



Parish Profile

South Gillingham Team Ministry

Team Rector

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ARCHDEACON'S WELCOME

Thank you for taking the time to prayerfully consider whether God might be calling you to be the next Rector for the South Gillingham Team Ministry. This is an exciting time in the life of Rochester Diocese as we reflect on how we as a Diocese, and in different ways in each of our parishes, might Change and Serve and Grow so that God's Kingdom can be increased and more people can come to know the love of Jesus. Our Diocesan vision and strategy prioritises parish ministry and we are committed to supporting our clergy and lay leaders in their mission and ministry in their local context.



We have recently been awarded £11m of SMIBB funding (from the National Church) to support this vision.

The congregations of the South Gillingham Team Ministry are warm and welcoming and are looking forward to working with a new Team Rector, building on existing strengths and opportunities for shared mission and ministry. Each church has different strengths and opportunities, but all are keen to continue working together to develop outreach and deeper connections with their local communities, particularly with their local schools. There will be future opportunities for mission and outreach from new housing developments. After a long period without a Team Rector, we considered the possibility of dissolving the Team Ministry to enable us to recruit more easily. However, the parish representatives, while open to change, recognise the potential and the continuing strength of working effectively together in mission and ministry. I am committed to supporting this Team to flourish.

The Parish and I are prayerfully seeking for a Team Rector who has the gifting, skills and passion to see the Kingdom of God grow, supports collaborative working and inclusion in all forms. There are six primary schools within the Parish and building the connections with the staff, pupils and families is a key opportunity.

Our **Team Rector** would ideally be an experienced and forward-thinking leader who can build upon what is good, offering oversight to each of the churches, supporting, encouraging and enabling the dedicated team of lay ministers and volunteers and leading in vision, mission and discipleship. As a two-post benefice, the Team Rector will also be able to assist in choosing a Team Vicar to support them in these exciting mission opportunities.

Please be assured of my prayers as you discern whether you are the person the Holy Spirit is calling to join us in this next stage of mission and ministry in the Parish of South Gillingham.

I'd be delighted to have a conversation with anyone who may be interested.

Ven Sandra

Ven Sandra McCalla, Archdeacon of Rochester

OUR SHARED MISSION & MINISTRY

This is an important time in the life of our churches as we seek God's will and direction for our future. We are a very active Parish, eager to continue building on all that God is doing among us, working together in sharing the love of God and Jesus with our communities. We are committed to growth in our relationships with God, one another and on impacting those who live around us.

Although we are four individual churches, our experience is that we are much stronger and more effective by working together, supporting each other as one Parish family through the sharing of resources and people across many outreach activities.

There is potential to do more, with opportunities in school engagement increasing and new housing developments on the horizon. We are therefore excited about the possibilities and direction that new leadership will bring. Our desire too is that our congregations will grow in faith and discipleship and in serving the Lord Jesus in South Gillingham.



MINISTRY TEAM

There is a good team of committed lay people and volunteers who work well together to support the mission and ministry of our churches.

Within our congregations, there are two Licensed Lay Ministers and two Licensed Lay Readers who rotate in leading and preaching across our weekly services. In addition, we have four people with Bishop's permission to preach, six with permission to lead services and one to do both.

One of our LLM's is also an Anna Chaplain, who leads a small team in ministering to four care homes in the Parish. We also have a trained Children's Lead overseeing all our children's ministry activities.

To support the clergy and the running of the Parish, there is a team of Churchwardens and Treasurers, alongside many others who give their time in serving the Lord.

The Parish employs two part time administrators based at St Matthew's church. The administrators handle all enquiries about marriages, baptisms, and funerals, and provide pastoral support and guidance where needed. In addition, they take on wider administrative tasks that help the churches run smoothly, often bridging pastoral care and practical organisation.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is composed of the Churchwardens and elected representatives from each of our churches. It is chaired by the Lay Chair and meets every two months. Each church also has its own District Church Council (DCC), responsible for its day-to-day operational and practical matters. The DCCs report to the PCC, ensuring that local decision-making is supported by shared oversight across the parish.

Parish finance and all Gift Aid administration are managed centrally by the Treasurer.

The Parish takes safeguarding seriously to ensure our churches are safe places for all, with dedicated Parish Safeguarding Officer and two Church Safeguarding Officers.

Communication is a vital part of both internal and external ministry, and the churches use social media to promote its activities. Internally, parish communication is supported by a single weekly newsletter, Keeping in Touch, which helps foster cohesion. Compiled by a coordinator, it is received by most members via email.

