We’re looking for a Priest in Charge and Assistant Chaplain
Is it you?
Priest in Charge and Assistant Chaplain, Living Well

The Priest in Charge appointment will be 0.6 basis to the ‘Littlebourne’ Benefice¹ consisting of the parishes of Littlebourne, Ickham, Wickhambreaux and Stodmarsh; and also licensed as an assistant priest in the Canonry Benefice with special responsibility for the parish of Wingham. This is with a view to Wingham joining the Littlebourne Benefice, in a newly named Benefice, in the near future, which all the churches have agreed to. The Chaplain to the Living Well, the Canterbury Diocese Centre for Healing and Wellness, will be on a 0.4 basis.

For an informal conversation regarding this post please contact the Archdeacon of Canterbury via her PA as follows:

Ms Jo Manser 01227 865238  adcpa@canterbury-cathedral.org

¹ The Littlebourne and Ickham with Wickhambreaux and Stodmarsh Benefice
Littlebourne Benefice with Wingham

Priest in Charge - Is it you?

Leader – Grower - Enabler – Encourager – Facilitator

Relational - Pastoral - Prayerful

We are looking for a priest who will join us in seeking to build the Kingdom in our rural village communities.

Over recent years we’ve been journeying towards discovering the most effective way of developing our mission and ministry in order to reach out with Christ’s love to and with the people who live in our beautiful villages. We know this will involve some pastoral reorganisation\(^2\) as we work more closely together.

We need a priest who can guide us in our journeying – is this you?

As our new Priest in Charge we expect these to be some of the qualities you will bring to ministry and leadership with us:

- **A Team Leader**
  * who will help develop our ministry teams for mission both locally and across our wider community

- **A Church ‘grower’**
  * who will help us to grow spiritually and numerically both as disciples and church

- **An Enabler, Encourager and Facilitator**
  * who will help us to move forward on our journey as we discover better ways of being effective in mission, ministry and witness

- **A Spiritual Leader**
  * who will build great relationships in all walks of life as a pastor whose life is rooted in prayer whilst encouraging us to do the same

**So, what about us?**

We’re ready for the challenges ahead and for a gifted leader to help lead us as we take the next steps on our journey.

These are some of the challenges we recognise:

- making full use of the gifts and talents of clergy and laity, working collegially and collaboratively
- building a sense of being ‘one church’ across the wider community while recognising the individual church communities and their local priorities
- establishing better administrative arrangements to resource mission and ministry across our parishes
- developing the worshipping life of the churches as a focus for the villages we serve through liturgy, music and life events and seasonal services
- maintaining healthy finances to support the mission and ministry of our churches

\(^2\) Wingham parish is currently part of the neighbouring Canonry benefice.
Our Vision

Vision

We want to be a church in which we share our love of God within our villages and in the wider community. We want to

- Express our faith through Christian witness in prayer, ministry and worship, led collaboratively by our priest and well supported by the laity.
- Develop our faith both as individuals and as a church family.
- Be the spiritual home for the advancement of God’s work in our village communities.
- Reach out into our community and schools to share God’s word with all, whatever their needs or circumstances.

Coming Together

See also the Introductory Note on page 2.

We have made a good start through our joint Benefice Committee\(^3\) (‘Bencom’) which fulfils an executive role across our parishes consisting of churchwardens and other lay leaders from across our five parishes. Together we are actively working with the diocese towards making a reduction in the number of PCCs by uniting some parishes. We were committed to reviewing the pattern and frequency of services and have now implemented a shared pattern across our parishes.

In addition to the Bencom; here are some of the other ways we’ve established closer relationships:

- Implemented a shared pattern of worship across all 5 parish churches.
- Wickhambreaux and Ickham have a shared choir and links to the Church school.
- Wickhambreaux and Stodmarsh PCCs have been meeting jointly for over a year and recently held a combined APCM for both parishes. This came about out of a desire to help each other work more effectively, rather than being directed to do so.
- Wingham are part of the Bencom.
- Our PCCs have discussed and agreed informally a scheme whereby Wingham will come into the Benefice formally and Wickhambreaux, Ickham and Stodmarsh will become one parish.

