



EASTRY AND WOODNESBOROUGH BENEFICE

Notices 19th April 2026

FROM THE CLERGY - Rev. H. Baldwin

The Gospel from Luke tells of a walk that comes from grief, trauma; fear, disappointment, all mingled with unbelief, confusion and loss of hope. It begs many questions, “Have we been scammed?” “We believed Jesus to be a great prophet so why did he die like that?” It was as if something in them died as they witnessed the humiliating death of Jesus on the cross and his hasty burial in the cold tomb. As they walked along the Emmaus Road, away from Jerusalem, away from Jesus, the distressed and grieving couple juggled with their thoughts. A stranger caught up with them and joined them in their conversation. The couple were amazed that someone who had been in Jerusalem did not know what had happened there? In their grief, they poured out everything about Jesus; their belief in him as a great prophet, who performed miracles, healed the sick, told wonderful stories and how they had hoped he was going to save Israel ... and now their hope was in tatters. He had been nailed to a cross like a criminal and left to die. There’s no peace in grief; any sense of justice or reason dies in the face of loss of hope. As they walked the stranger recounted the scriptures, beginning with Moses. He joined them at home for a meal. It was as he gave thanks, blessing and breaking the bread, that their hope was restored ... in that action of thanksthey suddenly knew who the stranger was ... they knew the truth and reality of the Risen Lord.... And despite it being late, they hurried back to Jerusalem to tell the others that Jesus was truly alive. Grief was turned to joy as these two defeated grief-stricken people turned back to Jesus, the source of faith and to the practices they had learned to cherish; reading the scriptures and breaking of bread. In those ordinary things their grief was overcome and life renewed. And so for us today, walking with Jesus in our lives and believing in the resurrection of Jesus Christ can hold us through loss and grief and restore hope and energy. It can turn us around to walk with Jesus in the right direction. We too can confidently declare CHRIST IS RISEN - HE IS RISEN INDEED ALLELUJAH!

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 21st April

10am Coffee Pot in Woodnesborough Church

2pm Tea & Natter - Sing - a - long

Saturday 25th 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; 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.

PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Lord Jesus, Walker beside the weary, as You drew near to the disciples on the Emmaus road, draw near to us in our confusion, questions, and half-formed prayers. Open the Scriptures of our lives, that we may recognise Your steady presence burning within us. Slow our hurried steps so that we may notice Your companionship; calm our anxious minds so that Your wisdom may surface gently. In moments of doubt, break the bread of reassurance. In moments of clarity, ignite our courage to follow. Guide our discernment, that our hearts may rise with Yours in renewed purpose and hope. Amen.

STAPLE FUNDRAIDING EVENT

BINGO, BANGERS & BEANS!!! Friday 24th 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

TILMANSTONE 8AM BCP SERVICE

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

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

SERVICES AT EASTRY

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

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 19th APRIL 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2. 14a - 36 - 41; 1 Peter 1. 17 - 23; Luke 24. 13 - 35



BENEFICE OFFICE

If you wish to contact the office please do so on: eastry.benefice@gmail.com or 01304 611323 Office opening hours: Wednesday 9am-12pm and Thursday 9am - 12pm