



PARISH PROFILE OF THE BENEFICE OF THE SIX

OCTOBER 2025



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Priest in Charge of The Six Benefice, Sittingbourne

A Message from the Bishop of Dover



Welcome and thank you for taking an interest in the role of Priest in Charge of The Six, a benefice in Sittingbourne, Kent. 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. In 2023, Diocesan Synod agreed to three bold outcomes which flesh out how our vision will be achieved by 2030.

Three Bold Outcomes

1. Double the number of children and young disciples.
2. 200 new Christian communities.
3. Every parish, benefice and deanery showing signs of revitalisation.

Every deanery is engaged in an ongoing process of deanery planning, which feeds into our diocesan strategy process [which you can find outlined here](#). Our strategic planning across the diocese is a dynamic process - and it's exciting that parishes are considering our vision and the bold outcomes vision for themselves, exploring together what actions they will commit to take, what their local 'Therefore we will...' might look like.

As well as the three bold outcomes our diocesan synod has committed to a net zero carbon action plan. When General Synod and Diocesan Synod adopted this goal, it was clear that it would be very challenging. However, the significant changes in global weather events in recent years have underlined the urgency of tackling the amount of carbon we produce. The leadership shown by the Church of England is important and the action plan takes a positive approach to working towards this ambitious target.

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

Our Safeguarding Ethos

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.



The Rt Revd Rose Hudson Wilkin
Bishop of Dover and Bishop in Canterbury

A message from the Archdeacon

Thank you for considering the opportunity of becoming the next Priest in Charge of the Benefice of The Six.

This benefice sits on the western edge of the Diocese of Canterbury and consists of several village communities close to Sittingbourne. As you will read in the profile there is much life here and many opportunities to serve the local people and to work alongside and develop the existing teams in each church. You will receive support from the ministry team and the churchwardens who have prayerfully considered what are the needs for the next stage of their journey together.

The Six is part of the Sittingbourne Deanery within the Maidstone Archdeaconry. Sittingbourne Deanery is in a time of transition having several vacancies at the moment. There is a process underway for some pastoral organisation with the churches in Sittingbourne itself, but not affecting The Six. Once this is in place further appointments will be made during spring 2026.

This post will be full-time and would suit a first appointment or an experienced priest looking for a different challenge. If you feel this could be you, please read the profile, and for further information or an informal conversation please contact in the first instance Lynn Bourne (lbourne@diocant.org).

The Revd Canon Sharon Copestake
Archdeacon of Maidstone

The Revd Richard Braddy
Associate Archdeacon

1. THE NEW PRIEST IN CHARGE WE ARE SEEKING WILL BE



- A good communicator, encourager and enabler.
 - A skilled team leader and manager, bringing the best out of our ministry and lay leadership teams.
 - A person of prayer, who places a high priority on their own walk with God and is able to nurture faith in others.
 - Adventurous in ideas and able to lead and inspire us as we reach out to develop growth in our churches.
 - A visible part of our communities, leading us as we seek to develop further our engagement with the community and our links with local schools and young people.
 - Committed to the mixed economy, encouraging fresh expressions of church as well as traditional models.
 - Accepting of a warm welcome in the Benefice to make it their spiritual and physical home.
 - Willing to work constructively with the Living in Love and Faith process and to fully welcome those from the LGBTQIA+ community.
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2. BENEFICE VISION

We are a united benefice of 7 worshipping communities. We have the privilege of worshipping in 6 beautiful rural church buildings in North Kent.

In recent years the direction of travel for us has been expressed as being, *“fruitful, confident church communities of disciples serving each village, growing good by being the people who BLESS, and seeing Jesus change lives”*

Being rooted in Jesus through prayer and worship,

Listening to his voice in leading us,

Engaging with each other and our communities, instinctively

Serving our communities and always being ready to confidently

Share the hope we carry.

We put Jesus first: it is His work we are doing, which we do in the power of His Spirit. We trust in Him to provide the skills and the resources. Our worship is marked by the presence of God among us, so that all may see and believe.

Our vision is to serve and support our local communities. We want to seek new ways to share God’s love with those around us.

We would like to place a greater priority on prayer. We want to be surprised by God as we see Him at work in ways that we have never considered, both amongst our worshipping communities and in our villages.



3. OVERVIEW OF LIFE IN THE SIX

We have good links with our five village primary schools, taking assemblies at each as well as welcoming the children for services in the churches. We have associations with the uniformed organisations that meet in our villages. Most of our churches hold family services and both Uplift and Iwade have a particular focus on families and young people.

We are lively churches working well with the community through social and fundraising events such as fetes, concerts, produce sales, talks, “Friends” events and monthly community cafes. We take advantage of the countryside around us with open air services and organised walks. In addition, we take part in the annual Friends of Kent Churches bike ride, which is well supported.

Our pattern of services includes regular opportunities to worship together in the Benefice service. We have regular lay led services in all churches. Our services reflect all traditions and styles from traditional to Fresh Expressions.

We are looking forward in hope that our new team Priest in Charge will work with us as we seek to continue our journey together, to further develop our gifts and encourage the good things that are already happening. We are looking for ways to build on the links we have with our local communities, and the particular challenge of reaching out to younger people and families.

4. UGANDA SPONSORSHIP



Members of the benefice, and beyond, have kindly sponsored a number of children through their education in Uganda for many years. Currently 49 children are sponsored. The sponsorship pays for the school fees for the children, as education is not state funded in Uganda. Additional fundraising and gift aid has been able to top up the sponsorship money, which has allowed for additional items such as some school uniform, books and also Saturday school snacks at the Church in Entebbe.

The Saturday club at the Resurrection Life Church runs every week and provides food for around 100 children. We are sent photos of the children every Saturday as they meet together for singing, worship and stories. The group is well led and the local organisers, Pastor David Opolot, Juliet Aceng, and Beatrice Atim are in regular contact with us, making sure fees are paid and reports and receipts are sent.

5. ORGANISATION OF THE SIX



The Priest in Charge will have overall responsibility for the six Parishes, with their seven congregations, taking the lead on worship, mission and ministry. Each church has its own PCC, taking responsibility for the administration, buildings and finances of the church. All the PCCs work with the clergy to consider worship, mission and community engagement. The Priest in Charge will not be expected to chair and lead every meeting of all six PCCs.

Uplift has a lay leadership team of two, taking the main responsibility for their worship, mission and ministry. Uplift currently comes under Upchurch PCC.

It is hoped, indeed expected, that some form of administrative support will be developed, whether an individual - paid or voluntary - or a team of people, each allocated different areas of administration. The Priest in Charge will work alongside the administrator(s), identifying tasks and implementing decisions.

Across the Benefice communication is largely through the weekly "The Week Ahead" email and the Benefice website.

6. MINISTRY TEAM

Clergy

- Associate Priest for The Six

Lay leaders

- Lay Reader
- Authorised Lay Minister
- Authorised and training for Lay Readership 2025
- Two leaders of Uplift

Retired clergy

- Permission to Officiate
- Permission to Officiate (focus on Lower Halstow only)



Members of the ministry team generally take the lead in one or more of the churches, taking services and being on PCCs.

There are monthly meetings of the ministry team, which may be led by the Priest in Charge or by other members of the team; the Priest in Charge retains oversight of these meetings. These meetings are to plan worship, discuss issues across the Benefice, and to pray and worship together. It is recognised that team members need to build strong relationships, and communicate openly and honestly with one another. This team is charged with holding and developing the vision for The Six, alongside PCCs.

7. WHAT THE NEW MINISTER WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR.

The Priest in Charge will be responsible for attending to their own spiritual well-being, through prayer and study, observing days off and leave, annual retreat, and engaging with a spiritual director. Such balance should be seen as a model for others in the team and in the wider parish, as we all prioritise our walk with God, not simply sustaining the institution.

The existing service pattern has evolved over some years, with changes according to availability of ministers, whether lay or ordained; it is not set in stone. The Priest in Charge will, with the ministry team and PCCs, be ready to explore new ways of worshipping and will seek out those among the worshipping community who might be called upon to be leaders. The service pattern draws on a breadth of Anglican liturgy and practice, ranging from the formal, organ-led CW Communion service, through BCP Evensong to the informality of Family Worship at Uplift.

It is hoped the Priest in Charge will seek to build relationships beyond the church walls, with the schools, local community groups and individuals in our villages.

The Priest in Charge will submit regular claims for expenses for travel, stationery etc.

Liaison with families and individuals around pastoral services will be a key role for the Priest in Charge, although it is intended the administrator(s) will take some of the burden for practical aspects of this area of ministry.

Encouraging the development of prayer at an individual and corporate level is key; this will be overseen by the Priest in Charge, although other members of the team will also take responsibility.

Ministry among the elderly is mostly led by the Anna chaplain and team visiting parishioners at home and in Newington Court; oversight and occasional engagement from the Priest in Charge is expected.

Ministry among children, young people and families is seen as key in all our churches; the Priest in Charge will build relationships within the schools, and with uniformed organisations and other groups in the community, working with the Ministry team and other members of the congregations.

8. LIVING AMONGST THE SIX

Newington Vicarage was built in the 1950s, and offers good sized family accommodation, set on a large plot. The house is in a quiet part of Newington, close to the church, school and railway station.

Planning permission has just been granted for 90 houses to be built on the farmland to the rear of the Vicarage. It may be necessary in the future to change the

vicarage curtilage in order to ensure that this development does not infringe upon the property.



The local area offers good schools. There are 5 Primary schools within our 6 villages, Hartlip school in particular has an excellent reputation and attracts children from the villages around. At age 11, children transfer to the secondary schools, most attend schools in Sittingbourne. Some travel to Maidstone or the Medway towns. All offer a wide range of Grammar and High schools, as well as private schooling.

Newington is set in beautiful countryside but is close to many amenities. The Medway towns are adjacent and have cinemas, theatres, restaurants and sports facilities, including a skating rink, ski slope and adventure centre, offering climbing and watersports. Chatham's historic dockyard is a popular attraction. There are two



cathedral cities within easy reach, Canterbury and Rochester, the latter with its castle and Dickens connections. Maidstone the county town is 12 miles away and London an hour by train.

Kent has some stunning countryside, lovely villages, great beaches and historic attractions. It is also very convenient for ferries to Europe and the Channel tunnel.

9. St Mary the Virgin, Newington

OUR VISION

We want to see our Church grow, particularly to attract young people and families, through continued engagement with our village school and wider community whilst maintaining existing Christian values. We want to encourage members of the congregation to continue their growth in prayer and exploring faith together.



THE VILLAGE

Newington is a village of around 3,500 with the A2 running through its heart. It is best described as a 'working' village with a spectrum of manual, management and executive residents as well as retired people. Many commute to London, Maidstone, Sittingbourne and the Medway Towns.

The village has a convenience store, post office/chemist, takeaways, doctors surgery, public house, mainline train station, regular bus service and a primary school. The village also supports local businesses with two light industrial estates, garden nurseries, an accountants and hairdressers. The Village Hall is used for village events, by sports and other clubs, for concerts, Women's Institute and for hire by individuals. The parish council runs a sports pavilion and sports ground, providing activities for all ages and village fete. There are adjoining allotments and woodland walk.

The housing is a mixture of old and newer houses set either side of the A2, a substantial number built in the 1990's, plus a development of ex-local authority housing, a significant proportion of which is owned by the local housing association. There is also ribbon development along the A2 within the parish with recent new housing and new developments under construction and due in the near future. Beyond the village the parish is typical of the North Downs rural area.

THE WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

Worship

The pattern of worship on Sundays can be found in Appendix D. The Six usually have a bi-monthly Benefice service, moving around the parishes.

The School holds services at the church for Easter, Harvest, Christmas and the annual leavers' celebration, and has used the church building for a poetry slam and year 6 production.

We aim to be invitational and welcoming as a worshipping community, and make particular efforts to invite others to join worship at occasions when we celebrate festivals such as Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, St Georges Day and Back to Church Sunday. Combined services with the Methodist Church are held monthly, the winter months at the Methodist Chapel, Summer months at St Mary's. The annual carol service is supported by the village. On occasion we hold open air worship, as we seek to appreciate and engage with creation.



The style of worship varies between a Common Worship Communion with organ and hymns, to a more informal Morning Worship with worship songs. Outreach services are held at Newington Court Nursing home during the year with a carol service at Christmas.

