

THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

Introduction

1. Even the title of this document needs some explanation. 'The Channel Islands' is used as an umbrella description to describe the collection of islands in the Gulf of St Malo. However, the description is not commonly used in the islands because they are grouped into two bailiwicks, the Bailiwick of Guernsey and the Bailiwick of Jersey.
2. The **Bailiwick of Jersey** consists of the island of Jersey (plus two small reefs, which have no resident population, except in the summer). Jersey is the largest of the islands. It has a population of around 108,000 people. The island's demographic is varied, with old Jersey families, who can trace their origins back to Norman times, English people who have moved over to the island, as well as a significant number of minority groups from Madeira, Romania and Poland, who originally came over to work in the hospitality sector but who have stayed and made Jersey their home. Nowadays, however, the main industry and wealth generator is the finance industry, although construction, agriculture and tourism contribute to the island's prosperity.



Guernsey: St Peter Port

3. The **Bailiwick of Guernsey** consists of four main inhabited islands (Guernsey, Alderney, Sark, and Herm), and several smaller islands (Jethou, Brecqhou and Lihou).
4. Guernsey is the largest, with a population of just over 63,000 people. Guernsey has a very wide income range within its population, with a mixture of locally born people and those who have moved to the island from the UK and elsewhere. As in Jersey, the finance industry is the main wealth generator, followed by professional, business, technical and scientific activities, public administration, retail and construction. The unemployment rate is 1.6%. Very high property prices are beginning to force younger people to leave Guernsey, with concern about the cost of supporting an increasingly elderly population.
5. Alderney has a population of about 2,000 people; it is the most northerly of the islands. Sark has a population of between 400 and 500 people, although the number increases significantly during the summer when second homeowners come to the island.
6. The distinctiveness of the two bailiwicks may not be immediately evident to those outside the Channel Islands. The legal system is still deeply rooted in Norman customary law (although modern legislation owes much to English law). The French influence on language and culture is still significant.

Constitutional position


7. Part of the Duchy of Normandy from before the Norman Conquest of England, the Channel Islands were retained by the Kings of England when Normandy was lost in 1204. Guernsey and Jersey have remained as two separate crown dependencies, each with their own laws and customs based originally on Norman practice. Effectively independent, autonomous jurisdictions, the two bailiwicks are geographically a part of the British Isles, but not of the United Kingdom. The UK Government is responsible only for the bailiwicks' international representation and defence.
8. The Islands' link with the United Kingdom is through the Sovereign as the successor of the Dukes of Normandy. Under the charters of successive Sovereigns, the Islands have secured their own legal

jurisdiction and freedom from the processes of the English courts, as well as other important privileges. This remains the essence of the relationship between the islands and the Crown to the present day. Our relationship with the Crown is through the Lord Chancellor and the Ministry of Justice, where a small unit deals with the affairs of the crown dependencies.

9. The Queen in Council exercises supreme legislative and judicial powers in both bailiwicks. The Lieutenant Governors of Guernsey and Jersey are Her Majesty's personal representatives and the official channels of communication between the Crown and the UK authorities and the separate insular authorities.
10. The four principal islands all have their own legislatures: the States of Jersey; the States of Deliberation in Guernsey, the States of Alderney and the Chief Pleas of Sark. Since the end of the German occupation of the Channel Islands, much of the legislation enacted by the States of Deliberation applies in Alderney as Guernsey then assumed responsibility for the provision of principal services such as health and education. Sark has a far greater measure of independence. The States of Deliberation enact criminal legislation for the whole Bailiwick. Sark was effectively the last surviving feudal jurisdiction in Europe until the early years of this century.

The Church of England in the Channel Islands

Jersey: St Brelade's headland

11. The Deaneries of Guernsey and Jersey are coterminous with the bailiwicks. Originally part of the Diocese of Coutances, the islands were transferred in 1496 by Papal Bull to the Diocese of Salisbury before a further Bull transferred them to the Diocese of Winchester. There is, however, considerable doubt about the authenticity of the second Papal Bull, as the Bishops of Coutances continued to exercise *de facto* jurisdiction until the Reformation. However, the Channel Islands were finally placed under the episcopal jurisdiction of the Bishop of Winchester by an Order in Council of 11 March 1569, although Presbyterianism continued to be a powerful force until the mid-seventeenth century in both Guernsey and Jersey. That Order in Council remains the foundation on which ecclesiastical jurisdiction is exercised in the Bailiwicks of Guernsey and Jersey.
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12. Ecclesiastical causes must be determined in the islands, as the 1569 Order in Council expressly states that the islands' inhabitants cannot be compelled to travel to England for that purpose.
 13. Since 1569, the islands have been 'annexed to' the Diocese of Winchester. This means that they are neither within nor part of the Diocese of Winchester; but the Bishop has ordinary jurisdiction in the islands in ecclesiastical matters.
 14. A consequence of this annexation was that the islands had no right to be represented in English synods until the passing of the Channel Islands (Representation) Measure in 1931 (and subsequent legislation) which allows the Channel Islands to be represented in both General Synod and the Diocesan Synod.
 15. The Deans of Guernsey and Jersey are appointed by the Crown. The earliest record of the appointment of a Dean of Guernsey dates from 1295. By custom, the Bishop appoints the Deans as Commissaries General.
 16. In both islands, the Deans take a significant part in the public affairs of the islands. For example, the Dean of Jersey is an *ex officio* member of the States of Jersey and presides over his own Ecclesiastical Court, whilst the Dean of Guernsey is an *ex officio* director (governor) of Elizabeth College and presides over the Ecclesiastical Court (one of its functions is the Guernsey Probate Registry).

