



General Meeting
2019 Information Pack
Portsmouth 17th – 18th September

Mothers' UNION 
Christian care for families



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Welcome to Portsmouth!



We look forward to welcoming you to our Diocese and historic naval city. It is a city with plenty to entertain you. In the dockyard you will find the Royal Navy Museum, HMS Victory, and the new Mary Rose exhibition. You may, depending on deployment, be fortunate enough to see HMS Queen Elizabeth berthed in the harbour.

Portsmouth Diocese is a small diocese running from Liss in the North to Portsmouth on the mainland in the south and including the Isle of Wight. Before 1927 we were part of Winchester Diocese and, of course, it was in Portsmouth Guildhall that the Church Congress was held in 1885 and where Mary Sumner made her first public speech. We hope you enjoy our Cathedral dedicated to St Thomas of Canterbury which has plenty of history of its own to discover.

Of course, if it is shopping and a bargain or needing somewhere to eat you want, there is Gunwharf Quays. A lovely place to wander around or, if the weather is kind and the sun is warm, to sit with a drink, watching the world go by and the sun on the harbour water. If you have time in your itinerary take a 'Fast Cat' from the Harbour Station, it is a short 20 minute ride to visit the Isle of Wight.

We look forward to meeting and greeting you on 17th and 18th September.

Elizabeth Groves, Portsmouth Diocesan President

On behalf of the members of Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Portsmouth

Timetable of Events

Tuesday 17th September 2019

3.00pm Service of Celebration, Portsmouth Cathedral

6.00pm Service of Celebration, Portsmouth Cathedral

Wednesday 18th September 2019

10.30am – 3.30pm General Meeting, Portsmouth Guildhall
(Doors open 9:45am)

7.00pm TBC – we are hopefully going to put on a fundraising event which will be on this evening if it happens

General Meeting

This year marks the start of a new triennium and we are delighted that our new Worldwide President Sheran Harper will be joining us at the General Meeting along with some members of the new board. There will also be a number of staff from Mary Sumner House attending.

Our programme will be released by the end of June, but we can confirm that there will be a keynote address from our Worldwide President, Sheran Harper.

In addition there will be:

- A “marketplace” for you to find out more about projects and programmes around Britain & Ireland and around the world.
- The launch of “Communities of Interest”, which will give you the opportunity to become more involved in those areas of MU which are of particular interest to you.
- Insights into how Mothers’ Union will be involved in supporting the Lambeth Conference in 2020.
- Feature on “new shoots” in Britain & Ireland.

General Meeting Venue: Portsmouth Guildhall

Built in 1890, the Guildhall is a leading events and conference venue. It holds some of Portsmouth's most historic treasures and is located close to Her Majesty's naval base. We are delighted to be holding our General Meeting for the second time at such a prestigious venue.

We have plenty of space this year with the auditorium holding 2000! Tickets will go on general sale on 22nd April. You can either buy as a large group, a small group, a couple or just individually – the General Meeting is such a wonderful occasion with all of our members gathered so you will never be alone!

The tickets are priced at £14.50 each – this includes VAT and the cost of ticket processing

To order your tickets you will need use our Eventbrite ticket site which you can access here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mothers-union-general-meeting-2019-tickets-59815344305>

Tickets go on sale on **30th April at 9.00am**

You are able to choose what seats you would like to sit in. All seats are tiered except for the stalls in the front section.

Refunds can be applied for via Eventbrite up to 30 days before the event after that there are no refunds. Refunds are via Eventbrite only and cannot be given via Mary Sumner House.

Special Requirements - Accessibility

There will be specific areas in the venue that are used for delegates with special requirements / access needs. **If you need accessible seating please make sure you purchase the accessible seating ticket at point of purchase**

All levels of Portsmouth Guildhall are accessible by lift and there are limited wheelchair spaces in the auditorium for those who require it.

Lunch & Refreshments

Tea and coffee will be available to purchase at multiple stations throughout the General Meeting venue from the moment the doors open (9.45am) to when they close (4.00pm).

