

Dover Town Team Ministry

Benefice News

March 2026



Our Team Vicar Rev Claire writes...



This month we are fully immersed in Lent. A time when we are encouraged to deepen our faith as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' ultimate love for the world through his death and resurrection.

The Church of England's theme for Lent this year, if we don't know, is *Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent*.

Through our Lent lunch reflections, the resources available for our own personal times with God, and in our homegroups across the Benefice, our hope alongside that of Archbishops Sarah and Stephen is that as we draw near to God and explore ways of doing this, we will encounter God's nearness in new ways.

Whilst many of us might think about giving something up in Lent this may well encourage us to take something up - to explore spiritual disciplines that will enable us to draw near to God.

There is a summary from Common Worship about what it means to live out our lives as Christians that I find helpful:

God calls us to share in **worship**. *Jesus said, where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.*

God calls us to share in **prayer**. *Jesus said, remain in me, and I will remain in you.*

God calls us to share the **Scriptures**. *Jesus met his disciples on the road and opened the Scriptures to them.*

God calls us to share in **communion**. *Jesus said, do this in remembrance of me.*

God calls us to share in **service**. *Jesus said, as you do it for the least of these, you do it for me.*

God calls us to share the **good news**. *Jesus said, go and make disciples of all nations.*

These habits are ones we can develop and grow in and explore even more in this season of Lent, and are truly life giving.

I wonder what God is maybe asking of us individually about how we can go deeper in these life-giving habits and how we might grow in these areas, as we look ahead to the celebration of Jesus' ultimate love for the world.

Through the week across our Churches

LENT LUNCHES: Wednesdays at St Mary's small hall:
11.30am-1pm starting with a Lenten reflection followed by a discussion and a simple soup, bread & cheese lunch.

MONDAYS:

Morning Prayer 9.30am at **St Martin's church** meeting in the vestry.

Home Group 7-8.30pm at **Melissa's Vicarage** (St Andrew's vicarage, 3 Crabble Meadows, Dover CT17 0FL) a discussion group looking at various life and faith topics.

TUESDAYS:

Meditation & Taizé Chanting 9am-10am at **St Andrew's Buckland**

God of life,
As we see the power of your love in creation to reconcile and restore, help us listen to your plans for us and to desire growth in numbers and faithfulness.

By the power of your Holy Spirit remove our apathy and increase our trust in you to build your church.

As a Benefice may we: come together in unity, deepen our faith, and grow in understanding of one another.

As your church may we be emboldened to reach out together, through words and actions. Help us continue to serve those around us, share the joy of knowing you and the hope of eternal life. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen

Benefice Prayer for Growth

Little Adventurers 9am-12noon at **St Martin's Dover** come & go whenever suits with the little ones (term time)

CAMEO 2.30-3.30pm at **St Martin's Dover** Come And Meet Each Other! weekly except the 1st Tues of the month.

WEDNESDAYS:

Holy Communion – 10am at **St Mary's** with chat & refreshments afterwards

Paws for Thought 4-5pm at **St Andrew's Buckland**, church is open for anyone to pop in for a chat or to have a quiet moment to rest and reflect.

THURSDAYS: Said Eucharist – 9.30am at **Charlton** (1st & 3rd Thursday of the month)

FRIDAYS:

Service of the Litany - 9.30am at **Charlton Church**, prayers and discussion on bible passage

Little Lambs – 9.30-11.45am (term time) at **St Mary's**– age range is from birth up to starting primary school age

SATURDAYS: Compline – 9pm on Zoom, a night prayer service (please contact Rev Melissa to get a joining link)

Sunday Services across our Churches

| | St Mary the Virgin, Dover 10.45am | St Peter & St Paul Charlton 8am (HC) & 9.30am | St Martin, Dover 10.30am | St Andrew Buckland-in- Dover 10.30am |
|------------------|---|--|--|--|
| 1 st | Holy Communion (Rev Claire w Rev Trish) | 8am (Rev Claire w Richard Harman preaching) Parish Mass (Rev Richard Woods) | Morning Worship (Local team) 6pm Connect (Local team) | Parish Eucharist (Rev Angie) |
| 8 th | Matins (Ant Shildson w Louis Myers preaching) | 8am & 9.30am Parish Mass (Rev Melissa) | Holy Communion (Rev Claire) 4pm Bubble Church (Benefice Team) | Andy's Invite (Nigel Collins) |
| 15 th | Holy Communion (Rev Richard le Rossignol) | 8am & 9.30am Parish Mass (Rev Claire) | Morning Worship (Local team) | Parish Eucharist (Rev Melissa) |
| 22 nd | Family Communion (Rev Trish w Chris Scoble) 6pm Evensong (Rev Melissa) | 8am & 9.30am (Rev Melissa) 4pm Bubble Church (Rev Melissa & Team) | Holy Communion (Rev Claire) | Morning Prayer (Anne & Nigel Collins) |
| 29 th | Holy Communion (Rev Angie Stuppel) | 8am & 9.30am (Rev Melissa) | Morning Worship (Local team) | Parish Eucharist (Rev Claire) |

Revd Melissa is running the Brighton Marathon on Sunday 12th April, she has set up a Just Giving Fundraising page with a target of raising £1,000 for the benefice. Here is a link to the page if you'd like to support her: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/melissa-carter-3?utm_medium=CF&utm_source=CL

Charlton Church Events open to all: taking place in the church unless stated otherwise – contact 07578 220209 for more details of **8th March** at 12.30pm, **Music & Lunch** (Piano & flute) - **9th March** at 7pm, **Cello storm**. **16th March** at 7pm, **Epic Scores Live** - **21st March** at 7.30pm, **Bingo w raffle** (in the hall) - **22nd March** at 1.30pm, **Film Show** (in the hall) Nuns on the run, then 7pm **Dover Youth Orchestra** concert - **28th March** at 3pm, **Revelation strings** concert - **29th March** at 3pm, **Ickham Ensemble**.

Contacts (Team clergy & parishes) Clergy day off: Friday

Revd Melissa Carter – Team Rector (Buckland & Charlton, Children & Schools) 07825 910116

rev.melissa.carter@gmail.com **Revd Claire Coleman** – Team Vicar (St Martins, Mission) 07530 719517

revclcoleman@gmail.com **Revd Graham Snellin** – Assistant curate

Parish Point of Contact (Communications)

Buckland – Nigel Collins bucklandchurch@gmail.com

Charlton – Camilla Otaki charltonchurchwarden@gmail.com

St Martins – Malcolm Gavin malcolm.gavin@talktalk.net OR Joanne Terry joanneterry@yahoo.co.uk

St Marys – Lindsay Powell-Williams lindsaypowellwilliams@btinternet.com

DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION: SUNDAY 8th MARCH