

The Parish of Ramsgate Holy Trinity



Diocese of Canterbury
CHANGED LIVES @ CHANGING LIVES



Parish Profile

A new priest for the Parish of Ramsgate Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity Ramsgate is an Anglican church with a strong catholic tradition where liturgy and music are a fundamental part of church life and where children are first and foremost. After an almost 40-year incumbency followed by two rather short terms, Holy Trinity is ready for a new priest to help us build and develop our church. In this respect we have already made great strides with the help of our visiting priests, an emboldened PCC and laity, and there is already a strong sense of unity. We fully embrace the principles of The Society of St Wilfred and St Hilda and look forward to welcoming a priest who shares our vision and beliefs in promoting the Gospel.

As well as reading this Parish Profile you are encouraged to visit our Facebook and Instagram pages and our website at www.holytrinitychurchramsgate.com We hope these might give you a greater insight into our Parish life.



Contents

Bishop of Richborough	3
Archdeacon of Canterbury	4
Overview	5
What we seek in a Parish Priest	6
About Ramsgate and Thanet	7
Location map	8
Worship	9
Music	10
Organ & Sound System	11
Ramsgate Holy Trinity CE Primary School	12
Parish communications & Ministry Team	13
Deanery and Ecumenical Links	14
Church Hall	15
Church Building	16
Children's Ministry	17
Rectory	18
Map showing location of Church, Rectory & School	19
Financial Overview	20
House of Bishops Declaration	21
Map of Parish boundary	21
Contacts	22
Appendix A	

A message from the Bishop of Richborough

When we are discerning the next steps in priestly ministry of course the first thing to do is to pray. As you read this Parish Profile, I am praying for you and for a renewed consecration of your life and ministry; of faithful, joyful and sacrificial service; and that you will consider joining us as a fellow priest and pilgrim here in the Richborough family serving within the Diocese of Canterbury.

Rejoicing in the fullness of Catholic life within the Church of England, our parishes serve a huge variety of communities, rural, coastal and urban, across 14 Dioceses within the Province of Canterbury.

Amidst this diversity, we are called to bring Jesus Christ to all those whom we serve in his name, working in close and fruitful partnership with our sisters and brothers in each Diocese. We do this through the beauty of holiness manifest in our liturgical and sacramental life, in our pastoral care, in our evangelistic zeal and through our active care for the most vulnerable: that God's holy people may be fed, nurtured and equipped for his loving purposes in the world.

If the Lord is calling you to serve as the new parish priest for Holy Trinity, Ramsgate, may your 'yes' be a source of life and peace for you and those whom you will serve in his Name.

+Luke Rutupiae

The Right Reverend Luke Irvine-Capel
Bishop of Richborough
nostra autem conversatio in caelis



Thank you for taking an interest in the vacant parish of Holy Trinity, Ramsgate. You will see from the accompanying documentation that the plan is for the parish to be held together with another Society parish in Deal.

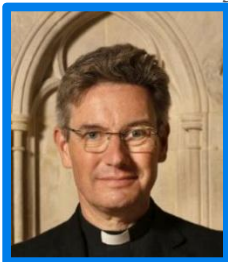
During the now lengthy interregnum it has been my privilege to visit Holy Trinity frequently and I have got to know the church and people there. It is a church which demonstrates Christian commitment, prayerfulness, care, and commitment to Christ and to one another. It is a small church but maintains a high standard both of church music and children's work. The team of lay leaders has taken on a lot in the last few years.

Ramsgate itself is a place where there is renewed hope. It has suffered economically over recent years, but the promise of greater inward investment and regeneration is there, though yet to be fully realised. Holy Trinity parish, like the rest of the town, has higher than average levels of deprivation and that necessarily impacts ministry.

This is a great opportunity to lead a church in the Catholic tradition into a period of growth and to work constructively across the town and the deanery to promote human flourishing. If you would like to make an appointment to talk about the parish and the opportunities of this post, please contact Caroline Hemington (chemington@diocant.org).

Further information www.canterburydiocese.org

*The Venerable Will Adam
Archdeacon of Canterbury*



Overview

The church of Holy Trinity occupies a prominent position in the town of Ramsgate in Kent. Near to the City of Canterbury and within easy access of London, Holy Trinity is situated on the East Cliff, close to the town centre. Not only is it physically imposing but, through its mission and outreach, the church plays an important part in the local community.



