



ROMSEY ABBEY  
ASSOCIATE PRIEST  
PARISH PROFILE  
JULY 2019

Welcome to this Benefice Profile and Role Description ... and welcome to the Diocese of Winchester!

At the heart of our life here is the desire to be always *Living the Mission of Jesus*. We are engaged in a strategic process to deliver a mission-shaped Diocese, in which parochial, pastoral and new forms of pioneering and radical ministry all flourish. Infused with God’s missionary Spirit we want three character traits to be clearly visible in how we live:

- Passionate personal spirituality;
- Pioneering faith communities;
- Prophetic global citizenship.



The Diocese of Winchester is an exciting place to be at the moment. We wait with eager anticipation to see how this process will unfold. We pray that, if God is calling you to join us in his mission in this part of the world, he will make his will abundantly clear to you.

“As the Father sent me so I send you ... Receive the Spirit” (John 20:21)



+ *Timothy Dakin*

**Tim Dakin**



**Debbie Sellin**

## WELCOME TO ROMSEY DEANERY!



Romsey Deanery is in the Bournemouth Archdeaconry. The Deanery connects the Southampton area, with the Andover area and runs along the Test Valley which includes the Waitrose farms, trout farming, mixed farming and a brewery! The Deanery mainly comprises multi-parish rural benefices, with one suburban parish (on the outskirts of Southampton) and the market town of Romsey with its historic Abbey.

We are a friendly and active Deanery! The clergy meet monthly for prayer and discussion. We have strong overseas links – especially in South Rwanda and Burundi. Synod and Chapter work together and are galvanised around delivering the Diocesan Strategy – working together where we can with each other and supporting each other. We run courses together for all the Deanery. You can find a bit more out from our developing website [www.romseydeanery.org](http://www.romseydeanery.org).

*James Pitkin*

**Revd James Pitkin**  
**Vicar of Lockerley, East Dean, East & West Tytherley and Area Dean of Romsey**

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## ASSOCIATE PRIEST

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We seek an Associate Priest to join our Abbey team and share significant leadership responsibility with our Vicar as we work creatively together to develop our mission in a changing and expanding town. This is a new post made possible by a pastoral reorganisation in Romsey Deanery. It is an exciting time to join us with a relatively new Abbey team and a collective desire to build on strong foundations and enable new growth. Our Associate Priest will work as an equal colleague with our Vicar, sharing in all areas of our mission and ministry, bringing her or his own gifts to contribute to our future development.

## WHO WE ARE

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We are a single parish with two church buildings: the 12<sup>th</sup> Century Romsey Abbey and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century St. Swithun's Crampmoor, situated in the heart of the beautiful Test Valley and market town of Romsey. We sit at the centre of a predominantly rural Deanery and serve a growing population that spans both areas of affluence and significant deprivation. Romsey is set to see a further 1300 dwellings in the Whitenap Housing development on the edge of the town.

We are a people-focussed, outward looking church seeking to be at the heart of the community. Our faith and outlook is inclusive, broad, sacramental, affirming of women's and lay ministry and open to all. We have a large worshipping community and flourishing liturgical and choral tradition where the Eucharist is celebrated daily. We are excited by the challenges and opportunities facing us and share a genuine desire to seek new and creative ways of engaging those parts of our communities not currently reflected in our congregations.



We play a full and active part in Romsey Deanery and Winchester Diocese and have a fruitful working relationship with Churches Together in Romsey. The Abbey is a focal point for the wider town and actively supports our local communities and civic life. We have a special relationship with Romsey Abbey CE(A) Primary School and significant opportunities to work with the many other primary and secondary schools in and around Romsey. Our desire is to journey together in faith, listen with open hearts, respond with imagination, and act under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to enable the good news of Jesus Christ to flourish in our communities today.

## OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

We recently completed a listening and discerning process which involved the whole parish. This was followed by a discernment day on 15th June 2019 which gave us an honest look at ourselves, both strengths and weaknesses. Out of this emerged a number of themes considered important which have given shape to our parish mission action plan. (A copy of the discernment day themes is in the appendix).

Although our parish mission action plan is due to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 the objectives we are looking at are:

1. To provide more opportunities for people to discover and grow in faith and live out their Christian calling.
2. While rooted in the Anglican choral and liturgical tradition, to diversify our worship creating further opportunities to engage families, young people and the missing generation.
  - a. We are planning to introduce an additional weekly contemporary service
  - b. We are considering an alternative monthly service with a focus on music and the sacred space of the Abbey.
3. To use our resources to support social action and environmental projects in the local community and wider world.
4. To improve our church buildings to facilitate our future mission plans and preserve our heritage for future generations.
5. To review the structure and focus of our governance.
6. To improve our communication and welcome as a major church venue within the parish and wider town.

## OUR BENEDICTINE HERITAGE

Our Benedictine Spirituality and Hospitality is part of our DNA. We draw spiritual inspiration from our monastic past with a daily cycle of prayer, celebrating Morning Eucharist and Evening Prayer each day. Our prayer and candle station is widely used by the community with around 12,000 candles lit by visitors each year, and prayers included as part of our Evening Prayer intercessions.

We have a team of stewards who welcome visitors to the Abbey each day of the week. Many stewards are members of the congregation, but others are local non-churchgoers who love the Abbey.

Hospitality, food and drink is important too. Our enthusiastic volunteers cater for many events from our monthly Parish Lunch and monthly Parish tea to hosting events, small and large, such as Christian Aid Lent Lunch, funeral wakes, wedding receptions and dinner for visiting groups.



*All who arrive as guests are to be welcomed like Christ, for he is going to say,  
"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Rule of Saint Benedict 53:1)*

## **WORSHIP AT THE ABBEY AND ST. SWITHUN'S**

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Our main weekly Sunday service at the Abbey is the 10am Sung Eucharist which draws a large congregation with music led by our Abbey choirs. The size, space and beauty of the abbey lends itself well to choral worship. It can also be used very effectively for creative liturgy, using movement, lighting, music and silence to great effect, for example in services such as the Advent Sequence or the Easter Vigil. The Abbey also accommodates other forms of worship, from the daily intimate office of morning prayer with Holy Communion to contemporary services with band and screens and family event services such as 'Light in the Abbey'. It is a beautiful space that many people connect with, including those who might consider themselves spiritual but not religious. Being the largest building in the area the Abbey hosts many school, community, diocese and civic services. It gets very busy in December!

St. Swithun's Crampmoor offers a very different, small and friendly space for worship. The regular Sunday congregation numbers 30-40 and is mostly elderly and very supportive. This smaller, intimate space lends itself well for informal worship and gatherings just as much as for a main weekly Sunday service.

