



**TEAM VICAR**  
**of ST ALPHEGE, SEASALTER**  
**and**  
**TEAM RECTOR**  
**of WHITSTABLE**

The Diocese of Canterbury welcomes applications for this exciting post as Team Rector of the Whitstable Team and Team Vicar of St Alphege Seasalter . We hope that the following profile gives you a sense both of the vibrant community of faith at Seasalter and also a flavour of the life and witness of the other Churches in the team.

By way of background, this Team ministry was set up in 1984. The way that the roles were described in the team are as follows:

'The cure of souls of that area shall be shared by the incumbent of the Benefice, whose office shall be that of rector in the team ministry, and three other ministers, each of whom shall have the title vicar and a status equal to that of an incumbent of a benefice.'

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this opportunity and please be assured of our prayers as you consider whether God is calling you to be part of this ministry.

**The Venerable Jo Kelly-Moore**  
**Archdeacon of Canterbury**  
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# St Alphege, Seasalter



<http://stalphegesesalter.org/>



# St Alphege, Seasalter

## Our Vision

Belonging. Believing. Becoming. **Transforming.**

Our vision comes from what we see God doing...

**We can see our lives, our town and our world being transformed by the power of God's love in Jesus Christ.**

Our vision also comes from our calling...

**We are called to encourage belonging, and nurture believing, so that we may all become followers of Jesus who share God's love for the world.**

## Our Purpose

We are called to make Disciples of Christ and grow the church of God.

## Our Values

All involved

*Everyone playing their part*

Bearing witness

*Telling the Christian story*

Creating Community

*Loving and belonging*

Deepening discipleship

*Following Jesus, becoming like him*

Encountering God

*Experience His presence*

Finding friendship: Fun and Food

*Laughing and sharing*

Giving generously

*Giving with gladness*

# Our church

25 years ago St Alphege Seasalter comprised some 50 people gathering in the tiny mediaeval Old Church. Today the church family numbers 500 with the modern Seasalter Christian Centre as its hub. This extraordinary story of growth has not all been plain sailing but through it all we have seen God's hand guiding and holding us. Today we see some of those who were toddlers 25 years ago taking leading roles in worship and other parts of the church's life.

We are an inclusive open evangelical church, gently charismatic, steeped in prayer and experienced in change. We have thriving ministries with children and families, young people, "Twenties" and those in their Third Age, as well as everyone in between. There is a well-established Healing Ministry.

Our purpose is to make disciples of Jesus Christ and play our part in growing the church of God. We are an "intentional" church, seeking to use our skills and resources to further that purpose. As an inclusive church, we welcome and encourage all members of the church family to be involved and participate in active ministry.

We are one of the five churches in the Anglican Whitstable Team Ministry. Since the Team was set up in the 1980s relationships have developed while giving space to the individual churches to pursue their own mission imperatives.

Churches Together in Whitstable is a source of co-operation and encouragement.

Located just 6 miles from the centre of the Anglican Communion in Canterbury we are conscious of our roots. We commemorated the millennium of the martyrdom of our patron saint, Alphege, in 2012. Being the only church in the Seasalter district of Whitstable we include in our number many who didn't expect to find themselves as Anglicans!



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# Who we are seeking



A Spirit-filled person with a passion for the Lord and God's work with a track record of growth - both spiritual and numerically -who is able to build on the solid foundations already laid, delivering and overseeing sound teaching and prayerful ministry, whilst developing the gifts of the Spirit within the church family and encouraging and supporting others to grow in faith. You will have the ability to really engage with and encourage all ages through pastoral care that demonstrates accountability, understanding and compassion. We are a church family who have found that a sense of humour is essential, along with the ability to be flexible whilst maintaining strong leadership values with a clear focus on God's direction.

## **Leadership**

You are a proven leader with courage, grace and humility who is able to lead leaders, inspiring and enabling others to fulfil their gifts and God's calling within the church, providing clear guidance, direction, support and encouragement. You are a good communicator and networker with a desire to work with other churches, to spread God's word and grow his Kingdom and with key individuals to support communities and social cohesion. Your leadership style could be described as servant-hearted.

## **Teaching**

With a deep understanding of God's word you have the ability, energy and enthusiasm to preach the Gospel in a variety of styles. Your teaching, rooted in the Bible and made relevant for today, has a balance of challenge and encouragement and is able to reach all ages. You are prayerful and Spirit-led, helping existing Christians grow in faith and leading others to come to Christ. A key part of your work is supporting and developing others to take the lead in ministry, preaching, worshipping, praying and leading services.

## **Friendly, Compassionate and Understanding**

You are someone who always strives to see others as Jesus sees them - with love, compassion and understanding. You have energy and drive to really engage with people of all ages and from all backgrounds - to listen to them and understand the world from their perspective whilst also radiating God's love for them.

# Our Town

Whitstable is a seaside town on the north Kent coast, 6 miles from Canterbury and 3 miles from Herne Bay. It has a predominantly white population (98%) and has an overall population of about 32,000.

Life is centred very much on the working harbour whose activities include: fishing, fish processing, cargo handling and boat storage. The harbour area is also the home of other businesses such as tarmac manufacture and maintenance of an offshore wind farm.

It has also become a very popular focus for tourists and there is now an area called Harbour Village, based within the harbour which offers all manner of food and artisan gifts for tourists. Tourism is now a very large part of Whitstable's culture and plays a large part in revenue for the town.

Whitstable is also famous for its oysters which have been gathered from these shores since Roman times. The landing of the oysters is still celebrated each year when they are blessed by clergy at the annual Oyster Festival.



Whitstable provides good education for the children of the town with seven infant and junior schools and one senior academy school.

We operate under the Kent Test system and grammar schools are located in Canterbury and Faversham, a bus or train ride away.

St Alphege church is situated in Seasalter - there is another St Alphege church situated in the centre of town - which is a residential area of Whitstable with a population of around 8,000. It is located at the west end of the town where there are several caravan parks. Joy Lane Primary school is nearby. It also boasts a 2 star Michelin award restaurant in the Sportsman Pub. At low tide you are able to see the oyster beds lying in the mud approximately a mile from the shore.

Water sports are extremely popular throughout the year and there are three sailing clubs based in Whitstable, Tankerton and Seasalter. The beach and promenade is used by many dog-walkers, cyclists and families.

