

## Parish Profile

# St Martin & St Paul Canterbury



**An inclusive parish — a place to belong**

**September 2024**

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## Our Mission Statement

*We are called to worship God in Jesus Christ and to make Christ known in our community. We do not have all the answers. We are on a spiritual journey. We look to scripture, reason and tradition to help us on our way. Whoever you are, we offer a space for you to draw nearer to God and walk with us.*



# Who are we?

## St Martin's Church - a World Heritage Site

St Martin's Church holds a special place in the history of Christianity as it is recognised as the **oldest parish church** in continuous use within the English speaking world.

It was used first for Christian worship by Queen Bertha. At the end of the 6th century it was expanded by Saint Augustine who, from here, began the re-conversion of England to Christianity. Our church stands as a testament to centuries of worship and spiritual significance.

As a building and worshipping community of '**Unbroken Prayer**', we welcome many visitors and tourists. Our main Sunday service in the sacramental tradition aims to make the most of this special space. Services take the form of a quiet, reflective Eucharist with the inclusion of music and hymns once a month.



## St Paul's without the Walls - Church & Centre

St Paul's without the Walls is an ancient city church that has been much changed architecturally over the centuries.

We are a **friendly and growing** community which enjoys high quality worship and a varied and fun-filled community life. This is underpinned by a deep sense of faith and care for one another.

St Paul's has a tradition of joyful sacramental worship and choral music, blended with some more relaxed or quieter services. Open throughout the week, both the church and the large, well appointed adjoining Parish Centre are increasingly used by the wider community as a cultural hub and music space.

Our **re-ordered, warm and large** worshipping space means we now have five varied worshipping communities who meet at different times throughout the week or month.

Our aim is that, as an Inclusive Church, everyone can here find '**A place to belong**', so that all who worship and visit may witness the transformational power of God's love and word.

# What we can offer to you, our new Rector

- A warm, friendly and welcoming parish community.
- A parish that is praying for growth in numbers, in spiritual commitment and in service to our wider community.
- A parish that values its liturgical worship and high quality music.
- The assistance of a collaborative ministry team including a SSM curate (about to finish training), four lay readers and a number of retired clergy.
- A parish where the Rector does not (and is not expected to) do everything. We have established teams who assist our parish priest with the planning and running of all of our worshipping communities.
- The opportunity at St Martin's to shape significantly the future of a church that has been worshipping longer than any other in the English speaking world.
- Church buildings in good repair, one with very good facilities, plus a multi-use Parish Centre.
- Churches that are open to the public regularly throughout the week for visitors, pilgrims and our local community.
- A full complement of wardens, Deanery Synod and PCC members.
- A parish that has always paid its Parish Share and supports a range of local, national and international charities.



# Our Vision & Priorities

## Build up St Martin's Church

*St Martin's is an inspiration to prayer. We welcome 12,000 visitors a year who, with us, follow in the footsteps of Queen Bertha and St Augustine. St Martin's is a privilege and joy for the parish - but also a significant responsibility.*

- **Sustainability of the worship and building** at St Martin's is the main priority for the parish. The worshipping community on Sundays is small and **the church lacks key facilities**.
- We need to **build up the existing congregation** and develop new worshipping communities in this 'thin place', in order to continue the Christian mission that began here over 1,400 years ago.
- We want to be able to offer toilet and refreshment facilities to meet the needs of worshippers and our large number of visitors.
- We would like to **increase the number of secular stakeholders** involved in this World Heritage Site to help develop its future and tell its story, perhaps through a new friends' group.

## Build on at St Paul's without the Walls

*St Paul's is home to several worshipping communities and is growing. New, younger worshippers are particularly attracted to our (mostly) traditional yet varied worship styles, our choral music, our inclusivity and our friendly community.*

- We are very **good at welcoming** people and offering high quality worship. The parish offers learning and Lent groups, but we are not so good at nurturing the faith of parents and those of working age, outside of attendance at our services.
- We need to **build on our numerical growth** by **encouraging new disciples** through home groups and teaching new Christians about the faith.
- We aim as a minimum to **double our number of children and young people** across all aspects of parish life. We hope to build their faith, and enable them to take the fullest possible part by increasing opportunities for them to participate, lead, intercede, serve, sing, preach and read across our variety of services - sacramental, formal and informal.
- We are seeking funding for a **Junior Choir** which we hope will form a key part of our future growth strategy for young people.

