



*Parish profile and information for the
appointment of*

TEAM RECTOR

To the HARWICH Peninsula Team Ministry in Essex.

‘Living Faith, Loving People’



Parish of the Harwich Peninsula, Essex

All Saints', St Nicholas', and St Michael's Churches in Harwich



**St Nicholas '
Harwich**

**All Saints'
Dovercourt**



**St Michael's
Ramsey**

We are hoping to welcome you as our Team Rector and thank you for taking the time to read our Parish Profile. We hope that you will see our greatest desire is to honour God through Jesus Christ. We wish to share the Good News of God's love.

We seek the right person not only for the three Churches, but for the whole of the Harwich community.

We hope that you will bring with you.....

A deep love of God and all his people.

A warm, open-heartedness and forward thinking.

With a desire to work bringing patience, resilience and good humour to the Church and the wider community.

Who we are

We are an established, historically significant, coastal Team Ministry in the Harwich Deanery in northeast Essex.

Harwich has a long maritime history, and those links are very much part and parcel of the fabric of parish and church life.

The Team Rector will have particular responsibility for:

Championing ministry for all ages

Building relationships in the residential areas and outlying villages to encourage those who have drifted away from the church community back into the fold and attract new disciples to grow the Church throughout the Peninsula.

Partnering with the Ministry Team and the PCC in the strategic oversight and management of the parish.

Being sensitive to the traditions of the three churches and willing to acquaint themselves with the parish.

Combining administrative tasks with molding a strong and united team with a common vision which can reach out and share the love of God with the community around us.

Demonstrating patience, tenacity, and compassion about moving us forward in unity and love.

Being prayerful, Bible and Christ centered.

Sharing with the Ministry Team in worship, occasional offices, and schools' work.

Putting in place appropriate contextual opportunities for our numerous contacts through occasional offices to explore faith.

Supporting our pioneering ethos.

We have recently reached out to our congregations and the wider community asking them about the key qualities they would like the new Team Rector to aspire to. Here is a snapshot of what they said: -



The Team and Parish Management

We have a pioneer Team Vicar and three licensed Lay Ministers. We are seen as being a training parish for curates, although there is not one currently in post.

We have a small team who oversee and assist with children and families' work within the church.

There is a part time Parish Assistant.

We have recently recruited a dedicated Children and Families Worker, an exciting opportunity for us to bring the churches out into the local community, offer valuable and focussed support and meaningfully engage with families and specifically children aged 0-11 years.

The objectives of the Children & Families Worker include:

1. To build strong and purposeful relationships with the local schools and existing family focussed community groups in order to make introductions to the Church and the Christian faith, ultimately helping Children to build a relationship with Jesus.
2. To grow the existing Messy Church fresh expression and introduce a series of new and appropriate opportunities to engage with the community, in spaces that are familiar to them as well as using the church buildings.
3. Ultimately, we want to inspire and captivate our children and families to join our church family and to build a long and meaningful relationship with God and to grow in their Christian faith.

Governed by the PCC, we have three District Church Councils being St Michael's Ramsey with Little Oakley, All Saints' Dovercourt with Parkeston and St Nicholas' Church in Harwich.

Over the past two years we have been committed to working much more closely together as one parish, with regular opportunities for Churchwardens and Treasurers to get together. This has resulted in a stronger sense of collegiality and co-operation 'travelling together' as followers of Jesus Christ, at one in our desire to see the growth of the Kingdom of God among us.

We have updated our parish policies so that there is agreement across all three DCC's on how we manage ourselves, and we continue to look at how we can continue to grow together.

Our pattern of worship across the three church centres upon our Eucharistic tradition as well as non- Eucharistic services, midweek worship, all age worship, and civic services.

Current Service Pattern

Week 1	09.00am 10.30am 05.00pm	Morning Praise Holy Communion Evensong	St Michaels All Saints St Nicholas
Week 2	09.00am 09.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Holy Communion All-age Communion (with Baptism)	St Michaels St Nicholas All Saints
Week 3	09.00am 10.30am 05.00pm	Morning Praise Holy Communion Prayer & Praise	St Nicholas All Saints St Michaels
Week 4	09.00am 09.00am 10.30am	All-age Communion (with Baptism) Morning Praise Holy Communion	St Michaels St Nicholas All Saints
Week 5	10.30am	Whole Parish Communion	Rotational

Morning Prayer

Wednesdays

9.00 -12.00: All Saints Church open for personal prayer.