# Worship

## Services every Sunday at Seasalter Christian Centre

Services are led and preaching undertaken by both clergy and laity and we have a variety of worship bands who lead sung worship at all three of our weekly Sunday services.



### 8.45 am Holy Communion

Peaceful worship and teaching for about an hour using the Common Worship Holy Communion service

### 10.10am Lighthouse

The short 30-minute service for everybody with an emphasis on families and children

### 11.00 am All-age Worship

Everybody welcome to a service with more time for worship and learning from the Bible. In term time there are groups for children and young people during this service.

### Y Church 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm (except summer holidays)

A service led by our youth for our youth.

### Once a month at the Old Church

#### 11.15 am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion

Traditional worship in a place of prayer and peace (first Sunday of each month)

### During the week, every week, at the Old Church

#### 9.15 am Tuesday and Friday Morning Prayer

#### 9.15 am Wednesday Holy Communion

These services last about 45 minutes, are simple and informal and include Bible study and prayer.

## As we say on our website:

We offer a relaxed welcome and we avoid too much formality in our worship. There's good coffee and tea, a bit of a fight for the biscuits and there's no charge for the pleasure.

### Important info:

- There's no dress code - you can be yourself in God's presence.
- Sit where you like, including at the back if you just need to see what goes on.
- We'll come and say hello but there's no pressure on you to be anything but yourself.
- We don't use books at the Christian Centre, any words are projected onto the screens.
- If you are just visiting, you are not obliged to contribute to any offering or collection.

# Prayer



Our desire is for prayer to be the heartbeat of St Alphege Seasalter. Jesus instructs us 'to pray and not give up' (Luke 18:1). We long to be a church where people of all ages feel comfortable communicating with God, and have a hunger to seek Him with perseverance.

Our aim is to cultivate a culture of prayer that has thanksgiving at its core and to be a grateful people who are pursuing God for the greater things. We believe that prayer is the key that unlocks the blessings of heaven: we need only ask. We are building a community that prays all the time and uses prayer to change the world.

We have regular prayer meetings on a Friday evening: prayer point is 6pm-7pm and Silent Prayer is 8pm-8.30pm, both of which happen at the Christian Centre. Every Tuesday and Friday there is Morning Prayer at the Old Church at 9.15am. We also gather to pray every Sunday from 7am to 8am before church and every Wednesday from 6 am to 7 am. In the past we have held prayer events

such as 24 Hours of Prayer and a Half Night of Prayer. We also have prayer ministry available during and after each service on a Sunday, for those who would like someone to pray for them.

We have a Facebook page entitled 'St Alphege Seasalter Prayer Requests' to which 176 members of our church family subscribe. It has proved to be invaluable over the years, enabling us to give or receive immediate support 24 hours a day.

Our Prayer during the Vacancy  
God our Father,  
you call us to be the body of Christ here.  
Send your Holy Spirit at this time of change;  
Fill us with vision, energy and faithfulness in prayer.  
May this vacancy  
be a time of deeper love and fellowship,  
as you guide us with your heavenly wisdom.  
Help us to choose the one  
who will share with us  
in your perfect plans,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen  
St Alphege, Seasalter- **walking together in faith**

# What sort of church are we?

Thoughts from the Church Family meeting:



# What are we like?



We like to baptise people in the sea



We're on a journey!



We like to eat together



We like to entertain each other!



and ...



We don't take ourselves too seriously!



# and ...



Every two years we spend a weekend at Ashburnham Place in Sussex, a place of rest, retreat and refreshment.

We go for Spiritual nourishment, plus fellowship, food and fun. We always have a guest speaker.

The building is set in around 200 acres so we are treated to some beautiful natural surroundings guaranteeing peace and quiet.



Here are some of us at Ashburnham



# What else do we do?

## Open Door

For over seventeen years, a coffee morning has been held to welcome local residents into the church building. Around sixty folk can be expected each Thursday morning to share tea, coffee, homemade cake and fellowship. Many are church members, many are not, but a convivial atmosphere ensures the morning is open to all.

## Flying Club

The membership of the Flying Club is around thirty enthusiastic folk from the age of ten to much older, who meet twice a month to fly fixed wing planes, helicopters and quadcopters in the main auditorium of the Christian Centre. A wonderful engagement with enthusiasts from the local community and the church.

## Social Games Club

A fun afternoon, for playing board games. All ages welcome, a relaxed environment for Rummikub and Scrabble specialists to hone their skills.

## Men Meet to eat

Once a month, a group of men from church meet for fellowship, food and fun, often frequenting local restaurants. All are welcome.

## The Forge

This is a bi-monthly meeting for those with “crafty” skills, on a Monday evening. An informal group who share a love of making

things and enjoy sharing skills, chatter and coffee. Both ladies and gents attend this gathering in the Christian Centre.

## St Alphege Golfing Society

For ten years, Thursday afternoons at the Broughton Golf Club sees the STAGS (half a dozen members) enjoying a round of golf and a short time at the nineteenth hole!

## Woodworking club

Meeting on a Monday night, a weekly wood carving group that brings people into a Christian environment alongside Christian folk in a very gentle, indirect manner.



# Leadership



**The Vicar**  
Could this be you?



**Our Churchwardens**  
Lynda Kemp and Ali Fuller



**Our Curate,**  
Fabian Wuyts  
(in his 4th year of training)

## **Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

St Alphege, Seasalter is part of the Whitstable Team of Anglican churches and the PCC is the legal body which holds the Team together. It meets four times a year and discusses overall strategy and co-ordination between the churches. But all the churches day-to-day management and responsibility for such issues as finance and buildings is in the hands of the ...

## **District Church Council (DCC)**

The DCC is made up of 19 members, 16 of whom have been elected either directly by church members or through their membership of other bodies such as the Deanery Synod.

The DCC meets every two months and always starts the meetings with prayer and worship. We are a praying church – and not just on Sundays! Any decision made and agreed by the DCC has been carefully discussed and thoroughly prayed

about. Doing some of the detailed work for the DCC are the Finance and Standing Committee, the Safeguarding Group and the Closer to Home Group . Working alongside the DCC is the ...