There are **NO facilities on site to purchase your lunch** – therefore please either bring a packed lunch or make sure you are prepared to go and purchase something at lunchtime externally. There are many cafes or supermarkets nearby such as;

- **Costa Coffee:** 3 Isambard Brunel Rd, Portsmouth PO1 2FT, 148 Commercial Rd, Portsmouth PO1 1EX
- **EAT:** 134-142 Commercial Rd, Debenhams, Portsmouth PO1 1ET
- **Starbucks:** 21 Guildhall Walk, Portsmouth PO1 2RY
- **Tesco Express:** 5 Isambard, Brunel Rd, Portsmouth PO1 2FT
- **Tesco Superstore:** Crasswell St, Portsmouth PO1 1RS
- **The Co-operative** 4 - 6 Isambard Brunel Rd, Portsmouth PO1 2DU
- **Sainsbury's local:** 5-7 Guildhall Walk, Portsmouth PO1 2RY

There will be various areas outside of the auditorium where you can eat a packed lunch but they are limited, you could also choose to eat at your seats.

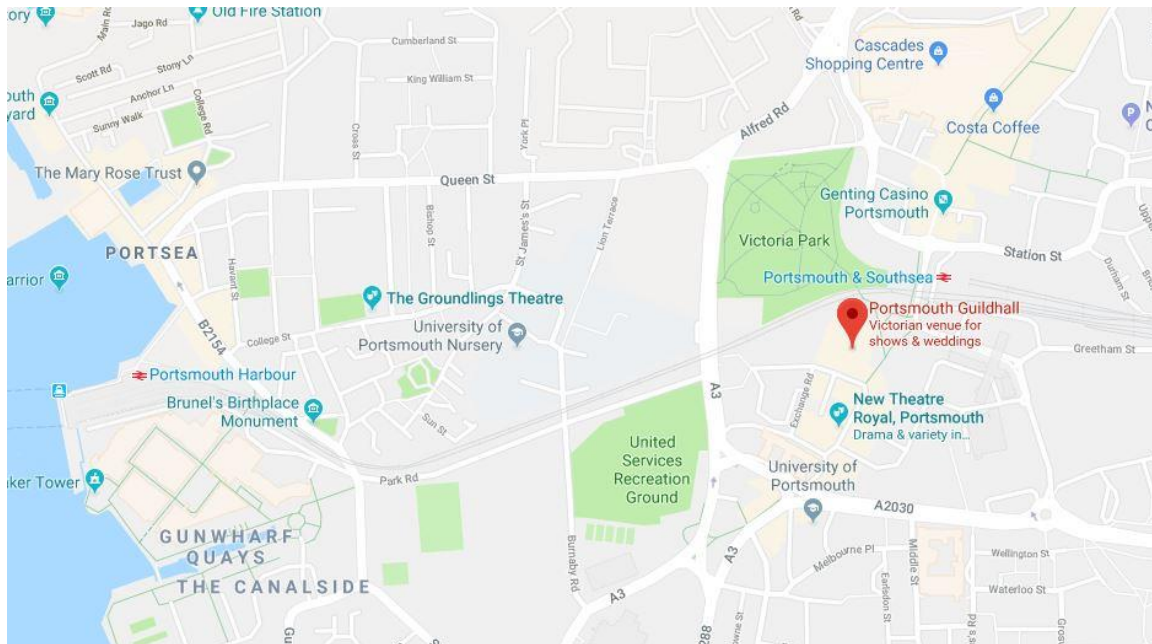
The town square outside the venue is also a lovely place for a packed lunch – weather permitting!

Personal Data Protection

In line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) all delegates attending the General Meeting will be given the option to opt out of photographs being taken on the day. Those wishing not to be photographed will be given a sticker to wear so photographers know they have opted-out. This sticker will be made available from when doors open.

Travelling to Portsmouth Guildhall

Portsmouth Guildhall
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
PO1 2AB



Situated next **Portsmouth and Southsea train station**, makes travelling by rail a relatively easy option as The Guildhall is only a 3 minute walk from the station.

The main entrance to Portsmouth Guildhall is off King Henry Street. For specific directions from your home or hotel put the postcode PO1 2AB into google maps.

Please note you do not have to walk up all the steps to enter the building, the main access is at ground level.

