



The Parish of St Paul's, Cliftonville

Parish Profile July 2024



St Paul's Church

93 Northdown Road

Cliftonville, Margate

CT9 2RD

Thanet Deanery, Diocese of Canterbury

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12040/>



ASSOCIATE PRIEST (INTERIM)

ST PAUL, CLIFTONVILLE

A Message from the Bishop of Dover



Welcome and thank you for taking an interest in the role of Associate Priest at St Paul's, Cliftonville. You will see from the parish profile some of the specific things that the parish is looking for – and a little of what the team here hopes the future may look like. Of course, a key part of your discernment process in coming to this role will be gaining a sense of the bigger picture of us as a diocesan family, our vision, and priorities for the future.

Who we are

Founded in 597 by St Augustine, Canterbury Diocese is the oldest diocese in England and has a special place in the life of the national and worldwide Church. With its iconic Cathedral it forms a focal point for the life of the whole Anglican Communion, offering a spiritual home and place of pilgrimage for people from every nation and walk of life.

Kent is renowned as the 'Garden of England' and this rural heart is core to our identity – yet the communities we serve are very diverse. Our Diocese stretches from Maidstone to Thanet, from the Isle of Sheppey to the Romney Marsh. We have 350 miles of coastline with historic ports and seaside resorts, alongside rural communities, market towns and commuter-belt urban developments. Affluent areas often sit alongside pockets of major deprivation, offering an exciting and challenging mission context.

Our vision

By God's grace we want to be a people who are...

- ...confident & creative disciples of Jesus Christ
- ...rooted in scripture & drenched in prayer
- ...living gratefully, giving generously, caring for creation & sharing the gospel
- ...growing in number & expectations – of God & ourselves
- ...motivated by justice & love, open to the Spirit & ready for adventure! **Therefore we will...**

'Therefore we will...' is a recognition that words without actions are empty. It is a commitment to taking real steps now to make this vision a reality soon. The current actions that flow from this vision are outlined in our current strategy document [which you can find here](#). Of course, these actions will change and develop over time - and it's exciting that some of our parishes



are already considering this vision carefully for themselves, exploring together what actions they will commit to take, what their local 'Therefore we will...' might look like.

At the heart of all we do is this vision: a vision of transformation for ourselves and our communities: *Changed Lives* → *Changing Lives*. In your role, in your place, we will be looking for you to join in with what God is already doing and play a crucial part in making this vision a reality.

Our direction

Our vision unites us in purpose but will be expressed in different ways according to what makes sense for different parts of our diocesan family. We are working closely with our deaneries to identify, resource and support them as they seek to grow their mission, ministry – and their churches – in ways that make sense to their contexts. Each deanery is developing its own mission plans - and you could play a key role in helping to develop your deanery's their vision for the future.

As a diocesan family, we are also deeply committed to our calling to build a safer, more welcoming church for all. We will never be perfect, but we can work together to make our churches safer. At the heart of this ethos is the conviction that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility - and that it needs to be at the heart of everything we do. You can find out more about our approach to safeguarding [here](#).

Our commitment to you

We know that supporting healthy, flourishing ministers (lay and ordained) is crucial for a healthy, flourishing diocese. Therefore, we offer the 'Canterbury Diet' to all our new incumbent ministers – this is an intentional programme for ministerial development, health, growth and faith. A similar lay programme is in development too. We offer pastoral supervision and spiritual accompaniment, an invitation to be part of residential training programmes focused on learning, leading and mission, action learning sets, as well as a range of specialised training events, and other regular opportunities for growth in prayer and spirituality.

In short, I hope that you will be as excited by our vision, priorities and opportunities as we are. Be assured of our prayers as you consider your next step in ministry.

+ Rose

The Rt Revd Rose Hudson Wilkin

Bishop of Dover and Bishop in Canterbury



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And a note from the Archdeacon of Canterbury:

Thank you for your interest in this post in a demanding parish, but at an exciting time in its life.

This post is offered as an interim post, initially for three years, under Regulation 29 of the Clergy Terms of Service Regulations. It is funded partly by a grant from the Strategic Mission and Ministry Fund and partly from the Lowest Income Community Fund, administered by the Diocese of Canterbury. One of the key parts of this post is to work with Rev'd Mark Nelson as the Priest in Charge and the wonderful community at St Paul's to bring about a new phase of life and growth in the church in Margate.

