Nonetheless, we have not been immune to the impact of the pandemic on the local and national economy and have had to make some painful reductions that at times have really stretched us.

As well as saying goodbye and thank you to Bishop Christopher, we have also offered grateful thanks to Andrew Slater as he stood down as Chair of the Friends after many years of serving in this way. Andrew has kindly agreed to stay on as Treasurer.

There have been welcomes as well as goodbyes, however. We are delighted that Jonathan Lloyd has taken on the role of Chair of the Friends, and it has been a real pleasure to welcome Catherine Edenborough to the ministry team. Her delayed ordination was, for all the coronavirus restrictions, a joyful and celebratory occasion. So will be the installation of a tenth Bishop of Portsmouth at some point in the autumn, when hopefully many or all of those restrictions will be a thing of the past.

I look forward to a year ahead with less grief and more joy, building on the foundations on all that we have learnt and achieved through these testing times, that we may (with grateful thanks for the support of the Friends) become an even more effective 'beacon and safe haven, anchored in Jesus Christ'.

With my prayers, thanks and best wishes,

Anthony

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 4th July 2021 at 4.00pm by Zoom

AGENDA

1. Prayers
2. Welcome by the Dean
3. Apologies for Absence
4. Minutes of the AGM held on 29th September 2019
5. Annual Report by Chair of the Friends' Council
6. Treasurer's Report.
 - Adoption of Accounts
 - Appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Election of
 - Re-election of Lay Canon Sheila Picton
 - Honorary Treasurer
8. Any Other Business
9. Date of the next AGM and Friends' Festival
10. Closing Remarks by the Dean

On completion of the meeting, it is hoped that all members who are able to will attend Patronal Festival Choral Evensong in the Cathedral.

Some of the Friends' Gifts



The Choir Stalls

*The Green Altar
Frontal & Vestments*



The Organ Doors

COLONEL JONATHAN LLOYD MBE (Retired)



*The Chair reports on the key events
of the Friends over the last year and
a new look for the future*

The year that has passed has certainly been a strange and turbulent one, which has been dominated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, whose longevity has surprised us all. The restrictions imposed by the pandemic have resulted in the postponement of the 2020 Annual General Meeting, which will now be held jointly with our forthcoming Annual General Meeting on 4 July 2021. They have also resulted in the cancellation of outings to both Canterbury Cathedral and Highclere Castle. Hopefully by the time you are reading this, the success of the vaccine roll-out means that the lockdown will have been consigned to history and all of its restrictions will have been lifted enabling us to meet in person in Becket Hall on 4 July. I very much look forward to seeing you all there.

There have been various changes in personalities associated with the Friends during the last year. We have said farewell to our President – Bishop Christopher, who has retired following a farewell service in the Cathedral on 24 April 2021. Bishop Christopher has been our President for 10 years, during which time he has always taken a keen interest in the Friends and our activities. In his letter to me announcing his retirement he ended with this statement. “I end with my thanks for the friendship that has been shown to Sally and me over the last decade, the generous invitation to be associated with your work, and my pride in being welcomed to support the organisation through patronage and support.” We wish Bishop Christopher and Sally a very well-deserved retirement.

Richard Abraham arrived in September 2019 to take over as Chapter Clerk and Chief Operating Officer from Peter Sanders, who had retired earlier in the year. We wish Richard well in this important post. We have also been delighted to welcome Kathryn Percival as Canon Chancellor to your Council. Finally, I joined the Council in September 2020 and took over as your Chair from Andrew Slater on 1 November 2020. I am very pleased to report that Andrew has agreed to stay on as Treasurer. As many of you will know Andrew has been Chair of the Friends for a remarkable 23 years and for much of that time he has also been the Treasurer. I am sure that you will wish to join me in paying tribute to Andrew for his dedication and commitment to the Friends throughout that time and for the exemplary manner in which he has held this office.

I am pleased to report that the Friends finances are in a healthy state and that we have made our usual annual donation to the Education Department and funded a new Cathedral sign on the Cathedral Green. We have also made a donation to Bishop Christopher's farewell fund. It is encouraging to see that emailing the Newsletter to members this year has significantly reduced our costs amounting to a saving of £135.53 over the previous year, which means that more funds are available to support Cathedral projects. However, our membership numbers are broadly static. I am keen to see our membership numbers increase in the year ahead. Your Council are currently looking at ways to achieve this and would welcome suggestions from members in this regard.

Looking ahead your Council are in the process of putting together a programme of events for the rest of the year and 2022. We were pleased with the feedback, which we received from members in this regard, as we are very keen to lay on a programme that will appeal to you as members. An outline programme is set out below.

SEPTEMBER

Welcome reception for new members.

Friends Quarterly Evensong. Followed by a tour of St Thomas's Chapel and a gathering in a local hostelry.

Friends Coffee morning.

OCTOBER

Friends Supper Club.

Friends Quiz night.

NOVEMBER

Friends Coffee morning.

Talk on "Thomas Becket – Murder and making of a saint" by Curator of the British Museum, in the Cathedral.

DECEMBER

Friends Supper Club.

Friends Quarterly Evensong Followed by a tour of the Navy Aisle and a gathering in a local hostelry.

Friends Outing to Winchester Cathedral Christmas Market and tour of the Cathedral.

As soon as dates for these events have been agreed with the Cathedral, the programme will be circulated to members. Assuming that this programme is successful, the intention will be to follow a similar pattern of events in 2022 with two talks of interest and outings to Highclere Castle in April 2022 and one other venue in the autumn.