## **SUNDAY SERVICES**

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### **THE ABBEY**

#### **8:00am Holy Communion (36 Adults)**

A said service with two readings and short sermon following Common Worship Order I.

#### **10:00am Sung Eucharist 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays (240 Adults 12 Children)**

Our main service of the day follows Common Worship Order I. Music is led by our Abbey choirs and is both choral and congregational. The service is led by the Celebrant with Deacon, Sub-deacon, Priest-at-Font (who administers the third communion station), Verger, Crucifer and Acolytes. There are usually 3 readings. Prayers for healing are offered in St. Anne's following the service.

Children join the procession at the start of the service, then leave for Sunday School. After returning during communion they are welcomed and share something before the Blessing.

The Abbey Sung Eucharist is live streamed to You-tube on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays and major festivals.

#### **10:00am 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays All Age Eucharist**

This service uses a more accessible liturgy with participation by children, with a mix of child friendly, contemporary worship songs and more traditional hymns. It needs reviewing!

#### **10:00am 'Way In' 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays (brought to a close July 2019)**

Way In offered contemporary creative worship in the Church Rooms on a third Sunday. This was recently stopped as we are exploring a new weekly contemporary service.

#### **11:30am BCP Eucharist 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday (9 Adults)**

Said service in St. George's Chapel, according to the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

#### **12:15pm Baptism 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays**

Baptisms are held mostly as a separate service on second and fourth Sundays, usually for two or three families at a time. Baptisms for members of the congregation are occasionally held during the 10:00am service.

#### **6:30pm BCP Choral Evensong (48 Adults)**

Choral Evensong sung by the Abbey Choirs. During school holidays, there is a combination of said services, and services sung by visiting choirs and the Abbey Consort, our congregational choir.

## ST SWITHUN'S

### 10:00am Parish Communion 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays (32 Adults)

Using Common Worship order 1 with two readings and hymns. First Sundays is Morning Worship, no Communion.

### 6:30pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday SPACE (15 Adults)

A more intimate and contemplative approach to Evening Prayer offering Iona and Northumbria Evening Prayer and Taize Service on a three-monthly cycle. It is attended by members of the Abbey community and members of other local churches.

## MID-WEEK SERVICES AT THE ABBEY

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### A daily cycle of Morning Prayer and Holy Communion currently at the following times:

Monday	8:00am (9:15am on Bank Holidays)
Tuesday	9:15am (Healing focus on 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday)
Wednesday	8:00am
Thursday	10:00am (Morning Prayer) and 10.30 (Holy Communion)
Friday	8:00am
Saturday	9:15am

### Daily Evening Prayer

Every Day	5:30pm Evening Prayer
Thursdays	5.45pm Midweek Choral Evensong (during school term)

### Other Services

12:00am Lego Church (Third Saturday Only) (15 Adults 12 Children)

A service which was started in August 2017 and is aimed at children. It includes teaching on a Bible story using Lego, with simple prayers and songs and food is served.

## MUSIC

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We have a strong musical tradition in the Abbey and choral music is an integral part of our worship. Our newly appointed Director of Music, Martin Seymour, joined us at the beginning of July from All Saints, Marlow, bringing with him a wealth of experience and some exciting plans for future developments.

We currently have separate boys and girls choirs who join our "ATB" section for choral services in rotation. We are about to embark on a major recruitment drive to rebuild and refresh the current choirs. We are also planning to re-establish "Quavers", a group for children too young to join our main choirs, which will meet weekly in the Church Rooms and occasionally sing at informal services. We have a group of choir chaperones who support the Director of Music in managing these large groups of children safely. The choir sings on Sunday at the 10am Eucharist and 6:30pm Evensong. Sung Evensong on Thursdays at 5:45pm has been introduced during school term-time. The Abbey Consort is a congregational choir open to all which sings regularly for services, often during school holidays.



The Abbey hosts an extensive series of concerts each year arranged by Music in Romsey and we hold regular lunchtime recitals on Tuesdays. The town of Romsey has one of the most active communities where music plays a significant role and there is considerable overlap between the Abbey and the numerous choirs, orchestras, schools and musical activities.

We also have a group of musicians who lead contemporary music and we envisage this could develop further as we look to introduce an additional weekly contemporary service.

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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We have some very good engagement with children and young people but recognise further development and integration is needed to enable this ministry to flourish further. We are blessed to have Rhiannon Wilmott as our full time Children & Families worker who joined us in January 2017 following a successful appeal to the congregation to support the funding of this post.

### **Baby & Toddler Group Wednesdays in the Church Rooms 9.30-11.00am**

This is a very popular group for parents, carers, grandparents and young children. A very good space for providing support and building relationships.

### **Singing & Storytime**

Monday mornings at St. Swithun's Crampmoor. This provides a smaller more intimate space and those who attend very much appreciate the opportunity for closer support and friendship.

### **Sunday School**

We don't currently attract a lot of children during our main Sunday 10am services but do have good provision for those who come. Younger ones join the junior group led by Louise Newman and take a creative look at the theme of the day. Older children, including some of our Abbey choristers, join the older group led by Rhiannon and engage with the story through a variety of discussions and activities.

### **Abbey Choristers**

With Martin Seymour our new Music Director we are looking at ways of offering choristers more faith learning opportunities to support and enhance their musical education.

### **Lego Church**

Held once a month on a Saturday morning, popular with families with the addition of bacon butties.

### **Grow**

Led by Rhiannon and held weekly at Wisdom Centre on a Friday morning during term-time, this is a bible-study group for parents and little ones.

### **Light in the Abbey**

Rhiannon introduced a very successful family event on All Saints Day - 1st November. The Abbey is transformed with lights, pumpkin carvings and light themed party activities.

### **Blessing of Bookbags**

A new event planned ahead of the start of the academic year including a family picnic and blessing of book bags.

### **Youth Group**

Currently run by Nik our Curate, they meet on Tuesday evenings during term time in the Church Rooms with usually around 8 to 12 attending aged between 13 and older ones who have now left college. They get up to a variety of activities! Youth Alpha has been used along with trips to Soul Survivor.





## DISCIPLESHIP, NURTURE AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

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We are keen to expand the opportunities we offer for nurturing faith, building relationships and enabling more lay and ordained vocations both in the world and the church. A lot of potential development exists in this area.

We have four existing home groups, three of which have been running for many years where members draw mutual support and strength from each other. We offer an annual faith exploration group suitable for those thinking about getting confirmed. We run an afternoon and evening Lent course in partnership with Churches Together in Romsey. Rhiannon has recently introduced a small weekly bible discussion group for parents.