In the Littlebourne Benefice our priorities have been Prayer and worship; Schools, Children and young people; Community and One Church Family.

In Wingham the priorities have been around building a stronger worshipping community incorporating lay engagement and a new focus on music whilst looking at ways of raising funds for church fabric and mission.

We accept that the responsibility for change is ours.

Together we recognise the need for the Priest in Charge to help us re-evaluate these priorities as we come together in the coming months and years.

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\(^3\) For more information about the Bencom see page 8.
We are five village communities situated to the east of Canterbury which dominates the area. Canterbury has a large student population and many residents are employed in the education and health sectors. It is the main shopping centre and is well served by other amenities including hospitals, universities, colleges and schools. The Cathedral is important both as the centre of the Anglican Church and as a major tourist destination. There are two theatres: the Gulbenkian at the University of Kent and the Marlowe in the city centre. There is a strong musical tradition in the area, evident in various societies and activities.

Canterbury is a hub for public transport with two mainline rail stations and the main bus station serving East Kent. There are good links to Europe via the Channel Tunnel at Folkestone and the Port of Dover.
Canterbury City Council is the local authority covering the Littlebourne benefice; Wingham is within the Dover District Council area. There are civil parish councils in Littlebourne, Ickham, Wickhambreaux (also covering Stodmarsh) and Wingham.

There is a URC chapel in Littlebourne which runs some activities for very young children, but does not hold Sunday services.

As members of the East Bridge deanery we have been working together to develop a greater focus for mission and to develop lay ministry across the deanery.

**The Villages and Parishes**

The parishes are based around the five picturesque rural villages of Littlebourne, Ickham, Wickhambreaux, Stodmarsh and Wingham and set in a conservation area. The local economy is largely agricultural, with a typical Kentish emphasis on fruit growing. Housing is being built and developed in Littlebourne for 100 new homes (The Canterbury Local Plan designates Littlebourne as a Service Centres).

There are three primary schools across the parishes which include two Church of England Primaries. There are active Scouting and Guiding sections based in Littlebourne and Wingham which cater for children aged 5 and over.

**Parish Population and Age Profile**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Littlebourne</th>
<th>Ickham</th>
<th>Wickhambreaux</th>
<th>Stodmarsh</th>
<th>Wingham</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>1,538</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>1,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied households</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-17yrs</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-29yrs</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-64yrs</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+yrs</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Parish Mission Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish ER (2019)</th>
<th>Worshipping community</th>
<th>USA</th>
<th>AWA</th>
<th>Marriages</th>
<th>Baptisms</th>
<th>Funerals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>42 adults, 3 children</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25 adults, 1 child</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21 adults, 1 child</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 adults</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>32 adults, 2 children</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Local concerns in the villages include:

- Pressure on housing. There is insufficient affordable housing for young people. However, there is also considerable concern about the pressure of further housing

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4 source: ArcGIS Church of England Parish Maps link: [http://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=67bce0ed36dd4ee0af7a16bc079aa09a&extent=0.4317,51.313,0.1986,51.5945](http://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=67bce0ed36dd4ee0af7a16bc079aa09a&extent=0.4317,51.313,0.1986,51.5945)

5 source: Parish Returns for 2018 except as stated.
development on the villages. The current developments in Littlebourne met fierce opposition, mainly on grounds of amenities and traffic pressure.

- Many residents commute from the villages – some to London. This places pressure of local road communications during peak hours as there is no bypass right around Canterbury.
- There are not large numbers of young people in the benefice and surveys indicate they feel there is not much to do. However, the proximity of Canterbury (and its schools) is also a draw.

A monthly newsletter ‘Church and Village’ is delivered free to over 1,100 homes in the Littlebourne benefice. It is funded by advertisements and from benefice funds. It carries news of local village events and meetings as well as church services, which assists outreach into the community. The Littlebourne Parish Council’s quarterly newssheet is delivered by the distributors of ‘Church and Village’ with the newsletter.

