



Parish Profile

PARISH OF EASTCHURCH WITH LEYSDOWN AND HARTY

All Saints Church, Eastchurch
St Thomas the Apostle Church, Harty

*May this parish be a place of faith,
welcome, and hope, where God's love
guides our life together and shapes
our future.*

www.allsaintseastchurch.org

www.stthomasharty.org

Updated
September 2025

Deanery of Sittingbourne
Diocese of Canterbury

Registered Charity
1208369



Welcome & Introduction

All Saints, Eastchurch, stands in the **centre** of a welcoming village community, while St Thomas the Apostle **rests quietly** in the hamlet of Harty, set amongst farmland and marshes.

Together, our two historic churches serve the people of Eastchurch, Leysdown, and Harty, on the eastern half of the **Isle of Sheppey**. The West of the Island sits in the West Sheppey Benefice of which there are three churches: Minster Abbey, Holy Trinity Queenborough and Holy Trinity Sheerness. The Sheppey Group Ministry is a combination of these two benefices.

We are seeking a priest who will offer **steady, faithful leadership**, and who can guide us in rebuilding a local congregation rooted in the community. We are **warm and friendly** people, with a desire to see our churches once again at the heart of village life.

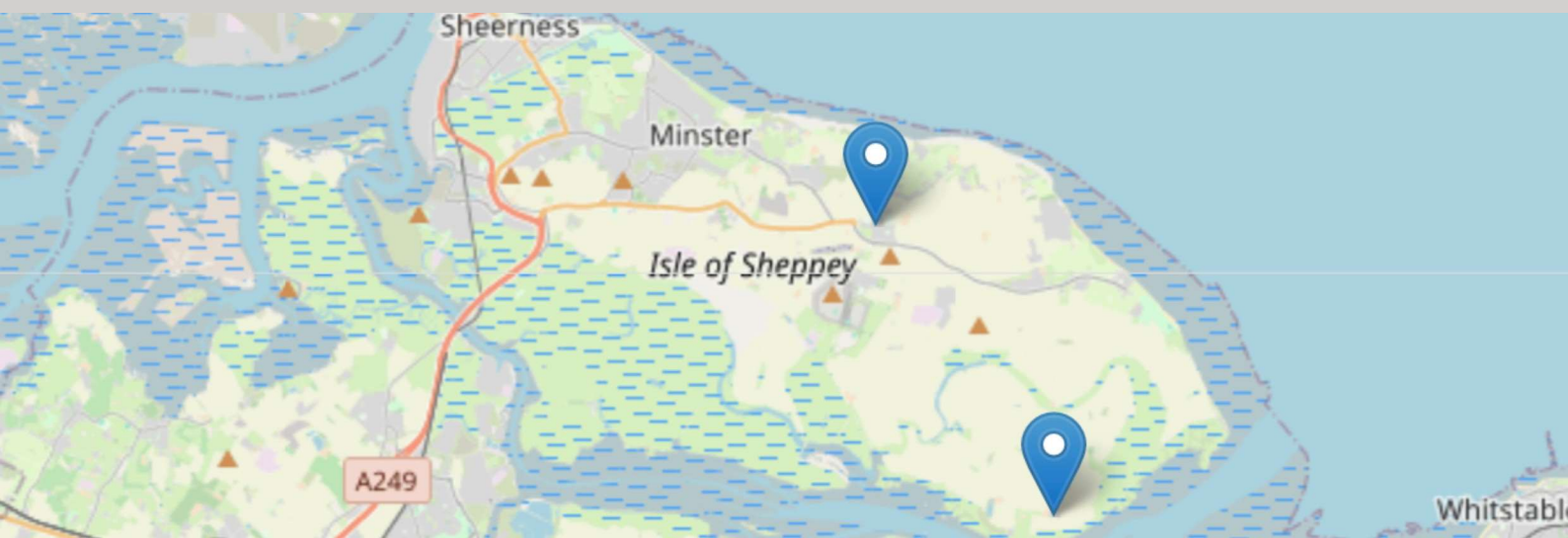


Our Context & Community

The parish includes farming communities, families who have lived here for generations, and many people who move through the area for work or leisure, particularly with the presence of holiday parks.

Alongside these strengths, we acknowledge the realities of serving in a place that faces considerable social challenges. Parts of the parish fall within the **most deprived 10% of areas in England**, and Eastchurch, Leysdown and Warden are all affected by this context.

Deprivation touches many aspects of daily life, from health outcomes to employment opportunities, and it gives **our parish a particular calling** to be a place of welcome, stability, and compassion.





Worshipping Life

At **All Saints, Eastchurch**, there is a weekly service at 9.30am, with Holy Communion most weeks and a lay-led service of Praise and Worship on the first Sunday. The congregation averages 15–20, and refreshments are shared afterwards.

A **weekly coffee morning** on Mondays also provides a regular point of contact for many who may not otherwise enter the church.

At **St Thomas the Apostle, Harty**, there is a monthly Communion at 3.00 pm, usually attracting 10–15 people. Midnight Mass at Christmas is a particular highlight, drawing over 100 worshippers by candlelight and oil lamp.

The parish also has close links with **Eastchurch C of E** and **St Clement C of E Primary School**. Eastchurch School visits All Saints regularly for their own festival services and for religious education lessons.





