

IMPORTANT - Remaining APCMS

Chillenden APCM Friday 29th May, Village Hall 4pm

Goodnestone APCM Friday 29th May in church 10.30am

Ash with Westmarsh Parish Mag. Available from Co-op and Poperound 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

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/>

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>

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

Contemporary Theology Group Weds 20th May, 5pm, St Peter's Methodist Church, Canterbury. A talk by George Conyne titled 'The Trump Political Earthquake and American Faith Communities'. George, who is American, taught History and American Studies at the University of Kent & also served as Quaker chaplain. There is an entrance fee of £5 to cover costs; free if in full-time education.

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.

Confirmation

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/confirmations/confirmation-faqs>

If you would like to know more about getting confirmed please contact Rev Caroline canonryvicar@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/>



The Churches within the Canonry Benefice

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

Sunday 31st May Trinity Sunday

Readings

2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

Prayer

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, One God, now and for ever. Amen.

THIS SUNDAY 31ST MAY

5th Sunday WHOLE BENEFICE SERVICE
10.30am, St Mary's, Nonington

NEXT SUNDAY 7TH JUNE

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

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 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.

Home Groups

The evening Home Group continues 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/June. They are on Tuesdays 9.30 am until 11am, remaining dates are 16th & 30th June.

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

Breakfast!

Women's Breakfast 3rd Sat of each month 9-10am at The Vicarage in Ash. **NEXT 20th June**

Bacon Buddies: Men's group last Saturday in the month 9am, Staple. Dan 07753743020 **NEXT 27th June**

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.

Reverend Caroline writes: This week we celebrate Trinity Sunday. The day when, with a certain dry humour, the vicar is traditionally said to disappear on holiday, leaving someone else to explain the mystery of the Trinity! In good form, I've asked Barbara to lead and preach at our Benefice Service in Nonington so please do make sure you come to find out more.

What a mystery the Trinity is. One God, yet Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Three in one, one in three. Instead of seeing it as a puzzle to be solved perhaps look at it as a truth to be wondered at. Christians through the centuries have reached for images to help make sense of it. St Patrick is said to have used a shamrock - three leaves, one plant. Others speak of water, which can be ice, liquid, or steam - different forms, yet the same substance. Some describe the Trinity as a dance or as a relationship of love: the Father loving the Son, the Son loving the Father, and the Holy Spirit as the life & joy shared between them.

None of these explanations is perfect, of course. The Trinity is bigger than any comparison we can make. But perhaps that is the point. God is not something we can fully pin down or master. What we see is that at the heart of God is relationship, love, and community. And wonderfully, we are invited into that life, held within the embrace of the God who creates us, walks beside us, and breathes life into us still.

So rather than trying to "solve" the Trinity, perhaps we can simply be community together for our joint service, reflecting this wonderful mystery and giving thanks that God is always more than we can imagine. Let's celebrate who we are as the Canonry Benefice in worship, relationship and love. And if you have come across any novel ways to explain the Trinity, please do share - all clergy would love to hear!

Prayer Festival 30th May, West Malling: Led by Susanne Carlsson, who heads up prayer in the Rochester Diocese. We cannot recommend Susanne highly enough, Neville is preaching - you may have heard Neville preach across the Benefice before. Rev Caroline will be there. Please book on using the link <https://tickets.myiknowchurch.co.uk/gb/MzAxLTkwNA/t>,

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

Stourmouth evensong: 6.30pm with Cheerful Voice.

Happy Hour Elmstone: 1st Friday of month 6.30pm

Elmstone Village Fete & Open Church: Thank you to all who helped and attended.

Friends' event: St Mildred's 14th June 2.30-4.30pm. Teas, cakes and stalls. If you are able to help please let us know - cake donations welcome also!

Holy Cross, Goodnestone

Next music event: Sunday June 28th 6.00pm

Masterpieces for Trumpet and Organ. Christopher Deacon -Trumpet and Benedict Preece-Organ

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

Please come and collect your **empty cake containers** from recent cake donations - they are on the table by the kitchen.

Open Day for the King's Birthday: Sat 20th June. Tea, Towers, Tours and Tithe Map of Ash! Hopefully stalls selling plants and home-made preserves also. If you can donate any plants or jams (or have a stall you would like to run yourself) please let us know!

Pet Service: Sunday 21st June, 10.30am. All animals and their owners are very welcome. Refreshments afterwards.

St Nicholas Church, Ash

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.