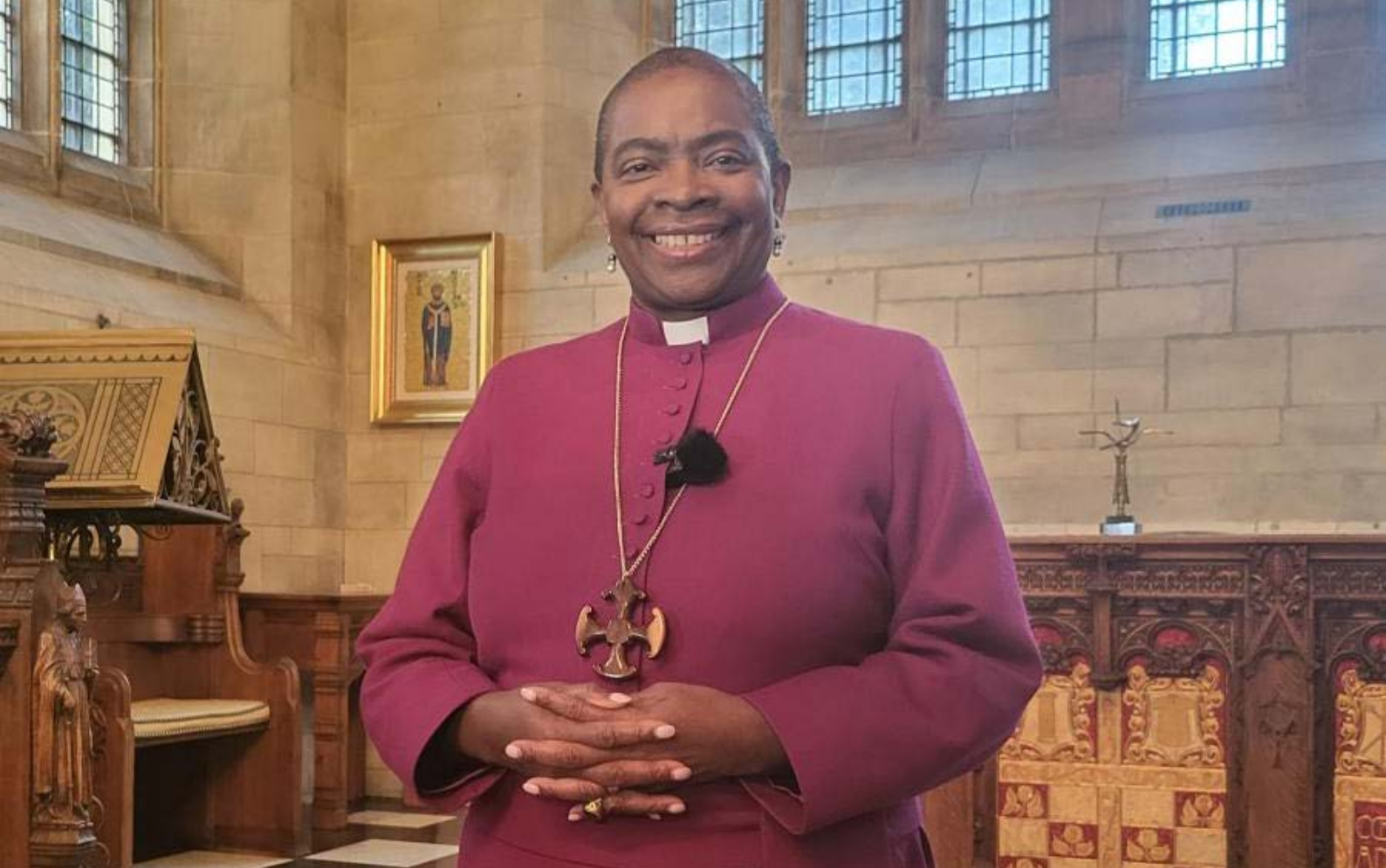




Annual report 2023





I am delighted that here in Canterbury diocese we continue to celebrate the generosity of God's love through hearing and seeing the wonderful testimonies of lives being changed. The past twelve months has seen evidence of the abundance of gifts of ministry and mission at work in the local church and shared in our parishes and deaneries. It has been a privilege for me to see this in action as I travel across our diocese spending time with school communities, youth groups, Bible study groups... the list is endless. Some of the highlights for me have also included extended visits to deaneries, getting to know people on the ground and hearing about local needs and passions. It is always a joy for me to take confirmation services, sharing this special moment when people renew their commitment as disciples of Christ. In 2023 I again led a number of these including one at the Cathedral in November where over 50 candidates were confirmed! Further afield, in August I visited Madagascar, our link diocese, and was able to renew our commitment to mutual prayer and support, and to bring the blessings and prayers of the Madagascan people back here to Canterbury.

