

# **A PARISH PROFILE OF ST MARTIN-In-HERNE with ST PETER'S GREENHILL**



**St. Martin's Herne**



**St. Peter's Greenhill**

**JANUARY 2024**

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## WELCOME

### **Our mission is to share God's love and to grow as God's people**

Dear Candidate

Thank you for considering our Parish Profile. We hope that you will find it of interest and that we might encourage you to choose the Parish of St Martin's and St Peter's as the next stop on your spiritual and clerical journey and career.

We enjoy being members of this parish and its church community. Within the parish we have an outstanding Church of England Infants and Junior School with which the church has strong connections. The pupils regularly contribute to our worship programme and some parishioners support the worship at each school. We have invited the teachers and pupils to offer their views and requirements to be included in this profile. Other parish interest groups have contributed too.

We are aware of challenges in the Reculver Deanery generally which may lead to some parish reorganisation within the Deanery. However, we are convinced that this is a great opportunity for a person of vision and courage. There is a sense of excitement and anticipation as we look to the future. We hope and pray that those who read the profile will be encouraged by prayer to explore whether they are the person that God wants to serve as our Vicar or as Priest in Charge.

We have a detailed APCM report following our APCM in April last year and a copy can be supplied if required. This incorporates the full church accounts and provides more detailed reports on church activities and groups. There are separate guide books to St Martin's Church and its recent restoration if you wish to see them.

Should you require these or any further information please contact initially our PCC Secretary Andrew Gough , 01227 373879 or by email to [gougha@talktalk.net](mailto:gougha@talktalk.net)

With best wishes and blessings

*The parishioners of St Martin's-in Herne with St Peter's Greenhill*

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**Diocese of Canterbury**  
CHANGED LIVES ➔ CHANGING LIVES

## **Priest in Charge of Herne with Greenhill**

### **A Message from the Bishop of Dover**



**Welcome and thank you for taking an interest in the role of** Priest in Charge of the parish of Herne with Greenhill. The Parish Profile sets out the needs and priorities of the parishes, their shared Person Specification will give you an idea of the kind of priest they are looking for.

#### **Who we are**

Founded in 597 by St Augustine, Canterbury Diocese is the oldest diocese in England and has a special place in the life of the national and worldwide Church. With its iconic Cathedral it forms a focal point for the life of the whole Anglican Communion, offering a spiritual home and place of pilgrimage for people from every nation and walk of life.

Kent is renowned as the 'Garden of England' and this rural heart is core to our identity – yet the communities we serve are very diverse. Our Diocese stretches from Maidstone to Thanet, from the Isle of Sheppey to the Romney Marsh. We have 350 miles of coastline with historic ports and seaside resorts, alongside rural communities, market towns and commuter-belt urban developments. Affluent areas often sit alongside pockets of major deprivation, offering an exciting and challenging mission context.

#### **Our vision**

##### ***By God's grace we want to be a people who are...***

*confident & creative disciples of Jesus Christ  
rooted in scripture & drenched in prayer  
living gratefully, giving generously, caring for creation & sharing the gospel  
growing in number & expectations – of God & ourselves  
motivated by justice & love, open to the Spirit & ready for adventure!*

##### ***Therefore we will...***

'Therefore we will...' is a recognition that words without actions are empty. In 2023, Diocesan Synod agreed to three bold outcomes which flesh out how our vision will be achieved by 2030.

### Three Bold Outcomes

Double the number of children and young disciples.  
200 new Christian communities.  
Every parish, benefice and deanery showing signs of revitalisation.

Every deanery is currently working on updating their deanery plans from the versions that fed into our 2022 strategy document [which you can find here](#). Our strategic planning across the diocese is a dynamic process - and it's exciting that parishes are considering our vision and the bold outcomes vision for themselves, exploring together what actions they will commit to take, what their local 'Therefore we will...' might look like.

As well as the three bold outcomes our diocesan synod has committed to a net zero carbon action plan. When General Synod and Diocesan Synod adopted this goal, it was clear that it would be very challenging. However, the significant changes in global weather events in recent years have underlined the urgency of tackling the amount of carbon we produce. The leadership shown by the Church of England is important and the action plan takes a positive approach to working towards this ambitious target.

At the heart of all we do is a commitment to transformation for ourselves and our communities: *Changed Lives* → *Changing Lives*. If you are the right person for this role, we will be looking for you to join in with what God is already doing and play a crucial part in making our vision a reality.

### Our Safeguarding Ethos

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](#).



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### **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.

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



## The Canterbury Diet for Incumbents and Priests in Charge

<p>After licensing the Incumbent meets with the Director of Mission &amp; Ministry who introduces the priest to the</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Canterbury Diet</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">and offers a</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pastoral Supervisor</b></p> <p>with whom she/he meets not less than four times per year</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">How are we attending to good relationships and collaborative ministry?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Golden threads</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">How are prayer and spiritual practices being developed? How am I learning and reflecting on ministry practice?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Ministers acquire a</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Spiritual Accompanier</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">and meet regularly, recommended 6-8 weekly</p>	
<p>In the first two years the Incumbent or Priest in Charge attends the</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ministry Training Programme</b></p> <p>Monday to Friday residential courses generally held in Bruges</p> <p>Week One : <b>The Minister as Learner</b> (January, soon after licensing)</p> <p>Week Two: <b>The Minister as Leader</b> (June, of the same year)</p> <p>Week Three : <b>The Minister as Missioner</b> (January, the following year)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Participation in the annual</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ministerial Development Review</b></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</u> the two-year cycle.</p>	
<p>As able, participate in professional ministry courses:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Management Skills Course</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Working with Conflict</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Leading Change</b></p> <p>each a two by one day course, offered regularly at advertised times through the year</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Participation in four</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wellbeing Courses</b></p> <p><u>two hour</u> evening meetings, two offered per year</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Participate in relevant</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Continuing Ministry Development Events</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">at advertised days and times</p>	

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

Thank you for showing interest in the vacant post of Priest in Charge of Herne with Greenhill. This is an expanding village parish near the sea, inland of the seaside resort of Herne Bay. It's a place of real potential with an unrivalled relationship with two wonderful church schools: one infants (Reception and KS1) and one juniors (KS2).

You will see from the parish profile that the PCC has a vision to 'bring Herne and Greenhill together in Christ' and that there is willingness to work to grow and develop the mission and ministry of the parish. There are challenges, though: around 1100 houses are being built within the boundaries of the parish; the PCC is facing financial pressure; and the deanery is grappling with potential pastoral reorganisation. However, there is a great deal of support available within the Diocese of Canterbury and from colleagues in Reculver Deanery. It is expected that a new parish priest for Herne will engage constructively and enthusiastically with discussions about potential pastoral reorganisation.

The Deanery Chapter aims to be a mutually supportive body. There is an annual chapter retreat which is valued by all its members. The Area Dean, Simon Tillotson, is Team Vicar in neighbouring Whitstable, where he has ministered for seventeen years.

If you would like to have an informal conversation about the parish, please do not hesitate to contact either of us. It's a great place to be and there's a real job to do. We wish you well in your discernment.



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



The Reverend Simon Tillotson  
Area Dean of Reculver  
[simon@teamvicar.org](mailto:simon@teamvicar.org)



## **OUR PARISH VISION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION:**

**Once you have read our profile we hope that you will agree that this is an exciting opportunity to grow the Church and help us bring Herne and Greenhill together in Christ . We are looking for a new Incumbent who**

- will teach the importance of prayer and the Gospel as part of our family life and is a good preacher and communicator to engage with our congregation
- is lively and enthusiastic and will focus on our parish church community
- cares for church members and enables others within the church family to undertake tasks but always ensuring they have sufficient support and training to do so
- is outgoing to the parish generally and will find time to visit parish activities occasionally ; for example the WI or meetings of other local interest groups
- has a pastoral heart and is able to relate and communicate with people of all backgrounds and ages
- is willing to find out what the current congregation wants and to develop these aspirations
- will follow up after baptisms to engage families in church life
- shares our vision of helping people to be inspired in their faith, care for each other and reach out to the wider community with the Gospel message.
- will work collaboratively at all levels to encourage and support ministry in others including the many support, help and voluntary groups within our church
- is well organised and able to work well with the PCC and our other teams
- will (together with our support) appreciate and strive for a good work/life balance for themselves and others.
- will work with colleagues across the Reculver Deanery in supporting ministry amongst children and schools.

The teachers at the Herne Infants and Junior Church Schools are seeking the following skills

- Someone who readily engages with the school community and who takes the time to get to know staff, children and their families and has a presence in the schools
- A Vicar who understands how to deliver big Christian messages to young children in an age-appropriate way and who makes Worship accessible to all by easy communication and interaction with the children

- A vicar who is willing to engage in school activities and work together to serve the Herne School Community
- A person committed to the spiritual guidance and development of the school community
- A person who takes an active role on a Governing Body supporting the leadership of our Church School

But let's leave the last words to the Herne Junior School Worship team:

*"We like being a church school and we would like a vicar who helps us learn about God in a fun way. They must be friendly, must like children and want to lead us in worship in our school each week. They shouldn't swear but must be confident and wise yet able to explain stuff in a child-friendly way. We love asking questions so we want to see them around school so they can answer our big questions about life. They may like to come into RE lessons or hang around at the end of the day available to talk to anyone including children, teachers and parents. The vicar could help Mrs Parrett train the worship team and, if they have time, they could have a school dinner on a Friday when it's chips and get involved in a lunchtime club. We think they would enjoy being part of the Herne Junior community...we do!"*