## Build out into our community

*Our church buildings are situated on the periphery of the parish boundaries. Thousands of homes have been built in our parish in recent years, and more are planned - yet with no new community facilities.*

- We have built **some good connections** and foundations into our older housing estates but are **yet to start in the new developments**.
- We recognise that having so many new parishioners, a large number of educational establishments and deanery-wide initiatives provide opportunities to make Christ known in our community and this is something **we are praying for and want to do - but we do not yet know how to turn aspiration into action**.

## Our new Rector

### We are seeking a parish priest who:

- Can guide our parish with an **enthusiastic and vibrant faith** that will challenge and inspire us to grow the Kingdom together.
- Will be **creative and innovative** in enhancing the **choral, sacramental and liturgical** traditions of the parish.
- Has the energy, stamina and skills required to **lead the parish team** as it seeks to move the exciting development project at St Martin's from **vision to reality**.
- **Relates well to young people**, their families and those of working age; and in doing so is **committed to teaching the faith and encouraging the growth of new disciples**.
- Is a **collaborative leader** who recognises the gifts of others and nurtures them to develop their own ministries and leadership roles.
- Will be **visible** within the parish and wider community, and become known as an **approachable** and **compassionate pastor**.
- Will embrace our **inclusive** ethos.
- Will be committed to being **involved actively as part of the team** in all of our worshipping communities. We have busy Sunday schedules which include two morning Eucharists and a range of monthly afternoon or evening services.
- **Is comfortable navigating the digital space**, including the use of social media and digital tools to communicate effectively, in order to enhance community engagement and outreach.



# Parish life - a family album



**Parish Eco-Group:  
St Martin's Churchyard Working Party  
(St Paul's has an Eco Silver Award)**



**Parish Pantomime:  
Beauty and the Beast 2024  
staged in St Paul's**



**Advent Posada  
visiting the  
Community Larder on  
Spring Lane**



**Rev. Dr Charlotte Sleigh  
Parish of St Martin and St Paul, Canterbury**

**Easter Songs of Praise from St Martin's, 2024**



**Choir Visit to Rochester Cathedral 2024**

## Worshipping Communities - Sunday Mornings



### Parish Eucharist at St Paul's without the Walls

#### About our Sunday Morning worship

Morning services at both churches are sacramental and liturgical in nature. Services are **Common Worship Eucharists** with the liturgy of the Word led either by a priest or reader. Vestments are worn at all services. Sermons are preached by the Rector and our experienced team of clergy and licensed lay ministers, whose **quality and varied styles of preaching** are greatly appreciated. **Members of the congregation take part** in readings, leading intercessions, singing, serving and the administration of the Eucharist. Our congregations encompass a very wide range of church backgrounds and therefore our Sunday morning services are typically **rooted in the central Eucharistic tradition**. This acts as our anchor point whilst drawing on elements from the liturgical breadth of the Church of England.

#### 9am Eucharist at St Martin's

Sunday mornings at St Martin's make the most of our special space in the form of a **quiet, reflective** Eucharist. On the first Sunday of the month, we have a Sung Eucharist with hymns taken from Common Praise (A&M 2000). We gather together early on a Sunday Morning for **peace and stillness** to celebrate the Eucharist and to hear a sermon given by one of the ministry team. The service lasts around 50 minutes and is followed by coffee and fellowship at the back of the church. Attendance is usually around 15-20 which, particularly during the summer months, is supplemented by visitors and pilgrims who want to experience worship here.

#### 10.30am Sung parish Eucharist at St Paul's

Our Sung Eucharists are **joyful**. Services are a mixture of music, scripture, preaching, prayer and sacrament. We are a **growing congregation** with worship that closely aligns with the various seasons, festivals and feast days of the Church's year.