COMMUNITY LINKS



The church uses the village hall for our Christmas Fayre and occasionally for other fund raising events. "Neweton" Scout HQ is the home of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

We have a village supported Friends of St Mary's with annual donations, along with a monthly Restoration Draw, both raising money for the maintenance of the church building.

We run social events including a Summer Fete, flower festivals and

concerts in the church. We support events held by other organisations including the village Summer Fete. These attract people from within the village community who have few other links with the church and are seen as a way of engaging with the community.

Newington CE (controlled) Primary School currently has 240 pupils. Newington and Lower Halstow Community schools combined some years ago to form a federation with one Executive Headteacher. This arrangement is working effectively with opportunities to share ideas and best practice. A recent Ofsted report stated that "provision in the school for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is strong". The SIAMS report from June 2024 highlights the 'strong partnerships between the

school, church and community.' The school and church leaders work together to ensure school worship is engaging and appropriate, whether in the school or church. The Priest in Charge is designated ex-officio member of both the Governing Body.

One of our aims is to further increase our involvement with the school. A member of the ministry team leads an act of worship every week at the school and we run holiday clubs, subject to having the people to lead this, as well as inviting the school into church for services aimed particularly at young families.

Mission

Newington Church supports Christian Aid Week with lent lunches throughout The Six, as well as individual giving.

Cornerstone

This is a monthly cafe at St Mary's offering a cuppa and cake and conversation as well as a listening ear and prayer when needed. In the recent past we have had regular visits from Year 6 (at Newington school) who come in groups of 6 to serve and socialise and also regular visits from residents at Newington Court, the local care home. It has been wonderful to have young and old interacting. The year 6 pupils cite this as a highlight of their year when reflecting on their time at Newington School.

Newington Court

The local Care Home has weekly visits from a small group of church members. There is a service held once a month, often with 8 - 12 residents, and occasionally relatives, attending. These visits had been led by an Anna Chaplain, who has recently moved, but one of the team is undertaking Anna Chaplaincy training.

Newington Court is keen to build community links and has been developing a monthly dementia cafe and a monthly craft afternoon. They also have visits from Newington School.

Memory Cafe

This is run under the umbrella of Age UK but with some involvement from St Mary's. It takes place once a month in the Village Hall and is specifically for people experiencing dementia and their carers but is also open to anyone in the village who would like some companionship.

Eco Church

St Mary's is proud to have achieved a silver Eco Church award. We were the first of the congregations in the benefice to engage with the Eco Church awards programme, and have established more sustainable ways of being church, for example using no disposables in catering, working with the local community to develop use and biodiversity of our churchyard, including the churchyard bees, and celebrating the Season of Creation every September. There has been one meeting of people from church and the local community with our local MP Kevin McKenna to address environmental issues. It is hoped that this could become a regular meeting. There was a good interest among all who came, and the MP expressed an interest in continuing the conversations started at this event.

Two years ago, we introduced beehives into the churchyard, creating an attractive 'wild' space for people to walk round for quiet contemplation. We have 7 hives and produced our own Newington Church Honey from the end of the first year, a pot of which was given to Bishop Rose.



Bell Ringing

In recent months, the St Mary's ringers have attracted significant numbers of new and experienced ringers, including some youngsters; one recent Monday practice attracted some 20 ringers. Most new ringers are from the local community, and some year 6's from the school have had the opportunity to try the bells at the monthly Cornerstone Café. The intention is to establish ringing on Sunday mornings.

Connect Group

We are a fellowship house group with members mainly from Newington, who meet weekly in the evening. We have between eight and twelve regular members, some from other churches in the benefice and including the local Methodist church. Our meetings involve worship, Bible study (including online and video courses) lively discussions, sharing and prayer.

Prayer Group

We have a small house group meeting, usually fortnightly on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, beginning at 10am. This is a quiet time with coffee or tea and shared prayer. All are welcome to come along and join in. Also on Tuesday mornings, at 7.30am, four ladies meet to pray in St Mary's Church. We walk down to the church together and then chat about who needs prayer. It is a truly uplifting time and this time has given me the belief and peace to continue to journey with God through tumultuous times. "I really feel I have grown as a Christian by spending time in God's presence with like minded ladies" (one of the prayer group members).

Food Bank

Regular donations are dropped off at the church and delivered to the local food bank in Sittingbourne.

There are also links with other community groups - eg history group, reading group, walking group.

Choir

It might also be worth mentioning that although we no longer have a proper choir at Newington, we do have joint benefice choirs for weddings and occasions like Christmas and that we also occasionally have singers to lead during our more contemporary services

FINANCIAL

It has been a tough few years since COVID, however we have been able to pay our Parish Share up until the end of 2024 and maintain a reasonable balance of funds. We had an 18% rise in our Parish Share for 2025, which we hope to be able to pay in full, although this will be a challenge.

We run a range of fundraising events and now must concentrate on developing a stewardship campaign aimed at increasing financial giving and people's offerings of time and talents.

BUILDINGS

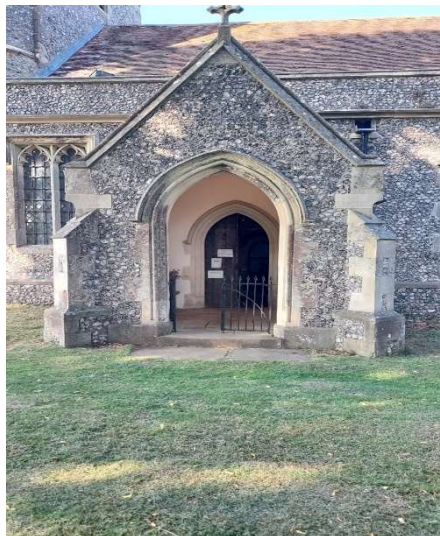
St Mary's Church is a substantial medieval Grade 1 listed building for the size of the village, with 11th-15th century origins and additions and is set out of the village centre. The building has been well maintained over the generations. Our last Quinquennial in November 2024 our Architect reported 'St Mary's is a substantial mediaeval building with outstanding historic fabric from most of the periods of English mediaeval architecture. The Parish have been working very hard in recent years to do basic maintenance to reduce the long-term risk to the building and they are congratulated on their diligence. The building is fundamentally sound and, although there are some repair needs, none of these are substantial. Congratulations are offered to all those who have been working so hard.'