Holy Trinity is a grade 2* listed building of Special Architectural and Historic Interest. The church has many fine stained-glass windows, including two recent additions. It was built in 1844 to designs by Everard Henley of London, a noted church architect of the time. The walls are of beach flint and Bath stone. The church was built on land donated by Augusta Emma D'Este, the daughter of Prince Augustus Frederick, the Duke of Sussex.

The church hall was formed in 1979 in the Western end of the church. It is an invaluable resource for the church community, a place to meet after services, hold regular fairs and other social events for fundraising.

During this period of vacancy, our worshipping community has held up well and, in some senses, has blossomed because lay leadership is strong and well supported. People work together to continue to offer pastoral care in the community, to ensure that key services are covered and that the church is well maintained and cared for. Music and our vital Sunday School have been particularly important in keeping everyone together over recent years. We are currently mainly only able to offer services on Sunday and key liturgical occasions but are looking forward to returning to regular weekday services.



What we seek in a Parish Priest

- A good shepherd to guide us, teach us, deepen our faith and encourage our catholic tradition.
- Someone who will reach out to the local community to grow our church.
- A priest who appreciates the importance of music in our worship, who will work together with our musical director.
- Someone who will continue to develop the links with our school and work with our Sunday School leaders to further encourage youth ministry.
- Work closely with our Fundraising, Social and Growth team in our efforts to raise much needed funding.



About Ramsgate and Thanet

The Isle of Thanet includes the towns of Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate. Thanet has excellent primary and secondary schools, including two local Grammar Schools. The local hospital, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother (QEQM), is located in Margate and there are several GP surgeries and other medical facilities nearby.

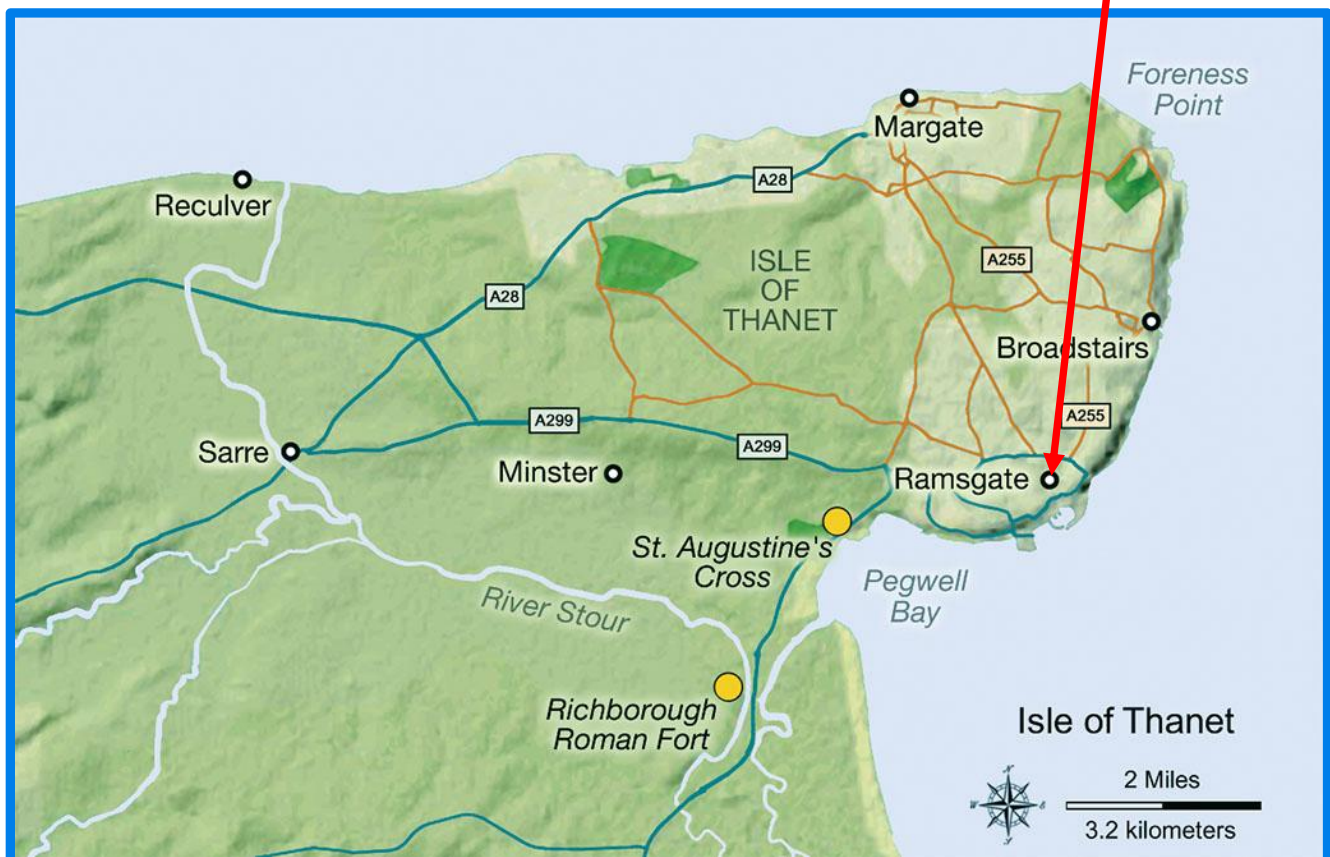
Ramsgate is a town of mixed communities and is steeped in history, with its varied maritime and military connections, architectural finery and many a blue plaque to noted artists, writers and royalty who have stayed or lived here over the years. Ramsgate has nearly 900 listed buildings including Georgian, Regency and Victorian architecture. Architects Mary Townley, Augustus Pugin and Edward Pugin have all designed and built buildings in Ramsgate.