## **Ministry Leadership Team (MLT)**

The MLT meets every month to pray and reflect on the things that are happening in our church at Seasalter. They eat together, share together and pray together. All 3 are pretty crucial! The MLT tries to discern what God might be saying to St Alphege Seasalter and what that might mean for how we ‘do’ church together. It’s not there to make formal decisions– that’s what the DCC does – but it is there to help the DCC by focusing prayerfully on issues we think we should be grappling with together, always asking God to show us what He has for us next, and how He wants us to get there. Working with the DCC and the MLT there is the ...

# Staff Team

A collection of talented individuals who head up the various areas of work and ministry.



**Jane Myhill** is our full-time employed Children and Families Minister overseeing all our activities with children up to 11 years old and their families.



**Georgina Hedley-Smith**, our part-time employed Youth Leader, has been developing our work with teenagers and young adults over the past four years.



**Dan Ralph**, our other part-time employed Youth Leader, is also one of the administrators at the Christian Centre and, as our Graphic Co-ordinator, oversees our website and social media.



**Denise Critchell** is our Pastor for Healing and Wholeness, heading up our team who prays with and for individuals and situations.



**Tobi Osinaike**, our Prayer Pastor, joined us over 2 years ago and has led a transformation in the prayer life of the church.



**Chris Skingley** leads our ministry with those at the higher end of the age spectrum as the Pastor for the Third Age.



**Becky Whittaker** who, along with Dan, oversees the administration of Seasalter Christian Centre.

We also have in our church family a number of lay ministers and retired clergy.

# Children and Families Ministry



God loves everyone from the youngest to the oldest. Here at St Alphege Seasalter we want to take special care of our youngest! We have a dedicated and innovative Children and Families Minister, Jane, who is passionate about sharing the good news and encouraging children to learn and grow in faith. This ministry has a dedicated team of volunteers who serve at regular clubs and organised events which include Jelly Beanz (for bumps and babes), Pulse (the after school club), Alphies (for babies and toddlers) and Kickstart (the school holidays club). These are weekly groups and provide opportunities for friendship and for Christian teaching. A pastoral emphasis is on all the work Jane and the team do.



# Youth ministry

A Christ-centred generation of young people, daring to make God number one.

Our desire is for every young person to feel they belong when they come to St Alphege.

We value our young people and want to nurture and grow them to live in the Spirit of God. Our Sunday evening service 'Y' is organised and led by our youth, for our youth. It

is a place where gifts are discovered and utilised. The youth are involved with preaching, service leading, technical team and prayer. They have their own Cell groups. Y has its own leadership team (YLT) to focus only on this service.

There is a dedicated youth worker, Georgina who along with Dan, works to support and

grow our youth in faith and number. Groups attend Soul Survivor and Carroty Wood each year. We long for our young people to be trailblazers of faith in Jesus and to be boldly following God wherever He is calling them.



# Twenties

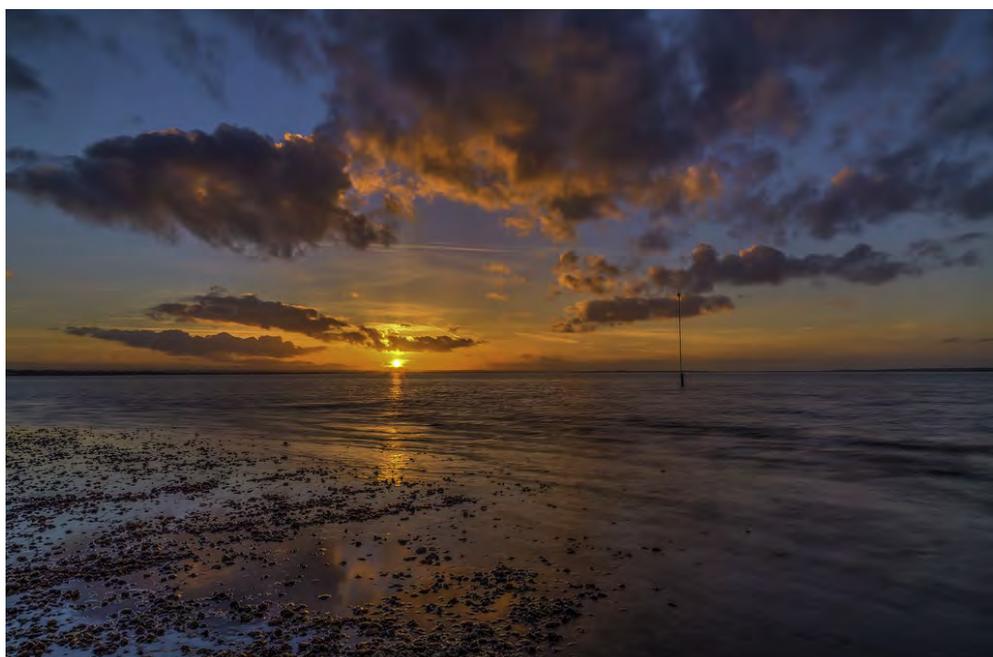
Our '20's' or 'Young Adults' as they are often called, are a group where we are seeking growth and engagement. This group is very active within our church: leading and participating in a Cell, preaching, service leading, serving coffee, and outreach work with other groups in church and further afield. This year, a group attended Naturally Supernatural for the first time. They are a welcoming group who want to learn more about the Lord, grow in their faith and gifts of the Spirit. Through a changing decade of life, they provide each other with vital support, encouragement and friendship.

# The Third Age

Although 'Third Age' is generally understood as the period of life in active retirement, it is used here in a more flexible way to refer to all the older people we connect with. Our desire is to champion individuals who are at this stage of life. We are committed to supporting these individuals in sharing the invaluable gifts, wisdom, and ministry that blesses the church so richly. We aim to resource the spiritual journey of the older generation by offering pastoral care as well as quiet days and opportunities to nurture faith in a loving environment. There is also a generous helping of tea and cake, singing, crafts and quiz afternoons!

# Healing and Wholeness

Healing and wholeness is an ongoing process. We want to enable God to work out His desire for our lives, so that we can begin to experience the abundant life that Jesus promises. We aim to grow in our love for God and for one another. We desire to let our barriers down so that we can be open to embrace all the amazing benefits that Jesus won for us on the cross. Our aim is to partner with people in prayer and in love, so we can allow the Holy Spirit to bring healing in our lives.



View of Whitstable sunset by Simon Dunn

# Small Groups

We call our weekly small groups Cells.

