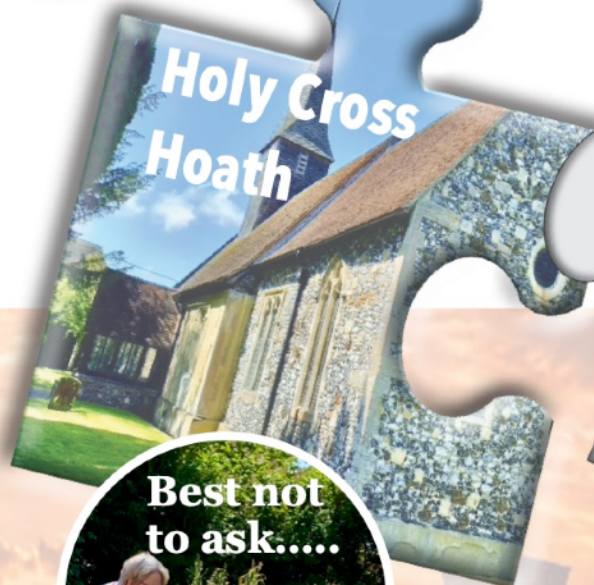




Profile

THE

PARISH OF RECULVER

THE PARISH OF RECULVER

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, RECULVER,

ST BARTHOLOMEW, HERNE BAY

HOLY CROSS, HOATH

WHO ARE WE?

The Parish of Reculver extends from the eastern edge of Herne Bay town centre, through the residential areas of Beltinge and Hillborough to the outer reaches of the historic English Heritage site at Reculver & then inland across woods, farms and open countryside to the village of Hoath. We have several areas currently under development with much new housing being built.

We are a large parish with 3 churches run by one PCC comprising of representatives from each church.

There is a substantial 4 bed clergy house with an integral office adjacent to one of the churches which may possibly be replaced in the future by a house built to higher energy conservation standards. It is in a very desirable location in an attractive part of the town & close to amenities.



We benefit from a dedicated ministerial staff team (both Lay and Ordained). We all work closely and extremely well together to support our worship in our 3 churches and across the wider parish.

OUR MINISTRY

Our team of worship leaders has the privilege during the Interregnum of conducting Sunday worship in all three of our churches every week offering a rich diet of Eucharistic, Formal, Informal and All-Age services. Our team is five strong:

Revd Dr Lawrence Tuck is a part-time SSM (although working FT) completing his third year of curacy and will remain with Reculver parish after training. A medievalist & former University Lecturer & Librarian, Lawrence hails from Canada & worked for 12 years in Sweden before settling in Kent in 1996. Lawrence is heavily involved with many parish groups, has led an Alpha course & prayer day & makes regular home visits to our

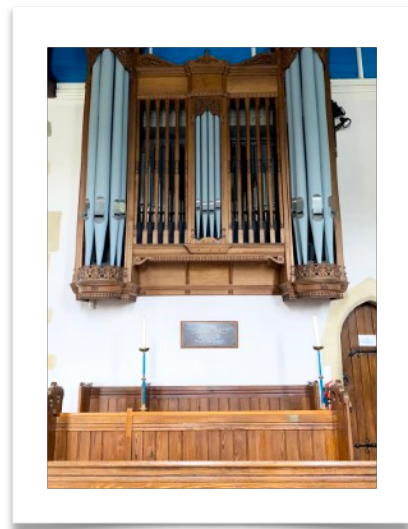
housebound parishioners. He leads the chaplaincy team that goes into the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital.

Rev'd Jenny Hadlow (PTO) is a retired teacher, who worked for many years at Reculver CEP school and now offers round the year ministry and is involved with, and leads three house groups

Rev'd Gilleen Craig (Prebendary emeritus, St Paul's) retired to Whitstable after 40 years of parochial ministry in London and since February '25 offers Reculver 30 weeks' Sunday + two weekdays PTO ministry a year. He focuses specially on our parish school, parish governance and engaging with the Diocese.

Ann Collier and June Conabeer, both long term committed to our worship, pastoral and general ministry, are both Authorised Lay Ministers.

