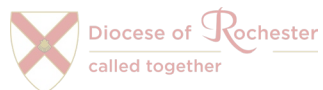




# Bexley Team Ministry

## Parish Profile

Team Rector and Team Vicar



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## ARCHDEACON'S WELCOME



Thank you for taking the time to prayerfully consider whether God might be calling you to be the next Rector or Team Vicar for the Bexley Team Ministry. This is an exciting time in the life of Rochester Diocese as we reflect on how we as a Diocese, and in different ways in each of our parishes, might Change and Serve and Grow so that God's Kingdom can be increased and more people can come to know the love of Jesus. Our Diocesan vision and strategy prioritises parish ministry and we are committed to supporting our clergy and lay leaders in their mission and ministry in their local context. We have recently been awarded £11m of SMIBB funding (from the National Church) to support this vision.

The congregations of the Bexley Team Ministry are warm and welcoming and are looking forward to working with a new Team Rector and Team Vicar, building on existing strengths and developing the growing sense of shared mission and ministry.

The four churches, each having different strengths and opportunities, are all keen to work together to develop outreach and deeper connections with their local communities, especially in serving local schools and families. After a long period without a Team Rector, we considered the possibility of dissolving the Team Ministry to enable us to recruit more easily. However, the parish representatives recognise the potential and strengths of working together in mission and ministry while retaining the distinctiveness of each church. I am committed to supporting this Team to flourish.

We are looking for a Team Rector and Team Vicar who will each bring their own gifts and skills, will value and encourage the good work that is in place, will value inclusion in all forms and will be guided by the Holy Spirit. There are a number of schools in our community and building the connection with the staff, pupils and families is a key priority.

Our **Team Rector** will need to be an experienced and enthusiastic leader who can work with and build upon what is good, offering oversight to each of the churches, supporting and encouraging the dedicated team of clergy and lay ministers, strengthening the team identity and values, and leading in vision and mission.

Our **Team Vicar** (half-time post) will need to be pastoral and engaging, willing to serve across the team and hold responsibility for a specific area of ministry. (This will be decided based on the skills and passions of the team members).

Please be assured of my prayers as you discern whether you are the person the Holy Spirit is calling to join us in this next stage of mission and ministry in Bexley, Joydens Wood and North Cray. I'd be delighted to have a conversation with anyone who may be interested.

*Ven Allie Kerr, Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley*



## OUR SHARED MISSION & MINISTRY

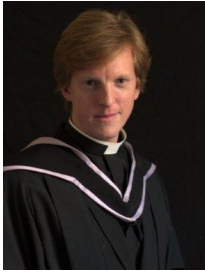
This is an important time in the life of these four churches as we form stronger bonds and seek to work together to share the love of God with our communities. We are committed to growth in our relationships with one another, and growth in depth, impact and number in our local communities.

We believe that we are stronger together and are excited about the possibilities a newly formed Team will bring. Our hope is that all members of our ministry team will share in the mission and ministry across the parishes, in a genuinely collaborative way, each offering their own gifts and skills and taking responsibility for leading specific aspects of church life such as discipleship, children and youth, pastoral offices, ministry to older people, and whatever else God places on our hearts. We need a prayerful and suitably experienced Team Rector who can help us make these changes, provide leadership and vision, and recognise and nurture lay and ordained vocations.

Our current pattern has ministers mainly based in one of the churches; going forward we want to provide consistency of relationship while being a genuinely collaborative team. Our existing team are enthusiastic about being part of a reshaped team and working across the benefice.

We love the diversity and different styles of worship across the team, offering a church community where anyone can feel welcome. Each of our churches is committed to valuing inclusion in all forms.

## MINISTRY TEAM



Rev. Edward  
(full-time Team Vicar)



Andrew  
(Lay Funeral Minister,  
currently undertaking  
Licensed Lay Ministry  
Training)



Rev. Sue  
(Associate Priest SSM)



Gill  
(Occasional preacher  
& Lay Worship  
Leader)



David  
(Licensed Lay Reader  
with PTO)



Kate  
(currently studying for  
the Bishop's  
Certificate and  
exploring the  
possibility of Licensed  
Lay Ministry)



Pauline  
(Licensed Lay Minister  
with PTO)

There are others in our congregations with potential vocations: might you be the person to nurture our discipleship and grow our vocations?