**Church Services across the Parishes**

The current pattern of Sunday services is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Littlebourne</th>
<th>Ickham</th>
<th>Wickhambreaux</th>
<th>Stodmarsh</th>
<th>Wingham</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>11am Family Praise +</td>
<td>9.30am Parish Communion</td>
<td>6pm Holy Communion</td>
<td>11am Family Service+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>11am Parish Communion</td>
<td>9.30am Parish Communion</td>
<td></td>
<td>11am Eucharist w healing &amp; wholeness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>11am Parish Communion</td>
<td>9.30am Sung Matins ++</td>
<td>6pm Sung Evensong ++</td>
<td>11am Morning Praise+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>11am Parish Communion</td>
<td>9.30am Parish Communion</td>
<td></td>
<td>11am Eucharist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>10.30am Benefice Communion – rotates between churches</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key:**  + Lay-led  ++ Reader or lay leader

We have started to review the pattern, number and leadership of services. We would see this going further when a priest in charge has been appointed and as we move towards a single benefice.

Special seasonal services take place on a rotational basis around all 5 of our churches at Christmas, during Holy Week and at Easter.

There is an annual benefice Memorial Service at Littlebourne and Remembrance Sunday is supported by the local branch of the British Legion. As with other special services this rotates between the parishes.

All our churches are open during daylight hours. We cherish this.

**Staff Team**

The Littlebourne Benefice has two Readers and an ALM; Wingham parish has two ALM's.

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6 locally Authorised Lay Minister
Other teams and individuals also work across the benefice: for verging at funerals and weddings and for a monthly service at a local care home in Littlebourne. Lent and prayer groups are benefice-wide.

The Littlebourne ALM is also chair of the Bencom which consists of churchwardens and staff from across the parishes.

**The Bencom**

The Bencom\(^7\) is an informal executive committee consisting of churchwardens and other lay leaders from across our five parishes. Meetings are held regularly to coordinate the activities and develop benefice-wide initiatives. The Bencom has proved invaluable as a forum for bringing us closer together and provides links to each of the current PCCs.

Significant decisions need formal ratification by individual PCCs. In practice this has not been a difficulty. Apart from coordination during the interregnum and planning church services, matters dealt with at Bencom level have included safeguarding, copyright and licensing and production of the “Church and Village” magazine. In the past three years we have produced a Christmas card with details of our services which was distributed to every household.

**Finance for our mission**

Our group of churches is looking for growth – both in numbers and resources. The 2018 Deanery plan identifies the villages of Littlebourne and Wingham as centres for church growth. Littlebourne is a community “service centre” in its District Plan.

The table below shows current unrestricted income and expenditure at each church during 2018. The Benefice has a viable financial plan for the next three years, subject to discussion both internally and with the diocese. As in all churches, the Parish Share is subject to a current diocese-wide review. We are proposing a further stewardship campaign when our new priest is in post.

There are two re-ordering projects in hand – one at Ickham and a small one at Littlebourne. They are referred to elsewhere in this profile. Fundraising for them has had some impact on unreserved income.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ickham</th>
<th>Littlebourne</th>
<th>Wickhambreaux</th>
<th>Stodmarsh</th>
<th>Wingham</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrestricted Income</strong></td>
<td>12,595</td>
<td>31,409</td>
<td>13,732</td>
<td>6,233</td>
<td>37,932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrestricted Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>18,402</td>
<td>39,367</td>
<td>14,814</td>
<td>5,335</td>
<td>41,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrestricted result</strong></td>
<td>(5,806)</td>
<td>(7,958)</td>
<td>(1,082)</td>
<td>898</td>
<td>(3,340)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrestricted cash</strong></td>
<td>21,346</td>
<td>2,370</td>
<td>17,003</td>
<td>4,568</td>
<td>24,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Restricted funds</strong></td>
<td>64,986</td>
<td>11,226</td>
<td>33,629</td>
<td>14,414</td>
<td>34,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2018 Parish Share Paid</strong></td>
<td>4,968</td>
<td>32,220</td>
<td>5,136</td>
<td>1,224</td>
<td>32,628</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^7\) More information about the Bencom see page 4.
1. The Littlebourne Benefice churches are awaiting repayment of a substantial Parish Share rebate arising from the interregnum since 2016. (not included here)
2. Restricted funds are for specific purposes
3. Funds in “Friends” accounts are not included
3. Unpaid Parish Share (Littlebourne and Wingham) is not included in 2018 “Unrestricted Expenditure” or “Unrestricted Result”. 
Our Communities and Churches

This section provides a description of each village community and the worship and mission of each of our parish churches.

