

PARISH PROFILE FOR ST ANNE, ALDERNEY



St Anne's Church in Alderney is seeking a new priest for our island parish – a unique location on a beautiful island with a thriving community and the church at its heart.

Contents	Page
The Island of Alderney	3
Living on Alderney	4
The church and its ministry	5
The role of our new priest	9
The priest we are seeking	9
What we offer	10
The vicarage	10
The church building	11
The broader context	12



THE ISLAND OF ALDERNEY ... AN INTRODUCTION



Alderney is the third largest of the Channel Islands. It lies 8 miles off the Normandy coast. It is 3.5 miles long and 1.5 miles wide.

Alderney is a Crown Dependency within the Bailiwick of Guernsey. Education, policing, health and transport are all services devolved and the responsibility of the States of Guernsey under the Agreement dating from 1948.

Alderney has its own elected government (the States of Alderney), which is overseen by a separately elected President. It also has its own court with limited powers of sentencing, under the oversight of the Royal Court in Guernsey.

For tax purposes, Alderney falls under the jurisdiction of the Bailiwick of Guernsey's Revenue Service. The maximum rate of Income Tax is 20%, with no Capital Gains Tax, Capital Transfer Tax or Inheritance Tax. Currently, there is no VAT/GST.

Guernsey is an international finance centre, and this supports the finance industry in Alderney. The island offers opportunities within e-commerce generally. Tourism provides a useful contribution to the local economy.

The main town, St Anne, is a collection of cobbled streets, shops, cafes and restaurants, and hosts a wide range of amenities. It is the home of the island government.

The local school offers primary and secondary education up to the age of 16, after which pupils' options for continuing education are to go to Guernsey or the UK mainland. There are currently 148 children attending the school.



There are more than 40 active clubs, societies and charities, cricket and football grounds, tennis courts, a bowling green and a well maintained 9-hole golf course. Alderney also has the only railway in the Channel Islands. Throughout the year a Literary Festival, Performing Arts Festival, Chamber Music Festival and the very popular Alderney Week are some of the highlights. There are also twinning events with our friends from the Cotentin peninsular of France.



Alongside the resident population, the island attracts a significant number of visitors. The island is much loved for its peace and beauty, its changing land and seascapes and its wildlife. There is a thriving Wildlife Trust and a well-established bird observatory.

The island is linked to Guernsey and Southampton by regular flights, although weather (especially fog) can disrupt travel. There are two weekly cargo ferry services to the island from Poole and Guernsey, bringing food and other goods. There are also small passenger boats to and from Guernsey during the summer, but these are weather dependent.



For further information, please take a look at www.visitalderney.com and www.alderney.gov.gg.



LIVING IN ALDERNEY

Alderney is a small island with a population of just over 2,000. There are strong community networks and members of the church are inter-connected with the whole life of the island. Many islanders are supportive of St Anne's church, even if they are not regular worshippers.

Although some residents of Alderney can be described as 'well off', Guernsey and Jersey have a higher proportion of wealthy people amongst their residents. Others in Alderney live comfortably or modestly. Some face significant financial challenges. Most people are employed in the service sectors of business. The care home is the largest employer on the island. Many people hold more than one job to provide and supplement their income.

Alderney is renowned for its friendliness, with virtually no crime and a very caring and supportive community. This is a beautiful place to live, where people from a variety of different backgrounds flourish. Like any other community, it is a place where people struggle with personal tragedy, loneliness, and with the complex realities of addiction and the challenges of old age. The geographical isolation can inevitably exacerbate these realities. The island's churches have a particular role to play in social outreach and support.

Support services

The Island Medical Centre provides a general practitioner service under the oversight of the States of Guernsey's Committee for Health and Social Care, offering daily doctor and nurse appointments, and emergency callout. There is a small hospital (24 beds) with minor surgery and x-ray facilities. It also provides long term nursing care. Specialist medical problems are treated at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital in Guernsey, or in Southampton. Medivac transport is available for emergency cases. We have an independent dentist on island. The Connaught Care Home provides residential care for up to 40 island residents.



Health and social care services on Alderney come under the administration of the States of Guernsey. Geographic constraints mean the provision of services on Alderney, especially in the area of mental health, is at times limited. Voluntary organisations and the churches 'stand in the gap' and support people in an unofficial capacity.

There is an on-island veterinarian nurse and a vet holds a monthly surgery. Full veterinarian services are available in Guernsey.

THE CHURCH AND ITS MINISTRY



St Anne's is home to a committed and inclusive worshipping community. Currently there are 75 people on the electoral roll, which represents 3.75% of the island's population.

The church is situated in the heart of the town and is generally in good order (latest quinquennial 2022). It is a regular venue for many island festivals and events with real potential for wider community use.

Our strengths:

- as a congregation we are deeply involved in the support networks of our community
- we have committed and able lay pastoral & worship ministry teams
- we have a keen organist, choir director and choir
- an enthusiastic, talented and loyal team of bellringers
- the Friends of St Anne's Trust is active in supporting the work of the church
- the church and the island community share an inclusive culture and ethos.

