

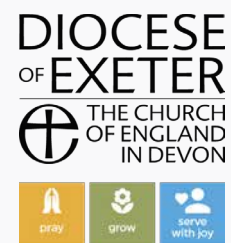


St Paul's, Stonehouse, Plymouth

“To know God and make Him known, worshipping Jesus Christ as Lord.”

Parish Profile

For the post of Team Vicar



Come to Plymouth!

Along with the congregation at St Paul’s and our team at St Andrew’s, I am excited by the prospect of a new colleague joining us to serve Christ together here in Plymouth.

I love the way that Paul describes himself as a servant of the gospel and a servant of the church (Col 1:23 & 25) – his clear commission was to proclaim Jesus and to build up His people, and to do this, as he says, by presenting the ‘word of God in its fulness’. That’s exactly the work I understand us to be engaged in too – there is plenty of it to do, and I feel more encouraged than ever by the opportunities that lie before us here in Plymouth.

We are looking for someone who will come and serve the gospel, particularly in Stonehouse, and serve the church, particularly at St Paul’s – and to do so as part of our wider team: we are a friendly, Christ-centred, supportive and enthusiastic bunch, and I hope this document gives you a bit of a feel for the kind of ministry opportunity there is here.

If you would like to chat informally about the role, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Phone: 07402469720
Email: josephdent@gmail.com

Further details about applying for the post can be found on the Exeter Diocesan website – just follow the QR code.

I look forward to speaking with you.



Joe Dent
Team Rector

Archdeacon's Foreword

Plymouth 2035 is an ambitious, decade-long project to bring transformation to the Church of England across the city. Its aim is to breathe new life into mission and ministry, shaping a vibrant future for Plymouth. This role offers a unique opportunity to be a part of reshaping the church in the centre of the city.

Within this vision, the parish of St Paul's, Stonehouse has received funding from the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB) to better engage a key part of Plymouth. The small parish of Stonehouse is situated in one of the wealthier parts of the city that sits alongside an area of significant deprivation and challenge. St Paul's is part of the St Andrew's Minster team which serves the city centre and the civic function of the Church of England.

This role is designed so that at least half of the Team Vicar's time will be focussed on reaching the community that has no contact with the church. In collaboration

with other churches and charities, there is significant potential for pioneering outreach into the night-time economy, local estates and the residents of the city centre. The congregation at St Paul's is gathered from across the city and this re-envisioned post will allow for better engagement with the local area.

The leadership team is committed and hardworking, offering robust support for the incoming Team Vicar. The congregation is missionally minded, welcoming and ready for new challenges. They are praying for someone who will bring dynamism, creativity and a deep heart for mission to the team.

Not only is Plymouth a great place to call home, but the Diocese of Exeter is a great community of which to be a part.

If you would like more information about this post, please be in touch for an informal chat.



Rev'd Jane Bakker
Archdeacon of Plymouth
01752 858382
ADP@exeter.anglican.org

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane'.



A Message from Bishop Mike

Bishop of Exeter

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” — **Matthew 28:19-20**

Our vision in this diocese is that of Jesus in His Great Commission. We aspire to appoint leaders of our Christian communities who practise the presence of our Lord and enable others to do so; leaders who witness, act and relate in ways which make disciples and enable others to do so; leaders who serve in ways which intrigue, attract and engage the wider community, and enable others to do so.

In short – pray, grow and serve!

