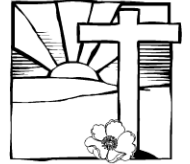


# Dover Town Team Ministry

## Benefice News

### April 2026



#### **What next?** by Revd Melissa

Our Easter celebrations are right at the beginning of this month but what do we do when they are over, what should we do next? On that first Easter the disciples were at a loss, they did not understand what had happened, how it all went wrong. Then hope crept back in and joy soon followed as they all saw their risen Lord. Today we may also look ahead to Christ's ascension and Pentecost but the question I

encourage you to ask yourself is what will you do with this new, Spirit filled life that you have been gifted?

We live not just as people who have been saved and accepted a relationship with God but we live as resurrection people.

Resurrection is not just about restoring us to life because it is also revival, it is restoring us back to what God said was 'very good' a full and complete life in relationship with him. It may help to consider the bible passages where Jesus heals someone, they are not just restored to physical or mental health, they are returned to their community, they are given the opportunity to flourish without the brokenness of the world and relationships weighing them down or casting them out. And what did they do? They went about rejoicing, praising God and telling others about Jesus.

So, let's rejoice and pray:

Lord we ask for your blessing upon our lives, homes and relationships this Easter.  
Help us to leave behind the things that weigh us down,  
and embrace the new life that you offer us through your grace and mercy.  
May we be filled with hope and joy, knowing your love is the foundation of our lives.  
Strengthen us to face the challenges and trust in your unfailing love.  
In Jesus name. Amen.

#### **Celebrating a new team member.**

Myself and Revd Claire are pleased to be making preparations for a new Team Vicar to join us. Revd Sebastian (Seb) Lundberg has been appointed as Team Vicar and he will have pastoral responsibility for St Marys and a benefice wide civic and community role so you will all see him around the town and our churches. I am sure when you see Seb and his family you will join us in welcoming them to the Dover Town Team Benefice.



#### **Holy Week & Easter services**

##### **7pm Reflective Prayer & Praise**

Monday at Charlton

Tuesday at St Martins

Wednesday at St Andrews

##### **7pm, Maundy Thursday**

St Martins Agape meal, or

St Mary's traditional service with foot washing

##### **Good Friday**

Each church will have a 2pm hour at the cross in various styles.

7pm St Marys Tenebrae service

##### **Holy Saturday/Easter Eve**

8pm Charlton Service of First Light

##### **Easter Day**

Usual service times

## 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**

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**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)

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**

**Sunday Services across our Churches**

	<b>St Mary the Virgin, Dover</b> 10.45am	<b>St Peter &amp; St Paul Charlton</b> 8am (HC) & 9.30am	<b>St Martin, Dover</b> 10.30am	<b>St Andrew Buckland-in-Dover</b> 10.30am
5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Easter Day – Christ is Risen Alleluia!</b>			
	Holy Communion (Rev Trish w Chris Scoble preaching)	8am & 9.30am Parish Mass (Rev Melissa & Rev Graham)	Holy Communion (Rev Claire) 6pm Connect (Local team)	Parish Eucharist (Rev Melissa & Rev Graham)
12 <sup>th</sup>	Matins (Ant Shilson)	8am & 9.30am (Rev Claire)	Holy Communion (Rev Claire) 4pm Bubble Church (Benefice Team)	Andy's Invite (Nigel Collins)
19 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion (Rev Richard le Rossignol)	8am & 9.30am Parish Mass (Rev Angie)	Holy Communion (Rev Claire)	Parish Eucharist (Rev Melissa)
26 <sup>th</sup>	Family Communion (Rev Trish w Rev Claire) 6pm Evensong	8am (Rev Melissa w Richard Harman preaching) 9.30am Parish Mass (Rev Claire) 4pm Bubble Church (Rev Melissa & Team)	Morning Worship (Local team)	Morning Prayer (Rev Melissa w Laura)

**Revd Melissa is running the Brighton Marathon on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 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](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/melissa-carter-3?utm_medium=CF&utm_source=CL)

**St Andrews Buckland Easter Family Day Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April, 11am-2pm** Open Church, Easter Egg hunt/churchyard trail, churchyard stations of the cross, tombola, cake stall, refreshments, sausage sizzle – all welcome

**Community Art Exhibition, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> April, 10am-3pm** at Charlton Church.

**Charlton Fine Arts Recital Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 3pm** 'Songs of Consolation' – songs by Schubert and Handel. Bass Alan Ewing, piano Helen Crayford – contact 07578 220209 for more details.

**Benefice Forum, Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 7-9pm** at St Martins (theme: children & young people).

**Charlton Bingo, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm.**

**Dover Choral society concert at Charlton, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April.**

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

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

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

[revclcoleman@gmail.com](mailto:revclcoleman@gmail.com) **Revd Graham Snellin – Assistant curate**

**Parish Point of Contact (Communications)**

**Buckland – Nigel Collins** [bucklandchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bucklandchurch@gmail.com)

**Charlton – Camilla Otaki** [charltonchurchwarden@gmail.com](mailto:charltonchurchwarden@gmail.com)

**St Martins – Malcolm Gavin** [malcolm.gavin@talktalk.net](mailto:malcolm.gavin@talktalk.net) OR **Joeanne Terry** [joanneterry@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:joanneterry@yahoo.co.uk)

**St Marys – Lindsay Powell-Williams** [lindsaypowellwilliams@btinternet.com](mailto:lindsaypowellwilliams@btinternet.com)

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION: SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL**