

ALL SAINTS' AND ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

MARGATE'S CHURCHES

PARISH PROFILE 2025



MARGATE - THE PARISHES

Margate is one of the three seaside towns with Broadstairs and Ramsgate, which, together with 'the villages' comprise the Isle of Thanet.

Arriving by road from the M2/A299 Thanet Way and travelling on the A28 from west to east you enter Westbrook and the parish of All Saints'. On the main road there are a number of shops and cafes, plus the main bus route. Buses travel in one direction to Canterbury, in the opposite direction to Margate town centre and on to Broadstairs and Ramsgate. It is a short walk to the beach, the Viking cycle route and Margate Railway Station. All Saints' Church is to be found just off the main road and the vicarage is next door.

Continuing along towards the town centre, the approach to the seafront is dominated by the evocative figure of the memorial to the nine crew members of the Surf Boat 'Friend to all Nations' who lost their lives when it foundered in 1897. The RNLI and lifeboats have played an important role in the town and the vicar is often asked to be the RNLI chaplain.

Across the road is Dreamland amusement park, also now a major outdoor concert venue attracting many popular stars and bands.

At the Victorian clocktower, you can continue along to the harbour (and Lifeboat station); past the Turner Contemporary Gallery - which has injected new life into the 'old town' area, and up to the police station. Margate has the only police station for Thanet; the officers and staff are supported by the minister currently serving All Saints' and St John's.

Alternatively, straight on from the clocktower brings you to the town centre and Cecil Square, which is not only the transport hub, but also houses the Thanet District Council offices. A right turn and you reach the church of St John the Baptist, a grade 1 listed building.

While the interior of the building is a place of quiet beauty, the church serves one of the most economically deprived parishes in the country – in the top 3% on the 'Index of Multiple Deprivation Data'. The churchyard is often a place of refuge for the homeless, the marginalised and the socially deprived. Some of the surrounding, high density housing stock is of poor quality with a preponderance of elderly folk and young families, often with a generally low skills base matched by low expectations - in noticeable contrast to the recent prosperity and investment linked to the art scene and Airbnb culture elsewhere in Margate.

Travelling south you pass the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital, and Pilgrim's Hospice. Both within the parish of St John's, they have close links with the parishioners. Further south and you are again within the parish of All Saints' and at the extreme end of the parish boundary you will find Westwood Cross. This is our largest shopping complex which, as well as having a wide range of shops, cafes and restaurants, has a ten-pin bowling alley, and the Vue Multiplex cinema.

Travelling back down to All Saints' Church you pass several new housing estates, all of which fall within the parish boundaries. Here, too, is St John's Cemetery (opened in the 1850s when St John's Churchyard was full). The cemetery is next to Thanet Crematorium.

Close to All Saints' is Hartsdown Academy, a co-ed school for 11-18 year-olds. A member of the congregation of All Saints' makes regular visits into Hartsdown Academy. The school puts on a choir concert for year 7 pupils in All Saints' in December. There are two nurseries, one being Manor House, located in Hartsdown Park. The other is Bright Start which is in Hartsdown Road, a few yards from All Saints'. Bright Start holds a graduation ceremony in All Saints' in July and a Harvest Festival in October. Both nurseries put on a Christmas play in the church in December.

Margate has become a real tourist hot spot in recent years and, following the opening of The Turner Contemporary and more recently the Carl Freedman Gallery which is partially curated by Tracey Emin, has attracted creatives from all over the world to live and work in our town. Dame Tracey Emin, an alumna of the old Holy Trinity School, is investing heavily in the town, developing unused, neglected buildings for Art Schools and Studios as well as good quality accommodation. She has been rewarded for her support of Margate with the Freedom of the Town. Although many newcomers currently have no relationship with the church, they appear keen to be involved in the community side of Margate; aware of their relatively recent presence, they often want to give back to the community in a way that is right for them.

Our setting at St John's, and particularly the church itself, is a real community space that could serve as a music and exhibition venue. It could provide creative meeting space for groups within the local community, with the Community Centre itself already being used by many local groups. I believe that by reaching out to the more philanthropic side of this group of residents and helping to raise the historical and cultural significance of the church within Margate, we can involve them in the church and allow them to connect with us as Christians and start to explore their own faith.