Wisdom House is a spirituality and retreat centre on our doorstep owned by the Roman Catholic Church and the religious order of the Daughters of Wisdom. It is managed and run by Fiona Jenvey who is an Anglican Pioneer ordinand with a focus on ministry to those on the edges of church. Fiona is part of our Abbey worshipping community and the Vicar is her training incumbent. There is scope for future mutual sharing and supporting of ministry between the Abbey and Wisdom House. Various existing groups meet there including a 45 minute Lectio Divina on third Wednesdays, a weekly meditation group and a Julian Group.

## BAPTISMS / CHRISTENINGS

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We offer baptisms to those living within the parish and those with an ongoing link with us. All parents and Godparents are invited to a preparation session which we hold monthly on second Wednesdays from 6-7pm. Following the session our group of baptism visitors will arrange to meet with the families to support them further and go through the details of the service. We invite families to an annual baptism thanksgiving service and also send annual anniversary cards during the month of their baptisms. Rhiannon is our Baptism Co-ordinator.



## PASTORAL SUPPORT

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We have a team of Pastoral Visitors currently overseen by Revd Paul Hollingworth and Revd Jill Aussant. A system runs whereby the parish is divided into 6 areas each headed by a pastoral coordinator, with a 7th 'area' covering those outside the parish who attend services.

The coordinators and visitors meet several times a year to exchange experiences, provide mutual support and receive training. Several visitors have trained as Dementia Friends and the Parish is recognised as Dementia Friendly. The visitors aim to be a 'Listening Ear' and to provide company and sympathetic support. Some visitors take Communion once a month to the less mobile at their homes and to residential homes. Weekly communion is taken to Romsey Hospital. The livestreaming of services was introduced to enable those unable to attend the Abbey to participate.

A short Eucharist followed by tea is held on the last Sunday afternoon of each month for those who may find it difficult to get to morning services or who may be isolated and lonely.

## ENGAGING WITH COMMUNITY



The Romsey Town Christmas Lantern Parade starts and ends at the Abbey, illuminated for the event



Romsey Abbey has many links with the wider community through schools, charities, businesses and the town council, but having gone through a recent listening and discerning process we realise how much more we could be doing with our outward focus to support initiatives that make a transforming difference in the wider community.

We support Romsey Foodbank as one of our chosen charities and have a collection point in the Abbey. Christians Against Poverty is run from Freedom Church in Romsey and has the support of Churches Together. We have a very close relationship with two local charities: **Triangulate**, which promotes changes in attitudes and approach to mental illness, particularly in the workplace and **George's Trust** which supports teenagers with cancer and also provides funding for teenagers who progress to the back row of the choir. The Abbey is used extensively for community and civic events and has a particular role to play in supporting the town council vision for 'Romsey Future' and attracting more visitors to the town.

The PCC gives 10% of its annual income to missionary giving and our Mission and Giving group oversees the allocation of our charitable giving to local, national and overseas organisations. Each month the work of a different charity is highlighted, occasionally with a visiting speaker.



## THE ABBEY TEAM

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This is the Abbey Team! We work closely together to oversee the day to day running of the parish as well as sharing, discussing and planning our future direction of travel in consultation with the PCC. It is a large and busy parish but a rewarding and challenging place to be. We hold a weekly ministry team meeting on Tuesdays followed by a weekly diary meeting with wardens, vergers and administrators. We work closely with many wonderful volunteers who enable our parish to be a place of life and spiritual refreshment.

### Revd. Thomas Wharton, Vicar of Romsey



As you may end up working a lot with me I'll tell you as much as I can. I love what I do. I draw my energy and resilience from prayer and trying my best to be humble. I also love running and that refreshes me mentally and physically. Some say I'm laid back, easy going, relational and an enabler. I love seeing the bigger picture and trying to point towards a new destination and bringing people on a journey. I love traditional as well as new and creative. I'm better with people than I am with process. I'm an introvert but enjoy doing an extrovert job. I work collegiately. I've been Vicar of Romsey since September 2018 and still have a genuine smile. You can probably find out more by speaking with Vessi my wife. I was a professional cellist and still enjoy playing occasionally. I sometimes relax with my chainsaw.

### Nik Gower - Assistant Curate

I'm currently in my second year of curacy (ordained Deacon in summer 2017). I'm originally from Norwich and before ordination training was a soldier with the Household Cavalry. I'm married to Heidi and recently we had our second daughter. Along with Rhiannon I have been looking after the parish youth group. I enjoy taking our dog for a walk and sports which happen to involve sitting down such as rowing and horse riding.



### Bryan Taphouse – Self-Supporting Minister (SSM)



I married Jackie in Romsey Abbey back in 1973 and was very involved in the Abbey's children and youth work as well as leading a house group for 17 years before training at Sarum College and being ordained at Winchester Cathedral in 1997. I own an international fabric business, sometimes preaching in the US on my travels. I am also very involved in the community through the Rotary Club and have twice been President. I enjoy spontaneity and am very happy in most roles except singing!

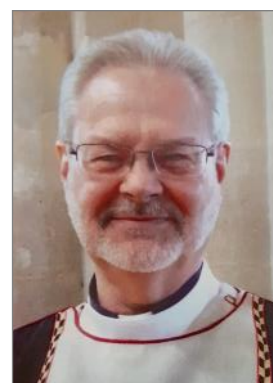


**Jill Aussant – Self Supporting Minister (SSM)**

I am a retired volunteer priest assisting at the Abbey, to which I give three days a week (that’s the theory anyway!). Following a career as a lawyer I was ordained ten years ago in Winchester Cathedral as a self-supporting minister. I joined the team at the Abbey in September 2010 and with the assistance of many others in the different sectors – children, youth, young families and older people - I have had overall responsibility for organising the pastoral work of the parish, working closely with the incumbent and the PCC. I’m married to Victor who is French, so gastronomic treats are always a source of interest!

**Paul Hollingworth, Permanent Deacon (SSM)**

In my youth I was a choir boy in the Church of England. For 16 years I was a member of the Roman Catholic Church, the last seven as a permanent deacon. In October 2016, after three years of discernment I moved back to the Anglican Church to investigate ordination to the priesthood. On Mothering Sunday 2017 I was licensed as an assistant curate in Romsey Abbey whilst working towards priestly ordination but in the summer of 2018 I discerned that my true vocation was to remain as a Deacon so I can better fulfil the ministry God has called me to. I am married to Mary and we both retired from our fulltime employment at Southampton Hospital on 27th October 2017. I am supporting the pastoral visiting team and have a love for ministering to the elderly, sick, bereaved and dying. I'm also developing a town centre chaplaincy, which is exciting. I am very outgoing and enjoy photography and cycling.