**Music holds an important role**. We have a robed choir which leads us in enthusiastic singing of the liturgy and psalm as well as singing an anthem and an occasional introit. Hymns are taken from the most recent version of Hymns Ancient and Modern which was purchased in 2019. **Young disciples** are always warmly welcomed in our church. Sunday Zone for primary school-age children typically runs concurrently with the Parish Eucharist most weeks, and children and young people are encouraged to join the Altar serving team and choir should they wish. We are currently wanting to engage them more in taking part in our sacramental worship through leading, reading and praying, as well as communion before confirmation.

Attendance is usually around 80 adults plus around eight under 16s. **It is a diverse congregation** attracting people from all walks of life who then enjoy fellowship in the Parish Centre afterwards. Anointing is offered on fifth Sundays of the month.

***This service is live streamed on our YouTube channel and past recordings give a good sense of what our worship is like.***



## Worshipping Communities - Sunday afternoons and evenings



St Paul's @ TeaTime

### 3.30pm TeaTime at St Paul's (monthly)

This is a more **informal time for children and their families**. Held at St Paul's, it is for young people to explore faith in a **relaxed and creative environment** and is not as liturgical than our other services. Worship sessions are made up with a combination of Bible stories, prayers, craft activities and songs followed by tea and cake. It is a service where we hope those who attend can come out of their shell and start their **first footsteps on their faith journey**. Attendance is typically made up of 20 adults and 16 children, with some feed-in from our Mothers' Union organised **Fisherfolk Toddler Group**.

### 5pm Quiet Prayers at St Martin's (monthly)

The walls of St Martin's are **saturated with the prayers** of monks and archbishops (historic and contemporary), pilgrims and visitors. Its small size brings intimacy to prayer, and is ideal for **quiet reflection**. 'Quiet Prayers' is a small community which meets for time together in silent prayer. We have **no formal liturgy**, though we come together at the end with a short form of said Compline, before going out into our lives and busy weeks ahead.

### 5pm Choral Evensong and Supper (monthly)

Having made the headlines, and been replicated in churches across the country, St Paul's has a well-known reputation for its Choral Evensong and Supper. This **proudly traditional service** consists of full Sung Choral BCP Evensong with Authorised Version readings lead by our ministers and choir. Each service has a theme and a guest preacher. Worship is followed by **supper and fellowship** in the Parish Centre next door. This service is attended by around **60 people from across a wide geographical area**, of different ages and different church backgrounds. Along with the music, the highlights are our interesting and **diverse guest preachers** and of course drinks, supper and fellowship afterwards. ***This service is live streamed on our YouTube channel.***



Choral Evensong and supper at St Paul's

**2.30pm Messy Church at Spring Lane (once or twice a term)** Spring Lane is a large 1950s housing estate within the parish. Messy Church, held in the Community Centre, has been a **long established** outreach missional opportunity that has built good relationships on the estate with **potential** for more.

## Worshipping Communities - other groups

### Growing in Faith for Young Adults

Growing in Faith (GIF) is our exciting new worshipping community for people in their 20s and 30s, created for friendship and for exploring faith. This group was formed in 2023 in response to the growth in numbers of young adults coming to worship at St Paul's. The group meets once a month for a short act of worship, breakfast, and to be a community. Up to 13 attended the group's Lent course. Two members are taking part in the diocesan Deepening Discipleship course.



### 10.30am Prayer Book Eucharist and coffee on Wednesdays

This is also a relatively new service that began in 2021 in response to the pandemic. Every Wednesday, around 15-20 gather together for a short service of the Eucharist from the Book of Common Prayer at St Paul's that lasts around 30 minutes, with a two or three minute homily. The service is followed by an opportunity to chat over coffee. Worshippers, who are drawn from the parish, deanery and wider geographical area, value the midweek 1662 liturgy and the fellowship that this service provides.