As well as those involved in leading and preaching we have a dedicated team of Churchwardens, Parish Safeguarding Officers and Treasurers, alongside many others who give their time in service of God in our communities.

## SHARED MISSION & MINISTRY

We have a range of groups across the benefice offering opportunities for outreach, fellowship and discipleship. Groups include Lunch Club, Men's breakfasts, Ladies' pub lunches, weekly quiz in a local cafe, Book Group, Knit & Natter, The Meeting Place (shared venture with Churches Together in Old Bexley), Mothers' Union and Holy Hush silent prayer group.

## CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Before Covid and the interregnum there was a growing range of groups and activities for children, young people and families, including a thriving Forest Church, Messy Church, Funky Fridays Youth Group, Holiday Club and Sundays @ 4 service. Many of our groups are not currently running but we hope, with a full team, to prioritise our work with children, young people and families to enable a range of discipleship and social groups. St Barnabas and St Mary's hold a pre-school nursery during term-time. We have had strong links with our local schools but have not been able to maintain the level of connection since our curate moved to take up his first post of responsibility. We are confident that as we give more time and attention to working with schools, our relationships with local families will be fruitful; there is openness to this within our schools and community.

We currently have a weekly Toddler Church and Sunday School at St John's, both of which are thriving.

## SHARED SUPPORT STRUCTURES

We have begun to consider how we might share resources and work together more effectively. Currently, our safeguarding teams meet once per term for mutual support. We have a newly developed communications team, initially focusing mainly on internal communications, so we are better connected. We hope that the creation of a joint ministry team will be an early priority for our Team Rector.

## SHARED SERVICES

We offer a range of Sunday services for all ages and with varied worship styles.

Weds HC is a joint service which travels between St John's, St Mary's and St James.

We join together for special seasonal services during the year, in particular in Holy Week, when we offer a varied menu of different services across the benefice. We are open to the possibility of additional shared services at other times of the year and we want to think creatively about our service patterns to ensure that we have a good mix of traditional and contemporary services and provision for children, young people and families each week.

Pastoral offices are shared across the team.

Our current Service pattern is overleaf.

		St. John's	St. Mary's	St. James'	St. Barnabas'
<b>Week 1</b>	8.00am	Said Communion			
	9.30am			Sung Communion	
	10.00am	Family Communion	Sung Communion		
	10.45am				Sung Communion
<b>Week 2</b>	8.00am	Said Communion			
	9.30am			Family Worship	
	10.00am	Sung Communion	Sung Communion		
	10.45am				Family HC or SOW
<b>Week 3</b>	8.00am	Said Communion			
	9.30am			Sung Communion	
	10.00am	Sung Communion	Sung Communion		
	10.45am				Sung Communion
	12.00pm	Baptisms			
<b>Week 4</b>	8.00am	Said Communion			
	9.30am			Sung Communion	
	10.00am	Sung Communion	Word Service		
	10.45am				Sung Communion
<b>Week 5</b>	8.00am	Said Communion			
	9.30am			Sung Communion	
	10.00am	Sung Communion	Sung Communion		
	10.45am				Sung Communion



## OUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

We recognise that we are facing key challenges: finances, reaching children, young people and families, growing discipleship and lay ministry, and the responsibility of caring for and developing our church buildings.

However, we see tremendous opportunities for mission and growth, engaging with people of all ages and backgrounds. We are excited by the possibilities that lie before us and are hopeful that our Team Rector will give strategic direction, help us to listen to Jesus, and to grow God's kingdom here in Bexley, Joydens Wood and North Cray. We share a collective commitment to worship God, spread the Gospel and grow a loving, open, Christian community filled with the Holy Spirit. Our Joint PCC meeting recently identified the following priorities:

- **Welcome and inclusion.** Our Churches are known as friendly, welcoming and inclusive places. We are all members of the Inclusive Church Network. We want to demonstrate a living faith that shows God's love for His people through our words and our actions.
- **Commitment to serving our community.** Our current activities support and enrich the lives of people from our community and include meeting place cafe, men's breakfast and ladies' lunch, supporting the local foodbank, a knit and natter group and litter picking. There is huge potential to extend our outreach, and we are looking forward to working more closely together, sharing ideas and resources and building up lay ministry to be able to do this.
- **Children, Young People and Families.** We want to grow our existing work with children, young people, families and schools. Our Forest and Messy Churches were a huge success, and we'd love to restart them and to explore other ways to share God's love.