**David Williams – Self-Supporting Minister (SSM)**

I worked in the accountancy, legal and IT professions and was very fortunate to move to Romsey in 1986 after a change of job. I trained (part time) and was ordained priest in 1995 to serve at the Abbey as a non- stipendiary minister (SSM). Now retired, I continue to take some of the occasional offices, including conducting services of the Book of Common Prayer. I'm also responsible for drawing up service rotas. Christine and I have been married for 42 years and have two grown up daughters and three grandchildren who keep us busy! I enjoy listening to music, being out with my camera trying to capture the moment and reading – I have too many books (so I am told!)

**Rhiannon Wilmott – Children and Families Worker**

I realised I felt a calling to children's ministry around 8 years ago. I began by taking Sunday School, running toddler groups and expanded into running Messy Church and becoming a Messy Church regional co-ordinator amongst other things. I joined the team at Romsey Abbey in January 2017 and the most visible projects I’ve done so far include starting a fresh expression of church as 'Lego Church' and running a children's cooking club for a week in the summer, aimed mainly at families dependent on free school meals during term time. I’m more a Greenbelt than a Spring Harvest sort of person.





**Averil Bamber – Licensed Lay Minister**

LLM ministry comes in many forms; I think of my own as first and foremost that of preaching. My husband and I have worshipped at different parish churches over the years as we have moved with his career; now retired, we value being rooted in the Abbey community. I have the pleasure of leading monthly Morning Worship in the daughter church of St. Swithun (the parish's only Sunday morning service that is non-eucharistic) and preaching in the Abbey, mainly at Evensong. In both churches, I am always struck by how good the congregations are at listening; but not really surprising – there is a rich and varied range of sermons, always worth hearing.

**Robyn Cleveland – Verger**

I have been the Verger at Romsey Abbey since October 2018 after having been the Head Virger at Beverley Minster in Yorkshire and a Virger at St Paul's Cathedral in London. My role at the Abbey focuses on providing logistical support for the clergy for all services in our daily cycle of prayer, acting as Sacrist, being a point of contact for pastoral support for visitors and congregation, and the practical aspects of keeping the Abbey open and safe every day for worshippers and pilgrims alike. I have a grown daughter who is a physicist, working as a publishing assistant for a scientific journal up in Sheffield, and my own degree is in English. I enjoy mudlarking, fossil hunting, travelling, reading, and coffee.



**Martin Seymour – Director of Music**

I joined the Abbey team in July 2019, prior to this I was Director of Music at All Saints, Marlow on Thames, where I lead choirs for boys, girls and adults. I'm married to Sarah who is also a successful artist and church musician. We've started the process of moving to the Romsey area. I've worked as a freelance classical musician for the majority of my career, teaching singing and piano, training choirs and teaching conductors with the Association of British Choral Directors. I'm very much a people person and I've taken my love of education in music and applied it in a wider aspect by taking a life coaching diploma. Alongside my regular musical activities in the UK and abroad I now coach people including musicians through to CEOs preparing to take the next step in their journey. I'm also keen on Italian motorcycles and have a collection that I ride and work on.

**Amanda Taylor – Parish Administrator**

I first became actively involved with the parish as a parent of two choristers in the Abbey Choir. I'm married to Adrian, Assistant Organist at the Abbey. Since January 2016 I've been editor of 'Open Door' the Abbey's parish magazine - this is a voluntary post and I'm supported by regular contributors and distributors. I joined the staffing team in June 2017 as Parish Administrator, working four days a week, with specific responsibility for Events and Marketing. I enjoy working at the Parish Office as there's such a variety of people, services and events. I'm a member of the choir at St Mary's Church, Copythorne and sing there on a Sunday morning. Any spare time is spent with my family or swimming.





**Helen Fogarty – Parish Administrator**

Having previously called New Zealand home, my family and I have now settled in Romsey with my 2 children attending the Romsey Abbey Primary School.

With a varied background in accounts and administration both in New Zealand and England I am now happy to find myself working three days a week as a member of the administration team in the Parish Office.

Most of my free time is filled by my family, though you may sometimes catch me strumming along with the wonderful Romsey Ukulele Group.

**Janet Wallace – Churchwarden**

I'm now in my fourth and final year as Churchwarden, following in the footsteps of my father who was a warden in Coventry Cathedral for several years, and husband Mike who was warden here until 2014, so I knew exactly what I was signing up to. It's a busy role but a great privilege to be part of such a dedicated team in such an amazing place. I've been self-employed since 2006 and although almost retired, I'm fortunate to still do a little work with students in international schools in cities across Europe – not always as glamorous as it sounds. Mike and I enjoy walking, good food and holidays and also have four children and nine grandchildren, so life is pretty busy.



**Chris Pritchard – Churchwarden**

I have been a churchwarden since April 2018 and associated with the Abbey as a member of the congregation for over twenty years. Before becoming a member of the PCC, I was involved with supporting the planning of and participation in Way In services, the Video and Technical Support Teams. My day job was in education; teaching in schools across Hampshire, leading two as head teacher and finishing my career as a Diocesan Adviser for Church Schools. I have lived in Romsey all my working life making a home here with my wife Susan and our two sons. I enjoy all practical work with the exception of gardening.

**Lee Tompson**

Lee Tompson, currently an ordinand in Winchester Diocese will be joining us as Assistant Curate in July 2020.

**Fiona Jenvey**

Fiona is the director of Wisdom House spirituality and retreat centre next to the Abbey. She is also a Pioneer Ordinand due to be ordained Deacon in July 2021.

**Mich Lajeunesse**

Mich is an Ordinand training through the Southern Theological Education Training Scheme (STETS) at Sarum College Salisbury and due to be ordained Deacon in July 2021.

## ASSOCIATE PRIEST – ROLE DESCRIPTION

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This role description should be read in conjunction with the vision and priorities in the Parish Profile, the Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of the Clergy that apply to all the ordained, and the Diocesan Vision 'Living the Mission of Jesus'. The role description is not a task list, but sets out the character and commitments of the office holder. Whilst some aspects are quite specific, the majority simply relate to activities in which all parochial clergy engage as a matter of course.

We seek a priest who:

### SPIRITUALITY

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- has an excitement about their faith, is reflective and prayerful, and makes time for their own spiritual health and development e.g. retreats, wider interests and spiritual direction
- warms to the spirituality of our Benedictine heritage with a rhythm of daily prayer, and open and inclusive hospitality 'welcoming others like Christ'
- values the richness of Anglican choral and liturgical spirituality while having a creative and pioneering spirit, open to new possibilities of outreach and ministry.

