

The Archdeacons of Ashford and Canterbury

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Diocese of Canterbury
CHANGED LIVES → CHANGING LIVES

St Andrew's, Deal and Holy Trinity, Ramsgate

One priest, two parishes, two local missions

We are delighted to commend this opportunity to priests discerning their next step in ministry. St Andrew's, Deal and Holy Trinity, Ramsgate are two distinct parish churches, each with its own history, community, worshipping life and local mission. Both stand firmly within the catholic tradition of the Church of England, both are under the episcopal care of the Bishop of Richborough, and both are seeking a priest who will love them, lead them, and help them grow in faith, confidence and service.

This appointment offers the right priest the chance to be parish priest of two faithful and lively communities on the East Kent coast. It is not a proposal for the parishes to become one community, nor for either to lose its identity. Rather, it recognises that each parish is ready for priestly leadership rooted in the sacramental life of the Church, attentive to local context, and committed to mission in the places where God has set them.

The priest appointed will be free to choose which of the two parsonage houses to make his home.

St Andrew's is the parish church for North Deal and beyond: a welcoming and caring Christian community which seeks to maintain catholic teaching and practice while reaching out to the wider town. Its profile speaks of a church with "open arms and hearts", where the Parish Mass is central, the worshipping life has been faithfully maintained through the vacancy, and there is a clear desire to deepen discipleship, develop mission, and use church buildings as a positive tool for growth and community engagement.

There is much to build on at St Andrew's: a committed congregation, a strong musical tradition, regular worship, links with Deal Parochial School, a parish hall used by the wider community, and a wide pattern of social, pastoral and outreach activity. The parish is realistic about its context, including areas of need in North Deal, but sees this above all as an opportunity for evangelism, pastoral care and renewed confidence in local mission.

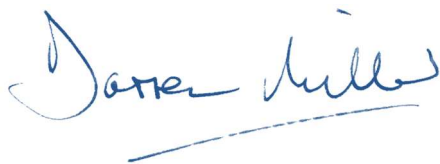
Holy Trinity, Ramsgate is a vibrant Society parish with a strong Anglo-Catholic tradition, where music is fundamental to church life and children are placed first and foremost within the church community. Its profile describes a parish with a solid and committed worshipping community, warmth and welcome, well-established catholic liturgy, excellent music, a significant Sunday School, links with uniformed organisations and a close relationship with Holy Trinity CE Primary School.

Holy Trinity occupies a prominent position on Ramsgate's East Cliff, close to the town centre, and serves a community marked by seaside beauty, history, architectural richness and areas of economic hardship. Its worshipping community has held up well during the vacancy, with strong lay leadership, committed pastoral care, music, Sunday School and care for the building all helping the parish to look forward with hope to its next chapter.

Together, these parishes offer a rich and demanding ministry for a missionally minded priest in the traditional catholic tradition. The priest appointed will not be asked simply to maintain what already exists, nor to force an artificial model of shared parish life. Rather, he will be asked to serve each parish as its parish priest: celebrating the sacraments, teaching the faith, encouraging lay gifts, strengthening links with schools and communities, and helping each church discern how it can grow in confidence, discipleship and mission.

There is scope here for imagination, pastoral warmth and steady leadership. The parishes need a priest who will value beauty in worship, take children and young people seriously, work well with committed lay people, and bring a contagious zeal for the Gospel. For the right priest, this is an exciting opportunity to serve two coastal communities with much in common, but with distinct identities and callings — enabling each to flourish in its own place, and to bear faithful witness to Christ in Deal and Ramsgate.

We warmly invite you to read the two parish profiles and to consider whether God may be calling you to this ministry.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Darren Miller', with a horizontal line underneath.

The Venerable Darren Miller
Archdeacon of Ashford

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Wm. Adam', with a horizontal line underneath.

The Venerable Dr Will Adam
Archdeacon of Canterbury