Ramsgate has beautiful sandy beaches, nestled under the chalk cliffs, and the country's only Royal Harbour, which is one of the finest marinas in the Southeast. The town has a wealth of restaurants, cafés, bars and pubs.

Ramsgate enjoys easy links to London by road and rail, with a regular and efficient service to London St Pancras from Ramsgate or Thanet Parkway, taking just over an hour. A wonderful place to live with all the benefits of beach life, countryside and easy access to main cities such as London and Canterbury.



Location map



Worship

At Holy Trinity the focus of our week is on the Sung Eucharist service on Sunday, but we are looking forward to being able to resume Masses during the week. We also celebrate key liturgical services throughout the year. The Sung Mass is led by the musical director and the choir with choral, plainsong and congregational Mass settings and hymns. Lay people support the priest during the service, including our two budding young servers. We are well-supported during interregnum with the help of two retired priests and our Archdeacon. We have a lay Pastoral Care Leader who can take Communion to the housebound and to those in hospital or residential care as we endeavor to maintain links with members of our community who find it difficult sometimes to attend church and we are also keen to begin Bible Study as a form of fellowship and worship.

We continue to organise baptisms, weddings and funerals on request with the help of our supporting priests, and an annual pet blessing service is held which is well attended by our furry and feathered friends.

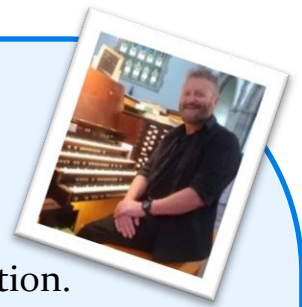
Earlier this year Bishop Luke came to Holy Trinity to hold a Confirmation Service with five candidates being confirmed.



Music

At Holy Trinity we maintain an entirely classical music tradition. The Director of Music, Stephen Ansell, B.A., (Ebor), who is a professional musician, works tirelessly to organise the music for our services. Music forms a vital part of Holy Trinity's worship, including first and foremost, a sung Mass on Sundays and encompassing a wide range of choral music and plainsong. Steve is a talented organist and works hard with the choir to provide appropriate hymns, psalms and responses within the sung Mass. The choir rehearses every Thursday and before each Mass to ensure that the service runs smoothly, consistently and in line with the church calendar. We are preparing to resume Choral Evensong again in the autumn.