#### **OUR CHALLENGES;WHERE WE NEED HELP**

- The need to grow our congregation and reach out to the parish in ways that will appeal to all sections of our community. In particular, to make our presence known to occupants of the many new houses being built in our Parish, ideally, as soon after they move in as reasonably possible.
- To communicate better within our congregation and to improve upon the diversity and inclusivity of our congregation
- To improve our financial position. In particular we want to strive within the next three years to being able to pay our Parish Share from regular income and not rely on our reserves
- To set an equitable balance between innovative and traditional worship
- To reach out to older children and teenagers
- To work with other churches in the Deanery and neighbouring benefices in modelling new ways of collaborating in the future
- To create and undertake our contribution to the Deanery Plan and the strategy document "Towards a Flourishing and Sustainable Future"

## **What we can offer you**

- A warm welcome to you and your family
- Our loyalty, hard work, skills and experience
- Our support to ensure that you enjoy a healthy work/ life/ family balance
- Hopefully good humour and several laughs on the way
- Chips at Herne Junior School dinner on a Friday
- Our keenness to grow in the joy of God's love

**We hope that after reading more about our church, the parish and its community you will be encouraged to come, enjoy and lead us in our journey.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours in the love of Christ.

***From the parishioners of the Parish of St Martin-in-Herne with St Peter's Greenhill***

**With thanks to the contributors Sarah Bingham , Priscilla Cox, Andrew and Sheila Gough, Keith and Susan Record, Clair Still , Carolyn Thomas and Deborah Waller**

## CHURCH BUILDINGS

### St Martin's Church Herne

There has been Christian worship at Herne since Saxon times. The remains of the original Saxon church were discovered during refurbishment work at the church in 1970. Herne became an independent parish in 1310 breaking away from what was then Reculver Abbey. The current church building dates from that time and was built over a period of about 70 years (although there has been much refurbishment undertaken during the first Elizabethan age and Victorian times).

It is a grade I listed building comprising the Lady Chapel, the Chancel, the Vestry, three aisles and a bell tower (much admired by the Victorian art critic John Ruskin). There are some good brasses and a 14th century rood screen which separates the north aisle from the Lady Chapel. The Chancel was refurbished during the first Elizabethan era and has some fine pews and odd misericords. There is a separate vestry and office for the PCC clerk, with a small but limited kitchen and even a flushing toilet facility. Above that there is a separate meeting room which is used for Sunday school and other church meetings. There is a pipe organ and a peal of 8 bells in the bell tower.

All the aisles still retain their Victorian pews. There is a small open meeting area under the bell tower and at the western end of the main aisle adjacent to the organ and console.

Over the past five years the church building has undergone considerable refurbishment principally paid for by grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Friends of East Kent churches and private donations. There has been a complete repointing of the western wall and the bell tower. New church stonework has been carved to replace damaged areas. However, more work will be required, especially to the roof where the tiles are nearing the end of their life.

Nicholas Ridley, the great Protestant reformer and Oxford martyr was a vicar at the church between 1538 and 1549. It is possible that St Martin's Church may have been a venue in the forefront of promoting Protestant liturgy in England. It is said the Te Deum was first sung in English at St. Martin's.

There are two car parking spaces next to the church and a Pay and Display car park near the church.

There are separate guidebooks to the church building and to the restoration.



**View to the High Altar in the Chancel**

### St Martin's Churchyard

This is no longer used for internment other than for interring ashes. There are some 700 plus graves or grave markers within the churchyard. These have been catalogued by the local History Society.

The grounds are regularly maintained by the church yard gardening team who meet twice a month. They are keen to keep sections of the churchyard wild to encourage the growth of wild and meadow flowers and also to encourage habitats for insects, birds, bats and other animals. The main sections of the churchyard grass are mowed regularly and the team maintains various flower borders surrounding the church building.

The churchyard has been used to host church events such as open days and the Herne Village Garden Safari.

The Village War Memorial is on the edge of the churchyard.

### St Peter's Church, Greenhill

This is a modern 1960's built multi-purpose building licenced for worship including communion. It is some two miles from St Martin's Church. It comprises an open area and stage. At one end there is a sanctuary which is screened off except for worship. There is also a vestry, cloakroom, toilets and a good modern kitchen facility. There is car parking available at the front of the building on church ground although it is limited. There are also grassed areas for barbecues or other outdoor activities.

The church is regularly used for Messy Church, the Little Fishes toddler group and for a Community Café. During August, we run weekly Activity Days that provide a free popular venue to occupy children and their parents during the long summer holidays. It is also available for private hire with rental income going to the church.

### St Martin's Church Hall

This is a modern building in Herne village. It is let regularly to various social groups and for private events. Letting rates are competitive so it is well used and the income supports church finances. It is used by the church for social events such as quizzes, barbecues or church fairs (particularly at Christmas). It has a toilet and full kitchen facilities , recently updated.



**Junior School Worship at St Martins Church Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023**



## THE VICARAGE

The vicarage is a 1984 purpose-built four-bedroom house situated about 200 metres from St Martin's Church in Herne village. It is a comfortable family home with a separate well-appointed kitchen, sitting room and dining room. On the ground floor there is also a separate office/study.

