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Press Notice

BISHOP OF PORTSMOUTH

The Queen has approved the nomination of The Right Reverend Dr Jonathan Frost, Dean of York, for election as Bishop of Portsmouth, in succession to The Right Reverend Christopher Foster, following his retirement on 31st May 2021.

He will lead the Church of England's Diocese of Portsmouth, which covers 133 parishes across south-east Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Background

Jonathan was educated at the universities of Aberdeen and Nottingham; he prepared for ordination at Ridley Hall, Cambridge and served his curacy at St Giles' West Bridgford, Nottingham. Jonathan was ordained priest in 1994 and, alongside parish duties, served as a Police Chaplain.

From 1997-2002 Jonathan was Rector of Ash in the Diocese of Guildford. In 2002 he took up a new joint post as Anglican Chaplain to the University of Surrey and Residentiary Canon at Guildford Cathedral. For 11 years Jonathan taught Christian Doctrine on the Local Diocesan Ministry Course. He served as Bishop's Advisor for Inter-Faith Relations and on General Synod. He was awarded a doctorate *honoris causa* by the University of Surrey in 2012.

Jonathan served as Suffragan Bishop of Southampton from November 2010 to January 2019. In these years Jonathan chaired the Portsmouth and Winchester Joint Diocesan Board of Education and became Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Portsmouth.

He was installed as Dean of York at the Feast of the Presentation in February 2019. Among his priorities are prayer and Benedictine spirituality, evangelism, discipleship and working with others to tackle what he describes as 'the scandal of poverty'.

He said: "I am learning to walk more gently on the earth and to partner with others in seeking climate justice. Inspiration to work for the integrity of creation, in my experience at least, has most often come through encounter with visionary young people." He is a trustee of USPG, an Anglican mission agency.

Jonathan is married to Christine, an integrative child psychotherapist. They have three adult children. He supports Fulham Football Club. He enjoys live jazz, the Taizé community, armchair sport and walking moors, dales or coastlines with friends.