**9.15am Morning Prayer at St Paul's on Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays** Morning Prayer is said three times a week in a chapel at St Paul's using the Common Worship Daily Prayer service, led by members of our ministry team and congregation.

### Midday prayers at St Martin's on Thursdays

As a place of pilgrimage for many from across nations and denominations, each Thursday we hold informal prayers with an especial focus on Christian unity, pilgrimage and peace.

# Parish Life - our family album



St Martin's on ITV Meridian News for International Women's Day 2024, focusing on Queen Bertha



The Dames: Beauty & the Beast - 2024



Mothers' Union annual fish supper on the beach, Whitstable 2023



Strawberry Tea - 2023

## The Parish Centre - being with each other

Our large, fully accessible, Parish Centre adjoins St Paul's Church.

The Centre forms **the hub of our daily activities** as well as being an important source of income within the parish. The Centre acts as an on-site base for the Rector, being a place to meet people; most of our parish and clergy meetings take place here. The Parish Office is staffed three mornings a week.

The hall plays host to a Mothers' Union **parent and toddler group** (Fisherfolk), who use the facilities two mornings a week during term time. There is also a monthly **'Hangouts' youth group for teenagers**.

The hall has recently benefited from the addition of large screen presentation facilities and **audio-conference/ MS Teams/Zoom capabilities for hybrid meetings**.

Other facilities include a smaller meeting room, a children's room/second meeting room, a choir room, main hall and a fully equipped kitchen; all are available for hire via an online booking system and the facilities **are increasingly used by local community groups**.



**Meet, Eat and Explore**

The Parish Centre is **home to many of our fellowship activities**. These mainly involve food, drink, and laughter. Here we enjoy parish lunches, supper after Evensong, Easter breakfast and social gatherings throughout the year.

Our social activities draw people from across the city, different local churches and those on the edges of our parish life. The facilities enable us to undertake a range of other activities but also as a place to learn more about the Christian faith, such as hosting "Meet, Eat and Explore" talks.



**Fisherfolk Toddler Group**



**Evensong & Supper**

## Our team - a collaborative approach



**The parish has a strong tradition of collaborative ministry.** We are well known for fostering vocations of both ordained and lay ministries, with a significant number of former and current worshippers entering licensed or ordained ministry. We are designated as a training parish and currently benefit from a Self Supporting curate, who is at the end of her training

**The experienced ministry team** is enhanced by four lay readers, who help the Rector plan, lead and support the worshipping life of the parish along with the curate. The sacrament is reserved in both churches, to be taken to several retirement homes as well as ongoing pastoral visits. Three of the readers have an approved funeral ministry. We are fortunate to have a number of retired or sector-ministry priests who are members of our church and are willing to help with services when needed. **Details of the ministry team can be found here:** [www.martinpaul.org/our-team/](http://www.martinpaul.org/our-team/) .

**Our paid posts are:** a part-time parish administrator position (currently employed for nine hours a week); two church cleaners; an accomplished organist in each church; choir director; Sunday Zone leader; a playgroup leader and a part-time visits manager for St Martin's Church.

**We have a full complement of churchwardens** who are supported by deputies and members of the congregation. The Standing Committee and the PCC are committed, lively and articulate. There are a small number of committees which assist with the running of church life. The parish plays a full part in Deanery and Diocesan synodical life; one of our ministry team was on General Synod for a number of years and another currently acts as LGBT+ advisor to the Bishop of Dover.

## The Rector's local roles

**Extra-parochial ministry:** Previous Rectors have often taken up additional trustee, chaplaincy or governance roles in the wider community or diocese, depending on which matters or community groups play to their individual strengths and interests. As we feel it is important our priest is visible, the parish welcomes and encourages these wider ministries where our Rector feels called to undertake them.

**Almshouse Trustee:** In the parish, the Rector is *ex-officio* trustee, with others, of two almshouses, each of which is historically associated with one of the churches.