There are important medieval aisles, font cover, screen, tombs and wall paintings. We have created space for a Coffee Area and relocated the children's area which is now closer to the centre of services. Creative arts and floral displays (provided by the church flower group) create a friendly and welcoming space for all types of services



10, St Mary Magdalene, Stockbury

OUR VISION



To open for events to welcome more people from the village as well as continuing with regular services. We would like to install a better heating system to allow more comfortable surroundings in the winter.

The Village

Stockbury lies just to the south of the M2 motorway, on the sides of a valley and is in the Borough of Maidstone. It is a small rural settlement, mainly commuters and retired people but with some people locally employed. There is, at Plum Tree Bottom, a static but well-established traveller site. The housing is mostly private homeowners, with a small number of shared ownership properties. There is a popular farm shop with a butcher and post office. There is also a village pub which is community owned, by

the small village green. Stockbury Village Hall and large playing field are well used for functions, sports clubs and fairs, although use has declined since Covid.

The Church is situated on the North Downs about half a mile from the village centre with exceptional views of the surrounding countryside and the Swale and Medway estuaries. The village is divided by the A249 and getting across to the Church and village from the east side of the valley can be problematic for anyone who is not totally mobile, and a car is the only way to make the quite short journey.

THE CHURCH BUILDING



The Church of St Mary Magdalene is a Grade 1 listed building. It was built in the late 12th Century with additions in the 13th and 15th Centuries. There was also restoration in the 19th Century following a substantial fire, which was undertaken by the architect R.C. Hussey. The Church stands next the site of a motte and bailey

castle and is registered in the Domesday Book. Two years ago, major repairs were made to the west wall of the graveyard, and a kitchen has just been fitted. The next project is an improved heating system.

We are in the process of arranging a meeting with the Rochester Bridge Trust to talk about the restoration of two gravestones belonging to the Thorpe Family, Dr John Thorpe being a founder member of the Trust.

We have very strong links with Community Payback who visit the Church on a regular basis to tidy the graveyard and clean the inside of the Church. They also work in the Community Orchard in the village.



THE WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

The congregation is made up of 4 regular worshippers with 3 others sometimes joining us. Services are held twice a month at 3 p.m. in the winter months and 4.30 p.m. in the summer. For services such as Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and VE Day numbers are between 20 and 50.



COMMUNITY LINKS

We have a raffle at the annual Christmas Fair in the village hall and at Carols on the Green. We hold a Lent Lunch each year to raise money for Christian Aid. There is a monthly draw which takes place in the farm shop.

A small group of bell ringers are working hard to raise money to restore a cracked bell and they ring at the festival services.

Recently we held a very successful Flower Festival. The atmosphere in the Church when flowers were being delivered and arrangements made in situ was one of help, cooperation and friendship. The Church looked beautiful; a comment made by many of the visitors over the weekend.

Refreshments were enjoyed by all with very tasty cakes and scones baked by people in the village and beyond. The bell ringing and tower tours were enjoyed by many as well.

A very successful raffle was run by the farmshop, as well as providing and serving strawberries and cream and helping to serve the other refreshments too.

The Flower Festival was also supported by two other local businesses, Tuckwells and H&F MOT and Service Centre at Church Farm with very generous donations.

It was fantastic to see so many people in the Church from the village and further afield; a wonderful example of a community working together.



11, St. Margaret Of Antioch, Lower Halstow

OUR VISION

To continue being a welcoming Christian community offering a Godly greeting to all who come through our doors. We may be small in number, but our welcome is warm and genuine, always seeking to make everyone feel included and valued regardless of faith, and proud to be known as “the little church with the big heart”. We are fortunate to have an organ and, although sadly we are currently without an organist, we have a good sound system.

Being part of a six church Benefice offers both opportunities and challenges. We take advantage of the chance to meet with fellow worshippers at regular shared services. We also appreciate an invitation from the RCCG Prince of Peace church to partake in their annual family day celebration on the village green.



THE CHURCH

St. Margaret of Antioch Church is situated on the banks of the River Medway. Dating back to the 8th century, it is a charming architectural gem with a Norman tower and Saxon nave.



As a Grade I listed building it is one of the finest examples of medieval churches in the country with remnant wall paintings in the nave and aisles. The church has Roman tiles built into the brickwork, which were taken from a Roman villa in the village, and houses a rare Norman lead font, c.1190 which is possibly the oldest in the country and its beautiful stained-glass windows are a joy to behold.

WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

At this current time of interregnum, we realise that it is more important than ever that we look beyond our immediate area and see ourselves as part of the wider church whilst doing our best

to maintain our regular services as normal.

Historically, we have held two monthly Communion services: one spoken at 8am and one sung at 10am, as well as two monthly non-Communion Family Worship services at 10am.

At present, we are still holding the two monthly Communion services as before (one spoken traditional and the other more informal), as well as two monthly non-Communion services – one aimed at Family Worship and the other a “Songs of Praise” chosen and led by church members.

Advent is a time for special worship – a time for concentrating on the younger members of our parish. We hold an annual Christingle service where children are encouraged to donate gifts for those less fortunate than themselves. We also have a Christmas Eve Crib service in the afternoon and a Midnight Holy Communion at 11.30pm.

The church can always be opened anytime throughout the year upon request. During Holy Week, St Margaret's offers services for Palm Sunday and other differing forms of worship. We are always willing to assist in the arranging of baptisms, weddings and funerals in our church although the numbers seeking church services for these events have reduced over time.

We share a foot washing service on Maundy Thursday with other churches from the Six which is usually held in Upchurch. We also hold a very special Good Friday worship when we gather with parishioners from St Mary's Upchurch (who walk to Lower Halstow) for a combined Walk of Witness through the village. At 6am on Easter Sunday we worship the risen Lord; gathering by the riverside, followed by Holy Communion in the church and finally hot bacon rolls!

Families greatly look forward to our annual Remembrance Sunday service held in the church which involves the participation of the local Cubs and Beaver packs. Some families have lived in the village over the centuries and are moved and appreciative of the remembrance roll call which is read aloud each year.

CURRENT CHURCH ACTIVITIES

There are many opportunities for fellowship, prayer, study, discussion and worship available throughout the Benefice. Notice of these events is emailed weekly to all parishioners.

St Margaret's hosts a Bereavement Group every Thursday morning which is well attended by both church and non-church members.

