

## **IMPORTANT - Remaining APCMS**

**Chillenden APCM** Friday 29th May, Village Hall 4pm

**Goodnestone APCM** Friday 29th May in church 10.30am

### **See our leaflet about volunteering with us!**

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

### **For Canonry Benefice giving visit:**

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

### **Safeguarding and Lone Working:**

<https://thecanorrbenefice.org.uk/about-the-canonry-benefice/safeguarding-statement/>

### **Parish Support Conference 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026**

Come along and learn more about how churches in the Diocese can run more smoothly. From welcome to buildings to finance. hosted by the Generous Giving team and sponsored by Ecclesiastical.

#### **9:45am-3:30pm Lenham Community Hall**

<https://www.canterburydiocese.org/parishsupport/generosity-giving/upcoming-events.php>

### **DON'T MISS! Canterbury Diocesan Conference -**

**Leading your Church into Growth** 15 & 16<sup>th</sup> June 2026, Seasalter Christian Centre. Zoom Follow-Ups - 21 September 2026, 11 January 2027, 12 April 2027, all 2pm-4pm. LyCiG's focus is numerical & spiritual growth which aligns with our three bold outcomes for 2030: Double the number of children and young disciples, 200 new Christian communities, Every parish, benefice and deanery showing signs of revitalisation. Anyone in the church who wants to get involved and enable growth **please let Caroline know asap** so she can block book tickets.

**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](http://www.together.org.uk)

**Contemporary Theology Group** Weds 20<sup>th</sup> May, 5pm, St Peter's Methodist Church, Canterbury.

A talk by George Conyne titled 'The Trump Political Earthquake and American Faith Communities'. George, who is American, taught History and American Studies at the University of Kent & also served as Quaker chaplain. There is an entrance fee of £5 to cover costs; free if in full-time education.

### **Pilgrim Places, Holy Lives: The Church of England's 2026 Summer Campaign**

This summer, the Church of England offers a new reflection campaign centred around pilgrimage. The reflections are available to pre-order as a booklet from Church House Publishing and the Everyday Faith app will feature them between 25 May and 20 June. If anyone wants to buy the booklet of daily readings - £3.50 per book - let Rev Caroline know.

### **Confirmation**

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

If you would like to know more about getting confirmed please contact Rev Caroline [canorrvicar@gmail.com](mailto:canorrvicar@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/>

**Ash with Westmarsh Parish Mag.** Available from Cop 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](mailto:rebeccasmith.ash@gmail.com)



## **The Churches within the Canonry Benefice**

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

### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May Pentecost**

#### **Readings**

Acts 2:1-21  
John 20:19-23

#### **Prayer**

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**THIS SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY****CELEBRATING PENTECOST – WEAR RED!**

Holy Communion, 9am, All Saints, Chillenden  
 Holy Communion, 10.30am, St Nicholas, Ash (no Sparks)  
 Evensong, 6.30pm, All Saints, Stourmouth with  
 Cheerful Voice Choir.

**NEXT SUNDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY**

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday WHOLE BENEFICE SERVICE  
 10.30am, St Mary's, Nonington

**Remaining APCM dates:**

**Chillenden** Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May at the Village Hall 4pm  
**Goodnestone** Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May in church, 10.30am

**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.

**Ash Village Warm Space:** A Warm FREE space to all in our community each **Thursday 11am- 2pm**. There will be a friendly welcome, free tea/coffee and a mug of hot homemade soup & a roll.

**Home Groups**

**The evening Home Group** continues 19th May, 2nd June, 16th June, 7th July with a break in August and restarting early September. Contact Andrew & Hilary 07510 358709. **The morning Home Group** will restart for four sessions during May and June. They are on Tuesdays from 9.30 am until 11 am on 12th May, 2nd June, 16th June and 30th June.