So we are looking for ministerial leaders who:

- are intentionally missional, helping their Christian community to discern who God is sending them to, and who God is sending the;
- are developing missional habits and confidence in the faith for members of their congregations, enabling them to be invitational and ambassadorial;
- invest in their own discipleship and well-being, and that of those in their care;
- cultivate vocations, lay and ordained, actively recruiting for initiatives such as the Foundations course and the Exeter Ordination Pathway;
- place children and young people at the heart of our mission, orienting churches to be ever-more welcoming spaces for young people, using existing resources and networks, but also being pioneering in outlook;
- experiment with ways of being and doing church that engage the unengaged – we encourage ambitious plans such as creating two new worshipping communities in the first three years of a new ministry;

You can expect to find:

- support from senior leaders committed to enabling this mission and ministry;
- an outstanding diocesan team, second to none in terms of training provision and
- opportunities, comms understanding, finance expertise, buildings experience and care for our ministers;
- opportunities for personal and professional development in alignment with the vision of the Great Commission;
- a warm, relational diocese, where diversity is welcomed and honoured;
- a good-humoured, joyful, energetic culture grateful for the privilege of being called into ministry and supportive of missional experimentation, risktaking and ‘having a go’;
- If you’re still reading then I suspect we might be on the same page and I pray that the Holy Spirit might inform, shape and direct your discernment concerning this post.



Dr. Mike Harrison
Bishop of Exeter

Plymouth 2035

Now is an especially good time to be considering a post in the city of Plymouth. It is a great city: in 2024, in separate studies, Plymouth was recognised as one of the most underrated travel destinations in the world and the UK’s best city to live and work in. As if that weren’t enough, during 2025, we are launching Plymouth 2035. This is our vision and strategy for the next decade for Anglican mission and ministry in the city.

One of the key aspects is that we want to see 2035 more new disciples belonging to our churches in the city. This will roughly double our attendance. We also want to commit to having churches across the city which offer life in all its fullness—practically, emotionally and spiritually—to every parishioner, not predominantly those who faithfully attend. We are hoping to secure national funding to make the vision a reality, but we will pursue it whatever. As part of this we are looking for clergy and laity to be bold and willing to step out in faith for what can be, without abandoning what has been. We are praying for greater unity and partnership across the churches and communities.

In the coming months, 10 stipendiary posts will be vacant, which opens up all sorts of possibilities. That means if God is calling you to this post, you will be part of a wave of new ministers joining as we begin this next chapter for

the city and God’s kingdom. You will also be joining with wonderful, committed lay people and priests, who have been faithfully serving and preparing the ground over the years.

Plymouth 2035 is centred on some Bible verses and a prayer. The verses are from Acts 20:32-36 – with 20:35 at the centre.

“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified... we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed.”

We recognise that Plymouth 2035 is going to be costly for many of us, and so this verse offers a great reminder that we live sacrificially and helping the weak isn’t an optional part of our faith. I also love the fact that it sets it in the context of Jesus’ grace offering salvation and transformation for now and eternity. Oh, and it ends with all the people praying for it to happen.

Our prayer is bold and disruptive and is that of Sir Francis Drake, one of Plymouth’s most famous people:

*Disturb us, Lord, when we are too pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore.*

*Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess We have lost our thirst for the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
we have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim.*

*Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wilder seas where storms will show Your mastery;
Where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.*

*We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes;
And to push back the future in strength, courage, hope, and love. This we ask in the name of our Captain, who is Jesus Christ.*

Amen

Thank you for taking the time to read this profile and please do get in touch if you would like to chat to me further about this post or Plymouth 2035.



James Grier
Bishop of Plymouth

Thank You For Your Interest

We hope that this profile will indeed interest you, and that the prospect of working in Plymouth will excite you – it is a vibrant and lively city and we are based in an attractive coastal part of it. But we hope that what will excite you more than anything about this post are the spiritual needs and opportunities.

There is a great deal of work to do towards the progress of the gospel in Plymouth as well as the challenges presented by widespread deprivation in the city. We want to play our part in bringing gospel hope and practical help to our neighbourhood. If the thought of leading a church which is deeply committed to the gospel – and to reaching out in evangelism with that gospel - appeals to you, we would love to meet you.

