

For Canonry Benefice giving visit:

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

Join the weekly Benefice Briefing email list via our website or email thecanoribenefice@gmail.com

**The Churches within the Canonry Benefice**

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

Sunday 4th October
18th Sunday after Trinity
Harvest (Nonington)

Readings

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

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 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)

NEXT SUNDAY 27th September

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

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

Women's Breakfast 3rd Sat monthly 9-10am, The Vicarage. Next is 17th October venue TBC.

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

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.

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.

Rev Caroline writes: This Sunday, the community at Nonington will come together to celebrate Harvest, giving thanks for the abundance of God's creation and for his goodness and provision.

But Harvest also reminds us that abundance is not shared equally. Across the world, people are facing war, displacement and poverty, and tonight there will be people who do not know where their next meal will come from, or where they will sleep.

This Sunday is also Homelessness Sunday, and so we are particularly thinking about those without a safe and secure place to call home.

We have invited Mim Oliver from Porchlight to speak to us in Goodnestone and Ash about the realities of homelessness across Canterbury, and about the people and circumstances behind the statistics. Homelessness can happen for many different reasons, and Porchlight works alongside people facing some of the most difficult and challenging circumstances imaginable.

For 50 years, Porchlight has been working to tackle both the causes and consequences of homelessness, offering people safety, stability and respect, and helping them towards a future in which they can live the life they want. It is work that requires dedication, compassion and a determination to understand the deeper causes of poverty and inequality, as well as to find sustainable solutions.

This Sunday gives us an opportunity not simply to give thanks for what we have, but to ask what we can share with others. So please come and hear from Mim, learn more about the realities of homelessness in our own area, and, if you are able, give generously to support Porchlight's vital work. If you can't join us but would still like to make a donation, please contact me and I can let you know how you can give.

Gratitude expressed through generosity - this is the real Harvest of God's Kingdom

NEW Family Groups!

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.

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

Thank you for the support of our Macmillan Coffee Morning, what a great turnout. Thank you for those who donated raffle prizes and cakes.

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>