

The Archdeacon of Ashford

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Team Rector of Ashford Town

Thank you for taking the time to explore whether God might be calling you to this important role in the Diocese of Canterbury.

The Ashford Team ministry and single parish came into being in 2016 when the seven former parishes in the town came together into a single parish of more than 80,000 people. The simplified governance and removal of borders has opened the way to innovative, collaborative ministry for the whole town.

The first Team Rector has worked hard with both lay and ordained colleagues to lay the foundations of all that the Ashford Team Ministry can be. The former parishes still have their own identities within the team but there are also a number of initiatives in ministry across the town. Now is the time for the next Team Rector to build on these foundations and build a parish that can minister in new ways, enabling a changing Church to witness effectively in our changing society. To enable this, the parish's profile will give you much information about what its people hope for from the new Team Rector and all they have to offer.

This is an exciting opportunity for the right person who will be able to lead collegially, communicate vision, and enable others to fulfil their potential. As a priest, you'll need to be grounded in a community, but as Team Rector you'll have to exercise *episkopé* – oversight of the ministry in the parish rather than the ability to do all things. Your vision can enable the parish to grow and flourish and be a beacon for multi-church, single parish ministry which has the potential to be a growing model across the diocese.

If you would like more information or just an informal chat about the role, please feel free to contact me using the details above.

With my prayers for your discernment of the next steps,

The Ven D N Miller
Archdeacon of Ashford