We run Trinity Music Academy every other Thursday, to encourage newcomers and to reach out to the wider community. This also provides an opportunity for the choir to learn more about voice training, harmony singing and reading music. Once a month, we encourage children and interested adults to learn about the organ at Organ and Singing Club. Some of the attendees will be playing the organ before Mass. Steve is now teaching the organ in local schools, including our own school, Ramsgate Holy Trinity. Because our organ is an excellent instrument (Mander Organs, Canterbury) in good condition after recent fundraising paid for extensive restoration, the Kent County Organists Association meets here from time to time to share their experiences. We are also in the process of opening the organ for use by young organists to facilitate their practice and as a means of encouraging this vital skill in the church community.



The Organ

The original organ was built in 1871 - a two-manual instrument which was reported to be very loud and coarse in tone. This instrument was moved to the west gallery in 1938 by the then organist Mr Frank Bowen. Work on rebuilding the organ as a three-manual instrument was begun in 1962 but due to financial restrictions was not completed until 1971. In 2002 the organ was overhauled, and a generous bequest made it possible to make improvements to the mechanism as well as various tonal enhancements and additions. Further major improvements were undertaken during the last few years after a successful fund-raising campaign. The comprehensive tonal specification makes the organ ideally suited to both concert work and the accompaniment of the liturgy.



The Sound System

In recent years, thanks to a donation in memory of a much-loved member of the congregation, a brand-new sound system has been installed within the church, which includes a loop system.

Ramsgate Holy Trinity CE Primary School

We have a close link with our school. Currently three members of our church sit on the governing body of the school, including the Chair and the Chair of Finance. The ex-officio role on the Board awaits our new priest. In an Ofsted inspection earlier this year, the school was awarded “strong” across the board and in the most recent SIAMS inspection the school gained a J1 grade, indicating an outstanding performance. Our former priests have played an active role in the school’s worship, and we are very keen to develop this further. The school has been using the church increasingly for services and educational visits. The close relationship between church and school is mutually beneficial, with many families attending both. Please see letter at Appendix 1 from the Head of School.



Parish Communications

The Parish website is maintained regularly, and we also update our entry on A Church Near You with relevant information about services and events. We have three Facebook pages, one for the main church, one for Sunday School and another for hall hire and events. We also have an Instagram account for the church.

The church uses pew sheets from Redemptorist Publications, on the back of which is printed a weekly bulletin, which gives details of services, readings, breaking news and forthcoming events. The pew sheet is also shared weekly on the church Facebook page to keep in touch with those who cannot attend Mass.



Ministry Team

In addition to the Parish Priest, we have two retired priests who assist where needed and we have a Pastoral Care Assistant. The worship of the church is led by the Parish Priest in association with the other members of the church. There are several persons who assist with the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass. The Parish Priest takes Communion to the housebound and to those in hospital or residential care.

The PCC

The PCC currently consists of 10 members and meets every month. We have a Finance sub-committee, Gift Aid Secretary, Safeguarding Officer, Fabric Officer, Treasurer and Deanery Synod Reps. In addition, we have a sub-committee consisting of members of the PCC and the wider congregation who meet monthly to oversee fundraising, social events and growth of the church (the FSG group).

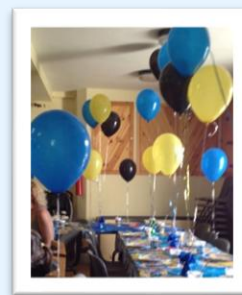


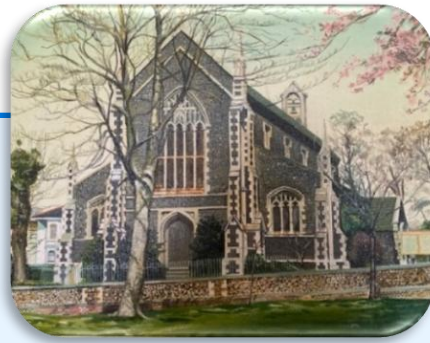
Deanery and Ecumenical links

Holy Trinity Church, Ramsgate belongs to the Thanet Deanery. Within this Deanery, our church is the only Society church and maintains an Anglo-Catholic tradition. The distinctive nature of our church is instrumental in retaining our congregation and in attracting new members, sometimes from far and wide. We have two Deanery Synod representatives and several members of the Forward in Faith group who regularly attend their meetings.

