

ASSOCIATE VICAR – CHRIST CHURCH ST ANDREW’S, HERNE BAY

A Message from the Bishop of Dover



Welcome and thank you for taking an interest in the new role of Associate Vicar at Christ Church St Andrew’s in Herne Bay on the north coast of Kent. You will see from the profile prepared by the parish some of the specific things that the benefice and the diocesan team are looking for – and a little of what the team here hopes the future may look like. Of course, a key part of your discernment process in coming to this role will be gaining a sense of the bigger picture of us as a diocesan family, our vision, and priorities for the future.

Who we are

Founded in 597 by St Augustine, Canterbury Diocese is the oldest diocese in England and has a special place in the life of the national and worldwide Church. With its iconic Cathedral it forms a focal point for the life of the whole Anglican Communion, offering a spiritual home and place of pilgrimage

for people from every nation and walk of life.

Kent is renowned as the ‘Garden of England’ and this rural heart is core to our identity – yet the communities we serve are very diverse. Our Diocese stretches from Maidstone to Thanet, from the Isle of Sheppey to the Romney Marsh. We have 350 miles of coastline with historic ports and seaside resorts, alongside rural communities, market towns and commuter-belt urban developments. Affluent areas often sit alongside pockets of major deprivation, offering an exciting and challenging mission context.



Diocese of Canterbury
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Our vision

By God's grace we want to be a people who are...

- ...confident & creative disciples of Jesus Christ
- ...rooted in scripture & drenched in prayer
- ...living gratefully, giving generously, caring for creation & sharing the gospel
- ...growing in number & expectations – of God & ourselves
- ...motivated by justice & love, open to the Spirit & ready for adventure! **Therefore we will...**

'Therefore we will...' is a recognition that words without actions are empty. It is a commitment to taking real steps now to make this vision a reality soon. The current actions that flow from this vision are outlined in our current strategy document [which you can find here](#). Of course, these actions will change and develop over time - and it's exciting that some of our parishes are already considering this vision carefully for themselves, exploring together what actions they will commit to take, what their local 'Therefore we will...' might look like.

At the heart of all we do is this vision: a vision of transformation for ourselves and our communities: *Changed Lives* → *Changing Lives*. In your role, in your place, we will be looking for you to join in with what God is already doing and play a crucial part in making this vision a reality.

Our direction

Our vision unites us in purpose but will be expressed in different ways according to what makes sense for different parts of our diocesan family. We are working closely with our deaneries to identify, resource and support them as they seek to grow their mission, ministry – and their churches – in ways that make sense to their contexts. Each deanery is developing its own mission plans - and you could play a key role in helping to develop your deanery's their vision for the future.

As a diocesan family, we are also deeply committed to our calling to build a safer, more welcoming church for all. We will never be perfect, but we can work together to make our churches safer. At the heart of this ethos is the conviction that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility - and that it needs to be at the heart of everything we do. You can find out more about our approach to safeguarding [here](#).

Our commitment to you

We know that supporting healthy, flourishing ministers (lay and ordained) is crucial for a healthy, flourishing diocese. Therefore, we offer the 'Canterbury Diet' to all our new incumbent ministers – this is an intentional programme for ministerial development, health, growth and faith. A similar lay programme is in development too. We offer pastoral supervision and spiritual accompaniment, an invitation to be part of residential training programmes focused on learning, leading and



mission, action learning sets, as well as a range of specialised training events, and other regular opportunities for growth in prayer and spirituality.

In short, I hope that you will be as excited by our vision, priorities and opportunities as we are. Be assured of our prayers as you consider your next step in ministry.

+ Rose

The Rt Revd Rose Hudson Wilkin
Bishop of Dover and Bishop in Canterbury



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Introduction from the Archdeacon of Canterbury



Thank you for your interest in this new post, of Associate Vicar at Christ Church St Andrew's Herne Bay. This post, as you will see, has been funded by the PCC through the generosity of the congregation. As you will see from the profile, Herne Bay is one of the 'up and coming' seaside towns in East Kent. East Kent is a beautiful part of the world but one where there is a great deal of deprivation alongside relative affluence. The parish sees itself as one unit, with two buildings and a number of congregations. There is a strong ministry team and great potential to work in and with the local community. The Diocese of Canterbury is working to a strategy of sustainable growth under the title

Changed Lives → Changing Lives, which the Bishop has outlined above.

I encourage you prayerfully to consider whether God is calling you to this role. The first port of call for further enquiries is the Vicar, the Revd Anthony Everett. If you would like to arrange a time for a call with me to talk further please email archdeacon-canterbury@diocant.org

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Wm. Adam". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

The Venerable Dr Will Adam
Archdeacon of Canterbury



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