

'SUNNY COT', 4 GRENHAM BAY AVENUE

In 1951 Mrs Haidee Kearns decided to vacate her home at 4 Grenham Bay Avenue and go to live with Mr and Mrs Hodges at Woodford House School. She donated her chalet bungalow to the parish. Sunny Cot was officially given to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners absolutely and in her will she stipulated it was to be used "as a residence for any minister officiating in the Church of St Thomas, Birchington." She also bequeathed £1,000 to "the Vicar and Churchwardens for the time being, upon trust, to invest the same in any instrument authorised by law, to apply the income arising therefrom, in keeping the said dwelling known as 'Sunny Cot' in good order and also the repair of the said Church of St Thomas."

As a result of representation by the PCC in 1967-68, the property was transferred from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to All Saints PCC and the Diocesan Board of Finance for a purely nominal charge of £10, the PCC paying the legal costs of just over £64.

The house was the residence for the Assistant Clergy from the 1950s. The ground floor consisted of 2 reception rooms, kitchen, scullery & larder, two bedrooms, bathroom & toilet, with a further 2 bedrooms upstairs. It also had a garage and gas-fired central heating. It was sold in the 1980s, when we only had one curate. The money was invested and earmarked for a second clergy house when needed. However, in about 2003 the money was absorbed into our general funds.