- **Peace and tranquillity.** Our churches are places of peace and tranquillity: we want to offer indoor and outdoor space for contemplation and much needed opportunities to encounter God in the busyness of life.
- **Nurturing faith.** We know we need to do more to deepen our connection with God through teaching, courses, prayer and opportunities to grow in Christian service and witness.
- **Ecumenical relationships.** We actively participate in Churches Together in Old Bexley and find our spiritual lives benefit enormously from ecumenical events like the shared Lent Course and special services.
- **Valuing the distinctive nature of our churches.** While we are committed to working together to build God's Kingdom we want to value and build on the richness of our difference: having churches with varied styles of worship is a strength we want to develop.

We are on a journey to continue to build a strong and loving Christian presence in our communities and are excited to see where God might lead us.

## OUR COMMUNITY

Our parishes lie within the London Borough of Bexley and into North West Kent. The suburban area of Bexley Village extends into the more semi-rural areas of Joydens Wood and North Cray, which include extensive woodland, meadows and farmland, offering attractive local walks. Throughout all four parishes the housing is mainly privately owned, with some areas of social housing, particularly in the North Cray area.

There are excellent road links with easy access to the A2/M2, M25 and M20. Rail links to London, Rochester and Heathrow (via the Elizabeth Line from Abbey Wood) Gatwick and City airports are all within easy reach, as are bus routes to shopping areas like Bluewater and places of interest.

Our area is well known for the high standard of education offered. It includes many Nursery and Primary schools (one of which is C of E) within the parishes and easily accessible secondary schools, both selective and non-selective, all with excellent reputations.

Local medical facilities are good, including the nearby hospitals of Queen Mary's, Sidcup, Queen Elizabeth, Woolwich, and Darent Valley, Dartford.

There are plenty of places to eat out and socialise, including extensive sports facilities including three golf courses and various sports centres and gyms.



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## OUR PARISHES

### ST BARNABAS, JOYDENS WOOD

The parish of St Barnabas Church Joydens Wood is a pleasant residential area on the very edge of Greater London. Between Dartford Heath and the extensive woodlands of Joydens Wood and surrounding farmland there is a close, settled community.

The church, which was built in 1971, is set in a pleasant natural setting, with a large grassed area, memorial garden and large car park. The church faces a residential road with woodland and sports fields to one side and houses on the other. The church building itself is a well-designed multi-purpose building, including a hall, kitchen, toilets, vestry, storage rooms and creche. It is set up on Sundays for worship and the sanctuary is screened off during the week, when the building is used as a children's nursery or hired out to community groups.

The prefabricated building behind the church, previously used for children's church, Mother's Union, prayer groups, PCC meetings, etc, is due to be replaced by a new extension to the main building, providing a meeting room, storage, mini kitchen and accessible toilet. The faculty for this has recently been granted, our next step is to form a group to deal with the planning application and fundraising. We hope this will be used more extensively for midweek church and community activities.

Our style of worship is liturgical yet relaxed, following Common Worship, and using the lectionary readings. The weekly services are inspiring and it usually quite lively. We are enthusiastic singers and are fortunate to have two talented musicians who lead us in singing both traditional and contemporary hymns/songs and some parts of the liturgy. Our monthly Family Service is more informal and has more interaction with the congregation, especially the children. We are a friendly, inclusive church and many visitors comment on the warmth of welcome they receive both before and after the service when visitors are encouraged to stay for refreshments. There is a real sense of family. We are beginning to see some growth with new people attending. We also have two regular home groups.

There are three schools in the parish, one infant, one junior and one primary school. We have historically had good links with all of them, taking assemblies there on a regular basis and inviting them to the church for Christmas services. Providing people to lead assemblies has been a challenge in recent months but we are hopeful that strong relationships can be

*'A lovely community church that is very  
welcoming and supportive'*



rekindled. We also have links with Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, who used to join in with parade services; they are all still involved in the Remembrance Service. We view the Memorial Service, the Service of Remembrance, Christmas services and especially the Fun Day as important events that enable us to reach out to the local community. We support local charities including Home Start, Bexley Food Bank and Christmas Hampers in Schools and hope to live up to our Mission Statement 'Grounded in Love, Rooted in the Community'.