**Littlebourne**

Littlebourne dates back to the Middle Ages and straddles the busy A257 road from Canterbury to Sandwich where the Nailbourne River becomes the Little Stour. The church is in a conservation area; mills and oast houses reflect the village’s past history.

Littlebourne is a lively and busy place. There is a well-appointed village hall next to the large recreation area. A new doctors’ surgery and dispensary has just been built. In addition to the ‘Four Villages’ community shop, there is a pub with accommodation. There is a commercial area for some local businesses. The Parish Council has been very active in surveying village needs and has developed two children’s play areas and a BMX track. Nearby Howlett’s Wild Animal Park (situated in the neighbouring benefice) is a major tourist attraction.

**Littlebourne Church of England Primary School**

The school is situated opposite the parish church; it is graded “good” by Ofsted. Over recent years we have developed good links with the school; several members of the congregation work in the school as volunteers. The PCC regularly considers reports from the school. Pupils are given Bibles by the church when they leave for secondary school. The school uses the church by itself and also supports activities such as the village carol service, Mothering Sunday and “Experiencing Easter” (see photo on page 10) event.

**The Parish Church of St Vincent**

The village’s 13th century church is dedicated to St Vincent of Saragossa and is a Grade 1 listed building. It has a clock tower and 6 bells. It is thought to have been founded by the monks of St Augustine’s Abbey, in Canterbury. A great barn which flanks the churchyard is thought to have been part of their 14th Century grange. The stained glass windows were all designed over 40 years in the late 19th century by Nathaniel Westlake and represent the changing styles from the pre-Raphaelite to the Aesthetic movement. The churchyard is much used by the community and a public footpath passes through it. The Parish Council supports us with financial help for churchyard grass cutting. The churchyard remains open for burials and the interment of ashes although space is becoming scarce.
Worship and mission

Worship centres on the three sung Parish Communion and the monthly informal Family Praise service, led by a lay team. We also observe the church’s year with appropriate additional worship – such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday Eucharist, Holy Week compline, the annual prayer novena and an annual barn service. There is a monthly service at the local care home. Holy Communion is also taken to some of the sick and inform. The Blessed Sacrament is reserved in a recently restored aumbry. We have a very small team of acolytes and servers.

The “Friends of St Vincent’s” charity, maintains funds for church maintenance and development. To make the church more welcoming and accessible, work is in hand to provide a refreshment point and improved toilet facilities.

Following a series of quiet days and away days we drew up a mission plan. The outworking of this has been to implement various “welcome” initiatives in order to reach out into the community, especially to children and young people.

The Vicarage

The benefice vicarage is located next to the church. It was built in the 1970s and was refurbished in 2018. It is a good size with two reception rooms, a study, four bedrooms, garage and ample garden.

Ickham

Ickham Parish comprises Ickham Village and the nearby hamlets of Seaton and Bramling together with groups of houses at Lee Priory and Garrington.

Ickham is a pretty village with a pub and a health spa, and is surrounded by family-owned and commercial farms. It has a socially and economically diverse community. Housing is of a wide range but with little affordable for first time buyers.

A small village hall is owned by the church. The church warden is a parish councillor and on the hall committee. All are supportive of one another.
The Parish Church of St John the Evangelist

The church is the largest in the Benefice, able to seat in excess of 200. It dates from the 8th century when the monks of Canterbury built a wooden church on the site. The Normans built a flint building, to which side aisles and chapels which were added to during medieval times and completed with a fine Early English “Weeping Chancel”. It is a Grade 1 listed building. The churchyard is open for burials. Work to provide a unisex toilet, serving area and vestry was recently completed and further work to provide level access is due to be completed in 2019.

