



Christ Church
St. Andrews

Glorifying God : Building Community

The new 5-year post of Associate vicar



Introduction

We are delighted to be able to appoint an associate vicar to work alongside our current vicar Anthony Everett, the staff team, and our varied and vibrant church family. The post is funded by the church family with the full support of the Bishop of Dover, Bishop Rose.

Vision

We have a clear vision statement which allows us to assess all we do in the light of our vision, values, and mission. This has been particularly useful as we emerge from the pandemic and have negotiated some changes to the ministries we are involved in and where they take place.

Our aim is to glorify God by building a Christ centered community through the power of the Holy Spirit. We do this by making and growing followers of Jesus.

We seek to make disciples by explaining the good news of Jesus simply and clearly and so helping people come into a living relationship with Jesus trusting Him as their rescuer and king.

We seek to grow disciples by explaining how the good news of Jesus transforms every area of our lives and so helping each other develop our relationship with Jesus so that we increasingly submit our lives to Him.

Christ Church St Andrews is looking for someone who will



- ~ enable us to grow the kingdom of God in Herne Bay.
- ~ be servant hearted and committed to their own personal growth.
- ~ take responsibility for at least two of our six congregations.
- ~ be involved in the care and nurture of new Christians.
- ~ preach at and lead services of very different styles.
- ~ be able to offer good pastoral care to a mixed church family and community.
- ~ pioneer new ministries which are sustainable.
- ~ be willing to work alongside our vicar supporting and advising him as he takes overall responsibility for the church family.
- ~ recognise that the church family has great community links, helping us to get better at using those to see people engage with the good news of Jesus and so come to faith.

The gifts and experience we are looking for

- ~ an experienced and able Bible teacher and preacher.
- ~ pastorally able to deal with complex cases.
- ~ a senior staff member with at least three years' experience in ordained ministry.
- ~ able to equip people to serve by example, training and enabling
- ~ able to run small group Bible studies for those experienced in the faith.
- ~ able to run evangelistic courses and nurture new believers.
 - ~ a team player who can lead when asked to.



Diocese of Canterbury
CHANGED LIVES ⇄ CHANGING LIVES

Bishop Rose's letter is in the application pack

Canterbury Diocese vision is that *by God's grace we want to be a people who are...*
... confident and creative disciples of Jesus Christ ... rooted in scripture and drenched in prayer
... living gratefully, giving generously, caring for creation and sharing the gospel
... growing in number and expectations of God and one another.
... motivated by justice and love, open to the Spirit and ready for adventure!



Herne Bay is a great place to live



Introduction

Herne Bay has recently been reported to be a great place for people to live including families. It is certainly on the up. It has all the many advantages of living by the sea including walks by the sea, glorious sunrises and sunsets. For much of the year you can swim vary safely in the sea. The town is surrounded by woods where walking is a treat. The beach is rarely crowded though on the hot days of summer it can be a very popular place.



The Schools

The town has a number of primary schools which in general have a very good reputation. The church has links to all the state schools in the parish. The local secondary school also has a good reputation although young people travel to Grammar and Comprehensive schools in Canterbury and in other local towns.

Travel Links

The town is on a high-speed route to London so it can be reached in around 90 minutes – both Kings Cross and London Victoria. Road links to London are reasonable and of course France is just a short hop away.



Facilities

The town has a cinema, a sports centre with swimming pool and a good selection of supermarkets. There are many independent shops and cafés. Indeed a church member has said 'if you can't buy it in Herne Bay you probably don't need it.' There are many sporting activities from hockey and tennis clubs, to a climbing wall, to youth and adult football. The seafront has many activities and there are many good places to eat. Canterbury with the cathedral, most shops and the Marlowe Theatre with West End productions is twenty minutes away. Westwood Cross, an out of town shopping centre, is twenty-five minutes away.

The Staff Team

The church has had a staff team for a number of years.



Anthony Everett has been vicar since September 2002. Anthony was before ordination an Accountant and Pastoral Assistant at a large London city church. He trained at Oak Hill and served curacies at Hailsham, East Sussex and New Malden, Surrey. He was incumbent at St Alban's, Streatham Park before moving to Herne Bay. He has helped at an interdenominational Bible College and while in Canterbury has been an Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands, Area Dean and on Archbishop's Council. Anthony is married to Anne, and they have three grown up children and five grandchildren.

The growth of the church has meant that we have appointed Ministry Overseers who oversee various aspects of the church's life with the aim that we better care for our leaders, develop our ministry and release Anthony to his preaching, prayer, and pastoral roles. We are now looking at whether this is the best way to maintain our ministry after the pandemic. Anthony takes time with each staff member looking to enable them to grow spiritually and in ministry skills.



Denise Parrett is our part-time staff worker with her major responsibility being for music. She also helps in our work in three local state schools where we take services and assemblies. She is involved in Bay Ignite (see below). Denise has just been accepted for training as a distinctive deacon and will be returning to us in this new role after two years of part-time training.



The Diocese made a successful bid to the church commissioners, and we were privileged to be able to set up two new congregations aimed specifically at the marginalized, disadvantaged, and non-churched. Bay Ignite on Tuesdays aims to reach unchurched families and Thursday Bay Ignite reaches adults we would not normally reach. These congregations are now established and are of a size that means they will be viable when the enablers contracts end in the next year. This is an exciting new development, and one of these may be one of the congregations that the associate vicar is given responsibility for initially alongside our Ignite Enabler Paula Martin. We have seen some baptisms, confirmations and conversions from these congregations which is a great joy. We hope to appoint a new Bay Ignite Enabler on a 20 hour a week contract.