We want to see our outreach to the community grow following the difficult days of the lockdown. We have always been an inclusive and caring church and will continue to welcome all. We would like to see more of the community coming to faith, wanting to be involved, and the church becoming an important part of our community and their lives.

We are open to finding ways of worship that appeal to a wider range of the community. The provision for children and youth in this area is very much laid on our hearts. We would like to deepen the prayer life of our church and provide more opportunities for our congregation to share their faith and grow closer together.





## ST JAMES, NORTH CRAY

St James is a much loved Grade II listed Victorian church surrounded by ancient trees on the edge of a conservation area. A footpath leads through the churchyard to the meadows and down to the River Cray with its iconic five-arch bridge.

The churchyard is a delight, where passers-by can sit and relax and soak up the sun, the sight and scent of countless wildflowers, and the sanctity of this tranquil spot.

The Nave retains its traditional horse box pews whilst the Chancel is decorated with carved wooden panels. We have several beautiful stained glass windows, a pipe organ and three bells hung for dead ringing.

Adjoining the churchyard is a second Grade II listed building known as The Bothy. This restored fruit store serves as a church hall, with kitchen, toilet facilities and a secluded garden. It is hired out for yoga classes, small parties and 'quiet/away days', and is used for fundraising coffee mornings, table sales, and parish meals.

Our second churchyard, which is a 10-minute walk away, remains open for burials.

We have a small but dedicated core congregation, who enjoy a largely traditional style of worship. We love to sing but since the loss of our choir and organist, hymns are mainly accompanied by CDs played through our sound system. We have some talented musicians who play periodically, which enables us to enrich our worship with more modern music and creative elements. Our monthly family service always includes an invitation to the Brownies, Guides and Scouts, who attend on special occasions. We have links with the local Royal British Legion and were blessed with a flourishing Forest Church, which we hope to restart for the whole team.

We offer a safe, accepting and welcoming environment in which to encounter God as part of a community which believes in living faith. Each of us striving to show God's love for all people through actions and words.

The regular congregation may be small (averaging 15 but with a less frequent worshipping community of between 50 and 60 people), however it is important that our church represents continuity and stability to the wider parish, so that we are there when people need to draw close to God, whether for baptisms, weddings and funerals, or for Remembrance and Christmas, when we have a full church.

We have a popular Knit and Natter craft group and foster ties with the Social Enterprise community centre on the housing estate where we provide a prayer tree at Christmas, and conduct a community carol service, which is much appreciated by the attendees. We also support our local Women's Refuge and food bank.

Our focus for the coming years is growing our congregation, expanding our mission, and maintaining our church building. With the church on one side of the parish and much of the population on the other, we need to increase our presence within this section of the community and see this as an opportunity for fresh engagement. The success of our Forest Church showed that whilst it is possible to attract the children and young families that are our future, we need to find ways of integrating the two congregations.

*St James is more than a church, it's my church family'*

Whilst the interregnum has been a challenge, St James' has not stood still. We have launched a number of small but significant initiatives during this period as described above and we have recently conducted a stewardship campaign, which has resulted in a significant increase in planned giving.

Preserving what is cherished by our core congregation whilst opening our minds to how God is calling us to evolve and grow, will be challenging for us all. We pray that the new Team Rector and Team Vicar will be able to support and inspire us in this important work, as we move forward together.

*'I always enjoy presiding at St James, they are so welcoming'*



## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BEXLEY

St John's lies to the West of Bexley Village and within close walking distance of its shops, restaurants and transport links, including Bexley railway station, giving easy access to London and further afield. The church was built in response to the increasing population and new housing in the 1800s. Close by are Bexley Woods and the Golden Acre, an open area that includes a children's playground.

*'Warm and welcoming,  
multigenerational and family  
friendly'*

A Victorian Gothic Revival building (Grade II), consecrated in 1882, St John's has a high nave roof and a painted apsidal chancel with stained glass windows and a raised altar, set far back.

