

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

Disability Inclusion Conference: Sat 3rd October 10-4pm, St Mary Bredin Church, Canterbury. Many people in congregations may be neurodiverse and/or living with disabilities or health conditions. This conference invites church and worship leaders to explore what welcome and inclusion could look like in their church.

The day will include talks and workshops covering practical, spiritual and theological aspects of disability awareness and inclusion, with opportunities to: Explore accessibility options for buildings and worship, discuss the theology of disability, healing & wholeness, learn some practical tips to support people in your context, have a Q&A with the Disability Advisor to the Bishop of Dover and members of the ENABLE team who have a range of lived and professional experiences. There is no fee to attend, but a donation to support the work of the ENABLE Team would be much appreciated.

The Living Well:

A floral harvest, Saturday 3rd October, 10-4pm

A day of creativity for Harvest. The day will include worship, quiet reflective time and making an autumn display of flowers and seasonal foliage to take home. A donation of £40 is suggested to cover all materials, lunch and refreshments. Book via contact@the-living-well.org.uk

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>

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/>



The Churches within the Canonry Benefice

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

Sunday 27th September
17th Sunday after Trinity
Harvest (Chillenden)

Readings

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

Prayer

Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life: deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THIS SUNDAY 27th September

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

NEXT SUNDAY 4th October

Holy Communion, 9am, Holy Cross, Goodnestone
 Holy Communion, 10.30am, Elmstone Church
 Holy Communion, 10.30am, St Mary's, Nonington
(Harvest)

Family Worship, 10.30am, St Nicholas, Ash
(with guest speaker from Porchlight)

4th October is Homelessness Sunday.

This annual event is held to raise awareness of the issues around homelessness. The 2026 theme is 'Community Cohesion'

(join the weekly Benefice Briefing email list via our website or email thecanonybenefice@gmail.com)

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

Women's Breakfast 3rd Sat monthly 9-10am, The Vicarage. The October venue will be confirmed.

Bacon Buddies: Men's group last Saturday of the month 9am, Staple. Dan 07753743020. Next is 26th September, then 31st October

Evening Home Group Our Homegroup Autumn Term is at Delphine's. The dates are: Next dates are October 6th and 20th, November 3rd and 17th. Social evening with meal on Tuesday December 1st. Contact Andrew & Hilary 07510 358709. All welcome.

Morning Home Group Six dates in the lead up to Christmas. Fortnightly Tuesdays 9.30 - 11 am: 6th & 20th October, 3rd & 17th November, 1st & 15th December. Venues to be announced. All welcome. Contact Rev Barbara.

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

Rev Caroline writes: Children should be at the heart of our thinking when we hear the word 'Church'. Church is God's family. And if children aren't in our church, then we should be asking ourselves Why?

Are we being invitational?

Are we welcoming?

How do we respond when children make noise, or run around during a service?

Do we follow up on those families who have come for baptism?

Are we sharing the good news of our faith with our local parent toddler groups?

There are several initiatives in the Canonry Benefice which are happening this term so please share these with EVERY village, so your families know we want to be there as their Church family to support them in their lives.

Ministry is powerful when it is shared. We don't do ministry as individuals, we do it as a church, the body of Christ.

If you are able to help us with any of these groups, we need you. If you feel inspired by what is going on, then email Beth or myself to offer support and time.

NEW! 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. Stay on for a cup of tea at the Welcome Space.

For older children we are starting our Pizza and Chat evenings for Year 7 upwards. 11th October, 15th November, 20th December and 17th January. Contact Rev Caroline for more information.

Saturday 21st Nov: The Benefice Big Breakfast Vision morning! 9am-1pm to share breakfast together and then chat together about our vision, direction and priorities for our churches and the Benefice as a whole. Our previous away day was amazing and fun, all welcome! More details to follow.

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

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

Happy Hour Elmstone: 1st Friday of month 6.30pm

Holy Cross, Goodnestone

Post Office: in church Mondays 9-11am

Choir rehearsal Tuesday eves 7-8pm. For info: denyer@doctors.org.uk.

St Nicholas' Church, Ash

Many thanks for your most generous donations which were delivered to the Salvation Army in Margate. Each year the church marks the season of Harvest this way and the volunteers at the Salvation Army are most grateful to receive your gifts. We would like to extend special thanks to the Ash Guides and Rangers who donated so generously. Your kindness and care mean so much.

October 1st: Fundraiser for MacMillan Cancer as part of Warm Welcome Space. Head along for cakes for sale and a raffle from 11.00am - 2.00pm.

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>