



**THE WARM WELCOME
PROJECT**



WWW.STCLEMENTSANDWICH.ORG.UK/WARMWELCOME

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Front cover, from top right: The Rector (SJM), Kerri Collins (<https://www.kcphotographyanddesign.co.uk/>), Diana James, Kerri Collins, Sandwich Infant School, Dominika Miechowska (www.dominikamiechowska.co.uk/), Darryn Jenner, SJMH, SJMH, Ryan Allen, Diana James, Kerri Collins **Pages 2/3:** Ryan Allen **Pages 4/5:** Sandwich Infant School **Pages 6-11:** SJMH **Pages 12/13:** Diana James **Page 14:** Kerri Collins **Pages 15:** Diana James



FOR A THOUSAND YEARS ST CLEMENT'S HAS BEEN A CENTRE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN SANDWICH, PLAYING AN ACTIVE AND VALUED ROLE IN THE LIFE OF THIS CINQUE PORT.

TODAY AN ENERGETIC CONGREGATION MAINTAIN REGULAR PRAYER, AN EXCELLENT MUSICAL TRADITION, HELP TO PERFORM MANY BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, AND FUNERALS EACH YEAR, AND ENGAGE IN MISSION IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY.

THE WARM WELCOME PROJECT WILL GUIDE ST CLEMENT'S FROM 2024 TO 2030, SECURING ITS PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL FOUNDATIONS IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD.

A FIVE-YEAR VISION FOR ST CLEMENT'S

The **Warm Welcome Project** is an umbrella project that will encompass fundraising and action in repairing our beautiful building, enhancing the building as a place of worship, peace, and history, and growing our sense of identity as a missional community – a congregation that comes together to pray, goes out into the world acting as the hands of God for the next six days a week, and returns together 'changed from glory into glory' by these experiences.

We begin in 2024 with firm foundations. First: a growing, energetic congregation committed to trying to love one another, and to trying to love our neighbours, as we try to let God in and to love him as he loves us. Second: a congregation that recognises that change can be confusing and painful, but is open to evolution – bringing all that has been good in our past and letting St Clement's be formed anew as we welcome new faces into our worshipping community. And finally a wonderful building that speaks to the glory of God, affirms our identity as St Clement's standing on the shoulders of a thousand years of Christian witness, and a building that will naturally draw new people inside. We need to be ready to greet them in the name of Christ.

The vision outlined in this booklet is a starting point, and will be evolved by consultation and involvement with the congregation, wider community, and experts in the different fields. When we celebrate the conclusion of the Warm Welcome Project several years from now we will celebrate a very different project from the one outlined here, and it will be all the better for it. The project has the potential to give us a Church standing on firm foundations, with a strong sense of identity and confidence, ready to act as a wider resource for our Benefice and Diocese. A Church building and community fit for the rapidly changing needs of the twenty-first century.

May the unchanging truth of God revealed to St Clement and the early Christians - revealed anew to us today - inspire us. May our love of Sandwich, this country, and all creation sustain us throughout this Project.



The Reverend Sebastian J. M. Hamilton
Rector



2024

FIVE YEARS

Day by day with Jesus

Pages 6-11
Restoring & reimagining our building

Pages 12-14
Revitalising our mission to children, young people, and all of Sandwich

Building a stronger St Clement's inside and out, spiritually, physically, and in the name of God's love.

2029





RESTORING & REIMAGINING OUR BUILDING

There are three elements to our vision for fabric work in St Clement's over the coming five years:

1. HEATING

Our boiler was condemned in October 2023. We have identified the only immediate solution available to give us heating through the winter of 2024 – a new gas boiler – but we also need to begin exploring alternatives to work alongside this boiler in the coming years.

2. QUINQUENNIAL REPORT 2024

Every five years each Church must ask its architect to undertake a full survey. Due to the pandemic and interregnum much of the work identified in 2019 was flagged again in our 2024 Report. There are other areas of urgent need identified, and a primary aim of the Warm Welcome Project is to ensure that virtually none of the 2024 items of note reappear in 2029's report.

3. A CHURCH FIT FOR TODAY

Some of the furniture in our building no longer serves us well, or may be in the wrong place. This impacts our worship, and reduces the experience of those who enter as visitors, tourists, or seeking peace, when the Church is opened day-by-day. The PCC will consult fully on gentle re-ordering to improve the layout.

Leadership: This project will be led by a Fabric Committee, overseen by the PCC, Co-Chaired by the Rector and a Churchwarden, working in close collaboration with our architect and other partners.

