

Introducing the Dover Town Benefice

The Dover Town Benefice came into existence on 11th November 2014 and consists of the parishes of:

- Buckland-in-Dover
- Charlton, Dover
- St Mary the Virgin, Dover

The Dover Town Benefice is also **part of the Dover Town Group Ministry**, which also includes Cross-Links, an ecumenical fresh expression of church and the parishes of:

- Guston
- St Martin, Dover

This is a historical moment in the history of our parishes and opens up a whole new and exciting chapter in our journey of Faith.

What does this mean?

That the parishes share together in the ministry and mission of the Church of England to the town of Dover and surrounding area, by intentionally working together wherever appropriate.

This should not be seen as a threat to parish identity, but as an opportunity to rejoice in our different ways of expressing our faith as disciples of Jesus in our daily life and witness.

A Shared Vision for the Dover Town Group Ministry

- We will celebrate the centrality of God to the vision of the kingdom here in Dover.
- We will invite and welcome everyone in the community to our network of churches offering uplifting worship that puts Christ's word at the centre and enables all to participate.
- We will put community at the heart of all that the churches do through pastoral care at baptisms, weddings and funerals, social activities, concerts and special events and services – Toddler Rock, Messy church, carol services for schools, leavers services in addition to Harvest and Easter.
- We will make church buildings available for wider community use, eg. Sure Start, Wedding receptions, parties, uniformed organisations, self help and support groups, playgroups and pre-school.
- We will celebrate and bless the diversity in our traditions. This is a strength and is at the heart of all our worship. From Anglo-Catholic High Church to conservative evangelical, we are able to meet the worship needs of our congregations. There is a flourishing musical tradition in some areas. BCP is valued in one church and Common Worship is used elsewhere.
- We will grow the ministry of all the members of the congregation. All the churches will need to encourage, nurture and grow the ministry of all. This can include taking advantage of diocesan courses, local training and initiatives and the establishment of prayer and support groups.
- We will strengthen links with our schools and young people's organisations. There are five secondary schools, 12 primary schools and two schools with children with additional/disabilities need. A team needs to be developed to coordinate all the work which is taking place and to support regular input into the schools. The ChYPs workers across the Deanery meet regularly and share good practice and for training.
- We will exploit the desire for greater collaborative working and building up our existing contacts so there is true collegiality across the Team and the Group.

Our Parishes

(listed in alphabetical order)

Buckland-in-Dover

www.standrewschurchdover.org.uk

We are a welcoming inclusive church worshipping in the catholic tradition of the Church of England.

We have two places of worship with parish church status: St Andrew's adjacent to the Buckland Mill development and St Nicholas' situated on the Buckland estate.

We are developing closer links with Cross-Links an ecumenical fresh expression of church focussing on community mission and outreach working mostly in Buckland Valley. We are making it a priority to develop these links further and we have begun to share some resources.

Our Sunday Mass takes place at St Andrew's church, this is a sung service taken from Common Worship Order

One in contemporary language but supplemented by seasonal catholic liturgy and practices. Our worship is sometimes enhanced with the use of incense. Our average Sunday attendance is 31.

There is a weekly Messy Church at St Nicholas church led by Cross-Links with an attendance of around 25.

Andy's Youth Group is an informal group for children within the church and their friends. 'Andy's' take a lead role at the monthly Youth Mass.

There are two distinct communities in the parish: St Radigunds where the Buckland hospital is situated, and the Buckland estate; both are areas of high deprivation.



St Andrew's Church, Buckland-in-Dover (above)
St Nicholas Church, Buckland Valley (below)



Charlton

www.charltonchurchdover.org

Charlton Church worships God in a tradition that is Anglo-Catholic. We hold dear to our hearts a style of worship each Sunday that should give due praise and adoration to God.

We have an 8am Said Eucharist and a 10am Sung Eucharist. The 10am Sung Eucharist includes the use of incense and bells and has a small choir who help lead the music. We have a full time organist and we plan to increase the size of our choir in the future.

We are a mixed age congregation with a nucleus of young people that we hope will grow with the right leadership and support. Average attendance at the 8am service is 8-10 people at the 10am service 35-40 people. We have a Sunday club for children for 6 year old + children. This is run each week by two volunteers and will need nurturing, encouraging and above all prayer to develop.