The church building has a deep spirituality and is open daily for prayer and reflection which is appreciated by the wider community. The side pews have been removed to provide an area for the Lady Chapel, a children's corner and a place to gather for coffee after worship.

There is a large hall with parking used by the community for regular weekly groups and children's parties, and for Sunday school and social activities. Adjoining the hall is a small meeting room/parish office, a kitchen, toilets and storage rooms.

A memorial garden for the burial of ashes is next to the North wall.

Worship is in the Liberal-Catholic tradition with regular Family services. There is a strong musical tradition, with a robed SATB choir who sing at main services, special choral services and seasonal services; there is much pride in the Henry 'Father' Willis organ which accompanies them.

*'We are an Inclusive Church,  
valuing all from small children  
to people in their nineties'*

We are a member of the Inclusive Church Network, and we value all from small children to people in their nineties. There is Sunday School during the main service, with the children returning to church at the end of communion to share what they have been doing and for the blessing.

Weekly Toddler Church is an outreach attracting non-church families. Active participation is encouraged with stories, songs and crafts.



St John's regularly supports  
the Demelza Children's  
Hospice; donating half of all

*The church has "atmosphere", it grabs you'*

collections from Baptisms. Other charities are also supported throughout the year and there are many examples of people serving their neighbour, with active involvement in: The Meeting Place; Cruse Bereavement Care; Bexley Voice; Bexley Foodbank; Bexley Winter Shelter and Bexley Interfaith Forum.

The words in our logo - 'Inspiring worship: Including everyone: Inviting faith' are the clearest indication of our identity and our purpose.



## ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BEXLEY

St Mary's, at the East end of Bexley Village, is mentioned in the Domesday Book and became a parish in 1123. The church is built on the site of a former Saxon church, with extensions and restorations through the succeeding centuries, particularly during the Victorian era.

In 2023 we celebrated the 900th anniversary of the parish; Charles Wesley preached here and Charles III's great, great grandmother was married here.

The sense of history in the building is palpable and people have noted a sense of awe at the thought of all who have worshipped here over the centuries. The church is surrounded by a peaceful closed churchyard.

The church is a Grade II\* Listed building, extensively refurbished by Basil Champneys in 1882. It is in a good state of repair and work arising from the 2022 quinquennial inspection is being undertaken.

The church has received a faculty from the diocese to install an accessible toilet and improved tea station. The Friends of St Mary's organise events to raise funds in order to help preserve the ancient fabric of the church.

The church hall, built in 1984, is in Manor Road and includes a parish office, main hall and committee room, and is used by a pre-school group weekday mornings. It is hired out most evenings and weekends helping to offset church expenditure.

*'St Mary's has been a big part of my life since before I left school to retirement. I have been lucky enough to serve in many roles over the years and it must be true to say that this Church has been a positive influence on me and the choices I have made in my journey through life'*

The main worship of the church is in the central tradition with organ, robed choir led by a paid Director of Music, and a balance between word and sacrament.

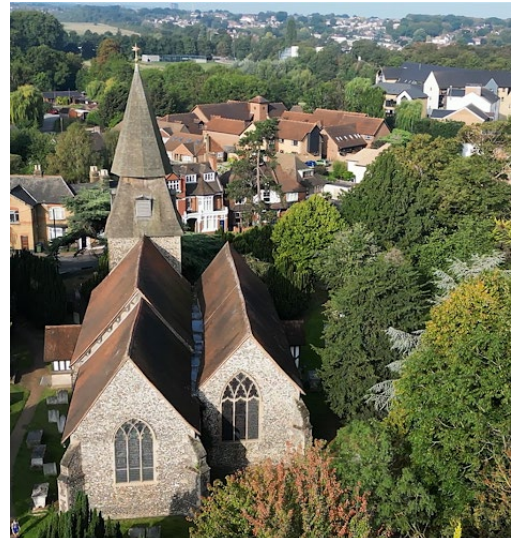
St Mary's has a Licensed Lay Funeral Minister (in training for Licensed Lay Ministry) who is currently coordinating services with the church warden, Reverend Sue, and PCC. An annual memorial service is held for relatives and friends of those for whom we have held funerals.