As you read this report, I hope you will see that this journey has already begun through different aspects of the life of our diocese and my prayer is that together we may be inspired to continue serving the Lord and be revitalised in our calling to see God's Kingdom fully alive.

2023 was the year when we renewed our commitment to delivering social justice and 'created' [The Social Justice Network](#) (SJV) to better position ourselves to access funding for the work. I give God thanks for all who give of their time to work with those who are most vulnerable amongst us, including those who come to our island seeking refuge.

We have much to be thankful for and I hope this annual report may be a reminder of God's love, faithfulness, and generosity as we continue our journey together.

+Rose Dover

+Rose Hudson-Wilkin

Strategy for growth

2023 was an important year for our strategy. During the first half of the year we held a discussion about where we would like to be by 2030. In July, Diocesan Synod approved our [three Bold Outcomes](#) for 2030:

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

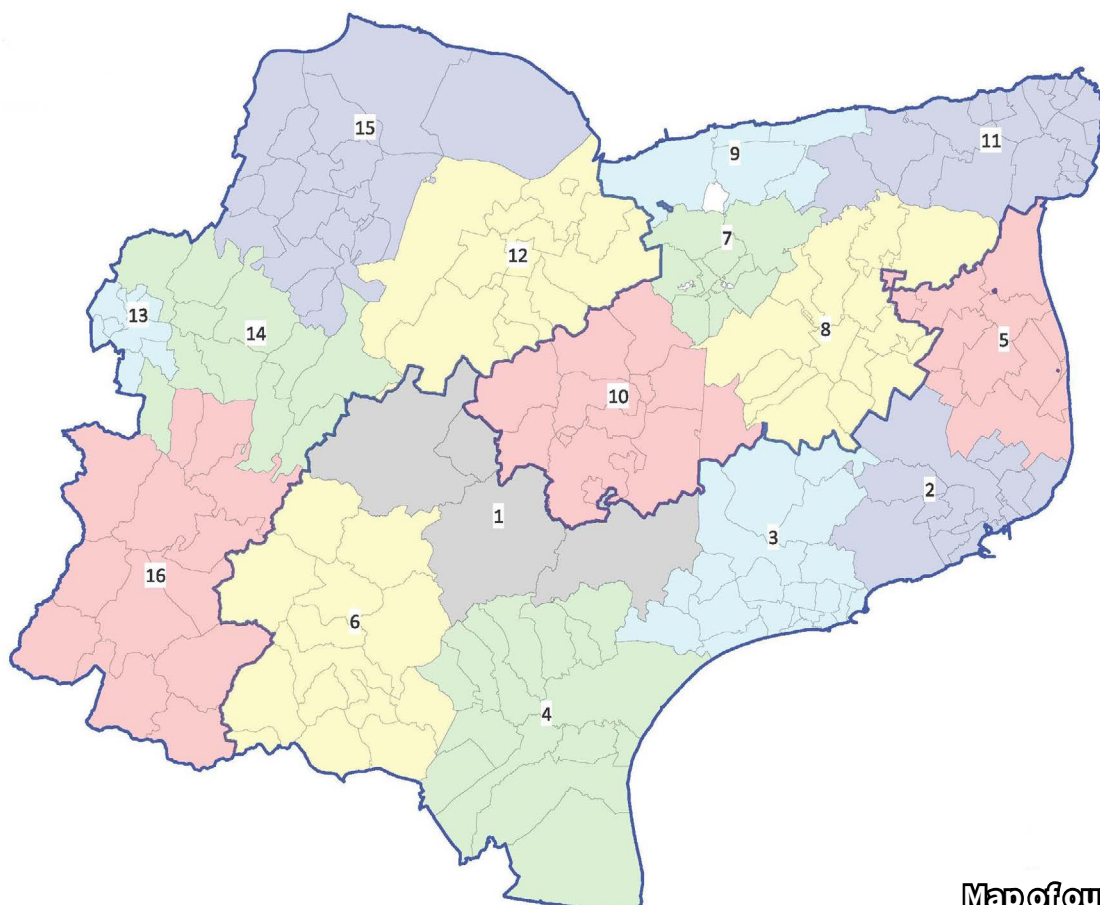
The Bold Outcomes give us all a clear focus on what we would like to achieve. Deaneries have been asked to incorporate these within their deanery plans so that we can begin to build a picture of how we might achieve these ambitious goals.

Our diocese has very little to invest in growth. It is vital therefore to draw in investment from the Diocesan Investment Programme made available by the (national) Archbishops' Council. Our first funding request was submitted in March 2023 and we were delighted to be granted £1m.