The house is set back from the main road with an access shared with the old vicarage which is adjacent. It is in good decorative order and repair. During the Vacancy, the Diocese is having a new boiler installed, damaged roof tiles replaced, and significant work is being done on the garden where the surrounding trees are being cut back.

At the front of the building there is room for parking and there is a garage.

There is a mature garden at the rear. It has been used to host small parish parties and barbecues.

Specifically, the following room dimensions may be of assistance

Ground floor office/study 4.5 m x 3.3 m sitting room 5.7 m x 3.6 m dining room 3.6 m x 3.3 m

kitchen 3.8 m x 3.6 m Separate cloakroom

First Floor Bedroom (1) 13.9 m x 3.6 m Bedroom (2) 3.9 m x 2.3 m Bedroom (3) 3.6 m x 3m

Bedroom (4) 3.6 m x 2.4 m plus family bathroom



## OUR WORSHIP

There are 90 members on the electoral roll following the last APCM in April 2023. We have a Sunday congregation of about 55 (usually about 45 communicants)

Our current pattern of worship ( during the vacancy) is that on the first and third Sundays we have a said service of Holy Communion at 8 am. and non-eucharistic Morning Worship at 10 a.m. and on the second and fourth Sundays there are said services of Morning Prayer at 8 a.m. and Holy Communion at 10 a.m. Once a quarter an Evening service is held that may be a Choral service of Evening Prayer or may be themed as for example at Harvest. Fifth Sundays are being decided upon on a quarterly basis. If the service is an 8am Eucharist it is taken generally either in the Lady Chapel or Chancel following the Book of Common Prayer. There is usually a short sermon.

The 10 a.m. non eucharistic Morning Worship services are based on a format of a Service of the Word which is more informal with the worship band providing the music and a craft table ,within the main church ,is provided for the younger members of the congregation. On the first Sunday the service is held at St. Martin's and songs are supported by a PowerPoint presentation; the third Sunday service is held at St. Peter's and is supported by service and song sheets. Our Holy Communion services follow the usual pattern of Communion and are adapted for the appropriate seasons using service booklets with hymns supported by the organ, choir and a PowerPoint presentation. Holy Communion tends to be a more formal service with the choir processing. All services have a section before the final hymn/song when the young people are invited to share what they have been learning about as well as leading us in prayer. Readings and intercessions are provided on a rota basis by members of the congregation.

We have fantastic links with both of our local Church schools at Herne and each of them hold their own seasonal services at St. Martin's with support from the clergy. Herne Juniors try to come and lead at least three services throughout the academic year with their worship leaders enabling a variety of liturgy and prayers and their choir providing strong musical support.

Worship for the major festivals is an important community outreach and during Advent we hold a Memorial Carol Service hosted by A Welch & Sons Funeral Directors and at which we remember those who will be missed; and a database is maintained for this purpose and it is a very popular service. We also hold a traditional Carol Service inviting different community members to read the scriptures. Nativity services are held at both St. Martins and St. Peters on Christmas Eve followed later by Choral Midnight Communion.

Harvest services provides another link with our schools and community and provides much needed food and other items for local groups such as Porchlight, and Catching Lives both charities for the homeless.

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**Memorial Carols at Christmas 2022**

Lent has in the past provided an opportunity for a weekly study/worship although this has been affected by the pandemic but it is hoped to run something in 2024. We have an Ash Wednesday Service and a Last Supper and Good Friday Easter Vigil.

Our Remembrance Sunday is a popular community event involving a service inside the church and a further service outside when the community fill the road (there is a road closure order) as we have worship by the War memorial, with the support of our local county councillor, Alan Marsh. We have also held two Songs of Praise services in the past year, one at each of the churches.

#### Pastoral Ministry

We have a small pastoral team that is being re-invigorated following the pandemic. The team visit a number of individuals within the local community often taking home communion as well as attending the local care homes. A communion service is being established at Herne Place, a care home on the new housing development and links with Broomfield Lodge another care home are being re-opened.

Attendance for services 2022	Adults	Children	Total
8:00 and 9:45am Sunday Services Average Attendance	49 (66) <i>(estimated 39 aged 18-69 years and 10 aged 70 years plus)</i>	6 (9)	55 (75)
Easter Services Total Attendance	<i>no breakdown</i>	<i>no break- down</i>	200 (57)
Christmas Total Attendance	<i>no breakdown</i>	<i>no break- down</i>	375 (214)
Special Services during Advent 2022, e.g. nativities and carol services	<i>no breakdown</i>	<i>no break- down</i>	Congregation and lo- cal community: 596 (418).  Including civic and school-specific: 1,251 (296).

We maintain a Facebook page to develop outreach and promote our church services and a church website (currently under review). <https://www.st-martin-in-herne.com>. We have a church directory for communication between members of the congregation.