*Emily Whittaker, Local Authority
Environmental Health Officer and
Foundation Governor at HTSJ*

In Hartsdown Park can be found the council run indoor swimming pool and gym with ample parking. There is a skate park, a netball court and a tennis court that can be hired by the public. The Sea Cadets and the Scouts both have places where they meet in the park. Rainbows, Brownies and Guides meet one evening a week in All Saints' Church Hall.

PRIEST IN CHARGE

ST JOHN'S MARGATE AND ALL SAINTS' WESTBROOK

A Message from the Bishop of Dover



Welcome and thank you for taking an interest in the role of Interim Priest in Charge of St John's Margate and of All Saints' Westbrook, two adjacent parishes in the historic coastal town of Margate. You will see from the parish profile some of the specific things that the parishes are 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" with a small cross symbol to its left.

The Rt Revd Rose Hudson Wilkin

Bishop of Dover and Bishop in Canterbury

And a note from the Archdeacon of Canterbury and the Area Dean of Thanet:

Thank you for your interest in this exiting post in Margate, part of a newly founded Resource Church project for this part of the Isle of Thanet. 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 develop an important working relationship with the other churches in the town which are also benefitting from SMMF funding. These churches are Holy Trinity Margate and St Paul's Cliftonville. The Resource Church project is led by the Reverend Mark Nelson, who is priest in charge of Holy Trinity and of St Paul's. The future shape of ministry in the town and the ways in which the incoming resources can be shared across the churches is work in progress and the new priest in charge of St John's and of All Saints' will play a key part in these discussions.

You will see from the profile that Margate 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. St John's is the historic parish church of Margate and occupies a prominent position in the town. For this reason one of the key aims for the new priest in charge will be engagement with the town, its institutions and its communities.

The communities in Margate are many and varied. There are areas of considerable deprivation (St John's parish is one of the most deprived in the South East of England) alongside a burgeoning artistic scene (Dame Tracey Emin grew up in and is based in Margate) and increasing numbers of families who have moved to the seaside from London and elsewhere. Both St John's and All Saints' (which is in a residential area to the west of the town centre) seek to engage with their local communities.

The two churches remain separate benefices for now (pending discussion and reorganisation) but they have increasingly been working together during what is now a long vacancy since the departure of the last incumbent. Both have a eucharistic liturgical tradition (All Saints' is more distinctively Catholic and St John's more central) and are enthusiastically inclusive.

This is an important appointment, and the final piece in the jigsaw of the renewal of ministry in Margate. The SMMF has invested heavily in the town (the Diocese of Canterbury received a multi-million pound grant over five years to support mission and ministry in Margate). There is a sense of enthusiasm and a real willingness to engage and to support a new priest.

We 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

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The Reverend Canon Philip
Musindi KHC
Area Dean of Thanet

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ST JOHN'S MARGATE

WHO ARE WE?

We have long been a congregation who welcome all. We are an inclusive church, which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate on any grounds. We are joined on Sundays by those who need an accessible church; by adults with additional needs who are accompanied by their carers; by families supporting children who have additional educational needs. Our organist is able to read to the congregation using his Braille bible and we involve others with additional needs in taking on roles such as server.

Both St John's and All Saints' hold a regular monthly healing service. It has been a great encouragement to see how readily the whole congregation respond to the call to come forward for prayers of healing when offered. This underlines our openness to God's work in our lives and our willingness to seek His help.

OUR COMMUNITY

The Parish church of St John the Baptist is seeking a new priest who will also minister to the congregation of All Saints' Westbrook.

When a post on Facebook announced last year that the church would close for the coldest period of winter (omitting the words 'for Friday morning opening') there was an eruption of protest. 'It's my church; I was married/baptised/attended Sunday school. What about the carol service, the bells? What will happen? It's OUR church.' Our Facebook page has never had so many comments from the Margate community.

Even though many members of that community do not regularly attend St John's (or any church), they still see it as 'theirs'. They want to be married there, for their children to be baptised there and sometimes for family funerals to take place there. Those who walk their dogs in the Churchyard 'keep an eye' and others plant Spring flower bulbs. Concerns are raised if tiles are seen to be missing from the roof!

