

For Canonry Benefice giving visit:

<https://thecanonrybenefice.org.uk/contact-us/finances-and-giving/> Every penny counts!

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!

<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

Together: 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 Diocese LGBTQIA+ Advisor Fr Denis, email LGBTQI+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>

Interested in being a lay reader? More info here: <https://www.canterburydiocese.org/ministry/recognising-lay-ministry/worship/>

See our leaflet about volunteering with us!

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

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://thecanonrybenefice.org.uk/about-the-canonry-benefice/safeguarding-statement/>

October is Black History Month in the UK:

An occasion to recognise and celebrate the invaluable contributions of Black people to the British economy, culture, and history. The national theme for Black History Month UK 2026 is "Honouring our communities", a powerful tribute to the communities that shape, support and sustain us.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/racial-justice/black-history-month>

**The Churches within the Canonry Benefice**

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

Sunday 18th October
20th Sunday after Trinity

Readings

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

Prayer

God, our light and our salvation:
illuminate our lives, that we may see your
goodness in the land of the living, and
looking on your beauty may be changed
into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

THIS SUNDAY 18th October

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

NEXT SUNDAY 25th October**Clocks go back!**

Holy Communion, 9am, All Saints, Chillenden
 Holy Communion, 10.30am, St Nicholas, Ash

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

Women's Breakfast 3rd Sat monthly 9-10am, The Vicarage. Next is 21st November.

Bacon Buddies: Men's group last Saturday of the month 9am, Staple. Dan 07753743020. Next 31st October

We have had a great start to our Autumn Homegroups! It's never too late to join.

Morning Home Group Six dates in the lead up to Christmas. Fortnightly Tuesdays 9.30 - 11 am: Next dates 20th October, 3rd & 17th November, 1st & 15th December. All welcome. Contact Rev Barbara for venue information.

Evening Home Group Our Homegroup Autumn Term is at Delphine's. Next dates 20th October, November 3rd and 17th. Social evening with meal on Tuesday December 1st. Contact Andrew & Hilary 07510 358709. All welcome.

As we move through this season together, we're reminded that the gifts God gives us are never meant to be held tightly. Whether it's time, kindness, a listening ear, or practical help, sharing what we have strengthens our community and reflects Christ's love in action. **Proverbs 11:25** — "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

We are excited to launch our **NEW Family Group!**

Tots Praise is starting on 5th November and will continue weekly on Thursdays during term time. 10-11am at St Nicholas, Ash. A short service with puppets, story, snack and play time. We are so excited to bring this to our church and look forward to meeting lots of families whilst having a relaxed, fun hour of music and singing. Stay on afterwards for a cup of tea at the Welcome Space Café which starts immediately afterwards. The perfect Thursday combo for little ones with the parents/carers.

We love welcoming families to our church community. Children, parents, grandparents, and carers are all valued members of God's family, and we are committed to creating church spaces where everyone feels safe, loved, and included. We hope you'll feel at home from the moment you arrive.

"Mark 10 v 13-16 Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these"

St Nicholas Ash: Families are welcome anytime and can use our play area. Also join us at:

1st Nov Family Service

8th Nov Sparks Sunday school in church

6th Dec Family Service

13th Dec Sparks Sunday school in church

Messy Church Thursday afternoon, once a month

12th November

10th December

24th Dec Nativity 4pm

More dates for the diary

Stir up Sunday! 22nd November Enjoy this special service and get stirring pudding mix whilst welcoming Advent. Then eat the cake on Christmas day with a shot of something festive!

Community Christmas Meal St Nicholas, Ash Saturday 12th December 6.30pm. More details to follow very soon! A free event open to all – food, raffle and community spirit! Donations welcome.

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

Happy Hour Elmstone: 1st Friday of month 6.30pm

We are pleased to announce a return visit by Lees Court. **Elmstone church Friday 18th December 5.30pm** It promises to be an excellent event!

All Saints, Chillenden

www.chillenden.org.uk

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

Evensong led by East Kent Evensong at Chillenden on 22nd Nov. 3pm rehearsal for a 5pm start. We have had such lovely feedback from previous events and look forward to another great evening of singing.

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

Holy Cross, Goodnestone

Choral Evensong: Sunday 18th October 3.15pm

Goodnestone Choir and the Choir of St Margaret of Antioch, St Margaret's at Cliffe, combine to sing Choral evensong. Smith Responses, Noble in B minor, Ave Verum-Elgar.

Next concert: Tuesday 27th October 7pm

Goodnestone Choir. Organist Malcolm Kittle-Evans. A concert of sacred and secular Choral Music. Retiring Collection

Choir rehearsal Tuesday eves 7-8pm. For info:

denyer@doctors.org.uk.

Post Office: in church Mondays 9-11am

St Nicholas' Church, Ash

Warm Welcome Space runs every Thursday 11-2 at Ash church. A FREE space to chat and meet others or simply spend time in church for a pause from busy schedules. Teas, coffees, rolls and cakes are served (no charge). 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> It's almost a year since we launched. **Join us for a Birthday celebration!** Thursday 3rd December.

Wreath Tabletop Sale: Saturday 12th December in church 2-4pm. Made by our flower arrangers.