9.30 -12.30: St Nicholas open for Communion/ Morning Praise followed by private prayer.

Thursdays and Fridays

8.45: St Michaels Church open for personal prayer.

Whilst we wish to support and encourage church attendance for all ages, at the present time we are aware that not many children or families with young children attend our churches. This is an area for growth and support.

Occasional offices are a large part of our ministry, and we are very much in demand for funerals, baptisms, and weddings.

In 2022 across the Parish there were: -

- 38 Baptisms – 34 Children and 4 Adults
- 83 Funerals – 41 Funerals and 1 Blessing of which were held in Church
- 6 Weddings and 1 Blessing

The three-year appointment of a Funeral and Bereavement Minister for 2017- 2020 had a significant impact on funeral ministry and a new tradition of 'naming a star' initiative around Christmas time was established.

Baptism families are regularly invited to messy church.

The three churches are popular locally for weddings an area for development is the following up of wedding couples.



We see significant potential in growing our links with the families and individuals we work with through our occasional offices. Our Pioneer Minister is exploring working and engaging creatively with these families in ways that does not simply involve inviting people to our traditional Church Services namely the Alpha course which was well attended last year. A follow up Alpha course is due to start this autumn.

School work is a significant focus for our ministry. We have two church primary schools:

- Two Village School in Ramsey (was VC now part of the Vine trust).
- All Saints' School in Dovercourt (VA).

Church members serve as governors at All Saints School. There is a weekly led school worship. There are other school visits to the Church, and we are very much a part of the school community.

There are five other primary schools and one secondary, Harwich and Dovercourt High School. We are involved most with Chase Lane School and Harwich Community Primary School though we warmly engage with the other schools around the celebration of key festivals and in organising our Community Carol Service in December.

Community engagement has always been at the heart of who we are, with warm relationships being created with local community leaders, Harwich Town Council, local Parish Councils, Harwich Homestart, The Harwich Society, the Harwich Festival, the British Legion, and the RNLI to name but a few.

Mayor Making



We hope that the Team Rector to work with us in continuing to build on these positive foundations as we strive to work together for all God's people.

The Team Rector holds two ex-officio roles as a trustee for two Harwich church charities.

- Dovercourt Church and Poorlands Charity. The charity is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the 5 cottages and one house opposite All Saints' Church. A committee of five trustees exists to oversee this charity.
- The Frank Nicholl Bequest was established for the benefit of St Nicholas' Church. A committee of seven trustees administer this charity.

With the parishes maritime connection, we recognise the importance of our work in a parish steeped in history.

The new Rector may be involved with Trinity House which is an endowed charity dedicated to safeguarding shipping and seafarers. The operations office is on the Quay at Harwich which is within walking distance of St Nicholas Church.

Other area of connection is the Horse Rangers in Ramsey. This is led by one of our LLMs and allows for the word of God to cascade to young children and teenagers within the community.



Particular qualities:

Led by the Holy Spirit; faithful in Prayer; and committed to personal development.

A desire to see others grow in faith.

A genuine team worker, willing to collaborate with others. To recognise the strengths and skills of others. Strong leadership skills and an ability to delegate tasks.

Excellent communication skills and approachable with a warm and empathetic and engaging personal style.

Able to inspire, nurture and see new possibilities.

Appreciative of and able to work with the Parish traditions and styles of worship.

What we can offer:

We are a friendly ministry team, mutually supportive and with a strong sense of collegiality.

We have a committed and faithful group of core lay people in each Church.

Life in the Parish.

This is a very interesting place to live, being located by the sea and surrounded by beautiful open countryside.

There are numerous activities to get involved with and the local community is welcoming and friendly.

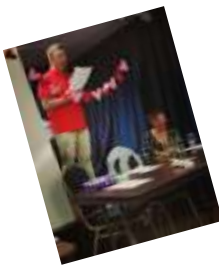
Market Church



Messy Church and the Arrival of St Nicholas



Activities from around the Parish



The Parish benefits from good road and transport links. There are rail links to Ipswich and Colchester and beyond. The ferry from Parkeston links with the continent with twice daily crossings.

