



VICAR

TRINITY BENEFICE, FOLKESTONE

A Message from the Bishop of Dover



Thank you for taking an interest in the role of Vicar of the Trinity Benefice, Folkestone. You will see from the profile some of the specific things that the benefice is looking for – and a little of what the team here hopes the future may look like. Of course, part of your discernment process in coming to this role is 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.

Where we are heading

Three Bold Outcomes

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

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 engaged in an ongoing process of deanery planning, which feeds into our diocesan strategy process [which you can find outlined 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.

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. If a lay appointment is made to this post, we will endeavour to provide equivalent support to you. 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





A Message from the Archdeacon of Ashford

Thank you for considering ministry within the Trinity Benefice. These congregations have articulated clearly what they long for in their next priest: someone who will be visible and rooted in the local communities, able to honour and hold together their rich range of traditions — from choral and sacramental worship to informal and contemporary expressions — while helping them deepen their engagement with the wider town.



It is also right to acknowledge that the past year has been a painful one. The departure of the previous incumbent in difficult circumstances has left sadness, uncertainty, and some relationships in need of gentle rebuilding. Yet what has impressed me throughout is the benefice's resilience, honesty, and desire to move forward faithfully. The foundations remain strong: committed lay leaders, gifted volunteers, and a longing to grow in confidence, mission, and service.

The priest who comes here will need both pastoral sensitivity and a hopeful, forward-looking spirit. But for the right person, this is an exceptional opportunity — to help a benefice heal and flourish, to shape a renewed shared vision, and to support these churches as they live out the gospel with creativity, generosity, and joy.

You will be warmly supported as you discern whether this might be your next calling.

If you would like to find out more about this post or for an informal conversation, please contact me on 01233 712649 or at dmiller@diocant.org.

The Ven Darren Miller
Archdeacon of Ashford





The Canterbury Diet for Incumbents and Priests in Charge

The *Canterbury Diet* has been designed to support the wellbeing and development of Priests in the Diocese of Canterbury. Each element offers a building block for healthy and effective ministry.

You are encouraged to attend to these three Golden Threads throughout:

Golden Threads
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>After licensing the Incumbent meets with the Director of M&M who introduces the priest to the Canterbury Diet and offers a Pastoral Supervisor with whom she/he meets not less than six times per year</p>
<p>Ministers acquire a Spiritual Accompanier and meet regularly, recommended 6-8 weekly</p>
<p>In the first two years the Incumbent or Priest in Charge attends the Ministry Training Programme Monday to Friday residential courses generally held in Ashburnham Week One : The Minister as Learner (soon after licensing) Week Two: The Minister as Leader (six months later) Week Three : The Minister as Missioner (a further six months on)</p>
<p>Participation in the bi-annual Ministerial Development Review Meet with Consultant Reviewer, complete a Personal Development Plan; meet with Archdeacon a few months later and update the PDP, with opportunity to review Pastoral and Spiritual Accompaniment. Meeting with the bishop concludes the MDR</p>
<p>As able, participate in professional ministry courses: Working with Conflict Working with Change Practical Skills Course the first are two by one-day courses, offered regularly at advertised times through the year, the third an annual one-day course Continuing Ministry Development Events E.g. Courses on whole person care, environmental care, preaching the lectionary</p>