We are fortunate to have some wonderful "crafters" in our congregation who hold regular well attended Craft Mornings for both children and parents.

The church is also a participating member of Ride and Stride and of the Walking Welcome Group – refreshments are always available to our visitors.

Men's Breakfasts, headed up by a church leader, are usually held in different venues (often in pubs). However, currently these meetings are being held in St. Margaret's church.

Monthly Tuesday evening socials are held in the village Memorial Hall with speakers covering an interesting and diverse range of subjects. These are organised by one of our loyal church members along with a dedicated team of volunteers and are extremely well attended by both church and non-church members alike with all profits going to church funds.

COMMUNITY LINKS

Over the years St. Margaret's has built and maintained close connections with the village primary school. However, with a current enrolment of 190 children, pupils' health and safety has become an issue. We are overcoming this problem by hosting the children in 2 separate groups, although this is not always practical for certain events or services. Whilst not being a Church of England school, we do treasure our links with each other; these are further strengthened by the fact that several of our Benefice members (including one from St. Margaret's church) are School Governors.

A pamphlet, the "LOWER HALSTOW VILLAGE NEWS" is printed and distributed throughout the village every other month. Also available from the church, it is compiled

and edited by a village resident (who receives articles from a variety of sources such as the church, the local school and Friends of the Brickfields). It contains a pastoral letter together with valuable local information about societies, village and church events. Funded by paid advertisements, all profits after printing go to the church fund. The church hosts several fund-raising events to support a variety of worthy charities, such as: SSAFA, Macmillan Cancer Support, The Salvation Army and the Blytheswood Christmas Shoe Box Appeal.

Many non-church volunteers help with these events assisting in practical ways such as flower arranging and cleaning the church. This presents valuable opportunities to encourage local villagers to become more connected and interested in church matters. We were very fortunate, some years ago, to be gifted the facilities of a fully fitted kitchen and toilet/washroom (suitable for all ages and abilities) as well as comfortable chairs replacing half of the old pews. None of these vital improvements would have been possible without an extremely generous benefactor, sadly no longer with us, but to whom we remain eternally grateful as we can now use the church for many one-day events including clergy groups.

THE VILLAGE

Lower Halstow is a village and civil parish in the Swale district of Kent with a current population of approximately 1,200 and consisting of approximately 500 houses spanning the centuries. It has a rich history, with evidence of human settlement dating back to the Roman period.

Surrounded on 3 sides by agricultural green land, the 4th boundary is formed by the banks of the Medway Estuary and forms part of the Saxon Shore Way. The village offers beautiful views and a tranquil environment for its inhabitants and is popular with walking groups. At present there are 3 barges moored at The Old Brickworks Dock, the largest of which is the Edith May, a wooden Thames sailing barge, dating back to 1906. This is available for event hire and charter trips on the River Medway.

Amenities in Lower Halstow are limited, reflecting its small size and rural character. However there is a bus service, an excellent local pub (The Three Tuns which is a Grade II Listed pub with an excellent restaurant), a well-stocked shop, good primary school and a yacht club. The Memorial Hall is well used by play groups, Beavers and Cubs and is home for the many local events and festivals taking place throughout the year.



12, All Saints, Iwade

OUR VISION

We are all saints, disciples OF Jesus making disciples FOR Jesus. We believe that the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 18 - 20) is to be taken literally and may be accomplished through prayerful action and biblical example. Our aim is to Make a Difference in our community and to embody our Mission in this: GOD LOVES YOU PASS IT ON!

CHURCH BUILDING

A small attractive 13th century building, extended in the 14th century, with a side aisle added in 1504. It was refurbished in 1870 but retains much of its original appearance. It possesses two of the oldest church bells in Kent, possibly in the country. As a grade 1 listed building it is in a reasonably good state of repair through in need of continual maintenance.

In 2024 running hot and cold water were installed into the building for the first time as the first phase of a project to install a toilet into the building. Much more fundraising is required to reach the total amount needed for that project. The congregation currently have a good relationship with the Barn which is located next to the church building and use their toilet facilities, car park and occasionally the room for events.

Our 2022 Quinquennial inspection required some urgent work to the tower roof and in



2023-2024 the congregation successfully raised the funds to complete the work in winter 2024. The congregation have currently raised the funds to repair the South Aisle roof before the end of 2025. Further reordering of the interior of the building is planned to make it a more multi use facility which can be used outside of Sunday Services.

In 2025 we successfully achieved an Eco Bronze Award and are currently working towards achieving silver level.

In 2025 we installed an electric screen and multi media projector in the building for use during services and mid week events. This has improved the appearance at the front of the building and is more efficient and easier to use for service leaders.

VILLAGE

The village is close to Sittingbourne and a regular bus service connects the village to Sittingbourne, Sheppey and Maidstone. A train station in nearby Kemsley connects to Sittingbourne station and Sheerness. The village is growing with a lot of new homes being built and the population of 6,000+ is set to increase in coming years. Although still called a “village” the size of Iwade is more properly a small town.

There is a good local primary school with over 600 pupils. The church has an excellent relationship with the school which currently offer their hall and facilities on the second Sunday of each month in term time for a Sunday afternoon Assembly on Sunday. This is a major outreach for the church and attracts over 30-40 people including children and on special days, like Valentines and Christingle, over 70 attended. In addition, the congregation take regular assemblies in the school each term. The Village Hall is about to be replaced by a newer facility but members of the church on the hall committee ensure that we can occasionally use the hall free of charge for events as the church does not have a church hall. There is a modern medical practice in the village, a pharmacy, post office, a well used old public house and a grocers. The village has a Facebook page and until recently a monthly village magazine. A new cemetery next to the church building has led to an increase in requests for funerals in the building.

The church building is a collection point for Foodbank.

WORSHIP

The church holds regular 10.30am services of Morning Prayer or Holy Communion as clergy capacity allows, apart from the second Sunday of the month when we have Assembly on Sunday at 3pm in the school led by the congregation. This form of fresh expression enables us to enjoy varied styles of worship, particularly modern songs and children’s songs and activities. Our Electoral roll of 18 plus children is not always reflected in Sunday attendance.



MISSION

In recent years the congregation have led three Alpha Courses which have been well attended. The last one was a Youth Alpha which was attended by three teenagers, one of whom was later confirmed. It is the intention of the PCC to hold Alpha courses when there is a demand supported through prayer and in practical help by the congregation.