You will see from the profile that Cliftonville is an exciting place, but one with considerable challenges. This is a challenging post, but one where there is loads of potential for creativity, hard work and Christ-centred mission. The church describes itself as 'a church of the poor, for the poor' and they live out this vocation day to day. It is the home of *Ignite*, a flagship project in East Kent working with those on the margins of communities. There are plans for the renewal and renovation of the buildings – both the church and the hall – and a sense of excitement about the future.

I would be very happy to have a conversation about the post and to answer any questions that you may have. The statement from Bishop Rose that accompanies this profile sets out more of what the Diocese of Canterbury offers to our clergy and other licensed ministers.



The Venerable Dr Will Adam
Archdeacon of Canterbury
archdeacon-canterbury@diocant.org



Introduction to the Church:

Welcome to our amazing church who are looking for an Associate Interim Minister to join the team and deepen and grow our faith, enabling us to reach out with the Good News to the deprived community which surrounds us. We have been a landmark Church here for 150 years and are still a thriving place on Cliftonville's 'high street'. We are a church of the poor for the poor. Our previous priest moved to another Parish in May 2023.



We would describe ourselves as a diverse church who has a heart for the poor in our local community. We have a wide age range with people from diverse ethnic origins and a number with disabilities.

We run a Community Centre through the church halls which provide services to those in need as well as lettings to local community groups. There were plans in 2018 for a major building programme to locate the community centre facilities within the church building. It did not happen because we were unable to raise the funds for the project. Currently we are working towards greater integration of services and resources.

The church formed the Ignite programme as an alternative way of church especially aimed at those living in our marginalised and social deprived communities, with a different and relevant way of communicating the Gospel. Its impact was such that it was funded by Canterbury Diocese and the programme rolled out to other churches.



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The church also opened Thanet Foodlink providing food parcels for those in need and is open three days a week.

The appointed person will be supported by the Priest in Charge and lay ministry in the parish.

Vision, hopes and sense of direction for the Parish

Our vision is summarised in John 14:6 where Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth and life”

and in Jesus words "I have come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness." John 10:10.



Guided by worship and prayer, our focus is to reach out to our local community with the Gospel. We seek to be the light in the darkness of a deprived local community.

We aim to build our congregation both numerically and by deepening our understanding of scripture and our prayer life together.

St Paul's is partnering with Holy Trinity Margate on a wider vision to resource mission and ministry across the Anglican Churches in Margate. The candidate will work closely with Rev'd Mark Nelson as the leader of the Margate Resource initiative and the parish team on developing the mission and ministry of the Church in the local area and across the wider region.

The coming years will also include work towards a significant building project which will enable to the Church community to continue to serve the area, while better integrating the main Church with the Church halls across the road.



What we are looking for in an Associate Minister:

Someone who:

- Holds lightly to a traditional worship style and has a heart for contemporary worship.
- Will deepen our prayer life and grow us spiritually through Bible studies.
- Can hold broken, fragile, and lonely people.
- Develop and manage the links with the Community Centre
- Involvement in existing programmes such as Ignite as well as pioneering new ministry.
- Develop the lay ministry by enabling others.
- Willingness to work with Rev'd Mark Nelson and the wider team.
- Involvement in supporting to deliver the upcoming building project.

What we are bringing to ministry and mission in the Church and our community

We offer both traditional and contemporary styles of worship. We have several people involved in worship in preaching, leading, praying, musicians, Bible reading, welcoming and providing refreshments.

Three times a week we hold an Open Church providing free tea, coffee, and biscuits alongside Thanet Foodlink distribution of food parcels.

The Ignite programme attracts 20 to 30 people each week and shares a Gospel message with many who have special needs.

We have a growing Sunday school of primary school aged children with plans, in the near future, to accommodate those of secondary school age.

The community Centre provides the following services free of charge to the community:

- Welfare help desk
- Practical support in a crisis
- Support for homeless and sofa surfers
- Accommodation services
- Budgeting skills
- Assistance into employment



The Vicarage

The Vicarage is located at 18 Devonshire Gardens, a 15-minute walk to the church.