GIFTS MADE BY THE FRIENDS TO THE CATHEDRAL

Singing Gallery Balustrade

Organ Doors

Choir Stalls

Choir Robes for the Cathedral Choir

Altar Vestments - Green Frontal

Internal Notice Boards

Chest for Altar Frontals

Cycle Rack

Railings up to the Crossing

Stand for the Peace Globe

DVD explaining the Work and Life of the Cathedral for the Education Officer

External Notice Board for the corner of St Thomas's Street and Lombard Street and the Cathedral sign for the south-west corner of Cathedral Green

A Baby Changing Table for Cathedral House

Installation of a Kitchenette in the Cathedral Cloister

Special Book Pillows for the display of Cathedral Manuscripts

Donations Collection Box

Signage on Cathedral Green

The funding of the regular Education Workshops and Outreach Programme

FRIENDS' VISITS AND OTHER EVENTS

The Editor highlights some of the activities planned for the members over the next year.

It has been most disappointing that all the activities planned for the last 18 months had to be postponed because of the Covid situation. We are still planning to visit **Highclere Castle** in April next year and a booking will be made as soon as Highclere Castle announces the opening programme for 2022.



We are also planning a visit to **Winchester Cathedral** when the Cathedral's Christmas Market is open in early/mid December this year. Dates and arrangements for both of these events will be announced in the Autumn Newsletter.



There is an exhibition at the **British Museum** in London about **Thomas Becket** entitled 'Murder and the making of a Saint', which runs until 22 August. The Friends are not arranging a visit to this exhibition as no groups are permitted. However, individuals can book via the British Museum website at: <https://www.britishmuseum.org/exhibitions-events>

THE REVEREND CANON KATHRYN PERCIVAL

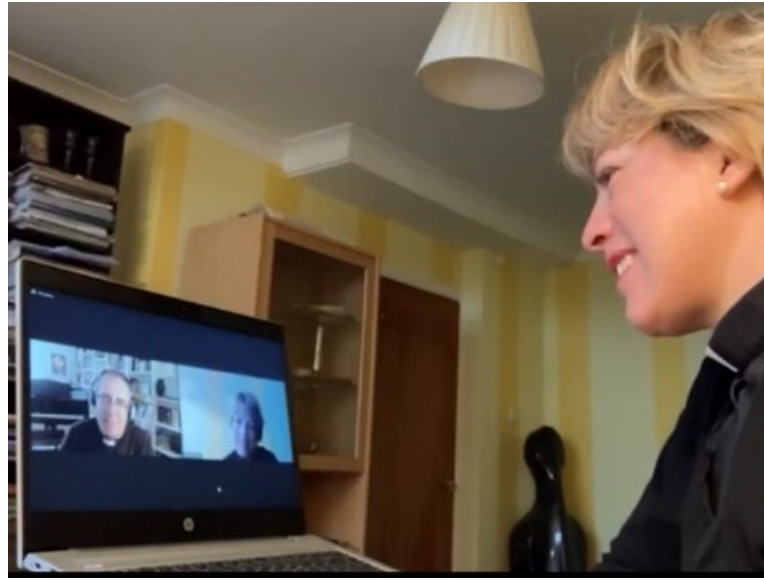
The Canon Chancellor and Vice Dean tells us about 'Doing a new thing - Pompey Sundays'



We seek to be bold and inclusive in nourishing the existing Cathedral community, and drawing new people into it...

A line from the 'Growing and Learning' section of the Cathedral's Vision and Strategy. This year, it feels as if Covid, for all its challenges, has helped us to grow and learn in how we engage with the people we serve. Last year, Chapter approved a proposal for a new service, aimed at some of our largely missing demographics - young families and young adults. The realisation of a need for something new came from conversations with families at our Toddler Service and Sunday School, and with our Pub Church group of young adults, and so the concept for #PompeySundays was born. The hope was that we could launch it last year, but twice, varying degrees of lockdown struck, and the launch date had to be postponed.

We responded to this by creating an online offering, aimed at the same demographics - #PompeySundaysathome. This had an informal chat-show format, with conversation, a talk, a reading and prayers, and an interview (with a longer version of the interview also available online). One of the benefits of this was that we could invite a broad range of interviewees, who could speak to us from their own homes. We were fortunate that our first guest was the Revd Richard Coles, who talked movingly about his pop career, his faith, AIDS, grief, and more. We also heard from frontline healthcare workers, and the Christian comedian and script writer, Paul Kerensa.



The power of Zoom - interviewing Richard Coles

The last of our online services aired in early May, and on Pentecost Sunday, 23rd May, we finally launched the new, weekly 9.30am service in the Cathedral. It is hard for those of us who know and love the building well to realise that for many people, it can be difficult to pluck up the courage to cross the threshold, so our aim has been to make this service as relaxed and informal as possible – held in a ‘café’ style, with round tables (covered in branded table cloths!) and with the opportunity to bring your own refreshments to consume during the service. Colouring and crayons are available on each table, and we hope to have a board to display the children’s creations before too long. We follow a very simple format, lasting a maximum of half an hour, including a Bible reading, prayers, and a short talk and discussion time. The discussion has proved particularly popular and fruitful so far, with some wonderful opportunities to listen and learn from each other. We are of course still constrained by Covid: we are unable to offer refreshments, or to sing, or to mingle between tables, but we trust that in due course, these things will enhance our time together. Catherine, our Cathedral curate, and Joseph, our Digital Marketing Manager, have been key to this new venture, and we are gathering a great team (involving several members of Pub Church) to plan and deliver the worship. So far – three sessions in, at the time of writing! - it has been wonderful to see that it has genuinely all-age appeal, and that we are welcoming a mixture of returning and new congregation members.

whom, sadly, are no longer with us, between them Peter Willey and now of course Sheila Picton. I am delighted that Ronald Rabbetts has joined her, and leave knowing that the cathedral is in good hands!

Along with capable and friendly partners, I have been privileged to work with teams of amazing sidespeople, many of whom we no longer see but remember with deep affection. The wonderful thing about sidespeople is that they are always there if you need them, if they possibly can be. We have had many difficult moments, but never a disaster and always willingness and warmth. Any mistakes are my fault entirely and I am proud of the reputation the cathedral has earned for the warmth of its welcome, so much of which depends on the stewards at the door. After a particularly complicated service Dean David remarked on how well things had gone. When I demurred somewhat, he said, “Would you give it 80%?” I said, “Oh yes, I think so.” He replied, “That’s an A* for GCSEs!”

