

For Canonry Benefice giving visit:

<https://thecanoribenefice.org.uk/contact-us/finances-and-giving/> Every penny counts and goes directly towards keeping our churches open.

Could you be an Eco-church champion? can you get us to think about what it is to be good stewards of the environment as Church. Let Rev Caroline know! Eco Champions are volunteers who play a valuable role in guiding churches towards their eco objectives.
<https://www.canterburydiocese.org/mission/caring-for-creation/what-are-we-doing-as-a-diocese>

Ash with Westmarsh Parish Mag. Available from Co-op and Poparound shops in Ash and St Nicholas Church. To subscribe and have delivery please phone or email the editor Rebecca Smith on 07743 605873
rebeccasmith.ash@gmail.com

See our leaflet about volunteering with us!

There are so many ways to get involved. Also share your ideas <https://thecanoribenefice.org.uk/get-involved/join-a-team/>

Together: Join a faith community that embraces all, advocating for the full inclusion of everyone in our communities, ranging from highlighting racial injustice and disability advocacy to addressing class inequality and campaigning for the full participation of LGBTQIA+ people. Go to www.together.org.uk
To contact the Diocese LGBTQIA+ Advisor Fr Denis, email LGBTQIA+adviser@diocant.org

Confirmation: Canterbury Cathedral is holding a confirmation service 7th November 2026. If you would like to know more about welcoming God through Jesus Christ more fully into your life, contact Rev Caroline.
<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/confirmations/confirmation-faqs>

New report explores young adult journeys to faith

New research commissioned by the Church of England uncovers how growing spiritual curiosity among young adults has led to a range of unexpected routes by which they are discovering Christian faith and finding community in Church of England churches.
<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/news-and-press-releases/new-report-explores-young-adult-journeys-faith-church-england>

Safeguarding Statement

The Canonry Benefice acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard & promote the welfare of all adults & children & is committed to ensuring safeguarding practises reflect statutory responsibilities as well as Government & Diocesan guidance thus complying with best practice. Our policy recognises that the welfare of adults & children is paramount. Regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation & social economic background everyone is welcome.

Safeguarding and Lone Working:

lone working policy ensures the safety and well-being of employees who work alone, giving guidance on how to stay safe what to do in emergency situations. If this applies to you, please take a moment to familiarise yourself with key steps to take when working alone and endeavour to always work in pairs if possible.
<https://thecanoribenefice.org.uk/about-the-canonry-benefice/safeguarding-statement/>

Safeguarding questionnaire: INEQE Safeguarding Group have been commissioned to conduct Independent Safeguarding Audits of the Church of England to make sure dioceses and cathedrals are doing all they can to create environments where everyone feels safe, valued and respected. As part of the audit process for Canterbury, INEQE hope to engage with parishioners and members of the parish community through an online survey which will act as a mechanism through which individuals can comment on any matters relevant to the Audit's focus. The survey is both anonymous and confidential. The survey results are received directly by INEQE's Audit Team and not by the Church of England. The survey will close at 11.30 pm on Weds 2nd September. To access the survey relevant to you please use the QR code below or visit:
<https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/canterbury/>

**The Churches within the Canonry Benefice**

(Ash, Goodnestone, Chillenden, Nonington, Elmstone, Preston, and Stourmouth)

Sunday 16th August
11th Sunday after Trinity

Readings

Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15.10-20, 21-28

Prayer

God of glory, the end of our searching,
help us to lay aside all that prevents us
from seeking your kingdom, and to give
all that we have to gain the pearl beyond
all price, through our saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen

THIS SUNDAY 16th August

Holy Communion, 9am, Holy Cross, Goodnestone
 Holy Communion, 10.30am, Elmstone Church
 Holy Communion, 10.30am, St Nicholas, Ash

Bell ringing: please note we have extra bell ringing practice in Ash from 10am on **Mon 17th August**.

NEXT SUNDAY 23RD August

Holy Communion, 9am, All Saints, Chillenden
 Holy Communion, 10.30am, St Nicholas, Ash
 Evensong, 6.30pm, All Saints, Stourmouth

What a wonderful time was had by all at our Family Welcome Space last week. Our Messy Church and Warm Welcome Space teams joined together to bring an event for all ages to enjoy. Crafts, music, stories, teas, coffees, cakes, lunch and lots of conversation and fun was the menu for the day! It was lovely to see the church full and everyone have a relaxed time. The children made some fantastic artwork - boats, rainbows, animals! A big thank you to all who came along and our wonderful volunteers, a true example of teamwork!