Worship and mission

Worship centres on a monthly parish communion and matins, both of which are sung services. A small robed choir helps lead worship at Ichham and Wickhambreaux services; practices are weekly and new members are always very welcome. This choir forms the basis of a Littlebourne benefice choir which is drawn together for seasonal services, weddings or other special services. The choir has links with various singing groups and local choral societies.

A small Pastoral Team is being established in the Parish to offer Holy Communion in the home to the elderly, sick, disabled or isolated, and is part of very positive plans for other pastoral initiatives.

We normally observe additional seasonal services during the church year at Littlebourne church. Most of the church family live in the village.

Wickhambreaux

Wickhambreaux is a picturesque village centred on the village green with church, pub, primary school and historic buildings. There are no longer any shops.

The village is surrounded by good farm land producing some of Kent's finest fruit as well as cereal and vegetable crops.

Church life is firmly embedded in community life; for many years the church has conducted a programme of events in the village, largely but not exclusively directed at fund raising.
Wickhambreaux Church of England Primary School

The school has been graded “outstanding” in recent Ofsted and Church schools assessments and attracts pupils from the wider district as well as locally. Pupils from the school participate in a variety of services in the parish church including services for leavers, reception classes, harvest services, remembrance services, Easter services, school Christingle etc. There is a Foundation Governor, nominated by the PCC who attends PCC meetings at Wickhambreaux and Ickham. Bibles are presented to those leaving to move to secondary schools, jointly funded with Ickham church, who share a close association with the school.

The Parish Church of St Andrew

Our Grade 1 listed church is at the heart of the village. It originated in the 13th Century and had major renovation in Victorian times, and again more recently (2003-04). It is noted for the fine East window (1896) designed by Arnold Rosenkrantz and dedicated to the memory of local parishioner Countess Gallatin by her son. We take great pride in the care of the Churchyard and a special fund was established some years ago to assist with the cost of maintenance.

Worship and mission

Worship centres on two monthly sung communion services. Music plays an important part in our services, with an active choir and organist, both shared with Ickham. After some years of inactivity, the bell tower was recently restored and is now active again with weekly practices and regular ringing for services. The bell tower has attracted people into our worshipping community who had no previous links to the church.

We try hard to make better use of our unique location at the heart of the village to improve our outreach opportunities. For the last three years we have had an outdoor “Carols on the Green” (see photo). This service has been well supported from all parts of the local community, including the school and patrons of the adjoining pub across the Green.

Stodmarsh

Stodmarsh is a quiet, picturesque village two miles North of Wickhambreaux and five miles from Canterbury. The church and the popular Red Lion Inn are at the heart of the small village, along with a very successful working farm. There is neither shop nor school. The village attracts walkers and also bird watchers to the neighbouring Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve. At the municipal level Stodmarsh has been included in the civil parish of Wickhambreaux since the 1930s.
The Parish Church of St Mary

The church is both picturesque and simple, with a single aisle and a medieval bell turret. The original church was built in Saxon times, but the current nave is late Norman and the chancel dates from the 13th century and was modernised by the Victorians around 1880. One of the two bells is among the oldest church bells in England and supporting the bell turret are fabulous x-shaped braces of a type that cannot be found in any other Kent church. There are numerous crusaders’ crosses on the South-West door which reflect the church’s interesting history.

The churchyard is open for the burial of ashes. The church is very well maintained by the village on a voluntary basis and was recently redecorated.

Worship and mission

Worship centres on the two monthly evening services of sung evensong and communion. Several special services are held each year, including a Harvest service in September and carols in Advent.

Given our small congregation we are developing closer links with Wickhambreaux and now have a joint PCC.

Wingham

Wingham is a historic village dating back to Saxon times; it appears in the Domesday Book of 1086. The village is a centre for local businesses, having a Post Office, General Store, baker, newsagent, GP surgery, dental practice, two pubs and a restaurant. There are also farm shops and a petrol station nearby.