OUR CHURCH

The re-ordering of the church in 2005 created mezzanine gallery space as well as a modern kitchen, accessible toilet and flexible seating at the back of the church, a useful area for post-service coffee and social community events.



St John's is popular for weddings and baptisms. Traditional services, such as our Carols by Candlelight Service, always attract large numbers - but our regular Sunday services have much smaller congregations.

Open for visitors on Friday mornings between Easter and October, the church also takes every opportunity to open at other times of the year. Events in the church promote community engagement. Visitors find a warm welcome, enjoy St John's hospitality and know they will find support.

We moved to Margate when we first bought our home (here) some years ago and felt there was a vibrant artistic community here with good transport links, regular buses into Canterbury and trains into London. When we retired to Margate recently, I enjoyed walking around the artistic galleries and especially the Turner Contemporary and I also visited vibrant community projects. Margate Pride is owned and supported by many community groups and projects that we're actively taking part in by making banners and decorations. To me this demonstrates a wonderfully inclusive community. We have found St John's a very welcoming church. We also value the way lay leadership is encouraged. St John's is inclusive of the LGBT+ community as a diverse church with social projects.

The Reverend Jeanette McLaren, retired priest and member of the congregation at St John's

Our worship has been enriched by the many in our church who are keen to share their gifts, working alongside others in the community who also enjoy a variety of ways of expressing their creativity and celebrating their faith.



St John's worship is enhanced by our gifted organist (David is accompanied by his guide dog Lizzie) and small but committed choir, shared with All Saints' in joint services. There are occasional joint choir events with others from local choirs and our church school. A recent Organathon brought organists from wider Kent, and young organists are encouraged to practise under David's watchful eye.

A church has stood on the highest hill in Margate for almost 1000 years and is a focal point for the local community. On a clear crisp day it is not too fanciful to look towards a sea (now obscured by buildings) and remember that the Armada was anchored just off shore in the late 1500s. Indeed, there is a wealth of history within the church, containing as it does features from every century of its history including interesting brasses, many wall monuments and a very large collection of funerary hatchments. The rood screen and reredos are outstanding examples of 20th century woodcarving.

J M W Turner - who lived in Margate as a young schoolboy - sketched the southern aspect of St John's. Later he returned to the town and lodged with Mrs Booth with whom he was to share the rest of his life. Sophia Booth is buried in the graveyard.

Now in the 21st century, we are proudly celebrating the lives of Alfred Deller and Reverend David Railton MC who were an important presence in the early part of the 20th century. Deller, the world-famous counter tenor, was a boy chorister and Railton (Vicar 1920-1925) proposed the burial of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey.

The PCC, working in partnership with Margate Civic Society, unveiled a plaque to Alfred Deller in 2024 and they are planning a similar plaque for David Railton later this year. The church is open to the public regularly and takes part in the 'Heritage Open Days' event in September.

This is a church steeped in history and is life-enhancing; we feel the presence of the Lord in our church. We welcome visitors of all faiths and of none to share the peace of this historic building. Many people are moved by an ancient place where prayer has been offered by generation after generation. We hope that this experience may be another stepping stone on the road to faith and that they will join us in worship at other times.

Robin Colyer Vice-president Margate Civic Society and notable local historian



The plaque commemorating Alfred Deller was unveiled by his great great grandson

THE COMMUNITY CENTRE



Our community centre next door serves our wider, largely non-worshipping community, affectionately known as our 'other congregation'.

There is a large open space with a well-equipped kitchen, a committee room with a kitchenette, choir room and meeting room. It has single sex and accessible toilets. The facilities are frequently hired by local families for parties, and by organisations such as foster carers' support groups.

It's no coincidence that, as you look through the main hall doors, you see ahead of you a rainbow cross – with its powerful message that we welcome everyone. No disapproval of the wonderful variety of people and lifestyles lived in Margate will be found within our congregations, only a spirit of peace and friendship.

Our Community Centre hosts an AA group meeting every day other than Sunday, at varying times and for varying lengths, as well as a Cocaine Addiction Group and two Narcotics Anonymous support groups.