Parking near Portsmouth Guildhall

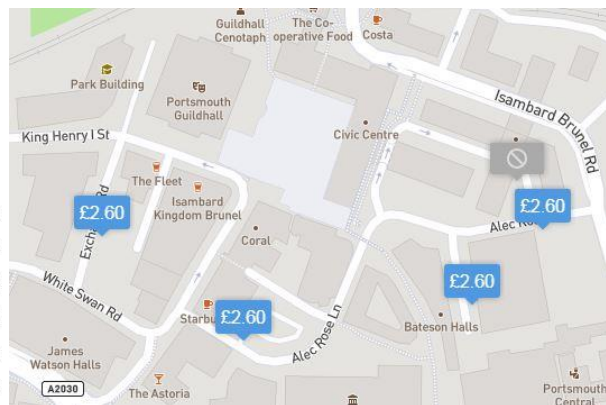
There are several car parks close to The Guildhall, the following are all within walking distance of the venue, please follow this link for more details. There are limited parking spaces outside of the venue.

Isambard Brunel Multi Storey Car Park has 460 spaces and is 200m from Portsmouth Guildhall along Alec Rose Lane. It is open for 24 hours and costs are £8 for 5 hours or £12 for 24 hours.

A second, smaller **Isambard Brunel car park** is further down Alec Rose Lane and has 83 spaces. It is open for 24 hours and costs are also £8 for 5 hours or £12 for 24 hours.

Guildhall Walk Car Park is roughly 9 minutes' walk from The Guildhall. It has 58 spaces, is open for 24 hours and costs are £8 for 5 hours, or £12 for 24 hours

1 Hour	£1.60
2 Hours	£2.60
3 Hours	£3.50
4 Hours	£4.50
5 Hours	£8.00
24 Hours	£12.00



Prices correct at time of print

Buses in Portsmouth

There are fantastic local Park and Ride services departing every 15 minutes from The Hard, Gunwharf and Portsmouth International Port. For a full timetable and list of stops/ map please visit the park and ride website <https://parkandride.portsmouth.gov.uk>

The nearby station is also serviced by bus routes 1, 2, 3, X4, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15 19, 19A, 20, 21, 23, 700, HV. These routes run between every 10 minutes or every hour. Timetables and maps can be found on Portsmouth Council website.

<https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/documents-external/trv-bus-route-map.pdf>

Please check directly with the company before travelling as timetables are subject to change

Annual Services

Following feedback in recent years, we are holding two identical services at two separate times in Portsmouth Cathedral.

In both cases the services will be attended by the Worldwide President, CEO and a number of Worldwide Board members

Portsmouth Cathedral sits near The Old Sally Port, and is the site for our annual services on Tuesday 17th September 2019. For centuries the Cathedral has been at the heart of the community and has witnessed war and peace, famous marriages, been bombed and rebuilt and remains a building of great beauty.

They have a beautiful prayer especially for the cathedral:

*As the Cathedral of the Sea,
we pray for all those at sea this day/evening/night,
and for those whose task it is to support them in their work.
Creator and Father of all,
we pray for those who go down to the sea in ships,
and serve upon the waters of the world.
Bless them and those who serve their needs,
that they may put their trust in you
and find in you a strong anchor for their hopes
and so be filled with your peace,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

Amen.

Find out more: <https://www.portsmouthcathedral.org.uk/>

**MOTHERS' UNION GENERAL MEETING 2019
APPLICATION FOR TICKETS FOR A SERVICE of CELEBRATION.
TUESDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 3PM AND 6PM.**

On Tuesday 17th September, there will be services held at
The Cathedral Church of St Thomas of Canterbury, High Street, Old Portsmouth,
PO1 2HH

Please complete the following:

I wish to apply for tickets (insert number of tickets required)

3pm service

6pm service

My contact information is:

Diocese of

Title First Name Surname

Address:

.....

Postcode: Telephone:

Email:

Any special requirements (e.g. mobility)

.....

.....

Send this completed application form by **15th June 2019** to Mothers' Union Secretary
at the address below. **Don't forget to include a C5 stamped-addressed envelope**
for tickets to be sent back to you.

