Sparks Sunday School at St Nicholas, Ash
We are back this Sunday 11th January! The Church is a place where ALL are welcome, we love to see children come along and be part of everything we do. Sparks is our children's group which runs in the side chapel of St Nicholas Church in Ash during the service, with fun, chat, craft & basic teaching about Christian values & Bible stories. The children then join the rest of the church family for the end of the service and refreshments. The service is just over an hour starting 10.30 each week during term time. More info canonryvicar@gmail.com

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 local schools.
Collection boxes in the church porches at Ash (bread bags/batteries) and Goodnestone (batteries).

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/

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

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

Confirmation
https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/confirmations/confirmation-faqs
If you would like to know more about getting confirmed please contact Reverend Caroline canonryvicar@gmail.com

Interested in being a lay reader?
https://www.canterburydiocese.org/ministry/reader-ministry/licensed-lay-ministry-reader

Deanery Candlemass Sun 1st Feb 2026
St Mary's Church Wingham. 2pm Scratch Choir – come and learn a new song or two to sing in the service at 4pm. Mulled wine, hot drinks, cake and chat! Bring candles from church or home to be blessed. A beautiful service for all ages to bring our East Bridge parishes together!

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

Benefice Churches open for private prayer
Ash, Goodnestone, Nonington, Stourmouth: daily in daylight hours **Chillenden**: weekends 10am-5pm **Elmstone, Preston:** upon request

Scan for The Canonry Benefice website

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Churches within the Canonry Benefice
(Ash, Goodnestone, Chillenden, Nonington, Elmstone, Preston, and Stourmouth)

Sunday 11th January
Epiphany 1

Readings
Isaiah 42.1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10.34-43
Matthew 3.13-end

Prayer
Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognise him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

THIS SUNDAY 11TH JANUARY 2026
Holy Communion, 9am, All Saints, Chillenden
Breakfast Church, 9.30am, St Mary's, Nonington
Holy Communion, 10.30am, St Nicholas, Ash
Family Worship, 10.30pm, St Mildred's, Preston
Choral Evensong, 5.30pm, St Mary's, Nonington led by Goodnestone Church Choir

NEXT SUNDAY 18TH JANUARY 2026
Holy Communion, 9am, Holy Cross, Goodnestone
Holy Communion (1), 9am, St Nicholas, Ash
Service of the Word, 10.30am, Elmstone Church
Holy Communion (2) 10.30am, St Nicholas, Ash

Tuesday Morning Home Group: 9.30am until 11.00 am (Ash) The Group will continue to meet for three sessions before Lent. **13th January, 27th January, 10th February**
We also hope to run a morning **Lent course** on Tuesdays during Lent - more info and exact dates soon. Contact Revd Barbara on 07703 183980

Benefice Home Group Evening: We meet on every first & third Tuesday at 7.30pm. Next are **20th January & 3rd February**. Contact Andrew & Hilary 07510 358709.
This group will run as a **Lent course** in the lead up to Easter -17/2, 24/2, 3/3, 10/3, 17/3, 24/3. More details to follow.

We'll be launching our 'Start' Course on Jan 13th at the vicarage. Six sessions once a fortnight to explore what Christianity is really all about with the opportunity for some discussion, asking all the tricky questions, and hopefully discovering God's love along the way. Enquiries to canonryvicar@gmail.com

Ash Village Warm Space, St Nicholas, Ash
A Warm, Welcome, FREE space to all in our village community each **Thursday 11am- 2pm**. There will be a friendly welcome, free tea/coffee and a mug of hot homemade soup with a roll.
https://www.warmwelcome.uk/find-a-space#map

Rev Caroline writes: Welcome to 2026 and a Happy New Year to you all. As we step into this new season together, we give thanks to God for His faithfulness throughout the past year and for the hope that lies ahead.
"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19)

A new year brings with it a chance to pause, reflect, and reset. For many of us, this may be a time to focus on healthier rhythms of life - making space for walking, exercise, and well-being, perhaps through the many opportunities offered in our local village halls. Caring for ourselves is one way we honour the life God has given us.

As churches, we also begin this year with renewed purpose. Over the coming months, we will be working towards fulfilling our Three Main Things, agreed in our PCC meetings. These include becoming more hospitable, exploring changes such as the removal of pews, and encouraging fresh expressions of church life - including ideas like Walk Church - so that our churches may be full of life and light for those who might not normally step through our doors.

This week we celebrated Epiphany, remembering how the Kings encountered the Christ-child, bowed before him, and worshipped. Their response invites us to reflect on our own. When we encounter God in our lives, how do we respond? If we sense that our focus has drifted, perhaps 2026 can be a year when we seek God more intentionally, looking more to Christ in all we say and do.

Our Three Main Things remind us of who we are called to be: an inclusive, outward-looking church, eager to share God's love with our communities. Whatever this year holds, may God grant us the grace to recommit ourselves to this calling, confident that in Christ we are empowered to live lives that reflect his glory.
With every blessing for the year ahead. Caroline

Women's Breakfast 3rd Sat of each month 9-10am Next 17th January at The Vicarage. Tea, croissants, fellowship, friendly faces! If you would like to join let Rev Caroline know.
Bacon Buddies: Men's group - breakfast, chat & chillout in the woods. Last Saturday in the month 9am. Piglet Place, Fleming Road, Staple, CT3 1LG. Contact Dan on 07753743020. **Next 31st Jan** (same address but indoors!)

Elmstone Church, St Mildred's Preston & All Saints, Stourmouth
Happy Hour Elmstone: 1st Fri of month 6.30pm
Stourmouth Open Day & Cake sale: Sat 24th Jan 2-4pm. Photos/displays of recent tower restoration.

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

Holy Cross, Goodnestone
Post Office: in church Mondays 9-11am
Choir rehearsal Tuesday eves 7-8pm. For info: denyer@doctors.org.uk.
Organ recital 25th Jan 6pm. Benedict Preece. Retiring collection

St Mary's Nonington
Choral Evensong to celebrate Plough Sunday, a Sunday 11th January 5.30pm, refreshments after. Led by Denyer Kittle & Goodnestone Church Choir.
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
Church cleaning: Can you spare an hour or two once a month? Contact spigott91@gmail.com
Meal train: We are running this for the Warm Space initiative. Can you help and be a soup volunteer and help us provide soup, bread etc for our new Warm Space Initiative? Let Sarah Pigott know.