### The Choir

The robed choir sing regularly at Sunday morning services and other services, including evening services, weddings, funerals and special services, including for her Majesty the Queen following her death in September 2022. Remembrance Sunday in St Martin's usually includes hymns and an anthem followed by the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in the churchyard which ends with the National Anthem

We practice on Thursday evening in St Martin's church. We have a repertoire of anthems to sing during Communion and at other services, in addition to leading the hymns during services. Some anthems have been specially arranged for the choir by one of the members of the choir, who conducts the choir, and he has introduced the choir to anthems written by composers he has known. We have experienced singers, who sing four part harmony, and always welcome new recruits. The choir is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music and use their publication "Sunday by Sunday" as a tool to choose hymns and anthems for services, to work with the incumbent and the Ministry Team to provide music to support and enhance worship.

To illustrate the diverse range of our repertoire as part of the Restoration celebration weekend in May 2022 (which had been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic) the choir performed a concert of music through the ages, including works by Thomas Attwood, Sir John Stainer, John Rutter, Chris Exley, the Beatles, and Martin Shaw. Our usual repertoire includes music from all ages up to the present and we seek to provide music which is topical

and relevant (and may sometimes surprise or amuse the congregation). The Restoration concert was followed by the celebration of Holy Communion by the Bishop of Dover on the Sunday of the Restoration celebration weekend.

The Christmas and Easter celebrations are an important time for the choir, who sing carols (many with familiar descants) at the Christmas services, including Memorial Carols, at which the choir sing Christmas anthems whilst stars in memory of loved ones are placed on the Christmas tree, and Nine Lessons and Carols. Last year the Christmas services included two pieces with arrangements by our choir member and the Ukrainian Carol of the Bells.

The choir also resumed their social activities after the pandemic (during which the choir continued to meet online though we did not master the technology to sing online !). We always welcome any singers who would like to join the choir.

### Bellringing

There is a ring of 8 bells in St Martin's church, which were rehung and augmented from 6 bells in 2011 (the two new bells were donated by three of the ringers in memory of family members). The band of ringers practice every Wednesday evening and ring for the 10am service every Sunday, as well as ringing for special occasions nationally and locally, such as the coronation of King Charles III in May 2023, and additional church services, especially at Christmas. Most weddings at St Martin's have bells and we have rung for special celebrations in the parish.

We have recruited ringers and taught them to ring, and have also been fortunate to have ringers move to the parish to join the band, including one who learnt to ring in London before the coronavirus pandemic. We have welcomed visitors to the tower, including a couple from Germany recently who were holidaying in the area. Visiting ringers have also come to St Martin's to ring, for ringing outings, the Canterbury District of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers (who will be holding their Christmas Social at Herne in December 2023) and to ring quarter peals. Learners receive tuition for an hour before the main practice.

We ring a range of methods, with the help of local ringers from other towers who regularly come to St Martin's on practice nights. We usually have enough ringers to ring Triples and Major methods on practice nights, together with rounds and call changes for the learners and most Sunday, ring 6 bells for the Sunday 10am service. Two of our recruits reached the standard to join the Kent County Association of Change Ringers (KCACR) during the year. The Canterbury District of the KCACR has regular meetings on the second Saturday of each month, and additional practices, visiting towers in East Kent in rotation.

### St Martins & St Peters Worship Band

The worship band has been running for a few years now but has, over the last four or five years taken a much more comfortable seat in the worship pattern of the two churches and explores a wide variety of worship songs, challenging the tradition of the standard hymn book and encouraging a new look at some long-time favourites. The band consists of keyboard, guitar, bass guitar and usually 2/3 vocalists and. whilst we muddle along with a cajon if needed, we have a drum kit but are waiting for God to send us a drummer!

The band lead the 10am services on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday at St Martins, and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 10 am service at St Peters, offering a mix of contemporary as well as old time favourites and have recently been able to explore lots of new material which the congregation are enjoying learning.

### Messy Church

Messy church is an amazing part of the mission at our parish, with numbers at this worship often higher than on a Sunday morning. We have a great team of church volunteers who deliver crafts, worship and food for the families that attend. Messy church deliberately happens at St Peters Church as this sits in Greenhill, one of the more deprived areas of Herne Bay and has the most appropriate facilities for this type of worship. Messy church often has over 50 people. Worship is delivered by a mix of clergy and lay leaders and we really value the support of our clergy when they can be there. This often provides the links to baptisms and other faith considerations that we are not always best equipped to deal with as well as assists with empowering new lay leadership to families and people who feel called to children's ministry.

### Little Fishes.

This is a group for mother/carers and their children from birth to school. We open in school term times only once a week from 9.30 to 11.30 and charge just £1 per family. The attendance ranges from around 20 to very occasionally 40. We offer refreshments: biscuits, toast and squash or water.

We have access to a secure garden with a slide and sand pit. Many toys are provided for play suitable for the age range we have, including ride on toys. At each session a simple craft is offered which the children can take home.

We end our session with singing and are about to introduce some musical instruments. Our final song is always a simple thank you to God for our family, friends and our time together.