We celebrate all the main festivals - either individually or together - & work together to produce services that are often used across all the parish. We celebrate each of our patronal Festival Sundays in all three churches. We are also blessed to have three organists serving our churches so nearly always can enjoy live music at our services.



Our PCC actively acknowledges and works to meet the statutory requirements for safeguarding, Health and Safety etc. It also works closely with and supports Deanery and Diocesan initiatives. We have Lay Administrators for Baptisms and Weddings to share the load.

Although the numbers of worshippers are small, this is only the tip of the iceberg of those touched by the parish's committed, faithful ministry. Messy church groups, work with our parish school and hospital, house groups, prayer meetings, Soup & Sweet and above all the 6-morning-a-week St Bart's Hub and Collecting for Ukraine - all these involve far larger numbers and demonstrate our community-based, outward-facing ministry.

The clergy share all these with motivated, committed and effective laypeople. We are proud of all they contribute, and excited by the potential for future expansions of ministry as Herne Bay and its hinterland experiences significant growth and greater popularity. Our diverse, growing, parish reflects our own commitment to diversity within and beyond our church family.

Our three churches and their immediate communities have contrasting characters, inspiring strong local loyalties – but the crucial reality is our life together as a single family, working day-by-day in mutual support and engagement. Our parish offers a warm welcome, supportive fellowship and stimulating ministerial potential to its new priest, imbued with energy and vision: we greatly look forward to working with you!

GEOGRAPHY & COMMUNITY

Herne Bay is a small town with a big heart on the north Kent coast. After decades of decline it is now enjoying significant regeneration, forming part of the increasingly popular (and fashionable!) 'North Kent Riviera'.

We have excellent road & rail links, including High Speed, to London & beyond. The Channel Tunnel and Port of Dover cross-channel ferries are on our doorstep. There are many new housing developments with an ever-increasing local population, as well as some fine Victorian and Edwardian architecture. We have excellent local shops, together with larger supermarkets, as well as some fine restaurants, cafes and bars. There are excellent sports facilities, a swimming pool, several gyms, sailing clubs, table tennis, cricket, football and of course Herne Bay is famous as the home of roller hockey. A new, large David Lloyd Club development is also well under way, that will provide indoor & outdoor swimming pools, padel, tennis, spa facilities and much more, further enhancing the desirability of the area. There is a large Edwardian concert hall venue on the seafront, a 2-screen cinema and a wonderful "Little Theatre" with very active thespian groups locally. A well-established local radio station has also operated for many years. There are so many activities on offer that there really is something for everyone! Herne Bay is a popular filming location with a variety of TV programmes and Films being shot here.

There is a small local hospital in the town and a drop-in UTC (Urgent Treatment Centre). Our GP surgeries are well supported by 3 main hospitals in Thanet, Canterbury and Ashford with 24-hour A&E sited at Thanet & Ashford and 24-hour UTC at Canterbury. There are several fine primary schools in Herne Bay itself, as well as a good range of easily accessible Secondary and Grammar schools to choose from in the surrounding area along with some sought-after independent schools.

Historic Canterbury is just 9 miles to the south of Herne Bay, with its Cathedral being a considerable draw for Christians and other faiths from around the world. Canterbury is also home to two major universities and both NHS & Private Hospitals offering many employment opportunities.

ABOUT OUR CHURCHES

ST MARY THE VIRGIN

About 1400 years ago, a Monk's Chapel was founded on the coast by St. Augustine's missionaries from Rome who wanted to establish Christian churches here in pagan England. It was on this site that the first St. Mary's was built. It was and is still well known in the area for the striking twin towers which can be seen for miles around.



In 1809, because of coastal erosion, a new church was built about a mile further inland, on a hill overlooking the Reculver marshes and the towers of the original church. Sadly, this new church was of very poor construction and lasted barely 60 years. The present Grade 2* listed building was consecrated in 1878, and although smaller, is far more sturdy, in good repair and lovingly tended. St Mary's would be described as a village church and its churchyard is home to the village War Memorial. It is compact, quite intimate and 'middle of the road' in churchmanship. The priest and choir are robed for the Holy Communion services. Leading, reading and intercessions, as well as serving and chalice duties are all shared ministries with members of the congregation and ALMs. The Friends of St Mary's are actively working towards the possible extension of the building to provide better

disabled access, toilets and kitchen facilities.