Thank you everyone for one of the best experiences of my life.



Sue with her Maundy Money in 2021

people (unashamedly ‘Sidesmen’ then!) and a most helpful, loving and encouraging letter. She was a hard act to follow but there was always plenty of help and encouragement. Frank Reid was easy to work with and we got on famously. Shirley Coward was one of the deputy wardens at the time and was incredibly active. In fact, she took on many of the tasks that were really those of the Churchwardens, including planning the arrangements for special services for which she had a huge amount of information. Each service was detailed as to what happened and how many sidesmen would be needed. She would produce detailed instructions for all of us about who did what, when and where for each service and would do the necessary phoning to those she felt best suited for the various jobs.

When Shirley retired, I took over these duties and thanked heaven for her example and for the wonderful invention of the internet and emails. I could never have coped otherwise. Much time is spent producing the three-monthly rotas for Sunday services and recruiting and organising the stewarding of all the ‘specials’: City Service, D Day, HMS Glamorgan, Royal Marines Band Service, Seafarers, Rowans, QARNNS, All Souls Eucharist, three now four Carol Services, two Christmas Eve Crib services, Midnight Eucharist, Palm Sunday with procession (and donkey!), Maundy Thursday Chrism and Last Supper, Good Friday’s moving liturgies, Easter Saturday Vigil with Baptisms & Confirmations, Easter Sunday Eucharists, Legal Service, more Baptisms & Conformations, frequent funerals which Frank and I usually attended, regular meetings of various kinds and involvement in so many other joyful services, events and activities.

We have welcomed and said fond farewells to so many Canons Residentiary, Honorary and Lay. Among the most notable very special services were the Farewell for Bishop Kenneth in 2009, the Installation of Bishop Christopher in September 2010 and then sadly, Bishop Kenneth’s funeral and memorial services, the latter made a quite joyful occasion by Kenneth’s insistence on champagne being served to the entire congregation afterwards! I have had the great pleasure of working with fellow wardens Frank Reid and Mike Purvis, both of



Pentecost balloons – where will the Holy Spirit take us next?

Learning and feedback, an integral part of our Vision and Strategy, will be vital as we seek to develop this new service: we have stepped out in faith, and will need to review and adapt as we go. Meanwhile, we were heartened one Sunday to welcome a canon from another cathedral, down here on holiday, who attended the service in to see what we were doing, as they have been wondering about offering something similar! Do come and see for yourself – you will be sure of a warm welcome.

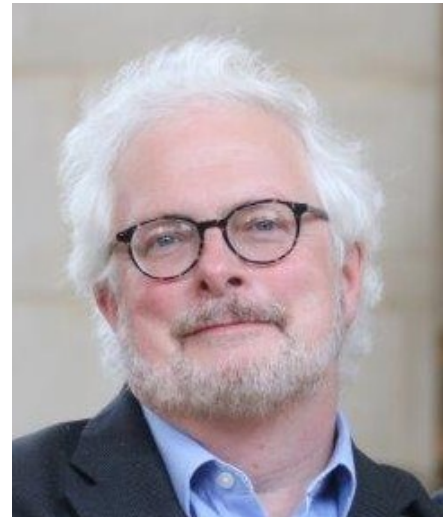


Got the t-shirt! Some of the team celebrate the long-awaited start.

Canon Kathryn

RICHARD ABRAHAM

The Chief Operating Officer discusses the Cathedral finances and work done to care for and conserve the fabric of the building.



2020 was simply a year like no other in recent history. While there is no doubt that 2020 was a dreadful year for many, it also showed the resilience of the human spirit.

In responding to the pandemic, I am very grateful to the members of staff who have put in hugely long hours and doing tasks that needed to be done even if they might not quite fit within their job description. The Cathedral community owes them and our marvellous volunteers a debt of gratitude for all they did over 2020 to enable the Cathedral to flourish in new ways.

2020 was also a year where we took significant steps in addressing the persistent deficits that were beginning to undermine our ability to finance our activities into the future. Through significant cuts to core operating budgets and growing income progress has been made. After multiple years of planned deficits, the Cathedral posted a £5,576 deficit before unrealised gains in 2020 with unrealised gain this translates into £42,000 surplus. Please see the grid below for more details.

Revenue and Expenditure						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Income	£1,265,204	£1,190,737	£1,001,479	£ 963,511	£846,730	£1,059,020
Expenditure	£1,526,077	£1,529,563	£1,421,709	£1,365,584	£1,202,977	£1,064,596
Loss	-£ 260,873	-£ 338,826	-£ 420,230	-£ 402,073	-£356,247	-£5,576
Gain on investments	£42,566	£151,171	£181,887	£62,125	£190,004	£47,613
Profit/Loss	-£218,307	-£187,655	-£238,343	-£399,948	-£166,243	£42,037

SUE WARD

A Churchwarden for a total of 11 years In three separate periods, 2007 to 2012, 2014 to 2016 and 2018 to 2021, outlines the highlights and challenges of this demanding voluntary position



One Sunday in March 2007, Nick Ash, then Precentor of Portsmouth Cathedral, waylaid me in the Welcome Area and asked me if I would consider standing as Churchwarden at the Annual Meeting on April 29th. I was utterly astonished; the idea had never entered my head. So it was that, after consulting with Dean David Brindley as to what the job involved, I found myself elected with Frank Reid on 29th April 2007 and installed as Lay Canon (an automatic privilege of the post) on May 20th at the 9.30 service as the 11 o'clock that day was the City Service. The previous Tuesday was the Legal Service and the following Saturday a Baptism and Confirmation, so you could say I was thrown in at the deep end. The Dean said that the job was three-fold: 1 Organising the stewarding of services, both regular and special; 2 Liaising between congregation and clergy; 3... I have never been able to remember what 3 was.