Where we want to grow and develop:

- in opportunities that deepen the faith of the church community
- in the breadth of what we offer in worship and prayer
- in our work with children and young people
- in being a distinctive Christian presence on the island
- in building on our welcome of and engagement with new residents and visitors
- in improving our financial giving (currently we meet 72% of our parish share of £38,000¹).



Sunday worship

The current pattern of Sunday worship is:

- 9.00 am: Book of Common Prayer said Holy Communion with no music or sermon. This service is attended by a loyal congregation of 10 people.
- 10.30 am: Parish Eucharist (Common Worship Order 1 in traditional language), with a robed choir and a range of hymns and music. The average attendance is 50 adults.

The 10.30 am service is occasionally celebrated as a family service. It is acknowledged that there is a need to develop this style of worship. It is also recognised that this service could be a focus for experiment in the development of the worship. We use Common Worship liturgy and a mix of



¹ This is a gap which must be addressed. Whilst it is true that many financial demands are made of Alderney residents, with a small population supporting many charities, the level of giving to the church finances is a cause of some concern.

traditional and modern hymns. The current hymn book is *Ancient and Modern – Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship*. *Common Praise* is also available.

Other services

St Anne's regularly hosts major civic services, concerts, and memorial events, along with special seasonal services that attract larger numbers. These include the ecumenical Alderney Week service, Homecoming Day service in December² and Remembrance Day service.

We have recently run an Alpha course, a Pilgrim course, and also special study groups during Lent and Advent. There is an ecumenical prayer group which meets at St Anne's weekly.

Occasional offices: in 2022 there were 6 baptisms, 8 weddings, 1 wedding blessing, 13 funerals, 8 memorials services, 1 double memorial service and 5 burials of ashes.

Community Outreach & Pastoral Care



The blessing of the boats in Alderney's harbour

A team of trained Lay Pastoral Assistants provide care to members of the congregation and the wider community who are in need of support and help.

The Vicar and individual members of the church visit patients in the Mignot Hospital, although the formal chaplaincy provision is the responsibility of the lead chaplain at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital in Guernsey.

St Anne's has a safeguarding policy which follows that of the Church of England as it applies in the Bailiwick of Guernsey. There is an appointed safeguarding officer.

² Homecoming Day commemorates the return of the people to Alderney in December 1945, following the ending of the occupation of Alderney from 1940 until 1945. Most Alderney people were evacuated during the occupation.

An ecumenical service is held in the Connaught Care Home weekly, with worship leaders from St Anne's and the Methodist Church.

A small enthusiastic group have established a link with the local school and parents through the "Open the Book" storytelling initiative. We hope this will grow stronger and flourish.



Until recently a very successful local radio service was broadcast by the Vicar each Sunday morning at 8.30 am. The local radio stations* are always open to regular contributions from Island ministers.

*www.quayfm.gg www.riduna-radio.com

Alderney Churches Together (ACT)

ACT is an ecumenical group with representatives from our Anglican, Catholic and Methodist churches and the Quakers. In addition to organising the services for major events, the group coordinates the special annual services, such as the Blessing of the Boats, the Hammond War Memorial service to commemorate the slaves and forced labourers who were brought to Alderney during the occupation between 1940 and 1945, and the Blessing of our Pets service.

A Roman Catholic priest is currently resident in Alderney, but it is not certain that this appointment will be sustainable indefinitely. The Methodist minister has a part-time appointment.



THE ROLE OF OUR NEW PRIEST

We believe that the role of the new priest is

- to be a minister of Word and Sacrament;
- to encourage the growth of the personal faith of members of the congregation;
- to nurture the gifts of individuals and of the lay ministry teams;
- to develop the worship, mission and outreach of the church;
- to strengthen the church's existing relationship with St Anne's School and re-imagine and re-develop our work with children and young people;
- to work together with our ecumenical partners to build a powerful Christian presence on the island.

WE ARE SEEKING A PRIEST WHO

- Loves Jesus and loves people, and enjoys being very visibly a part of a small community;
- Is at home with a worshipping community centred on the Eucharist and with the gifts to develop and deepen our patterns of prayer, worship and learning, leading worship that is meaningful for new generations;
- Is able to help us grow spiritually as individuals and a church family, as well as numerically;
- Is confident when meeting, ministering and working with people from all spectrums of society, including civic leaders;
- Is willing to work alongside and support the existing lay ministry team (lay pastoral assistants and lay worship leaders) and to develop lay ministry further, so as to increase the Church's potential and its resilience;
- Is skilled in recognising and developing people's gifts in ministry;
- Is willing to work with ecumenical partners;
- Is personally resilient, and has a robust and sustaining spiritual life;
- Is a good communicator and an engaging preacher and teacher;
- Is able to build a positive presence in the island community life.



WE OFFER

- a warm, supportive and enthusiastic worshipping community in a setting where the church is welcomed and recognised as a key part of the town and the island
- a group of trained lay ministers
- an openness to grow and develop for changing times
- a momentum in mission that has inspired the congregation and a desire to discover where God will take us next
- a fine church building, a well-maintained pipe organ, a well-tuned grand piano and a peal of 12 bells in the bell tower
- lay support and locum cover so that the priest can take breaks and holidays off the island
- a very comfortable four-bedroom vicarage – which is described below ...

