



# Priest in Charge of Boughton-under-Blean with Dunkirk, Goodnestone with Graveney, and Hernhill

## A Message from the Bishop of Dover



Welcome and thank you for taking an interest in the role of Priest in Charge of Boughton-under-Blean with Dunkirk, Goodnestone with Graveney, and Hernhill. You will see from the Benefice Profile some of the specific things that the benefice is looking for and something of what its parishioners hope the future may look like. Of course, part of your discernment process in coming to this role is gaining a sense of the bigger picture of us as a diocesan family, our vision, and priorities for the future.

### 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.

### Where we are heading

At the heart of all we do is a vision of transformation for ourselves and our communities: no one can encounter God and remain unchanged. Increasingly, in our diocese, we want to become a Christian community transformed through encounter with Christ, overflowing to transform and



bless the families, homes and communities we serve in Kent: *Changed Lives* → *Changing Lives*. In your role, in your place, we will be looking for you to join in with what God is already doing and play a crucial part in making this vision a reality.

*Changed Lives* → *Changing Lives* unites us in purpose but will be expressed in different ways according to what makes sense for different parts of our diocesan family. It is also a living strategy – as we listen to God and one another, the shape of our work together will undoubtedly change and grow. In December 2020 I wrote to all the Deaneries to ask them to consider, in light of all we have experienced over the last nearly two years, what their mission priorities are and how their deanery should be shaped in order to flourish and be sustainable. In response every Deanery has set their own starting place to move forward from. Ospringe Deanery's response is beginning to explore how to enable flourishing clergy, laity and ministry, and you could be part of developing this vision for the future. All these reports and our Diocesan response can be found in [Towards a Flourishing and Sustainable Future](#). I commend it to you as you consider this ministry.

To find out more about this post please contact the Archdeacon of Maidstone, the Venerable Andrew Sewell (01622 934449 / [andrew.sewell@archdeacmaid.org](mailto:andrew.sewell@archdeacmaid.org)). You would also be welcome to have an informal discussion with the Area Dean, The Revd Canon Dr Steve Lillicrap, ([steve.lillicrap@kc-hd.org.uk](mailto:steve.lillicrap@kc-hd.org.uk) / 01795 522510).

### **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**



## Archdeacon's Introduction



Boughton-under-Blean with Dunkirk, Goodnestone with Graveney, and Hernhill is at an exciting time. The Benefice Profile reflects the life of the churches, and their connections with their communities. It has been heartening to see how the growing unity of the past few years has crystallised during the vacancy into a determination to work together and support each other into the future.

There is a real awareness of the need to continue to develop, and to do things differently. Wise, sensitive and courageous leadership will be essential, but old expectations that the parish priest will somehow do it all are changing, and there is an appetite to engage creatively and collaboratively in mission that makes a difference.

Change is an unavoidable reality in the Church of England, as in the rest of society, and it is something that we wish to embrace rather than avoid. You will see from [Towards a Flourishing and Sustainable Future](#) that our Diocese is endeavouring to enable change to be appropriate to the local setting, using deanery plans to drive the direction of the Church's evolution. The challenges of difficult financial situations for the Church of England cannot be avoided but they point to the need to adapt and to focus on sharing the Gospel and growing the Church. Part of that adaptation is undoubtedly better collaboration between parishes, both within benefices and across the wider deanery.

We are committed to your full support with great colleagues in the Deanery and Diocese and you are also encouraged to participate fully in the Canterbury Diet (see p5). We would expect you to have a pastoral supervisor and can work with you on other training and support as required.

I hope that you will find much information about the parishes and diocese in the recruitment pack but please feel free to contact me for an informal discussion if that would help.

With my prayers as you discern whether God is calling you to serve in Boughton-under-Blean with Dunkirk, Goodnestone with Graveney, and Hernhill.

**The Ven Andrew Sewell**  
**Archdeacon of Maidstone**



## From the Area Dean of Ospringe Deanery



A very warm welcome to the Deanery of Ospringe, which is one of 15 Deaneries in the Diocese of Canterbury and one of 5 in the Maidstone Archdeaconry. Within the Deanery there are 4 Benefices with 21 Parish Churches.

The Deanery stretches from Teynham through Faversham to Boughton and southwards encompassing the surrounding rural areas. The main area of population is the town of Faversham. Our main Local Council Area is Swale.

The aim of our Deanery is to Support, Encourage and Serve one another in our Ministry and Mission across the Deanery. We aim to do this by listening to God and to one another, offering support to each other and encouragement of one another in God's leading of us.

The Deanery synod meets three times a year, and it has become our habit as we consider our Mission and Ministry to have an open time in conversation and discussion in cross Benefice/Parish groups. This has led to the building of better relationships, to hearing what God is doing amongst us across the Deanery as we seek His lead. The Mission and Ministry Committee, which also meets at least 3 times a year and is working with the parishes, who are seen as the primary unit for mission, as we develop our strategy.

The Clergy Chapter meets weekly on a Wednesday morning at 8.15am in Faversham, to pray Morning Prayer together, which over the years has proven to be a great blessing and underlines the importance of Prayer in our Deanery. The Chapter will also meet at other times, usually over lunch, to discuss ongoing matters in the Diocese and Deanery. We look forward to our new colleague joining us.

The Churchwardens across the Deanery also meet together on a regular basis throughout the year, facilitated by the Lay Chair.

Ospringe Deanery is delighted about this prospective appointment and look forward to welcoming you to the Deanery and this Benefice.

If you do have any questions please feel free to contact me.

**The Revd Canon Dr Steve Lillicrap**



**Area Dean and Rector of Kingsdown Creekside and High Downs.**  
**[steve.lillicrap@kc-hd.org.uk](mailto:steve.lillicrap@kc-hd.org.uk)**  
**01795 522510**



## 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><b>Canterbury Diet</b></p> <p>and offers a</p> <p><b>Pastoral Supervisor</b></p> <p>with whom she/he meets not less than four times per year</p>	<p><b>Golden threads</b></p> <p>How are prayer and spiritual practices being developed?          How am I learning and reflecting on ministry practice?          How are we attending to good relationships and collaborative ministry?</p>
<p>Ministers acquire a</p> <p><b>Spiritual Accompanier</b></p> <p>and meet regularly, recommended 6-8 weekly</p>	
<p>In the first two years the Incumbent or Priest in Charge attends the</p> <p><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>Participation in the annual</p> <p><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 during the course of the two-year cycle.</p>	
<p>As able, participate in professional ministry courses:</p> <p><b>Management Skills Course</b></p> <p><b>Working with Conflict</b></p> <p><b>Leading Change</b></p> <p>each a two by one day course, offered regularly at advertised times through the year</p>	
<p>Participation in four</p> <p><b>Wellbeing Courses</b></p> <p><u>two hour</u> evening meetings, two offered per year</p>	
<p>Participate in relevant</p> <p><b>Continuing Ministry Development Events</b></p> <p>at advertised days and times</p>	



# Our Diocesan Vision

## Changed Lives, Changing Lives

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. It is a commitment to taking real steps *now* to make this vision a reality *soon*. The current actions that flow from this vision - both at a diocesan level and in our deaneries - are outlined in detail over the rest of this document. Of course, these actions will change and develop over time - and we would encourage our parishes to consider this vision carefully for themselves, to explore together what actions they will commit to take, what their local 'Therefore we will...' might look like.