We love them because:

- Cells are safe places to grow in faith
- Cells help build up the whole church
- Believing is about belonging

There's lots of laughter and food at Cell!

There are cell meetings every day (except Tuesdays which we keep free for other church meetings), some in the afternoons and some in the evenings.

Cells are open to everyone, and everyone is encouraged to belong to one. There are 15 cells with a membership of over 100 but we long for more to be involved.

Cell leaders meet regularly for support and there is a team of Cell Supervisors whose role is to share oversight of the Cells at Seasalter.



# Mission and Partnership: Closer to Home

The Closer to Home Fund was born out of the church's commitment to tithe an amount (£90,000) equal to 10% of the building cost of the Christian Centre in 2007. Since then we have added to the Closer to Home Fund an amount equal to 10% of the Freewill Giving to the church each year.

Through our Closer to Home ministry we offer support to ministries locally, nationally and globally. As a church we continually experience God's generosity through his people, so we want to be part of God's transforming work close to home and far away. We do this through partnering with individuals, churches or agencies serving God's kingdom elsewhere. Our aim is to offer support through friendship and prayer, and through visiting and generosity. We in turn are blessed as we receive gifts of faith, grace and friendship from our mission partners.

**In 2017 we gave direct financial support to the following ministries:-**

## **Local Ministries**

*Foodbank • Canterbury Schools Work • Porchlight • Beach Pastors • Christians Against Poverty • Joy Lane School • The Living Well*

## **National Ministries**

*Church Army • Church Pastoral Aid Society • Church Urban Fund • Youth with a Mission*

## **International Ministries**

*Grass Roots (Romania) • Christ Church Bangkok • Diocese of Bukavu • Diocese of Toungoo • Education for the Children • Mission Aviation Fellowship*



# Mission and Partnership: Community Ministries



## Lucerne Drive - Our main focus

Our church seeks to actively reach out to a neighbouring estate. At the heart of the vision is a desire to see the life of God expressed in ways that are relevant and authentic to the Lucerne Estate community. We are currently discerning what the next steps will be and it is hoped that in time, some form of Christian community will be expressed.

## Beach Pastors

Ascension Trust's well known Street Pastor scheme with a Whitstable twist! St Alphege Seasalter is heavily committed to this project and many church members are either on the Prayer Team or take the role of a Pastor.



## The Haven Project

The Haven Project is an exciting initiative from the Churches Together in Whitstable. Volunteers from all the churches provide light refreshments and laundry and shower facilities to rough sleepers each Wednesday afternoon at St John's Methodist Church.

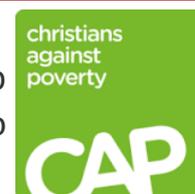


## Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay Food Bank

A Christian-led community project providing emergency food parcels to individuals and families in short term financial crisis across the Canterbury District (Canterbury, Whitstable, Herne Bay and surrounding villages).

## Christians Against Poverty

CAP runs a network of CAP Debt Centres throughout the UK in partnership with local churches. Whitstable's mini-centre is led by Joyce Mitchell who coordinates the Befrienders and Prayer Teams.



Canterbury Christian



Schools Work Trust

## Canterbury Christian Schools Work Trust

Ministry to, and support for, primary and secondary schools in Canterbury, Whitstable, Faversham and Herne Bay.

# Buildings

## The Old Church

Known locally simply as 'the Old Church' this is the delightful place of stillness and prayer at the heart of our busy church community. It dates from 1140 and is soaked in the prayer of God's people. Encountering God is one of the seven core values of the church, symbolised by the presence of the Old Church as a place which is set aside for prayer and worship.



The Old Church is used during the week for worship, Bible study, intercessory and silent prayer. There is a monthly BCP Holy Communion service with a small but regular congregation. It is also used for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

We have a vision to reorder and restore the interior of the church so that it becomes a more welcoming space, and to develop the church as a place of retreat, both for members of our own congregation and for individuals and groups from further afield.

We are pleased to be able to say that the Faculty has now been granted and although we have not yet raised all the money needed - we have 70% - we plan to devise a phased approach to the work which we hope will start in Spring 2018.

## Seasalter Christian Centre



When the Christian Centre was built 10 years ago the vision was for “a community building in which the church meets” rather than the other way round. And so it has proved. Used extensively throughout the week for events large and small involving church groups and meetings, local community activities and public sector commercial hirings (not to mention acting as a polling station), it has proved to be one of the hubs of the community.

A unique feature is the entrance concourse, which naturally flows into the 250-seat auditorium, as well as three smaller meeting rooms all of which are well equipped for a variety of uses.

### **Abbot House Pre-School Nursery**

Adjoining the Christian Centre is a bungalow housing the church’s pre-school nursery , Abbot House. It has an Outstanding rating from Ofsted. Owned by the church (with the help of a mortgage) it has been adapted for its present use and features an all-weather garden.



### **The Vicarage**

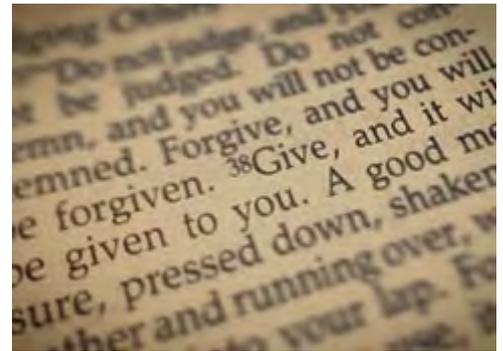


A modern 4-bedroom family house within a few minutes’ walk of the Christian Centre, with its excellent facilities, and the Old Church. There is a good sized study at the front of the house separate from the family living area. It has a single garage and a medium sized garden laid to grass.

# Finance

Giving generously is one of our core values. We are grateful for God's wonderful generosity in Christ, and for the many ways God has provided for our church family.

As a community we practice the grace of generosity, seeking to serve Christian mission close to home and far away. We commend the tithe as the standard for Christian giving in good times and in bad, and we seek to rely on the resources of God for the work of God.



We have a Planned Giving Scheme with annual Stewardship renewal programmes. The total income of the church in 2016 was £215,000 and our normal pattern is a small annual surplus or deficit. We always pay our Parish Share in full and on time (2017 £103,000) and give away to partners local, national and international an amount equal to one tenth of the voluntary giving to the church (the Closer to Home initiative).

