



Welcome

is God calling you to be our new Rector?

The United Benefice of Sissinghurst with Frittenden

Our lively and welcoming fellowship wants to work with our new Rector to spread the good news about God's love to those around us in the beautiful Weald of Kent.

Our Benefice is committed to bringing the Gospel and the love of Christ to all in our communities. Both churches are blessed with strong, committed and prayerful Christians.

We are traditional and low church evangelical in our churchmanship but are also evangelistic in wanting to reach out to our communities and are open minded about how to do this.

Our vision for the next five years is to become a 'Beacon in the Weald' by learning to love Jesus more together, cementing a fruitful children, families and youth Ministry, and expanding the body of mature and wise believers ready to serve the Church and our community.



We asked our Youth Group, adult members of the congregation and wider villagers for brief descriptors of the sort of Rector we would like to see. A representative sample of these either as direct quotes or in summary form are posted throughout the text as 'sticky notes' like this.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A RECTOR WHO

- Has a strong personal faith and prayer life, and who prioritises their daily walk with Jesus and time spent in his presence.
- Is committed to clear biblical preaching and teaching, attempting to follow that teaching in their own lives.
- Believes in prayer and seeking a closer relationship with God and will prioritise this in Church life.
- Can speak confidently about Jesus' love and show that love to others.
- Will bring strategic leadership, help us develop the vision and turn it into reality.
- Will work collaboratively with a team of supportive people, recognising and utilising the skills and experience within the church to further our mission.
- Has the vision and enthusiasm to continue to support key growth areas such as our thriving youth group and children's groups, whilst also able to delegate appropriately upon the arrival of the (funded) youth and children's worker.
- Is happy to lead both traditional and more contemporary forms of worship for both adults and children.
- Is keen to connect with and reach out with the Gospel to those who don't come regularly on Sundays.
- Will be involved in, and support, both village Church schools, sitting on at least one Governing Board and leading school worship regularly, preaching the Gospel.
- Will participate in the life of our villages and appreciate the traditions of both churches.

"They should approach challenges with tenacity, positivity and hope"

ABOUT OUR BENEFICE

The villages of Frittenden and Sissinghurst are situated three miles from each other in the picturesque Weald of Kent. The communities are a mix of professionals, retirees, tradespeople and agricultural workers. They are also a mix of new arrivals and families who have been in the area for generations.

Frittenden has a worshipping community of almost 100: eighteen 0-17 year olds, forty in the 18-69 bracket and forty-one aged 70+. The electoral roll is 78. Sissinghurst has a worshipping community of 69: twenty 0-17 year olds, thirty in the 18-69 bracket and nineteen aged 70+. The electoral roll for Sissinghurst is 75.



What do we value most about our Church?

- We all love God and his Word. This unites us across the Benefice and age groups. We offer a warm welcome to all who join us.
- We sit at the centre of two vibrant communities in rural Kent, giving us a ready-made mission field as villagers pass through our doors for christenings, weddings, funerals, at Remembrance and Christmas.
- We have been growing over the last three years, attracting new individuals and families from beyond our parishes.
- We're blessed with numerous mature and Bible-loving Christians and a number of us meet together in small groups to share and grow our faith.
- We enjoy an active and committed prayer life: in private and communally.
- We've established a vibrant children's work (c.20 children) and a growing ministry to youth inside and outside the church (c.30 youth).

What are the challenges we're facing?

- Building upon what we've started with children's, families and youth work.
- Keeping older youth engaged during their mid-teens and as they 'graduate' at 18...
- ...including through extending a solid teaching Ministry to include the whole church.
- Ensuring adults in our congregation and the wider villages are ministered to, engaged and supported appropriately.

What is our vision for the next five years?

To become a 'Beacon in the Weald' by learning to love Jesus more together, cementing a fruitful children and youth Ministry, and expanding the body of mature and wise believers ready to serve the Church and our community.

OUR MINISTRY AND MISSION

A UNIQUELY UNITED BENEFICE

We are two churches in two parishes, but one united Benefice. In the previous interregnum the Diocese asked us to look at combining the two parishes into one. When we investigated this, it became clear that much of our Mission and Ministry could be shared and indeed this has been a growing pattern over the last five years. Consequently, a third of the Benefice congregation now split their time evenly between Sissinghurst and Frittenden Churches, following the youth and children's work (which alternates between the two). This means we are a uniquely united Benefice, and a growing number think of their 'church' as the entirety of the Benefice. Notwithstanding this, there are congregation members who feel most comfortable just in their home church and the pattern of services we have enables them to feel they belong.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORKER

Both churches attract people from outside the parishes because of their distinctive evangelical ministry and worship and – increasingly – due to the vibrant children's and youth ministries. Both Sissinghurst and Frittenden church schools are very popular and attract pupils from a wide area, whilst both also set forth a clear Christian message.