Our Vision & Direction

We believe God is calling us to grow in **steady, small steps, re-establishing the parish** as a centre of local life and faith. Our vision is to see:

- † More **local families** becoming part of our Sunday worship.
- † Life Events (baptisms, weddings, funerals) becoming a **natural gateway** into church life.
- † Our buildings **used more frequently** for both worship and community gatherings.

We are realistic that this will take time, especially given the challenges of our context, but we are committed to working with a new priest to lay good foundations for the future.





Who we are praying for

We seek a priest who is:

Faithful and steady, able to provide a sense of stability in a parish that has been in interregnum for some years.

Community-minded, willing to be visible in village life and to strengthen links with our schools and local groups.

Patient and practical, able to guide the PCC and congregation in realistic mission within the opportunities and limits of our setting.

Inclusive and approachable, welcoming of all people.

Our parish has known times of greater strength and attendance, and we long to see growth once again. We need a priest who can help us take gentle, achievable steps towards this, nurturing and encouraging people to take on new roles and responsibilities.



ALL
**Saints
Church**
Eastchurch



Governance

Churchwardens: Yvette Gutheil (All Saints, also Parish Safeguarding Officer), Sue Hopper (St Thomas, and Acting PCC Chair), and Amber Hopper (St Thomas).

Parish Administrator and Treasurer: Joseph Fowler.

Electoral Roll: 22 (2025).

Buildings

All Saints, Eastchurch: A 600-year-old parish church with a rare, full-width rood screen. Facilities include a kitchen for simple catering. There are no toilets at present.

St Thomas the Apostle, Harty: Norman church, over 900 years old. No electricity, gas, toilets or kitchen facilities. Its simplicity is part of its beauty, though it limits wider use.

St Clement's Churchyard, Leysdown: Maintained by the parish, though the church itself was demolished in 1987.

The Rectory: A modern four-bedroom detached house with ensuite, two lounges, dining room, large kitchen and utility, a spacious garden and off-street parking, situated near the church.



Finance

The parish has worked hard to maintain financial stability. In 2024, we achieved a **small surplus** and hold reserves above our PCC policy minimum. Unrestricted cash at year-end stood at £41,145.

Fundraising events such as the Christmas Tree Festival and Flower Festival not only raise funds but also bring the community together. Our insurance and utilities remain the main cost pressures, while weddings, baptisms, and other Life Events continue to provide important income.

The parish is **due to pay the Parish Share request this year.**



Life Events

Life Events are a significant part of our ministry. In 2024 we celebrated five weddings, ten baptisms, and fifteen funerals, burials, or committals. For 2025 we already have eight weddings booked.

We aim to **strengthen our welcome and follow-up**, ensuring that families celebrating a baptism or wedding feel invited into wider church life. This includes **invitations** to festival services, anniversary contacts, and regular gentle reminders that the church is their spiritual home.

Quinquennial

Both churches are historic and well loved. At **All Saints, Eastchurch**, recent works have included electrical and alarm repairs, with further projects such as the Livesey Monument, clock and new outdoor sign already underway. Longer-term maintenance needs are being monitored. A Quinquennial for **St Thomas, Harty** has recently taken place, and maintenance planning will subsequently take place.

What we offer

We are proud of our parish life and the way our churches bring people together. The Harty Flower Festival and the Eastchurch Christmas Tree Festival are joyful occasions, drawing visitors, raising funds, and showing how our churches remain at the **heart of the community**. We offer friendship, faith, and a willingness to work with our new priest to **grow and strengthen** parish life.



ALL
Saints
Church
Eastchurch



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Looking Ahead

We recognise that we are starting from a small base. We hope that with a new priest we will be able to establish:

A gentle **Bible group** or seasonal study course.

Opportunities for **community engagement** through coffee mornings, school links, and occasional events.

Greater involvement of families who come to us for baptisms and weddings.

In time, new forms of worship or "walking church" when we have more people to help.

We see this as a journey of small but steady steps, taken together, under wise and patient leadership.



www.allsaintseastchurch.org

www.stthomasharty.org

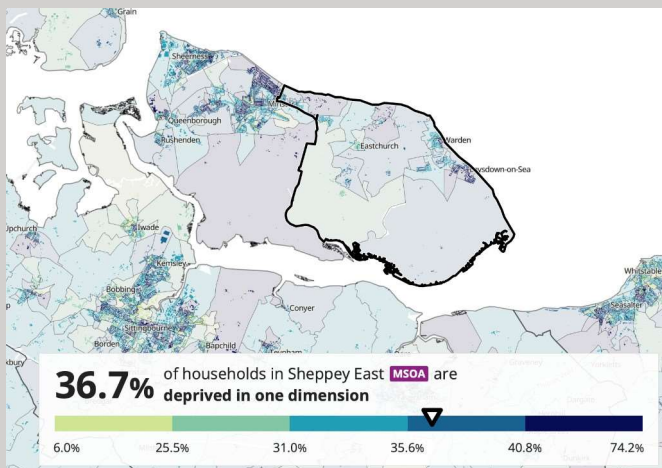
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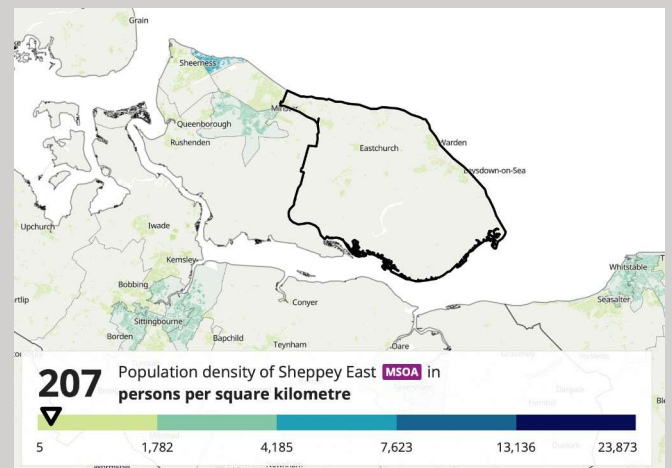
Registered Charity
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Appendix 1