This enables us to employ up to seven youth ministers for our churches with large youth ministries which will help with our first Bold Outcome. The funding also covered the costs of our small strategy team so that they do not need to be funded from Parish Share. They help to write our funding requests amongst other things.

Whilst it is slightly beyond the end of 2023, we also submitted a second funding request in January 2024 and were granted £3.2m to establish two resourcing church projects, one in Margate and one in Maidstone. The funding request also set out our plans for further resourcing churches in major urban areas across our diocese. We will also need to develop models for our more rural areas and these will be the subject of further funding requests in the future.

Our strategy is focused on growth and overcoming the decline of recent decades. This is both exciting and challenging as we re-invigorate our engagement with our mission to “make disciples of all nations”. (Matthew 28:19)



Map of our deaneries

St Faith's Centre opens

Work was completed in July 2023 on [St Faith's Centre](#), a brand-new church and community centre in the Springfield and Ringlestone area of Maidstone.

With construction starting at the beginning of 2021, it was built on land previously occupied by a dilapidated church hall, and the vicarage.

A decision was made that the parish church (St Faith's) in the centre of Maidstone didn't meet the needs of the people who lived in the community in terms of location, so this was sold to a different faith group to help fund the project.

Priest in Charge of the Maidstone, St Faith Benefice, Revd Canon Arthur Houston managed the project. Speaking about the Centre, he said: "We've got two goals: it's to serve the local community and to grow the church.

"We want to be a big congregation that serves the community and brings the good news of our faith."

The project started in 2008 with a community consultation, with plans initially to replace just the church hall lapsing in 2012. Planning permission for the final iteration of a church and community centre was granted in May 2020. In October 2021, the building was handed over to the contractors, with works completing on 28 July 2023 in time for an opening dedication by Bishop Rose on 30 July 2023.

Liquidating assets, donations, as well as use of grants and loans has meant that despite a final cost of £2.2m, St Faith's Centre is now debt free as of April 2024.



Revd Canon Arthur Houston, Priest in Charge of Maidstone, St Faith Benefice



New St Faith's Centre building



Romney confirmations

Revitalisation

One of our [Bold Outcomes](#) which underpins the others is ‘every parish, benefice and deanery showing signs of revitalisation’.

We are all encouraged to explore what new life looks like. How will we notice the signs of the Holy Spirit moving, and most importantly, how will we respond?

Our diocesan vision is of Changed Lives → Changing Lives. This focusses us on the life-changing love of Christ which we have experienced and points us outward to consider how we can make that love real for others.

At its simplest, we can witness and encourage revitalisation simply by [talking about our faith](#). It is all about ‘noticing’ and ‘naming’.

1. Noticing – what God is saying; what God is doing; when we’ve been aware of God’s presence.
2. Naming – speaking what we’ve noticed out loud to another person.

What if we could get used to noticing and naming what God is doing, then talk about it with all kinds of people: everyone from the person sitting next to us at church to the person who has no idea we even have a faith?

Our parishes and benefices are encouraged to practise three simple, accessible, tried-and-tested ways to help individuals and congregations notice the presence and work of God in the world, then talk about it with confidence and joy.

- » Changing Lives Conversations
- » Dwelling in the Word
- » Announcing the Kingdom



Chris Hodgkins

School Christian Communities

Romney Marsh is one of the last unspoiled areas of south-east England. The fourteen churches, which presently comprise the Romney Marsh Benefice, are mainly rural in nature but also include the more heavily populated coastal area.

The churches of the benefice seek to be involved in the one secondary and six primary schools in the area. This partnership approach has been particularly successful where the schools have welcomed the church in on a regular basis.

The benefice is led by Team Rector Revd Chris Hodgkins who has a weekly visit to St Nicholas CE Primary in New Romney for collective worship. Chris said: “The children never cease to amaze me with their answers to my questions and their singing is brilliant. I particularly like meeting with the worship leads to listen to their ideas about worship and how they can help in the community.”

In November 2023, Chris led a confirmation for 17 candidates and six members of staff.

“Running the confirmation classes for Years 5 and 6 is a real highlight for me as I get to see how much the children develop spiritually in a relatively short period of time and really get to know them. I’m working with the school to help with their transition to secondary school so that their discipleship can continue as they mature into teenagers.

“Building the relationship with the staff, pupils and their parents has grown the link between the church and the school into a thriving Christian community. A particular highlight was baptising three siblings and when the fourth was confirmed. We also held a harvest service which was attended by over 700 people. It was a fantastic opportunity to welcome families into our church. I always come away from each encounter with the school feeling blessed by God.”

Doubling the number of children and young people

Our vision is to ensure that:

- » every child and young person in our diocese is at the heart of mission
- » they have the opportunity of a life enhancing encounter with the Christian faith and the person of Jesus Christ
- » they reach their God given potential and are an integral part of church life.