We have also been awarded a bronze status eco award and are working to achieve silver.



ST BARTHOLOMEW



St Bartholomew's church started life in 1908 as a smart but simple, wooden structure, before the world-renowned church architect W D Caroe designed the impressive Grade 2 listed brick building we see today. The foundation stone was laid in 1913 by Randall Davidson, the Archbishop of Canterbury.

We have a display of photographs taken during this time which show the new building being built over the original wooden church. Sadly, work was halted by the advent of the First World War and so St Bartholomew's was not finally consecrated until 30th July 1932.

Situated at just about the highest point in Herne Bay, St Bart's silver cedar spire is an impressive feature which can be seen from a considerable distance. Originally it was a high church in more ways than one and was very much Anglo Catholic in its style of worship. Today however, it is less formal with family worship, guitar and piano taking over from the organ once a month as well as formal Holy Communion.

Just inside the south porch is the Memorial Chapel. Dedicated in 1922, it was erected by the Reverend Giles and Katherine Daubney in loving memory of their two sons killed in the First World War and a third who, having survived the war, died in a flying accident in South Africa in 1926. This beautiful chapel, hand crafted by Messrs. Dart and Francis of Crediton, Devon, bears the names and places of the young men carved into the screens for all to read.

Funds for the building were raised by the local community, for the use of the community - an ethos it continues to this day, with a Community Hub, run by members of the congregation and volunteers from the community, open six mornings a week supplying teas and coffee, clothes, books, toys and a safe children's play area and a warm welcome for everyone.

HOLY CROSS

Holy Cross Church sits in the middle of the village of Hoath, a semi-rural community of about 233 households. As well as the church it includes a primary school, a popular and busy village hall, farms and a public house.



The church is a Grade 2* listed early-English building with a Victorian interior which has been tweaked over the years to sensitively provide a discreet kitchen and toilet. The building itself is in good repair for its age and indeed has recently seen some extensive work both to the chancel and externally. Recent maintenance has included replacement of heaters, repairs to external woodwork and rendering and internal repainting of the Chancel. This has been funded by a mixture of grants, donations and a legacy as well as a contribution from the Church Commissioners who have accepted Chancel liability.

Holy Cross Church is the oldest church building in the benefice and its shingled spire is a prominent landmark in the village. Built in the 13th century as a chapel of ease for the original church at Reculver, Holy Cross was restored and extended in the 19th Century, so the current interior is mainly Victorian. This includes stained glass and a small pipe organ, which is still in use. The church also contains the village War Memorial, which is incorporated in the reredos.

Robert Hunt, vicar of Reculver and Hoath in 1594 was particularly noteworthy. He celebrated the first Anglican Communion in America in 1607, having arrived in the James River as part of the Virginia Company of London.

As well as the other seasonal events shared by all three churches, Holy Cross also celebrates Rogation each May, with our traditional Rogation Walk followed by lunch.



CHURCH HALL

Our church hall, standing in the grounds of St. Bartholomew, operates independently to the church with its own committee and bank account but that committee has PCC members on it and reports back to the PCC regularly. It runs at a profit with a core of regular hirers as well as occasional hire by the NHS (for public health clinics), local government (for polling station use) and families/individuals for ad-hoc activities. As a church we use it free of charge for monthly games mornings with lunch included and for weekly "Soup & Sweet" both of which are supported by the non-churched and as such add to our missional community outreach. The hall is kept in good repair, has recently been redecorated inside and the committee are occasionally able to give a donation to the PCC to help with general funds.

RECVLVER CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

We maintain strong links with our original parish school, whose large grounds adjoin St. Marys church. This is a thriving and popular 3-form entry primary school, with pupils drawn from across the parish and beyond and with high levels of attainment. The clergy and other church members are made welcome in a wide variety of ministries in the school, and with such a large pupil, family and staff community it presents rich missional and pastoral opportunities.