Church Hall

The Church Hall was created in 1979, when the church was divided in half. It is, therefore, an integral part of the church building. There are comprehensive facilities, including a large open area, a smaller side room and kitchen. The hall is used by our Sunday School, with the larger area being used by the pre-school children and the smaller room being used for the older children. The church and hall are open to the community on a Friday morning and are staffed by members of the congregation, who as well as working in the church, also offer refreshments and a drop-in facility. The hall is used by our worshipping community for social activities such as Fish & Chip Quiz or Bingo evenings and for specific functions. The hall is also hired out for parties and receptions. The hall is used as a community resource for clubs and activities and, although we suffered losses due to the pandemic, new bookings are now being taken. Brownie and Rainbow groups meet each week during term time and parade once a month, joining in with Sunday School. We have a dedicated hall manager who works hard to maximize income and to generate a revenue stream for the church. We are now the Polling Station for the ward and regular bookings include a Life Drawing Class, Slimming World and private tuition classes. On National Heritage Open Days the church is open with a display put on by local historians.





The Church Building

Holy Trinity is a Grade 2* listed building of Special Architectural and Historic Interest. The Lady Chapel on the north side of the Sanctuary is used for mid-week Masses. The pulpit, standing nine feet high, is octagonal in shape with four large carved panels. The grounds around the church are maintained by members of our congregation on regular gardening and maintenance days, which always include a shared lunch. A gardener is employed to cut the grass. Routine maintenance of the buildings is on-going. The West wall and pinnacles and scaffolding have recently been repaired. In March 2022, the bell cote was damaged by high winds and had to be removed. The repairs were covered by our buildings insurance and involved a structural engineer, architect and stonemason who worked together to re-instate the bell cote consistent with its Grade II listing. Internally our buildings are cared for by a dedicated team comprising a cleaner, who comes in every week, brass cleaners and flower arrangers. Our Fabric Officer is involved in buildings maintenance and on-going repairs, drawing on the skills of local craftsmen and consistent with Diocesan regulations.

The existing church boiler failed four years ago so the opportunity was taken to install a completely new system with new pipework and radiators. As a result, we have been able to make a huge step forward in reducing our carbon footprint. All the lights in the church have been replaced with LED lights and we hope to do the same with the church hall in the near future.

Children's Ministry at Holy Trinity Church

The Sunday School at Holy Trinity has been in existence throughout the history of the church and goes from strength to strength. We currently have a Sunday School team of four main leaders with additional help from parents. Our leaders have strong links to Ramsgate Holy Trinity School and a local nursery school. The same leaders also run Brownies and Rainbows at Holy Trinity with regular church parades, and the families of the Brownies and Rainbows are encouraged to attend church services and fund-raising events. Our curriculum is based on the Lectionary. We use many different media to teach the Word of God, from using Bible puppets to building a wall of prayer each week with Duplo bricks. Every week the children make a craft to take home and learn a memory verse which is recited in church during Mass. There are about 20 children registered with good attendance. The children enjoy dressing up at times such as for Palm Sunday, Christmas, Epiphany and May Devotions. The Sunday School also runs activities such as the Light Party, as an alternative to Halloween, and occasional Messy Church sessions.