About Us

St Paul’s, Stonehouse, is an evangelical Anglican church committed to knowing Jesus Christ, making Him known, and faithfully proclaiming His Word. We are seeking a prayerful, Christ-centred minister who will lead us in joyful worship, evangelism, biblical teaching and pastoral care. Our desire is to reach our parish with the gospel, strengthen believers in their walk with Christ, and live out lives of service, compassion, and hope.

About our Parish

St Paul’s is located on Durnford Street on the Stonehouse peninsula, an area rich in history and marked by both social deprivation and prestigious heritage housing. The parish population on the peninsula is about 1600 people, of which about 12% are under 20 years old. The latest ONS data gives an age profile for the parish that looks like this: The above average number 20-35 year olds is probably due

to the presence of the 3 Commando Royal Marines located on Durnford Street. Population-wise the parish is 90% white, with 50% of people identifying themselves as having no religion, and 40% identifying themselves as Christian. Despite being near the city centre, the parish retains a village feel with its primary school, beach, coffee shops and community gatherings such as barbeques and picnics at the private waterfront tennis courts, and our much-love annual

Carols around the Peninsula. These events have fostered a positive relationship with the Stonehouse Residents’ Association, with whom we liaise regularly.

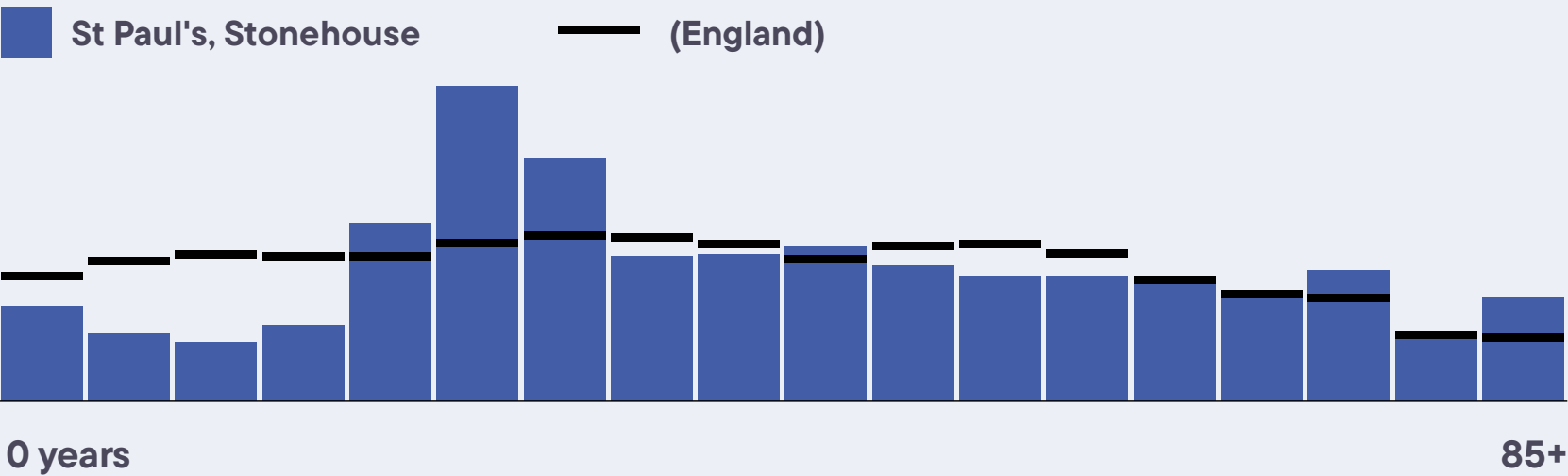
The peninsula is a lovely place to live and enjoy the waterfront with its beach, cafés and restaurants. At the same time the latest census data suggest that about 50% of households are within the deprivation bracket.

