Dover Town Team Ministry
Town Team News
December 2026





Rev Claire writes…

In last month's newsletter Seb asked us whether we are willing to meet the gaze of Jesus, to listen for his voice, and to allow him to show us what needs rebuilding in our own lives and in the world around us.

I sometimes get impatient that there aren't always immediate solutions to the needs I see around me. I want to see more areas of my life transformed, I want to see more people in our town finding that they belong in the family of God, that they're loved by Jesus and want to be part of our community serving Him. I want to see growth in faith and numbers. And yet growth doesn't happen immediately, growth takes time.

Just as plants take time to grow and break through the soil, that is the same with spiritual growth. It takes time, but the encouraging thing is that as with plants growth is happening even when we don't see it immediately.

As we approach Advent, we are invited once again into a season of waiting, watching and preparing. Advent gives us opportunities to remind us of our calling as the people of God - to be faithful, patient and expectant, trusting in God's timing and his capacity to bring new life.

This season of Advent, as well as reading a chapter of Luke's gospel each day, I'm going to read Walking with Angels, the Archbishop of York's Advent Book for 2026, by Eleanor Sanderson.

Through reflections on the words of angels in Scripture, prayer walking and opportunities for reflection, it invites us to slow down and become more attentive to God's presence as we journey towards Christmas.

Our benefice prayer for growth, and prayer for our interregnum are useful tools in our journey too.

Maybe you want to join me in these practices and we can commit together this Advent, to make space to notice where God might already be at work, to wait with hope rather than impatience, and to trust him with the growth that is yet to come. Amen.

Claire, Team Vicar

Benefice Prayers

Loving God,
we thank you that Jesus Christ is the true Shepherd of our church, faithful in every season. Grant wisdom and strength to our churchwardens, PCCs, ministers and leaders during this interregnum. Keep us united in heart and mind, faithfully shining your light in our community. In your perfect timing, bring us a shepherd after your own heart – to minister alongside us with wisdom and grace. Prepare their heart as you prepare ours for the journey ahead. Amen.

A Prayer for our interregnum

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

Through the week across our Churches

MONDAYS:

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

Celtic Evening Prayer 6-7pm at **St Andrew's Buckland** – journeying through Advent.

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 C**ome **A**nd **M**eet **E**ach **O**ther! 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.

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

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
6th	Holy Communion (Rev Angie)	8am & 9.30am Parish Mass (Rev Claire)	Holy Communion (Wendy & Ben w Rev Claire coming from Charlton) 6pm Connect (Local team)	Parish Eucharist (Rev Seb)
13th	Matins (Chris)	8am & 9.30am Parish Mass (Rev Graham)	Family Crib service (Rev Claire) 4pm Bubble Church (Benefice team)	Christingle (Nigel)
20th	Holy Communion (Rev Angie)	8am & 9.30am Parish Mass (Rev Seb)	*No morning service* 6pm Traditional Carol by Candlelight (Rev Claire)	Parish Eucharist (Rev Claire)
27th	Family Communion (Rev Seb)	8am Parish Mass (Rev Claire) The Journey (Alistair, Chris, & Richard)	Holy Communion (Rev Claire)	Morning Prayer (Anne & Nigel)

SPECIAL SERVICES DURING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS can be found over the page.

REMINDER for parish contacts to send any events for inclusion to nigelcollins60@gmail.com by the 2nd Sunday of the month.

HOPE EXPLORED is a three-session course exploring how Christianity offers real hope, peace and purpose. Sessions are on Tuesday 12th January, 26th January and 9th February, 7.30pm at St Martin's Church, 37 Church Road CT17 9LW – contact Revds Claire or Seb to book a place or for more details.

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

VACANT Team Rector (Buckland & Charlton)
Revd Claire Coleman Team Vicar (St Martins, Mission) 07530 719517 revclcoleman@gmail.com
Revd Seb Lundberg Team Vicar (St Marys, Civic) 07593 327218 fr.seb1230@protonmail.com
Revd Graham Snellin Benefice 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 **Joeanne Terry** joeanneterry@yahoo.co.uk
St Marys – Lindsay Powell-Williams lindsaypowellwilliams@btinternet.com

DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION: SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER

Advent and Christmas around our churches

St Mary the Virgin, Dover

Traditional Carol service, Tuesday 22nd December at 6pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies (Rev Seb)

Christmas Eve

Christingle & Crib service, 4pm (Rev Seb)

Midnight Mass, 11.30pm (Rev Seb)

Christmas Day

10.45am **Christmas Communion** (Rev Seb)



St Martin, Dover

Christmas Window decorating – Saturday 12th December

Family Carols, Sunday 13th December at 10.30am (Rev Claire)

Traditional Carols by Candlelight, Sunday 20th December at 6pm (Rev Claire)

Christmas Eve

Christingle & Crib service, 4pm (Rev Claire)

Christmas Day

10am **All-Age Christmas Communion** (Rev Claire)

St Peter & St Paul Charlton

Family Christmas Show, Monday 21st December at 9.15am

Pet Carol service, Sunday 20th December at 3pm (Rev Seb)

Christmas Eve

Blessing of the Crib service, 4pm (Lay led)

Midnight Mass, 11.30pm (Rev Claire)

Christmas Day

9am **Christmas Communion** (Rev Seb)

St Andrew Buckland-in-Dover

Christingle, Sunday 13th December at 10.30am – bring an orange and we will make the Christingles during the service (Nigel)

Christmas Eve

Carols round the Crib, 6pm (Nigel)

Christmas Day

No service



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Merry Christmas to one and all