

### **IMPORTANT New Electoral Roll in 2025**

This year has a complete rewrite of the electoral roll. Everyone has to fill in a form to be on the new roll, even if they were on the old roll. Each church is preparing a new roll. Look out for posters and notices about over the coming weeks.

**Bacon Buddies:** Calling all men! Whether you have been before or not, we would love to welcome you for breakfast, a chat and a chillout in the woods. Last Saturday in the month 9am, next is 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb at The Vicarage. Contact Dan on 07753743020.

**Weekly Prayer Group:** 9.30am every Wednesday at the Vicarage. Just come along or email [canonryvicar@gmail.com](mailto:canonryvicar@gmail.com)

**Confirmation:** This year in the Canonry Benefice, we are hoping to have a confirmation service for those people who would like to reaffirm their baptismal promises with Bishop Rose, and to say 'yes' to carrying the light of Christ in our world. If you are interested in being confirmed this year, Reverend Caroline will be holding sessions exploring faith and what it means. If this is something you would like to know more about, please contact Reverend Caroline at [canonryvicar@gmail.com](mailto:canonryvicar@gmail.com)

### **Wedding Preparation Day 1<sup>st</sup> March:**

We are looking for volunteers. Can you slow cook a chicken casserole or offer a vegetarian dish. Perhaps bake bread? Or create heart shaped biscuits for coffee time? If you like to craft, a little keepsake from the day would be lovely. Can you help welcome the couples, wash up, layout chairs, etc. We can arrange collection of food etc if need. We keep numbers to around 10 couples plus our clergy and helpers. The day runs 10am to 3pm. Email Rev Caroline or Beth if you can help. There will also be sign-up sheets in churches.

### **The latest Diocese Calendar of Prayer:**

<https://www.canterburydiocese.org/strategy/prayer/prayer-resources/calendar-of-prayer/>

### **Canterbury Cathedral Lent Reflection morning.**

Wednesday 12 March at 9:30am-1pm (refreshments from 9am) Canterbury Cathedral Crypt  
To book, email [events@canterbury-cathedral.org](mailto:events@canterbury-cathedral.org)

**Growing Greener Newsletter** Environmental news, campaigns & tips. Sign up and also access archive of past editions.

<https://canterburydiocese.org/newsletters.php>

### **Anna Chaplaincy**

#### **Spiritual care for those with dementia**

<https://www.canterburydiocese.org/ministry/recognised-lay-ministry/anna-chaplaincy/>

### **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 in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation & social economic background everyone is entitled to worship or participate in events in a safe environment. Each parish has its own safeguarding officer.

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

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

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025**

## **Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

### **Readings**

Malachi 3.1-5  
Psalm 24 [1.6] 7-end  
Hebrews 2.14-end  
Luke 2.22-40

### **Prayers:**

Lord Jesus Chris, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly father, your God, and our God.  
Amen

### This Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

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

### Next Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February

9.00	Holy Communion, All Saints, Chillenden
9.30	Breakfast Church, St Mary's, Nonington
10.30	Family Service & Communion, St Mildred's, Preston – <b>Church re-opening service!</b>
10.30	Holy Communion, St Nicholas, Ash

**Bill Vennart:** It is with great sadness we write of the death of Bill who was an incredible presence in church and in the community. He will be greatly missed. Our support goes to his family at this difficult time. A Service of Thanksgiving for Bill's Life will be held at St Nicholas Church, Ash on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 12noon. All are welcome.

**Reverend Caroline writes:** This week we celebrate the presentation of Jesus at the Temple, where Simeon and Anna, both elderly, recognise Jesus as the Messiah who will redeem mankind, and our consolation - our comforter or encourager, especially relevant in these dark winter days. The alternative name for this Sunday is 'Candlemas' where traditionally, candles were blessed and handed out to all, reminding us that we are to shine brightly into that darkness.

Perhaps you can think of the people in your lives who need your encouragement. Pray and then do something positive to bring them hope this week.

**Lent is coming around soon:** We are inviting you all, from each Parish, to join a small home group to think a bit more deeply about what Lent might mean to you, how faith impacts your life, and specifically thinking about the mystery of Easter. If you've never been to a home group before, expect to be refreshed, both physically and spiritually. You will be welcomed to someone's home, learn new things about God, the bible and each other, build new friendships and connections across the Benefice and walk away feeling lighter in spirit. What's not to like? Please fill in your details at church or email [canonyvicar@gmail.com](mailto:canonyvicar@gmail.com) We will let you know where the group will meet once you have signed up. Dates: Tuesdays from 4th March to 8th April - 7.30pm

#### Holy Week across the Benefice

#### **Holy Week Evening Reflections**

Monday 14th April 7pm Preston

Tuesday 15th April 7pm Nonington

Wednesday 16th 7pm Chillenden

**Maundy Thursday** 17th Ash 6pm meal, 7pm Service followed by the stripping of the Altars

**Good Friday** 18th April

10am Service, Ash

2pm Service Goodnestone & 6pm Caritas Chamber Choir music and readings

**Easter Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

7pm Ash, Easter Vigil with Lighting of Paschal Candle

**Easter Day 20<sup>th</sup> April**

6.30am Sunrise Service, Chillenden Windmill

9am service with Holy Communion, Goodnestone

10.30am service with Holy Communion, Ash

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

St Mildred's re-opens for the Family Service, with Communion, on **Sunday 9th February 10.30am.**

We have been shut for a while, but we're back worshipping together on the 2nd Sunday of every month. Join us in this celebratory service!

**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)

#### 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 Services 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month. (3rd & 4th Sundays' worship is shared at the Baptist Chapel). Also in Nonington: Canterbury Diocesan Centre for Healing & Wholeness [www.the-living-well.org.uk/](http://www.the-living-well.org.uk/)

#### Holy Cross, Goodnestone

The church is open as a post office Mondays 9-11

**Choir rehearsal** Tuesday eves 7-8pm. For info: [denyer@doctors.org.uk](mailto:denyer@doctors.org.uk).

Goodnestone Choir will be singing at Rochester Cathedral on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February, 3.15pm**

**We had a great quiz 18th January:** with teams from Ash, Staple, Goodnestone and surrounding areas. £850 raised towards the church path renovation. Thanks to all the kind people who helped organise, cook and to the village hall for such a wonderful welcoming space. We hope to raise the final few thousand pounds to get the works done this year. Any donations welcome.

#### St Nicholas' Church, Ash

**Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Feb:** Fun Race Night 7pm, Ash Village Hall, 01304 813138/812049 for tickets.

**Sat 5<sup>th</sup> April:** Christian Aid Coffee Morning, 10am Village Hall. Text Hilary 07510 358709 for ways to help.

**Sat 8<sup>th</sup> March:** Free concert by Kent College 3pm

**Lent Lunch:** Every Thursday 12-1pm in the porch 6<sup>th</sup> Mar - 17<sup>th</sup> April. Join us for soup and a roll. Suggested donation £1-£2

**Friends of St Nicholas Church Art Exhibition:** 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> May, more details to follow. Sun 5<sup>th</sup> will have a service before opening to pray for & support our artists.

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> June:** Church fete

**Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Ringlemere Ensemble 2.30pm £15 (under 16's free)

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Christmas Fayre

**Churchyard maintenance:** Interested in volunteering to help? Contact church warden.

**Bookstall:** 50p per book. Pay by cash or card machine.

**Empty Bread Bag (all brands) and batteries:** porch collection boxes. Fundraisers for local schools.

**We are a Deal Foodbank donation point.**