Following from the second Alpha Course, a Wednesday Bible Study group was established and is attended by most of the congregation. Further

Alpha courses are planned for 2026 in Iwade, subject to need.

Our relationship with the primary school has enabled members of the church to take regular assemblies in the school. The children visit the church building to learn about faith and the church's history. The uniformed organisations hold annual services in the building and are involved in Remembrance Day services.

The congregation diminished during COVID and is only just starting to increase again and attract younger families. Community activities which have been developed include Community Carol Singing in the Village square, a community campfire in the church grounds, well attended by the uniformed organisations as well as the community, a community litter pick and a Walk of Witness at Easter. The PCC are planning to hold film clubs for adults and children in the building as a form of outreach and community service. A large community "Carols By Candlelight" fills the church building and is an attractive outreach for the village.

The small congregation are very committed and active in the community serving on the Barn Committee, the Village Hall Committee, the Patient Participation Group, a local choir and run a women's group. We are working with the Parish Council on joint events and shared the VE Day celebrations with them.

The congregation are committed to mission and expanding the Kingdom of God in Iwade to break down barriers to attending services and to show Jesus love and compassion to those seeking to find God.

13, St Mary the Virgin, Upchurch

OUR VISION

We want to be a thriving place of worship for all and to be a meeting place in the centre of the village, thus affording opportunities for sharing the Gospel.

THE VILLAGE

Upchurch village lies to the north of the A2 between Rainham and Sittingbourne amidst beautiful orchards overlooking the Thames estuary. The church is at the centre of the village which has a post office, pub, barbers, village hall, scout hut, wedding venue and golf course. There are also two large green recreational areas and a thriving primary school and a private nursery.

There is a mixed population of young and old, with many residents commuting to London from the railway station in Rainham. Also, many work locally in both the Medway towns and Sittingbourne. Over the last few years there has been some large housing developments on the western boundary with Rainham and there are plans for about 200 houses on one of the orchards to the east of the church. There is a great deal of opposition to this latest development.

There are also quite a few traveller sites on all sides.

Upchurch has its own scout and guide groups, together with brownies, cubs, beavers and squirrels. All who come into church for our annual remembrance service.

WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

Worship

We are very fortunate to still have both an organist and a small robed choir who help lead our services. At present we have Sung Communion once a month and Morning Worship [led by our ALM] twice a month. On the third Sunday we join with Hartlip for Sung Communion in their church. For some festivals we join with the Uplift congregation to worship and enjoy fellowship together with a more relaxed service.

Church Activities

We host three major activities each month. The first is our "Fund Raising Sale". Held on a Saturday morning it is a time when the village can come into the church and enjoy coffee and biscuits whilst buying cakes, second hand books, puzzles or bric-a-brac. This is very popular, and the funds raised are used for major fabric projects.

Rainbow Café is aimed more at the children, but we also have tea and cakes for our older friends before school finishes. We offer a tea, 5 items for £1, for the children together with crafts and towards the end, story time when we have a story from the



bible. We regularly get between 20-30 children at this. Funds raised are supporting three children in Uganda through school.

Again, once a month we are to be seen in the layby opposite the church, collecting for the local foodbank. This is very well supported by the village, and we are the biggest donor in the area.

COMMUNITY LINKS

Our church is open every day for people to come in, look round, use the loo or most importantly be still and pray.

We are in the process of making our Lady Chapel a more prayerful space. We have had a new carpet and altar cloth and are awaiting new chairs. We want this to be a place where the community can come and be with God.

The village primary school uses the church for its termly services, such as harvest festival, Remembrance, Christmas, Easter and Leavers services.

Upchurch Choral Society meets weekly to practice and they put on a concert three times a year.

We have bell ringers who ring for some services, weddings and funerals. Our bells were silent for a few years during and after covid but are now back in full use.

Most of our congregation belong to a house group where they meet to do bible study, pray for the villages, the world and themselves. They are an important part of our fellowship.

Most of us are members of groups outside church, these include WI. Upchurch Active Retirement Association, Upchurch players [the local pantomime group], the golf club, walking group, painting group and the scout ,etc. All these activities give us an opportunity to talk about God.



FINANCE

Up until Covid we met our Parish Share but like so many other congregations our numbers have declined. Our congregation is ageing, and finances have suffered. We are now struggling to pay our share but are trying to pay a small amount each month as agreed by the diocese.

FABRIC

The 13th century church has an unusual candle snuffer spire which had to be restored last year. This work is now complete.

We have had to raise large amounts of money for our bell tower and east wall over the last two years and we are now raising funds to replace our very expensive gas heating system.

We have an ongoing fight to keep our church in good order like so many other 13th century buildings. We would like to look at making the interior more accessible by removing the back pews, but so far other major urgent repair work has prevented this.



Our claim to fame is a link with Sir Francis Drake whose father was vicar here





14, UPLIFT

A welcoming church, with a strong focus on all age worship, meeting in Upchurch Village Hall. Our services are on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month; except alternate months, when on the 1st Sunday we join the other congregations in 'The Six' for a joint Benefice Service.

Jesus First – seeking His will in everything.

We recognise that without Jesus we are nothing, it is His work that we are doing and we can rely on Him to provide what is needed for this work to be done. We work under Him, to His plan in the power of His Spirit.

Worship

Our Worship is aimed at all ages. We have a puppet story at every Uplift which is fun for the children but also has a teaching aspect and underlines the adult talk. We encourage children to take part in our worship, they help with the music, reading of scripture and helping with prayers.

Being Family – Building strong friendships.

We recognise the importance of Christian community as we learn to grow in faith together, not just at a Sunday service but through the building of strong friendships that sustain us in our everyday.



Grace, Love, acceptance and Trust.

We believe every person is loved by God. We seek to accept people as they are – we want people to know that they are made in God's image, and can truly be the person He made them to be. We want Uplift relationships to be built on trust and not on fear. We offer our love and not our judgement.

All ages matter.

We recognise that Jesus wants to make disciples of people of all ages. We are aware of the dangers of simply entertaining children and young people and want to see them encouraged in growing their faith. We value the energy, enthusiasm and idealism of the young as well as the wisdom and experience of the old. We believe that every Christian, old or young, is called to use their gifts to serve God. Every person's contribution is equally important, and we want to be an encouraging church.