There is also a popular state village primary school at Hoath.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

As a parish we are responsible for running many activities. We hold Messy Church monthly at both Reculver C of E Primary School and Holy Cross church. A Parent and Toddler Group meets weekly in term time in St. Mary's Church. Also, Tears and Tissues at the start of the school year in September, is a chance for parents who are leaving their children for their first day at school to take a few minutes in a supportive, friendly way with a coffee and chat.

Each church takes a turn to hold a Prayer Breakfast; these are held each month. Three House Groups meet regularly and a strong Cursillo group reunion meets once a month.

A good variety of fundraising activities are held, including Christmas and Summer Fairs, Quiz evenings, Cream Teas, Music entertainment, Coffee mornings, etc. etc. Holy Cross hosts a monthly coffee morning with Bring and Buy and Raffle that is very well attended by many from the village as is the annual Rogation walk with a lunch after.



From the start of the war in Ukraine we have operated a Ukraine Aid Collection Point at St Bart's, collecting, sorting and sending out many van loads of aid – at the time of writing, there have been 76 large van loads, though there are several more that will soon be ready to leave. We have been, and indeed still are well supported by the wider community - over the years, donations have come from schools, hospitals, pharmacies, dentists, clubs, churches and individuals.



With the formation of the Ukraine Collection Point, “The Hub at St. Bart’s” evolved into its present form. It provides help & support for more local needs with a clothing bank, shoes, toys, books, puzzles etc. Items are given in return for donations, but we are always on the lookout for when there is an urgent need.

The Hub also offers a safe space for anyone to come for a coffee and chat with somewhere comfortable to sit, along with a listening ear if needed.



The “Soup & Sweet” drop in, is held in the hall next to St Bart’s every Friday. Home-made soup and cake (or a sandwich in warmer weather) is available to anyone, free or for a donation if able. From the Soup & Sweet project an Alpha course has been held, at least one adult baptism and two confirmations, not to mention a house group

and some very good friendships. What began as a project to help displaced people from Ukraine has developed into so much more, thanks to a group of very dedicated people.

THE FUTURE OF OUR PARISH

Attached is the Parish Financial Summary for 2024 and our Mission Action Plan, as agreed by the PCC in July 2025. We look forward to working together with our new incumbent, using this as a starting point for further discussions & improvement. Our hearts & minds are open to new ideas and initiatives.



CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES FOR OUR NEW INCUMBENT

Some of the most important that we identify are:

Building on our current joint ministry between the three churches, while simultaneously discerning particular strategies and specialisations for each one, for example -

St. Mary's: strengthen and deepen the links between the church and 3-form entry school and parent body; welcome and engage with those moving into new housing developments.

St Bartholomew's: build on the links with the wider community already established through the daily hub, Ukraine support project, and regular church hall users.

Holy Cross: Discern and develop what today's rural ministry, with a thriving village village hall and non-church primary school, set within farmland and smallholdings, looks like today and tomorrow.

Fabric: Major refurbishment of St. Bartholomew's church is urgent - but, potentially, redevelopment of the vacant land could release capital finance for re-ordering, possibly provision for social and pastoral spaces within the building, and a new parsonage house.

Finances: Now the amalgamation of finances is settled and we have dropped from a 1.0 to a 0.2 clergy post, build sustainable income enabling full payment of our reduced Parish Share while maintaining the week-by-week ministry of our three churches.



WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We look forward to welcoming a priest who:

- Will **lead** us and share in our praise and prayer to Almighty God;
- Will **guide** us and travel alongside us as we walk in the Way of Jesus Christ;
- Will **help** us open our eyes and ears to the prompting of the Holy Spirit in every aspect of our inclusive mission, ministry and witness;
- Will **share** our – and our communities' – lives, in joy and pain and sorrow and loss, in love and delight;
- Will **listen and laugh and celebrate** with us.