Wingham Wildlife Park attracts large numbers of visitors into the area.

Many residents work locally in the public sector and for other major employers; there are some commuters. Local employment includes service industry, light engineering and milling/grain storage. Few people now work on the land but seasonal workers, many of them from Eastern Europe, are employed throughout the year.
Wingham Primary School

The school is graded “good” by Ofsted and is popular with local families. It is federated with nearby Preston Primary School; we have a very good relationship with the schools and our ‘Open the Book’ team regularly attend both schools. The school come into church for services regularly through the year. Children normally move on to secondary education in Sandwich or Canterbury.

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

The church, although a mother church, was probably established in Wingham prior to the conquest and the present building contains some Norman work, it mainly dates from the 13th Century when the College of Canons was founded. This necessitated the expansion of the building to the size it is today. In the mid16th-century extensive repairs were carried out when the unusual chestnut pillars of the nave were installed, following embezzlement of building funds by one George Ffogarde. Internally the church boasts ten fine misericords, a 15th century reredos from Troyes (donated in 1934) and a number of post-mediaeval monuments, including the Oxenden chapel and the Palmer monument.

An area at the back of the church has been cleared for smaller, informal gatherings, etc., and there is a kitchen and disabled WC. There is a separate burial ground about ¼ mile away which is still in use and a walled area within the main church site is used for interring cremations and for memorials. Major improvements are required, both to secure the fabric and to make the church suitable for wider community uses, e.g. by improving the heating. A small group has been working on this project and is seeking funds for more substantial improvements. Repairs to the tower are under way at the present time.

Worship and mission

St Mary’s continues to be a focus for traditional village events, such as Harvest, Remembrance Day and Christmas and attendance at main celebrations can exceed 200.

Our regular congregation is drawn from a range of worship traditions and it has been our aim to offer worship that acknowledges these strands. Eucharistic worship is offered on two Sundays a month, one of which features Healing and Wholeness. There is also a Communion service on Friday mornings which is popular with retired parishioners.

One of our aims has been to build a strong worshipping community by offering more informal lay-led non-eucharistic worship. The monthly All Age/ Family service is supported by a music group leading less traditional singing whilst Morning Worship is also developing a less formal style.

The Parish has made a positive effort to engage with young people and families, and has established robust and active links with the local School and youth organisations including the Scouts. A combined group for under-5s and 5 to 11s meets regularly during term times on Friday afternoons, which has been found to be a good time for youth-related activity.

A small but dedicated team of bell ringers supports Sunday worship. The 8 bells are well maintained and the tower is a popular venue for visiting teams. The organ is well regarded by
professional organists and the good acoustic in the church presents opportunities for developing music in the future.

We also have an active network of prayer fellowships. Other outreach includes celebrating Compline at a local care home, home communion, and coffee mornings. The community also supports the church in practical ways. The churchyards are maintained by Dover District Council and the Parish Council makes a grant towards the Burial Ground. In addition, there are groups of people (including non-worshippers) to keep the church clean and provide flowers. We offer refreshments after worship and at other times and groups of worshippers often stay and chat after the service.

We are supported by an active Friends group who raise funds throughout the year. Fundraising this year includes an Open Garden and Scarecrow weekend, a Quiz Night, the Harvest Supper plus musical events and talks.

The church has no endowments nor does it receive any funding from Patrons. Due to its size it is expensive to maintain and this has resulted in a situation where it has not been possible to render the full Parish Share in recent years. It is hoped that the new arrangements for clergy cover will enable the Parish to prosper and make a greater contribution to ministry costs in the future.

**Wingham Vicarage**

The Wingham Vicarage is a modern, four-bedroom house (with one bedroom having en-suite facilities), a garage and a sizable study. It is situated within five minutes walking distance of the church and is in a quiet close overlooking water meadows. It is 2 minutes from the high street and all the local amenities. Recently the vicarage has benefitted from being fitted with new double-glazed windows, improved insulation, and has been redecorated with some carpets replaced.