17. In the ancient parishes in both Guernsey and Jersey, the church building belongs to the (civil) parish and these churches are maintained from secular rates. In Jersey, the rectories in the ancient parishes are also owned and maintained by the civil parish. This is still the case for the majority of the ancient parishes in Guernsey. In each of the main islands, newer ecclesiastical districts were created in the nineteenth century in some of the ancient parishes; the church and the parsonage house are owned by local trustees. There are no parochial church councils, nor are there any church schools. This means that the relationship between the Church and the State is intertwined in a way that is different to the situation in England.
18. Jersey has had its own Canons since 1623. In Guernsey, the convention is that the English Canons are observed subject to local tradition and custom, with responsibility for determining the latter resting with the Dean. Revision of the Canons is underway in Jersey, with Guernsey working on the introduction of a bespoke set of Canons for the first time. Church of England Measures do not apply automatically in either Guernsey or Jersey, but may be extended to the islands when appropriate with the consent of the island legislatures.

Guernsey: The cliffs at Torteval



Episcopal ministry in the Channel Islands

19. Because of the distance from England, and the difficulties of sea travel, episcopal visits were unknown until the early nineteenth century. Until the easy access to the islands by air, episcopal visits remained unusual. This gave the role of the Deans a particular significance in both bailiwicks.
20. This is the background to the unhappy experience in both bailiwicks within the last ten years, which led to the decision of the Bishop of Winchester to delegate episcopal care to the Right Reverend Trevor Willmott (then Bishop of Dover; now retired but still exercising episcopal jurisdiction as an assistant bishop in the Diocese of Winchester). The Archbishop of Canterbury appointed a Commission to review the relationship of the Channel Islands to the wider Church of England. The Commission, chaired by the Right Reverend & Right Honourable the Lord Chartres of Wilton GCV, reported in the autumn of 2019. The Commission recommended that the Channel Islands should be attached to the Diocese of Salisbury, with the Bishop of Salisbury exercising episcopal jurisdiction in the two deaneries. The report was warmly welcomed by the islands and the wider Church of England. The necessary legislation is in place in England, whilst the local legislation is being prepared for consideration by the legislatures in the islands. It is hoped that the final steps of the legal transfer of the two Channel Island deaneries will be completed later in 2021.
21. However, since January 2021, the Bishop of Salisbury has assumed pastoral responsibility for the two deaneries, with safeguarding and ministry matters, *inter alia*, having transferred to the Diocese of Salisbury in October 2020. A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed by the Bishop of Salisbury and the Deans of Guernsey and Jersey, which, it is hoped, will avoid any of the misunderstandings of recent years. There is also a Memorandum of Understanding between Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance and the Deanery Boards of Finance in Guernsey and Jersey.

Church life in the Channel Islands

22. The two deaneries are financially independent, receiving no financial support from the Church Commissioners or the Archbishops' Council.
23. In both Guernsey and Jersey, there is a wide range and diversity of Anglican experience and practice. Some of the stronger churches in both islands embrace evangelical and 'New Wine' styles, with other churches, again in both Guernsey and Jersey, being distinctly Anglo-Catholic in their style and spirituality. Other churches sit within the broad range of Anglican spirituality. One church in Guernsey is formally a member of the Inclusive Church network.

24. Whilst there are no church schools in either bailiwick, clergy have the opportunity to minister in a significant number of the island schools. Elizabeth College, a large co-educational independent school in Guernsey, has a part-time chaplain.
25. Chaplaincy has become more developed in recent years in Guernsey, with Anglican priests serving as salaried chaplains to the Princess Elizabeth Hospital and Guernsey Prison, and in an honorary capacity at Guernsey Bailiwick Law Enforcement, the Guernsey Financial Services Commission and Specsavers (an international optical company which has its headquarters in Guernsey). In Jersey, the island hospital has a full time chaplain and two assistant chaplains, and there are chaplains to the hospice, the prison and the Ports of Jersey.
26. The churches are engaged with many community initiatives, with many church members volunteering in the wide range of voluntary organisations in both islands. In Jersey, two homeless shelter trusts are supported through Anglican church leadership, as well as many other ecumenical community initiatives. Two Guernsey initiatives, Guernsey Welfare Service (which runs the island's food bank) and Guernsey Caring for Ex-Offenders, are both deeply rooted in the churches in Guernsey.
27. There are good relationships across the denominations in both bailiwicks. This has been developed further in the last year through the Covid-19 pandemic. In Guernsey, one of the ancient parish churches is used by Anglicans and Methodists (the Methodist church in Torteval having closed). An ecumenical partnership between the Anglican and Methodist churches in Sark was launched in 2018. The current resident minister in Sark is a Methodist presbyter, who has pastoral responsibility for both Anglican and Methodist communities and takes services in both churches. In Jersey, senior ecumenical leaders meet regularly and work in partnership in community initiatives and in our common civic life together and at major events, such as Liberation Day.



Jersey: St Lawrence parish church

General information

	Guernsey	Jersey
Population	65,500	108,000
Area	78 sq kms (30 sq miles)	119 sq kms (46 sq miles)
Ecclesiastical parishes	16	18
Stipendiary clergy	14 (11.425 fte) (2 vacancies)	16 (one in a dual role as safeguarding lead) (1 vacancy)
Salaried chaplains (hospital, prison)	2	2 (plus 2 part time assistants)
House for duty	0	2
Self supporting clergy	3	3
Clergy with PTO	11	6
Licensed lay ministers	9 (+ 1 in training)	

More information can be found on the deanery websites:

Guernsey www.churchofengland.org.gg

Jersey www.jerseydeanery.je