Between election and installation there was a Saturday Prayer Workshop which helped me prepare, not least for the job ahead but also for the departure the following week of my husband, Terry, to The Gambia on a three-month Voluntary Service Overseas contract. During the years since I have been re-elected twice; Terry has been on nine more VSO assignments!

My predecessor, Mags Lovett, was an exemplary warden and much loved. She handed over a thick file of information, rotas, lists of sides-

for Sailors and Soldiers and to his parish church at Greatham, a Tower and Spire. If you stand under the cathedral tower arch with your back to the Drury font, facing into the shop and look up, you will see his Coat of Arms in a stained-glass window. The hare, sheaf of corn and park fence reflect his love of the countryside, hunting and shooting.



The Outer South Quire Aisle was added in Phase Two of Nicholson's extension plans. Donations from the officers and men in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines were so substantial that it was decided that a part of the 'new' cathedral be dedicated to them, their memorials and exploits. The Navy Aisle was dedicated on 16th July 1938. By 1939, the nave and ambulatory were in place.



Properties on the High Street in front of St Thomas's Church

We stand in debt to people of vision and good intent, past and present, for their enthusiasm, talents and money whose motivation stems from the great rallying cry in Proverbs (Chapter 19) "Where there is no vision, the people perish"!

There is, however, still much work to be done especially as Covid-related funding is withdrawn and grant funded posts come to an end in 2023, but we are in a much stronger financial place than we were when I took up my post in September 2019.

At the recent APCM, I spoke of a four-legged stool analogy as a way to building a prosperous and financially sustainable cathedral community: 1) Grant Funding from the Church of England and other funders such as the Friends; 2) Congregational Giving; 3) Increased Revenue from our limited property portfolio and 4) Visitor-related income.

The continued financial support from the Friends will be an important part of ensuring we can build the presence of God's community here in Portsmouth. My colleague, our Head of Fundraising and Events, Sophie Henstridge-Brown will discuss more fully in another section of this Yearbook the fundraising activities that have proved so successful.

Caring for and Conserving the Fabric. Although we are blessed not to have the huge repairs bills of other cathedrals, Portsmouth still faces a multi-million pound repair and conservation bill as identified by the 2016 Quinquennial inspection.

In 2020 we were able to complete work on many of the outstanding items from the 2016 inspection including:

1. *Repair of the West End finials and North Quire roof* funded from English Heritage's Heritage Stimulus Fund.
2. *Repair of the South Tower Transept window* with the support of a grant from Historic England's Covid-19 Emergency Heritage at Risk Response Fund.
3. *Refurbishment of South-West door* funded by a crowdfunding campaign to mark the installation of Canon Kathryn Percival in 2019.
4. *Increased monitoring of the environment* in the Cathedral. New data loggers were installed in the two archive rooms in the West towers helping to preserve the contents for future generations with funding provided by the Religious Archives Group and in memory of Emeritus Professor Michael Purvis.

In addition to the Cathedral itself we continued to invest in our properties both to increase revenues and to lower our Carbon Footprint including:

5. New energy-efficient boilers and LED lights were installed, and an antiquated air-conditioning system removed from Cathedral House.

6. Repairs were made to the Song School entrance, part of which had collapsed.

7. Repairs to 32 Woodville Drive and 29 Penny Street bringing them up to commercial standard.

Our investment in the Cathedral and Cathedral properties over recent years including the addition of solar panels to the roof of Cathedral House, has seen our energy bill dropped by circa £17,000 or 45% from what it was in 2013.

Looking forward. 2021 brings with it the next Quinquennial Inspection. As well as identifying new works, some major works that will be carried forward from the 2016 inspection including a new heating system and work to the East End of the Cathedral. We look forward to the continued support of the Friends in helping to fund projects that support the beautification and conservation of the Cathedral.

2021 also saw the installation of the new Cathedral Sign on the Southwest corner of Cathedral Green – we are most grateful to the Friends for funding this project that helps to raise our profile as people walking from Spice Island toward Clarence Pier and eastwards up the High Street.



The new sign on the south-west corner of Cathedral Green



Properties alongside Church Lane on west side of St Thomas's

Path/Lane (linking High St & St Thomas's Street) also No 89 and in January 1931 Nos 92 & 93 High Street; in June 1932, another house in High Street and a cottage on Church Path. The houses in High Street were maintained and let until demolition. The Bishop then asked the Hon. Diocesan Architect, Sir Charles Nicholson to draw up plans for the extension of the cathedral. The matter to remain private until the property transactions were in place - (Oct 1932).

A Very Urgent Chapter Meeting was called on 4th February 1933 to discuss the offer of two anonymous gifts of £8000 and £500 to start the extension - with the proviso that work begin immediately to provide work for the unemployed. This was at the time of the Great Depression. The gifts were accepted with alacrity. The go-ahead was given. The debenture holders were paid off. The land was cleared. Building work and further fund-raising commenced.

In May 1934, Sir Heath Harrison died. It became known that the two anonymous gifts of £8500 were from the Harrisons. Lady Harrison gave an additional £3,500 towards the completion of the North Quire Aisle - added to the original parish church as part of Nicholson's plans for enlarging the building. The arch connecting with the Lady Chapel to the east was also created at this time. Lady Harrison requested that the aisle be named as a memorial to her husband. It was dedicated on 8th May 1937. Their total gift is the equivalent of £878,000 today (Bank of England).