Parish webpages:
- [www.littlebournebenefice.org.uk](http://www.littlebournebenefice.org.uk)
- [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19802](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19802) (Wingham)
Introduction to The Living Well

The Living Well (TLW) is situated in the old vicarage in Nonington, 10 miles Southeast of Canterbury. It began approximately 14 years ago when a member of clergy recognised the need to offer Christian retreat, listening and prayer to aid healing and wholeness in individuals in a way that clergy and laity were often not able to offer in a parish setting. The ministry was initially centred in Nonington and had an external focus of bringing training in the healing ministry to parishes within Canterbury Diocese.

TLW has since grown to a wider calling bringing the ministry of TLW to local churches particularly in the form of Hub Days and we can be asked for help beyond the Church of England. Canterbury Diocese partner and support TLW charity working collaboratively in ministry and mission in a variety of ways: one is the provision of the property which is maintained and prayerfully cared for by residential wardens. The house and grounds offer a chapel, a library, lounge, kitchen, Upper Room with overnight facility and garden with labyrinth, rose garden and three heated garden rooms suitable for day retreat.

Our Core Team includes the chaplain, wardens, our administrator and volunteer assistant chaplains; beyond this we are able to encourage many volunteers to serve with us in this ministry of hospitality, healing and wholeness in Jesus Christ – for whom we are hugely grateful. We benefit from a Board of Trustees and a Treasurer who help with discerning the ministry and mission of TLW.

We hold 2 public healing services midweek at Nonington and seek to keep an ‘open door’ to respond to a wide range of requests from individuals and from groups. A 2020 programme can be found on our website www.the-living-well.org.uk

Our understanding of healing is holistic, we are body, mind and spirit; that healing may come over a protracted period of time or unexpectedly and suddenly, that our role is to provide a prayerful space, secure, welcoming, inspiring hope and with the freedom for God to be present. We are excited by this ministry and always reliant upon the eternal and creative breath of the Spirit of God at work among us, leading us forward in His beautiful Name.

The Living Well

www.the-living-well.org.uk / Registered Charity 112379

Please contact 01304 842847 or contact@the-living-well.org.uk

www.the-living-well.org.uk
Assistant Chaplain - FTE 0.4 Stipend with clergy pension scheme

*The Assistant Chaplain may be asked to be involved in any or some of the following according to the applicant’s gifts and strengths:*

To assist the Chaplain and existing team with the Christian ministry of Healing and Wholeness at The Living Well (TLW) in Nonington and across the Diocese. Working collaboratively with Canterbury Diocese.

To work within the safeguarding and good practice guidelines and policies as set out for TLW ministry and Canterbury Diocese.

To assist with midweek services in the chapel at TLW, this will involve leading worship, and/or preaching and/or prayer ministry.

To celebrate Holy Communion and other priestly duties if requested.

To travel (expenses paid) if requested across the diocese to assist the Chaplain with parish engagements including training in the healing and wholeness ministry.

To work as part of the Core Team (chaplains, administrator and wardens) in all practical and administrative matters including attending monthly staff meetings.

To ensure alongside the Core Team the provision of good hospitality and administration at TLW, greeting individuals, groups and/or facilitating group days as requested.

To undertake administrative tasks as agreed on occasion such as preparation of the weekly prayer chain, and the monthly prayer calendar.

To prepare creatively for facilitating groups, leading or teaching.

To hold confidentiality and confidential information securely.

To keep own TLW records and email communications up to date.

To be a competent and sensitive listener.
Person Specification

A person of prayer, spiritually aware and called to the Healing Ministry.

Approaches the Christian healing and wholeness ministry with an understanding or theology of suffering and healing that is in context, relevant, applicable and accessible.

May have a creative and/or prophetic approach to this ministry that is Christ given and intentionally Christ centred.

Has a heart for healing and/or a background in social, medical and or other therapeutic care.

Has a willingness to learn and grow in the Healing and Wholeness ministry.