Local Features Include:

- 3 Commando Royal Marines
- Brittany Ferries Terminal
- Nazareth House care home
- Edgcumbe Court sheltered accommodation
- Princess Yachts, the area’s largest industry
- St George’s Church of England Primary Academy, immediately behind the church, with which we have an excellent relationship.
- Royal William Yard (RWY) – a historic naval victualling yard transformed into high-end housing, shops, and restaurants

Stonehouse benefits from excellent pedestrian links. The Cremyll Ferry offers foot access to Cornwall and Mount Edgcumbe Country Park, while a summer ferry connects RWY with the historic Plymouth Barbican.

Age Profile 2024



0 years

% of all people, 5 year age bands

Source: ONS—Mid'year estimates

Small area: Output area

85+

The Church community

St Paul's is a warm, welcoming, and sociable evangelical church. We are committed to **faithful biblical exposition** and enthusiastic singing of both hymns and modern songs rich in theology.

Attendance

- **Electoral Roll:** 45 (26 parish residents, 19 nonresidents)
- **Sunday attendance:** 40–50 adults, with occasional children
- **Approximately 45% of our congregation travels from outside the parish**, drawn by faithful teaching, fellowship, and community life

We are a multi-national congregation, including members from Nigeria, Hong Kong, and other nations. We also welcome a couple who serve with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Africa.

The church enjoys strong fellowship after services, with most people staying for refreshments and conversation.

A Team Ministry

We are part of a team with the **Minster Church of St Andrew** - both churches are orthodox and conservative evangelical by conviction. Joe Dent has been the Team Rector at St Andrew's since 2013, and the ministry team consists of two further clergy (a Team Vicar and an Associate Minister), a Minister for Young People and Families, an Outreach Worker, a Youth Worker, a Children's Worker, a Director of Music, and a Ministry Apprentice.

The two churches, St Andrew's and St Paul's, are very different in size and character (St Andrew's attendance on Sunday is around 350 and is located in the city centre)—they require distinct approaches to ministry and have their own PCCs. However, they share a very similar outlook and we hope for a deeper sense of family relationship and mutual support between the two congregations.

The Team Vicar at St Paul's will make Stonehouse the primary focus of ministry and evangelism but will be overseen and supported by the Team Rector and be fully involved in the wider staff team in terms of fellowship, prayer support, counsel and training. The clergy share a proportional responsibility for preaching and occasional offices across both churches and we have benefited in the past from a good blend of complementary gifts. In addition to a commitment to clear Bible teaching, we hope that the new vicar at St Paul's will bring to the wider team a passion to pioneer new ideas in evangelism and a willingness to take risks.

It should also be noted that the PCC at St Paul's has passed a resolution in accordance with the House of Bishops Declaration on the Ministry of Priests and Bishops.



What We're Aiming and Praying for as a Church

Mission Statement

“To know God and make Him known, worshipping Jesus Christ as Lord.”

In Support of These Aims

We long to be a church that:

- Encourages gospel-centred fellowship and discipleship
- Helps unbelievers explore faith in Christ and become Christians
- Teaches the Bible faithfully and forms obedient followers of Jesus
- Builds effective evangelistic bridges by extending a warm welcome and compassionately serving our community
- Helps children – in the church and the community – to discover faith in Jesus
- Demonstrates God’s heart for the marginalised and those who struggle, helping them to find practical and spiritual help and hope.
- Supports every member in using their gifts, regardless of age or infirmity
- Underpins all this through dependence on God in prayer

Our Main Aim...

...to know Jesus, introduce others to Him, and see lives transformed through the gospel.

Youth & Children

- We currently have a small number of children attending on some Sundays, but we would like to build up our children’s ministry as the Lord provides growth.
- To that end we have a really good relationship with St George’s Primary School, which is located just behind St Paul’s. Ministry staff from St Andrew’s assist with Collective Worship, and the Head Teacher, Kelly Earnshaw writes that *“St George's CofE Primary Academy has historically enjoyed a warm, active partnership with St Paul's church and we are deeply committed to nurturing this relationship when a new incumbent has been secured. Regular collective worship, church visits and shared celebrations are central to school life, helping children grow spiritually as well as academically. Staff and governors value the church’s presence and leadership, and the school looks forward to working closely with a new vicar to enrich worship, support pastoral care, and strengthen the Christian ethos at the heart of our community. Together, we believe that our school and the church can collaborate to offer every child a sense of belonging, hope, and purpose.”*



Worship & services

Our main weekly service is at **11:00am each Sunday, with Holy Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays** of the month. We value reverent, joyful, Bible-centred worship, rooted in Scripture and shaped by both traditional and contemporary music.