The Benefice has been gifted with provision for a full-time Youth and Children's worker to help support our growing ministry in this area. This will be a new cross-Benefice role. We will be advertising for this imminently. Our hope is that this will enable us to continue to develop our children and youth work without neglecting wider pastoral care and other aspects of Church life.

"Our new Rector has to be [working with] youth.... The future of the church is with the next generation and we as a church community have to pass on our faith, values and outlook on life to those that come after us."

SUNDAY WORSHIP

The rhythm of our services reflects how the two churches work together in partnership. Our service pattern enables the children's and youth work to alternate between the Parishes at a constant time of 10.00 am (highlighted below in bold). The service pattern also ensures the principle that there is a service in both churches every Sunday and is as follows:

Sunday of the Month	Frittenden	Sissinghurst
First Sunday	10:00 Family Worship (children and young people remain throughout a very informal 30 min service) 11:15 Prayer Book Communion	10:00 Morning Worship [Lay led]
Second Sunday	10:00 Morning Worship [Lay led]	10:00 Family communion with crèche, children's and young people's groups
Third Sunday	10:00 Family communion with crèche, children's and young people's groups	11:30 Communion Service (Order Two in Contemporary Language)
Fourth Sunday	17:30 Prayer Book Communion	10:00 Family Morning Worship with crèche, children's and young people's groups
Fifth Sunday	10:00 Joint Service with provision for children (but not groups). Venue alternates.	

Attendance is highest for the services in bold above (which alternate between the two churches) where children's groups are provided: averaging 50 adults and 18 children. The period of coffee between the 10.00 family worship and 11.15 Prayer book Communion in Frittenden on the first Sunday of the month is an example of the joy of a village Church: with worshippers from both (very different) services enjoying fellowship together. The crèche, Sunday Club (children) and W2 (young people) are staffed by volunteers from both churches.



Music in our churches is played on the organ, electric piano, a small music group (Cello, Piano, Flute) and, more recently, by an enthusiastic band made up from the congregation (two guitars, keyboard, vocals, flute). St Mary's has a paid Director of Music and a very fine organ. It has a history of choral music and still has a small but committed robed choir which leads congregational singing at all except the family service and has regularly performed anthems during services.

We use 'Mission Praise' at Sissinghurst and 'Ancient and Modern Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship' at Frittenden. Traditional church music is important to a number of the congregation and the variety of services allows both the traditional to thrive alongside an increasing number of more contemporary songs.

Both churches benefit from a high-quality sound system to support preaching and reading and have also recently installed high quality video projection to support these activities where appropriate (family services often project song words and liturgy – plus movie clips etc – onto the large screens).



We read from the NIV. There is a preaching team consisting of the incumbent, an associate minister, a reader based in Frittenden, another reader who lives in the parish of Sissinghurst but worships at another church in the area, two authorized lay ministers and a Methodist local preacher who worships at Sissinghurst. Visiting speakers, including local retired clergy also preach on special occasions. We have enjoyed sermon series that have worked through books of the Bible and at other times of the year follow the lectionary. We value biblically-based preaching and practical application, drawn from thoughtful and sensitive study of scripture.

Intercessions are led by a small group of members of both congregations. All lessons are read by laity.

Over the last five years, we have averaged per year:

- 5 Baptisms,
- 2 weddings, and
- 5 Funerals /interment of ashes

On the first and third Wednesdays at 09.00 in Frittenden, a simple half-hour reflective service is held, led by our Lay Reader. The Rector usually attends these services and presides at Holy Communion.

Across the Benefice there are three **Home Groups** that meet regularly, one of these as a result of running an Alpha course in 2024. We have also run 'Hope Explored', led by the laity.

"We would welcome a Rector who challenged us with clear teaching and well-structured sermons."

OUR WIDER TEAM

We are fortunate to have an Associate Minister who is able to take Communion services during the interregnum and who provides ongoing support and guidance to the church wardens and other people who are willing to take part in the services.

In addition, both churches greatly benefit from a host of volunteers who support the day to day running of the church.

We have a part-time Administrator who works for 12 hours per week for the Benefice, mainly from home, though meets the Rector or Associate Minister once a week to plan the weekly notice sheets and PowerPoint slide decks. The service rota is coordinated by the Rector in consultation with our Associate Minister. Each rota covers a period of three months.