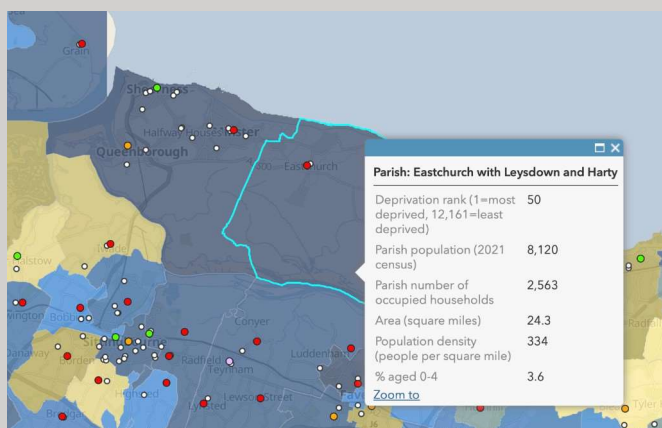
Deprivation Data



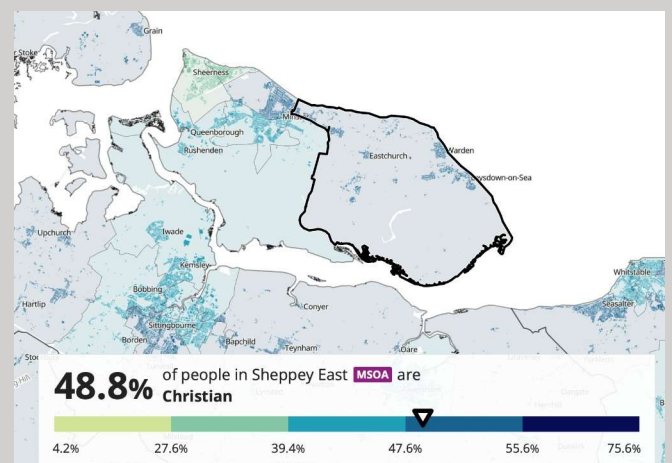
ONS: Deprivation



ONS: Population Density



Church of England: Parish Data

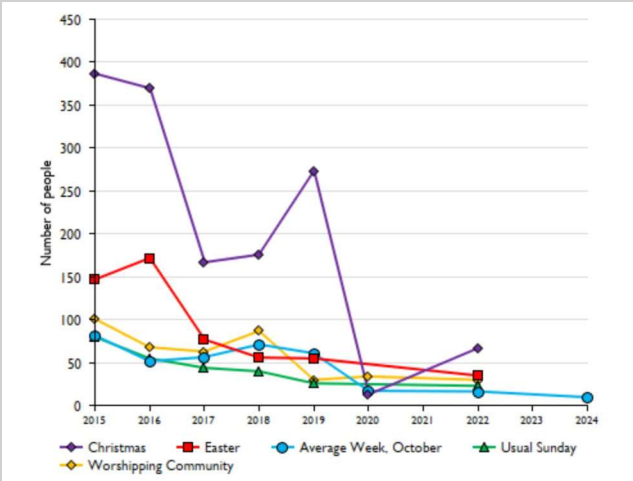


ONS: Christianity

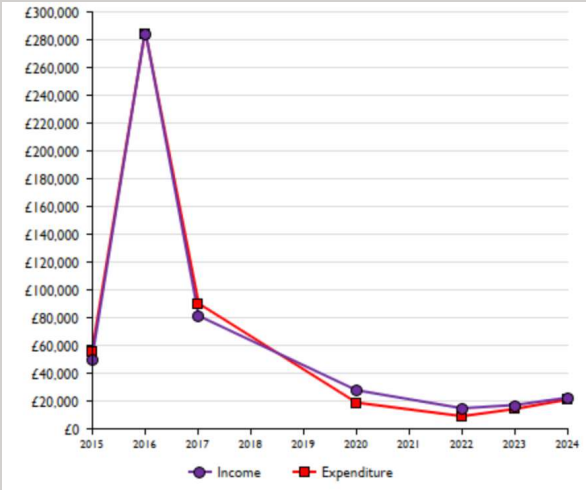


Appendix 2

Finance & Attendance



