



# **PRIEST IN CHARGE OF ST MARY & ST EANSWYTHE WITH ST SAVIOUR, FOLKESTONE**

## **A Message from the Bishop of Dover**



Welcome and thank you for taking an interest in the role of parish priest for this part of Folkestone.

As the accompanying documentation shows, the parish has come a long way in the past four years and is in a better place to engage with our diocesan three bold outcomes and build a church for the future. An important aspect of the mission of St Mary and St Eanswythe's will be around pilgrimage and the legacy of the patron saint, Eanswythe, whose relics are held in the church. With pilgrimage and the spirituality of saints being increasingly important in the spiritual life of our country, this will be an exciting part of this role, alongside the joys and challenges of leading a church today.

### **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.





## 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. In 2023, Diocesan Synod agreed to three bold outcomes which flesh out how our vision will be achieved by 2030.

## Three Bold Outcomes

1. Double the number of children and young disciples.
2. 200 new Christian communities.
3. Every parish, benefice and deanery showing signs of revitalisation.

Every deanery is currently working on updating its deanery plans from the versions that fed into our 2022 strategy document [which you can find here](#). Our strategic planning across the diocese is a dynamic process - and it's exciting that parishes are considering our vision and the bold outcomes vision for themselves, exploring together what actions they will commit to take, what their local 'Therefore we will...' might look like.

As well as the three bold outcomes our diocesan synod has committed to a net zero carbon action plan. When General Synod and Diocesan Synod adopted this goal, it was clear that it would be very challenging. However, the significant changes in global weather events in recent years have underlined the urgency of tackling the amount of carbon we produce. The leadership shown by the Church of England is important and the action plan takes a positive approach to working towards this ambitious target.

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

## Our Safeguarding Ethos

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.

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

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## The Archdeacon of Ashford writes...



It has been a delight to see the people of St Mary and St Eanswythe develop over the last few years. Working together with their priest, they have really come together as a team and are looking to what mission and ministry looks like for the future.

The parish profile explores in some depth where the parish is, where it wants to go and what they're looking for in the priest to go there with them. However, I would like to share a few phrases that came from a very recent PCC day about 'the Way we're going'. I think these give a real flavour of the difference these last years have made.

- '[Our priest] opened doors, recognised us and our gifts and released our strengths.'
- 'We learned together.'
- 'We moved from cliques to community.'

So, they're looking for a priest who will:

- Enhance the vision we have been given.
- Draw us in, open us up, grow and extend us.
- Help us take risks, drop barriers, embrace discomfort and 'do it differently'.





The themes that came out for their vision for the church were for a church which:

- is like a stone making a ripple, through all Folkestone, and beyond.
- enables faith and spirituality to be explored and nurtured.
- cultivates relationship, warmth, diversity and welcome.

A colleague who knows the church well described it as ‘a church which is on the move, confident in its identity.’

If these phrases speak to you and the ministry you could share with the parish, then you may be the priest for St Mary and St Eanswythe! It is also a single parish benefice, rooted in a Eucharistic tradition but open to worship that brings more people to encounter God. It also has an emerging ministry through pilgrimage that will need to develop and feature in the offer from the church to its community and beyond.

If you would like to have an informal conversation about the parish, do call me on 01233 712649 or drop an email to [dmiller@diocant.org](mailto:dmiller@diocant.org).

With my prayer and best wishes as you discern where God may be calling you,

**The Ven D N Miller**  
**Archdeacon of Ashford**





**The Canterbury Diet  
 for Incumbents and Priests in Charge**

<p>After licensing the Incumbent meets with the Director of Mission &amp; Ministry who introduces the priest to the  <b>Canterbury Diet</b>      and offers a  <b>Pastoral Supervisor</b>      with whom she/he meets not less than four times per year</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"> <b>Golden threads</b>        How are prayer and spiritual practices being developed?        How am I learning and reflecting on ministry practice?        How are we attending to good relationships and collaborative ministry?     </p>
<p>Ministers acquire a  <b>Spiritual Accompanier</b>      and meet regularly, recommended 6-8 weekly</p>	
<p>In the first two years the Incumbent or Priest in Charge attends the  <b>Ministry Training Programme</b>      Monday to Friday residential courses generally held in Bruges      Week One : <b>The Minister as Learner</b> (January, soon after licensing)      Week Two: <b>The Minister as Leader</b> (June, of the same year)      Week Three : <b>The Minister as Missioner</b> (January, the following year)</p>	
<p>Participation in the annual  <b>Ministerial Development Review</b>      Meet with Consultant Reviewer, complete a Personal Development Plan;      meet with Archdeacon a year later and update the PDP, and so on,      with opportunity to review Pastoral Supervision and Spiritual Accompaniment.      Also meet with the bishop <u>during the course of the two-year cycle.</u></p>	
<p>As able, participate in professional ministry courses:  <b>Management Skills Course</b>  <b>Working with Conflict</b>  <b>Leading Change</b>      each a two by one day course, offered regularly at advertised times through the year</p>	
<p>Participation in four  <b>Wellbeing Courses</b>  <u>two hour</u> evening meetings, two offered per year</p>	
<p>Participate in relevant  <b>Continuing Ministry Development Events</b>      at advertised days and times</p>	