Over recent years we have discovered the effectiveness of appeals for specific projects in releasing the generosity of the church family. For the building of the Christian Centre the church family provided £600,000; the Youth Ministry is funded through a restricted fund which has received over £60,000 in the last three years; an appeal for £9,000 to assist a theological college in the Congo raised £13,000 and the project for the restoration and renewal of the Old Church has raised £60,000 so far this year.

A copy of the 2016 accounts is available at

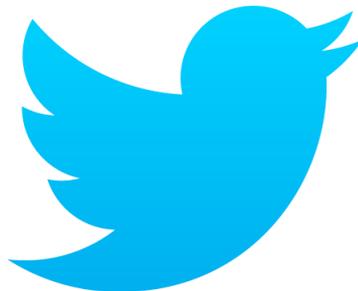
[http://www.stalphegeseasalter.org/Groups/296391/Annual\\_Accounts.aspx](http://www.stalphegeseasalter.org/Groups/296391/Annual_Accounts.aspx)

# Communications



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

Our website has lots of information about the church and all that is happening and is updated regularly.



[@ST Alphege](https://twitter.com/@ST_Alphege)



[@stalphegeseasalter](https://www.facebook.com/@stalphegeseasalter)



Our sermons can be downloaded and listened to with ease.

[Click here](#)



Our weekly notice sheet is handed out to the church family at every service and also sent via email to those who prefer an electronic copy, keeping everyone informed of what is happening.

[Click here](#)

## UNITY UPDATE



Unity Update is the name of our monthly news sheet which covers all the churches in the Whitstable Team.

[Click here](#)

# The Whitstable Team Ministry

## Vision

The Whitstable Team Ministry exists to enable the churches through collaboration in mission to reflect God's love in Whitstable.

The Whitstable Team Ministry was formed in 1984 and comprised the six Anglican churches in the town—All Saints, St Alphege Whitstable, St Alphege Seasalter, St Andrew's, St John's and St Peter's. (St Andrew's no longer has a congregation, but remains part of St Alphege Whitstable's outreach.)

The Team operates like a group ministry in that each church has its own District Church Council and is responsible for its own financial affairs and for the maintenance of its building and property. Significant capital projects have to be taken to the PCC for its support.

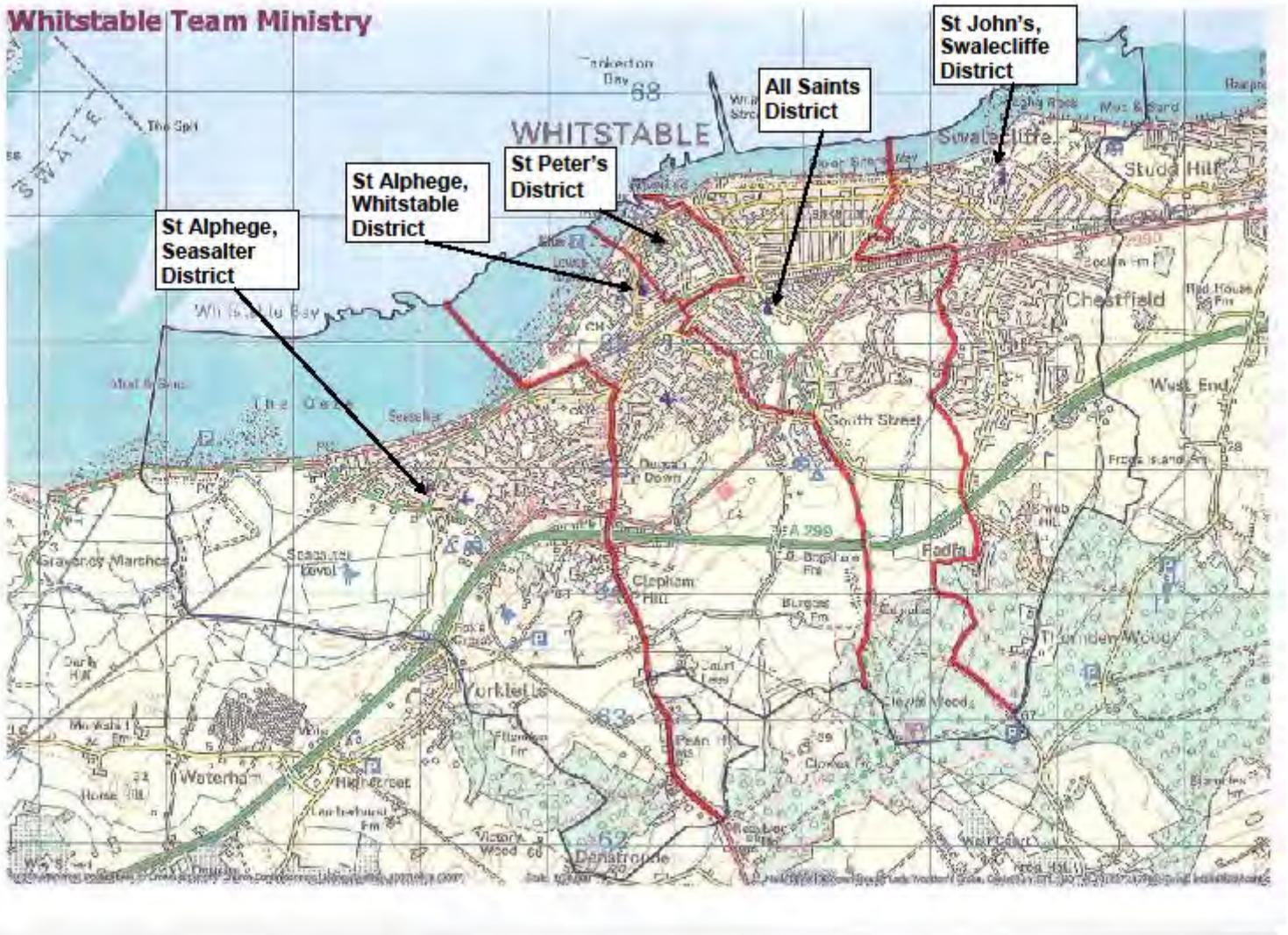
The Whitstable Team is legally the Ecclesiastical Parish of Whitstable (Registered Charity 1134171) and the PCC thereof is the accounting body. Under Charity law the PCC has to produce consolidated accounts bringing together the accounts of the 5 constituent churches. In 2016 the total income was just under £700,000 (excluding legacies of £285,000) with an overall deficit of about £50,000.