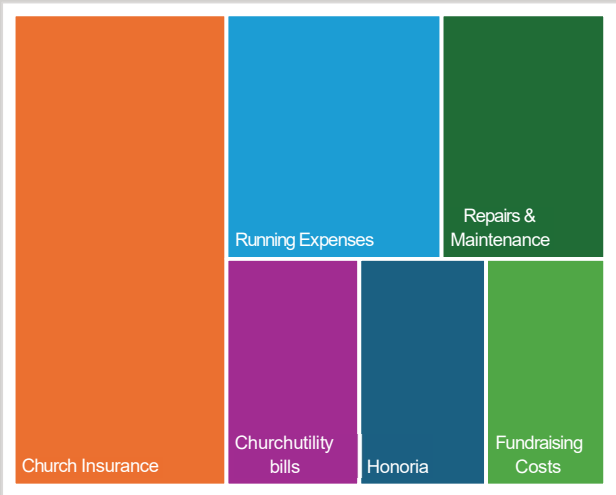
Attendance Summary



Income & Expenditure



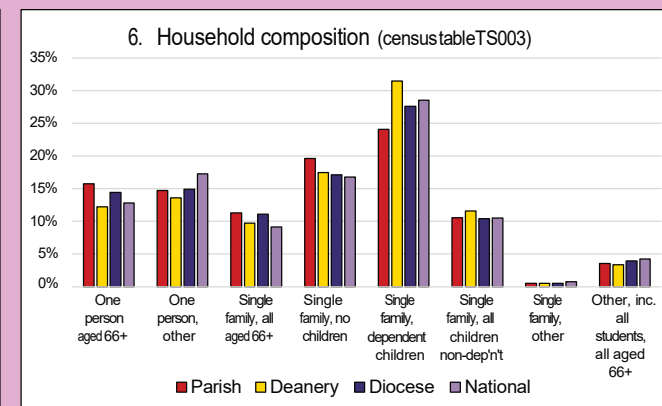
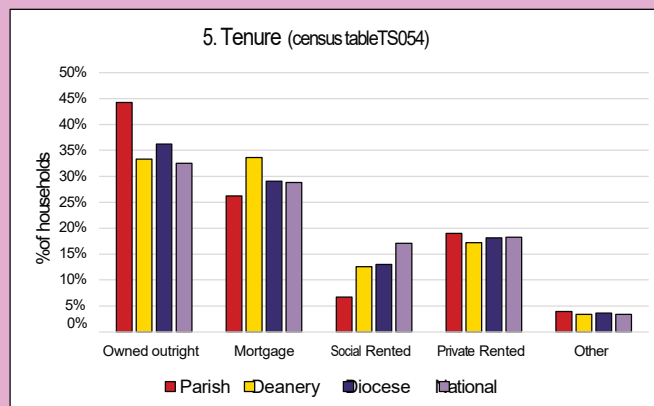
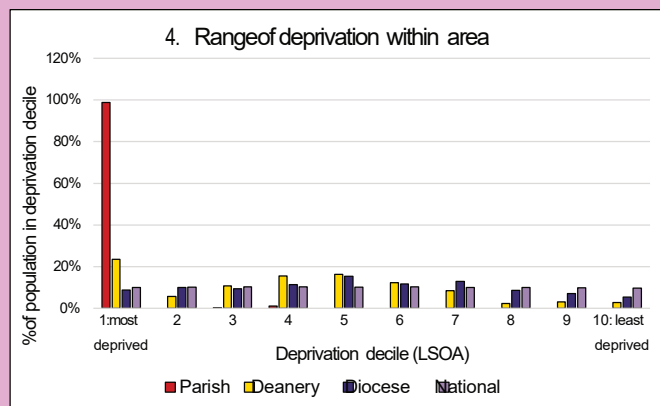
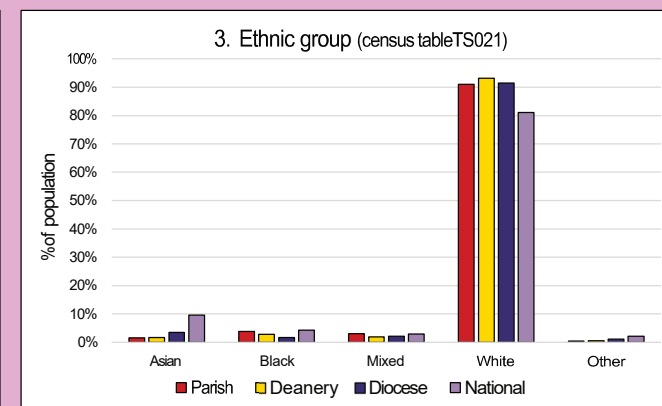
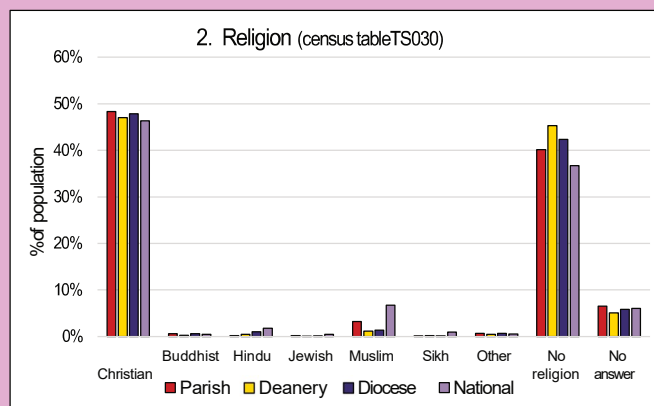
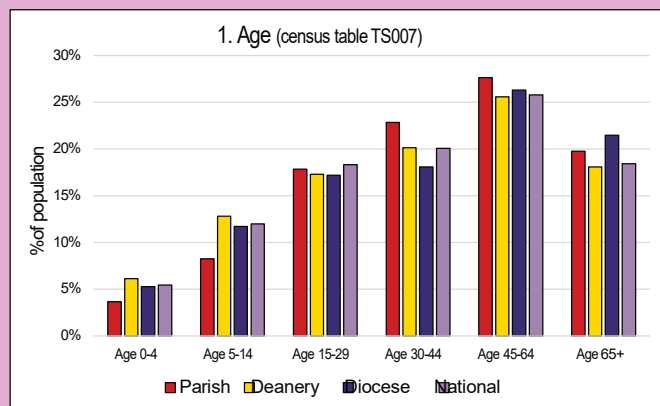
2024 Income Analysis