Our 105 Church schools remain at the heart of mission in our diocese. To share this vision more widely, we led an open session 'Seeing the Possibilities' for Diocesan Synod in March. The focus was to encourage and equip parishes to make transformational connections and work meaningfully with children and young people, wherever they are.

In 2023 we were successful in a funding request for up to seven additional youth ministers across our diocese. We also recruited our new Lead Officer for Children and Youth Ministry who has developed the support and training for youth ministers and volunteers carrying out children and youth ministry.

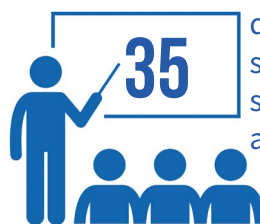
Our new matrix for children and youth ministry outlines progression for churches' children and youth ministry. Churches can identify whether their ministry is grass roots, emerging, growing or established, and what support they might need to move forward. The aim is for established churches to offer support and guidance to other churches earlier on in their journey.

Our support offer for school leaders expanded to include 'Heads's Space', an informal, sacred space for connection, friendship and support for headteachers and we continued to offer support and development to RE subject leaders through a specialist course, the annual RE Leaders' conference and shared good practice and ideas with other dioceses.

We continued to work alongside our Growing Faith Hub based in St Mary Bredin, Canterbury where diocesan officers and the church's Growing Faith Pastor offered training on faith in the community, home and school.



Over **26,400** children educated in **105** Church of England schools across our diocese



35 different training sessions for school leaders and governors



300 pupils attended our inaugural year 2 Leavers Service



12 church school leaders completed Rooted

Youth ministers employed

As part of our [Bold Outcome](#) to double the number of children and young people by 2030, our diocese employed a number of youth ministers in 2023. One such youth and children's pastor is Karen Gillett, who has started her ministry at GK Church, Goudhurst. Having been a member of the church congregation, Karen is an example of how 'home grown' ministry can present opportunities and open doors for Kingdom building within a church family.

Since the start of her ministry at GK Church, Karen has continued to nurture and grow the six children and youth ministry groups. With this focused approach towards children and youth ministry, there has been an increase in children, young people and family engagement, with over 70 under 16s in attendance on Easter Sunday. The commitment to providing ministry and growing discipleship for varying ages means that every age group has a spiritual pathway which takes them deeper into their journey and relationship with God. Karen runs a

group specifically for sixth form aged young people, which enables them to transition towards young adulthood with confidence and a sense of belonging. This group in particular has seen an increase in young people attending church independently, with some coming from a non-church background.

The young people are keen to develop with Karen more frequent youth events, youth services and look into how best to continue their spiritual journeys after finishing school and as they enter their 20s.

 **900** year 6 children attended Cathedral Schools' Days

1,175  children and young people regularly engaging with our churches





Ignite confirmations in the Sittingbourne Benefice

200 new Christian communities

There are 200 parishes in our diocese, so 200 new communities is just one each!

New worshipping communities can meet in a home, a café, school or pub. Or it can be a different style of worship in a church building that attracts people who don't already attend the current services. These communities don't have to meet on Sunday.

Where do we need to be to meet the needs of our communities who are so often hungry for something spiritual and yet do not connect with traditional church?

Ignite

Ignite – sparking new communities across our diocese

Ignite is church, but probably not as most people know it. Ignite usually doesn't happen on a Sunday, it does not have to take place in a church building and there is no expectation of anyone having to 'fit in'.

By employing Ignite Mission Enablers across our diocese, new Ignite communities have been successfully grown within several parishes; helping people discover faith and giving them a sense of belonging. Following this success, the Diocesan Ignite Project is looking to expand into additional parishes which will include a paid part-time worker for three to five years.

This café-style church is for people who may not feel comfortable in a traditional church service. It began in 2008 in Cliftonville and has since been replicated across our diocese. It is designed and tested to work particularly well with people living in our marginalised and socially deprived communities.

Debbie Ellisdon, Ignite Project Leader explains “We want people to feel comfortable and know that they are valued and loved, so that when the time is right – if they want to – they can choose to meet and know the risen Lord Jesus for themselves.”

Ignite is a game of two halves; the ‘meet and greet,’ with welcome, chat and food, and the ‘main event’ with short interactive segments with a Christian theme. Prayer is always available at the end.

Each Ignite is headed up by an enabler who works with the parish to engage with the local community and to build relationships with those on the margins of church.

Debbie says: “We have built a model for what makes a successful Ignite community, learned through successes and things that haven’t gone so well over the years. If anyone is interested in finding out whether Ignite could work as a new Christian community in their area, I’d love to talk to them and explore what is involved.”

What help is available for parishes interested in running Ignite?