The Rectory:

This is a beautiful modernised detached house situated on a quiet avenue leading to Dovercourt Bay, which benefits from an award-winning blue flag beach.



The house has a self-contained office, and is family friendly, offering four bedrooms and a garden. It is conveniently located for all of our churches but offers a quiet and relaxing location.



Harwich Deanery:

The vision of the Deanery is to proclaim, "The Good News of Jesus Christ and to be a transforming presence in every community, open and welcoming to everyone, and serving all people."

The Harwich Deanery has a population of circa 36,000.

60% of which live in the Parish of the Harwich Peninsula.

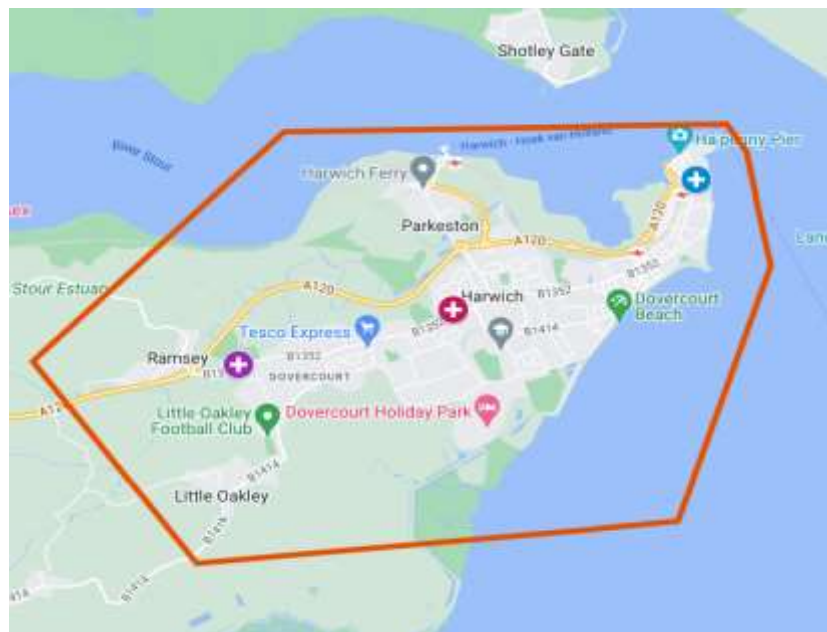
The next largest population centre is the Mistley, Manningtree and Lawford areas which are situated in the west of the Deanery.

The rest of the Deanery is made up of one grouping of smaller parishes led by two rural missionaries.

The Deanery offers a wide range of worship, ministry, and outreach. The 'five marks of mission' underpin our mission and ministry.

Although we recognize that there are many challenges, we are hopeful about the future. One of our chief strengths is the high level of close working relationships between the clergy and lay people.

The parish has several areas of severe deprivation which will require careful consideration.



- ⊕ St Nicholas' Church
- ⊕ Dovercourt All Saint's Church
- ⊕ Saint Michael's Church

Meet some of the Team



"I'm Rev Kirsty Emerson, Pioneer Team Vicar in the Parish.

Thank you for considering this post, it will be lovely to have a Team Rector to work with again.

My role is a mixture of regular parish ministry and pioneering ministry. This means that I minister out in the community as much as I minister within our church walls (this includes Sundays).

I have been here since March 2022, and I truly love my role.

There is a wealth of opportunities in the parish and hope to continue to build on current relationships whilst also creating new relationships in order to spread the Good News that Jesus' love is for all."



"I'm John Wallace, I was born and brought up in London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

I was licensed in 2006 to St Mary's, Becontree.

We moved to Harwich in 2016, mainly to help care for my mother-in-law and to be near family that had moved here. Although my wife had spent a lot of time here when her sister had a caravan, I hadn't been here very much, so had little knowledge of the area before moving here. My wife Dawn is one of the churchwardens at St Michael's.

I work full time, 3 days in London, 2 days from home.

Work within the parish includes preaching and leading services, treasurer for St Michaels, vice-chair of PCC.

Also helping lead Alpha Courses as well as Lent and Advent courses, playing St Nicholas at the arrival of St Nicholas, helping with Messy Church, and putting together the preaching rota.