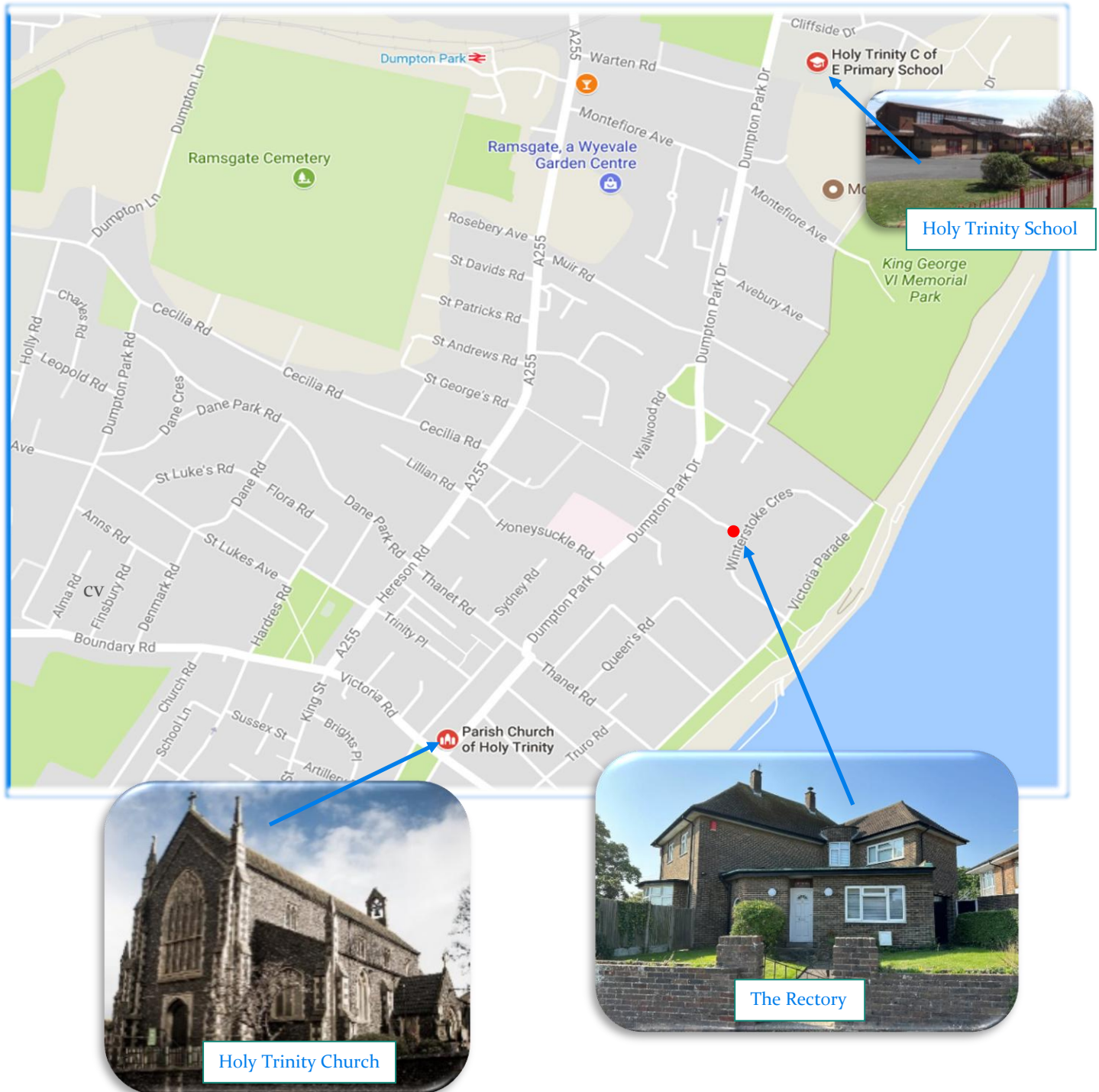


The Rectory

Holy Trinity's Rectory is a spacious detached house built in 1953. It is situated in Winterstoke Way in Ramsgate and is within easy walking distance of the church, beach and town centre. It is set in a quiet location but is very close to the bus route. The Rectory is surrounded by gardens and overlooks the sea. The Rectory has four bedrooms and two bathrooms. There is a pleasant well-proportioned sitting room with an open fire and a dining room with French windows onto the garden and patio, a well-appointed kitchen and utility room. Also on the ground floor, there is a study and cloakroom. The garage is integrated into the house and therefore affords direct access to the living accommodation. There is also a driveway for a second car.



Map showing location of The Rectory, Holy Trinity Church and Holy Trinity School.