Youth groups include a lively Karate club, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. We keep groups abreast of church events through noticeboards and a regular centre user letter, which gives everyone a chance to join our church events. We also have a 'community pay-back' group, working without pay in the churchyard and centre which provides another outreach opportunity.

On being a member of the 'other congregation'

My name is Kelli and I am an addict and alcoholic. I stand before you today nearly two years clean and sober, and walking a beautiful life hand in hand with Christ. This would never have been possible without the help, love and support of the fellowships of AA and CA which I regularly attend at St John's Community Centre. They are a lifeline for people lost and suffering in the pain of addiction, and the calm and spiritual environment of St John's helped steer me and many others to Christ to find the light and be saved.

St John's supports a local food bank run by the neighbouring RC church in addition to giving practical support when asked for food. We have fostered good links in order to point those presenting with significant needs to the right organisations; RISE (Rough Sleeper Intervention Support and Empowerment) for example.

Ongoing support and intervention for the homeless or addicted in the churchyard can range from identifying the vulnerable in need of medical help

or specialist advice and waiting with them until the appropriate help is available. This can be a major test of our desire to make all feel welcome but we are committed to treating all with dignity and compassion.



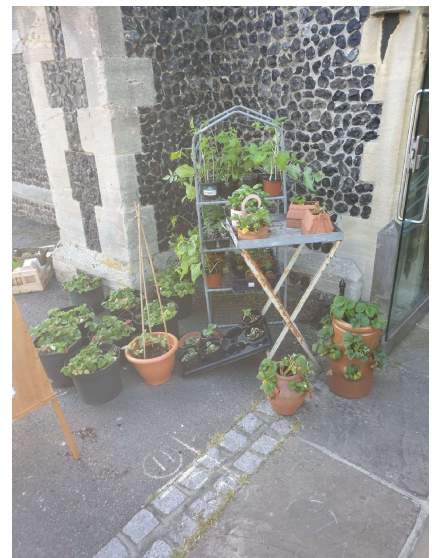
Silver Band concert



Presentation of water colour



Community Lunch



Plants and Produce Sale



*More please!
The annual pancake party*



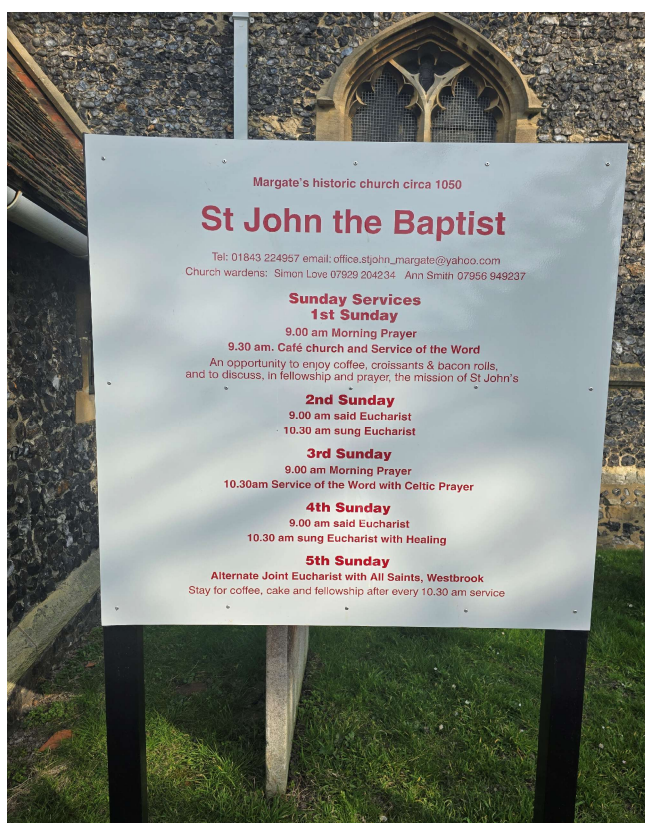
The Bell Ringers

MISSION

We are now half way through our third year without a vicar and the long interregnum has provided an opportunity for Church members to explore their gifts and talents, which have included leading worship on a Sunday in church and prayers for healing, as well as regular weekday services in a local residential home, drawing on our many years' experience of lay involvement in ministry such as hospital visiting and home communion. Others engage with our church school, Holy Trinity and St John's CE Primary School. Members of our congregation also take opportunities to develop their own spiritual lives by involvement in local Lent and Advent courses and prayer initiatives such as World Day of Prayer.

Our outreach has included children's activities such as a pancake party and holiday activity days, as well as social events including a monthly Bingo and Afternoon Tea. A vibrant monthly Saturday Shop provides affordable pre-loved children's toys and books, clothing and household goods (promoting a "green" lifestyle) alongside breakfast snacks in our café space. It fosters a strong sense of local connection to the church, which in turn creates more opportunities for pastoral care. It is an important place for those who are vulnerable, elderly or lonely to find encouragement while providing vital additional funding to help keep the Community Centre running.

In 2025 we have offered a Tuesday afternoon 'warm space' with refreshments and activities on a weekly basis, and we have ambitions to include after-school opportunities for homework and reading support, as well as a hot meal.



HOLY TRINITY AND ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

There are three primary schools in the parish, all of which use the church for significant services, but we enjoy a particularly close relationship with Holy Trinity and St John's Church of England Primary School (HTSJ). All three have a disproportionate number of children with special needs and in receipt of free school meals, and in HTSJ over 60% are in receipt of Pupil Premium, 26 different languages are spoken, and 15% of families can be defined as transient. Nevertheless, we have been encouraged by their willingness to participate in special services, for example, when the Archdeacon preached and re-dedicated the bells last September. This service, which included local uniformed groups for young people, had a large and very inclusive congregation (together with a wide and inclusive participation in the actual service) followed by a popular community lunch, all of which demonstrated the way the church has a special place at the heart of the local community.

In March this year Bishop Rose will be confirming children at the school, brought to confirmation by Fr Denis and Emily, a foundation governor.

Holy Trinity and St John's Church of England Primary School look forward to welcoming a vicar into the St John's and the school community. As a school we serve two of the most deprived wards in Kent. As a result our school supports the whole family, with pastoral support central to all that we do. In addition to our large educational team, we have a Family Support Team made up of two full time Family Liaison Officers and a full time Safeguarding Officer. Having a vicar walking alongside the school and its families will complement the pastoral work that is already happening. In addition to this, we would love our vicar to be a visible presence in school for our pupils, regularly leading worship, visiting classes and being available to provide pastoral support for our staff - we see the vicar very much as part of our school team. We hold key services at St John's that are led by the children and to have our vicar having a role in the services and key events in the school will further cement the links between the church and school.

Rob Garratt
Headteacher



PARISH LINKS

St John's is Margate's civic church, and traditionally the incumbent has been a recognised and approachable presence around the town and within its institutions which include many for young people such as Sea Cadets and Sea Scouts. Civic roles have included RNLI Station Chaplain, Police Chaplain, and, if chosen, the Town Mayor's Chaplain, leading the yearly Remembrance Service at the town War Memorial.

In 2025 St John's will be the venue not only for the civic service, but also for the Mayor Making ceremony.

Within the Parish is an Almshouse and residential home complex where a monthly Communion Service is offered. A member of our congregation will also take a turn with representatives of other Churches in Thanet, leading a monthly prayer service and visiting a member of St John's now living there.

Support of the bereaved is important to the St John's community and for many years there has been a regular service of Memorial and Thanksgiving which many people were able to attend. This year we will be holding two memorial services, the first on 'Low Sunday' and the second on 'the longest night' when the church will be open for reflection and thanksgiving for people of all faiths and none.

This year, 2025, marks the 975th anniversary of a place of worship on the site of St John's and we will celebrate with great joy that our Church remains a beacon of light, hope, comfort and Christian love within our town of Margate.



The church makes good use of Facebook to communicate and celebrate with the local community and other supporters in the wider area, including the text for Morning Prayer for those unable to attend church. There are over 865 members currently and a number regularly respond to church posts.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/553173564873500/?locale=en_GB

Facebook is used to point people to specific opportunities for economic, social and health support. It allows regular members of the congregation to keep in touch and it ultimately draws a much wider section from the local community, reinforcing the strong links so many have with the church.

ALL SAINTS' WESTBROOK



VISION

The vision of both churches, All Saints' along with St John's, is for each benefice to act as one to help people to be inspired in their faith, care for each other and reach out to the wider community of both parishes with the Gospel message.

MISSION

To continue to be a good witness to the Christian faith while actively reaching out to local communities to build on our relationship with the churches of St Paul's, Cliftonville and Holy Trinity, Cliftonville so that we make best use of gifts, talents and resources with the Churches Together Group.

To continue to be an inclusive church offering a warm welcome to all.

We have a desire to deepen our spirituality that will also empower us to reach out to others of a diverse nature.

We look to strengthen and build up the youth members of our parishes after the covid period. This includes working with local schools, uniformed organisations, and nursery schools within our parishes whilst seeking to preserve and value the best from both the present and the past of both parishes with the acknowledgement of the need to be open to change.

THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS

All Saints' is a Victorian Grade 2 listed building built on land given by the Hatfeild family. Its foundation stone was laid in 1892, and the church was consecrated in 1894. The side door (west entrance) in Hartsdown Road has an

access ramp. This entrance leads to the bell tower and parish office via a stone staircase. The tower has one bell.



Along the corridor, prior to entering the main part of the church, is the choir vestry room. In the church the nave has seating for 124.

There is a side chapel with another 55 seats, and a further 44 seats on the north side.

There is a children's area with a toy box etc.

Close by the Sacristy door there is a large bell

mounted on the wall, which is rung at the start of the service and during stages of the Holy Sacrament.

At the back of the church is a carpeted area with modern moveable seating of 24 seats used for socialising after the service and after evening PCC meetings.

All Saints' Church has many beautiful stained glass windows as well as choir stalls, a pulpit and an organ.

Though the church grounds are consecrated, there are no burials so the grounds are laid to lawn. We have created a sensory garden out of derelict land at the side and rear



of our church hall for the use of the community. At present this is being replanted with new perennial plants. We have a team of volunteers that keep the garden well maintained and the lawns regularly cut. We have invited a local nursery to create some art work that can be used to decorate the sensory garden.

Theologically we have an Anglo-Catholic tradition, but have surprised ourselves recently with how open we are to other styles of worship. We

consider ourselves to be inclusive and are very welcoming irrespective of church background, race, wealth, gender/identity/sexual orientation. We have not aligned ourselves to any grouping within the Church of England such as FiF or EA.



We are open to offering church blessings to married same sex couples and we have the aspiration to welcome members of the LGBTQ+ community to join us as a safe place to worship.

We recently held at All Saints' Church, a Greek marriage blessing, conducted by our local Greek Orthodox Church which was not large enough for the event. This was a great success.

We unite for a benefice service with St John's on any fifth Sunday in the month. Unlike St John's we do not have a church school at present. If we are able to grow our congregation, this might be an area we could look at developing if there were a

need.

We regularly take communion to local residential homes, some within our own parish and some within that of St John's.

We also support the food bank at St Paul's by donations of food etc. from an area in our church called 'Sandra's Cupboard'.

Every other week on Sundays (when Fr Denis is at St John's) the congregation lead the service at 10am which includes readings, blessings, time for prayers and reflection. This means we are keeping the church open all year.

Our church electoral roll stands at 30, with 9 living in the parish and 21 outside. We are a small congregation at present but determined to keep All Saints' alive and relevant for our parishioners.

CHURCH WORSHIP AND ACTIVITY

As well as Sunday services we hold Compline prayers on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Also we observe the Stations of the Cross during Lent. This takes place over 5 Tuesdays at 7pm and we sometimes welcome those from other churches when they do not have enough members to hold their own evening service.

We have an annual Mothering Sunday service which is attended by Guides, Brownies and Cubs who take an active part in the service.

We hold a well-attended yearly Remembrance service for those fallen in the two World Wars, led by the Birchington Silver band.

The local Sea Cadets also play a large part in the service. This year we had a beautiful 10ft high poppy display created by a member of the congregation with help from knitting volunteers.

We have a Christingle service on the afternoon of 24th December for children and adults with music played by the East Kent Coastal Silver Band.

In March 2025 All Saints' hosted a World Day of Prayer Service.

The local nurseries, school and uniformed youth organisations see All Saints' as 'their church' yet we struggle to turn this into attendance at regular Sunday worship or festivals and life events such as baptism and confirmation.