### WORSHIP AND PREACHING

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- leads choral and sacramental worship prayerfully and confidently using the building and sacred spaces effectively
- is an effective preacher able to communicate to all ages, particularly the missing generation
- can creatively lead the development of alternative worship styles to further engage the missing generation.

### LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

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- liberates the spiritual and creative energy of people and place; for worship, witness and discipleship
- will share line-management of Abbey employees and has, or will develop, an understanding of employment law and procedures
- offers clear leadership to others but also leads with and through others, building effective teams, discerning gifts, and delegating appropriately to encourage their growth
- consults and works collaboratively with the Vicar, the ministry team, churchwardens, abbey staff, volunteers and other leaders in the congregation and wider community.

### DISCIPLESHIP, LEARNING AND NURTURE

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- nurtures faith and discipleship, particularly among younger generations less evident in our congregations
- will help us develop learning and discipleship opportunities for all, from seekers through to those exploring and growing in vocations to lay and ordained ministries
- will develop our engagement with local primary and secondary schools and build on our close links with Romsey Abbey CE(A) Primary School.

## ENVANGELISM AND CONCERN FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

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- will explore opportunities to broaden our engagement with the wider town through networking, social action and environmental projects
- is committed to encouraging church growth with experience of creative ways of engaging an increasingly diverse and secular community in a rapidly growing town
- is an innovative and independent thinker, who will contribute ideas and initiatives
- explore our opportunities to broaden our mission in the wider town through networking, social action, social media, and the environment.

## PASTORAL CARE

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- supports the continued development of our team of baptism and pastoral visitors
- is sympathetic to our mental health links and our commitment as a “Mindful Employer”
- is an approachable, empathetic and active listener; skilled in assessing pastoral need and providing an appropriate response.

## STEWARDSHIP, FINANCE AND PARISH ORGANISATION

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- is a capable chair of meetings, enabling good listening and different voices to be heard, whilst able to build consensus and move forward with decisions and actions
- is a well organised, confident user of IT who will self-manage and prioritise their workload effectively, maintaining a good work/life balance
- helps to develop a culture of generous offering of time, talents and financial resources in support of mission and as part of Christian discipleship.

## ECUMENISM AND LINKS WITH OTHER BODIES

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- will play a full and active part in building relationships and links across the local community and civic bodies
- will fully participate in and contribute to the life of the Deanery (including Chapter and Synod) and Diocese
- is a visible and accessible Christian leader working closely with Churches Together in Romsey.

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

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As a key leader of our Abbey team, you will play a full part in all areas of ministry and mission serving the wider town and Deanery and contributing to our emerging vision for the future.

Having the flexibility to respond to the outcomes of our parish mission action plan, you will use your gifts to develop specific areas of responsibility and oversight. These could particularly include:

1. Developing our engagement with the ‘missing generation’ in our churches and the community
2. Working with a team to develop new worship including the introduction of an additional weekly contemporary service
3. Helping to grow and integrate our ministry with young people including primary and secondary schools and young adults
4. Developing opportunities for discipleship and nurture from enquirers through to those growing in and exploring lay and ordained vocations
5. In collaboration with the Vicar, sharing responsibility for the management of key staff.





# APPENDICES

## THEMES FROM OUR DISCERNMENT DAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2019



### **Prayer and Spirituality**

- All our parish life to be grounded and underpinned by rhythms of prayer, nurture and study, enabling people to discover, grow and live out their Christian calling. Our Benedictine spirituality and inclusive welcome.

### **Worship and Music**

- While rooted in the Anglican choral and liturgical tradition, to diversify our worship and create more opportunities to engage families, young people and the missing generation. To use music to enhance these aims.

### **The missing generation**

- To find creative ways of engaging the younger generation, the under 40's, millennials, youth, children and local schools and those who are 'spiritual but not religious'.

### **Community, Social Transformation and the Environment**

- To be more visibly engaged in the wider town and wider world, seeking ways of making a transforming difference in people's lives and the environment through partnerships, social action projects and care for God's creation. Faith through loving action.

### **Stewarding our heritage and resources**

- To develop and make best use of our buildings in a way that enables our future growth and mission.
- To preserve our heritage and enhance our buildings for the benefit of the wider community and future generations.
- To be a generous community, stewarding our financial resources wisely.
- To renew the focus and structure of our governance.

### **Communication and Welcome**

- To further improve our communication, visibility and welcome as a major venue for visitors and the wider town.

## **ROMSEY ABBEY CE(A) PRIMARY SCHOOL**

My name is Julie-Anne Palfrey and I am the Head Teacher of Romsey Abbey Primary School. We are aiming to offer high quality education within a Christian context and, as such, have very close links with Romsey Abbey. We teach RE in line with the Hampshire Agreed Syllabus and are using “Understanding Christianity” as a tool. We hold a daily act of collective worship and one of these each week is led by a member of the Romsey Abbey clergy team.

Our worship, timetabled for the year, is planned carefully by the school in liaison with the Abbey. This ensures that we are able to make the most of the festivals and the Church calendar. Once every half-term our children attend a Eucharist service at Romsey Abbey to which parents are invited.

As a school we see the Abbey as an extension of our buildings and we make use of this resource as often as possible. Some examples this year include: an Anglo-Saxon history day and an overnight residential in the Abbey. It is our rich curriculum alongside our distinctively Christian nature that enables us to flourish. Our education is underpinned by Christian values. The school’s motto is ‘We are walking in the footsteps of Jesus in love, trust and forgiveness’.



*left: A school service in the Abbey*



## ST. SWITHUN'S



### BACKGROUND

St Swithun's was built in the mid-nineteenth century as a chapel and school to serve the outlying hamlet of Crampmoor. The same space was used for both, with the chancel screened off during weekdays; the schoolteacher lived in part of the building. Refurbishment and redecoration were carried out in 2016. The building is now a simple, flexible space with moveable chairs. A car park has level access to the church. We have a small vestry, toilet and a small kitchen with an urn and kettles.



## OUR CONGREGATION



There are usually about 30-40 people on a Sunday morning, but we probably have around 50 people attending regularly. We are small enough to know each other well and care for each other. Special events such as 'big' birthdays or anniversaries are often celebrated with drinks and cakes after the morning service. We normally have coffee or tea and biscuits after one service a month.

Cards signed by members of the congregation go to those who are ill, bereaved or celebrating. A number of members of our congregation also attend the Abbey and volunteer in various ways. We have lots of volunteers who help us to run smoothly. They carry out such activities as cleaning, gardening and grass cutting, general maintenance tasks, flower arranging, reading for services, assisting at Communion, sidespeople, singers and making and serving refreshments, and we also have 4 volunteer organists who work on a rota.