### Activity Days at St Peter's

Throughout August, we have for several years now provided free activity days for children and families on all the Friday's in August. These activity days provide a chance for the people in our local community who have young children and who may be struggling with the additional costs of the school holidays to enjoy a day that entertains their young people completely free. We have a small team of church members that provide and facilitate the activities whilst responsibility for the children remains the parent/carers at all times. We have 6 craft and games tables, a bouncy castle, baby and toddler area and the sand pit and slides in the garden and these activities are delivered in two sessions with a break for packed lunches. Sharing lunchtime too enables the church to engage with the community and chat with those who we may not have met in other circumstances. Free provision for families is a critical part of our mission within this community and we are proud that our congregation and the local community support these days as feedback has shown us how needed they are and how fruitful this opportunity to get to know people has been for our church community.



## Toddlers Groups

Tuesday Toddlers is a church-run group which meets every Tuesday during term time in the St Martin's Church Hall, Herne. We aim to provide a safe and stimulating environment for the children and a nurturing and supportive space for the adults who bring them.

As well as the usual equipment and activities that you would expect to find in a playgroup, we have special activities which mark events within the church calendar.

We are aware that many families are struggling financially and strive to help them as much as we can. We have managed to keep our subscription to £1 per family for over 15 years. In addition, we hold events such as a Toy Swap just before Christmas and a Clothes Swap in the spring.

When our children leave us, we present them with a first Bible and their carers are given a coaster with an inspirational biblical verse.

Unfortunately, we are oversubscribed and have had to introduce a booking system. We currently have 62 families on our mailing list.

For many of our families, this group is their only link with the church and we are grateful for this opportunity to demonstrate God's love for them all.



**The Teddy Bears' picnic! All the Teddies are happy too!**

## **SAFEGUARDING**

The Church subscribes to the Church of England safeguarding policy and procedures. This is reviewed annually by resolution of the PCC.

We have a Designated Parish Safeguarding Officer Mrs Anne Ackland. Appropriate notices publicising assistance and help- lines are displayed at both our churches, church buildings and on the church website . Safeguarding is a standing item on the agenda of the PCC. All PCC members involved in dealing with children or vulnerable adults have had DBS checks.

However, as a parish we recognise that safeguarding is the responsibility of all members of the congregation.

## **MINISTRY THROUGH OCCASIONAL OFFICES**

### Baptisms

The church operates an open baptism policy so that no child is turned away from baptism. In 2022 ,48 baptisms were conducted. All baptism families are invited to attend the baptism preparation morning . As there have been so many our practice is to hold most of the services outside of the main morning service at 11.30/11.45 a.m. with one or two having been held as part of the 10 am service. All of our baptism families are invited to attend our Sunday services and/or Messy Church held on a monthly basis at St. Peter's .

### Weddings

St Martin's Church is a popular choice for weddings. In 2022 there were 9 weddings; because of the vacancy there were fewer arranged for 2023. We have a dedicated member of the congregation who administers the bookings and general arrangements on behalf of the parish.

### Funerals

These form a regular part of the ministry in the parish. Funerals may be conducted at St Martin's Church or else the incumbent will attend at Barham or Thanet Crematoria . A new crematorium is due to be opened at Greenhill within our parish and this may provide further ministry.

We endeavour to ensure that there are appropriate pastoral visitations after any funeral. On Advent Sunday there is the annual Memorial Carol service,.

<b>Attendance for additional events</b>	2021 stats in brackets
Baptisms	48 (35): (24 (13) infant, 19 (20) children 5 (2) adults)
Weddings	9 (5)
Funerals	23 (28) in church, 10 (12) at crematorium or cemetery )

## SCHOOLS

### Nursery Schools

- Little Acorns Herne pre School, Topfield, Rear of 71 Norton Avenue, Herne, Kent CT6 7TA Rated OFSTED Outstanding in 2019. Adjacent to the Herne C of E Junior School
- Herne Church of England Infants School. Reception class from 3 years old. OFSTED Outstanding.

Some attendees from both nurseries come to Messy Church and Little Fishes and toddler groups.

### Herne Church Primary Schools ( with which we have good connections and outreach)

#### Infant School

- Herne Church of England Infant and Nursery school. This is a voluntary controlled school with a roll of 312 (2022). Following an inspection in September 2021 the school is rated outstanding by OFSTED in all categories. It is also graded as outstanding by SIAMS after inspection in 2017 . There are 11 governors of whom three are foundation governors appointed either by the Diocese or the parochial church council. The incumbent would normally lead a weekly worship at the school.

#### Junior School

- Herne Church of England Junior School. This is a voluntary aided school with a roll of 360 (2023). This is confirmed as OFSTED outstanding following a recent inspection in October and November. It is also SIAMS outstanding (although a revisit is anticipated in the next 12 months). Academically the school is within the top 20% of Junior schools nationally.