THE VICARAGE



The good-size two-storey vicarage is close to the church. It was built in the year 2000 to current parsonage standards. There is a large kitchen, utility room, dining room, sitting room and WC downstairs. Upstairs there are four double bedrooms, (two have ensuite shower rooms), and a shared family bathroom.

Downstairs there is also a very well-equipped study, together with a separate WC, self-contained from the main accommodation. A short but steep private driveway leads to a parking area and there is a small, secluded garden, but no garage.

The priest is responsible for the payment of utility bills (oil, gas and electricity).

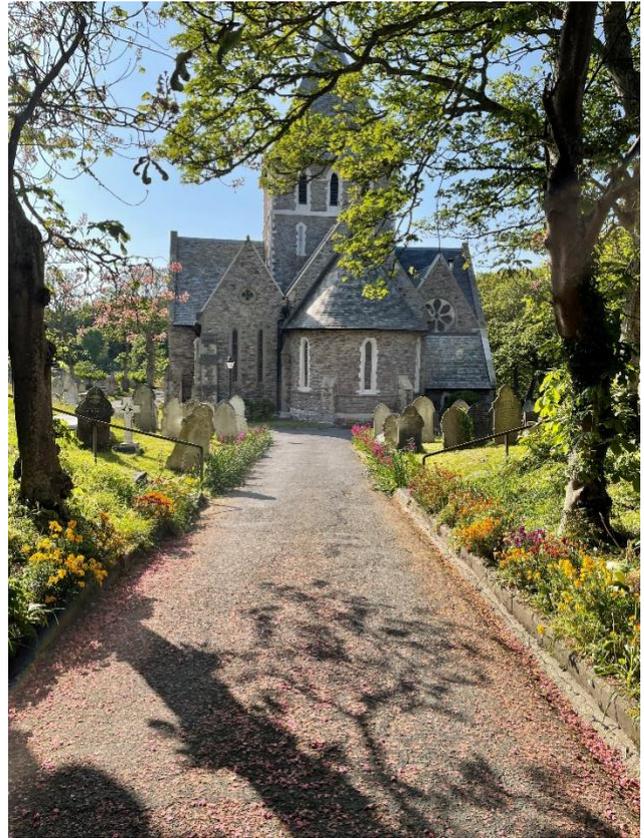
THE CHURCH BUILDING

The Parish Church of St Anne, often referred to as the "Cathedral of the Channel Islands" was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott and built at the sole expense of John Le Mesurier, son of General John Le Mesurier, the last hereditary governor of Alderney. It was built to serve both the parish and the extensive military garrison that was stationed in Alderney in the 19th century and was consecrated in 1850. It is acknowledged to be one of the finest Victorian buildings in the Channel Islands.

The church is located in the centre of St Anne (the main settlement in Alderney) and is surrounded by a well-cared for churchyard. St Anne's has the only peal of 12 bells in the Channel Islands.

Maintenance of the fabric of the building is the responsibility of the States of Alderney. The roof was completely refurbished in 2017. However, the interior fabric needs some attention, but the timescale is dependent on the availability of States funding.

The church is responsible for the running costs of the building. The sound and lighting systems have recently been updated, and there is heating throughout the building. There is no church hall though we have been considering some internal re-ordering and decoration to make a more versatile space, for which funds would need to be raised.



The church undertakes several fund-raising events for the church and other charities. A copy of our Annual and Financial Report is available.

THE BROADER CONTEXT

The civic governance structures of the Channel Islands comprise two Crown Dependencies: the Bailiwick of Jersey and the Bailiwick of Guernsey. Alderney is part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

The two bailiwicks are the surviving parts of the Duchy of Normandy, and have been loyal to the British Crown since 1204.

The bailiwicks are not (and never have been) part of the United Kingdom or of the European Union.

It is not surprising that the church structures in the Channel Islands are in many ways different from those that are familiar in the Church of England.

The Deaneries of Jersey and Guernsey (including Alderney) are attached to the Diocese of Salisbury. The Deanery of Guernsey is the Church of England's presence across the Bailiwick of Guernsey, with fourteen parishes in Guernsey and one each in Alderney and Sark. The Deanery is led by the Dean, who is the Bishop's Commissary.

The Deanery seeks to be a support in developing and deepening Christian discipleship, witness and worship in the parishes of the bailiwick and Christians of different traditions across our islands.

Given the complex geography of the Deanery, and the complexity of travel between the islands, the Deanery functions in a unique way.

At parish level, the main difference from the structures elsewhere in the Church of England is that there are no PCCs in the Deanery. This means that responsibility for the governance of the parish lies with the Vicar and churchwardens. The parishes in the Bailiwick are subject to the Bailiwick of Guernsey's charity law. This is not to suggest that the structures in the Deanery are more or less effective than those in the wider Church of England - simply that they are different, and any new priest coming from outside the Bailiwick will find it useful to be aware of this.