Pastoral Care & Discipleship

We want to see pastoral care growing out of our shared lives. We would like to see all ages taking opportunities for discipleship. We seek to nurture and grow faith in those who attend. We want to help everyone, whatever their age, to grow into all that God made them to be. We want to encourage people's prayer life, individually and corporately. We want to do even more to reach out to our local community. We want to encourage our young people to take an even bigger part in our worship. We passionately believe that our young people are an asset to the church and their contribution is vital.

Our Community Involvement

In partnership with St Mary's Church, we are involved in the following:
Foodbank collection/delivery.

Rainbow Café, with profits supporting the school fees and expenses of four children in Uganda.

Christmas Hampers and gifts for the Salvation Army.

Blytheswood Christmas Shoeboxes.

Village Carol Singing raising money for the Foodbank

Pastoral visiting.

Ladies Weekend

We organise a cross-benefice Ladies Weekend away, every two years. We are just about to enjoy our 4th Ladies Weekend Away. The first year we organised the weekend, we took 18 ladies to High-Leigh Christian Conference Centre. This year there will be 28 ladies going off to enjoy a wonderful time of Faith, Fun & Fellowship. It would be great if we could encourage the men of the benefice do a weekend away. One day – watch this space.



Church Activities

We enjoy fellowship together. We try to have several social events during the year. We have food and games after some of our services. We have a summer beach day. Father's-day breakfast. Christmas afternoon tea, and weather permitting an after-service BBQ with games.

Our Strengths

Our worship reaches across the age spectrum and we regularly have children from age 5 to adults in their 90s. We appeal to those who enjoy a less traditional church setting and enjoy a more contemporary kind of worship. We have a live worship group made up of guitars, keyboard and percussion. We have children's leaders, who look out for the children either in the service or if the children go out to their own room. They provide crafts and stories relative to the scripture theme. We are a warm friendly welcoming church and we try and support each other through the challenges of life. We communicate regularly by email making sure that everyone can be involved in everything we do.

The Challenges

Our leadership team is smaller than it was 10 years ago. This can lead to pressure on a few people in the event of holidays or sickness. We do need to encourage more people to help with worship. The problem is that everyone has very busy lives.

Our Vision for the Future

We would like to see our worship marked by the presence of God among us so that all may see and believe. We would like to place a greater priority on prayer. We want to be surprised by God as we see Him at work in ways that we have never even considered.

Finance. Our giving goes directly to St Mary's Upchurch who pay for the hall hire.



15, St Michael & All Angels, Hartlip

OUR VISION

To be, not just a magnificent building at the heart of the village but also to be a familiar place of warm welcome for all in the heart of the community.

THE VILLAGE

Hartlip is small attractive village lying to the south of the A2 towards Rainham, at the far western edges of the Borough of Swale. Its residents fall more into the professional and retired groups living in a mixture of period and late 20th century housing, the latter in select small developments. Most working residents commute to work in Maidstone, Medway Towns, Sittingbourne and London.

The church lies at the heart of the village, and is next door to the popular CofE primary school. There is also a village pub, Methodist chapel and village hall. Hartlip is surrounded by lovely countryside, some of which is still set out as orchards, and close to the Kent Wildlife Trust's Queendown Warren nature reserve.

THE WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

Worship

The pattern of worship on Sundays (Appendix D). Our congregation is drawn from both the village and also neighbouring towns and villages with a general preference for more traditional services.

Church activities

In addition to the celebration of the key dates in the Christian calendar our usual pattern of worship is supplemented by:-

- Monthly combined Eucharist services, when we are joined by the choir and congregation from St Mary's, Upchurch.
- Recently instigated joint services with the congregation from the Methodist Chapel, with the services alternating between the Church and the Chapel when there is a fifth Sunday in any month.
- Music – Hartlip has historically had a strong choral tradition, though sadly choir numbers have dwindled over recent years. We are very fortunate however in the consistent support of our voluntary organist Nigel, who brings a quality of musical contribution far exceeding normal expectations for a small village church. The school choir is welcomed into church to perform from time to time especially at Christmas.



- A celebration of “Hymns Merry & Sherry”, usually annual, which takes the form of an evening service when popular hymns are chosen with some background information provided on each.
- A service of Nine Lessons & Carols and a very popular Christmas Eve crib service.

Our connection with the adjacent CofE Primary School is very strong, with pupils, staff and parents attending (during term time) a weekly Friday morning school service in church when the church is full to capacity. The current headteacher is a committed Christian who cheerfully nurtures, supports and educates her students in the values of the school’s Church foundation. Members of the ministry team from across the Benefice are actively welcomed into the school on a regular basis, and are valued for their contributions to assemblies and other activities. The Priest in Charge is designated ex-officio member of both the Governing Body and also the charitable trust which supports the school. While involvement in each is very warmly welcomed, there is no automatic expectation of an active role to be played if time does not permit.

COMMUNITY LINKS

We undertook a transformative re-ordering of the church in 2017-18 when rear pews were removed, substituted by flexible seating, a kitchenette installed and a new storage and accessible toilet built (from the north door). This followed not only years of fundraising but also assessments of needs to justify the faculty. As a consequence wider community use of the church is much more feasible, to include:-

- Coffee mornings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month (and in the winter sometimes re-branded as “Soup ‘n Soul”), which initially attracted just a handful of attendees but is now regularly attended by over 20 people, many of whom are not part of our Sunday congregation
- Sunday afternoon teas on the 1st Sunday of each month from May to September which draws mostly from the village and neighbouring towns and villages and regularly has 70-90 attendees
- “Heart of the Matter” debates, which are usually held annually (eg on a Saturday evening) with an invited speaker. Topics have ranged from the environment to the refugee crisis.

There is an enthusiastic ‘Friends of Hartlip Church’ group (established as a separate charity with specific objects to help with the fabric of the building (rather than any running costs)) whose activities are well supported by the wider community and who have helped to fund a number of necessary projects in the church. Part of their fundraising includes the annual “Pimms Party” which takes place one of the village gardens with live music and refreshments.

The Friends also organise an annual “September Serenade” of live music and songs ranging from opera to modern popular classics. The choir from the neighbouring CofE primary school also join in. The date coincides with the church’s patronal weekend.

