Parish Profile for
St Peter & St Paul, Temple Ewell
with
St Mary the Virgin, Lydden, Dover
1. The religious and spiritual challenges in the 21st century

2. Our new priest

3. The Benefice and what we can offer
   a. St Peter & St Paul, Temple Ewell
   b. St Mary the Virgin, Lydden

4. Canterbury Diocese

5. Dover Deanery
1. The religious and spiritual challenges in the 21st century

It is challenging for a religious culture to provide the immediate gratification and answers of technology so embedded in today’s world. Equally, the pace of life and often financial pressures place demands on busy family life. In common with many congregations, we want to expand the number of families and young people in our churches. In order for our churches to become sustainable worshipping communities that effectively take mission into the local area, we need to look at ourselves and identify what we do well and what we are not achieving and why. We need to listen to God, celebrate what is good and play our part in enriching communities. We therefore would welcome the leadership, inspiration and support of a priest to enable and encourage us on this journey.

2. Our new priest

We are looking for a part-time stipendiary priest (0.2FTE; Sunday plus 2 days) who will:

- Grow and enable mission and ministry within the communities of Temple Ewell and Lydden
- Have a deep commitment to pastoral care
- Have a vision for mission and outreach
- Be a visible, compassionate and sensitive presence in the communities
- Be an effective leader, willing to listen, encourage, motivate and grow the gifts and skills of parishioners in contributing to church life
- Develop and deepen the faith of the congregation so that they may help make the church more accessible to the community
- Treasure, maintain and build on links with Temple Ewell Church of England Primary School, so encouraging children and their families to join in our worship
- Be comfortable in ministering through a range of forms of worship
- Be a productive and supportive member of the proposed new Western Benefice
- Be clearly willing to work with colleagues in the deanery and diocese

In short, our ideal candidate would be someone through whom God’s love for all shines through, has a good sense of humour, warmth and compassion, would be a good listener, an intelligent leader, encouraging and working with us to grow spiritually and numerically.

3. The Benefice and what we can offer

St Peter and St Paul Temple Ewell and St Mary the Virgin Lydden worship God in a tradition that is Catholic. In the past, both churches accepted resolutions A
and B and have recently chosen to remain with this decision. This is supported by the Bishop of Dover. However, we are keen to introduce a range of services that would appeal to both traditionalists and families and have had several successful and uplifting all age worship services over the past 13 months in our interregnum. Norman, Bishop of Richborough has Episcopal oversight of our Benefice and we have a positive working relationship with Bishop Trevor, the Bishop of Dover and Archdeacon Darren, the Archdeacon of Ashford.

As a benefice we offer:

- Committed and welcoming congregations who have increased their participation in the worship and general areas of church life during the interregnum.
- The opportunity to be part of a benefice ministry within the Dover Deanery, alongside St Peter and St Paul’s Church River, where Rev Andy Bawtree is the full-time stipendiary priest who would play a supportive, administrative role for the 3 churches.
- We are part of a vibrant group of parishes working together in Dover Deanery, who would be supportive of a part-time priest.
- Both churches have agreed to become a single parish, maintaining two parish churches. There will therefore be one PCC with two churchwardens, so reducing administrative time further, and releasing people’s time to engage in mission.
- Village locations in one of Europe’s finest and very beautiful surviving chalk downlands, which has a natural nature reserve with both grassland and woodland, home to a wide variety of flora and fauna. The port town of Dover offers a high-speed rail link to London (65 minutes) as well as a frequent ferry service to France. The Eurotunnel can be accessed from Folkestone, which is about 13 miles away, and the beautiful UNESCO World Heritage city of Canterbury is a 20 minute drive away.
- There are many fascinating archeological sites within the local area and Dover Castle remains the second most popular tourist attraction within the UK.
- A five bedroom Rectory in the village of Temple Ewell with stunning views of surrounding hills. A list of necessary improvements for the property needs to be discussed.
- Grammar schools serve our south-east area of Kent. There are 2 secondary / academy schools for the Dover area plus a Catholic option too. Both Lydden and Temple Ewell have flourishing primary schools.

3a Temple Ewell

The Village

Temple Ewell has a parish church, a village hall and a primary school along with a local shop and post office plus an 18th century public house which have all helped maintain the
strong village identity that families enjoy. It is situated 3 miles from Dover and 15 miles from Canterbury.

The civil parish of Temple Ewell recorded a population of 1,669 at the 2011 Census. The average age was 45, with 15% children and young people, 63% working age and 22% aged 65 or over. Of the working population 27% are in the two highest occupation groups and 16% in the lowest. A religious affiliation was declared by 69%. The largest faith group was Christian with 67.5% while 22% stated they had no religion at all.

At least 11 clubs and societies, from Brownies, to the Produce Association and Temple Ewell Players cater for a variety of interests in the village.

The church contributes to the monthly newsletter “TE News”, listing services and preachers and updates about the Deanery and how the interregnum is progressing. Members of the congregation also support various clubs and work to keep the church profile alive in the village.