Welcome space continues every Thursday 11-2 & Messy Church picks up again in the new school year.

Wednesday Morning Prayer Group: 10am every Wednesday at The Vicarage. All welcome.

Women's Breakfast 3rd Sat monthly 9-10am, The Vicarage. There is an August break, NEXT 19th Sept

Bacon Buddies: Men's group last Saturday of month 9am, Staple. Dan 07753743020 NEXT 29th August.

Evening Home Group Contact Andrew & Hilary 07510 358709. It will restart in September.

Morning Home Group is taking a break for the summer. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 15th September 2026 at 9.30 am until 11 am to discuss topics for the Autumn dates and to talk about prayer in our lives and what helps us to pray. Six dates to follow will be fortnightly Tuesdays from 9.30 - 11 am, on 6th and 20th October, 3rd and 17th November, 1st and 15th December. The topics for these dates will be decided by the group at the September meeting. Venues to be announced later on. Please feel free to come along if you would like. You will be most welcome.

Rev Caroline writes:

Thinking of all students who are receiving exam results this week and next. Well done for all the work put into your exams. We wish you positive news and whatever the outcome that you take your next steps with pride and strength. *"In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths" Proverbs 3:6*

A reminder: w/c 17th August - I will be going on retreat: taking time out to focus on my own spiritual journey, and giving myself the chance to deepen my faith and my relationship with the living God. I will be taking a holiday at the beginning of September to do more of the same.

Beth is also away w/c 17th August. We will be taking a break from emails while we are away, please avoid sending non-urgent emails during this time.

Bless the Backpack: 10.30am, 6th Sept, Ash.

Anyone of any age starting a new educational chapter is invited to come along with their families to celebrate the start of school, homeschool, college, university, adult education, learning a new skill etc. Bring in your backpacks and the vicar will bless them in a special section of the Family Worship service.

Benefice Praise evening led by Pete - those who were at the prayer day at the Living Well will have met Pete, who led our worship beautifully. He joins us again as we sing, pray and gather together as a Benefice. Worship is a powerful way to give thanks to God and enjoy a good sing. Come and join us - **Sun 20th Sept at 5.00pm in Ash.** *"Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation."* Psalm 95:1

Saturday 21st November: The Benefice Big Breakfast Vision morning! 9am-1pm to share breakfast together and then chat together about our aims and visions for our churches. Our previous away day was amazing and fun, all welcome! More details to follow.

Church Suite: Our central database system which assists in administration, events, communication, and helps you engage with your church. Starting with Ash, everyone who attends St. Nicholas & given us permission to be added to the system, but hasn't already logged into My ChurchSuite, has been sent a reminder. Any questions please ask!

Living Well Treasurer

They are looking for a treasurer to produce reports and attend trustee meetings. Training will be given. Contact Rev Stefan Thomas for more information leadchaplain@the-living-well.org.uk

Stand for Synod

In Autumn 2026, elections are happening for new General Synod members. Almost anyone who attends church regularly is likely to be eligible to stand as a lay member. You don't need to be a member of a PCC, Deanery Synod or Diocesan Synod. Info here: <https://www.canterburydiocese.org/our-life/our-governance/general-synod/> Nominations open on Friday 14 August and close on Monday 7 September.

All Saints, Chillenden

www.chillenden.org.uk

Fundraiser: "100 club" lottery scheme. Monthly draw. email 100club@chillenden.org.uk

Date for the diary: Pet Service 26th July 3pm.

St Mary's Nonington

Coffeestop Baptist Chapel Thursdays 10-12

Happy Hour: Monthly (3rd Fri) 6.30pm

Compline: Monthly Zoom, contact churchwarden

Seekers: Please check with churchwarden

Elmstone Church, St Mildred's Preston & All Saints, Stourmouth

Happy Hour Elmstone: 1st Friday of month 6.30pm

Holy Cross, Goodnestone

Goodnestone Festival: Thursday 27th to Sunday 30th August. See www.goodnestonemusic.com for details

Rochester Cathedral Evensong: 19th September. The Choir will be singing, please do come along & support!

St Nicholas' Church, Ash

The Book Stall is open this summer but no more donations please whilst we manage stock & volunteers take a breather!

Ash Village Welcome Space: A FREE space to all in our community each **Thursday 11am- 2pm**. There will be a friendly welcome, free tea/coffee and cake/rolls. Come and see our new comfy sofas! If you are able to help or can drop in bread, milk, cakes etc please speak to Sarah Pigott or sign up <https://mealtrain.com/8nrk01>

Sparks Sunday School is taking a break - back in September!