

**Can you help?** Can you make a chicken casserole or a dessert for our Benefice Wedding Preparation day on 7<sup>th</sup> March. The casseroles need to be one pot meals for 6 to include vegetables. If you can help sign up on the porch sheet or email thecanonrybenefice@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](mailto:rebeccasmith.ash@gmail.com)

#### **Recycling fundraisers for local schools.**

Collection boxes in the church porches at Ash for Bread bags.

**YES please:** Any brand of bakery plastic packaging and bread bags/closures

**NO thank you:** Paper bags, wax packets, or combined paper-and-film window bag

#### **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 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](mailto:canonryvicar@gmail.com)

#### **Interested in being a lay reader?**

<https://www.canterburydiocese.org/ministry/reader-ministry/licensed-lay-ministry-reader>

**Canterbury Diocesan Conference - Leading your Church into Growth** 15 & 16<sup>th</sup> June 2026, Seasalter Christian Centre, CT5 4AX. Zoom Follow-Ups – 21 September 2026, 11 January 2027, 12 April 2027, all 2pm-4pm. LyCiG's focus is numerical and 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- they sell out really fast! It would be good to have representation from all our Benefice Churches.

#### **Parish Support Conference 21<sup>st</sup> 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

If you have anything you would like to pray about, please contact me, or one of our pastoral team at [asnpteam1@gmail.com](mailto:asnpteam1@gmail.com)

#### **Scan for The Canonry Benefice website**



#### **The Churches within the Canonry Benefice**

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

#### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February** **Lent 1**

##### **Readings**

Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

##### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, your son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**THIS SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**

Holy Communion, 9am, All Saints, Chillenden  
 Holy Communion, 10.30am, St Nicholas, Ash\*  
 \*No Sparks 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb (Half Term)

**NEXT SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2026**

Holy Communion, 9am, Holy Cross, Goodnestone  
 Holy Communion, 10.30am, Elmstone Church  
 Family Worship, 10.30am, St Nicholas, Ash  
 Holy Communion, St Mary's Nonington

**Sparks Sunday School at St Nicholas, Ash**

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 join the rest of the church family for the end of the service & refreshments. The service is just over an hour starting 10.30 each week during term time. More info [canonryvicar@gmail.com](mailto:canonryvicar@gmail.com)

**We are relaunching Snics!** an after-school club open to all children of primary-school age. 3.30 to 5pm in St Nicholas Church. We need more volunteers from our church to join the parent volunteers from C&K school to welcome children once a month to our '**Messy Church**' style gathering. We enjoy tea together, have fun with art & crafts play games and take time for quiet reflection. Let Rev Caroline know if you are interested in helping. If your child would like to come, see info from C&K PTFA.

**Women's Breakfast** 3rd Sat of each month 9-10am at The Vicarage in Ash. **Next 21<sup>st</sup> March.** Tea, croissants, fellowship, friendly faces! 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 28th Feb.**

**Mothering Sunday:** Join us for our special services on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March at Goodnestone (9am), Elmstone (10.30am) and Ash (10.30am). Celebrate those who love and care for us. Stay for coffee!

**Reverend Barbara writes:** When I was away visiting my sister a few days ago, we visited an old haunt near where I lived as a child. We went for a walk round a very old garden which still boasted snowdrops, in flower and daffodils on their way and peonies were in bud for later on.

Then we went round a corner and there were the most striking golden crocuses nestling in the grass and close by, and in contrast, were a host of purple ones. I have not seen many of these around this year and these were very special to me. It was beauty not only in number and in surprise, but it was also a lesson in how remarkable contrast and difference can be. This is now the beginning of Lent, a time when Christians can fast, eat less, give more to charity, read a longer passage from the Bible, or perhaps go to a Lent course to share ideas and prayer with others. There is a morning and evening group running in Ash this year and you might like to try coming to one.

Today in our world, life is difficult and change is happening at even greater speed. It is like a new industrial revolution, where even the weather has become more unpredictable and scary. We are having to deal with many different ideas, and maybe need to think about how to find positives among the many negatives that surround us. The contrasting colours in nature can inspire us perhaps to find a new beauty and understanding that will help us to move forward spiritually in our lives.

**Home Groups/Lent courses** "Lent Wise - Spiritual Essentials for Real Life written by Paula Gooder.

**Tuesday Mornings:** 9.30 am until 11 am- **next 24<sup>th</sup> February** 3/3, 10/3, 17/3, 24/3. More info from Revd Barbara via [thecanonrybenefice@gmail.com](mailto:thecanonrybenefice@gmail.com)

**Tuesday Evenings:** 7.30pm **started on 17<sup>th</sup> February** then 24/2, 3/3, 10/3, 17/3, 24/3. Email [bpmoore51@gmail.com](mailto:bpmoore51@gmail.com) for full details.

**Wednesday Morning Prayer Group:** 10am every Wednesday at The Vicarage. All welcome. Enquiries to the vicar, or just turn up!

**Prayer Day, The Living Well, Nonington:** **27<sup>th</sup> Mar** Join us for our Benefice Spiritual Day digging in deeper to prayer, and exploring different ways to pray as we grow in our relationship with God. It will

be a gentle day, with those attending able to use the Living Well's house and gardens, including their prayer huts outside. The whole day will cost £28 to include lunch, starting at 10am. Sign up with Rev Caroline or via our website what's on page.

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

**Happy Hour Elmstone:** 1<sup>st</sup> Fri of month 6.30pm

**All Saints, Chillenden**

[www.chillenden.org.uk](http://www.chillenden.org.uk)

**Fundraiser:** "100 club" lottery scheme. Monthly draw. email [100club@chillenden.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:denyer@doctors.org.uk).

**St Mary's Nonington**

**Charity Race Night:** run by Friends of Nonington Church. Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 7pm, first race 7.30pm. £2 entry. [fonc.racenight@gmail.com](mailto:fonc.racenight@gmail.com) or 01304 840985

**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**

**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 with a roll. Age Concern 26<sup>th</sup> Feb <https://www.warmwelcome.uk/find-a-space#map>

**22<sup>nd</sup> March Visiting Choir:** join in with the Cheerful Voice choir, rehearsal 2pm, Evensong 5pm, Refreshments!

**Christian Aid Coffee Morning:** Ash Village Hall, Saturday 4th April, 10-12. Bacon baps, drinks, cakes, raffle, stalls, Christian Aid info. **Can you help?** Please leave donations for the raffle or bric-a-brac in the church porch (labelled so we know it's for the coffee morning) Cake/savoury donations please take to village hall on 4th April. Helping on the day please text Hilary on 07510 358709.