Sir Heath, a Liverpool shipowner who lived in the diocese near Petersfield was a generous and, in his lifetime, an anonymous benefactor. He gave to churches, schools, new universities, the Union Jack Club

MARGARET WILSON

The Head Guide - A time to take stock. From Parish Church to a new Cathedral



If 2020 marked the first Covid Lockdown, 2021 has seen Lockdown Mark 3 and the roll-out of the national anti-Covid vaccination campaign - dependent on volunteer and medical input as well as us all following rigorously - “Hands Face Space” (sanitiser, masks and a cow’s length apart - according to Farming Today). This has caused additional stress for many families. Covid has exacerbated existing medical conditions, brought the challenge of unforeseen separations and tragedy. We are fortunate that the scientists had the foresight and skill plus the organisation to produce various vaccines.

Within our own Portsmouth Cathedral, over the years, people - ‘the somebodies’ have provided the vision that has taken us forward. In March 1929, the organization of ‘The Friends of Portsmouth Cathedral’ was set up comprising subscribers to a fund “to meet current expenses, the balance to be invested with a view to the eventual enlargement of the cathedral”. Then as now, shortage of funds was a challenge! By April 1930, the Friends were 1400 strong! Although today’s membership is smaller, nevertheless, it continues to finance projects that enhance the running of the cathedral as well as its role in the community.

In June 1929, the possibility of the sale of slum property to the west of the cathedral surfaced. It was kept confidential. At a special Chapter Meeting on 8 December 1929, it was agreed unanimously that the property be bought by issuing debentures. £4,500 was promised by the Friends. The essential block comprised buildings along Church

SOPHIE HENDSTRIDGE-BROWN

The Head of Fundraising and Events talks about Growing Generosity and commercial income - a year of challenge and opportunities



The events of the past year have proved extremely challenging for fundraising, events and commercial income. Income from visitor donations, events and retail was significantly reduced compared with previous years, a trend that is common to all cathedrals. But the year also offered new and exciting opportunities which our small cathedral team seized with both hands!

Laying the foundations to grow our income

In September 2020, we were awarded a grant from the Government’s Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage. Around half of this emergency Covid-19 funding was directed towards our core running costs and safeguarding jobs. Just under half supported a six-month programme of research and business planning to increase engagement with our heritage, grow our income and improve our long-term financial sustainability.

Working with a leading heritage consultancy Tricolor, we have been undertaking research to explore who our current audiences are and who we are under-serving. We looked at barriers to participation and scoped how we can overcome them, as well as widening engagement through new types of events and activities, better marketing and further partnerships. The research phase has now concluded, and Chapter is now starting to consider how we can best implement their recommendations.

We are most grateful for the Government’s support, without which we would not be able to undertake this vital work which will provide the foundation for the successful delivery of the new Cathedral Vision.

Transforming the Cathedral Shop

The Government's Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage grant has also enabled us to transform our retail offering. Working with a retail consultant, we have developed new product ranges such as the bespoke 'Cathedral Collection' inspired by the heritage of Portsmouth Cathedral. The collection includes homeware and jewellery. We are also stocking ranges from a wide variety of local, ethical and sustainable brands such as Southsea Bathing Hut, Sinah Common Honey (based on Hayling Island) and we have just launched The Dean's Tipple, a gin which has been produced in partnership with the award-winning local distillery, The Portsmouth Distillery Co. We are aiming to position the Cathedral's shop as the 'go-to' cultural retail destination in Portsmouth, as well as serving our loyal customers with an excellent selection of books, cards and religious gifts.



For the first time, you are now able to purchase goods in our online shop, which offers delivery around the UK. All of this work has been possible thanks to the Government's support.

Growing Generosity

The generous financial support of our cathedral community is vital in enabling our mission and work. Regular donations help us to plan into the future with much greater certainty and form the bedrock of a financially stable and sustainable cathedral. During 2020, we were delighted that planned giving from our congregation grew by 14% to £88,500 (including Gift Aid), and we are very grateful to each person who increased their gift or started giving for the first time.

During 2021 we will launch the first Season of Generosity, anticipated to be an annual period where every member of the cathedral community is invited to reflect on their generosity and financial giving. We aim to double planned giving from 2020 levels within five years. This ambitious, but we believe achievable, aspiration will be vital to underpin all the work encapsulated in the cathedral's new vision.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

To the EDITOR of the HAMPSHIRE TELEGRAPH.

SIR,—Rumours that the cholera is daily advancing towards us render it imperatively necessary that everything possible should be done to resist its attack.

The state of the surface drainage in various parts of the borough, but more especially in the neighbourhood of Marylebone and Green-road, needs the immediate attention of our sanitary authorities.

If the staff at the disposal of the local board is not sufficient to keep the gutters and drains properly clear of filth, I would suggest that the owners of property be compelled to see that their tenants thoroughly flush and cleanse daily the open gutters and drains adjacent to their respective properties.

Our money is being expended upon road making and paving (very praiseworthy work, but still of a secondary nature), but the far more important business of cleansing in the most obscure and dirty parts of the town, seems to have been entirely lost sight of.

Unless some steps be taken to remedy the evil herein complained of, Portsmouth may be expected to occupy the unenviable position of being first among the towns in the Kingdom to welcome and encourage the cholera.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Portsmouth, September 7th, 1865. PRECAUTION.

Hampshire Telegraph: a letter about cholera precautions in Portsmouth, written on 9th September 1865

There are still people alive today who lived through the great and misnamed 'Spanish' flu pandemic of 1918 to 1920 that I began with (first documented in the USA in March 1918 and in Germany, France and the United Kingdom in April), one of whose first casualties was the King of Spain himself. The death toll is estimated to have been anywhere between 17 million and 50 million, and possibly as high as 100 million, with some indigenous communities pushed to the brink of extinction. A quarter of the British population was affected; the death toll rose to 228,000. As in the 1563 outbreak and so often, soldiers returning from the trenches in France helped carry the disease home to their towns and villages, where poor wartime health and nutrition exacerbated its spread. Yet trains and tubes still ran, offices, shops and restaurants stayed open – my great-aunt, a young woman living and working in central London, carried on her normal life; the epidemic barely features in her detailed diary of the time. Today's diaries, just a century later, will tell a very different story.