Along with other churches in the Benefice (as well as many individual donors), the PCC sponsors the education of a young person in Uganda and collect for Sittingbourne Food Bank.



BUILDINGS

Our church building, dating from the 13th Century, is found in a classic setting of rural beauty, with a wonderful view from the western side overlooking the orchards. It had a fairly heavy make-over by the Victorians inside who added windows and monuments of considerable interest. The church is Grade 1 Listed and has been well maintained by both previous and current generations. An annual maintenance log is kept.

The most significant works project was the 2017-18 reordering referred to above. In addition we have undertaken the following significant projects:-

- The de-commissioning of an oil fired boiler and wet water radiator heating system in 2022, which was replaced by overhead infrared chandelier heaters (and new lighting) in the nave with under-pew heating in the chancel. Not only is this very flexible, allowing heating with no pre-setting required and within different areas of the church, but by being on a fully renewable electricity tariff we cut our carbon emissions by 90%.
- A rainwater goods project in 2024, with the replacement and repair of guttering, down pipes and soakaways – this dealt with the major priority matters from our last Quinquennial report.

As a consequence we have invested on average £25,000 in the church building in each of the last five years. Funding has been a mixture of grants (including from the Friends) and from the local community.

The new heating and lighting system was in part made possible by an innovative “*Hartlip Hundreds for Net Zero*” fundraising campaign in the village when contributors received a carbon offset certificate in respect of the carbon emissions reduced from each £100 contributed. This work, along with a host of other initiatives, both in the building and outside in the churchyard, has contributed to the church receiving an EcoChurch bronze award. We are now actively working towards gaining silver.

FINANCE

Notwithstanding a 25% increase in our parish share for 2025 (at £19,665.97), which followed a 7% increase in 2024 over 2023) we are intending to pull out all the stops to pay it in full and maintain our 100% payment record of recent years.

16, A Contemplative-Incarnational Theology of Hospitality – reflections of George Hulme, Reader.

The flower festivals, afternoon teas and coffee mornings, which are a feature of some of our churches, may see, at first glance like simple social gatherings with refreshments and conversation. But through the lens of contemplative, incarnational theology, these acts of hospitality take on deeper spiritual significance. They are not just community events; they are quiet, gentle expressions of mission rooted in presence, love, and attentiveness to God at work in the everyday.

Contemplative mission resists the drive to control, convert, or correct. Instead, it begins in humility and listening. It recognises that God is already present in the lives of all people, not waiting to be brought in from outside but inviting the Church to “catch up” with what God is already doing. Our gatherings honour this truth, offering space where people may experience belonging, peace, and joy - even healing—without pressure or agenda.

These events embody incarnational theology: the belief that God took on flesh in Christ to dwell with us, not as an outsider but as one who walks alongside us in love and vulnerability. These simple church events bear witness to this divine presence. They say, without words, you are welcome here just as you are; that the Church is not only a place of doctrine and ritual, but also of tenderness, rest, and real community. The Kingdom is near—in laughter shared, in silence held, in faces recognised and names remembered.

In this light, these social gatherings are not a side project. They are a central expression of what it means to be the Church: a people who, following Christ, make space for grace to emerge in the midst of ordinary life. A people who know that mission is not something we do to others, but something we join, in quiet trust, as God makes all things new.

APPENDIX A – FINANCES FOR THE SIX – 2024

	Newington	Lower Halstow	Upchurch	Stockbury	Hartlip	Iwade
Receipts						
General giving inc Tax Refunds	£21,301	£17,351	£24,154	£2,608	£19,821	£5,492
Fees (inc retained fees)	£5,733	£1,626	£4,099	£2,120	£4,732	£2,381
Other Income	£8,855	£1,334	£2,238	£1,274	£5,232	£27,777
TOTALS	£35,889	£20,311	£30,491	£6,002	£29,785	£30,158
Payments						
General Expenditure	£15,980	£7,462	£16,336	£5,471	£18,007	£4,747
Parish Share/Fees	£23,780	£10,764	£3,692	£0	£17,364	£6,000
TOTALS	£39,760	£18,226	£20,028	£5,471	£35,371	£10,747

APPENDIX B – BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS FOR THE SIX IN 2024

	Newington	Lower Halstow	Upchurch	Stockbury	Hartlip	Iwade
Baptisms	9	7	3	0	2	8
Weddings	4	0	2	0	4	4
Funerals/burial of ashes	5	2	4	4	3	2

APPENDIX C ATTENDANCE STATISTICS 2024

SERVICE	Adults (average attendance)	Children (average attendance)
NEWINGTON		
Sung Communion	25-30	2-5
Morning Worship	22-30	2-5
Communion with Methodists	25-35	2-5
IWADE		
All-age worship	10-20	2-7
Communion	10-20	2-7
Assembly on Sunday	15-20	15-20
UPLIFT		
Worship Service	23	5-7
UPCHURCH		
Communion	23	0
LOWER HALSTOW		
Spoken Communion	8	0
Family Communion	17	1
Family Worship	13	1
HARTLIP		
Sung Communion	18-22	0
Morning Worship	18-22	0
Friday morning School Service	15-18	95-100
STOCKBURY		
Communion	4	0
Evensong	4	0

APPENDIX D SUNDAY SERVICES

	FIRST SUNDAY	SECOND SUNDAY	THIRD SUNDAY	FOURTH SUNDAY
Newington	10am Praise Service	10am Sung Communion	10am Morning Worship	10am Communion with Methodists
Upchurch	10.00am Sung Communion 10.30am Uplift in Hall	10.00am Morning Worship	10.30 Joint with Hartlip 10.30am Uplift in Hall	10.00am Sung Communion
Iwade	10.30am All-age worship	3pm Assembly on Sunday	10.30pm Holy Communion	10.30am All-age worship
Hartlip	10.30am Morning Worship	10.30am Morning Worship	10.30am Sung Communion jointly with Upchurch	10.30am Morning Worship
Stockbury		3pm/4.30pm Winter/Summer Sung Communion		3pm/4.30pm Winter/Summer Evensong
Lower Halstow	8am Spoken Communion	10.00am Family Worship	10.00am Sung Communion	10.00am Songs of Praise

NOTES

- Hartlip - in any month when there is a fifth Sunday, we hold a joint service with the Methodists alternating between the church and the chapel, with timing determined in advance and depending on the occasion.