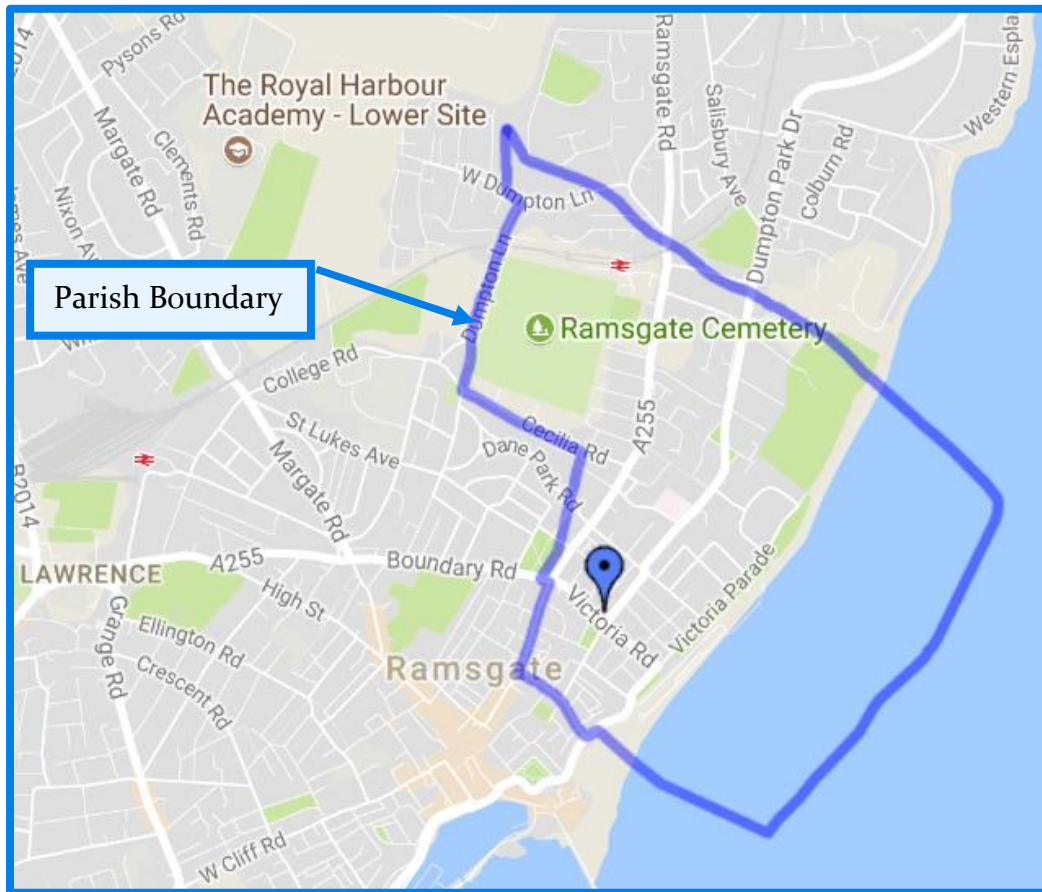


Financial Overview

The PCC of Holy Trinity Ramsgate have prioritised paying our share in full. We have a good level of regular giving, both through the plate and by direct debit, and our church hall is regularly hired out for use by the community. With a healthy programme of social gatherings and fairs which raise additional funds, coupled with Gift Aid wherever possible, we can cover our day-to-day running costs. Our income levels are increasing year-on-year, but where we experience shortfalls in expenditure over income, we have a legacy fund which helps to cover the gap.

Our only regular expenditure of note over and above cleaning, gardening, utilities, insurance and supplies is an honorarium to our director of music. We are blessed to have a PCC and congregation members who give freely of their time and expertise to deal with many routine maintenance issues and the upkeep of the church building and grounds.

Holy Trinity Ramsgate Financial Plan 2025 - 2027				
	2025	2026	2027	
Starting Funds	£83,000.00	£57,998.52	£31,175.13	
In				
Regular Giving	£ 7,416.20	£ 8,157.82	£ 8,973.60	
Service Collections	£ 8,606.40	£ 9,467.04	£10,413.74	
Donations	£ 3,294.00	£ 3,294.00	£ 3,294.00	
Gift Aid	£ 5,000.00	£ 5,500.00	£ 6,050.00	
VAT Reclaim	£ -	£ -	£ -	
Return on Investments	£ 4,150.00	£ 3,400.00	£ 2,100.00	
Hall Hire	£ 2,052.00	£ 2,462.40	£ 2,954.88	
Events	£ 2,386.80	£ 2,864.16	£ 3,436.99	
Fees	£ 878.00	£ 878.00	£ 878.00	
External Funding	£15,000.00	£15,000.00	£15,000.00	
Insurance Claim	£ -	£ -	£ -	
Total	£48,783.40	£51,023.42	£53,101.22	
Out				
Share	£52,331.00	£55,470.86	£58,799.11	
Mission Giving	£ 286.00	£ 286.00	£ 286.00	
Salaries, wages and honoraria	£ 5,800.00	£ 5,800.00	£ 5,800.00	
Church running expenses	£13,001.96	£13,782.08	£14,609.00	
Church utility bills	£ 2,365.92	£ 2,507.88	£ 2,658.35	
Total	£73,784.88	£77,846.81	£82,152.46	
Closing Funds	£57,998.52	£31,175.13	£ 2,123.88	