2024 Expenditure Analysis



National Census2021 Dashboard for the Parish of Eastchurch with Leysdown and Harty in the deanery of Sittingbourne



7. 2019 Deprivation Statistics

Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), domains, and subdomains

IMD - overall deprivation	
IMD - overall deprivation	0%

Domain	Percentage
Employment	1%
Crime	3%
Health	0%
Income	2%
Education	0%
Income: Children	2%
Children & Youth	0%
Income: Old people	11%
Adult Skills	1%
Housing & services	22%
Living Environ't	26%
Local services	41%
Indoors	25%
Affordability	12%
Outdoors	60%

Shading shows severity of deprivation compared to other parishes, colour-coded by decile.
Eg, a figure of 25% means that 25% of parishes are more deprived than this parish.

	Parish	Deanery	Diocese	National
Population	8,120	118,658	981,098	56,506,784
Occupied households	2,563	46,424	408,863	23,444,438
Living in households	5,958	115,870	959,334	55,542,946
Average household size	2.32	2.50	2.35	2.37
Living in communal estab'ts	2,162	2,788	21,764	963,838

Parish, Deanery and Diocese codes

Parish 560287 Eastchurch with Leysdown and Harty

Deanery 56205 Sittingbourne

Diocese 6 Canterbury

Notes & definitions

Census and deprivation statistics have been mapped onto parish boundaries (as of June 2025), and are therefore approximations. Census data as shown in figures 1-3, 5, & 6 are derived from the National Census 2021 produced by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). For details from ONS see: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2021. Deprivation statistics are derived from the English Indices of Deprivation 2019, produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. More details can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>. Deprivation statistics are published at LSOA level. Figure 4 shows how the population of each area is split across LSOAs, categorised by LSOA deprivation decile. For more detailed parish census and deprivation information, see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/data-services/resources/publications-and-data/#na>. For an interactive map showing parish deprivation and census statistics, see: <http://arcg.is/1RaS4CS>.

Parish deprivation statistics in figure 7 are colour-coded by parish deprivation decile:

< --Most deprived ----- Medium ----- Leastdeprived -->										
Codina	5%	15%	25%	35%	45%	55%	65%	75%	85%	95%

Produced by the Data Services Team, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. Date of production: 27/06/25. v48; index: 11145

Every effort has been made to ensure that data are reliable. We would be grateful to be notified of errors and to receive comments/suggestions: please email statistics.unit@churchofengland.org





West Sheppey Churches **Sharing God's** **Grace, Love & Forgiveness.**



There are currently five Anglican churches on the Isle of Sheppey: All Saints, Eastchurch; St. Thomas, Harty; Minster Abbey Church; Holy Trinity, Queenborough and Holy Trinity with St. Paul, Sheerness. Eastchurch and Harty currently form one benefice with the other three comprising the West Sheppey benefice. The Sheppey Group Ministry is a combination of these two benefices and are also part of the wider group of churches on the Island that make up Churches Together In Sheppey.

All three churches in West Sheppey Parish are located on the north and west sides of the Isle of Sheppey on the North Kent coast. Minister Abbey Church is situated in the village of Minster-on-Sea; Holy Trinity, Queenborough, is situated in the heart of the small town of Queenborough while Holy Trinity with St. Paul, Sheerness, is situated in the centre of the main town of Sheerness.

The national figures of statistics of deprivation show that we are one of the 10% most deprived parishes within the Church of England.

All the churches are part of the Sittingbourne Deanery, part of the Archdeanery of Maidstone and the Diocese of Canterbury .



Worshipping Together

Our Sunday service pattern is as follows:

	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday
Minster Abbey Church	11am Praise and Worship	11am Holy Communion	11am Praise and Worship	11am Holy Communion
Holy Trinity Queenborough	11am Holy Communion	11am Praise and Worship	11am Holy Communion	11am Praise and Worship
Holy Trinity with St. Paul, Sheerness	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Praise and Worship	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Praise and Worship

On 5th Sundays a shared benefice Holy Communion is held. This is rotated around the churches within Sheppey Group Ministry and is held at each church in turn.

Midweek services are held on Wednesdays as follows:

	1 st Wednesday	2 nd Wednesday	3 rd Wednesday	4 th Wednesday	5 th Wednesday
Minster Abbey Church		11.30am Holy Communion		11.30am Holy Communion	
Holy Trinity with St. Paul, Sheerness	10am Holy Communion	10am Morning Prayer	10am Holy Communion	10am Morning Prayer	10am Holy Communion



Further services are held on other Holy Days as appropriate, such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Ascension Day.

