

Notices

The Parish of All Saints
With St Philip, Maidstone and
St Stephen, Tovil

New Year Message

New Year is a time for new beginnings and fresh starts in all walks of daily life. The expectant turning of a blank page is ready to record the next chapter of our story with time set aside to resolve what that story will be.

The Wise Men travelling from the East were following a star, reminding us that we too are on a journey of adventure called life...And for us the best light of all to follow is Jesus the Light of the World.

January 6th marks the arrival of the wise men bearing their gifts at the time we call Epiphany. They have come across deserts with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh as the prophecies of the Old Testament promised. They have come now as the time is ripe.

These are the days of the carpenter's tools, a trade that prepares for all our future needs. There will be more hidden days and years to come, and His hands will grow to know and to feel as He fashions wood.... He will weigh the impact of the iron nails later on wood but first He must be about His Father's business.

Watch well...and yet like Him how shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? Surely the answer is in waiting, watching, and returning for here like Him we shall find rest and quietness in confidence and strength for the daily task for each of the 365 days of the coming year, 2023.

A Happy Adventure in the Coming Year is my prayer for all with many surprises on the way in the reality of everyday life.

**John Richardson
Vicar of Maidstone**



Sunday 01st January 2023

**10.00am Service of Morning Worship
with a meditation to welcome in the
New Year**

Next Week's Service

**Sunday 08th January
10am Informal Holy Communion at St
Stephens – Archbishop Courtenay
School**

**3.30pm Choral Evensong at All Saints
Church**

Collect

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own
image and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our
humanity, so we may share the life of his
divinity, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Reading

Philippians 2 verses 1-11

If then there is any encouragement in Christ,
any consolation from love, any sharing in the
Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make
my joy complete: be of the same mind,
having the same love, being in full accord and
of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition
or conceit, but in humility regard others as
better than yourselves. Let each of you look
not to your own interests, but to the interests
of others. Let the same mind be in you that
was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in

the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of
death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the
earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Post Communion

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the
life of an earthly home: help your Church to
live as one family, united in love and
obedience, and bring us all at last to our
home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our
Lord.



Special prayers

*Matt 5.3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven'*

Paul Crease, Daphne Holland, Nigel Gunyon,
Mary Wheeler, Jane Sadler, Ray Stephens,
Debbie Proctor, Roger Doe, Sue Marks,
Pamela Hocking, Graham Jarvis, Kelly,
Claire & Family, Allan Seeley, Michael Costen
David Gilles, Laura, Gary Moses,
John Little, Selina, Roger Mowbray and family.

**Vicar: All saints, Maidstone with St.
Philip's, and St. Stephen's Tovil**

The Very Revd. John S. Richardson
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**Please note Revd John will be on Leave
on Wednesdays of each week**

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weekly notices, please contact**

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