

Deanery of Guernsey



The parish of Alderney in the Channel Islands

We are looking for a resident parish priest on the Island of Alderney, which is part of the Deanery of Guernsey. The Deanery is under the episcopal care of the Bishop of Dover.

The current mission of St Anne's Church is:

- To build stronger connections and to share the gospel with the wider community in the island
- To strengthen the parish church in being a key focus in the island, both spiritually and in its cultural life
- To work together with our ecumenical partners to build a strong Christ presence in the island

Our next Vicar

We are looking for a priest who can offer:

- Strong personal faith
- Ability to work collaboratively, both to develop ministry within the parish and with ecumenical partners
- Confidence to work without the immediate support of ordained colleagues, whilst being willing to travel to Guernsey for Chapter meetings and to work with colleagues in ministry there
- Ease in meeting and working with people from all spectrums of society and a readiness to be a visible presence around the Island
- Ability to communicate easily and comfortably with the local population
- Willingness to engage in and to develop others in pastoral ministry, including visiting the sick and the housebound and building relationships with the care home and hospital as well as local youth services and school
- Interest in developing imaginative liturgy and in organising and leading 'Island' services for Alderney Week, twinning weekend, Remembrance Sunday, Homecoming celebrations, Good Friday walk of witness, Deportees Memorial Service and blessing the fishing fleet
- Good qualities of enabling leadership
- An ecumenical spirit and willingness to work with the other churches on Alderney



Any priest serving in Alderney needs certain levels of resilience. It is essential that anyone working in Alderney is 'comfortable in his or her skin'. Alderney is an exposed place, in that a priest serving there needs to cope with being a public figure and a centre of attention and interest. Given that we are not expecting a priest to work full-time, it would be a good place for someone who has particular interests that can be combined with a part-time island ministry. The next priest needs to have experience in helping a community look at itself and its vision for growth. The churchmanship in Alderney has been quite 'high

church' but this is not necessarily an indication of how the church in Alderney will be best served and

encouraged to grow. Nevertheless, sensitivity in implementing any changes will be essential. Even on a small island, the vicar will have a significant civic role for important island events and anniversaries.

What we offer

We are committed to work with our vicar in developing our shared ministry to Alderney.

We will work with our vicar to support him or her in a sustainable model of ministry, recognising the difficulty in working 'part time' in an island community.

We will encourage the development of proper boundaries between 'work' and 'off duty' times.

The Island of Alderney



Picture: Braye harbour

The beautiful and unique Island of Alderney is the third largest of the Channel Islands with a population of just under 2,000 inhabitants. It is 8 miles off the Normandy coast. It is 3.5 miles long and 1.5 miles wide.

The Island is linked to Guernsey and Southampton by regular flights, although weather (especially fog) can disrupt travel. There are regular cargo ferries running between the UK and Alderney but there are not currently any regular passenger ferries.

Alderney is renowned for its friendliness and newcomers are made most welcome. There is virtually no crime and it has a very caring society.

Alderney hosts many attractions throughout the year with its Literary Festival in March and the Performing Arts Festival in May, along with many other highlights including the Alderney Week Festival in August. There are also twinning weekends with our friends from France in the Cotentin peninsula.

There are over 40 active clubs and societies and Alderney has a scenic and professionally maintained golf course.

Visitors feel connected to the peace and beauty of this secret hideaway enjoying landscapes, changing seascapes and wildlife.

Alderney has a modern well-equipped hospital, and a local doctor's surgery, and also two dental surgeries. Specialist care is available in Guernsey and seriously ill patients are flown to the Princess Elizabeth Hospital in Guernsey.



Picture: Alderney Week parade

The local school caters for children from 4-16 years of age and currently has approximately 140 children on its roll.

For tax purposes, Alderney comes under Guernsey. There is a maximum of 20% income tax and no Capital Gains Tax or Capital Transfer Tax. There is also no VAT.

Alderney has owed its allegiance to the English crown for over 900 years. It has its own elected government (the States of Alderney) overseen by a President. It also has its own court with its own independent judiciary.

There is a well-balanced economy generated by its fledgling offshore finance industry, its rapidly growing e-commerce and e-gaming sectors, and its traditional tourism and fishing industries.

Alderney is a single parish although other denominations are represented. There is a Roman Catholic Church (the priests from Guernsey seek to be in Alderney most Sundays, staying for a few days before and after the weekend) and a Methodist Church (served by a resident supernumary minister). The Salvation Army and Quakers also meet on Alderney.

The island and the parish are coterminous. For further information, please look at www.visitalderney.com

St Anne's Church

The beautiful parish church of St Anne is often referred to as the 'Cathedral of the Channel Islands'. It was built at the sole expense of John Le Mesurier, son of General John Le Mesurier, the last hereditary governor of Alderney. The church was built to serve both the parish and the extensive military garrison that was stationed in Alderney in the nineteenth century against the perceived threat from France.