## SERVICES AND SOCIAL EVENTS

Our regular service is on Sunday mornings at 10am. We have Morning Worship on the first Sunday of each month and Holy Communion on the other Sundays. We also have special services for our Patronal Festival, an afternoon carol service and a 9am service on Christmas day.

The church is also used for small funerals and for baptism services. An informal service called 'Space' is held in the evening on the second Sunday of each month. All our services include hymns of various styles, using New English Hymnal or Mission Praise.

The church does not have a licence for marriages, although we have had one wedding by special licence and at least one marriage blessing.

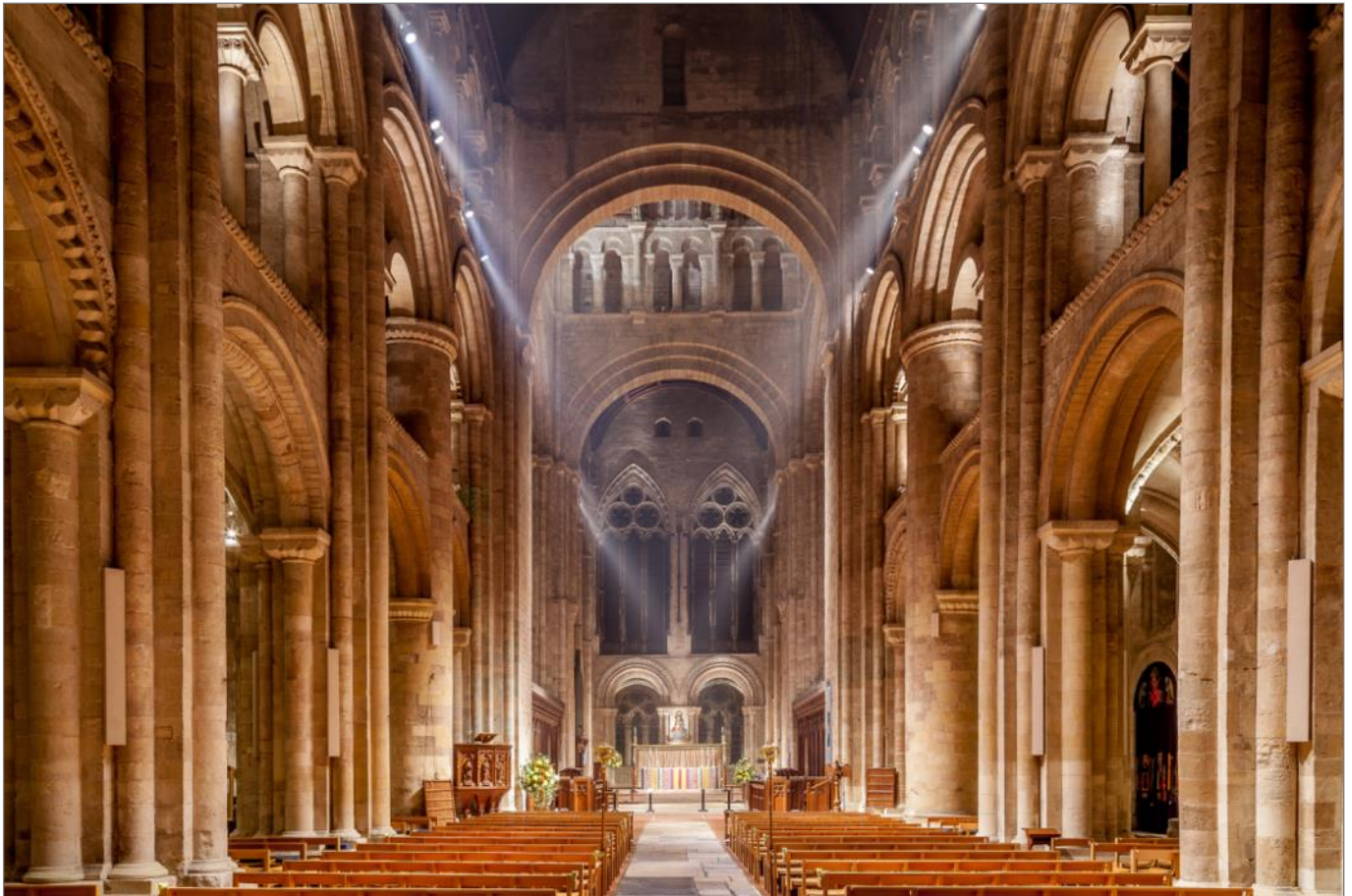
Other parish groups also hold occasional services and meetings.

We aim to contribute £1000 each year to Parish fundraising and this is done by holding social events which also raise money. A typical year includes a 'Cottage pie and cava lunch', beetle drive and good-as-new sale and we have also held barbecues and cream teas. Food for these occasions is provided by members of the congregation. Our social events are an important part of our church life, and the majority of regular worshippers also join in with them.



## OUR BUILDINGS

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## OVERVIEW

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The parish has two churches: Romsey Abbey and St Swithun's. The Normans started to build the Abbey in 1120 although the remains of the Saxon Abbey dates back to 907. St Swithun's was built by the Victorians as a school and church. In 1927 a new community school was built nearby and the building has been used solely as a church ever since. Both buildings are in a good state of repair under the watchful eyes of the Fabric Committee of the PCC. The Abbey by its sheer size tends to occupy most of the agenda of a Fabric Committee meeting so the St Swithun's Committee oversee the day to day needs of their building, bringing more substantial issues to Fabric for discussion and approval.

## THE ABBEY

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The Quinquennial Report from 2015 is used as basis for ongoing maintenance and remedial work to the building. In addition, recent work has included installing safety wires on parts of the roof to allow contractors and volunteers safe access for maintenance. In 2018 new lighting on an emergency exit route used by the bell ringers was installed. An upgrade to the lightning protection system will start in August 2019. After the Development Project, renewing the power sockets around the Abbey is probably the next large project.

## ST. SWITHUN'S

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Towards the end of 2016 St Swithun's went through a thorough internal refurbishment and is in an excellent condition.

## CHURCH ROOMS

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The Church Rooms Committee oversees day to day running, bringing major items to Fabric committee. In 2016 the electrics were completely updated with new sockets and lighting circuits. Last year the committee upgraded the Church Rooms fabric including the toilets and kitchen. Their aim is to make the rooms serve the changing needs of the parish.

## VERGER'S FLAT

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The flat is above the Church Rooms. Before the current verger took up her position in 2018 the flat and garden was extensively refurbished with the addition of double glazing.

