

# OCTOBER MEETING

First Speaker

## A Day in the Life of ...

A Talk by Trevor Willmott, Bishop of Dover

Reported by Terry Sutton

The Right Reverend Trevor Willmott, Bishop of Dover at Canterbury, was a guest speaker at our public meeting on October 20th when he told us what he did each day and admitted his ambition was to remain in his present job. He told us the Bishop's see of Dover was created in 1534, because of the importance of the town and port.



Bishop Trevor Willmott

Trevor, a bishop for 12 years, has been in his present post for five years. He is married to Margaret, an accountant, and they have a daughter who is a hydrologist.

Trevor, responsible for 321 Church of England parishes in the diocese, admitted to being passionate about rugby, cricket and working in the garden at his home in the cathedral precincts.

He revealed he gets up each day at 5.30 am and spends the first hour of the day in silence, listening to God. Normally he then attends a service at Canterbury Cathedral. When he gets the opportunity he tries to speak to young people, helping them to make sense of their lives.

Trevor told how he had visited all the prisons in the UK, except one, and had come to the conclusion that "prison does prisoners no good whatsoever." He said in his view the criminal justice system in the

UK was "shameful." Questioned on this opinion he admitted that he thought some evil people needed to be removed from society (he told of playing cards in prison with the Kray twins) but there were many others in prison who, not having had a chance in life, should not be there.

He was asked for his views on asylum seekers. He accepted that the UK could not absorb everyone but he really believed they should welcome some of those who were desperate. "There must be a better way than closing our borders. We should not demonise them," he added. Dover, he said, could be proud of always being a welcoming community to strangers.

"I really enjoy my work, spending much of my time just hanging about trying to improve society," he told his appreciative audience.

### *Bishop of Dover*

*The title, 'Bishop of Dover', was created under King Henry VIII by an act of 1534. His main function is to assist the Archbishop of Canterbury in the business of the diocese.*

*In more recent years, due to the increased worldwide responsibilities of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Dover is the pro-Diocesan Bishop. This is signified by the deed of delegation received from the Archbishop at the investiture of the Bishop of Dover.*