The town records state that during the epidemic there were 800 interments at Kingston Churchyard and St. Thomas's Churchyard; they were buried in batches, usually before eight o'clock in the morning. By 15th November the plague had disappeared, and thanksgiving services were held throughout the towns of Portsmouth and Portsea. The crisis in over-filled burial grounds forced the town council to appoint a special Committee to consider the provision of another burying ground. In October 1854 the Anglican Chapel at Highland Road cemetery was consecrated, and burials took place from the beginning of November; St Thomas's and other burial grounds in the parish were closed.

PORTSEA ISLAND—(*Portsea Town*).—Births 133 ; Deaths 191. Of the deaths 108 have been from cholera in its various forms.

PORTSEA ISLAND—(*Portsmouth Town*).—Births 72 ; Deaths 192. The average number of deaths of the 12 corresponding quarters is about 54. From this it will be seen we have an increase of deaths from all causes of 138, 18 of which are from diarrhoea, and 109 from cholera. This sad visitation commenced in this district about the 7th July. As soon as the character of the disease was fully known, the local boards met, and unanimously agreed to throw aside all consideration of expense, and adopt every plan in their power to stay the ravages of this frightful disorder ; and I may venture to assert, that to their energy and promptitude we may attribute the fact that in the early stage of the disease it succumbed to the remedies applied, and, where it had established itself, it was alleviated as far as human means could go.

PORTSEA ISLAND—(*Landport*).—Births 253 ; Deaths 392. The prevailing epidemic has been the cause of great mortality.

Item from the Hampshire Telegraph - quarterly birth/death figures in November 1849

Telling our story

In September we were pleased to welcome Joseph Keele-Toms to the Cathedral team in the newly created role of Digital Marketing Manager. This post is entirely funded by the Cathedral Sustainability Fund. During his first months in post, Joseph has made a tremendous difference. He has helped to improve the quality of our broadcasting, developed the website and created and launched a new cathedral visitor app hosting self-guided tours and interactive experiences.

We have been increasingly focusing on telling the Cathedral's many and varied stories in new ways to engage people and encourage them to pay a visit to the cathedral and join our community. On the cathedral's blog, we launched a new, year-long 'Did you know' series, sharing weekly stories from our 800 years of history. From the death of St Thomas of Canterbury, after whom our cathedral is dedicated, to the devastating local impact of the Portsmouth Blitz, the blog enabled those who were not able to visit the cathedral during the pandemic to learn more about our heritage.

Over Christmas the Head Verger and volunteer Head Guide featured in new videos exploring our archive and some of the hidden areas of the building as part of our '12 Days of Christmas' campaign. We will be developing our video content further in the coming years as we seek to share our heritage and all the aspects of our work and mission with broader and more diverse audiences.

As we look forward, there are still huge challenges to grow our income enough to support the ambitions of the Cathedral Vision. The generous financial support of our cathedral community, including the Friends of Portsmouth Cathedral, will become ever more important. Thank you for your generosity, and we look forward to welcoming you to the cathedral very soon.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Don't forget to look at the regular Blogs and 'Did You Know' articles on the Cathedral Website at:

<https://www.portsmouthcathedral.org.uk/portsmouth-cathedral-news/category/Blog>

There are a lot of fascinating stories and facts here that you may not have heard of before.

FAREWELL SERVICE FOR BISHOP CHRISTOPHER



*His final
Sermon as
Bishop of
Portsmouth*

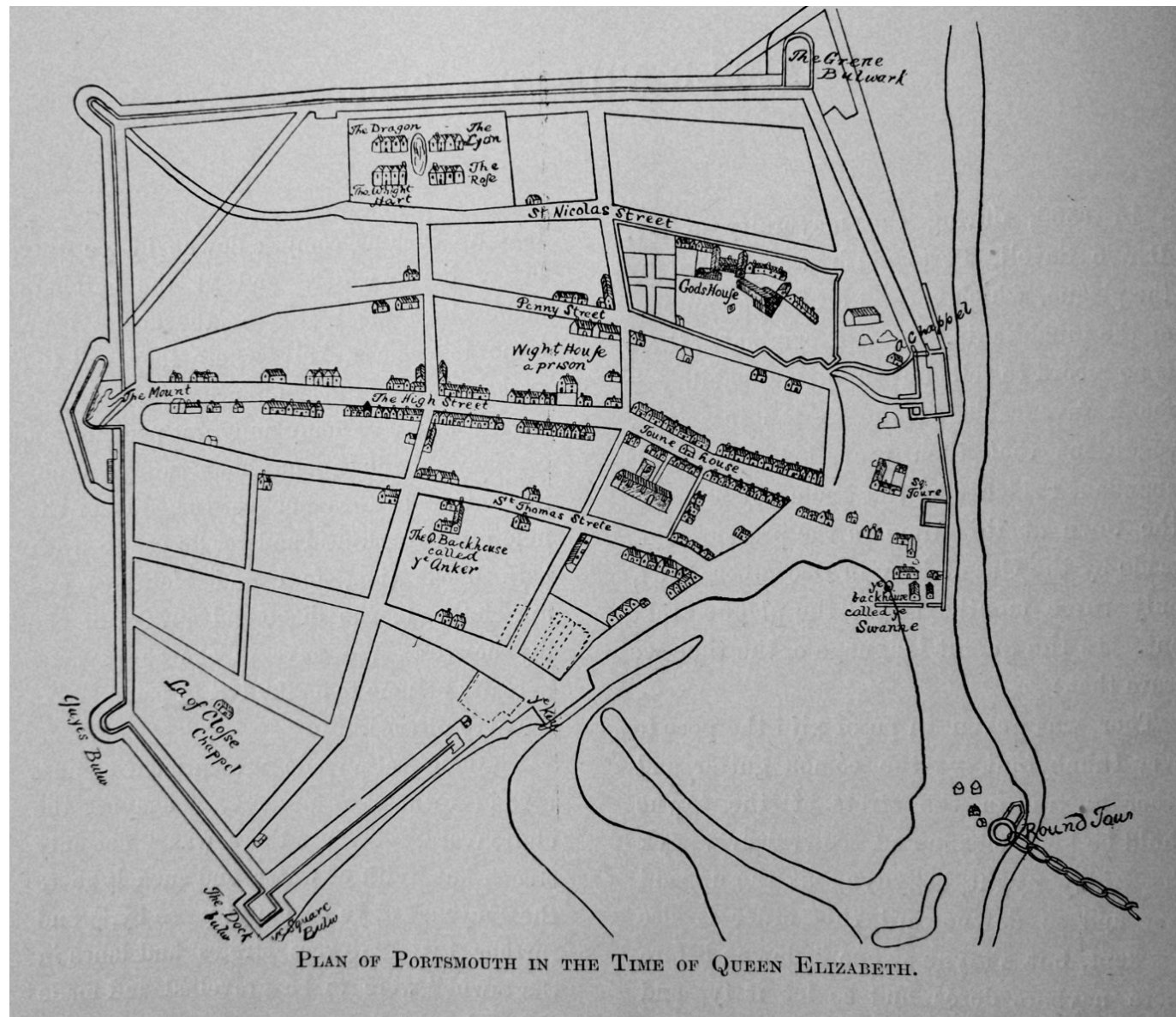
*The Bishop returns
his Crozier to the
Diocesan Lay Chair*