Able to listen empathically to adults, with basic or advanced listening skills, able to hold confidentiality.

Able to acknowledge their own vulnerability and contain personal boundaries.

Approachable, communicative, good humoured, open and non-judgemental, trustworthy.
From the Area Dean

The East-Bridge Deanery consists of 19 parishes. It stretches from Ash across to Bridge and Barham, and covers an area that is almost entirely rural. The Parish of Aylesham, a former coal mining village and now expanding as a commuter/dormitory area, has received funding from the Church Commissioners as part of their Mission programme.

The Deanery Synod meets regularly, along with various committees, including a 'Ministry & Mission' Committee. The Committee is implementing the 2018 Mission Plan which has benefited from the active engagement of Synod members in shaping its thinking. Deanery re-organisation is progressing, with group ministry established between the Benefices of Aylesham, Barham Downs and Bridge and also between the Canonry and Littlebourne Benefices. The Deanery Mission Plan also envisages the amalgamation of smaller parishes through a process of organic change.

The Deanery recently hosted a successful Worship Leader’s course for parishes and we are particularly keen to facilitate mutual support networks across and beyond the deanery. Further training in bereavement work is planned for later in the year.

There is a Clergy Chapter which meets regularly, jointly with West Bridge, and collaboration and mutual support between clergy and churches are given a high priority. New colleagues are encouraged to make involvement in the life of the deanery a priority.

In recent years, deanery officers have built up good relationships with their diocesan counterparts so that we are able to operate in a collaborative and mutually supportive way to tackle shared concerns and opportunities. Particular support has been forthcoming from our Diocesan Accompanier who normally attends deanery meetings and facilitates support from other diocesan staff.

The Reverend Stefan Thomas, Area Dean, East Bridge Deanery
From the Archdeacon

Over the last 6 months, the people of Littlebourne Benefice and Wingham, St Mary the Virgin, and The Living Well (the Diocesan Centre for Healing and wholeness), all situated in East Bridge Deanery, have been prayerfully re-imagining ministry, which has brought them into this partnership together with complete commitment to serving their villages as well as the Diocese to grow God’s Church. This exciting and interesting ministry opportunity is the coming together of that vision.

With regard to the churches, building on excellent ministries that have gone before, we hope that over the next season will see a growth in the mission of these churches. As indicated, a first task will be to lead them in some pastoral reorganisation, which is already locally agreed. The key task however is a missional one and the communities have used the words leader, grower, enabler, encourager, facilitator, relational, pastoral and prayerful to describe the new priest who they hope will join them.

With regard to The Living Well, which is a vital diocesan ministry, the team is looking for a priest to join them with a gifting and sense of call to the ministries of prayer, healing and wholeness. This ministry is an obvious priority in some of the churches as well, which makes this partnership such a good one. If these gifts resonate with you and you are interested in exploring this ministry opportunity in in East Kent, please don’t hesitate to contact me if I can provide you with any further information that will assist your discernment.

The Ven. Jo Kelly-Moore, Archdeacon of Canterbury
Thank you for taking an interest in the role of priest in charge of Littlebourne Benefice with Wingham, St Mary’s and Assistant Chaplain to the Living Well. You’ll see from the rest of the profile some of the specific things that the churches and The Living Well are looking for – and a little of what the team here hopes 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’re 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. In our diocese, we want to increasingly 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’ll be looking for you to 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’s also a living strategy – as we listen to God and one another, the shape of our work together will undoubtedly change and grow. Could you help to develop this vision for the future? Find out more here or speak to The Venerable Jo Kelly-Moore, Archdeacon of Canterbury on 01227 865238 or email archdeacon@canterbury-cathedral.org

Our commitment to you

We know that supporting healthy, flourishing ministers (lay and ordained) is crucial for a healthy, flourishing diocese. That’s why we offer the ‘Canterbury Diet’ to all our incumbent ministers – this is an intentional programme for ministerial development, health, growth and faith. A lay programme is in development too. Additionally, we offer a range of specialised training events, as well as 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 Right Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin

Bishop of Dover