The Diocese of Canterbury allocates Parish Share to deaneries and Reculver Deanery has its own formula for dividing this among the parishes. The Whitstable Team allocates its Share at a meeting of church representatives each November – the process involves a starting formula and then negotiation until the amount is shared out.

The working together of the churches in the Team is shown in:

- Chaplaincy at the local hospital
- The Marriage Preparation Team
- The Team-wide Mother's Union fellowship
- The Boxing Day Lunch for people on their own at Christmas
- The Fellowship of Prayer—a regular themed booklet
- Communion in the Community ministering to the housebound

## Whitstable Team Ministry



### Average Weekly Attendance (Adults)

	2014	2015	2016
<i>All Saints</i>	140	136	130
<i>St Alphege Seasalter</i>	226	219	207
<i>St Alphege Whitstable</i>	100	94	91
<i>St. John's</i>	57	42	53
<i>St. Peter's</i>	25	23	25

# The Clergy Team

## Values

As our commitment to enable us to achieve our purpose as a team we will:

- Communicate and receive each other's realities, hopes and plans
- Aim to support each other with honesty, openness, compassion, generosity and respect
- Explore and celebrate our mutual needs, differences and calling
- Work together to liberate and support the churches in mission

Practically, this means:

- Monday meetings (except on Deanery Chapter weeks) – Sharing, including group supervision, communion, business; (Two Clergy Team Away Days per year)
- Weekly Team evening prayer Mondays 5 – 5.30pm;
- Regular Team Sundays; Annual Parish Ascension day communion service;
- Sharing pastoral offices across the parish including liaising over PMDs;
- Regular assemblies at Whitstable Endowed CE Junior School;
- Monthly Churches' Together in Whitstable minister's lunch, other shared events and mission;
- Friendly support for Team ministers.

## The next Team Rector should have:

- The capacity and intention to facilitate strategic vision and planning
- Good people skills in order to work well across the Team
- A curiosity about the individual churches' stories and aspirations
- A delight in celebrating diversity.

# St John's Church, Swalecliffe with Chestfield

<http://www.swalecliffestjohns.co.uk/>

***We are here to grow closer to God, to strengthen one another, to reach out to others and to show by our actions that Christ lives in us.***

St John's has a part-time vicar and a part-time Children and Families Minister (a new role, for which we are receiving a tapered grant from the diocese). Although Chestfield is one of the 20% least deprived neighbourhoods in England, Swalecliffe is among the 30% **most** deprived. The church building is on the edge of a former



council estate (now a mixture of owner occupied and social housing) next to the sea and local football ground. St John's Centre is situated on the main road among local shops, a short walk from the church. We have around 90 members, usually seeing around 40 attending church each Sunday.

Two years ago we were a predominantly elderly congregation. Today, since the appointment of a part-time Children and Families Minister in October 2015, we are starting to see some young families beginning to engage with church. New activities for children include a fortnightly 'Brunch Club' (with children joining the church family at the end of the communion service) and 'Noisy Church' (a weekday informal service immediately following our 'Chatterbox' parent and toddler group). We have also introduced a monthly family service in the Church Centre and a monthly afternoon 'Cafe Church'. We are delighted that the children are now asking to take communion, also

two new mums.

Our ministry priorities are to build on these early successes of the Children and Families Minister and to continue to engage with our thriving local Scout group; to find better ways of connecting with families in our local community who regularly use St John's for baptisms, weddings and funerals. All this, while not forgetting also the large numbers of isolated elderly people in our district.

We hold a wide range of different services on Sundays and Wednesdays ranging from sung Eucharist to evening 'Village Praise', from spoken Eucharist to Evening Prayer, and now including Cafe Church and Noisy Church – but we need to get better at publicising these and inviting new people. We also hold joint worship services with our neighbours, Swalecliffe Free Church (Baptist), on fifth Sundays, and regular Parade services with the Scouts. We are a busy church with many of our members giving a great deal of time in service, but we are close to capacity and aware that we are at risk of volunteer fatigue. Our vision and ideas extend beyond our current capacity – we would love to be able to keep the church open during the week, for example.

While currently financially solvent it will be a challenge for us to increase our giving to sustain this level of activity when the current diocesan grant comes to an end. We have felt very supported by the Whitstable team in helping us determine our 'direction of travel' over recent years, and look forward to this support continuing under the new Team Rector.

## All Saints Whitstable

<http://www.allsaintswhitstable.com/>

For at least eight hundred years a church has stood on this site. The original building consisted of chancel and nave. In the early 13th century it was rebuilt and the tower added. The oldest



remaining portions of the church are the Norman tower, the Norman font with its Tudor cover and the 15th century arcade between the nave and the north aisle. In the 15th century the north east porch was also erected. In 1873 extensive building work was carried out as the fabric of the church was thought to be unsafe and during this period the chancel was enlarged and a new vestry added. In 1962 the west porch and south aisle were added. Following the decision of a Consistory Court in 1983 the pews in the nave and north aisle were removed and replaced by chairs, and a central altar was added. The central Altar can be removed to permit community activities when required. This arrangement works well offering flexibility for liturgy, dramas with adults and children, funeral services, weddings and other functions including our Agape meal on Maundy Thursday. An altar cloth was commissioned for All Saints for the central altar depicting chapters from the book of Revelation. An Easter garden and nativity scene built into the altar brings the seasons into the centre of the church.

The congregation is diverse, loyal, active and open-minded with a regular weekly attendance over its Sunday and midweek services of 130 adults and between 5 and 30 children, depending on the type of service that is taking place. A Sunday club for children, several community based weekday activities including CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other), a film club and children's after school club, form the base of our outreach. A team

of pastoral assistants and baptism visitors also help strengthen our ministry to our community, as well as a team of people who knit prayer shawls to give to those who are sick or housebound or in distress in one way or another. A monthly Singing for Fun and Health has also recently been started with impressive results.

The church is very popular for weddings with over 20 weddings booked for 2017. In 2016 there were 44 baptisms at All Saints. The church's links with its community are most felt at Christmas time when over 700 adults and children attended our two 2016 Christmas Eve crib services and over 1200 attended our Christmas services as a whole.