Each church has at present one churchwarden and they are regularly in touch with each other and have meetings to discuss Benefice matters. However, this is an exception to the usual pattern of two wardens per parish, and it is our intention at the next APCM to recruit one more warden per parish to share the load.



"Someone willing to lead across the rector role with effective delegation to share the load with the PCCs and wider team of volunteers."

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

BENEFICE WIDE

We offer a wide range of activities to help reach out into the Benefice community, spread the Gospel and offer witness to God's love:

- **Baby and Toddler groups.** We run two groups: Trinity Tots meets weekly during term time in Sissinghurst; Little Lambs similarly in Frittenden.
- Our **'Open the Book'** team currently leads whole-school Collective Worship, fortnightly, in Sissinghurst and Frittenden Primary Schools.
- **Children's work.** In addition to regular Sunday children's work we have run several popular events such as a 'Light Party' on/near 31 October and an Easter Saturday activity morning and an Easter egg hunt.
- **A Friday Night Youth Club.** This was set up a year ago and runs monthly for each of two age groups (having split into two age groups because numbers had bumped up against space constraints): 'younger youth' (Year 7 to Year 10 – attendance averaging around 19-20) and 'older youth' (year 9-13 – average attendance 10). The club provides the opportunity for age-appropriate bible study (and games!). The older group have begun 'Youth Alpha'.
- **Men's Ministry.** A men's ministry enjoys curry nights (in the main) every quarter or so. It's a gentle and enjoyable way to bring along people who aren't yet fully in the church and expose them to fellowship.
- **Carol Singing.** There is a long-standing tradition of Carol singing round both villages, in which a small group of members and families sing, raising money for the Weald Family Hub and Spurgeons.

Sissinghurst

- A monthly popular Charity Coffee Morning and bring-and-buy sale is held in the Parish Room. This encourages interaction with the village and raises good sums for a range of charities.
- Trinity Café, held in the Parish Room, provides a very popular monthly lunch for older people.
- Every two years an Open Garden event is organised by the Friends of Sissinghurst Church (FOSC). Over the course of the summer months, local residents open their gardens to the public, generating significant funds for the church.
- We hold a Christmas Tree Festival in the church every other year. It helps to bring together the community and the church, with a number of local organisations displaying a tree.



"Having strengthened the work with children and youth, it is important that the new rector has a passion for work with children and youth."

Frittenden

- **Moving Mountains** meets every Monday at 9:15 in the Upper Room to pray for the needs of the Parish, the Benefice and the wider world.
- There is a well-established and active **Prayer Chain** with over forty people committed to praying.
- Once a month members of the Church visit **Larchmere**, the local residential care home, for an informal service followed by a chance to chat to residents.
- **CAMEO** (Come And Meet Each Other) provides morning tea/coffee once a month aimed at those older or more isolated members of our community.
- An annual **Rogation Walk** usually takes place, praying for local farms and businesses in the village, praising God and offering an opportunity for fellowship, often ending up at our family friendly pub.
- The church also organises a **Christmas Fayre** which has become a village social event, as much as a fundraiser for the church and Maidstone Homeless Care.

"I might personally have more liberal views, but I chose to be part of a traditional parish that actively welcomes all views and denominations, encouraging open and broad discussions to grow faith, always underpinned by The Gospel and a Christ-driven compass."



Parish magazines

- Both Parishes publish a Parish magazine, printed in full colour and carrying many interesting articles and items of local news as well as church related matters. They are financially supported by advertising and donations and are delivered free

to homes in the parishes. They are also available online on the church websites. The previous Rector was able to use his monthly page in each publication to teach about Jesus and several people report having come along to our Churches because of this.

Wider links with mission organisations and charities

The two churches decide independently who they will support, but there is much overlap. In the last few years, the two churches have supported the following:

Church Mission Society	Tearfund	Embrace the Middle East
Spurgeon's	Break the Cycle	Refocus Project
The Weald Family Hub	Maidstone Homeless Care	Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution
Ripple Effect	Kenward Trust	Royal British Legion
CPAS	The Children's Society	The Evangelical Alliance
Kent and Sussex Air Ambulance	Leonard Cheshire	Hospice in the Weald
Crisis at Christmas		

*"Compassionate with sinners;
'real' about the challenges of the
Christian life."*

Our Buildings

Sissinghurst

The church building itself is 181 years old, Grade 2 listed and in good condition, being entirely redecorated in 2013.