The governing body of 12 includes five foundation governors, three of whom are appointed by the parochial church council and two by the Diocese. The incumbent of Herne is an ex-officio governor and will be expected to take part in governors' meetings (usually termly, that is six times a year) as well as helping to arrange and attend worship at the school, hopefully on a weekly basis

Both schools attend particular church services at St Martin's Church during the year, either in year groups or as a whole school. We are keen to continue and further improve each school's links with our church especially through their School Worship Teams and their choirs, both of whom contribute to our regular services from time to time.

#### Other primary schools

Briary Primary School is a non-church school in Greenhill Road, Herne Bay. Currently our church outreach to that school is limited.

### Secondary and Tertiary Education

Herne Bay High school is the only secondary school within the parish. Although within the parish its religious needs are currently served by Christchurch , Herne Bay .

Further afield there are well established grammar, academy and private schools in Canterbury, Faversham and Sandwich as well as schools for those children with special educational needs.

Canterbury also offers the University of Kent in Canterbury (its campus is just out of the city), Canterbury Christchurch College and the University of the Creative Arts (Canterbury) for tertiary education.

## **CHURCH ADMINISTRATION; Getting things Done**

Like so many churches much work is undertaken voluntarily by members of the congregation. The church could not function without the dedication and hard work and talents of many members of our congregation. During the vacancy we are of course grateful to so many local ministers who have given up their time to lead worship at our services and particular events.

There are three paid posts (all part time). The church has engaged a church administrator who can deal with correspondence, printing and preparation of service sheets, weekly calendars and other such work. We also have a separate caretaker who looks after St Peter's Church and the Church Hall. The organist is engaged for many of the church services and weddings and funerals and for other liturgical occasions.

We have volunteers to administer hall bookings and wedding booking arrangements.

The Parochial Church Council consists of 12 members and in addition there is one casual vacancy and one full-time vacancy.

There are two elected churchwardens and two deputy churchwardens. Historically the latter's roll would have been confined to assisting at St Peter's Church but effectively the deputy churchwardens can stand as substitutes for the main churchwardens if they are not available whether at St Martins or St Peters.

The PCC meets regularly (currently every 5 to 6 weeks with a break in August and in December). Business can, however, be conducted by email correspondence at any time between meetings, pursuant to the Church Representation Rules 2020. We have also held virtual meetings by Zoom which have been very successful.

There is a standing committee comprising the incumbent (currently the lay reader takes that role), the two churchwardens and the PCC secretary and treasurer. It has authority to conduct certain limited financial and other business without reference to the PCC but this has to be reported to the PCC at the next meeting.

There is a fabric committee comprising members of the PCC and other members of the congregation. This meets on a regular basis to consider the condition of St Martin's Church, St Peter's Church and St Martin's Church Hall.

Other volunteer groups (apart from those designated for pastoral care or worship) are the flower arrangers, the tapestry group, the church cleaning team, (including washing communion cloths) those on the after-service refreshments rota, the church yard maintenance team and those who provide maintenance for the churches and other buildings. All their work is highly appreciated.

## **FINANCES AND FUND RAISING**

Our income comes from

- regular giving by the congregation
- various fundraising events held throughout the year (including, when possible, the July Herne Parish Funday arranged with the Parish Council)
- income generated by the hiring of the two halls
- the occasional legacy.
- Rental income from a telecommunication mast at St Martin's church.

We do try to pay our Parish Share in full (we did in 2022 and 2023) but this has proved difficult in past years and we currently have an outstanding liability of £43,000 for unpaid Parish Share. However, It is one of our financial aims to work towards paying our Parish Share from general income rather than having to rely on reserves which may be depleted over the next three years.

Figures for the year ending 2022 state that the church's annual income was £180,368 and expenditure was £174,440 leaving a small surplus of £5,928. However, this was achieved by the transfer of some funds from our reserves and also discretionary payments made from charitable trusts under the vicar's control.

We have recently moved over to the Parish Giving Scheme which has been partially successful and we continue to try and encourage members of the congregation to sign up to this scheme. Others continue to pay the parish direct and we separately claim Gift Aid on these pledges and on church small donations.

A copy of the 2022 Annual Accounts is available on request from our treasurer. It is anticipated that draft unaudited accounts for 2023 will be available by the end of January 2024.

Sheila Gough Treasurer [sheila.gough@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sheila.gough@tiscali.co.uk).



## THE PARISH

The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Martin in Herne with St Peter's Greenhill broadly follows the boundaries of the civil parish boundary. It is part of the Reculver Deanery and the Diocese of Canterbury. Herne is situated 7 miles, by road, north east of Canterbury (a car journey of about 20 minutes) and a mile and a half south of Herne Bay. It is a large parish (seven square miles) comprising broadly five areas

- Herne village. St Martin's Church is situated there together with two public houses ( including the first micro-brewery in the United Kingdom) and a small corner shop and post office. Herne Infants and Junior Schools are also nearby. The vicarage is five minutes' walk from the church and St. Martin's Church Hall is nearby.
- Broomfield. This part is to the east of the parish near the Herne windmill ( a visitor attraction) Again, local shops are nearby.
- Greenhill. This housing estate with local shops is to the west of the parish and St Peter's Church is situated there. The church is about two miles from St Martin's.
- The former Herne Bay Golf Club and Strode Park Farm estate are now a series of new housing estates, part built and partly under construction. The total estate will comprise some 1100 houses with local amenities and employment opportunities. There is further building to the south of Greenhill close to the Western boundary of the Parish, with many new homes planned, newly built, or under construction.
- East Blean Woods to the south and general surrounding farmland.