There is also a wide range of services available in the lead up to Christmas, including carol services, Christingle and midnight communions.

As a parish we are committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at the churches in our care and to become part of the parish community on the Isle of Sheppey. Ideas on how services can include and involve the many groups that live around the island are encouraged. However, it should be noted that there is unfortunate resistance from some to attending the 5th Sunday combined benefice services. Service and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament. Understandably, providing such services, has become more of a challenge with the current lack of clergy which places a greater burden on the Authorised Lay Ministers.

We try to enable all people to live out their faith as part of the parish community through worship and prayer, learning about and growing in the Gospel, trusting in Jesus, providing pastoral care for those in need and taking part in outreach work whenever possible.

To facilitate this work it is important that the fabric of our three active churches and the associated church halls is maintained.

We also have a non-active church (St Peter's, Halfway), which, whilst no services are held there, is currently still under the care of the parish and is utilised by community groups such as the local Karate club.



Minster Abbey

Minster Abbey, or to give it its full name, The Abbey Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Sexburgha, is a Grade 1 listed building and National Monument which was founded in 664AD by Queen Sexburga.

Having been badly damaged in the 9th century it was rebuilt in the 12th century with an unusual arrangement of two adjacent “churches”, the Northern Church being for the nuns and the Southern Church for parishioners. During the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII the two adjacent churches led directly to the saving of the Abbey Church. Because the two churches shared a common wall and were linked by arches in the wall, the Abbey Church was spared the destruction wrought on the rest of the Abbey.

Amongst many other artefacts, it also houses the famous de Northwode brasses dating from 1330 and an interesting array of monuments dating from the 14th to the 16th century.

Minster Abbey occupies the highest hilltop position on the Isle of Sheppey and has been a place of worship for over 1,400 years.

The original Abbey Gatehouse, close to the church, is now an interesting local museum.



Demographics for Minster Abbey are reflected in its host civil parish, Minster-on-Sea, which had a **population of 17,392 in 2021**. This makes it a densely populated area with 574 people per square kilometre. General characteristics for the parish indicate it is a diverse and growing community.

The community around Minster Abbey on the Isle of Sheppey includes local residents supported by the Minster-on-Sea Parish Council, a local history group, local businesses, and schools. The Abbey itself hosts community events like the annual Minster Village Fayre, while various groups and organisations, such as the Sheppey Local History Society, provide opportunities for involvement, learning, and support within the broader community.

Challenges facing Minster Abbey include maintaining the historic building, such as structural repairs and modernising its heating system, whilst ensuring it does not lose its historic character, especially when modern facilities are necessary. Its Grade 1 listed status can present challenges in adapting the church for modern needs.

These challenges are common to many historical and local churches, but in addition to maintaining an ageing, listed building, there is the declining religious adherence with a rise in those with "no religion," which means that fewer people are actively involved in church faith. This impacts congregational numbers and participation.

The church's historical role is significant, but like many local institutions, it faces the challenge of sustaining a relevant part of the community in a contemporary context and challenges of modernisation and inclusion (for example, installing necessary facilities for visitors with disabilities).



Holy Trinity

Queenborough

Holy Trinity Queenborough is a friendly, peaceful and beautiful church with some unusual decorative features. It is also animal friendly and has several four legged friends who are regulars of the congregation.

The church has a canted boarded painted ceiling believed to be painted by a Dutchman circa 1698 portraying the firmament of the sky but it was unfortunately damaged by a serious fire in the tower in the 1930s.

The painting depicts white clouds and gold stars decorating the portion over the nave. At the east end the centrepiece represents the Angel of the Apocalypse sounding the last trump in a painted egg and dart medallion with cherubim painted in smaller medallions. It is possible that there may be an earlier roof structure behind the boards. Thanks to the wonders of modern technology some of it's amazing features are able to still be viewed through a mobile phone lens.

The church was built around 1367 and has a tower of six bells from which is a greatly admired view. Every effort is made to keep the church open all year round during daylight hours for visitors to enjoy the atmosphere and beauty of the church and/or a time of private prayer.



Demographics for the Holy Trinity, Queenborough area are detailed in the 2001 UK Census for the Queenborough and Halfway electoral ward, showing a population of 3,471 with 98.6% White ethnicity and 77.6% Christian religious affiliation. The age distribution was spread across all age groups, with a notable concentration of 28% in the 25–44 years bracket. In terms of employment, the area had 42% in full-time employment, with high proportions in manufacturing and construction.

The community around Holy Trinity, Queenborough is closely integrated with the historic town of Queenborough and its neighboring village of Rushenden. It focuses on local events, community activities, and local initiatives to strengthen social bonds and support the area. The church serves as a hub for these activities, hosting services, community groups, and events like the annual Blessing of the Waters.

The challenges facing Holy Trinity, Queenborough include significant structural repair needs for its Grade II* listed building and its vestry, which requires rebuilding with modern facilities like a kitchenette and toilet to better serve the community. Financial resources are needed for these extensive repairs and to remove the church from the English Heritage "at risk" list. Additionally, there was damage to a stained-glass window in April 2024, highlighting ongoing maintenance and security issues.

Holy Trinity Queenborough faces challenges from declining congregation and participation that mirrors wider societal trends.