The worship area is a light uncluttered open space, beautiful in its simplicity.

The main church is linked through the vestry to the Parish rooms, where we enjoy one large hall and two smaller rooms, which are modern and well appointed. These are used for Sunday school and other meetings. In 2019 the adjoining kitchen was completely refurbished. There are male, female and disabled toilet facilities.

There is a cemetery behind the church. This is administered by Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Parish Council, the church having no graveyard of its own.

The "Friends of Sissinghurst Church" has been in existence for about 10 years and financially greatly assists us with building projects, renovations and repairs.





Frittenden

The attractive Grade II* listed building largely dates to the 1840s. It is a fine example of church architecture of that period. A decade ago, there was a comprehensive series of works that vastly improved the facilities: the organ was renovated and moved; two toilets were installed, one for the disabled; a kitchen was built; an 'upper room' was added allowing for Crèche and meetings to take place in the Church.

Although there is still more, relatively minor work we would like to do, the Church is in a good state of repair and is structurally sound.

The bell tower (8 bells) is in good order and a band of bell-ringers occasionally ring for half an hour before each service and are available for special events. The spire underwent significant repairs in 2024.

A joint church-village working party maintains the churchyard and **Mill Lane Burial Ground**, which is now managed on a wildlife-friendly basis. Work in the churchyard is assisted by a small herd of sheep who are regularly brought to the churchyard to keep much of the grass under control.



The Rectory

The Rectory ('Oakleaves') is situated almost immediately opposite the church in The Street, Frittenden, and is a comfortable family home, built in the 1890s. A study for the Incumbent and a kitchen/diner were added in the 1980s. The "new" main entrance is to the side of the house, next to the study.

The kitchen/diner is spacious, equipped with plenty of cupboards and drawers, a dishwasher and integrated electric oven and hob. From the windows on three sides there are attractive views over the garden and beyond to the countryside. The good size study has fitted bookshelves with cupboards underneath.

The large lounge offers a light, airy space with a wood burner at one end. This room has been used as a lounge/dining room (as there is sufficient space for a formal dining table and dining chairs).

Adjacent to the lounge is a small dining room/extra study/playroom with a French door opening on to the garden. This room can be accessed from the hall or the kitchen. Off the hall there is a downstairs cloakroom, including a shower and useful full height, shelved fitted cupboard for storage.

On the first floor, there are two good-sized double bedrooms, each with fitted wardrobes and a large single room with a small fitted cupboard. The bathroom has a shower over the bath and a heated towel rail. The toilet is a separate room adjacent. A second staircase leads to the second floor where there are two further, spacious bedrooms with access to the loft.

Outside there is a single garage and a garden to the side of the house with a hedge to the street for privacy. There is a garden shed, about three years old.

Heating and hot water are provided by an oil-fired boiler (new in 2013). The Rectory was extensively refurbished in 2013 and is in good order. Approval and funding have been provided for substantial additional works: hopefully including the installation of new external doors, double glazing, additional insulation and improved ventilation. These works should substantially reduce running costs as well as improve comfort levels for the next Rector.





Our Finances

Both Churches have seen a rising percentage of planned/regular giving, increasingly through standing orders. We do not take up collections at services, although there is always a plate (and card reader) at the door of both churches.

At **Trinity Church, Sissinghurst** a Stewardship Campaign is held every three or four years. The Church always meets its diocesan Parish share. A summary of the last two years' accounts is shown below.

TRINITY CHURCH SISSINGHURST		
ACCOUNTS SUMMARY	2024	2023
RECEIPTS	£	£
REGULAR AND TAX EFFICIENT GIVING	49,503	45,522
COLLECTIONS	3,755	2,667
OTHER VOLUNTARY RECEIPTS	15,419	3,227
TAX RECOVERED/GRANTS	9,800	12,146
EVENTS		
CHURCH ACTIVITIES	13,040	10,003
OTHER INCOME	1,474	2,233
	92,991	75,798
EXPENSES		
PARISH SHARE	34,094	34,055
MINISTRY EXPENSES	7,354	5,053
CHURCH RUNNING EXPENSES	15,939	20,214
UPKEEP OF SERVICES	3,795	
OTHER EXPENSES	63	
CHARITABLE GIVING	3,028	2,770
	64,273	62,092
SURPLUS OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES	28,718	13,706

St. Mary's Frittenden has also always fully met its financial commitments and ensured that as a Parish it is generous in supporting home and overseas missions. A summary of the last two years' accounts is shown below: (Note: in 2024 we received two generous legacies ('other voluntary receipts'), which the PCC will be spending on improving accessibility to the church.)