The church's style of worship is Eucharistic with vestments and servers. The gospel is usually processed at the 10am service. We are though relaxed in our worship and not over formal. Theologically, the church is made up of people of both evangelical and liberal persuasion, and this breadth is reflected in our worship as we have both organ music and a robed choir and a music group playing most weeks together. We now have a musical director who has started a children's choir as well as leading our choir and helping to lead our music group. The church is also particularly blessed by the ministry of a number of active retired clergy and the ministry of a Reader. Our Ministry Leadership Team ensures that our emphasis on balance within worship, pastoral support and outreach is maintained and strengthened and we are planning a weekend away as a church in 2018. A number of ongoing home groups, courses, and regular prayer and reflective meetings help deepen our spirituality.

This all sounds very positive, but All Saints also faces some challenges. We have the largest open churchyard in the Diocese to maintain and a large campus with expensive challenges to our hall and church. These fabric costs are always a drain on our resources. A further challenge is that the average age of our congregation is far from young. To address this we are now taking steps to employ a Family and Children's worker to help

grow the younger section of our community but we realise other ideas for outreach also need to be pursued in the future.

We are a social and friendly community. Barn dances, Christmas and Summer fairs,

# Pet Blessing SERVICE



Pantomimes, Firework displays attended by over 500 in the community, Pet Blessing services, Picnic Eucharists, Quiz nights

and many other events form the basis of our social and fundraising life, with the vast majority of these taking place in the Vicarage garden which is a vitally important asset to our church and community. We are also fortunate to have a scout hut on our grounds and brownies and guides meeting in our hall, some of whom attend our Family services. Indeed, our church hall is the centre for a whole range of community activities including one of the largest W I branches in the entire country. Added to this, All Saints Nursery school, an independent nursery school whose building we rebuilt in 2008-2010, has a strong relationship with our church which we wish to build on.

From a team perspective, although we could afford a full-time vicar, we accepted the pairing of All Saints and St Peter's shortly before Rev Simon Tillotson arrived, to help support St Peter's ministry in the harbour area of the town, so we recognise Simon is not full-time at All Saints, even though our church takes up easily the majority of Simon's time.

We also give to the team by supporting the current Team quota formula which we see as part of our giving to the Team. We do feel that the Team could work more closely together in a number of ways, and have suggested that the curate could have a more Team wide ministry in future. We look forward to working in mission



with our new Team Rector, and pray for the process of appointment and interview that is currently underway.

## St Peter's Church

<http://www.stpeterswhitstable.org.uk/>

As the population of Whitstable grew in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, All Saints' Parish decided to establish mission church in the Harbour area of the town. This was first established in existing buildings with these being dedicated on St Peter's Day 1870. To make permanent provision, the



land at the corner of Sydenham Street and St Peter's Street was purchased and on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 1902, the foundation stone of the new church was laid. The chancel, choir, vestry and Lady Chapel were built by 1904 with a temporary structure acting as the nave. The present nave was completed in 1925 and the church consecrated. The architect of St Peter's was G. Fellowes-Prynne who produced a fine, inspiring well-built church.

In 1935 St Peter's became an independent parish. The hall built in 1904 in Cromwell Road became St Peter's Church House. In 1973 it was proposed that in time Whitstable was served by a Team Ministry. With the retirement of the Vicar in 1975, the Vicar of All Saints' became also Priest-in Charge of St Peter's. In 1984 the Team came into being with the Vicar of All Saints' and St Peter's becoming the first Team Rector. Since then St Peter's has been served by the Team Vicars of All Saints', or St Alphege, Whitstable or St Andrew's. From its foundation until the 1960s St Peter's was a very lively parish serving an area which was not at all well off. In recent years the terraced houses around St Peter's have become in demand. Over half of these are now holiday lets or houses for Down From Londoners.

St Peter's is an Anglo-Catholic church and so incense is used on Sunday mornings at our 10.45am Sung Eucharist. The hymns and liturgy tend to be traditional though modern hymns are sometimes sung and there is seasonal variation with the liturgy. We also have a Tuesday 10am Eucharist each week and a weekly Evensong, though this is being scaled down to a monthly service from November. Solemn Evensong and Benediction will

continue to be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month in the evening in addition to this.

The congregation is quite small (averaging at about 20 for our main Sunday morning service) but very committed. We have made several bold steps in the last three years in terms of outreach. Firstly, we agreed to house the town's Post Office for just over a year. This has brought many thousands of people into our building and made St Peter's far better known in the community. The Post Office is still in situ but is due to move to new premises by the end of 2017. Our second step of faith has been to appoint a Pioneer Minister, Geoff Court, from September 2017, using a significant legacy left to us by a much loved member of our church. Geoff will be responsible not only for helping with our youth and children's work, which will build on the work of our Sunday School which has been growing in recent years, but also for starting adult based missionary initiatives in our pastoral district and we look forward to seeing how this progresses.

St Peter's also hosts the occasional concert and has a well run hall, known as Church House, which brings in significant income and acts as a community hub for many groups in the town. Being situated in a more visible part of the pastoral district, we still believe it is to reach its full missionary potential, though as it is almost fully booked we are also looking at further ways the church can be used more once the Post Office has moved away.

Church House hosts our successful Saturday markets which take place several times a year. St Peter's also has a Quiet Garden at the back of the church



which, despite being vandalised on occasions, is appreciated by members of the congregation and those living in the community.

Our Team Vicar, Fr Simon Tillotson, is ably assisted by Fr Chris Morgan-Jones who does a huge amount to aid our ministry, along with our Reader Dr David Wright, Rev Dr Julie

Hopkins, Fr Christopher Smith, Rev Tony Crowe, and the Ven. Michael Chandler, to name just some of those who assist. We are though aware that many of our congregation are far from young and so we remain a caring but potentially vulnerable church, which is why we are focussing so much on mission at this time. We are team minded and have been able to give significant grants to both St John's Swalecliffe and St Alphege Whitstable in the last couple of years to help with their youth ministry and roof rebuild respectively.

We understand that the next Team Rector is likely to be an evangelical but we hope they will have the breadth and flexibility of churchmanship to lead worship here in the way we are accustomed, out of respect for the diversity which is such a hallmark of the team. We also would like to see the Team curate a little more often than we have in the past, were this possible. We are praying for the right person to be appointed and look forward to working with him or her in future.