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

**Bacon Buddies:** Men's group last Saturday in the month 9am, Staple. Dan 07753743020 **NEXT 30<sup>th</sup> May.**

**Women's Breakfast** 3rd Sat of each month 9-10am at The Vicarage in Ash. **NEXT 20<sup>th</sup> June**

**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.

**Reverend Caroline writes:** Between Ascension and Pentecost, the Church is given time to reflect on what it means to be the Church. As Christ returned to the Father, he also opened the way for the Kingdom of Heaven to be present with us. This season of prayer - the Novena - is not only for us as individuals, but for us together as a community, just like those first disciples. Archbishop Sarah Mullally writes: "Prayer shapes the pray-er. God reshapes us, as the potter reshapes the clay, moulding us into a truer reflection of his image ... *'Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand'* (Jeremiah 18:6)."

As we approach Pentecost, celebrating the Holy Spirit empowering the early Church, it is worth asking: how is our prayer life? Are we expecting to be transformed into a truer reflection of God's image? Are we praying expectantly for our churches - for growth, for strength in challenging times, and for God to answer the needs of our communities?

Prayer is transformational. The Spirit's power is transformational. May we pray that, like at the first Pentecost, we too may be filled and transformed by the Holy Spirit, becoming ambassadors for Christ and sharing God's love in our villages, communities, and with one another. As we pray together, let us remember that we are part of a team, and that God sends us out with the strength we have and the call to do what we can. My prayer for our Benefice is that we may be courageous enough to ask the Holy Spirit to empower us in new and exciting ways in the months ahead.

Please do share your stories of answered prayer and the good news of where you have seen God at work.

**Today is our first Evensong of the Stourmouth**

season and we are delighted to welcome "With Cheerful Voice" for a Come & Sing Choral Evensong. Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May, All Saints, Stourmouth at 6.30pm (or come along at 4.30 pm for a rehearsal if you would like to join in with the singing). See posters in church.

**Prayer Festival 30<sup>th</sup> May, West Malling: Led by** Susanne Carlsson, who heads up prayer in the Rochester Diocese. We cannot recommend Susanne highly enough, and Neville is preaching - many of you will have heard Neville preach across the Benefice before. Rev Caroline will be there Please book yourself on using the link <https://tickets.myknowchurch.co.uk/gb/MzAxLTkwNA/t>,

**All Saints, Chillenden**

[www.chillenden.org.uk](http://www.chillenden.org.uk)

**APCM:** Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May, Village Hall, 4pm

**Fundraiser:** "100 club" lottery scheme. Monthly draw. email [100club@chillenden.org.uk](mailto:100club@chillenden.org.uk)

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

**Stourmouth evensong:** 6.30pm with Cheerful Voice.

**Happy Hour Elmstone:** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of month 6.30pm

**Elmstone Village Fete & Open Church:** Thank you to all who helped and attended.

**Friends' event: St Mildred's** 14<sup>th</sup> June 2.30-4.30pm.

Teas, cakes and stalls. If you are able to help please let us know - cake donations welcome also!

**Holy Cross, Goodnestone**

**Requiem Concert Goodnestone Choir:** Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm. In honour of all UK and Belgian casualties in both world wars and from 1945 – 2026. Retiring collection in aid of Goodnestone Music.

**APCM:** Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30am, in church

**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

**St Nicholas' Church, Ash**

Please come and collect your **empty cake containers** from recent cake donations - they are on the table by the kitchen.

**Open Day for the King's Birthday:** Sat 20<sup>th</sup> June. Tea, Towers, Tours and Tithe Map of Ash! Hopefully stalls selling plants and home-made preserves also. If you can donate any plants or jams (or have a stall you would like to run yourself) please let us know!

**Pet Service:** Sunday 21st June, 10.30am. All animals and their owners are very welcome. Refreshments afterwards.

St Nicholas Church, Ash

**Recycling fundraisers for C&K primary school.**

Collection box Ash church porch for Bread bags. **YES**

**please:** Any brand of bakery plastic packaging & bread bags/closures **NO thank you:** Paper bags, wax packets, or combined paper-&-film window bag.