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 LGBTQI+ Advisor Fr Denis, email LGBTQI+adviser@diocant.org

Confirmation: 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/

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 1st & 15th December. All welcome. Contact Rev Barbara for information.
Evening Home Group Our Homegroup Autumn Term is at Delphine's. Next is a social evening with meal on Tuesday December 1st. Contact Andrew & Hilary 07510 358709. All welcome.

Our **NEW Family Group! Tots Praise launched on 5th November** and will continue weekly on Thursdays during term time. 10-11am at St Nicholas, Ash. Story, snack, songs and play time. We are so excited to bring this to our church and look forward to meeting lots of families in a relaxed atmosphere. Stay on afterwards for a cup of tea at the Welcome Space Café which starts immediately afterwards.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Churches within the Canonry Benefice

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

Sunday 22nd November
Sunday next before Advent
Welcome to Stir up Sunday

Readings

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

Prayer

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. Amen

THIS SUNDAY 22nd November
Stir Up Sunday! Get stirring pudding mix whilst welcoming Advent. Then eat the cake on Christmas day with a shot of something festive!
9am, All Saints, Chillenden
10.30am, St Nicholas, Ash

SUNDAY 29th November
10.30am, Benefice Service, St Mildred's, Preston
6.30pm, Advent Carol Service, Holy Cross, G'dnestone

Hand crafted Christmas cards by Isabel Royston will be on sale at Ash on 22nd and Preston on 29th.

Afternoon Tea: Barbara, Helen and Stephen Way invite you to come to 17 Chequer Lane on Friday afternoon 27th November between 2 pm & 4.30pm in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association**.**
Drop in or stay for a while and enjoy a cuppa and a slice of cake, a savoury quiche or a scone and please leave a donation in aid of MNDA, in aid of all the wonderful help they offer to people and to aid the ongoing research in the hope of a possible cure and meanwhile ways to enhance life for those suffering from MND. You will be very welcome. Thank you.

Community Christmas Meal St Nicholas, Ash Saturday 12th December 6.30pm. A free event open to all – food, raffle and community spirit! Donations welcome on the day. Sign up sheet in church or go tohttps://thecanonrybenefice.churchsuite.com/events/j303iggy

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 Nov then 19th Dec.
Bacon Buddies: Men's group last Saturday of the month 9am, Staple. Dan 07753743020. Next 28th November.

Can you help? To mark St Nicholas' Day, Ash church is supporting Liberty House in Canterbury which provides accommodation for homeless young women who've experienced domestic abuse and who are pregnant or have a young baby. **We've been asked to collect baby items and some things for the mothers too. See lists in church for more details** often the only present they'll receive) If you would like to contribute, please leave donations in the collecting boxes in church from Mon 30th Nov to Sun 6th Dec.

Reverend Caroline writes: I've been reminded this week just how important our relationship with our Church Schools are. We are privileged to be part of the life and breath of the children and staffs' lives in such a pastoral and spiritual way which allows God to breathe Her Spirit into the most difficult of situations.
Nonington and Goodnestone schools have been paramount in our thoughts and prayers this week after they heard the news that Kent County Council are considering closing both schools at the end of the academic year. The pupil numbers are low, and running both isn't sustainable into the future.
The Diocese, parents, staff, villages and those who know and love the school - the parents who chose to send their children here for the love and nurture their children receive - are not in the same mind. We believe that the two schools should amalgamate. This is the second option being proposed by the Diocese.
The knock-on effect, if both schools close, is palpable. It will impact on the whole school community locally.
Anne and I are working closely with the staff and parents to give them the care and spiritual support they need during this time. But I would ask that you might also join in doing three things:

- **Pray daily** for these small school communities
- Consider supporting the second option of amalgamation in the consultation by completing an online response form, or sending a copy of the response form to: David Adams, Interim Deputy Director: Effectiveness, Sufficiency and Skills, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford TN24 8XU. **Responses must be received by midday, Monday 14th December.**
- Attend a public meeting at Aylesham Primary School at **7.00pm Monday 23rd November** to hear how this affects all of us, not only those in Nonington or Goodnestone.

Once a school is shut, it will not reopen. We need our village schools to remain part of the community and the knock-on effect on our villages is that they lose another part of their soul. Children should be at the heart of our mission so please do talk to me, Anne or to Quentin Roper, **groper@diocant.org** our Diocesan School's lead about this, and let's support our Benefice Church Schools together.
With prayers & blessings to our children, families and staff.

Elmstone Church, St Mildred's Preston & All Saints, Stourmouth
Advance notice: The service on 6th December will start at 11am (rather than the usual 10.30am).
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
CANCELLED Evensong led by East Kent Evensong at Chillenden on 22nd Nov. Apologies for any inconvenience and look out for a revised date.

St Mary's Nonington
Art Show: Thank you to those who supported this. Funds raised go to the Friends of Nonington Church.
Coffeestop: Baptist Chapel Thursdays 10-12
Happy Hour: Monthly (3rd Fri) 6.30pm
Compline: Monthly Zoom, contact churchwarden
Seekers: Please check with churchwarden
13th December Candlelit Carols in Mary's at 6pm
18th December Happy Hour 6.30pm
19th December Crib Service in St Marys at 3pm
20th December Carols at the Baptist Chapel 10.30am
24th December Holy Communion in St Mary's at 11.30pm - "Midnight Mass"
Date for the diary! 17th January 2027 Plough Sunday. Choral Evensong in St Mary's with Goodnestone choir

Holy Cross, Goodnestone
News! 40 years now have a wonderful window in the tower with a fantastic view. We are hoping to do tower tours in the new year.
Hythe U3A Swing Band: Saturday 21st November 6.30pm. Live music, dancing in the aisles allowed! Details from Sue Baker. Pay on door card or cash.
Advent Carol Service: Sunday 29th November 6.30pm
Choir rehearsal Tuesday eves 7-8pm. For info: denyer@doctors.org.uk.
Post Office: in church Mondays 9-11am

St Nicholas' Church, Ash
Meal Train: We are supporting a local family, if you can help please contact Sarah Piggot or sign up https://mealtrain.com/9d693v
Warm Welcome Space Every Thursday 11-2 at Ash church. A FREE space to chat and meet others or spend time in church for a pause. 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*
Warm Welcome Space 1st Birthday celebration! on Thursday 3rd December 11-2pm
Village Hall Coffee Morning hosted by the Friends Sat 5th Dec 10-12. Cake donations welcome!
Wreath Tabletop Sale: Saturday 12th December in church 2-4pm. Made by our flower arrangers.