I enjoy working in Harwich as it is totally different from Dagenham, with fresh challenges but also fresh opportunities and some wonderful people."



"I'm Sioux Thorpe, I have spent my entire 22 years plus in the Harwich Peninsula Parish having felt called into ministry here in the late 90s and have had a very fulfilling ministry here.

I have led a very active weekly prayer group and a weekly bible study group as well as taking regular Sunday services. Run alpha groups and other courses.

I have had permission to minister communion by extension over the years and taken many funerals.

I run horse rangers which is like boy scouts on horseback that is connected to the church and have 100 members. We also provide alternative provision for children who are struggling at school some autistic, ADHD, tourettes and work with Active Essex to provide sessions for those on low incomes that can't afford to pay for sport.

I am still keen to continue to preach and take services and the odd funeral and help out as much as I can alongside of a lot of pioneering work at our busy yard next to the church."



"I'm Claire Scargill, I moved from Mistley to work in the Harwich Team in October 2020 during the pandemic to provide cover while the Team Rector was on long term sick leave.

I really enjoy being part of such a friendly team and working in three very different churches, each with supportive and welcoming congregations.

Having been a licensed Associate Priest I now have PTO but continue to cover some Sundays, share the mid-week services, and take funerals.

I intend to take a step back when a new Team Rector is appointed."

No photo
available
at this time

"I am Tracey Tyrrell, the new Children and Families Worker.

I am both delighted and excited by the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Initially I have been meeting with Church members, local community group leads and using Church of England resources to create a vision and plan for introducing the Church to our young people throughout 2024 and beyond.

I will be building on a small, existing team of volunteers to be able to deliver this vision of growth.

Growth Vision for 2024:

1. To prioritise children and families and put them at the heart of the Church growth, making them feel welcome in every part of our existing Church family and within every Church building.
2. To start a Children and Families committee, a group of likeminded members of the Church family excited to nurture the growth of youth and explore opportunities in which to do so.
3. To start a Jesus centred parent and toddler group, offering fellowship and friendship. Hosted across our three church buildings, to help break down barriers that prevent families and young people from coming into the church.
4. Sunday School. Explore the opportunity of offering a traditional style Sunday school within the Church services to make children feel welcome, valued, and included.
5. To start a Church Children's choir.
6. Develop, embrace, and enhance the use of social media to reach out to the members of the community who need to hear about all we have to offer them. Engaging on a platform that they feel comfortable with and can easily access.
7. Start a once weekly after school club for 5–11-year-olds. Games, play, arts and crafts, friendship, and fun.
8. Explore the possibility of offering a local community warm space for parents and toddlers."



The Diocese: A message from Bishop Guli

Covering Essex and East London, Chelmsford is one of the largest, most diverse, and exciting dioceses in the Church of England. We are home to more than 3 million people representing many socio-economic, ethnic and faith groups, and a fantastic variety of cultures and traditions.

We have enormous opportunities for mission and service and considerable challenges to face and resolve as we continue to deal with the long-term implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and global challenges that have a direct impact on our parish churches and the communities we serve.

My sense is that the whole Church of God is in a liminal season when we cannot clearly see the future and so don't quite know what it will look like. But we know that the Church has faced profound challenges in the past and as we look to the future, we do so with faith that when we open ourselves up to being changed and transformed, we are best placed to serve God and God's people.

It is within this context and following a period of listening and discernment that started when I became Bishop of Chelmsford in 2021, that we have begun to articulate our future direction of travel as a Diocese with a focus on travelling well together:

Our purpose is to love God and to love our neighbour; to worship faithfully and empowered by the Holy Spirit, witness to the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ as we serve the extraordinarily diverse array of local communities in Essex and East London.

Our approach is to enable and empower parishes and worshipping communities to discern how they are to be God's people in their own very different local contexts and as part of one diocesan family.

Underpinning our approach is an invitation to a way of being articulated by shared diocesan values which might shape how we travel together, support each other, and provide mutual accountability.

Since I became Bishop of Chelmsford, I have witnessed people's great warmth and I have seen first-hand the wonderful things going on in our parishes. Any new priest joining us in the Diocese of Chelmsford does so at a time of challenge, a time of change, and most significantly a time of hope for our Church in this most diverse and exciting of dioceses.

+Guli
Bishop of Chelmsford