St Peter and St Paul's Church, Charlton (above)
St Martin of Tours, Guston (below)



Guston

www.gustonparishchurch.org.uk

We are a welcoming village church serving a village community. The church building is Grade II* listed built at the end of the 11th Century; usually the building is left open for worshippers and visitors.

Guston is a parish with resolutions A and B in place.

St Martin's currently enjoys a variety of different services that are not held in all the churches in the area. Evensong and Compline are particularly popular.

Generally St Martins use the Book of Common Prayer. Evensong is held at on the first Sunday of the month. There is a said Eucharist at 8am on the third Sunday of the month. Compline is held on the fifth Sundays of the month at 7pm. Sunday School is at 10am on the second Sunday of the month.

The Sunday School group is attended by a core group of around six young people and two older helpers, but this fluctuates from time to time.

There are currently fourteen on the electoral roll and this has been a constant figure for a number of years.

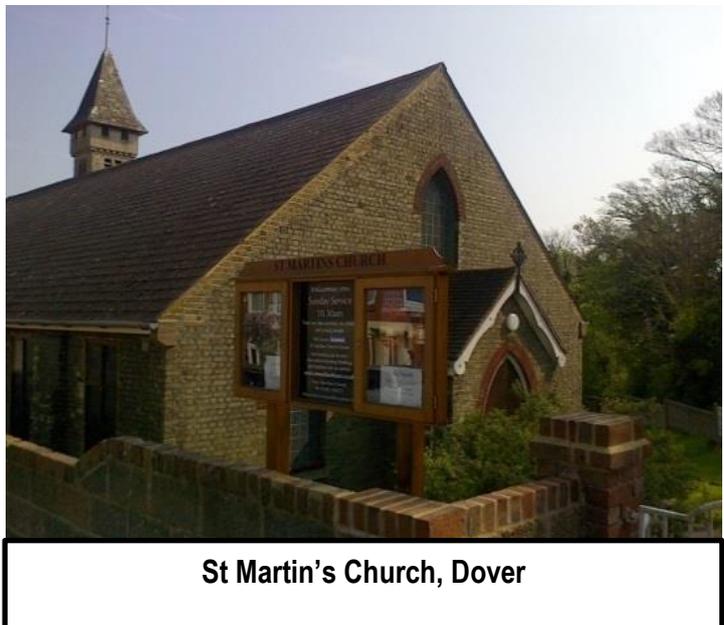
There are two distinct communities in the parish: the village of Guston and a large community at Burgoyne Heights which used to be for army families based at barracks in the town. The base has now closed and much of the housing is in private ownership.

St Martins

www.stmartinsdover.org.uk

St Martin's is a friendly and welcoming conservative evangelical church, with a committed congregation. We have resolution 'B' in place, however we are very happy to have women preaching, leading and taking all manner of services. We encourage **'all member ministry'** and also invite people from other churches in the town to preach.

Our worship leans to contemporary style with traditional elements. We use Common Worship for our Sunday morning services and allow time for the Holy Spirit to move. Most Sundays we have a time of open congregational prayer and testimonies. We also encourage people to seek prayer or counsel if they have specific needs (this usually takes place at the end of the service whilst everyone is enjoying fellowship over a 'cuppa' and biscuits).



St Martin's Church, Dover

Our Sunday morning service commences at 10.30 and usually concludes at 11.45. There is an opportunity to stay for refreshments in the social space at the back of the church. The monthly pattern of services is:

1st & 3rd Sundays of the month - Holy Communion, where both gluten and alcohol free alternatives are provided. 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays of the month - Morning Worship services.

Once a month an informal service called 'Connect' which takes place at 6.30pm in the church. This is a lively service that has a mixed congregation of young and old people from different churches and backgrounds. Guest speakers are invited to share their testimonies. Each Connect service can be different i.e. a prayer meeting, a bible study meeting or just spending time in the Lord's presence singing praises to him.