ST MARY'S CHURCH FRITTENDEN		
ACCOUNTS SUMMARY	2024	2023
RECEIPTS	£	£
REGULAR AND TAX EFFICIENT GIVING	52,750	45,453
COLLECTIONS	11,585	14,308
OTHER VOLUNTARY RECEIPTS	40,565	8,399
TAX RECOVERED/GRANTS	16,726	15,857
EVENTS	5,967	5,570
CHURCH ACTIVITIES	2,417	3,076
OTHER INCOME	9,276	7,909
	139,286	100,572
EXPENSES		
PARISH SHARE	43,354	38,379
MINISTRY EXPENSES	2,415	2,078
CHURCH RUNNING EXPENSES	41,302	24,819
UPKEEP OF SERVICES	2,876	2,855
OTHER EXPENSES	9,216	12,908
CHARITABLE GIVING	14,724	13,494
	113,887	94,533
SURPLUS OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPENSES	25,399	6,039

*"Living missionally,
engaging beyond
church walls, making
Christ known in
everyday village life,
welcoming individuals
from all backgrounds
and denominations."*

The Area

The villages of Sissinghurst and Frittenden are approximately 3 miles apart, just off the A262. Staplehurst Station is a 10-minute drive from both villages and provides good links to London (London Bridge in 50 minutes). The easy accessibility to London means there are a good number of families with school age children and a parent who commutes.

There is a demographic gap between about 21 to mid-30s: after completing their education many young people leave for work in towns and cities. But many subsequently return to this beautiful area when they have children, but the cost of housing and the lack of cheaper accommodation is a stumbling block for many. Around one quarter of the population are under 19, and another quarter are over 65.

The High Weald Area is an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Local places of interest include the pretty market town of Tenterden, Scotney Castle, Bewl Water, Bedgebury Forest, Great Dixter and Rye and the lovely beach at Camber Sands (40 minutes' drive).

Sissinghurst Castle with its world-famous garden is a mile from the centre of the village. It is one of the National Trust's most popular attractions. There are an increasing number of Vineyards in the area, some producing excellent wine.

Sissinghurst has a population of something over 1100 spread over some 500 homes. The area is notable for many fine historical homes and buildings and is a conservation area. There is a village shop, with a Post Office, and a chip shop. The popular Milk House pub serves good meals and has a number of guest rooms for visitors needing accommodation.

The Primary School is very popular. It moved into a magnificent new building eight years ago. It includes a pre-school. There are numerous village organisations including Scouts and Beavers, Tennis Club, Football Club and Cricket Club, along with a wide range of societies and clubs and a village hall. There is also a very popular annual fete in August.

Sissinghurst village has seen a gradual increase in size over the last 25 years but recently saw a larger new housing development providing some 60 new homes (both open market and 'affordable' new homes) and a new village hall. There is the possibility of approximately a further 80



"The new Rector will be enthusiastic about their role in both church and village life, they will value all that these communities offer and bring fresh ideas of their own, supported by clear, thoughtful plans to turn those ideas into reality."

new homes being developed. Collectively these may well provide opportunities for new families to come to Trinity Church.

Frittenden is a smaller village of about 900 people at the very end of the High Weald. Frittenden has also grown recently. It is mainly agricultural land interspersed with patches of woodland and orchards, making it a delight for ramblers and dog-walkers and a safe, pleasant and very desirable environment for children to grow up in.

There is a Pre-school and Primary school located in the centre of the village which attracts children from both Frittenden and surrounding villages. The recently renovated Memorial Hall hosts many social events and a Cricket club operates just outside the centre of the village and runs a very popular bonfire celebration each year. The Frittenden Garden Society organises a spring and autumn show as well as a visit to gardens through the summer months. There is also a popular Historical Society with regular meetings throughout the winter.

Farming remains a significant industry. In the middle of Frittenden there is a well-regarded residential care home, Larchmere, and a thriving and well-run pub, the Bell and Jorrocks, which is very much another hub of village life. There is an excellent sense of community in the village and it is unusually inclusive and supportive.

As there is no public transport linking the two villages, access to a car and an ability to drive is essential. Reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

Schooling

The primary and secondary schools in the area are regarded as excellent. Kent retains the '11+' exam towards the end of Primary school.

