

REVD JO KING

Rector of the Benefice of
Chidham & Hambrook with
Funtington with West Stoke &
Sennicotts



A BIT ABOUT ME

Since moving to Chichester, after finishing university, the south coast has found its way into my soul. The combination of sea and hills is difficult to beat. The Diocese of Chichester is a wonderful place to live and minister and I am passionate about making the diocese a safe and inclusive place where everyone is welcomed to worship and offer their gifts.

Before ordination I worked in education, particularly working with those excluded from mainstream provision, those children on the edges of the education system. This taught me that offering time and care can turn a life around.

My spare time was used volunteering with the church, getting involved in the start of 24-7 prayer, Cultural Shift and student church in Portsmouth. After feeling drawn to ordination I found my way up the candle learning to appreciate the complexity and richness that comes from liturgical, eucharistic worship. My sending church was St George's Whyke, I trained at Ripon Cuddesdon on the mixed mode track, I served my title at St Thomas à Becket, Pagham, my first incumbency was at Holy Cross, North Bersted Bognor, and I moved to my current benefice about a year ago.

PARISH LIFE

Parish ministry is definitely the one for me. I love the variety, the complexity, the multi-tasking and opportunities to connect not just with people of faith but those in the community. Even though it can be challenging and thankless at times. I love the variety of people I meet each day from the oldest to the youngest in our society offering them love and hope however it is needed. If I could wish for just one thing, it would be easier to manage churchyard procedures!

I am committed to equality for everyone, at all levels and roles within the church, regardless of disability, economic power, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, learning disability, mental health neurodiversity or equality

WHAT MATTERS TO ME

Some ideas about the areas of General Synod's work that might be important to me and indicators on how I might vote on particular issues.

- **Young people and children**

Through my roles as Padre to the Air Cadets and part of the clergy team at Bishop Luffa I get to spend time with amazing young people who are passionate about all sort of things. I also get to see the challenges they face from all sides and would always look for ways in which the church can facilitate and encourage their understanding of God's unconditional love for them.

- **Safeguarding**

There is still work to be done to ensure that our safeguarding legislation is the best in the world I would support survivor led, trauma informed and independent policies.

- **Parish Ministry**

It is important to me that General Synod represents and understands the concerns of local parish priests, those doing the job on the ground. In my current role I am learning more about the challenges of being present in different communities at the same time. We need to keep reimagining our worship and church life to enable us to share God's love with each generation, whilst ensuring that we are not expecting our parish priests to be all things to all people all the time to the detriment of their health.

- **Disability access**

As part of the disability advisory team in the Diocese, we are working hard to encourage everyone to consider access in all their efforts. I am particularly interested in the work Synod is doing to support and encourage the vocations of disabled or neurodiverse clergy, we need to inspire creative ways of rethinking ministry that allows everyone to flourish.

- **Equality of opportunity**

Whilst much has been done on some areas of equality within the church, there are still opportunities for rigged applications processes and less than transparent appointment procedures. Robust, fair and transparent processes benefit everyone.

A massive thank you to those people who have believed in me enough to nominate me, Revd Lisa Barnett and Father Paul Armstead, I appreciate your support and encouragement. Also to those who offered to support me, including Mother Jessica Reid and Rev Buff Stone.

There is not really enough room to mention all the areas I am interested in. Here are a few more highlights:
the environmental crisis
clergy wellbeing
clergy pensions & pay
financial burden of the upkeep of ancient buildings
worship for each generation

Please make me your first preference vote!