St Mary the Virgin Dover

www.stmarysdover.org.uk

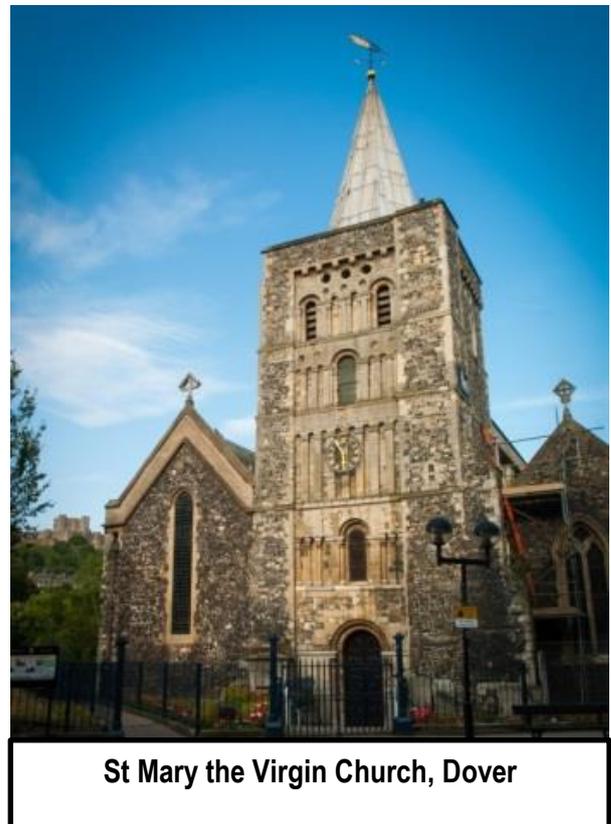
The Church of St Mary the Virgin is the Parish Church of Dover and is situated in the town centre close to the Market Square. This is predominantly an urban-commercial area and is close to the Port of Dover and the seafront.

There is a purpose built Parish Centre which is adjacent to the Church,

St Mary's Church is regarded as the Civic Church. The outgoing incumbent was Chaplain to the Town Mayor and held various other Chaplaincies.

Aycliffe Church Centre is both a hall and significant place of worship, ministry and mission.

We would describe our church tradition as 'traditional middle-of-the-road style (BCP) and Common Worship.'



St Mary the Virgin Church, Dover

Cross-Links

www.crosslinksdover.org.uk

We are an ecumenical fresh expression of church working mostly on the Buckland estate with a strong focus on community outreach. We have been rooted in the Buckland community since 1997 when Cross-Links (as it became known) was set up as a



Methodist Circuit outreach project aimed at tackling social deprivation. We have been a registered charity since 2007 and maintain ecumenical links through denominational representation on the board of trustees.

We work from a shop premises situated in a circle of shops at the heart of the Buckland estate which is part of the Buckland Parish.

We run a range of community activities for people of all ages, including: toddler groups, youth work, schools work and community development work. We gather for worship as a Messy Church community in St Nicholas church, Buckland Valley on a Friday afternoon.

Our Team Leader is also a licensed Reader in the Deanery and Co-Warden of Readers for the Diocese.

Cross-links is part of the Methodist Church, United Reformed Church and Church of England.

Dover Town Group Ministry

Group Clergy:

Team Rector: Revd Dr John Walker
Tel: 212012/07980 692813 (Day off Monday)
Team Vicar: Revd Kevin Garrett Tel: 339273
Mission Priest: *to be appointed*

The Team Rector provides leadership and oversight of the Team and Group.

Parochial Church Councils (PCCs)

Each Parish continues to be governed by a PCC comprising licensed clergy, elected Churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives and lay members. Cross-Links is governed by a Board of Trustees comprising of denominational representatives and others.

Parish Contacts

Buckland www.standrewschurchdover.org.uk

Parish office: c/o Cross-Links (see below) E: bucklandchurch@gmail.com

Charlton www.charltonchurchdover.org

Parish office: T: 201143 E: chris.tyler@bibbydist.co.uk

Guston www.gustonparishchurch.org.uk

Churchwarden: Mr P Coleman T: 211121

St Martins www.stmartinsdover.org.uk

Vicar: Revd Kevin Garrett

Vicarage, 339 Folkestone Rd, Dover CT17 9JG

E: kevingarrett48@hotmail.com

St Marys www.stmarysdover.org.uk

Parish Admin: Mrs Jill Sarjeant

Parish office, St Mary's Parish Centre, Cannon St, Dover CT16 1BY

T: 213899 E: doverparishadmin@hotmail.co.uk

Cross-Links www.crosslinksdover.org.uk

Lay Minister: Mr Nigel Collins

9 Sheridan Rd, Dover CT16 2BZ

T: 827859 E: crosslinksdover@hotmail.co.uk