OUR TEAM



Jennie Spalding
**Licensed Lay Minister & Anna
Chaplain**



Dave Till
Licensed Lay Minister



Paul Bellerby
Church Warden – St Matthew's



Alan Wainwright
Church Warden – St Peter's



Geoff Hufton
Lay Reader



Colin Brown
Lay Reader



Sarah Till
Church Warden – All Saint's

Vacancy
Church Warden – St Paul's



Andrew Mann
PCC Lay Chair



Stephen Manning
Parish Treasurer



Viv Fuller
Parish Administrator



Tracey Gurr
Children's Lead

MISSION & OUTREACH

There are a range of groups across the Parish providing opportunities for outreach, fellowship, and discipleship.

Outreach is primarily focussed on the younger and older ages within our communities. There are several toddler groups and a Family Fun service held twice a month on Sunday afternoons. There is also an annual Holiday Club for primary school children.

There are a number of weekly or monthly drop-in groups to build connection within the community. These include a Place of Welcome and Monday Hub, Thursday Club, Film Club, Knit and Natter, Inside out Church and a Carer's Coffee Morning.

Prayer and spiritual support are provided in our local Care Homes by the Anna Chaplain with the support of two Anna Friends. A Bereavement Journey Course is run several times a year.

There are a number of Homegroups across the Parish, weekly Morning Prayer and two monthly Parish prayer meetings. The Parish has also provided bible teaching courses and Alpha courses.



CHILDRENS, FAMILIES & SCHOOLS

The parish is deeply committed to engaging with children, families, and schools, seeking to introduce them to the love of Jesus and to build meaningful, lasting relationships within our community.

Each church has good connections with their local primary schools and are keen to maintain and further develop these partnerships. There are six in total.

Previous Clergy have played an active role in these schools, serving as governors and leading assemblies and RE lessons. During the interregnum school requests are coordinated and facilitated by our Children's Lead.

These include

- Attending Experience Easter and Experience Christmas events
- Exploring topics within the RE curriculum
- It's Your Move workshops with Year 6 pupils as they prepare for the transition to secondary school
- Christmas concerts and other events



The four churches work closely together to run a twice-monthly Family Fun Service which provides an informal and inclusive space to worship together for families with children from babies to Year 6. In the past year, four children were baptized in one of the services during which the following video was taken by the Diocese of Rochester Media and Engagement Team: <https://youtu.be/y18zrtGXvrk>

We run a popular annual Holiday Club during the October half-term for primary-aged children.

We also run 'Rooted', a fortnightly children's group for 8–11 year olds which offers a space for children to engage with the Bible, ask questions, and explore the difference Jesus can make in their lives.

Currently we run weekly toddler groups operating during term time in three of our churches, offering support, friendship and a gentle introduction to church life for families with young children.



Each year we have the joy of welcoming many families into our churches through their children's activities, creating valuable connections. Ongoing focus is to nurture these relationships, so families feel at home and encouraged to deepen their engagement with church life.

Our aim is to make church relevant, accessible, and welcoming for all families and strive to find innovative ways to connect with those outside the church. With the right guidance, we are confident we can further develop our work with schools and build strong, fruitful relationships with local families.



OUR CURRENT SERVICE PATTERN

All our churches, while different, are welcoming and accessible to all, and offer a variety of worship styles and formats ranging from a formal Eucharist to informal all-age worship.

Each church holds a Sunday service every week at 10:30am with Holy Communion being celebrated once a month. Monthly at St Peter's there is an 8.30am BCP Holy Communion and a quiet 6pm Evening Service, also, there is a 9:30am Holy Communion service at St Pauls on Wednesdays.

	St. Matthew's		St Paul's	St. Peters	All Saints
Week 1	9.30am Wednesday		Parish said Holy Communion		
	10.30am	All Age Worship	Morning Worship	Holy Communion	Morning Worship
	3pm		Parish Family Fun (Lay Team led)		
Week 2	10.30am	Morning Worship	All Age Worship	Morning Worship	Holy Communion
Week 3	8.30am			BCP said Holy Communion	
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	All Age Worship	Morning Worship
	3pm		Parish Family Fun (Lay Team led)		
Week 4	10.30am	Morning Worship	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	All Age Worship
	6pm			Evening Quiet Service (LLM led)	
Week 5	10.30am	*	*	*	

* On 5th Sundays and on Patronal and Festival Services, the four churches gather at 10:30am to worship and celebrate together.