The Church

The church of Saint Peter and St Paul was built over 800 years ago in Temple Ewell. In the Doomsday survey of 1086 reference was made to a small wooden church, but our present church was founded by the Knights Templars in the 12th Century. We still have the north and south walls, the Roman archway and the 8-pointed Templars’ cross. The first recorded vicar was John Sacardos, under the patronage of the Master of the Temple in 1185. The Templars remained until 1312 and a number of alterations were made after that. The North Chapel was built and a hundred years later the Tower Arch and the Tower itself.

Temple Ewell churchyard is closed but it has a Memorial Garden.

There are 46 people on the Electoral Roll. On a normal Sunday there is a core of faithful worshippers, comprised of ages from 4 upwards to 70 plus. Two are licensed by the Bishop to administer the chalice. We have a very loyal Sacristan who ensures everything is prepared for the Sunday service. Members of the congregation play an active role in:

- leading intercessions and reading during services.
- administering the chalice
- being members of the teams of sides persons, who work singly or in pairs to welcome all attending services
Each Sunday there is a 10:30am sung Eucharist with a small choir and organist who help lead the service. A said Eucharist service has traditionally been held on a Wednesday morning. The choir would welcome new members of all ages as we have a long and excellent choral tradition which we are anxious to maintain. The highlight of the choral year is the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols during Advent. The choir combines at times with that of Charlton Church to support events for each church.

The church combined finances with the school to have the Millennium Hall built and this provides a social area for church activities and celebrations, as well as much needed toilet facilities. Similarly it has given the school greater space for productions and fayres etc..

A Sunday Club is available during term-time, attended regularly by children from 4 years to 10 years old. They meet in the Millennium Hall and join the main Sunday service for a blessing during the Eucharist. The children enjoy craft mornings at Easter and Christmas and contribute to family services such as Candlemas, Mothering Sunday, Pentecost, Harvest and a Toy service. They agree a charity to support each term and are currently sponsoring a donkey.

Easter services are well attended and include Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil on Saturday. Throughout Lent, Temple Ewell church members support weekly Lent lunches alongside Temple Ewell Baptist Church.

Palm Sunday walk through Temple Ewell village

The very popular Christmas Eve Crib service and Christingle are usually attended by over a 100 people from the village and beyond with many families coming back to the church when they visit for Christmas. We also hold a Christmas tree festival involving many village groups who accept the creative and imaginative challenge so completely.
Each year our Church has helped with the “Holiday Club” organised by Christians Together in Dover at Dover Baptist Church. This attracts children of all ages from Dover over 3 days during the school summer holiday.

The church offers an active bible study house group which meets every other week during term time. Study materials come from a range of sources and during Lent and Advent the group meets weekly to follow courses.

Temple Ewell has an active Facebook page (@templewellpepaul) which posts Christian images and text 5 days a week and is also used to share which priest will be leading our service each week. The church has an up to date profile on A Church Near You (Temple Ewell).

The number of joint services between our churches has increased with the interregnum and we feel these have been joyful and fulfilling occasions so there is a commitment to maintaining this for the future. Both Churches discuss with families their preference of having a Baptism as part of the Sunday Eucharist service, or whether they would like a more informal family service. Last year there were 9 baptisms in Temple Ewell. We hold a baptismal renewal service with a tea for families.

Taking Communion to the local Nursing Homes has always been of importance to us being carried out by our priest. We are now looking for some of us to be authorised to take communion to the village nursing homes and visit former members of the congregation who are housebound.

We have recently formed a Worship Group and believe it essential to work with the new incumbent to explore different patterns and types of service to better serve our community.

A wedding at St Peter and St Paul  
A Knight’s Templar exhibition  
Temple Ewell war memorial
Temple Ewell School
Temple Ewell is a popular village church school with a roll of about 150. The February 2017 Ofsted inspection graded the school as outstanding and the latest SIAMS (Church Schools) inspection also graded the school outstanding. Children consistently perform well, with the end of Key Stage 2 results being placed in the top 10% for Kent for the last 3 years. It currently holds the Inclusion Quality Mark with Flagship status.

The Christian values of the school are FAITH (Forgiveness, Acceptance, Inspiration, Trust, Hope) and this ethos is apparent within the school. Children are members of a Spiritual Council which plans and organises the services in church, led by each class to commemorate Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Year 6 Leavers. The church is always full on these occasions. Our previous priest conducted a weekly assembly at the school and during the interregnum several ministers from a range of denominations have gone into the school to speak.

Local outreach

The church organises a range of social /fundraising events which are also supported by people from the village including:

- Lounge on the Lawn with many village families joining in, listening to local groups, dancing and enjoying picnics
- This year a well-received “Sophisticated Supper”
- Harvest Lunch in aid of charities such as Christian Aid and Children in Distress
- House to house collections for Christian Aid
- A well-supported Gift Day, where 600 letters are sent to the all in the village asking for financial donations to maintain the Church in the heart of the village
- A Christmas Bazaar
- A recently formed 100 Club for all in the village
- There is a Friends of Temple Ewell Church
- Wine & Wisdom quiz evenings
And we’re interested in trying new events!

