



Organist

APPLICANT BRIEFING PACK

FEBRUARY 2026



ABOUT THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH

Our Diocese

We are the Diocese of Portsmouth, governed by the Bishop of Portsmouth, Bishop Philip Egan. We belong to the One, Holy, Catholic Church, which is led by the Bishop of Rome, Pope Leo XIV.

The Diocese of Portsmouth

Our Diocese is spread across five counties on England's South Coast, and the Channel Islands. We are the local Church for the whole of Hampshire, Berkshire, the Isle of Wight, Jersey, and the Bailiwick of Guernsey as well as the Southern Part of Oxfordshire and the Eastern part of Dorset.

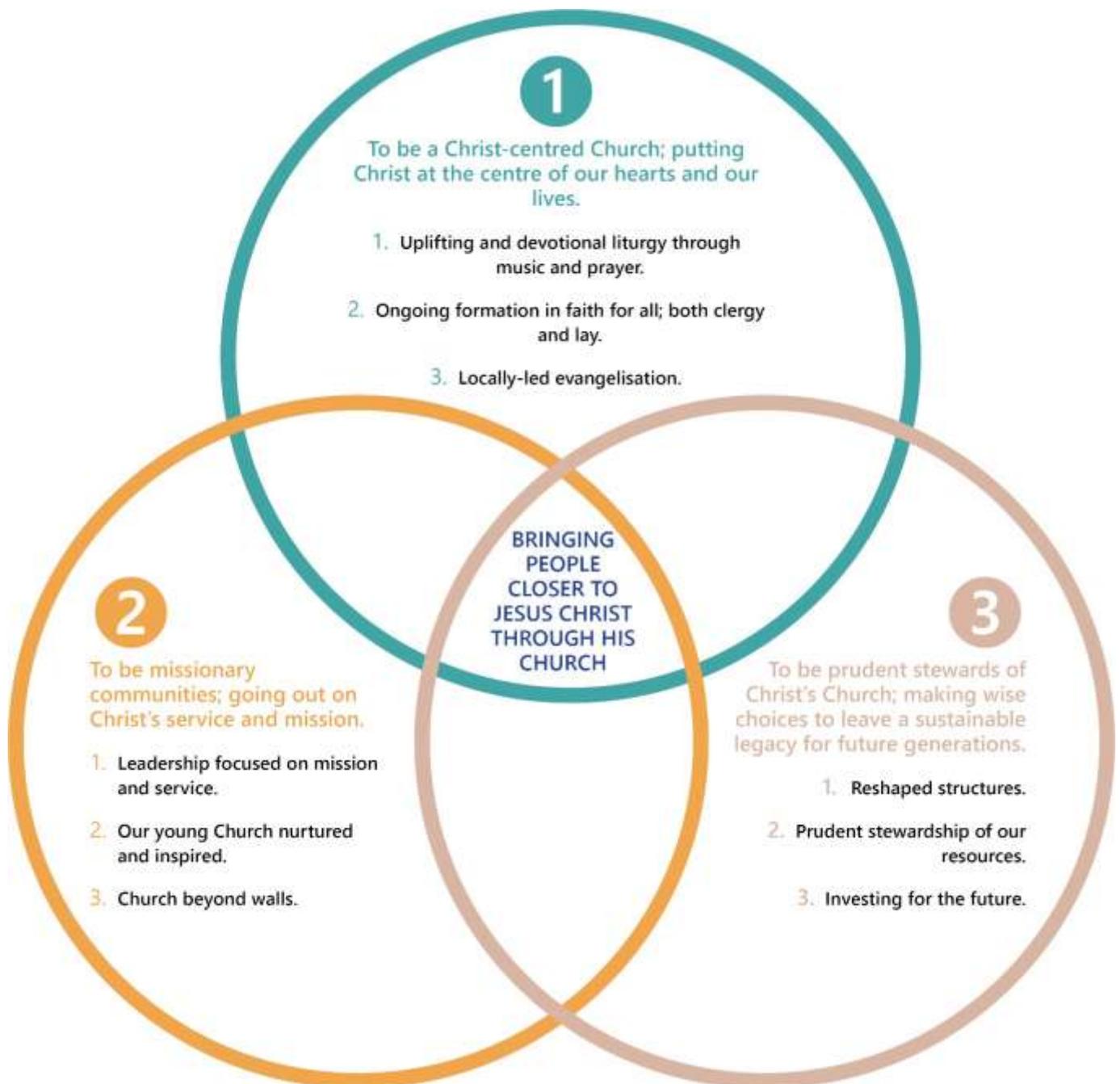
We are made up of 87 Parishes in 24 Pastoral Areas, for a total of 136 Churches. We have 115 priests, 40 Deacons, 35 houses of religious brothers and sisters, and a Catholic population of more than a quarter of a million.