It is a 5 bedroom detached house with a study and additional annex office, kitchen/diner, an open plan downstairs living area and large garden with off street parking located near the sea,



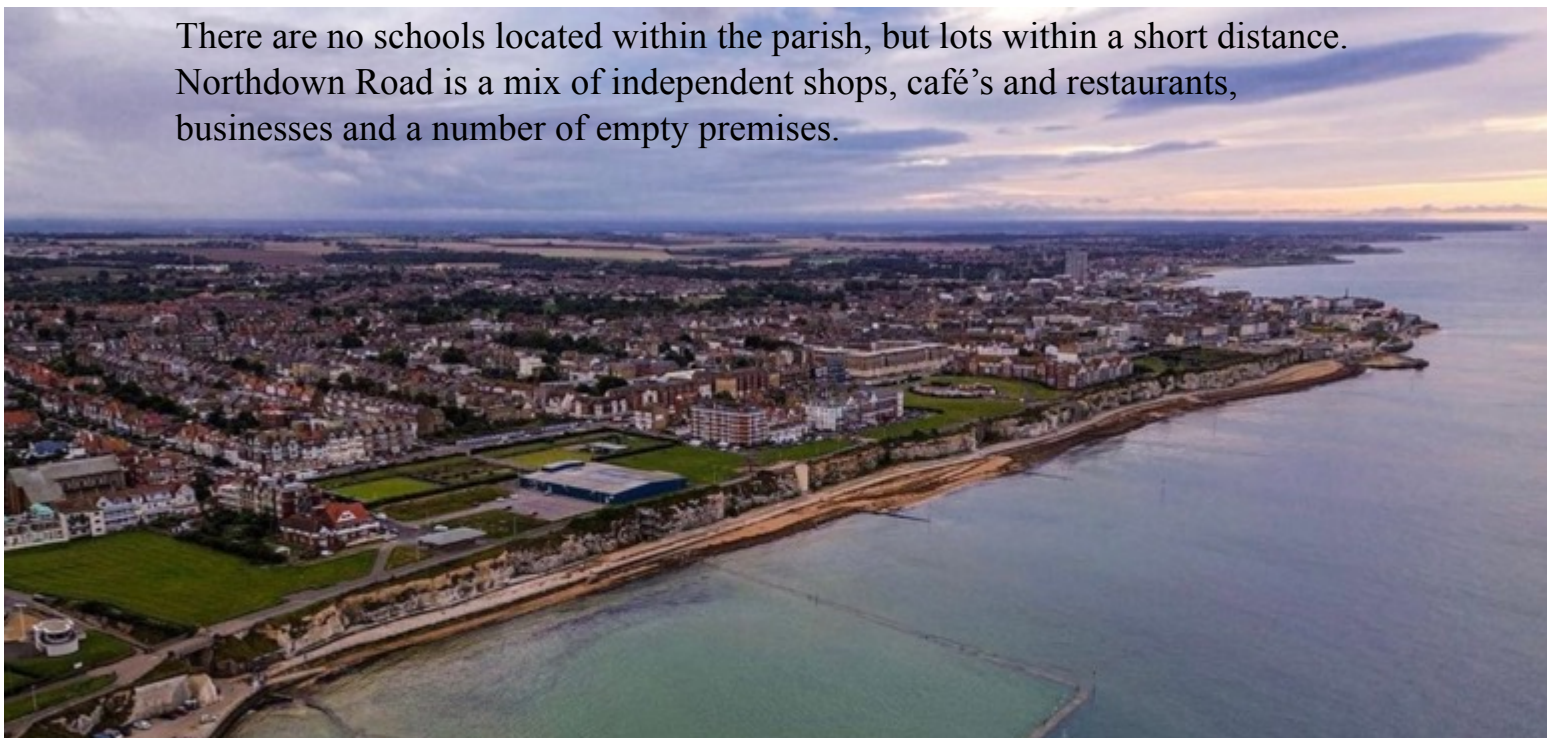
About the Parish:

Cliftonville is a seaside resort with sandy beach and tidal pool. Housing is mainly flats and apartments.

The population of the parish is 8,263 people, 3,708 occupied households and it is currently the 85th most deprived parish of 12,239 nationally.

As one of the most deprived parishes in England, over 90% of households are one-person or single-family. 30% have never worked. Nearly half of the population identify as having no religion. (Data taken from 2021 census).

There are no schools located within the parish, but lots within a short distance. Northdown Road is a mix of independent shops, café's and restaurants, businesses and a number of empty premises.



Worship in the Parish

There are currently 53 people on the electoral roll, with Sunday attendance around 40 people including some children. There are a few occasional offices in the parish.

The current pattern of worship:

Sunday – **9.15 Traditional Communion**
11:00 Contemporary worship.
4th Sunday All-age

Wednesday - **10:30 Mid-week Communion**

Existing Team at St Paul's Cliftonville:

Priest in Charge designate: Rev'd Mark Nelson

Church Wardens: Ian Wright and Tony Aylward

Licensed Lay Minister: Kim Palmer

Supporting Clergy: Rev'd Vicky Coneys (PTO).

Treasurer: Dauda Allahmagani

Community Center Manager: Elaine McCarthy