**Chaplain to Diocesan House:** With Diocesan House located within the parish, we value our warm relationship with Diocesan officers and employees for whom we pray each week. Staff Eucharists are also held at St Paul's. The previous incumbent acted as chaplain to Diocesan House by visiting weekly; acting as an impartial and discreet listening ear to those of all traditions; providing prayer and support; and occasionally taking pastoral services for staff members and their families. It is hoped that the new Rector will continue and further deepen this important relationship.

## The Rectory - your new home?

The large, well appointed, 1930s Rectory is located in a quiet cul-de-sac about a **10 minutes' walk from the city centre and both churches.**

The ground floor consists of: large kitchen/breakfast room with walk-in larder; dining room; spacious lounge with an open fire; Rector's study; WC; cloakroom; and utility room. Upstairs: there are four double bedrooms; two small single bedrooms; and a family bathroom with separate shower. The property has been well cared for and is in good decorative order throughout.

**Externally**, there is an attractive large, south facing rear garden with mature planting. A gardener is currently engaged to keep this in good order during the vacancy. At the front, there is a spacious driveway providing off-street parking for up to five cars plus a single garage.

**Local amenities within five minutes** include independent shops, Waitrose, Tesco Express, a doctors' surgery, a pharmacy, takeaways, and several restaurants.

There is a wide range of state and public **schools** in the area. Transport links to the rest of Kent are good, including a **High Speed Rail** service to London (56 minutes).

Each Rector has used the property in different ways over the years and **there is no expectation that the Rectory will be anything other than your private home.** Parish meetings usually take place in the Parish Centre, which also houses the Parish Office.



# Parish life - a family album



**24 hour PSALMATHON in aid of the foodbank**



**Fisherfolk toddler group  
30<sup>th</sup> birthday party**



**Easter dawn service at St Martin's 2024**



**Palm Sunday procession from  
Lady Wootton's Green to  
St Paul's 2024**

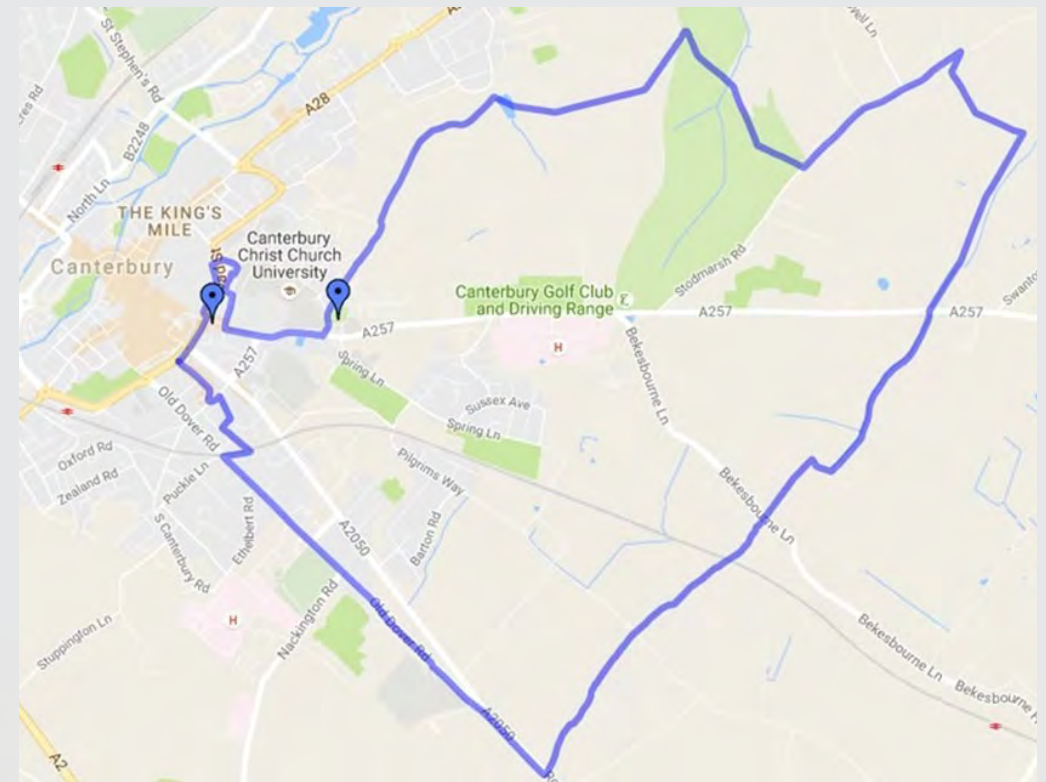
## The parish

The parish is a diverse area on the eastern side of the city with much ministry potential.

