

The Bishop in Canterbury

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The Diocese of
Canterbury

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Dear Colleague

The Parish of St Andrew, Deal

Thank you for your interest in this exciting opportunity for a mission-minded priest in the Catholic tradition of the Church of England. I firmly believe that there are immense missional opportunities open to St Andrew's, working not only for the community in the parish but also playing a part in sharing the gifts of the Catholic tradition in the ministry of the wider town, Deanery and Diocese. Those communities join me, I know, in praying for the flourishing of St Andrew's as together we seek to serve the needs of those entrusted to our care and work together in fulfilling that mission which has been entrusted to us by God himself.

Further to the information in the parish profile, the Area Dean, Canon Seth Cooper, writes of the deanery:

"Sandwich Deanery" runs along the east coast of the Canterbury Diocese and consists of two main areas of conurbation – Sandwich, and Deal with Walmer, along with their outlying villages and hamlets. There are 12 parishes in 6 benefices with 19 churches.

The total population of the Deanery is about 45,000 of whom about 30,000 live in Deal and Walmer and 6,000 in Sandwich. The Deanery contains 12 primary schools of which 6 are Church of England schools. There are also 3 secondary schools as well as 2 independent schools.

The Deanery places an emphasis on each parish being the primary unit for mission and the need for each church to take responsibility for its own vision. At present each parish is requested by the deanery to have its own Mission Action Plan. The Deanery gives 'light touch' to support local churches in their mission and therefore recognises the importance of communication and collaboration through the deanery structures (i.e. Mission and Ministry committee, Synod and Chapter).

Officers of Sandwich deanery are also trustees of a small charity that can make modest grants to social action projects in the Deanery."

The Archdeacon of Ashford, the Ven Darren Miller, writes:

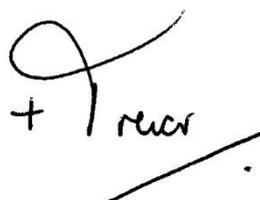
"Deal is a town with a wide variety of contexts, opportunities and challenges. The town has reimagined itself after the loss of the Kent coalmining industry and is a flourishing tourist destination. Nevertheless, there remain a number of social challenges for the community. The Church is well represented in the town in all of its traditions. This offers opportunities for the

gifts of St Andrew's Catholic expression of the faith to make a real difference, alongside those of the other parishes, in ministry to the wider town as well as St Andrew's parish."

You will see some of those opportunities expressed in the parish profile but do feel free to contact the Archdeacon if you require any further information or have any questions.

Be assured of my prayers as you discern whether God is calling you to serve in Deal.

With my prayers and blessing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'T' followed by the name 'Trevor' in a cursive script.

The Right Reverend Trevor Willmott
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