Holy Trinity w St. Paul Sheerness

Holy Trinity with St Paul is also known as Holy Trinity, Sheerness. It was one of twenty churches built between 1832 and 1841.

It was built on land donated by Sir Edward Banks with the foundation stone laid on 1st September 1835.

Dedicated by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Archbishop Howley, on 30th August 1836; it was initially a chapel of ease for Minster Abbey and only became parochial in 1873.

The church has some interesting features including the panelling on both sides of the door at the west end of the church and the altar; both of which were once part of the Dockyard Church.

St Paul's Church was in Blue Town but was demolished in the early 1960s. The congregation moved to the Dockyard Church and then to a hall style church in St George's Avenue.

However, after that the church merged with Holy Trinity and hence became known as Holy Trinity with St Paul.



Demographics in areas around Holy Trinity Church in Sheerness show a predominantly White ethnicity with a significant proportion of Christians, though a substantial percentage of residents also identify with no religion. The area has a relatively high unemployment rate and lower rates of higher education compared to the national average.

The population density at the 2001 census was 9.8 persons per acre (24.2 persons per hectare) and for every 100 females, there were 96.4 males. Of the 4,870 households, 34% were one-person households, 15% were married couples with dependent children, and 11% were lone parents with dependent children. Of those aged 16–74 in Sheerness, 44% had no academic qualifications, higher than the 34% in all of Swale.

The community around Holy Trinity, Sheerness is one that is economically disadvantaged and has a strong focus on community engagement through its church, with initiatives like tidying the churchyard as part of the community and work experience programs. While the area faces challenges with deprivation and limited youth opportunities, there is a clear effort to foster community spirit through local events, social gatherings, and a welcoming environment within the church

Holy Trinity, Sheerness's main challenge is financial and structural, needing funds for significant building repairs, such as replacing unsafe flooring, replacing the church's lighting, and general upkeep for the historic building.

Holy Trinity, Sheerness also faces challenges from the wider societal trends.



Roll Call

The West Sheppey Electoral Roll currently stands at 87.

This roll is for West Sheppey Parish as a whole and is made up of congregants from all three churches as follows:

- Minster Abbey 27
- Holy Trinity, Queenborough 44
- Holy Trinity, Sheerness 16

It should be noted that this is not a complete picture of the congregations at each church. There are a number of reasons why not everyone in our congregations is among these figures, including waiting to be baptised, not lived in the parish long enough, choosing to come off the roll due to ill-health and even being away for work during the time that this year's new roll was being completed.

We have regular attendance at all or our churches, including our mid-week and additional services (such as during Holy Week or Advent). These numbers are not static, there will, of course, always be fluctuation for various reasons such as growth, visitors, holidays or illness. However, they are also not showing a diminishing trend. Up to date figures from our service registers can be made available upon request, as can our Statistics for Mission returns and Finances.



Community Affiliations

West Sheppey Parish is dedicated to increasing the outreach work into and with our communities and community groups.

Sheerness Emergency Foodbank

The PCC currently oversee the Sheerness Emergency Foodbank. Operating out of Holy Trinity Sheerness on a Monday between 10am and 12pm providing for anyone in need.

Oasis Hub Isle of Sheppey

Oasis Community Hub Isle of Sheppey is an inclusive and community-focused charity dedicated to creating a place where everyone belongs, and building a community where every individual has the opportunity to reach their full, God-given potential.

Oasis Community Hub operates out of Holy Trinity, Sheerness. For more information please visit their website: www.oasisisleofsheppey.co.uk

Sheppey Roman Catholic Parish at Minster Abbey

Due to the Immaculate Heart of Mary being closed because of issues with the building, Minster Abbey have welcomed them into their church.

The Sheppey Roman Catholic Parish have 2 services a week at Minster Abbey; Thursdays at 10am and Sundays at 9am





Groups

Coffee Morning/Afternoon

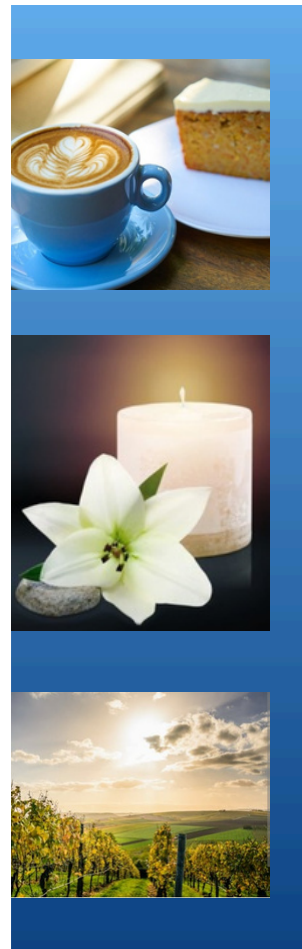
We welcome everyone at these gatherings where a cuppa, biscuits, and even cake, are available along with a friendly face, a listening ear and a safe space. Held weekly in Minster Abbey Tuesdays at 9am, monthly in Holy Trinity, Queenborough on 2nd Saturdays at 10am, weekly in Holy Trinity, Sheerness Wednesdays at 2pm and monthly in Holy Trinity, Sheerness on 1st Saturdays at 10am.