- » Advice - Ignite Project Leader, [Debbie Ellisdon](#) and our current Ignite enablers can talk to you about their experience.
- » Resources - we have a bank of Ignite weekly plans based around themes, seasons and events which can be used or adapted for your community. A book explaining the Ignite journey and how to get involved will be published in 2025.
- » Funding - there may be funds available for an Ignite Enabler to help establish an Ignite community in your parish.

Ignite currently meets at:

- » St Paul’s Church - Margate
- » St Mary the Virgin Church - Ashford
- » St Andrew’s Church (families Ignite) - Herne Bay
- » Christ Church - Herne Bay
- » St Michael’s Church - Sittingbourne
- » St Martin’s Church - Maidstone
- » St Peter’s Church (families Ignite) - Aylesham
- » St John’s Church - Guernsey

“ We have built a model for what makes a successful Ignite community, learned through successes and things that haven’t gone so well over the years. If anyone is interested in finding out whether Ignite could work as a new Christian community in their area, I’d love to talk to them and explore what is involved. ”

Caring for creation

The work within our diocese complements the Church of England Environment Programme which has its focus on care for creation. A major aspect of this is responding to the effects of human-induced climate change.

At the November 2023 Diocesan Synod, we agreed to follow a net zero carbon action plan. In scope for this project are:

- » 317 churches and related halls
- » 167 clergy houses
- » 52 schools
- » Cathedral estate
- » The office building
- » Work-related travel

Our first diocesan COP environment event

In September, [the first Canterbury COP](#) event was held in our diocese at Cathedral Lodge, with over 100 people in attendance.

Taking inspiration from the global Conference of the Parties framework which looks to take action on climate change, the event was led by Honorary Bishop's Adviser for the Environment, Revd Joyce Addison.

She said: "It's one of the most serious challenges of our time, tackling climate change and it's important that we consider it from a biblical perspective as well.

"Because it's going to impact the lives of our young most of all it just made sense to have them as an integral part of the conference, giving them hope above all that we know about this, and we're doing our best to tackle it so that their future can be as flourishing as possible."

Speakers and guests used the opportunity to discuss what can be done within our own diocese to combat climate change,



Joyce Addison appears on local TV station KMTV ahead of Canterbury COP

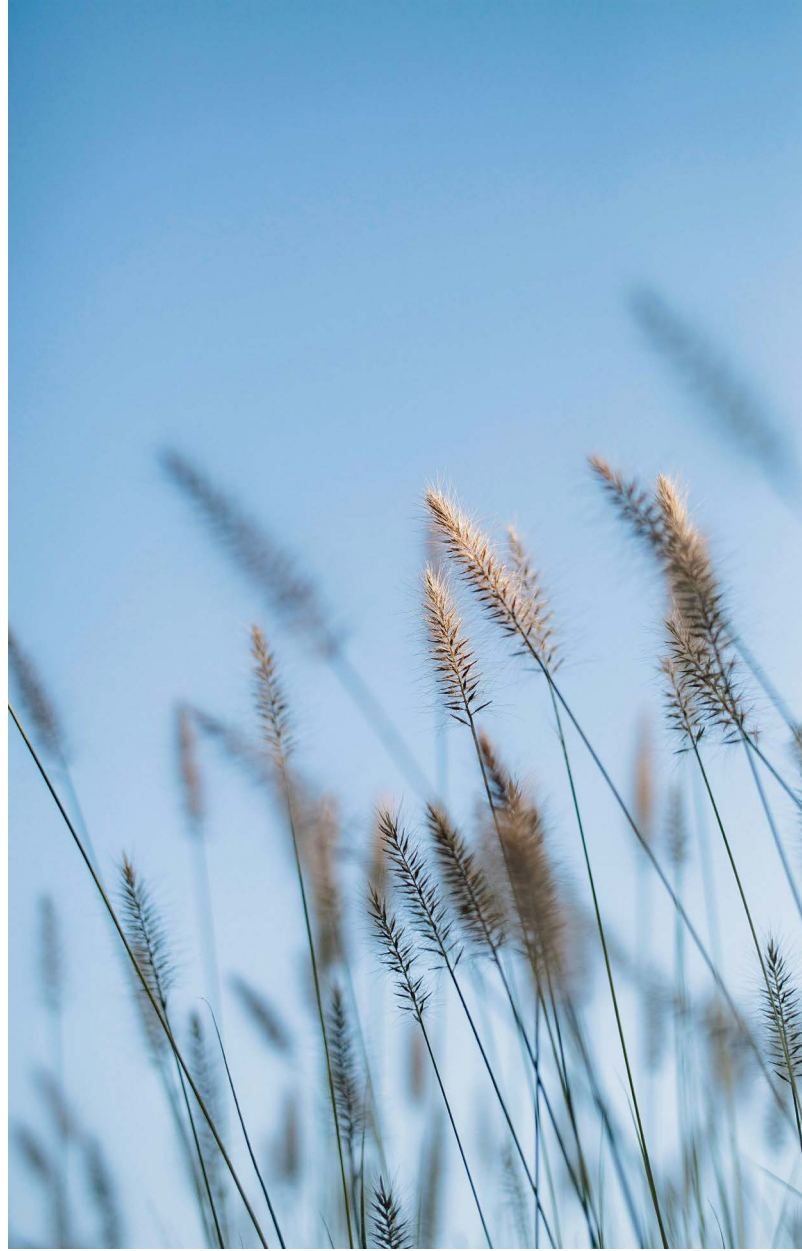
with young people in our diocese attending to share their thoughts on environmental issues.