Clergy from the Team have taken school assemblies at Old Bexley Church of England Primary School and see this as an important outreach to the younger community.

Baptism anniversary cards and the monthly parish magazine, delivered to non-church members and the local library, help to maintain contact with the community. Whilst in interregnum an informal network of support and care continues to be provided to the congregation and local community. The church longs to draw more people into its life, introducing or re-introducing people to the love of God and redressing the imbalance between younger and older worshippers.

*'There is a sense of continuity; worshipping in a place that has seen a thousand years of worship'*



## OUR CLERGY HOUSES

### THE VICARAGE, JOYDENS WOOD

The Team Rector will live in the purpose built 1970's vicarage at Joydens Wood on the same site as the church, with access to the private drive from the ample church car park. There is a good-sized study with a cloakroom opposite. The dining room and large, recently refurbished kitchen are connected by a convenient serving hatch. The lounge has a lovely log burner.

There are four double bedrooms and a refurbished family bathroom. The back garden is not overlooked and is mainly laid to lawn with trees, shrubs, flowerbeds and a patio. There is a large, attached garage and storage room.

The house and church are located in a residential road, with playing fields and woodlands to one side and housing to the other.



### ST MARY'S VICARAGE

The Team Vicar will live in a modern detached four-bedroom vicarage in Hill Crescent, approximately 0.5 miles from the church and less than 10 minutes' walk. It has a bathroom with a small bath, shower, wash basin and toilet upstairs. Downstairs is a large sitting room, dining room, study, kitchen, utility room and toilet. There is a garden back and front with the back garden mostly laid to lawn. The house is in a good state of repair and is situated in a pleasant residential community.





# OUR HOPES FOR OUR NEW RECTOR & TEAM VICAR

## **We pray for a new Team Rector who:**

- ✓ Is visionary and strategic, with experience of leading change and enabling teams to flourish and is a good team player
- ✓ Is an enabler, recognising potential in people, and is happy to delegate, encourage and nurture others to grow in their gifts and vocation
- ✓ Can strengthen the team identity and values, while valuing the distinctiveness of our churches
- ✓ Has a strong, passionate faith and prayer life and will nurture and encourage us to grow in faith
- ✓ Has a heart for mission and growth, experience in creating and implementing mission plans and can help us to listen to God's call and develop our shared priorities
- ✓ Is a good communicator, who interprets and preaches the Christian message in a way that is accessible to all
- ✓ Has experience of growing work with schools, young people and families
- ✓ Will be a visible, friendly presence across our churches and communities
- ✓ Has strong administrative and organisational skills and experience of managing and leading change

## **We pray for a new Team Vicar (half-time) who:**

- ✓ Is committed to collaborative ministry, willing to serve across the team and hold a specific area of responsibility (to be agreed depending on individual gifts and passions) and is a good team player
- ✓ Has a pastoral nature and warm, engaging manner
- ✓ Has a strong, passionate faith and prayer life and will nurture and encourage us to grow in faith
- ✓ Has a heart for mission and growth
- ✓ Is a good communicator, who interprets and preaches the Christian message in a way that is accessible to all
- ✓ Is enthusiastic about growing work with schools, young people and families
- ✓ Will be a visible, friendly presence across our churches and communities

## HOW TO APPLY

If you believe God might be calling you to join us in sharing the love of God with the communities of Bexley, North Cray and Joydens Wood and to play your unique part in building the Kingdom of Christ as Team Rector or Team Vicar for the Bexley Team, we would love to hear from you. Application details are available on the Diocese of Rochester website at [www.rochester.anglican.org](http://www.rochester.anglican.org)

If you would like an informal conversation about either of these posts please contact Archdeacon Allie via her EA Fiona Porter on [fiona.porter@rochester.anglican.org](mailto:fiona.porter@rochester.anglican.org)

