

PARISH PROFILE

**EASTCHURCH WITH
LEYSDOWN AND HARTY**

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH, EASTCHURCH
ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE, HARTY**



Section One

Summary of Profile

All Saints is in the heart of the bustling village of Eastchurch with local amenities and a thriving community, while, St Thomas the Apostle Church is located in the quaint hamlet of Harty.

We are looking for a new outgoing priest who is forward in thinking and looking to bring the wider community into church. We would like somebody to become an integral part of church life and to help grow the church.

We hope the church will grow in numbers and become the hub for the village community welcoming people from every age, gender, background and sexual orientation.

All Saints Church

www.allsaintschurcheastchurch.org

Facebook: @EastchurchChurch

St Thomas Church

www.stthomasharty.org

Facebook: @HartyChurch



Section Two

The Broader Context

Our Parish is in a Group Ministry with the local Parish of West Sheppey, which is our neighbouring Parish. A relationship which we would like to grow and prosper.

The Sittingbourne deanery has a very supportive chapter and has a number of exciting mission projects that has enabled the local churches to reach into their communities.

The financial situation of the Parish is a work in progress. We endeavour to raise funds the best we can as a church community to help improve our situation. We are striving with new fundraising initiatives such as:

- ❖ A fun run for Harty;
- ❖ Majestic Annual Christmas Tree Festival;
- ❖ Bustling Burns Night; and
- ❖ A growing flower festival at Harty.

In our Parish we have a strong serving team that worships at all of our services. We are starting to work to blaze a trail with the youth of the island with aims to achieve more:

- ❖ Youth Services with our local scout unit at the heart of them;
- ❖ A link with our local Church of England Primary School;
- ❖ A enthusiastic but growing children's church.



Section Three

The Priest We Need

We are very open-minded about the priest that will lead the Parish, and place the decision in the hands of God alone, however as a Parish our ideas are...

Essential qualities:

- ❖ A dynamic and outgoing individual
- ❖ Somebody who works as part of a team
- ❖ Will provide the link to our Church of England school
- ❖ Willing to guide the PCC on our missionary journey
- ❖ Open and listen to the needs of the congregation

Desirable qualities:

- ❖ Computer literate – Microsoft 365, particularly Excel
- ❖ Willing to build a community
- ❖ Willing to help inspire the Church Congregation and PCC

Two challenges to address:

- ❖ Integrating wedding and baptism families into church life
- ❖ Integrating more youth in the church community



Section Four

About the Parish

The Parish of Eastchurch with Leysdown and Harty is located on the eastern half of the Isle of Sheppey, Kent.

The parish and the Island are both steeped in History; with the village of Eastchurch particularly linked to Henry VIII and to aviation.

Eastchurch also has our linked Church of England Primary school.

When you arrive, four places you must visit are:

- The Bird Reserves at Harty Marshes
- The Short Brother's monument at Muswell Manor
- The Elmley National Nature Reserve
- The beach community and amusements of Leysdown-On-Sea

The Parish is also home to a number of holiday parks that have a transient community, and we as a Parish would like to extend our ministry to reach these parks. We are also home to a farming community.



Section Five

About the Churches

The church - Worshipping people

All Saints is a High Church of England church with a weekly mass with incense. We have a strong serving team with two joint Sacristans. As well as a regular attendance of 25 but unfortunately we don't have any children attending regularly at the moment.

St Thomas is a High Church of England church with a monthly service with communion and without incense. It has a single server and a fast-growing attendance of 20.

The church – Leadership and Administration Team

The Parish has a churchwarden for each church who look after the wellbeing of the buildings and congregation. The Parish has a voluntary administrator dealing with general enquiries, occasional offices and services and a temporary PCC secretary who also is the treasurer.



Section Five

About the Churches

The church – and the community

All Saints is it at the heart of the village of Eastchurch, linked with the local school across two sites. We do have a Morning Coffee morning engaging the village in a regular social activity. However, the church would like to become a hub of the village and we are looking for a priest who can help achieve this. *We no longer want to be an ancient building that people walk past but somewhere that inspires people when they walk through the door.*

The church also joins with other churches around the Island for Lent Study groups. We would like to introduce a Bible Study Group and our very own Lent Group. We also have a representative that attends the local Churches Together in Sheppey Group.

Harty church with its historic character attracts couples to hold their weddings there. Across the Parish we have an approximate average of 20 weddings and 20 Baptisms through the year.



Section Five

About the Churches

The church – buildings and recourses

The Parish has three main buildings and one plot of land. We have All Saints Church, St Thomas the Apostle Church, The Rectory and St Clement's Churchyard.

All Saints Church is a Grade 1 listed building, around 600 years old and is a typical Gothic style Parish Church. It also has one of only two rood screens in the country that are the whole width of the church! St Thomas the Apostle is about 930 years young, it is a Norman Church; the building holds a special place in many people's hearts coming from all over the country to visit.

The rectory is a modern detached house boasting 4 bedrooms with an en-suite, separate bath and toilet rooms. As well as two lounges, one dining room and a large kitchen with a utility room. The house is truly a lovely place to stay - with a large garden and off street parking - in the centre of the village. All ready for you to move into!

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**TRUST IN
THE LORD
WITH ALL
OF YOUR
HEART**

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