The boundaries extend from the city walls to four residential estates of various ages, and onto open country beyond. It represents a wide social and economic mix.

An area of countryside at the eastern boundary is likely to see substantial new development. The parish adjoins both the Cathedral Precincts and St Augustine's Abbey. It includes St. Martin's Hospital (a mental health unit) with its own chaplaincy provision. The site of a former army barracks is nearing the end of development with a mixture of private and social housing, including London resettlement.

The part of the parish nearest to the city centre includes both of our churches, a pub, some small shops and businesses, Waitrose, the Magistrates' Court, Diocesan House and the Bishop of Dover's residence.



Education is one of Canterbury's strengths and the parish has 10 educational establishments within its boundaries ranging from pre-school to Higher Education, including international institutions. The city hosts three universities. Canterbury Christ Church University (an Anglican foundation with its own chaplaincy team) is on our doorstep and the University of the Creative Arts is in the parish. Thus, there are many houses in multiple occupancy, resulting in a large transient population; additionally, there are several residential homes for the elderly, as well as three sets of almshouses.

There are some links with local schools - mainly the community primary school, which is being rebuilt. The ministry team and helpers regularly visit local retirement homes. There are established relationships with community groups through a long association with the Spring Lane Community Centre. Messy Church takes place throughout the year at Spring Lane with additional activities at Christmas and Easter, including community carol singing led by our choir.



# Finance and attendances

## Finance Report

At the end of 2023, the parish had capital of £170,000. Of this, £150,000 is invested in CCLA, most of which is unrestricted. We consistently pay our Parish Share, which is £90,600 per annum. The parish uses the Church of England Parish Giving Scheme for the majority of its donated income. Regular giving, including Gift Aid, is £88,761. Hire of St Paul’s Church and Centre generates around £20,000 per annum. This is supplemented by visitor donations at both churches, online giving via the website and one-off gifts. In most years, expenditure outstrips income but this is after Outreach payments to other charities (10% of regular income). Payment deficits are often covered by growth in investments. This meant that, in the year to 31 December 2023, there was a surplus of £8,000.

Looking forward, we aim to maximise additional income from further commercial hire of St. Paul’s Church and Parish Centre; encouraging new givers from growing congregations; and generating more visitor income at St Martin’s Church. Financially, our aim is to achieve a surplus every year so that we can develop parish activities, increase funds for missional opportunities, and maintain healthy reserves in case of any unexpected problems.

<b>October 2023 Attendances</b> <i>*Unless stated</i>	<b>ST. MARTIN</b>	<b>ST. PAUL</b>	<b>PARISH</b>
Electoral Roll	N/A	N/A	145
Usual <b>Sunday Eucharist</b>	18 Adults 1 Child	81 Adults 8 Children 25 Online	99 Adults 9 Children
St Paul’s at <b>TeaTime</b> <b>2023 Average</b>	N/A	20 Adults 16 Children	N/A
St Paul’s <b>Evensong and Supper</b> <b>2023 Average</b>	N/A	65 Adults 3 Children 36 Online	N/A
Usual <b>Wednesday Eucharist</b>	N/A	16 Adults	N.A
<b>Easter Day Eucharist 2024*</b>	35	169	204
<b>Christmas 2023*</b> (Eve & Day) Worshippers	31	119	150
<b>Baptisms</b>	5 Children 1 Adult	8 Children 5 Adults	13 Children 6 Adults
<b>Weddings</b> 2023	2	1	3
<b>Funerals</b> in Church	3	2	5
<b>Funerals at Crematorium</b> or Cemetery	0	7	7

