

Dover Town Team Ministry

Benefice News

October 2026

Special places by Rev Melissa

As I am preparing for my move to Renhold I have been reflecting on place and how we encounter God in the places we go and the people we meet. I love being in nature and inspired by my book groups recent read I have looking at some of the saints and I was drawn to St Ninian, whose feast day was September 16th. St Ninian was a missionary in Scotland possibly around the late 4th Century and there is a Cave on the coast where he was said to spend time on retreat, resting in God's presence. It is now, very different to what it would have been in St Ninians time due to costal erosion but nonetheless it is still a place where pilgrims visit. It shows you can find places of peace in all sorts of idyllic or weather worn spots.

I have loved my time in Dover and that is because our churches and the town are not just about place, they are about family and connection, they are about community. This is important when it comes to nurturing faith. To feel like you are 'coming home' when you step through the door of a church makes our worship special and brings us closer to our heavenly Father.

Through our various church buildings and the development and use of the natural spaces around them I have found a new appreciation of just how much our spiritual, sacred spaces allow and enable people to come and encounter God's grace, mercy and forgiveness because there is something about a space where people have come together for centuries to be with God, offer their prayers to him and rest in his presence.

So, I pray that as we continue our journey (it may be in different places but we still journey together in faith) as we open our doors to new people may hearts be opened to God and may we hear and live the beautiful words of the dismissal "Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord". In the name of Christ, Amen.

Melissa, Team Rector

Benefice Service

Sunday 25th October

Melissa's final service in Dover will be a Joint Benefice Eucharist service at Charlton on starting at 10:30am.

The service will be followed by farewell drinks and nibbles.

There will be no other services that morning so as many people as would like to and are able to can come along

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.

Home Group 7-8.30pm at **Melissa's Vicarage** (St Andrew's vicarage, 3 Crabble Meadows, Dover CT17 0FL) a discussion group currently reflecting on Sammy's Meditations (some of which were shared during the Lenten lunches) the last session 19th October.

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.

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.

Pet Service
Sunday 4th October, 3pm
Charlton Church
ALL WELCOME

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
4 th	Holy Communion (Rev Seb)	8am (Rev Melissa) 9.30am (Rev Claire) 3pm Pet Service (Rev Melissa)	Morning Worship (John & Malcolm) 6pm Connect (Local team)	Harvest Eucharist (Rev Melissa w Rev Graham)
11 th	Matins (Ant)	8 & 9.30am Harvest (Rev Melissa)	Holy Communion (Rev Claire) 4pm Bubble Church (Benefice team)	Andy's Invite (Nigel)
18 th	Holy Communion (Rev Claire)	8am & 9.30am Parish Mass (Rev Seb)	Morning Worship (Rev Graham & Malcolm)	Parish Eucharist (Rev Melissa)
25 th	Melissa's final service in Dover will be a joint benefice Eucharist service at Charlton on 25th October starting at 10:30am. The service will be followed by farewell drinks and nibbles. <u>There will be no other services that morning so as many people as would like to and are able to can come along</u>			
		10.30am Benefice Eucharist (All clergy)	4pm Bubble Church (Benefice team)	

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 11th OCTOBER