*Bishop Christopher, his
wife Sally and family
after the service*

ing the actions of two men from the Isle of Wight who while catching crabs 'at the back of the Island' unwisely had commercial dealings with a plague-ridden Dutch ship – '[the men] are now at the Motherbank, where they are to perform *quarantain* in their small open boat ...the folly of these fellows has put us all in the utmost consternation, and the chief talk is cutting off communications with the island; if so we are in a fine condition, for provisions will be excessive dear. – God preserve us from danger.' Quarantain or quarantine (a period of forty days, the word and the practice perhaps first used in the 14th/15th century in the Mediterranean) had long been used to try and control the spread of contagion, if not its source. Rain fell on Noah for 40 days and nights, Jesus spent 40 days and nights in the wilderness: the 40-day isolation period carried powerful religious resonances, but often came too late.

In the late 1840s a terrible and widespread epidemic of cholera struck. Public hygiene was little better now than in earlier centuries: 'Portsmouth and Portsea had long been a breeding ground for all manner of diseases, with cramped streets, poor living conditions and bad diet being responsible for much of this. There was no refuse collection as such, so rubbish was left lying in the streets. Drainage, if it existed at all, was inadequate. People - particularly poor people - lived surrounded by dirt and filth. ... Illnesses such as smallpox and typhoid fever struck the people, but it was the epidemic of cholera that bloomed in the summer of 1849 that finally caused attention to focus on the state of the towns.' The cholera epidemic of 1849 caused a sizeable death toll in Portsmouth - it is difficult to be certain, but some estimate that at least a thousand people died. Richard Biddle (Dissecting the medical marketplace, 2009) reports: 'Portsmouth's first confirmed case of cholera occurred in June 1849 in Fountain Street, Landport. This was the same street where a much smaller outbreak had begun in the previous year. Fountain Street was a particularly deprived area of the town. Its twenty or so hovels were without drainage and had only a very limited water supply. Residents were also forced to share privies and lived with what amounted to an open sewer running down the centre of their street.'