# St Alphege Church, Whitstable

<http://www.stalphege.org.uk/>

## Town Centre

We are the church at the heart of the town, identified by many in the community as ‘their’ church. Known as the shop window for the parish we are open every day and offer a still space on the high street for anyone who needs it.

Our daily café is run by church volunteers and in partnership with a KCC project supporting people with



learning disabilities. People who may feel excluded from the rising prices elsewhere on the High Street feel at home and are valued at St Alphege.

Our prayer garden and children’s garden are usually open to the community. We regularly host community and charity events on our forecourt, including the town Christmas lights switch on and the Churches Together Good Friday walk of witness and Sea Sunday service. The two local church schools regularly worship at the church, and we have relationships with other schools that also visit regularly, partly for the ‘Experience Easter’ project. AA, Brownies, Rainbows and Guides are based here and meet weekly. The building has a good acoustic, and we regularly host concerts. Recent developments to the building are our millennium screen commemorating St Alphege’s martyrdom in 2012, a new kitchen to facilitate our ministry of hospitality, and the replacement of the original Victorian roof.



## **Worshipping community**

St Alphege is a friendly and welcoming church, including and nurturing very diverse people, several with mental illness, recovering from a challenging time of life or living with low income. Our worship is central and inclusive, with an active children's ministry. The main services are usually Eucharistic with a robed choir and fine bell-ringing team. Once a month our Breakfast Church offers more accessible worship and is lay led, with our acoustic band leading the music. We offer traditional liturgy at our mid-week and Sunday 8am Eucharist and monthly evensong services. We have active pastoral, healing and home communion teams, and our older members enjoy the fortnightly Afternoon Club.



Our prayer and meditation groups run across the town and at different times of day, and our weekly Bible study group also attracts people from other local churches. We encourage people to explore their faith, and offer either the Emmaus nurture course, or the diocesan Deepening Discipleship course every year. We regularly welcome children and adults for baptism and prepare many for confirmation when they are ready, which is an enjoyable part of our life that we celebrate together. St Alphege regularly hosts placement students, and are currently supporting two congregation members to explore their vocation. We look forward to welcoming ordinands from St Augustine's for their mission placement this winter.

## **St Andrew's**

Our pastoral area includes St Andrew's estate, one of the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in England, where many of our church members live, and our ministry is expanding.

St Alphege set up what is now a well-established homework club ('StArs') at the church



building on the estate in collaboration with Canterbury Foodbank. Many of the helpers and junior leaders are from the local area.

From April to October we offer two outdoor football sessions for children and young people, both of which are led by church members living in the area, and are very well-attended.

We are the point of contact for the Fare Share organisation, redistributing perishable supermarket food locally, working alongside our 'Christians against Poverty' colleague.

We head up an annual community summer fun day on the estate, and this year also offered a very effective craft afternoon for primary children.

St Alphege hosts an annual 'messy' Christingle service in St Andrew's, and, when the clock change has been kind, we have also held an outdoor Easter morning fire on the beacon at the edge of Duncan Down.

In January 2018 we will launch a monthly café church, and are also preparing a weekend residential in June for church and community children at a Christian activity centre. The relationships we have built up inevitably lead to significant pastoral situations which is a privilege and a ministry challenge that the wider church is seeking to St Alphege Church, Whitstable meet strategically.

# Reculver Deanery

Reculver Deanery covers the towns of Whitstable and Herne Bay and the associated villages.

Whitstable area is covered by a team ministry whose clergy have regular weekly meetings. The three incumbents of Herne Bay/Herne meet informally for mutual support about every six weeks. The deanery has been privileged to have up to three curacy posts.

The chapter meets nine times a year which includes a three day retreat in September.

The Deanery Meetings are open meetings with all welcome to attend, and look at various areas of ministry. Deanery Synod meetings, to cover the official synod business, happen after the open meetings and are normally brief! Each church elects its own Synod representatives.

The deanery leadership is convinced that the deanery exists to support the work of the local churches in their mission and priorities.

Reculver  
Towers



# Canterbury Diocese

## *Changed lives, Changing lives*

### **Description**

Canterbury Diocese, the oldest diocese in England, stretches from Maidstone to Thanet, the Isle of Sheppey to the Romney Marsh and includes 328 churches in 253 parishes, along with 103 church schools, organised in to 15 deaneries and three archdeaconries, Ashford, Maidstone and Canterbury.

Whilst the Archbishop of Canterbury is the diocesan bishop, day to day oversight of the diocese is delegated to the Bishop of Dover, the Right Reverend Trevor Willmott.

### **Objectives**

Encompassed by the statement: living faith, building community, transforming lives, the Diocese of Canterbury is committed:

- To grow the church numerically and spiritually.
- To re-imagine ministry.
- To build partnerships that enrich communities.

In 2017, after over a year of prayerful conversation and discernment, our Synod further refined these priorities for the next season of our life together in mission. We committed ourselves

- To be a people renewed in missional prayer across our Diocese.
- To grow our Diocesan Ignite ministry, which is reaching the most marginalised in our communities with the good news of Jesus Christ.
- To specific evangelism and discipleship initiatives with teenagers.
- To develop a school of leadership which builds on the extensive lay and ordained training opportunities which we currently offer.
- To develop an innovations hub which offers resources to equip local mission.

## Frameworks

To facilitate the achievement of these objectives, the work of the diocese is focussed into four key 'frameworks':

- ◇ Children, schools and Young People
- ◇ Local Church Development
- ◇ Licensed Ministries
- ◇ Communities and Partnership

All these are supported by our Resource Management & Compliance Group.

These frameworks replace the traditional concept of Boards and Committees and represent a flexible way of working for the Diocese with communication and collaboration at its heart.

## Mission Action Planning

The Diocese uses Mission Action Planning as a process and planning tool to help deaneries, benefices and parishes prayerfully review and choose, plan and act on mission activities that will help further the objectives of the Diocese, Deaneries and benefices are supported to this end by Deanery Mission Accompaniers.

We are looking to the way ahead with faith and hope as we seek to be a people united in Christ, celebrating our diversity and reaching out to local communities with the good news of the kingdom.

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