OUR COMMUNITIES

The Parish of South Gillingham is located on the leafy outskirts of the Medway Towns in North Kent. Nestled partly within the picturesque landscape of the North Downs. South Gillingham is mainly suburban, offering a pleasant living environment with easy access to both urban amenities and areas of outstanding natural beauty.

South Gillingham is less than an hour by train to London and the Kent Coast. Together with good road networks, parks and the nearby Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre, it is a convenient and desirable location for commuters and families alike.

The Parish is a diverse community with a current population of over 22,000, largely with a mix of modern private homes and individually designed houses. The village of Bredhurst has roots dating back to medieval times.

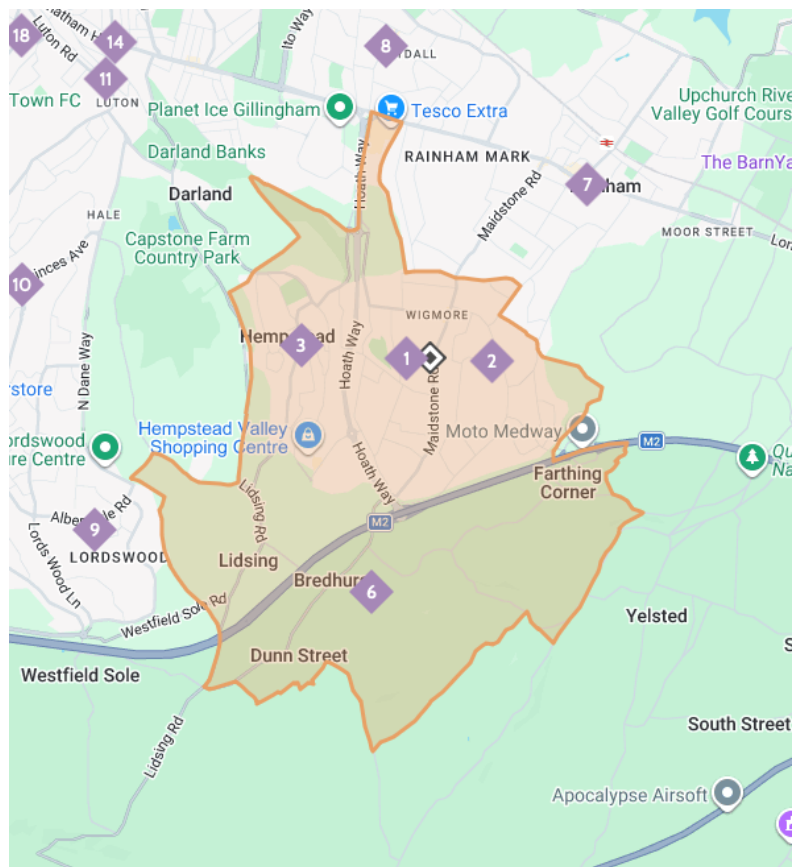
There are good primary schools within the Parish, and a range of secondary and grammar schools a short distance away. For higher education, the universities of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church, Greenwich and colleges associated with Mid Kent College are all within easy reach.

The area is well served by public transport and the A2 & M2 roads make easy access to Kent's beautiful countryside and places of interest. The large Bluewater and Lakeside shopping centres are also easy to reach.

Medway boasts a rich cultural heritage, shaped by its historic landmarks such as Rochester Cathedral and Rochester Castle, its significant military and naval past, and its enduring connections with Charles Dickens — all of which contribute to the area's distinctive cultural identity.



OUR PARISH



Each of our congregations and buildings have unique characteristics and strengths, which allow us to cater for our communities' particular needs.

Although we worship in four locations and express our faith through different styles, we come together as one church family for Patronal celebrations, special services and shared social events.

As one Parish, we work together and share resources so we can fulfil our mission aims. Each of our churches offers a warm welcome to all and we remain wholeheartedly committed to fostering a community where everyone is valued and included.

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH, WIGMORE

St Matthews has been at the heart of Wigmore since moving to its unique purpose - built church in 1965. We continue to serve our community and offer an active Christian witness to all who live and work here. St Matthew's is a place where people find a warm welcome and a spiritual home — a place to belong, to grow in faith, and to share friendship and service.

Our worship is informal and relaxed, blending traditional hymns with contemporary songs, and includes an engaging monthly All-Age Worship service. The church is directly connected to our large Community Centre, which is available to hire and provides a wide range of activities and events for local residents and families.