# APPENDICES

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Income		£	Expenditure		£
<b>Planned giving, including Gift Aid reclaimed</b>	St Barnabas	11,900	<b>Diocesan Parish offer</b>	St Barnabas	8,500
	St James	9,500		St James	8,400
	St John	23,770		St John	26,281
	St Mary	11,000		St Mary	9,406
<b>Donations and gifts</b>	St Barnabas	3,530	<b>Church &amp; hall running costs</b>	St Barnabas	21,843
	St James	4,000		St James	12,800
	St John	17,167		St John	36,742
	St Mary	888		St Mary	37,435
<b>Hall hire</b>	St Barnabas	20,850	<b>Building and fabric repair</b>	St Barnabas	2,000
	St James	3,700		St James	1,000
	St John	23,666		St John	7,716
	St Mary	22,244		St Mary	3,894
<b>Fundraising</b>	St Barnabas	250	<b>Other</b>	St Barnabas	-
	St James	-		St James	2500
	St John	5,733		St John	40
	St Mary	401		St Mary	181
<b>Other income and legacies</b>	St Barnabas	-			
	St James	4,000			
	St John	1,681			
	St Mary	47,627			



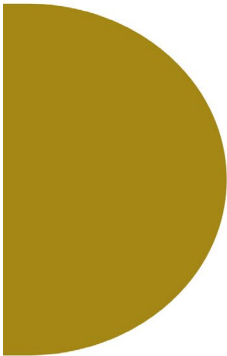
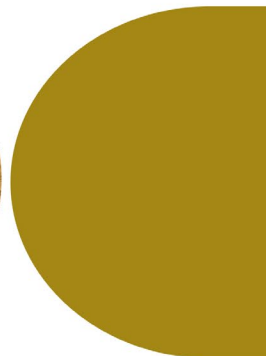
## SERVICE STATISTICS (FOR 2024)

	<b>Average Weekly Attendance</b>	<b>Christmas 2024 Attendance</b>	<b>Number of Baptisms</b>	<b>Number of Weddings</b>	<b>Number of Funerals/ Memorial Services</b> <i>(Church and Crematorium)</i>
<b>St Barnabas</b>	34 Adults 4 Children	70 Adults 17 Children	-	-	1
<b>St James</b>	15 Adults	90 Adults 25 Children	8	-	11
<b>St John</b>	68 Adults 20 Children	296 Adults 73 Children	20	3	14
<b>St Mary</b>	32 Adults 3 Children	74 Adults 74 Children	3	3	5

# DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER VISION



Diocese of **Rochester**  
called together



## BE PART OF IT

The vision stands on the shoulders of a generation of previous post-war pilgrims of the Diocese of Rochester who, also at a great moment of societal change, upheaval and challenge, had a steadfast belief that through their combined endeavour, generosity, and faith, they could grow the Church and God's kingdom.

**This is what we are being called to - let's make it happen!**

## OUR VISION

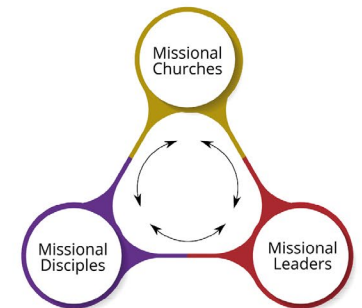
As a family of faith across the areas of Medway, north and west Kent, and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley we understand that we are:

*Seeking first the Kingdom of God, and are called together by God to change, serve and grow with compassion, courage, and creativity.*

## OUR KEY OBJECTIVES

Within this vision, our key objectives are to grow **missional churches**, with **missional leaders** and **missional disciples**, that are:

- Growing a safe and healthy culture for all
- Growing younger and more diverse
- Growing spiritually and numerically
- Impacting their communities
- Releasing financial resources for mission
- Planting and growing new missional churches



## MAKING IT HAPPEN

Four workstreams help focus our work to **grow God's Kingdom** and ensure a **flourishing and well-resourced parish structure**.

All are seen through the lens of **growing safe and healthy cultures**, because if we are truly seeking God's Kingdom, then we must reflect it's values of righteousness, peace, wholeness, and fullness of life for all.



Dear God,

*Fill us with courage and vision to carry your light into new places, meeting people where they are, and sharing the life-changing truth of your gospel.*

*Bless these communities with strong and Spirit-filled leaders, faithful disciples, and hearts ablaze with love for you.*

*May our churches and communities become vibrant and healthy expressions of your Kingdom—places where your Word is proclaimed, lives are transformed, and communities are renewed.*

*Guide us, Lord, and remind us always that you are with us, empowering our every step, even to the end of the world.*

*In Jesus' name, we pray.*

*Amen.*