

Dover Town Team Ministry

Benefice News

September 2026

We are entering a new season.

As September approaches, for many there's hope of cooler autumnal weather. For all those who have loved this hot Summer there are others who are done with it and are longing for rain.

September also brings the rhythm of a new academic year. Activities across our churches that were on hold across the summer begin again - from Little lambs to CAMEO, Bubble Church to Sunday schools and the school assemblies across the Benefice, naming a few.

We also will be entering another new season of vacancy later in the year.

New seasons in every sense of the word that we're experiencing it, can come with dynamic shifts, changing schedules - the unknown challenges of a new season can often bring a lingering sense of uncertainty.

How do we build, plan, and guide when we cannot predict what lies ahead?

The Bible gives us a steady anchor for this exact moment:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

Recalibrating for a new season isn't about having every detail figured out in our own strength.

"Leaning not on our own understanding" invites us to release the burden of needing total control.

Instead, as we continue in our ministries across the Benefice, opening the doors to toddlers, children, and families, to those seeking support, friendship and belonging and escaping isolation, we simply acknowledge God in each space, interaction, and conversation.

When we place our full confidence in our God, the promise remains sure: He will make our paths straight, clearing a way forward through every twist of the coming year. And so let's continue to trust in him, to gather together in worship, to grow in our relationship with each other and with our awesome God and to continue on the path he has set before us as we serve our community and share God's love.

Claire, Team Vicar

Through the week across our Churches

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.

Benefice Forum

This will be a Joint meeting of PCCs (others welcome too) with Archdeacon Darren to discuss the vacancy

Tuesday 29th September, 7-9pm @ St Andrews Church Refreshments from 7pm

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



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 1st Tues of the month.

Church & Community Open Day
Saturday 19th September, 11am-3pm
@ St Andrews Church & churchyard
 Refreshments – stalls – activities -
 Raffle

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)

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
6 th	Holy Communion (Rev Trish w Chris)	9.30am (Rev Richard Woods)	Morning Worship (Wendy & Ben) 6pm Connect (Local team)	Parish Eucharist (Rev Miriam Visiting Priest)
13 th	Matins (Rev Seb)	8 & 9.30am (Rev Melissa)	Holy Communion (Rev Claire) 4pm Bubble Church (Benefice team)	Andy's Invite (Nigel)
20 th	Holy Communion (Rev Seb)	8am & 9.30am Parish Mass (Rev Claire)	Morning Worship (Ben & Malcolm)	Parish Eucharist (Rev Melissa)
27 th	Family Holy Communion (Rev Seb w Rev Melissa) 6pm Evensong (Rev Seb)	8am (Rev Melissa) 9.30am The Journey (Chris, Richard & Alistair)	Holy Communion (Rev Claire) 4pm Bubble Church (Benefice team)	Morning Prayer (Anne)

AS A BENEFICE WE PRAY for: Chris Scoble as he starts training for ordination this month. Rev Melissa and Ant as they prepare to relocate to Renhold. Our meeting with the Archdeacon on 29th September. Our common life of witness.

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

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 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 Joanne Terry joanneterry@yahoo.co.uk

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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION: SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER