

The Archdeacon of Ashford

The Venerable Darren Miller
The Archdeaconry, Pett Lane,
Charing, Ashford, Kent TN27 0DL
Telephone: 01233 712649
Email: darren.miller@archdeacashford.org



April 2020

Thank you for taking the time to explore the role of Rector of the Saxon Shoreline Benefice. This is a fascinating and challenging role for the right person who will need to help the benefice grow and change as the Church nationally adapts to ministry in a fast-changing world. In rural ministry there are particular challenges of populations spread over large distances, churches in small communities and the various pressures that are particular to country life. Nevertheless, in the Saxon Shore Benefice, the people have started their response to these challenges with a successful ecumenical partnership at Hamstreet, innovative services in a number of churches and the potential for Kenardington church to offer a very particular ministry in rural prayer.

You will see from the profile that there may be new initiatives, but the parishes also appreciate the traditional, pastoral approach of church and that community is very important. So, although innovation is important, the new Rector's ability to do so sensitively while honouring what has been inherited is also important.

Joining us as our *Changed Lives* → *Changing Lives*, will enable the new Rector to help others be enabled to share their faith in ways that are appropriate to them, while every person is helped to grow God's church. The aim is very much for every Christian to live up to their baptismal commission and so, although this will be a role with challenges and much fulfilment, the new Rector will not be taking it on alone but very much as part of God's family in this place.

I very much hope you enjoy exploring whether God is calling to the Saxon Shore and I'd be happy to discuss the role informally if you would like.

With my prayers and good wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Darren Miller', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

The Ven D N Miller
Archdeacon of Ashford