

THE PARISH OF ST STEPHEN, HACKINGTON

CANTERBURY

As the patron of the parish of St Stephen, Hackington in Canterbury I am pleased to invite applications for the post of Rector of the parish. This is a part-time position (0.5 stipend plus house). St Stephen's is a prominent residential parish in the north east quarter of the city. It contains a variety of housing, including a historic village centre, a large housing estate and about half of the campus of the University of Kent.



Details of the parish and its life are contained in the profile prepared by the PCC. A statement by the Bishop of Dover is attached to this document.

This is an excellent opportunity to take on leadership of a parish in the liberal catholic tradition at a time when things are looking up in its life. Since the departure of the last incumbent an interim priest in charge has taken the helm and the PCC has turned around its finances. There is still a lot of work to do but there is a re-energised group of people with whom that work can be shared.

Music plays a large part in the life of the parish and an enthusiasm for the choral tradition of the place is essential.

If you would like a conversation about this position please be in touch with my office via Caroline Hemington (chemington@diocant.org) for an appointment.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Will Adam'.

The Venerable Dr Will Adam
Archdeacon of Canterbury

A Message from the Bishop of Dover



Welcome and thank you for taking an interest in the role of Rector of St Stephen, Canterbury. 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 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Rose". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rt Revd Rose Hudson Wilkin

Bishop of Dover and Bishop in Canterbury