## PARISH OFFICE

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The Parish Office is the working hub of the Abbey where much of the team operates on a day to day basis. It is a relatively small area with one office shared by our two administrators and a meeting room shared by the Children and Families Worker, Music Director, Curate, Treasurer and also booked out for committee meetings (not usually at the same time!) Opening out to the two parish office rooms is the Vicar's study. The Vicar is happy to convert his study into a working space for two should the Associate Priest want a working base in the Parish Office. The office also has a small kitchen area with disabled access loo and it adjoins the vicarage.

## VICARAGE

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The vicarage is a detached property the opposite side of Church Lane from the West End of the Abbey.

## THE CURATE'S HOUSE

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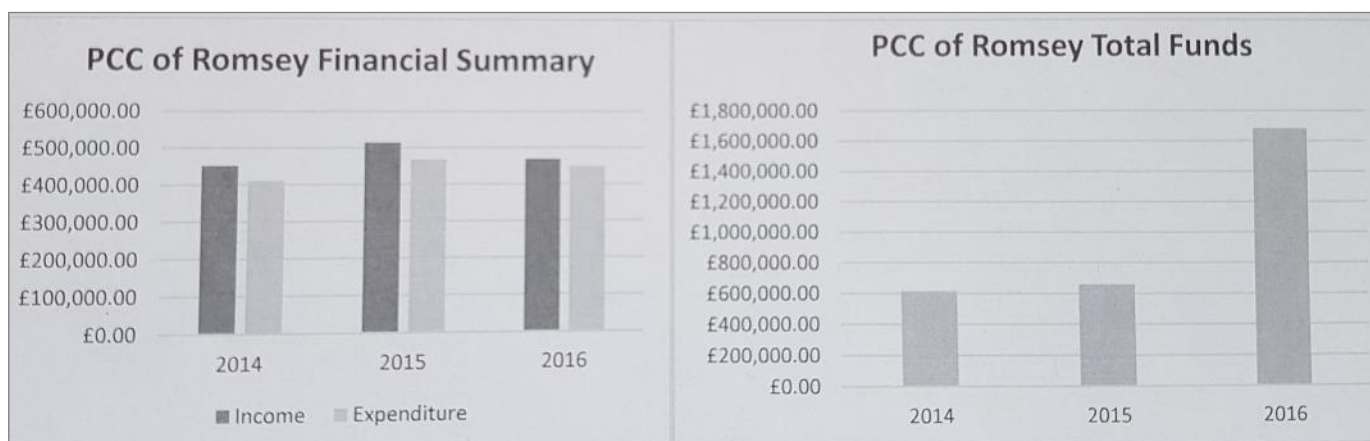
The Curate's house is located in Mount Temple, a road on a small estate to the South East of the town centre. We anticipate that our second assistant curate Lee Thompson may overlap with Nik Gower for a short while and so may live in rented accommodation close to the town centre, funded by the Diocese.

## THE ASSOCIATE PRIEST'S HOUSE

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The Diocese will buy a property in Romsey for the Associate Priest due to there being no existing house. Further information will be given in consultation with both the PCC and the new appointee.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY



For many years the PCC has benefited from PCC Treasurers who are Chartered Accountants and who have given their time and professional skills free of charge. Currently all book keeping is completed by the PCC Treasurer, but we have recently appointed a Finance Officer for four hours a week to assist the Treasurer as the work load was becoming increasingly time consuming. The PCC Treasurer also works closely with a volunteer Assistant Treasurer who is responsible for day to day matters such as paying invoices. The current Independent Examiner (a paid professional firm) has been in post for two years and was selected after a formal tender process.

The PCC Treasurer is responsible for

- Annual Accounts and Trustees reports
- Quarterly Management Accounts
- Staff salaries and pensions in liaison with the PCC Standing Committee

Full details of Annual Accounts and accompanying Trustees reports can be found at <http://beta.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?regid=1133189&subid=0>

The significant increase in funds in 2016 was due to the receipt of an endowment fund bequeathed by a member of the Abbey congregation. In recent years Common Mission Fund (Parish Share) has been paid in full to the Diocese.

The Abbey's Financial Resources Committee (FRC) meets regularly and reports to every PCC meeting. Major work streams are:

### Finances

- Budgets and Bank Accounts
- Legacies
- Stewardship campaigns
- Utilities procurement
- Financial policies and procedures
- Income streams e.g. Abbey & Church Rooms lettings, Abbey events, Friends, Music in Romsey, etc.

### Risk Management

- Business Continuity plans
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Insurance



## THE PCC

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We have a large PCC with 22 members including 5 members of Deanery Synod. Most of the work of the PCC is carried out through sub-committees which can co-opt members who are not on the PCC. The current committees are: Standing, Fabric, Financial Resources, Discipleship, Children and Young People, Pastoral, St Swithun's, Health and Safety, Communications and Magazine, Church Rooms, Social and Abbey Development and Friends of Romsey Abbey Music (FoRAM). Support for the committees and attendance at meetings is currently shared between the Vicar and Churchwardens. The PCC gives strategic direction and oversees the committees' work, receiving reports and minutes from them. We are currently planning to review the structure and membership of our sub-committees to reduce some of the demands on members and ensure that they are supportive of our parish vision and action plan.

We currently have two Churchwardens who serve for 4 years, with a change every 2 years. Prior to election they serve as Deputy Warden during the previous year to learn the job.

## THE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

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The idea of undertaking a major development to equip the Abbey to meet the mission needs of the 21st century has grown over several years. An initial concept was developed and tested with the congregation and representatives from the town and there was good indication of support for such a project. The input from these consultations resulted in several changes to the proposed plans. Keith Bamber, a member of the congregation and formerly Receiver General of Winchester Cathedral, was asked to produce a costed plan for the next stage, the Development Phase. There has been a significant pause in progressing things further, in part due to an Interregnum, but now the Development Project will be revisited in the light of our future mission priorities.

## DEMOGRAPHICS AND STATISTICS

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At the 2011 Census, Romsey's population was just under 17,000. Since then there have been significant housing developments in the area, with over 800 new dwellings built and at least a further 1,300 planned. The population of the Parish of Romsey now accounts for over half of the total population of the Deanery. There are many homeowners, however there is also a substantial minority who are financially unable to purchase their own home. Demographically, more than half of the population at the last census was in the 50+ age bracket. Most were white and most identified as British. The majority identified as Christian, with 'no religion' the next biggest grouping. The parish has a range of educational and vocational demography. Approximately one-fifth of people in the Test Valley area have no qualifications and one-third have higher qualifications, with the majority educated to A-level or equivalent. Approximately half of the population in the Test Valley are in social grades C1 and C2 (lower middle class and skilled working class), with just under one-third in social grades A and B (upper middle and middle class). There are areas of relative affluence as well as those of significant deprivation.