Occasional Offices

Last year:

- 4 adult baptisms
- 1 infant baptism
- 1 funeral
- 2 weddings

Midweek Ministry

St Paul's maintains an active midweek rhythm of prayer, teaching, and fellowship:

- **Monday Evening Prayer Meeting**
Attended by 10–20% of regular worshippers
- **Tuesday Morning Bible Study**
- **Wednesday Community Lunch**
Homemade soup and cake are served, with a short evangelistic message
- Christmas Community Lunch
- Wednesday Evening Home Groups Currently studying Ephesians; previously Christianity Explored and Discipleship courses. Groups meet in the church or in homes as appropriate

We also enjoy weekend church teaching and fellowship breaks at the Heatree Activity Centre on Dartmoor, sometimes jointly with another Plymouth church.

Evangelism and outreach

Our local outreach currently includes:

- Warm connections with community groups
- Popular seasonal events (notably our Carols by Candlelight, which nearly filled the church last year)
- Occasional Faith Explored Courses
- A walk of faith each Easter where we carry the cross around the peninsular sharing scripture, hymns and prayers.
- Regular engagement with local residents and families

And we have recently partnered with the charity 'Transforming Plymouth Together' to provide a warm place for rough sleepers and particularly cold nights.



Who We're Looking For

The new Team Vicar of St Paul's will be funded 50/50 by the Diocese and the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board to have a pioneering brief with the deliberate intention of leading the church in evangelistic engagement with our locality. This is for an initial period of 5 years and future viability is dependent on growth.

St Paul's bears the name of the church's greatest evangelist and teacher – we seek a leader with a similar passion for both priorities:

- Someone who will enthuse us with a joyful passion to share the gospel and take risks in pioneering new opportunities.
- Someone with a heart for Jesus, His Gospel and the His Word, whose preaching will deepen our knowledge of Christ and our love for Him.

You will need to be someone who is energised by the thought of pioneering new ground for the gospel, not merely welcoming outsiders into our space in the church building, but getting out into the community to forge new relationships and find new opportunities.

So if you can...

- ...teach the Bible faithfully and clearly
- ...engage evangelistically and compassionately with our community
- ...lead us in worship centred on Scripture and Christ
- ...encourage spiritual growth, prayer and discipleship
- ...support and develop ministry among children and families
- ...work collaboratively within the team ministry with St Andrew's
- ...love and care for the congregation pastorally
- ...help us develop all this into a strategic action plan to help us grow
- ...then we'd love to meet you!

Above all, we seek someone who loves Jesus, loves His people, and longs to see the gospel advance in Stonehouse.



What We Offer

- A warm, supportive, prayerful congregation
- A committed leadership and volunteer team
- A rich variety of ministry opportunities in a diverse parish
- A beautiful location with coastal access and historic character
- Strong collaboration with St Andrew's
- A community with significant potential for gospel renewal

The Vicarage

The vicarage, located on historic Durnford Street, consists of a Georgian townhouse offering stunning views across the River Tamar towards Cornwall. It is in the heart of the Stonehouse community, and a minute's walk from the church building. It is a listed terrace property over four floors with garden and garage to the rear. The lower ground floor consists of a kitchen and dining room and small utility area. On the ground floor are two reception rooms and a WC and shower room. On the first floor there are two bedrooms and a family bathroom and on the top floor are a further two bedrooms.