We belong to the province of Southwark, which covers the whole south coast from Kent to Cornwall. Our Metropolitan is the Archbishop of Southwark. Our province also includes the Archdiocese of Southwark, the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, and the Diocese of Plymouth.



Ten-Year Mission Plan

You Will Be My Witnesses in summary



1. Role Purpose

To play the organ or piano for church services and rehearsals, supporting the musical life and liturgical worship of the parish.

2. Key Internal and External Relationships

- Parish Priest
- Priests and Deacons across the Pastoral Area
- Parish Finance Administrator
- Parish volunteers and employees
- Diocesan Curia departments (Finance, HR, Estates, Safeguarding, Communications, and Governance)
- Members of the Music Planning Forum

3. Main Duties

- Play for the **monthly 10:30am choir Mass** at St Peter's (normally the 4th Sunday, subject to variation)
- Play for the **quarterly Cathedral Mass**
- Play for other parish Masses as negotiated and scheduled

Rehearsals

- Play for **two Cross Keys Choir rehearsals per month** (Thursdays, 17:50–19:20)
- Play for rehearsals or warm-ups prior to scheduled Masses

Play for other liturgical or parish events as agreed

4. Professionalism and values

- Uphold and promote the ethos and values of the Catholic Church.

Organist – Person Specification

Competence, Expertise and Knowledge:	
Essential	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to play the organ and piano to a high standard• Preferably a practising Christian• Respect for the liturgies of the Catholic Church and willingness to learn• Ability to work independently and collaboratively• Willingness to explore a variety of musical styles (ancient to modern)• Availability to work weekends; flexible working days
Desirable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience playing for Catholic Mass or similar communion services• Knowledge of Catholic Church values and teaching• Understanding of the role of music in Catholic liturgy• Experience accompanying cantors and choirs

Salary, Benefits & Location

Salary: £5,880 (£35 per hour)

Contract: Fixed term, 6 months

Hours: 14 hours per month

Location: St Peter and Winchester Martyrs

Reports to: Parish Priest

Direct Reports: 0

Benefits

25 days holiday plus bank holidays (pro-rata)