Bereavement Group

This group meets at Holy Trinity, Sheerness, church hall every 2nd and 4th Thursday and aims to offer support and friendship to all who have been bereaved regardless of how much time has elapsed. Anyone who is currently caring for someone suffering from a terminal illness is also welcome. Losing someone we love is hard and it can take years to come to terms with grief.

The Vine

Jesus Christ is the Vine while we are the branches. Our role is to reach into other's lives and the lives of those who may find attending church difficult for many reasons. The group use a variety of methods to understand Scripture and biblical themes in an informal setting with refreshments. Everyone is welcome no matter where they are on their journey. Held on Friday evenings at Holy Trinity, Sheerness, church hall.





Who's Who

The parish office is currently located in Minster Abbey Church hall and is open between 8.30am and 12.30pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. This is run by our Parish Administrator, Julie Palmer. The office can be contacted by emailing minsterabbey@gmail.com or by telephoning 01795871500. We can also be contacted via our Facebook page (Island Ministries) or our website www.westsheppeyparish.org.uk

Our Authorised Lay Ministers are:

- Claire Beardsmore (Minster Abbey Church Worship Leader)
- Dan Beardsmore (Minster Abbey Church Worship Leader)
- Angie Cummings (Holy Trinity with St. Paul, Sheerness Worship Leader and Fellow Pilgrim)
- Julie Palmer (Minster Abbey Church Worship Leader)
- Ashley Shiel (Holy Trinity, Queenborough Worship Leader)
- Rowena Squire (Holy Trinity, Queenborough (Healing and Wholeness))
- Mark Young (Holy Trinity with St. Paul, Sheerness Worship Leader)

An up to date list of Churchwardens, PCC members and officers and members of each DCC are also available upon request.



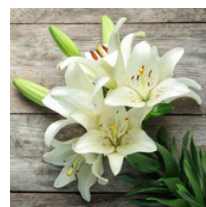
OCCASIONAL OFFICES

Baptisms normally take place during Sunday Communion Services to ensure clergy availability and are preceded by an informal preparation meeting for parents. The parish acknowledges that there is a prima-facie expectation those requesting Baptism will attend church services, and that Baptism will take place in the main Sunday Service. If a family requests a Thanksgiving in preference to a baptism, such a service is conducted in line with this policy.



A Church is a special place to be married and each year we have many weddings in our parish churches. Between April and October is generally when the majority of the parish weddings are held. Whilst it is often a Saturday that is chosen the parish does also hold weddings Monday to Friday. There is an informal preparation event, usually in January, for couples intending to marry in the coming year.

There are several Funeral Directors on the island, with whom we collaborate. They are the first point of contact our grieving families have when arranging a funeral. Once the family have advised the funeral director of the deceased wishes, or have chosen the options they feel most suit them, the funeral directors contact our parish administrator who then organises the elements required from the parish and acts as a point of contact for those involved.





The Isle Of Sheppey

The Isle of Sheppey has a strong sense of community. It is more than just a beautiful place - it is a thriving community of passionate people, independent businesses, artists, photographers and storytellers. It is swamped in history, in particular a rich maritime and aviation history. Every corner has a tale to tell.

There are beautiful beaches and nature reserves, like Elmley Marshes, with opportunities for fossil hunting and birdwatching. The island has many scenic walks and a unique coastal charm. With characterful towns, a range of local eateries, museums, adventure golf and many other places of interest, it is not surprising that the island is loved by both its' residents and its' visitors.

A popular holiday location, the holiday season brings many visitors, both to our towns and our churches.





Our Island Prayer

Sheppey Group Ministry discussed what they wanted to include so that we could write our own prayer for the Isle of Sheppey. This prayer was then put together by one of our Authorised Lay Ministers and is used in all our churches and in the wider community. It is shared on our newsletters and notice sheets and made available for both congregants and visitors for their personal prayers.

A prayer for our Island.....

*Loving and Eternal God,
With grateful thanks to you we pray
for the beauty of our island home here on
Sheppey
And the people with whom we share it;
We pray that all may feel they are a part of our
community,
Sharing their talents, gifts, culture, wisdom and
experiences.
We ask for your protection and strength during
times of trial and hardship.
Good Shepherd, guide us your sheep.
Bless us in your infinite grace and compassion,
May we live in your unity and peace,
Sharing your love and light with all whom we
meet.
In the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.
Amen.*



Our Vision

“All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore, as you go, make disciples, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I commanded you. And look, I am with you every day, right up to the end.” Matt 28.18f

CHANGED LIVES → CHANGING LIVES

Making disciples has two aspects: making new disciples from every ethnicity and people group and; furthering the discipleship of those who are already with us. Disciples of Jesus share the gospel of the kingdom by their lives and words. This leads to an invitation to become part of the body of Christ on earth, and has implications for usual Sunday attendance.

- We will look for ways to engage with the communities on the island that enable us to share the gospel.
- We will look for those who are gifted in evangelism and release and enable them in their God-given ministry.
- We will enable those who are not so evangelically-minded in their everyday witness to Jesus, so that they are ‘ready at any time to give a defence to anyone who asks ... for a reason for the hope’ we have. (see 1 Peter 3:15)

Disciples of Jesus engage in lifelong learning to obey everything Jesus commanded his first followers to do: This includes, and can be defined as, the great commandments of loving God and loving one’s neighbour. Such learning should result in behaviour change, not merely extra information.