

For Canonry Benefice giving visit:

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

Confirmation

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/confirmations/confirmation-faqs>

If you would like to know more about getting confirmed please contact Rev Caroline canonryvicar@gmail.com

Interested in being a lay reader?

More information on Recognised Lay Worship Leading ministry can be found here (apply by 24th August) <https://www.canterburydiocese.org/ministry/recognising-lay-ministry/worship/>

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 and act as a point of contact for churches seeking advice on environmental matters.

<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://thecanonrybenefice.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 on Saturday 7th November 2026. If you would like to know more about welcoming God through Jesus Christ more fully into your life, please contact Reverend Caroline.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/confirmations/confirmation-faqs>

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:

We are committed to supporting volunteers and staff in establishing and maintaining safe working practices. Our 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/>

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 visit: <https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/canterbury/>

**The Churches within the Canonry Benefice**

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

Sunday 19th July
7th Sunday after Trinity

Readings

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13.24-30,36-43

Prayer

Generous God, you give us gifts to make them grow: though our faith is small as mustard seed, make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THIS SUNDAY 19th July

Holy Communion, 9am, Holy Cross, Goodnestone
 Holy Communion, 9am, St Nicholas, Ash
 Holy Communion, 10.30am, St Nicholas, Ash
 Service of the word, 10.30am, Elmstone Church

NEXT SUNDAY 26th JULY

Holy Communion, 9am, All Saints, Chillenden
 Holy Communion, 10.30am, St Nicholas, Ash
 Pet Service, 3pm, All Saints, Chillenden
 Choral Evensong, 3.15pm, Holy Cross, Goodnestone
 Evensong, 6.30pm, All Saints, Stourmouth

Date for the diary: 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.

Deal Foodbank donations: Ash Church

We are proud to be a donation point- the donation bin is through the main glass doors. Donations are collected by Deal Foodbank to distribute to those who come to them in need.

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

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>

Home Groups will restart in September

Evening Home Group Contact Andrew & Hilary 07510 358709.

Morning Home Group is on Tuesdays 9.30 am until 11am. Contact Rev Barbara for information.

Women's Breakfast 3rd Sat of each month 9-10am at The Vicarage. **Taking a break in August next 19th Sept.**

Bacon Buddies: Men's group last Saturday in the month 9am, Staple. Dan 07753743020 **NEXT 25th July.**

Rev Caroline writes:

School's out for the Summer! Don't you remember that feeling? Even though some of us may be a bit long in the tooth, the sense of relief to get to the long break was immense.

Exams are over and celebrations that summer has officially arrived can finally commence! We celebrate but also say a big thank you to all who support the children in our villages with education, growth and learning. We pray that the families and teachers will use this time to rest and reset, celebrating each day as a gift from God. *"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."* – Psalm 118:24

Our Sunday Children's group, 'Sparks', in St Nicholas is having a rest and will be back in September, but we are finalising plans for our Messy Church/Warm Space Playdate on 6th August. More publicity to come, but please invite families to come along to St Nicholas between 11am and 2pm for craft, games, story and some lunch.

On September 6th within our family worship (Ash) we will have our 'Bless the backpack' service. Anyone of any age (including teachers and educators) is invited to come along with their families to celebrate the start of the new academic year at school, homeschool, college, university, adult education, etc. Bring in your backpacks or briefcases and Revd. Anne will bless them in a special section of the service.

I will be on retreat the week of 16th August and will also be taking some odd days off in lieu. If you need support during those times, please reach out to your church warden or Beth, Administrator thecanonrybenefice@gmail.com

Every blessing for a wonderful summer. Caroline

Deanery Synod meeting 22nd July, 7.30pm St Nicholas Church on Wednesday 22nd July at 7.30pm. This is for our Benefice Deanery members to attend but we would really appreciate any help on the evening with tea and biscuits before the meeting. Let Rev Caroline know.

Talking of Synod.....Stand for Synod

General Synod, the national assembly of the Church of England, shapes and approves laws that affect the whole of the Church of England. Synod is currently meeting for

the last time before new representatives are elected for the next five year period.

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. Find out if you are eligible.

<https://www.canterburydiocese.org/our-life/our-governance/general-synod/>

Community Events:

Chillenden Pet Service: 26th July 3pm

Summer Picnic: 9th August, 1pm, The Vicarage,

Messy Church Playdate: 6th August 11-2pm, for children & their parents/carers. Children must be accompanied.

Activities & refreshments. No need to book. Runs within our usual Welcome Space.

Happy Hours: 6.30pm

1st Friday of the month (Elmstone)

3rd Friday of the month (Nonington)

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

Friday July 17th 7pm: Ringlemere Clarinet Trio Nathan Winters (clarinet), Keren Starer-Shaw (cello) and Helen Crayford (piano). Tickets £12 pp.

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

St Nicholas' Church, Ash

The Book Stall is open in the summer but no more donations please whilst we manage stock and our volunteers take a breather!