Partners in our fabric repairs include: Hawden MEP, Betteridge and Milsom Limited, Fiona Raley Architecture Limited, selected contractors

Costs: As laid out item by item. This work represents a strong investment in the future of St Clement's as a building. It is our duty to maintain our Grade1 listed building as a home for our worship, and a place of history and peace for the local community.

1. HEATING

NEW GAS BOILER

A full options audit was undertaken in 2024, reviewing all possible heating sources available to us. The overriding priority was to restore heat to the building by winter 2024, in order to safeguard the wider fabric (including our organ, restored in 2023 at high cost) from the cold and damp, and to support our congregation without having to rely on the unacceptable temporary solutions used during 2023.

The only permanent option available to us for installation by winter 2024 is a new dual gas boiler, replacing both the large boiler which heats the Church, and the smaller boiler installed 12 years ago heating the newer rooms in the south east of the church. At time of print we wait to hear if we have Faculty permission to install the boiler. We have back-up options if we do not, but the costs and timeframes will be radically different.

Cost: c. £40,000

ALTERNATIVE HEATING

We will investigate long-term solutions for our heating and energy use. A gas boiler, while the only realistic option for getting heat back into our building by winter 2024, is not the ideal long-term solution when we consider the growing needs of the environment. The Warm Welcome Project will include investigation and consultation on the possibilities of under-pew and over-head infrared heaters, potential new or improved radiators, and whether solar panels would be appropriate on some of our buildings.

Cost: TBA



2. QUINQUENNIAL REPORT 2024

WALL REPAIRS

Across our building damp has severely affected the walls, and in certain places immediate repairs are required. The Warm Welcome Project will include investigations into the reasons behind our exceptionally high humidity levels (between 75% and 99%) and the restoration of our walls in whatever way is deemed most appropriate.

Cost: *Initially £10,000, investigations ongoing*

CARPETS & TILES

Our beautiful, historic tiles (many dating back to the medieval era) are in great need of cleaning. Carpets will be removed (and, where appropriate, replaced) and tiles cleaned to preserve them for another generation.

Cost: *c. £3,000*

LIGHTING RENEWAL

Many of our spotlights are mis-matched, and the lighting of certain areas (for instance the high altar and medieval stalls) is regrettably poor. There are more than eight locations of switches, which makes it difficult and time consuming to create atmosphere. It would be preferable to have a setting whereby the Church can be partly lit, by low power LEDs, to welcome and guide our visitors throughout the day. A review of the system, and replacement of some lights, will be undertaken.

Cost: *c. £10,000*

STRUCTURAL REPAIRS

The 2024 Quinquennial Inspection identified many small areas of work that need attending to. These include areas of movement, repairs to guttering and the roof, repointing, and other repairs to the structure and stonework of the building. This will help to ensure the building's long-term integrity, and combat the damp.

Cost: *c. £50,000*

ST MARGARET'S

Some small enhancements will be made to St Margaret's Chapel, improving it as a space for private prayer and smaller services.

Cost: *c. £2,000*

VESTRY & SUNLEY ROOMS

The Vestry walls will be repaired, and furniture reordered, to better serve as a preparation space for services and to combat the damp.

Vestments may be relocated to ensure their protection. The ceiling will also be cleaned, and improved ventilation installed. We will explore options for disabled access to the Attwood Room above.

Cost: *c. £7,500 (a lift for disabled access could be £20,000)*

HIGH ALTAR TILES

Behind the High Altar curtain there are whitewashed Victorian tiles. We will consult to explore whether these could and should be restored.

Cost: *c. £3,000*



3. A CHURCH FIT FOR TODAY

WELCOME AREA & REORDERED NAVE SANCTUARY

Gentle reordering will be explored, in full consultation with the congregation, so that our building better reflects its use in our worship today.

We will trial opening up the area around the font as a more welcoming space, where information about St Clement's and our community can be displayed, and our history told. We will try different aids to prayer – such as a new candle stand, intercession box, etc.

Consideration will be made to a different home for post-service refreshments, in areas more accessible and welcoming for new members of the congregation and visitors.

We will explore options for where the Choir could sing from at 10:30am Parish Eucharists so that they may best be heard (the Choir currently have to leave their stalls and sing from elsewhere in the building for anthems), and enhance the nave altar as a focal point for this area of the church so that our building echoes our Sunday prayer throughout the week.

Cost: c. £10-15,000

WIFI & CONTACTLESS

It is essential that we have contactless donation points within the church building, since so many people rely on this as a way of paying and giving post-pandemic. This necessitates WiFi across the building, which could also be utilised for streaming videos, and during meetings.

Cost: c. £3,000

NOTICEBOARDS

We will explore the installation of two noticeboards by the entrances from Knightrider Street. These will welcome visitors to the churchyard and provide opportunities for promoting events and services.