Topics included creation care for mission, Eco Church, Net Zero and Parish Buying.

The guest speakers included:

- » Dave Bookless, Director of Theology at A Rocha International
- » Julien Atkins, Net Zero Programme Director at the Church of England
- » Gareth Martin, Eco Church/A Rocha/Climate Stewards
- » Grace Okafor, Head of Parish Buying for the Church of England
- » Emma Pennington, Cathedral Canon Missioner

After the success of this event, the intention is to hold environmental workshops as part of our deanery roadshows in the autumn of 2024 to further explore how we can fulfil our net zero objectives.



“ Because it’s going to impact the lives of our young most of all it just made sense to have them as an integral part of the conference, giving them hope above all that we know about this, and we’re doing our best to tackle it so that their future can be as flourishing as possible. ”

Social justice

The Social Justice Network

www.thesocialjusticenetwork.org

Registered Charity: 1159936

The work of the Social Justice Network is at the heart of our diocesan vision that we are 'changed lives changing lives', as we express our faith in God through social justice action. A new charity, created in 2023, and a wholly owned subsidiary of Canterbury Diocese, the network has been formed by combining the former Communities and Partnerships Framework with the Together Kent charity, to create a more focussed and efficient way of delivering social action.

Through the network, Canterbury Diocese leads the way nationally in responding to the needs of refugees, asylum seekers, and victims of modern slavery, with many projects in Kent and across the Channel in Calais. Our other current flagship projects include 'Break the Cycle', which offers supported accommodation for prison leavers who would otherwise be street homeless. It aims to break the cycle of addiction and re-offending. 'Connecting Canterbury' offers practical financial help, signposting advice, and a listening ear to those in need. We also aim to help rural communities and those living with disabilities.

The team has a range of expertise, as well as being linked into a wider network of diverse, knowledgeable, and passionate people. The network works with and for parishes and deaneries to promote projects of social action, campaigning, and community engagement, encouraging, supporting and advising on parochial and deanery projects and plans that seek to help the most vulnerable in our society.



Anglican refugee support lead appointed in Calais

In October, Calais resident [Bradon Muilenberg was appointed](#) as Anglican Refugee Support Lead in Calais. The role is the outcome of a partnership between the Diocese in Europe, the Diocese of Canterbury and the Anglican mission agency USPG and is in response to the growing number of migrants around the Channel ports in Northern France.

Bradon has experience in working alongside refugees in France and is ideally placed to work in the front-line role working with people seeking asylum. He has also developed partnerships with local churches, community groups and organisations, local agencies and charities. His work is alongside the Kent Refugee Programmes Manager, Domenica Pecoraro, and other key contacts in the Diocese of Europe.

Speaking about the appointment, Bishop Rose said: "This is a crucial time for those seeking safety in France and England. As migration and asylum remain political buzzwords, we must always remember that behind these terms are real people, real lives and real tragedies. This partnership is one expression of our desire that all human beings are treated with dignity, care and respect, no matter what their story is."



Bradon Muilenberg



Vocations and training

“The Church is the Body of Christ, the people of God and the dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit. In baptism the whole Church is summoned to witness to God’s love and to work for the coming of his kingdom. To serve this royal priesthood, God has given particular ministries...” (CofE ordination service wording)

The mission of our diocese is enacted by people who are called to serve. Our churches and communities are filled with faithful servant-hearted people, some of whom are called to formal ministry.

When people respond to this call, we are passionate about supporting lay and ordained ministers to discern and fulfil their calling and to help them to grow and develop in that calling throughout their life.

We have continued to establish Anna Chaplaincy, a ministry alongside older people and their carers, which now includes 34 Anna Chaplains and Friends.

In 2023 we continued to develop pastoral supervision for all licensed clergy and held a Bishop’s Day with polymath Iain McGilchrist which exercised the grey matter of our ministers as well as providing time for fellowship.