## What else can we tell you?

It is not possible to capture all the detail of our common life together in one document. However, having now read this profile, if you feel called to be our new Rector or want to explore further, please consult:

**Welcome Video** - Created in 2023, our welcome video gives a good introduction to our parish life together and we look forward to updating this. Could it be you who will be giving the next Rector's welcome? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rxayZ-gYp6I>

**Children and Younger People** - Find out more about our different ministries with younger people including **Hangouts for Teenagers, Messy Church** and **Fisherfolk Toddler Group** - <https://www.martinpaul.org/children-and-families/>

**Music** - Find out more about our **choral tradition** at St Paul's including **Evensong and Supper** - <https://www.martinpaul.org/music/>

**Life Long Learning** - As a parish, we are committed to learning more about Jesus and **deepening our faith throughout our life**. We hold regular events throughout the year, including study days, lectures and information discussion groups: <https://www.martinpaul.org/life-long-learning/>

**Eco Church** - St Paul's without the Walls has an **Eco Church Silver Award** and we are currently making progress to achieve an award at St Martin's Church. Our latest updates can be found at: <https://www.martinpaul.org/eco-church/>

**Annual Report and Parish Magazine** - Our **parish journal (Pilgrim Post)** is produced monthly and along with our 2023 and 2024 **Annual Reports** tells you about what we did last year and what we are up to at the moment: <https://www.martinpaul.org/publications-and-resources>.

# RECTOR

## ST MARTIN WITH ST PAUL, CANTERBURY

### A Message from the Bishop of Dover



Welcome and thank you for taking an interest in the role of Rector of St Martin with St Paul, 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...**



Diocese of Canterbury  
CHANGED LIVES → CHANGING LIVES



[www.canterburydiocese.org](http://www.canterburydiocese.org)

'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.

+ Rose

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



**Diocese of Canterbury**  
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[www.canterburydiocese.org](http://www.canterburydiocese.org)

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

Thank you for taking an interest in the vacancy for the Rector of the Parish of St Martin with St Paul, Canterbury. This is an ancient parish – St Martin’s is the oldest church in the English-speaking world that is still in use and the Rector can arguably claim the title ‘Premier Rector of England’. But it is a forward-looking and positive parish and congregations. Taking seriously the traditions of the church and the needs of the world in the present day, the PCC and congregations of the parish are looking forward to this next chapter in their life together.

There is a job to do, though. The profile sets out a number of areas for growth and in the Diocese and the Deanery of Canterbury we are prioritising growth in the areas of children and young disciples, new Christian communities and the revitalisation of the life of the church at every level. Canterbury Deanery is made up of the city and some parishes on the city edge. The Deanery is working towards a Deanery Plan and the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee is active in exploring how mission and ministry might look in the future in our city.

The parish has real potential to be a flagship parish in the city and diocese. We are looking for someone with liturgical and pastoral nous, with sensitivity and with an eye for opportunities for growth and it would suit someone in the central or liberal Catholic tradition. The Parish is a member of the Inclusive Church network. A particular feature of the parish is that there are a very large number of educational institutions (schools, colleges and universities) within its borders. It has a mixed demographic, with areas of relative wealth and of economic deprivation. The parish plays a full part in the life of the deanery and diocese and, through the World Heritage Site (of which St Martin’s is a part) there are wider partnerships with the Cathedral, English Heritage and the local authority to maintain and strengthen.

If you feel that God is calling you to the oldest parish in England, then please apply. If you would like an informal conversation, please contact the Archdeacon of Canterbury (via [chemington@diocant.org](mailto:chemington@diocant.org) or 01227 473597) to make an appointment.

The Venerable Dr Will Adam FSA  
Archdeacon of Canterbury  
[archdeacon-canterbury@diocant.org](mailto:archdeacon-canterbury@diocant.org)

The Reverend Canon Jo Richards  
Area Dean of Canterbury  
[revjorichards@gmail.com](mailto:revjorichards@gmail.com)



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