We offer on our part:

- **Minds** open and eager to learn more about the wonders and glory of God;
- **Hearts** open to deepen our fellowship in Christ with each other and our neighbours;
- **Hands** willing to build together the kingdom of God's grace, forgiveness and welcome, in loving and costly service and stewardship of His creation;
- **Voices** ready to proclaim the Word and works of God.



THE UNITED PARISH OF RECVLVER
FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

RECEIPTS	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
Regular Giving	21,529	0	21,529	21,159
Collections at Services	8,854	0	8,854	8,731
Voluntary Donations	19,521	6,416	25,937	26,532
Gift Aid Recovered	7,232	0	7,232	7,895
Fund Raising Events	10,830	0	10,830	13,213
Hall Income	15,190	0	15,190	12,183
Parochial Fees	5,360	0	5,360	6,165
Dividends / Interest	1,762	2,337	4,099	3,005
TOTAL	90,278	8,753	99,031	98,883

EXPENDITURE

Parish Share	43,400	0	43,400	40,000
Churches Running Expenses	24,688	8,969	33,657	47,495
Hall Running Expenses	9,566	0	9,566	16,806
Clergy Expenses	4,393	0	4,393	3,669
Mission Giving	0	2,298	2,298	2,765
Cost of Generating Funds	412	0	412	1,841
TOTAL	82,459	11,267	93,726	112,576

SURPLUS / DEFICIT	7,819	-2,514	5,305	-13,693
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SUMMARY OF ASSETS

CASH ASSETS

Parish Business Bank Account	5,018	0	5,018	5,022
Parish Savings Bank Account	16,491	5,011	21,502	24,699
Hall Business Bank Account	1,977	0	1,977	2,830
Hall Savings Bank Account	7,506	0	7,506	0
CBF Church of England Funds	5,681	45,682	51,363	49,510
TOTAL	36,673	50,693	87,366	82,061

INVESTMENT ASSETS

Holy Cross Hoath	1,305	0	1,305	1,212
CBF Fixed Interest Security Fund				
St Bartholomew Herne Bay	17,922	0	17,922	17,521
CBF Income Investment Fund				
St Mary the Virgin Reculver	27,516	0	27,516	26,900
CBF Income Investment Fund				
TOTAL	46,743	0	46,743	45,633

RECVLVER PARISH - MISSION ACTION PLAN

Initial draft as discussed by PCC 15/07/2025

Topic	Action	By whom?	By when?	Resources needed	Assessment
1 WORSHIP	1a Occasional evening worship?				
	1b Explore Café Church?			More musicians	
	1c Add small worship element to existing activities				
	1d Explore Bubble Worship (cf Herne)				
2 PRAYER & DISCIPLESHIP	2a Prayer/study Groups				
	2b Organise Study Courses (eg, on Nicene Creed)				
	2c nb Prayer breakfasts				
3 NEW WORSHIPERS	3a Annual services or hospitality events for families with recent: Baptisms; Marriages; Funerals (nb Bereavement service)			Bring databases up to date	
	3b Build on school ministry - link to family service at St Mary's				
4 OUTREACH	4a Welcome ministry to those moving into new developments – visiting, welcome events?				
	4b St Barts Hub: events at St B Hall; coffee mornings at Hoath				
	4c Engage with local issues – eg, Hoath Solar farm				
	4d nb pastoral opportunities from what we already do (eg, Hub)				
5 WIDER MINISTRY	5a Help for Ukraine				
6 LEADERSHIP	6a Appoint new Priest in Charge				
	6b Lay ministries training and recognition				
7 FINANCE	7a Set annual budget				
	7b Involve Diocesan Generous Giving team				
	7c Stewardship/fundraising campaign				
	7d Write to parishioners re financial position				
	7e Promote PGS again - are we fully using Gift Aid scheme?				
	7f Include finance info/leaflet in any welcome leaflet				
	7g Revisit funding initiatives eg 100 Club.				
8 INFRASTRUCTURE	8a Determine ownership of St Barts site				
	8b Explore potential development of St Barts Site				
	8c Repair and reorder St Barts Church				
	8d Complete St Marys' fabric projects in train				

The Parish of Reculver



Every Friday

12 - 1.30pm

Summer menu

Come and join our friendly group and enjoy delicious sandwiches, made to order, with tea/coffee and something sweet to follow

Meet friends - make new friends

There is no charge but you can make a donation if you wish.

