

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>

Eco Conference 2026 Saturday 19 September 2026 9:30am - 1pm at Rochester Cathedral. Great speakers!

<https://www.canterburydiocese.org/mission/the-environment/events.php>

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/>

Deepening Discipleship

Explore your journey. 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/>

It's not too late to Stand for Synod Did you know: ordinary churchgoers can be part of the Church of England's national assembly, General Synod. If elected, members agree new forms of worship, debate matters of national and international importance, and approve the annual budget for the work of the Church at national level. Nominations close on Monday 7 September. <https://www.canterburydiocese.org/our-life/our-governance/general-synod/>

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: As part of the audit process for Canterbury, INEQE Safeguarding Group are engaging with parishioners and members of the parish community via an online survey which 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 closed on Weds 9th 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 6th September
14th Sunday after Trinity

Readings

Romans 13.-8 to end

Matthew 18.15-20

Prayer

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

THIS 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

NEXT SUNDAY 13th September

Holy Communion, 9am, All Saints, Chillenden
Breakfast Church, 9.30am, St Mary's Nonington
Holy Communion, 10.30am, St Nicholas, Ash
Family Worship, no HC, 10.30am, St Mildred's, Preston

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>
Please note: we will not be open on Thursday 10th September due to essential works in church.

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 Our Homegroup Autumn Term starts this month at Delphine's. The dates are: September 22nd, 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 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. Contact Rev Barbara.

Welcome to September as we think about the change of season and fresh beginnings for learning and growth as many start school, studies or new hobbies & interests.

Reverend Anne writes: This Sunday we will be thinking about Creation (a new initiative from the Church of England) through the person and work of Jesus Christ where the theme is to be 'Living Water.' I will show a video, interactive prayers and there is the Blessing of Backpacks for all who wish to bring them.

John 7: 38, 'Out of a believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.' Our Christian life can help us to flow outwards to care for our environment. We can be a blessing in this respect.

There were representatives from all our churches at the Benefice service last Sunday. It was good to worship as a Benefice family and to catch up with each other afterwards.

More Benefice events to earmark in your diaries:

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.

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.

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

Thank you to all those who supported Goodnestone Festival!

Rochester Cathedral Evensong: 19th Sept 3.15pm.

The Church Choir will be singing, please come along & support them. Canticles Brewer in D, Anthem Blessed City, Heavenly Salem- Baitstow.

St Nicholas' Church, Ash

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

The Book Stall is open this summer but no more donations please whilst we manage stock & volunteers take a breather!