

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 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

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.

See our leaflet about volunteering with us! There are so many ways to get involved. Also share your ideas <https://thecanorybenefice.org.uk/get-involved/join-a-team/>

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

Safeguarding and Lone Working: <https://thecanorybenefice.org.uk/about-the-canonry-benefice/safeguarding-statement/>

DON'T MISS! Canterbury Diocesan Conference - Leading your Church into Growth 15 & 16th 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

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.

Parish Support Conference 21st 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>

Confirmation

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/confirmations/confirmation-faqs> If you would like to know more about getting confirmed please contact Reverend Carolinecanoryvicar@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/>

Benefice Bibles: we have raised enough money to ensure there are several bibles in our pews and for children as well. How wonderful! If you would like a personal thank you please indicate to our treasurer Andrew Collings.



The Churches within the Canonry Benefice

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

Sunday 3rd May
5th Sunday of Easter

Readings

Acts 7.55-60
John 14:1-14

Prayer

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.
Amen

THIS SUNDAY 3RD MAY

Holy Communion, 9am, Holy Cross, Goodnestone
 Morning Prayer, 9am, St Nicholas, Ash (no 10.30 today)
 Holy Communion, 10.30am, Elmstone
 Holy Communion, 10.30am, St Mary's, Nonington
 followed by APCM

NETX SUNDAY 10TH MAY

Holy Communion, 9am, All Saints, Chillenden
 Breakfast Church, 9.30am, St Mary's, Nonington
 Holy Communion, 10.30am, St Nicholas, Ash (Sparks)
 Family Service, 10.30am, St Mildred's, Preston

IMPORTANT Electoral Roll in 2026

Sign up! Anyone who wants a vote in church matters.
 Forms in church If you did it last year no need to re-do.

Nonington APCM 3rd May after church

Ash APCM 10th May after church

EP&S APCM 17th May at Elmstone Church after church

Chillenden APCM Friday 29th May, Village Hall 4pm

Goodnestone APCM Friday 29th May in church 10.30am

Home Groups

The evening Home Group continues 5th May, 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.

Following on from our Start Course we will be launching a **Moving On Course**, looking at discipleship. For info contact Rev Caroline canonryvicar@gmail.com

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

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.

Women's Breakfast 3rd Sat of each month 9-10am at The Vicarage in Ash. **NEXT 16th May**

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

Rev Caroline writes: People often say that a vicar's life quietens down after Easter, yet I am finding quite the opposite. My diary is full: meeting new people across our villages, leading baptisms, weddings and funerals, visiting our five schools, keeping communication flowing across the Benefice, updating our website, and responding to the many daily needs that arise. This is increasingly the reality of priestly ministry within a large multi-parish benefice - very different from an earlier age when one priest might have served a single parish in a quieter community.

As we continue through the Easter season, perhaps we might pause to ask how we recognise the living Christ in all that we do together as a Benefice. Are we keeping worship at the centre of our common life, ensuring that the activity surrounding church life flows from, rather than distracts from, our shared devotion to Him?

The hope of the empty tomb still has the power to renew and inspire us, even two thousand years later. Easter reminds us that the Gospel entrusted to us is one of goodness, love and transformation - a message not simply to preserve, but to live out in our communities.

Following Vocations Sunday, it feels especially timely to reflect on where God may be calling each of us to serve. The Church is the Body of Christ, and for a body to flourish, every part has a role to play. Ministry is not the work of one person alone, but a shared calling in which each gift, however visible or unseen, contributes to the life and witness of the whole. Together, as people of faith, we are called to support one another, serve generously, and keep our eyes fixed on Christ, who is the head of the Body and the source of its life.

Prayer Festival 30th May, West Malling: Susanne Carlsson, who heads up prayer in the Rochester Diocese, is leading this prayer festival which will be a treat for those who attend. We cannot recommend Susanne highly enough, and Neville is preaching - many of you will have heard Neville preach across the Benefice before. This looks like a super day. Rev Caroline will be there Please book yourself on using the link <https://tickets.myiknowchurch.co.uk/gb/MzAxLTkwNA/t>,

Rogation Sunday 10th May: We will run a **special walk at 2pm**. On this day churches across the land will be praying for God's blessings on their communities, especially for farmers and for good crops this year. A tradition was to 'walk the bounds' of the Parish on the day, but as we have so many parishes in the Canonry Benefice, we're just doing a little. We'll start at

Goodnestone and end at Nonington, stopping at Chillenden along the way to pray. It would be amazing to have people from each Parish represented so that we can pray for each other. All are welcome, especially children, and dogs. The walk time is 1hr 35mins with a more direct shorter route back. If you need to, please just walk shorter parts with us, and/or share lifts - park a car at Nonington so that you don't have to walk back to Goodnestone.

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 or come along to the walk on 10th May and have a chat!

Thursday 14th May is the feast of the **Ascension**, the 40th day after Easter, celebrating the day Jesus ascended to heaven. **There will be a service from the top of Ash church tower at 8am!** Followed by croissants & coffee. The view is beautiful!

Pentecost 24th May: Celebrated on the Sunday 50 days after Easter, the name comes from Greek pentekoste, "fiftieth". Join at Chillenden, Ash, Stourmouth (evensong). Tradition is to wear Red & to celebrate that we are not left alone, the Holy Spirit lives in us.

All Saints, Chillenden
www.chillenden.org.uk

Fundraiser: "100 club" lottery scheme. Monthly draw. email 100club@chillenden.org.uk

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

Happy Hour Elmstone: 1st Friday of month 6.30pm

Friends' event: St Mildred's 14th June 2.30-4.30pm

Holy Cross, Goodnestone

Friday 15th May 7.30pm: Zvarder Trio, violin, piano, cell. Tickets £12

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

The bellringers will give a display of ringing on the Sunday & Monday morning of the bank holiday weekend ahead of a district competition 9th May at Goodnestone.

Sunday 17th May 3pm: Ringlemere Ensemble tickets £15 including refreshments. Students £7.