

The parish of Ste Marie du C atel – Castel parish church

Appointment of priest in charge

I am delighted that you are interested in exploring whether God might be calling you to serve in Guernsey.

The parish of Castel is one of ten civil parishes in the Island of Guernsey. As one of the larger parishes in Guernsey, it is divided into two ecclesiastical parishes – St Matthew, Cobo, and Ste Marie du C atel.

We are seeking a priest to serve as priest in charge (and possibly Rector) of the parish of Ste Marie du C atel, to succeed the Right Reverend Nicholas Drayson, who has served as priest in charge for the past two years.

After many centuries attached to the Diocese of Winchester, the deaneries of Guernsey and Jersey have been attached to (but not part of) the Diocese of Salisbury since November 2022. The Bishop of Salisbury is also Bishop for the Channel Islands. However, the two deaneries are financially independent, and in each, the Dean is the Bishop’s Commissary. The role of a Channel Island dean is unique in the Church of England with the deans carrying quasi-episcopal, archidiaconal and decanal responsibilities.

The Deanery of Guernsey, which includes Alderney and Sark as well as Guernsey, is in an interesting point of transition.

Having served in Guernsey for the past eleven years, I retire at the end of July 2026. The process for the appointment of my successor is well under way, with the expectation that, if a suitable candidate is identified, the next Dean will be in post by October 2026.

The ownership of churches and parsonage houses in the Bailiwick of Guernsey is very different to what is familiar in England. Responsibility for the maintenance of the ten ancient parish churches lies with the parish. Essential work, and the costs of insurance, and of maintenance of the churchyard, is paid by the ratepayers of the parish. The provision of a house for the incumbent is the responsibility of the (civil) parish under Guernsey’s customary law. However the increasing cost of maintenance of the rectories has led to a decision by the States of Guernsey (the Island’s parliament) in April 2025 that the customary law obligation should cease at 1 January 2030. What the provision of clergy housing will look like in practice from 2030 onwards is still under discussion.

Therefore, we are expecting to appoint a priest in charge who will initially hold the office until 31 December 2029. The Constables of the parish of Castel will provide suitable accommodation for the incumbent and their spouse and family. This will be discussed with the successful candidate. If satisfactory arrangements for the provision of housing after this date are agreed, it will be possible for the appointment to be extended, with the priest in charge being appointed as Rector.

The priest in charge will be paid 0.2 of a Guernsey incumbent’s stipend (currently,  8,556), and will, in addition, receive a grant towards travel costs off-island and medical costs. The priest in charge will also receive an annual grant from the Guernsey Clergy Benefit Fund. In 2025, the grant was  2,250. This is taxable. Grants are also paid for annual retreats and, when eligibility tests are satisfied, sabbatical leave.

Guernsey offers rich and diverse cultural and sporting opportunities. It is a fascinating and delightful place in which to live and work – although it would be naive to expect that there will not also be challenges.

If, once you have read the parish profile, you would like to discuss the post, please contact me on 07781 166095 or at dean@deanery.gg.



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