It takes a gifted team to support the work of our ministers. As well as the paid officers we are thankful for all those who act as volunteer consultant reviewers for the Ministerial Development Review, pastoral supervisors, spiritual accompaniers, assistant vocations’ advisers, course leaders for lay ministries, the diocesan counselling team, and those who mentor and counsel ministers and missionaries at all levels.

103 people participated in Discipleship & Lay Ministry courses, workshops & events

Ordination for over 65s

In 2023 we introduced The Dover Pathway as a new route to ordination as a Distinctive Deacon or Assistant Priest for our older candidates.

People on this pathway will have an established track-record of leadership and ministry in their local church (some as Readers, Authorised Lay Ministers or other locally recognisable leadership roles); some may also have undertaken theological study already.

Clergy ordained through this route will be self-supporting and will continue to serve their local church in ordained ministry after their curacy. They are discerned through their local congregation and are supported by them as they continue to serve in the church.

Bishop Rose said: “This is an exciting time for us as a diocese – it has long been my desire to see our church family, both lay and ordained, develop their gifts so that together we will see a revitalised church, in step with the movement of the Spirit.

“I invite you to join with me in calling on the Holy Spirit to equip those we will ordain as deacons and priests in God’s Church. Pray also for their families, the communities that they have been called to serve; and for the

whole people of God that we all may be equipped to love and serve in the name of the Lord.”

122 Licensed Lay Ministers/
Readers



6 new deacons
4 new priests ordained at
Canterbury Cathedral



34 new Anna
Chaplains/
Friends
commissioned



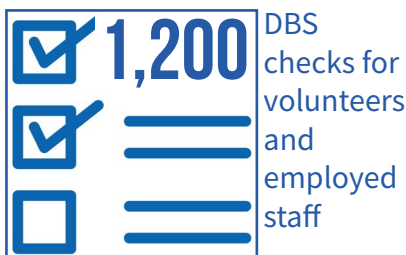
Anna Chaplains, Friends and Readers in Maidstone

Parish support

Safeguarding

Our Annual Safeguarding Conference, in collaboration with the Diocese of Rochester, took place in January and was attended by over 200 delegates. This included a presentation from Professor David Shemmings on the science of trauma. In June, Bishop Rose and Dean David hosted a Safeguarding Partnership Networking Event with over 40 delegates from our partnership agencies. This was a successful event which strengthened links with the statutory and voluntary agencies and highlighted the really important safeguarding and prevention work taking place within the Diocese and the Cathedral.

The day-to-day work of the [Safeguarding team](#) throughout 2023 included; assisting with just under 1,200 DBS checks for volunteers and employed staff. The provision and delivery of 365 places for our trainer led courses, including training Parish Safeguarding Officers on how to deliver the Basic Awareness and Foundation modules in-person locally. Our Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers responded to over 1,000 contacts throughout 2023. We also began our quarterly Parish Safeguarding Officer Networking meetings which are regularly attended by over 50 PSOs. Finally, we concluded 2023 with an audit of our bell ringing and training, working closely with the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and the Kent County Association of Change Ringers both before, during and after the audit took place.



People Services

The surge of applications post-pandemic for vacant parishes has passed and as the year progressed, we observed a settled trend in terms of a lower number of applicants applying for parish positions. This was expected and reflects the clergy recruitment challenges faced by other dioceses nationally. In addition, there was a noticeable uptick in retirements among clergy members, which figures suggest could be correction following a lower-than-expected number of retirements during the Covid years when clergy near retirement were not wanting to leave their parishes without a priest during those unprecedented times.



Vacancies in crucial positions such as Finance Director, Head of Media & Engagement, and, notably, the Diocesan Secretary, demanded significant attention. Through a rigorous selection process, we succeeded in making successful appointments, all on the first attempt.

Our church buildings

Our diocese has over 300 functioning church buildings, the majority of which are medieval and of national historical and architectural significance; this is recognised in their status as listed buildings. They owe their continuing existence to the dedication and hard work of the parishioners, architects and clergy who look after them.



For most repairs, maintenance, changes and improvements to church buildings, faculty consent is required and guidance on obtaining a faculty is provided by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) - a body of specialists on church buildings and related matters, which includes your archdeacon. The DAC is serviced by the DAC Secretary and from October 2023 assisted by the Church

Buildings Support Officer also.

In 2023 full faculty consents, which are determined by the Diocesan Registry, being the legal arm of our diocese, were granted for 75 different projects ranging from the installation of commemorative plaques, though the installation of new heating systems right up to significant re-orderings and extensions to church buildings.

Also in 2023, 74 List B consents, for more minor matters which are determined by the archdeacons, were obtained for matters ranging from the provision of new benches in churchyards, through the installation of new audio-visual systems, up to extensive repairs to stonework and roofs, as recommended in quinquennial inspections.

