



PRIEST IN CHARGE

ST MARGARET'S-AT-CLIFFE BENEFICE

A Message from the Bishop of Dover



Thank you for taking an interest in the role of Priest in Charge of the St Margaret's-at-Cliffe Benefice. You will see from the profile some of the specific things that the benefice is looking for – and a little of what the team here hopes the future may look like. Of course, part of your discernment process in coming to this role is 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.

Where we are heading

At the heart of all we do is a vision of transformation for ourselves and our communities: no one can encounter God and remain unchanged. Increasingly, in our diocese, we want to become a Christian community transformed through encounter with Christ, overflowing to transform and bless the families, homes and communities we serve in Kent: *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.

Changed Lives → *Changing Lives* unites us in purpose but will be expressed in different ways according to what makes sense for different parts of our diocesan family. It is also a living strategy





– as we listen to God and one another, the shape of our work together will undoubtedly change and grow. In December 2020 I wrote to all the Deaneries to ask them to consider what their mission priorities are and how their deanery should be shaped in order to flourish and be sustainable. In response every Deanery has set their own starting place to move forward from.

To find out more about this post please contact the Archdeacon of Ashford, the Venerable Darren Miller (01233 712649/darren.miller@archdeacashford.org). You would also be welcome to have an informal discussion with the Area Dean, the Revd Andy Bawtree (01304 822037/rockabillyrev@hotmail.com).

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. If a lay appointment is made to this post, we will endeavour to provide equivalent support to you. 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.

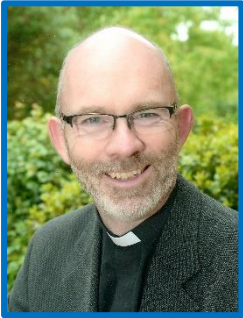
+ Rose

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





Archdeacon's Introduction



You'll see from the profile that these parishes would like their new priest to be someone visible in the communities. In many ways, this is quite an old-fashioned approach, but one which is appropriate for this setting – these are villages where relationships count and the parish priest is a leader in creating and nurturing those relationships. However, the parish priest wouldn't be left to it on their own as there is a good team of lay people and retired clergy who are active in mission.

There's also a realisation locally that things do need to change with the time which is why the benefice is actively looking at what structure best suits the parishes and mission for today. There is currently a draft scheme being worked on to reduce the number of parishes from four to two. The profile speaks a number of times about how the foundations are in place on which they can build and grow. For the parishes, the key to achieving that is the leadership of a new parish priest. If you are comfortable with rural ministry, a pattern of worship centred on the Eucharist but not exclusively so, visible but able to share and delegate, and have a missional outlook to ministry, this could well be the post for you.

We are committed to supporting you fully with dedicated colleagues in the deanery and across the diocese. We would expect you to have a pastoral supervisor and can work with you on other training and support as required.

I hope that you will find much information about the benefice and diocese in the recruitment pack but please feel free to contact me for an informal discussion if that would help.

With my prayers as you discern whether God is calling you to serve in this part of East Kent.

The Ven Darren Miller
Archdeacon of Ashford





The Canterbury Diet for Incumbents and Priests in Charge

<p>After licensing the Incumbent meets with the Director of Mission & Ministry who introduces the priest to the</p> <p>Canterbury Diet</p> <p>and offers a</p> <p>Pastoral Supervisor</p> <p>with whom she/he meets not less than four times per year</p>	<p>Golden threads</p> <p>How are prayer and spiritual practices being developed? How am I learning and reflecting on ministry practice? How are we attending to good relationships and collaborative ministry?</p>
<p>Ministers acquire a</p> <p>Spiritual Accompanier</p> <p>and meet regularly, recommended 6-8 weekly</p>	
<p>In the first two years the Incumbent or Priest in Charge attends the</p> <p>Ministry Training Programme</p> <p>Monday to Friday residential courses generally held in Bruges</p> <p>Week One : The Minister as Learner (January, soon after licensing)</p> <p>Week Two: The Minister as Leader (June, of the same year)</p> <p>Week Three : The Minister as Missioner (January, the following year)</p>	
<p>Participation in the annual</p> <p>Ministerial Development Review</p> <p>Meet with Consultant Reviewer, complete a Personal Development Plan; meet with Archdeacon a year later and update the PDP, and so on, with opportunity to review Pastoral Supervision and Spiritual Accompaniment. Also meet with the bishop <u>during the course of the two-year cycle</u>.</p>	
<p>As able, participate in professional ministry courses:</p> <p>Management Skills Course</p> <p>Working with Conflict</p> <p>Leading Change</p> <p>each a two by one day course, offered regularly at advertised times through the year</p>	
<p>Participation in four</p> <p>Wellbeing Courses</p> <p><u>two hour</u> evening meetings, two offered per year</p>	
<p>Participate in relevant</p> <p>Continuing Ministry Development Events</p> <p>at advertised days and times</p>	





OUR DIOCESAN VISION

Changed Lives, Changing Lives

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 - both at a diocesan level and in our deaneries - are outlined in detail over the rest of this document. Of course, these actions will change and develop over time - and we would encourage our parishes to consider this vision carefully for themselves, to explore together what actions they will commit to take, what their local 'Therefore we will...' might look like.