Cost: c. £2,500

FUNDRAISING APPEAL

St Clement's will rely on grants and generosity from the congregation and community to help fund these fabric works.

They are essential for ensuring that our building survives well into the twenty-first century, and continues to serve the worshipping body of St Clement's and the community of Sandwich.

The work outlined above could cost c. £150,000 (with potential for further costs of disabled access to the Sunley Room, and the as-yet-unknown cost of alternative heating sources required in the next decade). We would also welcome enquiries into helping to fund some of our planned outreach on the following pages.

Your generosity in making a regular or one-off gift will help to make the Warm Welcome Project possible.

For more information see the back page, the new stewardship booklet, speak to the Rector, or visit:

www.stclementsandwich.org.uk/donate





MISSION TO SANDWICH

The Warm Welcome Project is far from just another fabric appeal. It is also a vision for consideration and action across six key areas of mission.

Each missional priority will require debate, expert engagement, and budget consideration, but the PCC is committed to investment and action in these areas.

1. CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

The perception of Sandwich as an 'older community' hides the very real needs of children, young people, and young adults who live in our parish. We should also consider those who travel in to attend toddler groups, our four schools, and clubs – representing more than 3,000 children and young people daily.

The experience of growing up is radically different today from even a decade ago, and responding to this requires a period of listening and consultation with experts, and more importantly with young people themselves. This work will be led by a steering committee comprising individuals from across St Clement's and our sister Church of St Peter and St Paul in Worth, working with the Diocesan Department of Children and Young People, our schools, and others.

Lead: *The Rector, Licensed Ministers, and PCC until a steering committee is formed*

Potential partners: *St Peter and St Paul's Parish Church (Worth), Dover District Council, Sandwich Town Council, Churches Together in Sandwich, Diocese of Canterbury Department of Children and Young People, Sir Roger Manwood's School, Sandwich Technology School, Sandwich Infant School, Sandwich Junior School, St Clement's Toddler Group, the Phoenix Centre, Sandwich Boxing Club, and others*



2. TEACHING & PRAYING

Across the next five years we will explore new ways of praying together, of studying scripture, and of learning about our faith. By 2029 we will have reached a new, confident place from which to proclaim our Gospel more boldly, making God known even to new generations that know nothing of the Church.

Lead: *The Rector*

Potential Partners: *St Peter and St Paul's Parish Church (Worth), Sandwich Deanery, Churches Together in Sandwich, Bible and teaching organisations*

3. ECO CHURCH

A steering committee will use existing guidelines and tests to review our eco footprint, and identify ways of improving our stewardship of creation, both at St Clement's and in our lives as a congregation.

Lead: *An Eco-Church Steering Group*

Potential partners: *St Peter and St Paul's Parish Church (Worth), Diocese of Canterbury Environmental Advisor, members of the wider community keen to help in this area, other interested stakeholders*

4. TOURISM & VISITORS

We will consider new ways of enhancing the tourist/visitor experience to St Clement's with the potential for provision of new signage, interactive teaching aids, and an audio/visual tour of the Church for visitors. By combining these elements with the fabric work being undertaken we will encourage more visitors to the Church and town, and provide an experience that is informative regarding our history, but also opens the way for God to make his presence known.

Lead: *The Rector and PCC, the Fabric Committee*

Potential Partners: *Sandwich Tourism Forum, Sandwich Town Council, specialist Consultants, the whole congregation (and wider community) in preparation of an audio/visual history tour.*

5. PASTORAL CARE

We will explore the potential for formally training and licensing a group from within the congregation to support those who are sick or distressed, housebound, or in full-time care.

Lead: *The Rector, Licensed Ministers, and PCC until a group is formed*

Potential Partners: *St Peter and St Paul's Parish Church (Worth), Diocese of Canterbury Department of Ministry and Mission, Upton House nursing home, follow-up on marriages, funerals, and baptisms*



5. LITTLE GARDENS OF SANDWICH

For several decades Little Gardens of Sandwich was a key means of connecting with the local community, and an important fundraiser for St Clement's. A new group of 'Little Gardeners' will revive the event, honouring the legacy of the late Liz Watson as organiser for many years.