Frittenden (VC) C of E Primary School has a roll of about 100 in four classes and has a good reputation locally, attracting children from neighbouring villages as well as locals. The church maintains and values its close links with the school. In the most recent Ofsted (June 2025) and SIAMS (March 2018) inspections the school was awarded the grade "Good". Frittenden pre-school has an 'Outstanding' rating (March 2023).

Frittenden (VC) C of E Primary School –
www.frittenden.kent.sch.uk

Sissinghurst (VA) C of E School sits in new premises half a mile away from the church. The school has a roll of around 195 and has 6 classes as well as a pre-school located on site. The school attracts children from neighbouring villages as well as locals. Sissinghurst School's most recent SIAMS inspection Report (June 2018) found the school to be Outstanding (in all five categories). The school's most recent Ofsted inspection (May 2025) the school was awarded the grade "Good."

Sissinghurst (VA) C of E Primary School –
www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk

Both schools hold regular services in their respective churches. Both churches are well represented on the governing bodies of these schools. Latterly, because of the increased responsibilities for governors, the Rector was 'ex officio' on the Sissinghurst Board, and another congregation member, approved by the Archdeacon, represented St Mary's on the Frittenden Board. We hope the new Incumbent will continue with these important links.

Secondary Schools

Cranbrook School is a highly-regarded Selective Grammar Day and Boarding School (about 20% of students board, including a number from overseas) for boys and girls aged 11 – 18 which features in the top leagues of state schools. The Rectory falls within the catchment area.

There is also an excellent Christian non-selective secondary school in Tunbridge Wells: Bennett Memorial Diocesan School. Children from both churches have attended this school over the years.

There are further Grammar Schools in Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, Ashford and Maidstone. Homewood School at Tenterden, is also well regarded and is non-selective. Many local children attend Mascalls at Paddock Wood.

Cranbrook School
www.cranbrookschool.co.uk

Bennett Memorial Diocesan School
www.bennettmemorial.co.uk



Shopping

In Sissinghurst there is a small and friendly shop and Post Office, a convenience store at the local petrol station and a good range of independent shops in the pretty town of Cranbrook, including a Co-op supermarket. A building society, doctors, dentists, vets etc., can also be found in Cranbrook. In Staplehurst there is a Sainsburys supermarket and a small parade of shops.

The popular market town of Tenterden, nine miles away, offers a wider selection of shops, cafes, supermarkets – including Waitrose and Tesco – good restaurants and a marvellous steam railway. Tunbridge Wells, 18 miles from the Rectory, offers excellent shopping and entertainment.

Online deliveries from all the major retailers operate across the area.

Healthcare

There are doctors and dental surgeries in Cranbrook, Headcorn and Staplehurst. The nearest A&E Hospitals are the excellent Pembury Hospital outside Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone Hospital.

All enquiries about this vacancy should be addressed to:

**The Revd Rob Miles, Patronage Secretary,
CPAS**

Email: rmiles@cpas.org.uk

Trinity Church Sissinghurst
sites.google.com/view/trinitychurch

St Mary's Church Frittenden
frittendenchurch.org.uk



A Final Message from our Wardens

"Thank you for reading this profile. We do believe that God has someone in mind for us and are praying that His plans will be revealed as we go forward together. If you feel that God may be calling you to our benefice, please contact our Patron, the Church Pastoral Aid Society. A very warm welcome awaits you in the Weald of Kent."



Revd David Commander
Rector, Benenden &
Sandhurst Area Dean,
The Weald Deanery

The Weald Deanery – Welcome!

Thank you for considering this post in the Weald Deanery and the Diocese of Canterbury. The Weald Deanery comprises a total of eight benefices, and fourteen parishes.

Our Clergy Chapter comprises the eight incumbents of the Deanery, a part-time Associate Priest, and a training Curate – who was priested in June 2025. We therefore have relatively good cover of priests across the Deanery. We are also supported by a number of active priests with Permission To Officiate – PTOs. Chapter meets every 6-8 weeks; the venue rotating around the Deanery as, geographically, it is quite a large area.

Members of Chapter are very supportive of one another. We have, over the last few years, generated a real sense of collegiality. Though between us we hold different views we are supportive of one another, and we pray for one another.

We are always seeking ways that we can work together and achieve more collectively than as individual parishes. The Weald Family Hub is a good example of this collaboration. The WFH provides counselling and support for children in their Schools. The WFH is centred in one benefice in the Deanery but is funded and supported by all the benefices.

Chapter are praying for this vacancy in Frittenden and Sissinghurst; for the benefice; and for you. (We just don't know who you are yet – but God does! – and we look forward to you joining us.)