All new projects and proposals are considered in line with the Church of England's goal of reducing carbon emissions with the goal of achieving Net Zero Carbon by 2030.



St Peter's and St Paul's,
Appledore



St Mary's, Goudhurst

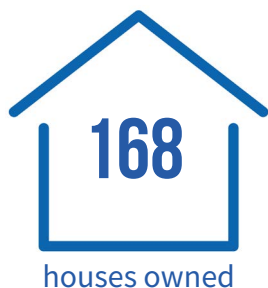
Media and Engagement

[The Media and Engagement team](#) supports the work of our deaneries and parishes with all aspects of communications. We are the first point of contact for media enquiries about our diocese and the Bishop of Dover. We continue to build positive relationships with the media, resulting in extensive coverage in broadcast, print and online media. By doing this we can be a Christian voice in an often secular civic space and also let the wider world know about the good news stories emerging from our churches and schools.

In 2023, we successfully recruited a new Head of Media and Engagement and Senior Communications and Engagement Officer, who both started in June.

- » Over 2,200 – people who regularly receive our weekly newsletter [The Briefing](#)
- » 3,337 – followers on [Facebook](#)
- » 2,021 – followers on [Instagram](#)

Property



We currently own 168 houses, all of which we endeavor to maintain in good repair and decoration. As we work towards our diocese's net zero goal, we are taking steps to make our properties more energy efficient which can be expensive given that the majority are over 50 years old.

In 2023, we obtained an income in the region of £700,000 per annum which goes towards maintaining our properties and minimizing parish share. During this period,

we issued 1,600 jobs to contractors in relation to statutory checks, general repairs and preparing our houses for occupation by clergy and private tenants.

Profile – Generous Giving

The Revd Lindsay Yates took up the post of [Generous Giving](#) Adviser in May 2023 and was joined in September by Vicky Alford, the Finance Team Administrator, as Generous Giving Assistant. Vicky is also undertaking an apprenticeship in Fundraising at the University of Kent. What she is learning on her course is enhancing the skills base within this small part-time team.

Along with advisers across the dioceses, Lindsay and Vicky are supported by the National Giving Team in encouraging parishes to make use of the Parish Giving Scheme and digital giving. To this end, Lindsay attended most of the Deanery Roadshows to talk to parishes about these important ways of increasing giving amongst their congregations and wider communities as well as advising and supporting parishes with their various giving campaigns, with Vicky's assistance.

Lindsay said: "I really enjoyed meeting so many treasurers at the Deanery Roadshows in the Autumn and have been delighted to receive invitations from churches to talk to PCCs and finance committees about how



they might encourage greater giving amongst their congregations and communities and to preach about generosity.”

Towards the end of the year the duo began preparing for the rollout of subsidised contactless donation devices to over fifty parishes, a project which will involve them both for the majority of 2024.

Case study – Piloting the Parish Giving Scheme

[The Parish Giving Scheme](#) (PGS) is a simple and secure way for churches to receive gifts by Direct Debit, credit and debit cards, Apple and Google Pay methods.

The Bridge Group Parish, a rural multi-church parish near Canterbury, was one of the pilot parishes for the scheme to ensure that it was user-friendly for people enrolling by paper, phone or online. After the pilot proved successful, it was then rolled out to the whole parish and opened out to the rest of our diocese.

Evelyn Andrews, Assistant Treasurer reflected on the benefit to the parish, “the launch of PGS enabled us to have a conversation about the need for predictable giving which helps enormously with cash flow. The double benefit of PGS is that it encourages people who may have given once or twice a year to spread this out and we also have a more regularised receipt of Gift Aid.”

The introduction of PGS also gave the opportunity to raise awareness of financial pressure on churches and the time pressures on PCCs members and volunteers to steward these resources.

Incumbent Revd Canon Estella Last added, “With PGS, we have seen an increase in general giving. We still have fluctuations in expenses but with more stable income it is easier for our volunteer team to manage.”

The scheme enables givers to:

- » give monthly, quarterly or annually by Direct Debit
- » choose to sign up to inflation linked giving annually
- » have Gift Aid at 25% added to their giving
- » give securely and anonymously, if preferred.

Find out more about signing your church up to the PGS at www.parishgiving.org.uk or speak to the Generous Giving team on 01227 459401.

“ The launch of PGS enabled us to have a conversation about the need for predictable giving which helps enormously with cash flow. ”

Front cover: ordination photo credit Jim Drew.

The map (page 3) was compiled for the Diocese of Canterbury by Alistair Sutherland in April 2024 with digital data from Field Dynamics. It contains parish data supplied by the Commissioners of the Church of England, church location data from A Church Near You, and Ordnance Survey data reproduced with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown copyright and database right 2024. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey licences nos 100040148 and 100019918.