In addition to these staff, we have both a part-time administrator and a part-time cleaner. The staff team meets regularly together for prayer, Bible Study, encouragement and to plan the practical aspects of the ministry

There are a number of people who are beginning to investigate their own ministries and are being given experience in various areas of ministry. There are also many lay volunteers who are vital to the life of the church.

The Churches

Christ Church and St Andrew's are evangelical Anglican churches but attract congregations of a broader churchmanship. The staff team takes their role of teaching the Bible very seriously and we seek to present the gospel clearly and relevantly through all our activities. On Sunday we have around 110-140 people attending its main service and we have two smaller services each Sunday. The numbers will increase substantially for major festivals and for civic services. We also have our two Bay Ignite congregations and a fortnightly Sunday afternoon service (Check it Out) aimed at young families which was started in September 2021 and already attracts between 30 and 40 people on a regular basis. The current pattern of a normal week is -

Christ Church

Sunday

- 9.00a.m. Holy Communion
[Common Worship with music]
- 11.00a.m Morning Service [3 times a month]
Communion Service [once a month]
- 4.30pm
- 7.00p.m. Evening Service [fortnightly]
[Café style teaching events]

Tuesday

9.00a.m. Tuesday Prayer (weekly on zoom)

3.45pm

7.00p.m. Tuesday Prayer Gathering (monthly)

Thursday

7.00a.m. Thursday Prayer time (weekly - Facebook)
Bay Ignite (adults)

St Andrew's

Sunday

Check it Out [fortnightly]

Tuesday

Bay Ignite (families)



Care Home Easter Service



Midweek Teaching Holiday

Church Life

We are privileged to have a number of ministries which enable us to make an authentic link between what we believe and what we do.

Bay Ignite

The church commissioners have funded Ignite projects throughout the Diocese and we have been privileged to see two congregations become established over the last three years. On Tuesday we have the only family Ignite congregation which aims to reach young families we would not normally connect with. This congregation has families with special needs and many single parent families and has become a destination for some and a journey to involvement in other aspects of church life for others. The adult Bay Ignite on Thursdays has again been able to reach people we would not normally have contact with. Seeing some of them come to faith and be baptized and confirmed has been an absolute delight. The setting up of a homegroup from this congregation has been an amazing experience.

South Room and Food Larder

When the local job centre closed, we set up our South Room with computers to help people who needed to apply for benefits, jobs or had other needs. It took time but now we are seeing it well used and we are able to talk to people about what they believe. During the pandemic we took the decision to set up a food larder which now helps over 100 people a week. The original purpose was to help people through the pandemic but now we are thinking about how we can continue to serve the community through the current economic challenges many face. This work has led to people joining our Bay Ignite and Sunday congregations.

Homegroups

We are privileged to now have fourteen groups which study the same material most of the time. These groups are full and so we need to add some more when we can. The groups have emerged well from the pandemic and are overseen by two members of the church family.

Other ministries

In addition to these we run Christianity Explained courses, Discipleship Explained courses, a mid-week teaching break for older people, a teaching day at home, social events including restaurant nights, men's and women's ministry with various activities, Thy Kingdom Come and training events for leaders and those involved in ministry, to name some not all! We are committed to looking at how all these ministries and events fit into the life of our church and especially how they help us both to reach out to our community and build up our church family.



Children and Young People

We have excellent links with a number of local state primary schools and with the town's only secondary school which means we celebrate Christmas and Easter with them and run end of year/leavers services as well as taking assemblies. We have moved our children's work to the Check it out service but are reviewing this and are thinking about how to develop our youth provision which is nonexistent at present.



Time Off, Holidays and Practicalities

Life outside the parish is important and so the staff team is committed to encouraging each other to take a proper day off a week, five weeks holiday and to have time off during the working week. Time will also be given for one conference a year to allow growth and encouragement from outside the parish. Reasonable expenses will be refunded.

Accommodation

The diocese is committed to providing a good standard of accommodation and so there is a house provided in the middle of the parish. The house has a large living room, study and four bedrooms. This is within walking distance of the church and vicarage. The PCC is committed to ensuring that the associate vicar and where relevant, family, have a pleasant and practical living environment.

Website and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchStAndrews/> <https://www.parishofhernebay.org.uk/>

We have worked on our social media but have more to do. On the website the best place to see current material is under latest news and our Facebook page always carries up to date material. Under resources you will find our recent sermons.

Local Partnerships

We are part of Reculver Deanery and are increasingly involved in conversations about how the future looks in terms of the organization of ministry throughout the town. The Diocese is increasingly using Deaneries to plan the shape of local ministry and we want to take an active part in these. We recognise that these conversations are challenging and there are not easy solutions. We also work with other local churches and have been involved in mission and ministries wherever we can including Street Pastors and a mission week.

Conclusion

This is an exciting and challenging time to come to Christ Church St Andrews. The person who comes as associate vicar will have the advantage of seeing a growing church and with people growing in commitment to Christ and one another - this growth and development will involve the whole staff team seeing God at work in peoples' lives. The parish loves its clergy and offers a supportive environment to be loved, learn skills in ministry and deepen faith.