We have built an excellent relationship with Fairview Primary School, next door to the church. Classes come into the church for a variety of activities, including Experience Easter and Experience Christmas, It's Your Move workshops and RE curriculum topics.

There are a range of opportunities for older members of the community and for anyone who feels lonely or isolated to meet regularly. Each week in church, we host a Place of Welcome and a thriving Thursday Club in the Community Centre. There is also a monthly Film Club and a Knit & Natter group.

For pre-school children, we run a popular weekly Parent and Toddler Group, providing a friendly space for little ones to play and for adults to connect.

The church is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and impact on the environment and have achieved an Eco Church Bronze Award.



ST PAUL'S CHURCH, PARKWOOD

St Paul's is a friendly and welcoming church with a contemporary and informal style of worship. Services include a blend of modern worship songs and traditional hymns, with a strong emphasis on biblical teaching, prayer and sharing the Christian faith within the local community. Worship is usually led by our music group.

The church is located at the heart of the Parkwood community, close to Parkwood Green and adjacent to a large car park. A nearby shopping precinct includes a health centre and several primary schools serve the area. St Paul's has developed positive relationships with these schools and is keen to strengthen these links as part of its ministry with families and young people.

Our new church building, opened in 1998, provides a flexible space for worship, ministry and community use. In addition to the main worship area, there are several meeting rooms and a kitchen that support small groups and outreach activities.



Regular activities at St Paul's provide opportunities to connect with families and the wider community. These include a parent and toddler group ("Play and Chat"), a Brownie Pack, and a twice-monthly Family Fun Service for children and their families led by our Children's Lead and her team, as well as a three-day Holiday Club each October. The Monday Hub is another important parish initiative, offering an open and welcoming space where people from the local community can meet, enjoy conversation and build friendships in a safe and supportive environment.

Our desire at St Paul's is to be an outward-looking church, actively engaged with the life of the community. This is reflected in our monthly outreach event held on the grass outside the church on the first Friday of each month. The name of this event captures our vision — to be an "Inside Out Church", sharing God's love beyond our walls and serving the community in practical ways.

ST PETER'S CHURCH, BREDHURST

St. Peter's Church is an 11th century Grade II listed building, built in 1165. It sits at the end of a lane surrounded by woodland and is popular with families for baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

It has a closed 'old' churchyard and a beautiful, natural 'new' churchyard and burial ground which serves the Parish of South Gillingham. It provides a place of peace and comfort that is beautifully maintained and loved.

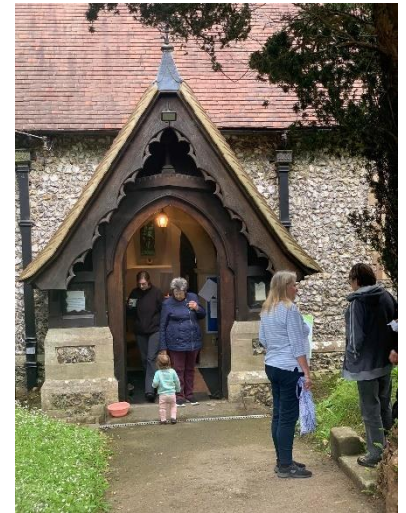
We worship, share the good news and respond with love in our weekly services and home groups. We reach out with our Carers' Corner, Bredhurst Church Charity Shop, Kent Churches annual Ride and Stride and Bredhurst CofE School with which we are strengthening relationships with key events for each class year group being held at the church during the year.

There is a strong team of volunteers who look after our churchyard and the building alongside the Wednesday Maintenance Team who tackle some of the bigger tasks around the church.

St Peter's has been awarded the Bronze Eco Church Award.

The interior of St Peter's is currently undergoing re-ordering to improve access and develop a spacious meeting room with a dedicated refreshments area. Once complete this will enable a return to monthly reading sessions with the school children and a revival of our monthly community hub.

Our mission is to preserve everything that is cherished about St. Peter's, but ensure it provides an inviting sanctuary for all ages who come for worship, prayer and to feel the presence of God in their lives.



ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HEMPSTEAD

All Saints' Church offers a welcoming place of worship where people of all ages can gather for regular services, seasonal celebrations and support. This includes outreach to children through the Sunbeams mid-week group for under 5s and a regular puppet service called Livewires. There is growing interest from the local Infant and Junior schools to engage more with our church.

The church serves as an important centre for community life. Various groups and social events take place in the church, including two choirs and a local amdram group. By providing a space where people can meet, the church enables such groups to flourish.