The church was consecrated in 1850 and designed by George Gilbert Scott. 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 surrounded by a well cared for churchyard. St Anne's has the only peal of 12 bells in the Channel Islands. The church has been chosen by a world record setting team for an attempt to break the world bell-ringing record in the autumn of 2017. This is due to be televised by the BBC.

The roof is currently undergoing complete refurbishment. There is heating throughout the building, and a switchboard lighting system indoors. The church also possesses an up-to-date high quality sound system. There is an excellent organ.

All maintenance of the church is the responsibility of the States of Alderney.

A faithful congregation supports well attended Sunday services at 8.00 am and 10.30 am.

The current average attendance for normal Sunday services is about 50 worshippers from a church electoral roll of over 60. However, services on major events



such as Easter Sunday and Remembrance Sunday will see the church full with up to 200 attendees.

A smaller number attend special services such as those on Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day.

Morning Prayer is said by a small group currently two mornings a week; an ecumenical prayer group meets, with the lead taken by each of the denominations participating; and the Eucharist is celebrated on Friday mornings.

There is a highly skilled organist and a fully-robed choir who practise once a week.

Recent developments

Since the retirement of the last vicar at the end of October 2016, we have much valued the ministry of retired priests from Kent, who have been willing to spend extended periods of up to 5 weeks living at the vicarage and ministering in Alderney.

This has opened up new understandings of the potential for church life and ministry. People have begun to engage with ideas of vision and mission. The role of the next priest will be to develop this and build up a sense of vision and mission which can sustain church life in Alderney over the coming years.

There is a strong sense that the people at St Anne's Church are very open to being led forward in this way. Given the age profile in Alderney, it may be that the main focus needs to be on those a decade

younger than the current congregation (those in their 50s), with building relationships with families and children as the next stage in their pilgrimage.

The Revd Denise Critchell comments, 'Having spent five Sundays on Alderney, its apparent that there is a growing vision and a hope for the future of this church and community. Like the beautiful flowers "on Island", with the right applicant the prospects are bright.'

The Revd Stephen Hardy and the Revd Lesley Hardy add, 'As a clergy couple who have enjoyed ministering as locum clergy on the island for a total of eight weeks in the last months, we found ourselves warmly welcomed into the heart of the community. Alderney is a parish with dedicated people, enormous potential and a lovely situation.'



The congregation, after a service in Lent 2017

The Deanery of Guernsey

Alderney is one of four inhabited islands in the Bailiwick of Guernsey. Guernsey is the main island, with 14 parishes. There is a church in Sark, currently served by a house for duty priest. Herm Island is inhabited: St Tugal's Church is used for Sunday services and weddings but ministry is supplied by priests travelling from Guernsey.

The Deanery of Guernsey has been annexed to the Diocese of Winchester since Tudor times but in recent years episcopal ministry has been provided by the Bishop of Dover and we relate to the Diocese of Canterbury for support in many areas of our life. However, the Deanery of Guernsey is financially independent of the mainland diocese; this means that ministry costs are met from within the Deanery.

The Dean travels to Alderney as and when required and we would expect the priest appointed to serve in Alderney to come regularly to Guernsey for Chapter and Synod meetings.

The priest in Alderney will be expected to spend one weekend every couple of months in Guernsey whilst one of the priests from Guernsey travels to Alderney to take Sunday services. This is a way of deepening the fellowship and relationship between Alderney and Guernsey and broadening the experience of ministry in the Bailiwick of Guernsey for all concerned.

Further information about the Deanery of Guernsey can be found at www.churchofengland.org.gg

Some practical matters

Ministry on Alderney is a fascinating challenge and opportunity. Given the population of Alderney, this is a house for duty post. But we recognise that it would be unreasonable to expect a priest to come to Alderney on simply the usual 'house for duty' arrangements. Therefore, we are offering a stipend of 50% of the usual Guernsey stipend (this includes a 22% uplift from the UK national minimum stipend because of the increased cost of living in the Channel Islands – at the current rate, £15300). The priest will be responsible for paying utility bills (oil and electricity), with an agreed contribution from the parish. Expenses of office will be reimbursed in full. The Deanery will consider making a small car available to the vicar, given the difficulty in transporting a car to Alderney from the UK.

The Vicarage

The Vicarage is close to the church, across the churchyard. It is set in an area of preserved woodland.

It was built in 2000 to current parsonage standards. All facilities are included on two levels. There is a large kitchen, office, dining room and sitting room on the lower level. The office, together with separate WC, is self-contained from the main accommodation.

Upstairs accommodation is ideal for family and visitors, with two of the four double bedrooms having en-suite facilities. There is also a family bathroom.

There is a private driveway outside with space for two cars. There is a small garden.

The vicarage will be available partly furnished. Rates, insurance and maintenance costs will be paid. External maintenance is the responsibility of the States of Alderney.

Application procedure

Candidates are invited to complete the application form available on the Deanery of Guernsey website (www.churchofengland.org.gg/vacancies) and return it to the Dean of Guernsey by noon on Thursday 11 May. The interview date and arrangements will be discussed with shortlisted candidates, but we anticipate the interviews being during June.