

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.

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: 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 LGBTQI+ 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 information can be found here

<https://www.canterburydiocese.org/ministry/recognising-lay-ministry/worship/>

Deepening Discipleship

Explore your journey of discipleship and unique calling and gifts, identify key gospel discipleship practices as a basis of service and reflect on the growth and development of Christian communities. Oct to Dec cohort – deadline 17th Sept. Speak to Rev Caroline if interested.

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/>

LAST CHANCE! 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 use the QR code below or visit:
<https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/canterbury/>

**The Churches within the Canonry Benefice**

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

Sunday 30th August
13th Sunday after Trinity

Readings

Romans 12.9-21

Matthew 16.21-28

Prayer

Almighty God, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

THIS SUNDAY 30th August
WHOLE BENEFICE SERVICE – all welcome
10.30am, Holy Cross, Goodnestone

NEXT SUNDAY 6th September
Holy Communion, 9am, Holy Cross, Goodnestone
Holy Communion, 10.30am, Elmstone Church
Family Worship, 10.30am, St Nicholas, Ash
(Bless the Backpack Service, see info in Ash section)
Holy Communion, St Mary's, Nonington

Warm Welcome Space Thursdays 11-2. 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>

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

Women's Breakfast 3rd Sat monthly 9-10am, The Vicarage. **NEXT 19th Sept**

Bacon Buddies: Men's group last Saturday of the month 9am, Staple. Dan 07753743020 **NEXT 26th September.**

Evening Home Group Contact Andrew & Hilary 07510 358709. It will restart in September.

Morning Home Group Next meeting is Tuesday 15th September 2026 at 9.30 am until 11 am to discuss topics for the Autumn and to talk about prayer in our lives and what helps us to pray. Six dates to follow - fortnightly Tuesdays 9.30 - 11 am: 6th & 20th October, 3rd & 17th November, 1st & 15th December. Topics will be decided by the group at the September meeting. Venues to be announced. All welcome.

Stand for Synod 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. Info here: <https://www.canterburydiocese.org/our-life/our-governance/general-synod/> Nominations open on Friday 14 August and close on Monday 7 September.

Rev Caroline writes: Every time we have a fifth Sunday in the month, we get to celebrate and worship together. This time we're in Goodnestone. And we hope that as many of you as possible are able to join us.

The good news is, we don't have to wait for a 5th Sunday to be together again. We have a few events to earmark in your diaries now:

Benefice Praise evening Sun 20th Sept 5pm, Ash led by Pete. Those who were at the prayer day at the Living Well will have met Pete, who led our worship beautifully. We are so pleased he's coming to lead again as we sing, pray and then have a bring and share supper together as a Benefice after. Worship is a powerful way to give thanks to God and enjoy a good Sing! Sign up here <https://thecanonrybenefice.org.uk/whats-on/>

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.

Evensong led by With Cheerful Voice at Chillenden on 22nd Nov. We have had such lovely feedback from previous events and look forward to another great evening of singing.

Plus the annual **Goodnestone Music Festival** this weekend is not to be missed! All concerts start at 7pm.

Don't forget that all of this and more can be found on our website and you can have access to this by using your own 'My Church Suite' app on your phones to keep you up to date. We are rolling this out in every Parish in the Benefice so please sign up when you are invited to do so.

"Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation." Psalm 95:1

We are big supporters of Ride and Stride! We look forward to welcoming Ride & Striders on Saturday 12th September. Drop in to our churches to register and rest/hydrate, our friendly welcomers will be there to cheer you on! <https://www.kentrideandstride.co.uk/>

All Saints, Chillenden
www.chillenden.org.uk
Fundraiser: "100 club" lottery scheme. Monthly draw. email 100club@chillenden.org.uk

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
Goodnestone Festival: Thursday 27th to Sunday 30th August. See www.goodnestonemusic.com for details
Rochester Cathedral Evensong: 19th September. The Choir will be singing, please come along & support them.

St Nicholas' Church, Ash
Bless the Backpack: 10.30am, 6th September: Anyone of any age starting a new educational chapter is invited to come along with their families to celebrate the start of school, homeschool, college, university, adult education etc. Bring in your backpacks and the vicar will bless them during the Family Worship service.
The Book Stall is open this summer but no more donations please whilst we manage stock & volunteers take a breather!
Sparks Sunday School back in September!

Harvest Festival: As is our custom, we will be supporting the Salvation Army in Margate. We would really appreciate your help and support once again! Suggested donations of:
Non-perishable foods (Please ensure tinned products have ring pulls). Tinned tuna, tinned fruit, cuppa soups, pot noodles, instant coffee sachets, squash.
Long-dated perishable Foods Individual portions/variety pack of cereals. Individual 15g portions of spreads such as jam, marmalade, honey & Nutella. Crackers. Cheese sticks/bread sticks. Crisps. Cereal Bars. Paste (meat/fish)
Suggested Hygiene Products Hairbrushes/Combs. Toothbrushes / Toothpaste (travel size). Sanitary products. Travel Shampoo/Conditioner/Shower gel (Travel Size). Deodorant. Wet Wipes. Hats/gloves.
There will be collection boxes in the church porch from Saturday 12th September until Sunday 20th September.
Thank you