



# EASTRY AND WOODNESBOROUGH BENEFICE

Notices 12th April 2026

## **FROM THE CLERGY - Rev. A. Brown**

Thomas saw for himself and responded: “My Lord and my God!” John tells us this story was written so that we might come to believe that Jesus is the Son of God. It’s an invitation to each of us who just like Thomas move from doubt to faith and sometimes back and forth on the scale. Thomas is sometimes called “Doubting Thomas,” which I have said many times is a little unfair. His honest struggle with belief is something many of us can relate to. He didn’t simply take someone else’s word for it, he needed to encounter Jesus for himself. And Jesus, far from turning away from him, met him exactly where he was. What greater comfort is there than knowing our God does not expect us to be anything other than we are, and that is exactly when he meets with us, in that honest and open way along our journey of life. Our questions and doubts don’t disqualify us from faith, they can be the very things that lead us deeper into it as has been the case for many Saints of the church. We may not be able to see and physically be with Jesus as Thomas did, but John reminds us that we are not at a disadvantage. Believing without seeing is itself a gift, and throughout this Gospel we are invited to trust in the one who conquered death. Jesus promises that those who believe in him will find life in his name, not just life after death, but a full and meaningful life that begins here and now. That abundant, hope-filled life is at the heart of everything we celebrate together this Eastertide.

## **APCMs**

EASTRY - Thursday 23th April 7pm in the Church hall  
NORTHBOURNE - Sunday 3rd May 11:30am in Church  
STAPLE - Sunday 24th May 11:45am in Church  
WOODNESBOROUGH - Sunday 12th April 12pm in Church

## SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2026

Please find below a schedule of services for April 2026. If you require a gluten-free wafer at communion please let a Churchwarden know when you arrive for a communion service.

Date	Day	Eastry	Northbourne	Staple	Tilmanstone	Woodnesborough
1/04/2026	Wednesday	10am HC				
2/04/2026	Thursday	7pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist and Foot Washing				
3/04/2026	Friday	12pm Veneration of the Cross  2pm The Last Hour				
4/042026	Saturday	Email reflection on the Three faces of Christ  6:30pm Tenebrae Service of Light				
5/04/2026	Sunday	10am HC for Easter Day	10am HC for Easter Day	10am HC for Easter Day	8am BCP HC for Easter	6am Dawn Service  10am HC for Easter Day
8/04/2026	Wednesday	10am HC				
12/04/2026	Sunday	10am HC - Celebration of the service given by Maureen Norman	10am Prayer and Praise  6:30pm Evensong			10am HC
15/04/2026	Wednesday	10am HC				
19/04/2026	Sunday	10am Come and Worship	10am HC	10am HC	10am HC	
22/04/2026	Wednesday	10am HC				
26/04/2026	Sunday	10am HC	10am Informal Worship	10am Family Service Staple		10am HC
29/04/2026	Wednesday	10am HC				

## OTHER BENEFICE EVENTS THIS WEEK

### Tuesday 14th April

10am Coffee Pot in Woodnesborough Church

2pm Tea & Natter - Holiday

### Saturday 18th April

10am Coffee, cake and chat in Woodnesborough Church



## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

### Ill, Housebound & in need of support

Peter Coombe; Revd Andrew Brown and Grace Brown; Penny; Marian McCartney; Fletcher Banner; Stella Armstrong; Grace Wray; Dave and Doris Newman; Melanie and Alan North; Vera Hunt; Vera Mann; Anthony Tilley; Trevor Tilley; Rick Prior; Jo Smith

### Recently Departed

Daphne Betts



Please let the Benefice Office or Churchwardens know if you are aware of any of our congregation who are sick and would welcome a pastoral visit. Please also let the Benefice Office know when names on the sick list should be removed.

## THANET MALE VOICE CHOIR

St Mary the Blessed Virgin Church, Woodnesborough is delighted to host a concert by The Thanet Male Voice Choir on Saturday 6 June 2026 at 7.30 pm in Woodnesborough Church. Tickets - £10 per person from Denise - 01304 619654 or Alison - 07460 839319 Glass of wine, tea & coffee included.

## READINGS 12th APRIL

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 2. 14a - 22 - 32; 1 Peter 1. 3 - 9; John 20. 19 - end



## STAPLE FUNDRAIDING EVENT

BINGO, BANGERS & BEANS!!! Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April, Staple Village Hall, 19:00 for 19:30 start. Adults £7.50, Children £5. Bingo Books £1 each. Caller - Andy Minter. For tickets call Trevor on 07980 300084

### **CONFIRMATIONS AND BAPTISMS 14th May 2026**

We will be running confirmation classes as we journey through Eastertide towards the Feast of Ascension. The classes will be at 1pm in the church hall on the following dates: Saturday 25th April, Saturday 2nd May, Saturday 9th May. If you would like to explore Baptism and Confirmation, please do get in touch and I will add you to the communications list for this class. Email: [rev.andrewewb@gmail.com](mailto:rev.andrewewb@gmail.com)

### **TILMANSTONE 8AM BCP SERVICE**

Please note that the service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026 will not be taking place.

### **QUIZ NIGHT**

We are having a quiz on Friday April 17<sup>th</sup> 7pm in Eastry church hall. Anyone interested in having a table (max 8) should contact Alastair Carnegie on 07802 823801

### **SERVICES AT EASTRY**

Please note that all services to be held at St Mary the Blessed Virgin, Eastry after the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026 will be held in the Church hall until further notice. There will be no disruption to the pattern of services.

### **PRAYER AND REFLECTION**

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### **BENEFICE OFFICE**

If you wish to contact the office please do so on:

[eastry.benefice@gmail.com](mailto:eastry.benefice@gmail.com) or 01304 611323

Office opening hours: Wednesday 9am-12pm and Thursday 9am - 12pm