COME AND SERVE WITH US

WHY WE NEED YOUR HELP

In terms of overall deprivation, our area is 'one of the most deprived in the country'. However, this statistic does not give an accurate assessment of the health of the parish. To one side of the church is comparative wealth and good housing stock; to the other, poor housing and much more poverty. Added to this we struggle to attract attendance from either. Indeed on any Sunday a good proportion would have crossed one if not two parish boundaries to worship with us. (This may also be a feature of other parishes in Margate.)



The hall is hired out to a number of groups from the community that visit us on a regular basis for example, Brownies, Guides, the Thursday club, gymnastics club, dancing and slimming club. This can be mornings, afternoons or evenings and is often hired out for children's birthday parties on Saturdays and Sundays. A quiz and supper evening is held the last Saturday of the month with both All Saints and St Johns taking part plus members of the wider community. Money raised from hiring out the hall helps us to sustain the church.

The Vicarage is brick built. Dating from 1986 it has its own garden and garage with a large block paved area for parking. There are wooden gates at the front of the property which is accessed via a shared driveway. The driveway is used by church congregation and people using the church hall due to limited church parking spaces. The driveway is kept clear at all times to allow access to the vicarage.



The vicarage has been decorated and new carpet laid. There are 4 bedrooms.



The vicarage is situated alongside All Saints' Church.

THAT'S US – NOW ALL ABOUT YOU!

At our churches we share the excitement of the new opportunities being brought to Margate parishes with dedicated funding for Holy Trinity and St Paul's, re-vitalising the work of those churches and transforming the lives of Margate families. There is more about this in the Archdeacon's introduction above. We can see the potential of a local Resourcing Church supporting all and in particular we are looking forward to the opportunity to partner with the other churches in order to reach more of our town with the message of the love of God.

As the oldest church in the town St John's is proud of our ongoing outreach in this community, the connections we have with local residents across the generations and the impact we have on those who need hope and encouragement. Together with All Saints' we want to ensure our service in this town can continue for generations to come.

We understand the importance of ensuring there is a welcome that extends to all and in particular meets the needs of the younger and newer residents within our parishes. Both churches have a close and committed team where all are regularly involved in serving during services and outreach events.

We understand the importance of encouraging others who join us for worship to stand with us in those areas of service. We would welcome the practical support, the advice and the encouragement that the Resourcing Church could bring to St John's and All Saints'.

ROLE

- as we begin a new chapter in the story of Margate churches, to help strengthen our links with Holy Trinity and St Paul's, and to collaborate in advancing the national and diocesan strategy and the deanery mission plan
- to encourage, motivate and empower discipleship within the parishes of St John the Baptist, which has a central eucharistic tradition, and All Saints' Westbrook, with a modern catholic tradition
- to undertake the role of foundation governor at the church primary school (HTSJ), and to offer acts of worship at the school
- to build on our links with two other primary schools within the parish of St John's, Hartsdown Academy in the parish of All Saints', as well as several pre-schools in both parishes
- to develop missional links with community centre users, and the wider community of marginalised folk who are often found in our churchyards

and to be a visible presence in our town, meeting parishioners 'where they are'

- to encourage the congregation to continue to develop their own opportunities for ministry, fostering their active participation
- to preside and preach at regular Sunday services in both churches and at special services within the liturgical year
- to support the pastoral needs of both congregations, especially those who are old or ill and unable to attend services, and to visit and minister to our care homes
- to work with the church wardens in overseeing grant applications and on-going refurbishment – principally the installation of a new heating system in St John's, and the replacement of an old and inefficient heating system in All Saints'
- to visibly and actively engage with the diverse and vibrant community which is Margate.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Theologically St John's and All Saints' are open and inclusive congregations - not 'our church' but God's church, here to reflect the love of God, where all are welcome. Both St John's and All Saints' subscribe to the principles of 'Living in Love and Faith'.