Mothers' Union Secretary, 12, Darwin Close, Lee-on-the-Solent PO13 8LS

Enquires: Telephone: 023 9255 2300; email:

secretary.portsmouthmothersunion@outlook.com

Group bookings: please return any tickets that are not needed ASAP
To Mothers' Union Secretary no later than 18th August 2019

Travelling to Portsmouth Cathedral



Portsmouth Cathedral

High Street
Old Portsmouth
PO1 2HH

The Cathedral is located in the High Street of Old Portsmouth. There is limited parking available on the High Street and adjacent streets; there is no dedicated parking lot for Portsmouth Cathedral.

The nearest train station is **Portsmouth Harbour**.

For further assistance with directions, [please click here](#).

Travelling to Portsmouth

Portsmouth is centrally located on the South coast of England with excellent rail, road and ferry links.

- Around 90 minutes from London by road
- 90 minutes from London by rail
- National Express coach connections across the U.K.
- International ferries to France, Spain and the Channel Islands

- Cruise terminal at Portsmouth International Port
- Ferries and hovercraft to the Isle of Wight, Gosport and Hayling Island

Car

Portsmouth enjoys excellent road connections; the A3(M) puts London only one and a half hours away and the M27/A27 connects the city with Britain's motorway network.

Drivers heading into the city from Southampton, Bournemouth and the west will approach via the M27. From here, take Junction 12, for the M275 - which will take you right into the heart of the city. From here you can follow signs to Gunwharf Quays and Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, Fratton Park, the Isle of Wight Ferries, the Seafront and beyond.

Those heading in from Chichester, Brighton and the east can also head down the M275, or may alternatively wish to try the A2030, or the Eastern Road. Whilst this comes to an end across the other side of the city from the ferry port, Dockyard and Gunwharf Quays, it's a popular route into Central Southsea and the Seafront.

Rail

Portsmouth is connected through the railway network to most of the country's major towns and cities, including direct routes to London, Bristol, Southampton, Cardiff, Exeter, Reading and Brighton. Through trains to other destinations are operated at peak times of the year.

There is a direct railway route from Portsmouth to Gatwick Airport. A rail and coach service from Heathrow Airport is available via Woking.

For details of engineering works in the Portsmouth area or other rail information, visit the National Rail Enquiries website.

Flight

Portsmouth does not have a commercial airport of its own, however nearby Southampton has an airport for both European and UK domestic flights. The nearest large long-haul international airport is London Heathrow. Flying to Portsmouth therefore means also taking a train or other form of travel from one of these airports, both of which have excellent rail links.

For more travel information go to

<https://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk/visitor-information/travel>

Accommodation

There is a wide range of accommodation in Portsmouth, including 3 and 4 star hotels, quality chains, family-run guest houses and B&B's, boutique hotels, and self-catering apartments. With all budgets and all requirements accounted for, you can be sure that there will be Portsmouth accommodation that's perfectly suited to your individual needs.

Hampshire Conference Bureau have kindly provided Mothers Union with special rates on a number of Portsmouth hotels – [download here](#)

Other useful sites:

www.booking.com

<https://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk/where-to-stay>

www.trivago.co.uk

Things to do & see in Portsmouth

There are so many things to do in Portsmouth. Whether you are after some culture, the chance to take in some seaside strolls, or something else entirely, you're certain to be spoilt for choice!

Places to Visit

There are plenty of places to visit in Portsmouth; the Emirates Spinnaker Tower, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, Southsea Castle and Charles Dickens' Birthplace Museum. If it's some retail therapy you want, this is also the place to seek out info on all the big shopping areas, from the designer outlets of Gunwharf Quays to the Commercial Road High Street and independent Albert Road.

Historical Portsmouth

Portsmouth is alive with history, including Southsea Castle, from which Henry VIII watched his beloved Mary Rose sink to the bottom of the Solent.

There are also many museums and libraries, which house historical works from two greats; Charles Dickens and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Not forgetting the Mary Rose Museum, of course, which offers a glimpse into Tudor life, alongside the majestic ship in a new, much more open setting.

Additionally, there is the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, which houses a number of iconic warships, including HMS Warrior, HMS Victory and HMS Alliance.

Find out more <https://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk/things-to-do>

Other Information

All additional information will be added to the Mothers' Union website so please do check there for updates. If you have any questions please contact Rachael Anderson – rachael.anderson@mothersunion.org, 0207 222 5533.