

# Dover Town Team Ministry

## Benefice News

### May 2026

#### Greetings!

I am delighted to be joining the Dover Town Benefice. Although an exciting new chapter, in a sense it feels like moving 'next door', having served my curacy in the nearby parish of Bewsborough. It is a change of context, yet I already feel a very warm sense of welcome and connection, and it is wonderful to be continuing my ministry in the Dover Deanery.

I felt God calling me to the priesthood from a young age – although it took me a little while before I was ordained. After several years of formation at Ripon College Cuddesdon, we headed south for curacy. As a family, we would never have guessed Dover would become such a significant part of our lives. It has become a place we truly love, both for its ministry but also for its stunning natural beauty and rich history (I confess I have so much of it still to learn!).

I am married to Mariann, and we have two wonderful children. Norway plays an important part in our family life as Mariann is from Bergen, and we enjoy spending time there each year visiting family and friends. We are also looking forward to crossing the channel to France for the first time as a family for a short holiday before we move.

There are many things I look forward to in this next chapter of ministry. However, to mention a few: I look forward to getting to know all the wonderful communities and rich and varied offerings across the Dover Benefice. Naturally, I am especially excited to get to know the community of St Mary's where I will have particular pastoral responsibility – it will be a pleasure especially to enjoy the beauty of its rich choral tradition. I look forward to meeting and getting to know all my new colleagues in various roles, and the many fantastic teams that make up the Benefice. I am also very keen to engage with the many important community connections from Port Chaplaincy to schools, from the Dover Outreach Centre to Christians Together in Dover, and many other opportunities for being the hands and feet of Jesus in Dover.

However, most of all, I simply look forward to breaking bread with you and walking alongside you as a parish priest.

Yours in the joy and hope of the Risen Christ,

*Fr Seb, Team Vicar from 29<sup>th</sup> June*



Fr Seb is due to join the Team soon:

**Bishop Rose is to licence  
Revd Seb Lundberg as a  
Team Vicar**

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June at St  
Mary's church, 7pm**

**ALL WELCOME**

God of life,

As we see the power of your love in creation to reconcile and restore, help us listen to your plans for us and to desire growth in numbers and faithfulness.

By the power of your Holy Spirit remove our apathy and increase our trust in you to build your church.

As a Benefice may we: come together in unity, deepen our faith, and grow in understanding of one another.

As your church may we be emboldened to reach out together, through words and actions. Help us continue to serve those around us, share the joy of knowing you and the hope of eternal life. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen

*Benefice Prayer for Growth*

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Our next Benefice**

**Forum is on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>**

**June, 12noon** lunch (bring a picnic) at Charlton (theme: prayer with Lyndall Bywater).

**CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CLUB**

**27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> July** If you are interested in helping please contact Revs Melissa or Claire

#### **Through the week across our Churches**

##### **MONDAYS:**

**Morning Prayer** 9.30am at **St Martin's church** meeting in the vestry.

**Home Group** 7-8.30pm at **Melissa's Vicarage** (St Andrew's vicarage, 3 Crabble Meadows, Dover CT17 0FL) a discussion group looking at various life and faith topics.

**TUESDAYS:**

**Meditation & Taizé Chanting** 9am-10am at **St Andrew's Buckland**

**Little Adventurers** 9am-12noon at **St Martin's Dover** come & go whenever suits with the little ones (term time)

**CAMEO** 2.30-3.30pm at **St Martin's Dover** Come And Meet Each Other! weekly except the 1<sup>st</sup> Tues of the month.

**WEDNESDAYS:**

**Holy Communion** – 10am at **St Mary's** with chat & refreshments afterwards

**Paws for Thought** 4-5pm at **St Andrew's Buckland**, church is open for anyone to pop in for a chat or to have a quiet moment to rest and reflect.

**FRIDAYS:**

**Service of the Litany** - 9.30am at **Charlton Church**, prayers and discussion on bible passage

**Little Lambs** – 9.30-11.45am (term time) at **St Mary's**– age range is from birth up to starting primary school age

**SATURDAYS: Compline** – 9pm on Zoom, a night prayer service (please contact Rev Melissa to get a joining link)

**St Andrews Buckland**  
**Pet Service Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May, 3pm**  
 All creatures great and small are most welcome.

**Sunday Services across our Churches**

	<b>St Mary the Virgin, Dover</b> 10.45am	<b>St Peter &amp; St Paul Charlton</b> 8am (HC) & 9.30am	<b>St Martin, Dover</b> 10.30am	<b>St Andrew Buckland-in- Dover</b> 10.30am
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Holy Communion (Revs Trish & Claire)	8am (Rev Claire w Richard preaching) 9.30am Parish Mass (Rev Claire)	Morning Worship (Local team) 6pm Connect (Local team)	Parish Eucharist (Rev Melissa)
10 <sup>th</sup>	Matins (Rev Graham w Louis preaching)	8am & 9.30am (Rev Melissa)	Holy Communion (Rev Claire) 4pm Bubble Church (Team)	Andy's Invite (Nigel)
17 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion (Rev Melissa w Chris as deacon)	8am & 9.30am Parish Mass (Rev Claire)	Morning Worship (Local team)	Parish Eucharist (Rev Angie)
24 <sup>h</sup>	Family Communion (Rev Richard le Rossignol w Rev Melissa children) 6pm Evensong (Rev Claire)	8am & 9.30am (Rev Melissa) 4pm Bubble Church (Team)	Holy Communion (Rev Claire)	Morning Prayer (Anne & Nigel)
31 <sup>st</sup>	Holy Communion (Rev Trish)	8am (Rev Melissa) 9.30am The Well (Rev Melissa, Chris, Richard & Alistair)	Morning Worship (Local team)	Parish Eucharist (Rev Melissa w Laura) 3pm Pet service (Rev Melissa)

**Contacts (Team clergy & parishes) Clergy day off: Friday**

**Revd Melissa Carter** – Team Rector (Buckland & Charlton, Children & Schools) 07825 910116  
[rev.melissa.carter@gmail.com](mailto:rev.melissa.carter@gmail.com) **Revd Claire Coleman** – Team Vicar (St Martins, Mission) 07530 719517  
[revclcoleman@gmail.com](mailto:revclcoleman@gmail.com) **Revd Graham Snellin** – Assistant curate

**Parish Point of Contact (Communications)**

**Buckland** – Nigel Collins [bucklandchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bucklandchurch@gmail.com)      **Charlton** – Camilla Otaki [charltonchurchwarden@gmail.com](mailto:charltonchurchwarden@gmail.com)  
**St Martins** – Malcolm Gavin [malcolm.gavin@talktalk.net](mailto:malcolm.gavin@talktalk.net) OR Joanne Terry [joanneterry@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:joanneterry@yahoo.co.uk)  
**St Marys** – Lindsay Powell-Williams [lindsaypowellwilliams@btinternet.com](mailto:lindsaypowellwilliams@btinternet.com)

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION: SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MAY**