Other Church Links
- Food Bank
- Dover soup Kitchen
- Christians Together in Dover

Finance

Expenditure for 2017 was £35,963, and income was £38,907. There is a reserved account for fabric expenditure. Accounts are appended.

3b Lydden

The Village

Lydden is a small village with a vibrant and active community. It is situated 4 miles from Dover and 13 miles from Canterbury. There is a small village school with approximately 100 children, a child care and preschool facility, an excellent pub, village hall, health centre and two farms. There is a mix of ages in the village and new housing development increases the opportunities for more families to be established in the village. The village hall is home to the monthly coffee mornings and is regularly booked for events. The Bell is a well-loved country pub which plays a key role in the village supporting a number of community events. There is a 100 Club lottery which helps to support local organisations including the church. The village is currently looking to develop a housing estate in the centre of the village.

The Lydden surgery is based in the middle of the village and is oversubscribed. It has a team of local doctors and health professionals who serve the village and wider communities.
The civil Parish of Lydden recorded a population of 673 at the 2011 Census, 92% of whom were born in the UK. The average age was 55 with 17% children and young people, 61% working age and 22% aged 65 or over. A religious affiliation was declared by 67%, the largest faith group was Christian with 65% while 21% stated they had no religion at all. The village is a mixture of families, working professionals and retired members of the community. The housing is a mixture of old colliery houses at Stonehall, 1960s development of bungalows at Broadacre and a mixture of modern and established housing along the main Canterbury Road through the village.

Lydden is on the main bus route from Dover to Canterbury and many residents rely on this form of public transport.

There is a village newsletter which is managed and delivered by willing volunteers.

The Church

St. Mary’s Church was built in the 11th century and is of great historical importance. It is believed that the knights Templar stopped at the church on their way to Canterbury. There is a historical leaflet which evidences many of the features.

The church had its roof repaired last year and was successful at receiving grants in order to do this. There is a Churchyard which is still open for burials. There are limited services to this ancient building and parking is limited but a good relationship with the farm next door enables access for larger congregations.

The electoral register for St Mary’s Church is 22. At St Mary’s we consider ourselves to be “small but beautiful” and we enjoy tremendous fellowship and love being part of a very supportive church family. Our weekly Sunday service is held at 9:00 am with a regular congregation. This is a simple said service with hymns and the Eucharist every week. The musical worship is traditional, we are lucky to have a wonderful organist but we are not worried about singing unaccompanied! Often our singing is harmonized by the animals at the farm next door. There is something very beautiful about worshipping in our delightful ancient building.
with the door open, the sun streaming in and the cattle accompanying us!

St Mary the Virgin has two Churchwardens and an enthusiastic PCC currently consisting of 8 members in total. The PCC will at all times proactively seek to support the new incumbent in every possible way. They currently share many of the duties involved between themselves and church members as one united team. The PCC meets regularly and have a very open and transparent system to ensure everyone feels involved with decisions.

Currently we are well supported by retired priests who are leading our services, members of the congregation lead intercessions and read at most Sunday services. The congregation is made up of predominantly retired people, but we wish to better reflect a cross section of the village. We are fortunate to have within the congregation many capable and gifted people who are committed team players, supporting each other, our church and community.

St Mary's is especially keen to encourage fellowship between the congregation and the village and wider community. Over recent years we have held events in the Church and we are keen to explore the possibilities of using the resource of the church to benefit the wider community but this is limited as we have no running water available.

The church publishes its services and events in the village newsletter.

The Christmas Mulling event, when the church is lit by hundreds of candles and villagers are encouraged to have a glass of mulled wine and meet together, is always popular.

The church has up to date profile on A Church Near You (Lydden).
In challenging financial times, we are grateful for the generosity of our church family, which has enabled us to pay our way and still contribute to chosen charities. Accounts are appended.
4. Canterbury Diocese

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.

The County of 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. Situated in East Kent, 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.

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 the Diocese of Canterbury, we want to increasingly become a Christian community transformed through encounter with Christ, growing and overflowing to transform and bless the families, homes and communities we serve in East Kent: Changed Lives, Changing Lives.

You can read more about the Diocesan Strategy, Changed Lives, Changing Lives with this PowerPoint presentation.

Our church feels very much in accord with the Diocesan strategy. We also feel well-supported by the team at Diocesan House.

5. Dover Deanery

Over the past 18 months, Dover Deanery has faced the retirement of 5 priests and it cannot afford to replace all of them. The Deanery is facing up to these changes and a pastoral reorganization is ongoing.

St Peter & St Paul’s Church, with St Mary’s of Lydden, are part of the Western Group within the Deanery and have been working together in a variety of ways for two years. It is a very supportive group committed to working and worshipping together, also learning from each other. Currently the group consists of St Peter & St Paul’s church, River, which has a full-time priest, Capel, Alkham and Hougham are three churches with a 0.2 priest. The Rev Andy Bawtree is the vicar at River and has become our pastoral leader during the interregnum. He is generous with his time and support.
FINALLY ……

We ask for God’s blessing in this new chapter of our church life. We are looking forward, very much, to putting words into action and building our Christian journey together.