



### **ST MARTIN'S CHURCH Proposed administrative changes**

Discussions have begun to explore ways of keeping our lovely village church as a functional place of worship. Sadly, during the past few years the regular congregation has declined and there are now fewer than twenty people on the electoral role. The church is governed by requirements in law to provide a Parochial Church Council which has enough people to serve as officers such as church wardens, secretary and child protection officer. At present, there are not sufficient people to share the considerable legal and administrative burdens of these roles.

One way forward is for our parish to become part of a union of parishes which already comprises of St. Leonard's, Upper Deal, St. Richard's, Mill Hill and St. Nicholas of Sholden. The new, larger parish will enable St. Martin's to continue as a parish church but will it no longer have to provide a separate PCC. The new expanded parish will have one PCC with the necessary officers drawn from representatives of all its churches. Thus the administration will be shared by everyone within the new parish.

In effect, there will be no changes regarding how St. Martin's carries out its duties and ministry within our village. There is no proposal to close the church or diminish its activities. Financially, our church will continue to have designated funds for monies donated or raised on behalf of St. Martin's.

The PCC see this as a necessary but positive move to ensure the future of St. Martin's. However we are still in the early, consultative stages of the procedure. We welcome questions from anyone with an interest in our village church. The PCC has the support of a diocesan advisor who is also available to anyone who would like further information. (J Esposito)