Finally, the church encourages volunteering and service. Many members give their time and skills to support worship, community activities, outreach and charitable initiatives. Their commitment strengthens both the congregation and the wider community, fostering a spirit of generosity and shared responsibility.



STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Strengths: We have

- Four welcoming, friendly and generous churches,
- Congregations open to change
- A large hard working committed lay team and volunteers
- Many outreach groups that are making positive difference to those who attend
- A supportive culture of caring, and praying for, serving and loving one another

Opportunities:

- To increase our engagement with schools and families
- Reaching out into new housing developments
- Further meet the needs of isolation and loneliness
- To deepen learning and discipleship
- To encourage and support others to find and use their gifts

OUR HOPES FOR OUR NEW RECTOR

Our current vision and priorities are to:

- Help our communities hear and respond to the Good News of Jesus
- Maximise the increasing opportunities we have to work with our local schools and families
- Grow and develop faith, gifts and skills for the ongoing life of our churches
- Find ways to help our many outreach contacts to explore faith
- To become younger and more diverse

To grow, build on and achieve these goals and opportunities, we are praying for a new Team Rector who

- ✓ Has a strong love for Jesus, a passionate faith and a heart for evangelism
- ✓ Is prayerful and will lead, encourage and challenge us to grow as disciples of Jesus
- ✓ Is a good communicator, who interprets and preaches the Christian message in a way that is relevant and accessible to all generations
- ✓ Has a heart for mission and growth, experienced in creating and implementing outreach activities
- ✓ Is visionary and strategic, with experience of managing and leading change, enabling teams to flourish
- ✓ Values collaborative working and is happy to delegate and share responsibilities
- ✓ Is an enabler, recognising potential in people, and can encourage and nurture others to grow in their gifts and vocation
- ✓ Has good experience of working with schools and families
- ✓ Will be a visible presence across our churches and communities

WHAT WE OFFER

In return the parish provides:

- ✓ a very convenient and pleasant place to live
- ✓ a prayerful and supportive working environment
- ✓ administrative assistance
- ✓ a committed lay team willing to support you and help grow all the churches across the parish
- ✓ welcoming churches, ready to learn and embrace change
- ✓ opportunities for potential growth and new ministry
- ✓ good links with a wide variety of community groups and schools

HOW TO APPLY

If you believe God might be calling you to join us in sharing the love of God with the communities of Wigmore, Parkwood, Bredhurst and Hempstead and to play your unique part in building the Kingdom of Christ as Team Rector for the South Gillingham Team, we would love to hear from you.

Application details are available on the Diocese of Rochester website at www.rochester.anglican.org

If you would like an informal conversation about this post, please contact

Archdeacon Sandra via her EA Natalie Kidd on natalie.kidd@rochester.anglican.org

CLERGY HOUSING

- THE RECTORY 4 DREWERY DRIVE, WIGMORE ME8 0NX

The Rectory is situated between St. Matthew's Church and Fairview Primary School and is within easy walking distance of community shops, a local library and parks.

The house is well maintained by the diocese and has four good sized bedrooms, two reception rooms, study, kitchen, bathroom, separate shower room and downstairs cloakroom. There is a garage and space for two cars on the driveway.

The Rectory has a private, spacious and secluded south facing back garden with a border of mature trees and shrubs.



APPENDICES

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW (2025)

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Voluntary Income: Direct giving, Gift Aid, Donations and Appeals	268,919	Ministry Costs, Parish Offer, Charitable Giving	119,709
Generated Funds: Hall Rentals and Fund Raising	64,587	Church & hall running costs: Office Costs, Energy, Maintenance and repairs	110,254
Investments, Fees and Other Income	23,458		

ACCUMULATED FUNDS HELD

	St Matthews	St Pauls	St Peters	All Saints	PCC
UNRESTRICTED	53,223	25,711	35,695	19,644	32,173
RESTRICTED	17,016	7,766	29,866	9,199	8,842
TOTAL	70,239	33,477	65,561	28,843	41,015

SERVICE STATISTICS FOR 2025

	Average Weekly Attendance	Christmas Attendance, including Christingles	Number of Baptisms	Number of Weddings	Number of Funerals/Memorial Services (<i>Church and Crematorium</i>)
St Matthew's	54	708	4	0	4
St Paul's	41	588	8	0	0
St Peter's	26	88	4	4	11
All Saints	16	136	2	0	0
Family Fun	18 Adults 12 Children				