## SOME PARISH STATISTICS

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We have a large congregation of regular worshippers, with around 400 who attend at least one service each week. We are often full to capacity for major festivals and special services including our annual Christingle, Crib Service, Nine Lessons and Carols and the Christmas Midnight Eucharist. In addition, the Abbey hosts a large number of school carol services, charity concerts and other events throughout December.

The statistics below are taken from the 2018 Statistics for Mission returns for the Abbey and St Swithun.

	<b>Romsey Abbey</b>		<b>St Swithun's</b>		<b>Total</b>
Number on the electoral roll for the parish					407*
Number over 16 who attend services on a usual Sunday	315		35		350
Number under 16 who attend services on a usual Sunday	25		0		25
Number in our Worshipping Community at end of 2018	Age 0-10	12	Age 18-70+	35	465
	Age 11-17	30			
	Age 18-69	113			
	Age 70+	275			

	<b>Romsey Abbey</b>	<b>St Swithun's</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total number attending worship at services on Easter Day/Easter Eve	669	32	701
Total number of people attending special services held for the congregation and local community during Advent	1095	0	1095
Total number of people attending special services held specifically for civic and school organisations during Advent	4000	0	4000
Total number attending worship at services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day	1666	50	1716
Number of people baptised	69	3	72
Number of couples married	35	0	35
Number of funerals held in church	42	2	44
Number of funerals conducted at a crematorium	14	0	14
Number of visitors in a typical week	900	0	900

## PARISH PARISH GROUPS

Within the parish there is a wide range of groups that meet on a regular basis to socialise, share their interests and experiences, and explore their faith outside regular services. Needless to say, tea and cake are generally involved. In addition to the Home Groups referred to elsewhere, well-established groups include the Mothers' Union which does wonderful work in fundraising to support families at home and overseas, the Knitting Group whose members make garments for charities around the world, the Children's Society which plans many fundraising events including our annual Christingle Service, and the Romsey Abbey and St Swithun's Women's Group, an informal and friendly group that meets twice a month to enjoy a variety of guest speakers, outings and other activities.

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

As well as the regular group meetings we seek to offer a wide range of social activities to cater for all ages, interests and budgets, enabling members of the congregation and the wider community to mix, have some fun and

get to know each other in an informal environment as well as raising funds to support the Abbey's mission.

For a number of years the Friends of Romsey Abbey has held regular coffee mornings, an annual Friends dinner, theatre trips and excursions to a variety of interesting locations including visits to the RNLI College at Poole and the Didcot Railway Centre and a trip on a narrow boat on the Kennet and Avon Canal. These have been a great way of engaging people beyond our immediate congregation as well as those who are regular worshippers.

Further activities have been organised in-house by our Abbey Social committee. These have included quiz evenings, talks by local speakers (often accompanied by a selection of delicious desserts), pub walks, Desert Island Discs and a summer garden party.



## LIVING HERE

In the heart of Hampshire, Romsey nestles on the river Test which passes through and under much of the town. Settled from 700AD the name may originate from Rum, a local Saxon leader, leading to Rum's Island or Rumsey, the 'ey' being an Old English word for island. Further information about the history of Romsey is available from the Romsey Local History Society.

Romsey is a small market town that evolved around the great Abbey founded in 907 by Edward the Elder. At the dissolution the Abbey was purchased for the town to preserve a parish church for the people. To this day the Abbey is a centre of activity as we continue to make everyone welcome.



The town has continued to grow and many residents have found Romsey by chance, visiting as tourists, holidaying in the area and visiting for the day, through business connections or by temporarily renting a flat or house. Having discovered this special place, they have then made Romsey their home, a place to live, grow and bring up families.

## TRANSPORT

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Romsey has close access to the main motorways, the M27 and M3 and, with a bus and train station, it is in easy reach of Southampton, Portsmouth, Winchester and Salisbury. With a good mix of shops in the town it also has major high street names and out of town shopping centres only minutes away.

## EDUCATION

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Romsey has four primary schools including the church school adjacent to the Abbey. Two secondary schools serve the town and the surrounding areas: Romsey School and Mountbatten School. Stroud and Embley (formerly Hampshire Collegiate School) also provide private education on the outskirts of the town.

## HEALTH

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The town has its own Community Hospital, two General Practices on three sites and six dental practices. Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust is 7 miles away and is a regional centre for many specialist services.

## HOUSING

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A diverse population with regard to age is served by a broad mix of housing ranging from large detached houses with large grounds, to flats, starter homes and social housing managed by housing associations. In recent years there have been at least five new developments for elderly living and/or care. Several new estates and others in the planning stage, catering for younger people and families, have been built. Romsey continue to grow reflecting the popularity of the town for both young and old, families and singles.

## ATTRACTIONS

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Within the town Romsey Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society (RAODS) owns and operates The Plaza which offers a wide range of plays and entertainment. The Rapids offers classes in swimming, sports, gym as well as access to a wide range of physical and fun activities. The town centre offers a mix of independent shops and well known brands. There are a large number of pubs and restaurants offering food from around the world. See Romsey Chamber of Commerce.

Within Romsey we have Romsey Memorial Park and on the outskirts of the town and set in extensive parklands is the eighteenth-century mansion of Broadlands, the former home of Lord Palmerston and also Lord Louis Mountbatten. On the outskirts of the town is the Sir Harold Hillier Arboretum and the National Trust's Mottisfont Abbey, five miles north-west of Romsey, is well known for its walled kitchen garden and a national collection of old-fashioned and species of roses. To the west of Romsey is Paultons Park the home of Peppa Pig World.

The River Test offers one of the finest trout and salmon rivers in Europe. Romsey sits on the edge of the New Forest boasting idyllic glades, ancient woodland, open moors, heath land and cliff top walks.

## EVENTS IN ROMSEY

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Romsey is a place where community involvement thrives. Here is a selection of events that take place annually: Beggars Fair, Romsey Festival (every three years), Romsey Show, Romsey Carnival, Lantern Parade, Food Festival.

## ROMSEY SOCIETIES

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Choirs for all ages flourish in Romsey, here are some links to the choirs we know of Mountbatten Community Choir, Romsey Choral Society, Romsey Ladies Choir, Romsey Male Voice Choir, Romsey Youth Choir, Romsey Singers, Romsey Voices. In addition, the schools in Romsey have choirs and orchestras of outstanding quality and we are privileged to host these talented youngsters for concerts and school Christmas Carol Services. The Abbey hosts many concerts and Music in Romsey organises these events.

There are many other societies in Romsey including the History Society, the Arts Society, and the Romsey and District Society.