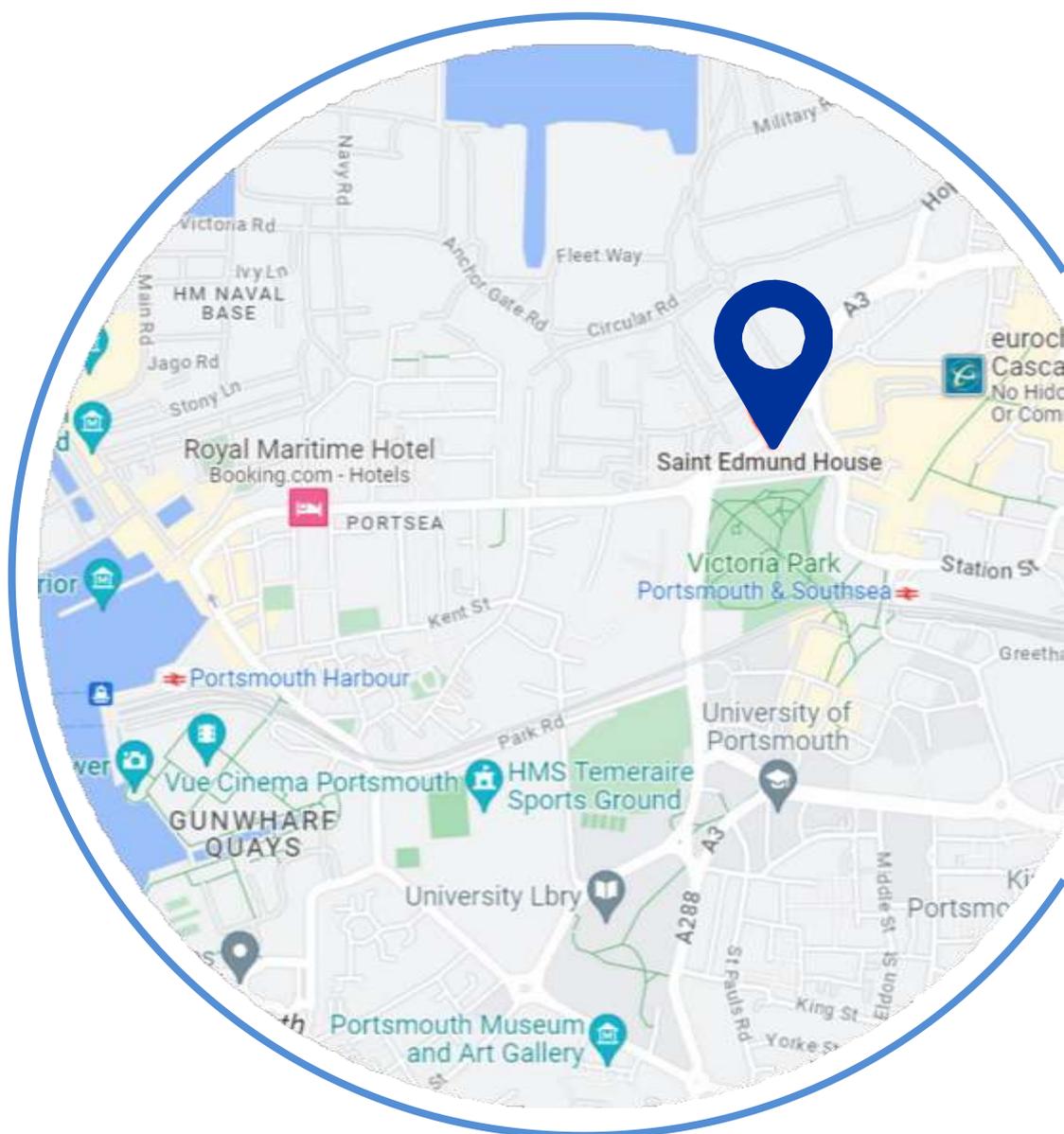
Life Assurance and Employee Wellbeing

Contributory pension scheme with Scottish Widows

Free on-site parking

Head Office

St. Edmund House,
Bishop Crispian Way,
Portsmouth,
PO1 3QA



How to Apply

Please send a comprehensive and up to date Curriculum Vitae along with a covering letter setting out your suitability for the role and motivation in applying (no more than 2 sides A4) to recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Please state 'St Peter and Winchester Martyrs, Organist' in the subject line of your email.

The Diocese of Portsmouth is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from all who support the ethos and values of the Catholic Church.

We encourage an early application as we may close this advertisement at our discretion before the date stated, if a high number of applicants apply.

The closing date for applications is 6th March 2026.

Interview Information

You will be notified shortly after the closing date, should we wish to progress your application and invite you to an interview.

Appointment

Any offer of employment to work at the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth is conditional upon receipt of two satisfactory employment references, provision of relevant certification of qualifications held, and completion of pre-employment checks.

You must have a valid UK Right to Work, as the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth does not offer UK Visa Sponsorship.