Conclusion

We believe the Lord has sustained St Paul’s through faithful ministry and fellowship, and we are eager to enter a new season under His leading. We pray that He will call a minister who shares our love of Scripture, our desire to introduce others to Jesus, and our commitment to mission in a parish full of opportunity and need.

If you sense that God may be calling you to serve with us, we would be delighted to talk with you.



The Plymouth 2035 Covenant

Plymouth 2035 envisions churches that are inspired by fresh opportunities, strengthened by new members, and energised through Spirit-led innovation. Transformation begins with openness to where God is already at work and a willingness to join in. This covenant encourages clergy to take faithful risks and place mission at the heart of church life. It is a shared commitment between Plymouth clergy, the Plymouth 2035 team, and diocesan leadership. It expresses a desire to see with fresh eyes and embrace God’s call to something new.

In response to the Plymouth 2035 vision, I commit myself to:

Pray for Plymouth 2035

Prayer reflects the missional heart of God in our lives and communities. I will:

- Pray regularly for my churches to grow,
- Create intentional opportunities for prayer within my churches,
- Attend Plymouth 2035 prayer gatherings,
- Give everyone in my churches (and beyond) a copy of the Plymouth 2035 prayer.

Build Collegiality

Plymouth 2035 builds collaboration among clergy, churches and mission communities. I will:

- Engage with revitalised Chapter meetings and Plymouth 2035 termly gatherings

- Work with other colleagues to bring Plymouth 2035 alive in my Mission Community,
- Share stories of faith and encouragement to inspire and connect.

Be intentionally missional

Growth happens where it is planned for. I will:

- Enable my churches to develop a Plan for Growth for our Mission Community,
- Encourage my churches to reorient themselves towards mission in everything we do.

Cultivate missional DNA

Growth comes when people are signposted to take their next step in faith. I will:

- Ensure that every event, activity or service includes a clear next step in faith,
- Plan to always have something to invite a newcomer to,
- Create regular opportunities for enquirers to explore Christianity.

Expand our mixed ecology of Church

In order to encourage a church that is more diverse and contextually relevant, I will:

- Support my churches to create two new worshipping communities,
- Challenge convention, entertain new ideas and try new things,
- Actively listen to those outside of my church community.

Nurture vocations and leadership

To create a culture that recognizes and nurtures vocations, I will:

- Inspire confidence in everyday disciples,
- Help people discern what God is calling them to—whatever their age or stage of faith,
- Give individuals, and congregations, a chance to ‘have a go’ at something new,
- Develop home-grown, contextual leaders, especially in estate communities.

Grow younger and more diverse

To focus on younger people in my Mission Community, I will:

- Strive to reflect the diversity of my parishes,
- Reach out to children and young people where they are and in their schools
- Create welcoming spaces for young people, using existing resources and networks,
- Encourage good safeguarding practices across my mission community.

Inspire generosity

To create a culture of generosity that supports sustainable mission, I will:

- Intentionally create opportunities for people to give meaningfully,
- Communicate needs clearly and foster a spirit of gratitude,

- Preach regularly on the theme of giving and generosity,
- Encourage regular, planned giving, including the use of Parish Giving Scheme.

Prioritise the marginalised

In order to be churches that reflect the breadth of our community, I will:

- Cultivate a bias towards those who have experienced the least,
- Preach regularly on God’s heart for the poor, justice, and inclusion,
- Foster understanding in my churches about issues affecting the marginalised.

Expect support from senior leaders

The Plymouth 2035 team, City Dean, Archdeacon, Bishops’ and Diocesan Staff are committed to supporting mission in Plymouth. They will do all that they can to support you, so you should expect:

- Regular meetings with the City Dean,
- Senior Staff to support new, missional initiatives,
- Practical advice, training and support for your ministry, especially trying new things,
- Pastoral concern for your wellbeing in ministry,
- The support of diocesan support staff,
- An honest, open and friendly relationship with the Bishop and Archdeacon of Plymouth.