Lead: *'Little Gardeners', with Rhys Llewellyn-Harries as Secretary*

Potential Partners: *Local garden centres and farm shops, local schools and clubs, Sandwich in Bloom, Sandwich Medieval Centre, Sandwich Events, Sandwich Town Council, and many others*

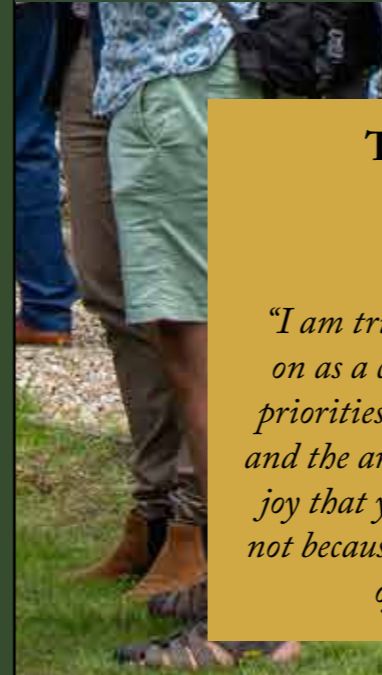
Admiral Sir George Zambellas
GCB, DSC, ADC, DL
Lord Warden and Admiral of the Cinque Ports

"I am only too pleased to support this campaign to repair and restore this beautiful church, in one of the principal Cinque Port towns and to improve the facilities to meet the needs of the local community and visitors in the years to come. Sadly, many fine ecclesiastical buildings have fallen into disrepair in recent decades and no longer meet modern standards and aspirations. I commend the Warm Welcome vision and very much hope that it will enable St Clement's Church to continue to thrive, as it has for the last 900 years."



Peter Gill
KCC Community Warden

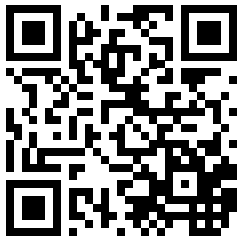
"I have seen first-hand the people of Sandwich offer kindness and generosity to residents, visitors, and those in need. The Warm Welcome Project will further equip St Clement's Church to be at the centre of the community offering care, sanctuary, peace, and hope. Whether of faith or not let us celebrate and support this opportunity and vision for the renewal, growth, and sustainability of a resource available to all."



The Right Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin
CD MBE KHC
The Bishop of Dover

"I am truly excited to learn of the journey that you have embarked on as a church. You have spent time together to explore what your priorities are and in doing so would have discovered your strengths and the areas that will need more work. I am particularly filled with joy that you have prioritised work with children and young people, not because they are the church of tomorrow but because they are part of the church today and need to be affirmed in this."





FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING ST CLEMENT'S

We cannot achieve the aims of this Project without financial support. Please consider a regular or one-off pledge. To donate online, or for more information, about our finances, just scan the QR code to the left - or visit: www.stclementsandwich.org.uk/donate



PERSONAL DETAILS

Title Christian Name(s) Surname

Address

Postcode Telephone Number Email Address

Please tick if you wish to remain anonymous. If not ticked, names may be listed both in publications and online

PLEDGE DECLARATION

I/we pledge to support the Warm Welcome Project, and the work of St Clement's, by making my/our gift of:

Total amount £ Signature Date

Frequency: Monthly Quarterly Annually One Off

Please speak to the Honorary Treasurer if you wish to direct your gift towards a particular area, treasurer@stclementsandwich.org.uk

**Return this form to: The Honorary Treasurer, The Parish Office,
St Clement's Church Hall, Church Street St Clement, Sandwich. CT13 9EH.**

(For BACS transfers - Name: PCC St Clement's - Sort Code: 30-93-34 - Account Number: 02762982)

- I have filled in a separate Parish Giving Scheme application (and will send it to them separately)
- Online Bank Transfer using details above The reference you gave the transaction: _____
- I have set up a standing order using details above The reference you gave the transactions: _____
- I/we would like you to post this standing order form to my/our bank:

To The Manager <input type="text"/>	Bank/Building Society <input type="text"/>	Instructions to your Bank or Building Society
Address: <input type="text"/>		Please pay St Clement's, Sandwich a Standing Order from the account detailed in this instruction. I understand that this instruction may remain with St Clement's, Sandwich, and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.
	Postcode: <input type="text"/>	
Name(s) of Account Holder(s): <input type="text"/>		Start Date: <input type="text"/> End Date: <input type="text"/>
Account Number: <input type="text"/>	Sort Code: <input type="text"/>	Signature(s): <input type="text"/>
		Date: <input type="text"/>

- Cheque** Amount £ (please make cheques payable to St Clement's PCC)
- Other** For legacies or other types of gift such as shares or land, please contact our Honorary Treasurer, Steve Kirkpatrick (treasurer@stclementsandwich.org.uk)
- I have given via the website/using the QR code above** Amount £

Gift Aid By using Gift Aid you can increase the value of your gift, without costing you anything.

- Please treat all gifts of money that I make today and in the future to St Clement's, Sandwich as Gift Aid donations. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Please notify St Clement's, Sandwich if you want to cancel this declaration, have changed your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax. (Charity number 1201047)

Signature Date