

Parish Notices

Piano - One of our congregation would like to know if anyone/organisation would like a Piano. No charge. Please contact mollieneaves@gmail.com who will kindly pass on your contact details Thank you

Thank you- to everybody who has joined Easyfundraising so far and started to raise money for the Parish as they shop! We have also now signed up to Amazon Smile so you can raise money for the Parish each time you shop on the Amazon website. Click the link below and search for 'The Parish of All Saints with St Philip'. Each time you shop on Amazon Smile 0.5% of your purchase will be donated to the Parish without costing you any extra money! Many thanks for your support.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1134146-0>

Below is also the link to register for Easy Fundraising:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/theparishofallsaintswithstphilipmaidstone/?invite=5WJHW0%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm_content=srt

The complete Annual Reports and Accounts 2019 can be viewed on All Saints website by clicking on this link <https://maidstoneallsaints.co.uk/APC/M%20Reports%20and%20Accounts%202019%20A4.pdf>



Live Worship is streamed from Canterbury Cathedral Please click [here](#) to join the service.

Worship Times

Morning Prayer – 10am, Evening Prayer – 5.30pm
Sunday Eucharist – 12noon, Sunday Compline – 8pm

The Parish of All Saints
With St Philip, Maidstone and
St Stephen, Tovil
www.maidstoneallsaints.co.uk

Sunday 1st November 2020
All Saints Day
4th Sunday before Advent

10.00am Joint Eucharist Service
at St Philips



Face coverings will need to be worn

Next Week

Sunday 08th November
Remembrance Sunday
3rd Sunday before Advent

10.00am Service of the Word at St Philips
Doors open from 9.45am

Joint Services will be held at St Philips

No Mid-week service

Collect

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; 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.

Readings

Revelation 7.9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and

before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.' Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'

Post Communion

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things: may we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims here on earth be welcomed with all your saints to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Special prayers for those in need

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

Owen Reeves, Jean Williamson, Paul Crease,
Vera Alflatt, Millie Moss, Audrey Little,
Daphne Holland, Nigel Gunyon, Mary Wheeler,
Jane Sadler, Tricia (Barbara's Sister)

Special Prayers of Hope and Compassion

Clive & Andrea Lever, Rosemary & John Fowler,
Keith Manuell & Family

Departed

Beryl MacCallum
Irene Johnson
Keith Sharp
Trish Weston

Our thoughts are with the families of
Beryl MacCallum, Irene Johnson, Keith Sharp &
Trish Weston

C3678Z & C1367Z

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Our Facebook Page:

[Click Here for our Facebook Page](#)

Church Wardens:

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*If anyone would like to add anything to the
weekly notices please speak to
mollieneaves@gmail.com*

Additional Notice

On Sunday last we conducted our Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting at Archbishop Courtenay School. We were privileged to have the Archdeacon of Maidstone, Ven. Andrew Sewell with us to lead the Eucharist before the meeting and to chair the proceedings.

The minutes of the meeting will be published in due course. The following elections took place:

- Churchwardens - Denise Joy and Robert Philo
- Deputy Churchwarden for All Saints' - Geof Lay
- Deputy Churchwarden for St. Philip's - Janice Underdown and Sally Richards
- Deputy Churchwarden for St. Stephen's - David Freed
- PCC Representative for All Saints' - Jane Stevens and Richard Ratcliffe
- Deanery Synod Representative - Mollie Neaves

We still have some vacancies to fill:

- Deputy Churchwarden for All Saints'
- PCC Representatives for St. Philip's (2 positions)
- PCC Representative for St. Stephen's
- Deanery Representative (2 positions)

If you would like to consider fulfilling one of these positions please contact one of the Churchwardens. You will need to be on the Electoral Roll of the relevant church for at least 6 months to qualify

ALL SAINTS – 25/10/20 – BIBLE SUNDAY
Matthew 24.30-35: Signs of Times / Scriptures

There's so much in that reading that we could spend all day grappling with...

... but the Churchwardens have made it clear that what with the annual meeting to follow I should speak briefly or not at all, so I'll skip the tricky bits...

... and just say two things.

The first thing is

- ***Read the signs of the times***

“From the fig tree learn its lesson...”

... says Jesus.

So what do you read, when you look at the times we're living through? Bishop Rose has been asking us all two questions:

- ***What are we noticing?***
- ***What are we learning?***

All Saints Church building hasn't been able to open, even since lockdown was lifted. What does that say? What does it mean?

I'm an engineer by training, but I'm not asking engineers' questions, here. What does it mean for Maidstone, that that building is closed? What does it mean for your congregations.

When something that's been there for ever and looks as if it's going to be there forever suddenly isn't there for us to worship in. What does it mean?

It means you've had no choice but to worship together as a parish. What does that mean?

It means there are immense challenges facing your new Vicar – whoever she is... (*or he is...*) Challenges far too great for one person to tackle alone, or a small group of people to tackle alone

It means you can't take for granted that things will go on the way they have been. None of us can. The pandemic has done for the Church what it's done for retail. A whole load of things that were happening very slowly have suddenly happened quickly.

Including the ability to change very quickly.

Imagine if ‘the diocese’ had issued an edict telling churches (and the cathedral) to get their worship online in to weeks flat... The emails, the phone calls, the thousand reasons why it was impossible. But it happened.

In lots of places it happened.

- ***Read the signs of the times***

“From the fig tree learn its lesson...”

Second thing

- ***Read the scriptures.***

“Heaven and earth will pass away...”

... says Jesus.

...but my words will not pass away.

We live in an age where truth is in short supply. In my adult lifetime I'd gradually got used to more and more political spin. Now that's giving way in lots of places to outright lying.

It used to be fashionable – among the so-called liberal elite – to question whether there really is such a thing as truth. Now those very people are appalled to see our leaders sit so lightly to the facts.

And then a pandemic comes along. And no-one's immune. And hard science can't be spun away, or lied away.

“What is truth?”

Asked Pontius Pilate. The cynical leader. Idly. As if it didn't really matter.

And the irony was that Truth was standing there in front of him. But we know Jesus said

“I am the Truth”

We know Jesus said

“The truth will set them free”

At least, I hope we know it. It's not spin or lies that set us free, it's truth. If we do know it, it's because we read it, or heard it, from the Bible.

- ***Read the scriptures.***
- ***Read the signs of the times***

At times like these. Times of turmoil. Times of change. Go back to what historians call the source documents. Wrestle – as we haven't had time to this morning – with the tricky bits.

‘Dwell in the Word’ – as some of you – and loads us in the diocese from the Bishop downwards are learning to do. And finding that the word speaks direct to our lives.

Read, mark learn and inwardly digest. Because at times like these it turns out that a lot of the things we thought would be there for ever are transitory after all.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson...”

“Heaven and earth will pass away...”

...but my words will not pass away.”