St. Bart's Church Hall
King Edward Ave.
Herne Bay CT6 6LS

Contact: Janet Hosking 01227 362982

Coffee Morning with Bring and Buy

Dates for the Diary

Sat. 16th Aug
Sat. 20th Sept
Sat. 18th Oct

Sat. 15th Nov
Christmas special

Further details to follow

2025



Holy Cross Church
Hoath
CT3 4JT



10am - 12noon

Raising funds for The Parish of Reculver

An invitation to join us for the Hoath Parish Rogation Walk with the Beating the Bounds

Sunday 5th May

9.15am - Service in Holy Cross (all welcome - dogs too!)

10am - The walk starts at East Blean Woods car park, Hicks Forstal

1pm - Lunch at Hoath Village Hall (you are welcome to join us for lunch even if you do not walk)

£7.00 per person
(Pre-booking and pre-payment essential)

Please contact either Linda Atkinson on 01227 550345 or Janet Hopkins - 01227 362982

All proceeds and in the last 10 years 100% for a donation for the Hoath Parish (not to be used for other purposes)

There will also be a raffle raising funds for The Parish of Reculver

Bart's Community Hub

Ukraine Donation Centre
King Edward Ave. CT6 6EB

Open 10am - 12noon Mon - Sat

ITEMS URGENTLY REQUIRED

- Medical Supplies:- Bandages, Dressings
- Pain Killers - (non prescription)
- Antiseptic Cream
- Sleeping bags & Blankets
- Torchos & Batteries
- Sanitary Products
- Bar Soap & Toiletries
- Tinned Food
- Dried Foods- Rice, Pasta
- Cereal/Protein bars

Ukraine is in desperate need of your help. If you are able to donate any of the items listed below, please contact us at St. Bart's

Further Information:-
Ann Collier: 07861 804899
John Bailey: 07840 726202

Ukraine

Donation Centre

Open
10am - 12noon
Mon - Sat

Meet friends and make friends

'Something for everyone'

The Parish of Reculver

Bart's Community Hub
King Edward Ave. CT6 6EB
(next door to the hospital)

10am - 12noon
Mon - Sat

Meet friends and make friends

- Tea and Coffee
- Play area
- Clothing
- Books
- Jigsaw Puzzles
- Toys
- DVD's + CD's

'Something for everyone'

The Parish of Reculver

Jesus on the beach

Children of all ages welcome, but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian

Crafts
Fun
Story
Food

Saturday 6th July
11.30 - 1pm
Holy Cross Church, Hoath
Rev. Jenny Hawdon
01227 711515

Tuesday 16th July
3.30 - 5pm
Reculver School
Rev. Sue Martin
01227 360948

Monthly Games Sessions

Enjoy coffee and a fabulous 2 course meal for just £8 per person

Scrabble
Chickenfoot
Rummikub
Dominoes
Yahtzee etc.

Thursdays 10.30am

11th Sept
9th Oct
13th Nov

St. Bart's Church Hall
King Edward Ave. Herne Bay

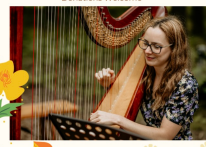
Contact: June 01227 740169 or Pam on 01227 368529

EMILY HOPPER
HARPIST

8 JUNE 2025, 4PM

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF HARP MUSIC FOLLOWED BY TEA, COFFEE AND CAKE

HOLY CROSS CHURCH, HOATH
Donations Welcome



St. Mary's Church
Reculver
CT6 6TA

Flower Festival & Cream Tea
£7.50 per Head

Raising funds for the Parish of Reculver

Sun 29 Jun
3pm-5pm

...and Sing-a-long to your favourite songs

Contact: Ann 07801 801879 or Janet 01227 362982