A local feeder road has been improved and widened to service the new housing estates and to hopefully divert the otherwise heavy traffic flow which currently passes through Herne village. Eventually it should link with a new spine road to be built through the estates and onto the new Thanet Way.

### Some Statistics

The population, as at a 2018 update after the 2011 census, is 15,533. This figure is unlikely to include the new housing estates. That update gives a 97.4% white ethnicity 2.55% non-white. 66.3% are professed Christians. 24.3% declare no religion and 7.9% made no return.

It is not regarded as a deprived area (its deprivation rank according to the Index of Multi Deprivation is 25477, one being most deprived and 32844 least deprived). However, like so many communities there are many individuals and families who are suffering financially because of the present cost of living crisis. Our church and church schools offer support to these both financially and practically.

It has a separate elected Herne and Broomfield Parish Council . It is part of the North Thanet parliamentary constituency. Our MP, Sir Roger Gale (Con) supports us when called upon.

### Population statistics (as declared but not a 100% return)

"Source: Church of England Research & Statistics unit"

aged 5-17	17.9 ( 2780)
% aged 18-29	12.1 (1879)
% aged 30-44	19.0 (2951)
% aged 45-64	27.4 (4256)
% aged 65 and over	17.7 (2749)

### **LOCAL LEISURE AND OTHER AMENITIES**

Herne is situated about 1.6 miles from the North Kent coast. Herne Bay has the usual sailing, fishing and leisure amenities appropriate to a seaside resort. There is a separate public swimming pool. There are good coastal walks along the Saxon Shore Way. Inland there are various footpaths to other local villages. Herne has a large local park and playground at Cherry Tree Orchard with football and cricket pitches and a multi games court. Curtis Wood Park is a local nature reserve being an area of nature conservation and common ground adjacent to an ancient wood; ideal for dog walking and simple rest and recuperation. It is designated "A wild place for everyone". For rambling, there are numerous footpaths that cross through both the village and St Martin's Churchyard and which provide good walking with further links to adjacent villages and local hostelrys. There are local football, cricket and other sports clubs to join in the vicinity.

Herne has a regular bus service to Canterbury and Herne Bay and the other local North Kent towns such as Whitstable, Birchington and Margate. The nearest train station is at Herne Bay which has a semi-fast service to London St Pancras (about 75/90 minutes). There are faster trains to London from Canterbury West Station or other services from Canterbury East to London Victoria. Trains also go to the east coast and Margate, Ramsgate and Broadstairs.

The new Thanet Way (the A 290) also provides a fast road link to the East Kent coastal towns of Margate, Ramsgate, and Broadstairs. To the west it links to the M2 for travel along the North Kent coast (Faversham, Sittingbourne and beyond) and then to London or to join with the M25.

Herne has a vibrant community life principally based upon the two village halls. The Herne Centre is owned by the parish council and the separate St Martin's Church Hall is one of the parish church buildings. Both halls are well used either for private functions but also for art classes, Pilates, yoga, dance, sports and social groups. There are local societies including the well-established Herne and Broomfield History Society, Herne Rose and Gardening Society and the Women's Institute in Herne Bay and local Girl Guide and Scout groups (including

Beavers and Junior clubs). There is a popular annual Garden Safari in Herne that includes the churchyard as a refreshment stop and, when possible, an annual Parish Funday /Sunday which is organised by the Church and the Parish Council.

The Strode Park Foundation ,a charity for people with a wide range of disabilities, is situated in the village. It provides residential care and outreach home care in the community to many children and adults throughout East Kent.

Herne Bay has a local museum, a cinema, the Kings Hall and the Little Theatre (for amateur dramatics) and a public library. Canterbury has the renowned Marlowe Theatre and other cinemas, museums and the Beaney Public library. In the autumn Canterbury holds its very popular annual arts festival. Margate has the Turner Contemporary Art Gallery and numerous galleries and independent shops. On the Canterbury campus of the University of Kent ( just outside the city) there is the Gulbenkian cinema and theatre and the Collyer- Ferguson concert hall.

There is a choice of doctors and dental practices within the parish or in easy reach. However, few (if any) dentists are NHS.

Local shops in Herne Bay and Canterbury provide wide choices for food and other shopping. There are three major supermarkets in Herne Bay or along the old Thanet Way all within easy driving or the bus service connections to and from Herne.

There are numerous restaurants and local pubs in Herne Bay. In addition, Canterbury has an even wider range of restaurants offering different culinary experiences.

**Approximate position of parish boundaries. With thanks to Ordnance Survey Limited**