A prospective incumbent:

- will have been ordained priest within the C of E, or a church in communion with it, or whose order it recognises
- will have satisfactorily completed Initial Ministerial Education
- will be able to demonstrate a capacity to exercise priestly ministry at incumbent status, which includes vision setting and community involvement
- will have an appreciation of the privileges and challenges of continuing worship in historic parish churches

We would also like our incumbent to have an understanding, if not experience, of:

- the opportunities and challenges of ministry within poorer seaside parishes that sit alongside a burgeoning artistic community
- the need to equip, motivate and support the congregation in developing their relationship with God and their gifts
- developing fresh ways of drawing people to God
- developing town and community links with those whose involvement with church is limited



We will want candidates to talk to us about their journey of faith – what has led them to their ministry and our town - and we will ask whether they share our determination to ensure that St John's and All Saints' (the congregations and the buildings) will continue to point our marginalised community to a Saviour who knows them, loves them and values them.

We know our churches provide significant opportunities for a wide variety of performances and we are looking to increase the use of our buildings. Our recent links with the Margate Civic Society (see events appendix) have connected us to the 'heritage community' drawn by past

events and centuries of prayer, and encouraged to stay and be part of our future.

Appendix 1

2025 Diary of events at church

	St John's	All Saints'
11 th January	Afternoon Tea and Bingo	
18 th January	Saturday shop	
25 th January		Quiz and Supper
8 th February	Afternoon Tea and Bingo	
15 th February	Saturday Shop	
20 th February	Children's Activity Morning with breakfast	
4 th March	Pancake Party for all 2pm to 5pm	
8 th March	Afternoon Tea and Bingo	
9 th March	Baptisms for HTSJ confirmation candidates	
15 th March	Saturday Shop	
19 th March	Confirmations at HTSJ	
22 nd March		Quiz and Supper
12 th April	Afternoon Tea and Bingo	
18 th April	Good Friday service	
19 th April	Saturday Shop	
20 th April	9am Parish breakfast 11am Easter Sunday Service. Baptism	
26 th April		Quiz and Supper
27 th April	Afternoon Memorial Service	
10 th May	Afternoon Tea and Bingo	
11 th May	APCM	
17 th May	Saturday Shop – special focus plants, produce and lunch	
22 nd May	Mayor Making Service 7pm	
24 th May		Quiz and Supper
14 th June	Afternoon Tea and Bingo	
21 st June	Saturday Shop	
22 nd June	Patronal Festival - Silver Band concert and Strawberry Tea	
28 th June		Quiz and Supper
29 th June		5 th Sunday St J at AS followed by bring and share buffet

6 th July	Recovery Sunday – a chance to pray with our “other community”	
12 th July	Afternoon Tea and Bingo	
19 th July	Saturday Shop	
26 th July		Quiz and Supper
23 rd August		Quiz and Supper
31 st August	5 th Sunday AS at St John's bring and share picnic	
12 th September	Heritage Opening (National Heritage Open Days)	
13 th September	Afternoon Tea and Bingo Heritage Opening plus Ride and Stride	
14 th September	Heritage Opening plus special service with dedication of plaque for Reverend David Railton MC	
20 th September	Saturday Shop	
27 th September		Quiz and Supper
11 th October	Afternoon Tea and Bingo	
12 th October	Harvest Service followed by lunch	
18 th October	Saturday Shop	
25 th October		Quiz and Supper
31 st October		All Saints' Day at All Saints'
2 nd November	All Souls' – Multilingual Celebration with HTSJ school	
8 th November	Afternoon Tea and Bingo	Remembrance service with Birchington Silver Band
15 th November	Saturday Shop	
22 nd November		Quiz and Supper
30 th November	5 th Sunday – service with AS	5 th Sunday – service with AS
7 th December	Christingle	
13 th December	Afternoon Tea and Bingo	
14 th December	Carols by Candlelight	
20 th December	Saturday Shop	

21 st December	"The Longest Night" (Blue Christmas) Carol service	
24 th December	Midnight Service	
25 th December		Christmas Day Service at AS

A diary with this number of special events in addition to regular Sunday worship is a challenge for small congregations, and both All Saints' and St John's appreciate the support we have had and continue to receive from Father Denis, especially with weddings, baptisms and Holy Communion.

We are asking God to lead the right person to us, and that He will prepare our hearts and minds that we might be able to welcome our new priest, and work together to draw our community into a fresh understanding of God's love for them.