House of Bishops' Declaration

The Present Position of the PCC of Holy Trinity Church, Ramsgate

The Resolution was unanimously re-affirmed once it was confirmed that we were going into interregnum. Holy Trinity is proud to be a member of

The Society under the patronage of St Wilfred and St. Hilda and will continue to uphold the values of the Society. In addition, Holy Trinity is an active member of the Forward in Faith group in the Diocese of Canterbury and nationally.



Links and Contacts:

Churchwardens:

Both Church Wardens will be happy to answer any questions and can be contacted as shown below:



Mary Somers-James

07979653043 / 01843 584044

Kay Sinden

07763 712477

Email: churchwardenshtr@gmail.com



Holy Trinity Church Ramsgate Website:

<https://holytrinitychurchramsgate.com>

Holy Trinity Church Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/holytrinitychurchramsgate>

Holy Trinity Church Ramsgate Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/holytrinitychurchramsgate/

Holy Trinity Church Ramsgate Sunday School Facebook Page:

[facebook.com/Holy-Trinity-Church-Ramsgate-Sunday-School-](https://facebook.com/Holy-Trinity-Church-Ramsgate-Sunday-School-215579471791537/)

[215579471791537/](https://facebook.com/Holy-Trinity-Church-Ramsgate-Sunday-School-215579471791537/)

Holy Trinity Church Hall for hire and Events Facebook Page:

[www.facebook.com/Holy-Trinity-Church-Ramsgate-Events-and-Hall-for-](http://www.facebook.com/Holy-Trinity-Church-Ramsgate-Events-and-Hall-for-hire-323412414463800/)

[hire-323412414463800/](http://www.facebook.com/Holy-Trinity-Church-Ramsgate-Events-and-Hall-for-hire-323412414463800/)

Forward in Faith:

forwardinfaith.com/

The Society:

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

The Bishop of Richborough:

<http://www.richborough.org.uk/index.php>

Additional Curates Society:

<https://www.additionalcurates.co.uk/>

Thanet District Council:

<https://www.thanet.gov.uk/>



Appendix A – Letter from the Head of Ramsgate Holy Trinity School

Ramsgate Holy Trinity C.E. Primary School

Headteacher
Mrs. E. Price

01843 860744



Dumpton Park Drive
Broadstairs
Kent
CT10 1RR

In support of the appointment of a new priest for Holy Trinity Church Ramsgate

At Ramsgate Holy Trinity C.E. Primary School, our Christian vision is the heartbeat of our community:

Every day we gather as a community of learners and leaders, recognising and nurturing each individual and their gifts. Following Jesus' example, we aspire to be inclusive, compassionate and caring, valuing curiosity and embracing challenge to prepare our children for an ever-changing world. From our first day, all and one are nourished: spiritually, emotionally, academically and physically.

As a school rooted in the Anglican tradition, we welcome and embrace children and families of all faiths and none. We see spirituality as something that is nurtured in every individual, staff and children alike, and we strive to create space for reflection, wonder, prayer, and growth. Our connection with Holy Trinity Church has played a vital role in this journey, helping us to shape a school culture that is both distinctively Christian and deeply inclusive.

The presence of a committed and visible priest has always been profound. It has enriched our collective worship, supported our RE curriculum, and offered pastoral care that resonates with the whole school community. Through shared acts of worship, school celebrations, community engagement, and mutual prayer, our relationship with the Church has brought life and depth to the spiritual development of our whole school family.

As the parish seeks its new priest, we are prayerfully hopeful for someone who will joyfully embrace and nurture this partnership. We seek a priest who is passionate about engaging with children, who understands the unique opportunities of working with a school community, and who will walk alongside us as we grow together in faith, hope, and love.