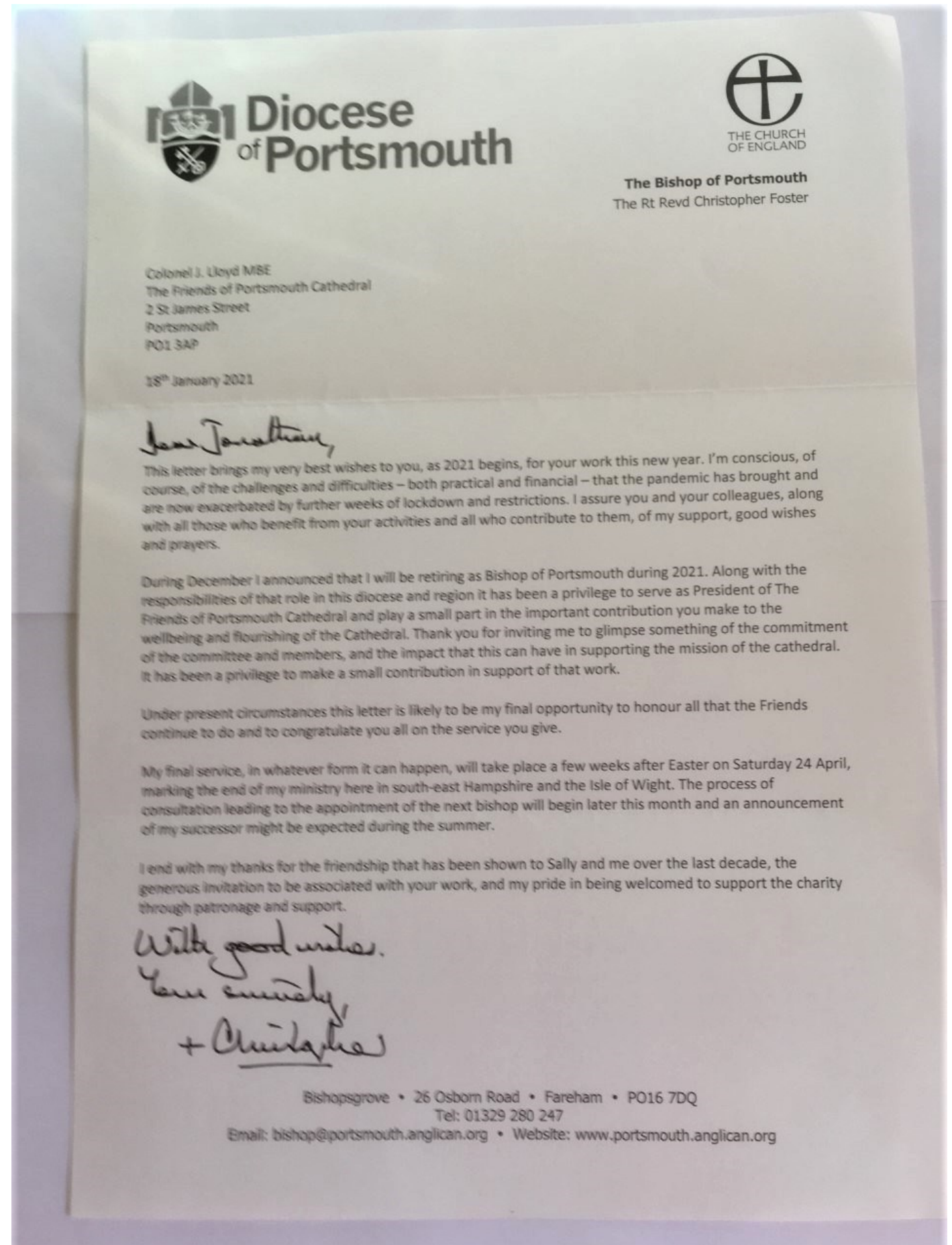


Plan of Portsmouth in the time of Queen Elizabeth I

In August 1665, the Navy Commissioner of Portsmouth wrote of his anxiety about 'the fatal distemper amongst so crowded and miserably poor a population,' though the disease did not really take hold until spring of the following year. A doctor wrote stoically in summer 1666 that 'the air of Portsmouth is naturally so pernicious to man that the man whose body is able to be supported in this air is plague-free...'. But the evidence was against him. By July, St Thomas's graveyard had run out of space, and the common graveyard was a place of horror. Deaths declined gradually however towards the end of the year, and in 1667, for the survivors, life went on. Marriages – and re-marriages of widowed people – took place, and baptisms rose significantly.

In the 1740s a newspaper printed a 'letter from Portsmouth' describ-

Letter received by the Chair of the Friends' Council from Bishop Christopher announcing his forthcoming retirement:



JOANNA GODFREE

The Cathedral Archivist reflects on the current pandemic and compares it to the much more serious plagues and pestilences that Portsmouth and Portsea has suffered over the centuries



'I had a little bird; its name was Enza. I opened the window, And in-flu-enza.' This little jingle is often thought to have its origins in the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918, though as with so many children's rhymes its origins certainly go back further. There's a much older rhyme: *'Ring-a-ring of roses, a pocket full of posies, Atishoo, atishoo, we all fall down.'* This one might take us back to the Great Plague of London, 1665, though as always scholars are divided: the ring of roses the circular rash that developed on victims' skin, the posies, the flowers or herbs that were carried in a vain attempt to ward off germs, and the sneezing that precedes death in the final lines.

Plague and pestilence have been with us since time began, and St Thomas's and Portsmouth have suffered their share. From its early days, the church and the little town huddled unhealthily around the Camber, and later inside its moats and ramparts; there was a poor water supply and even poorer waste disposal, and an ever-changing population of sailors and soldiers left it more open than the average town to the effects of disease. The Domus Dei received pilgrims and strangers as they passed on their way to the famous shrines at Canterbury or Winchester, and this line of transmission, combined with deplorably poor public hygiene, will certainly have aided the spread of disease.

The town has been repeatedly stricken over the centuries: the Black Death hit Portsmouth several times in the city's history, with particularly devastating outbreaks in 1349, 1558, 1625 and 1665/6. As the plague swept across the south in 1349, Walter de Corf - rector of Portsea - died sometime in the early part of that year.

1563 was a particularly dreadful year. Over the summer of that year, English troops in the besieged and plague-ridden port of Le Havre returned to England worn out and obviously carrying plague with them. Conditions in the town were grim; only the previous year, the church Jury had deplored those who 'swepe [their rubbish] down before there neybors dores and so let it ly', as well as those who shockingly washed their 'buckings' (foul underclothes) in the essential public springs that fed the four beerhouses [seen at the top of the Elizabethan map of Portsmouth]. Nicholas Sere/Sare had been admitted as minister at St Thomas's just the year before; he died around September 1563. The invaluable 'Forever building' gives a poignant list of Sere's scanty belongings – some books, a few pieces of clothing including a doublet and a cloak, and his Will, written in his own hand. Acknowledging his 'great and haynouse offences', he admitted to his 'blynde iudgment, folyshe wysedom and develyshe spirit' which had consisted in his partaking in the mass – a daily propitiatory sacrifice for the living and the dead which he now admitted 'none could do saving [except] Jesus Christ'. One family in Portsmouth, headed by Denys Savage - a widower with 5 children - lost every member except one son-in-law. According to a note on the reverse of the Denys's Will, all those deaths occurred even 'before the Will of the father was proved'. In their history of Portsmouth Parish Church, Lilley & Everitt tell us: 'The plague affected London also, and killed off about a ninth of its population; at Portsmouth the death rate was, in all probability, much higher', and John Webb in 'Forever building' estimates that 'almost a quarter, if not as many as a third' of the town's population died.

In June 1622 a church edict was issued ordaining a 12d. fine for those people 'that hath doors which do open into the churchyard by wch meanes they doe greatly anoye the same by throwing of filthie water and other noisome things thereunto ...and use to goe into the Churchyard and ease themselves to the great annoyance of the Church and the inhabitants of the whole town.' By late 1641 the fine - clearly not an effective penalty - had climbed to 10s. (possibly over £100 today).