

## Parish Notices

**The funeral of Robin Barnes** - will be taking place at 2.00pm on the 8th March at Vinters Park Crematorium. Numbers are restricted. Our thoughts are with the family of Robin Barnes at this sad time. Lionel will be attending to represent the choir and All Saints.

---

**As our services have currently been suspended, please find below the https links to join the Zoom services kindly offered by St Martin's. Just click on the https links below to join either the Sunday or Thursday morning services.**

**Sunday Morning Holy Communion 10.00am - St Martins Church Zoom Link for Services**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/856888392>

---

**Thursday Morning Holy Worship 10.00am St Martins Church Zoom Link for Services**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/866070731>

### MUSIC IN WORSHIP

Congratulations to ROWAN JAMES who (via teleconferencing practical lessons and assessments, and email written assignments) has worked long and hard during the lockdown to achieve the Dark Blue "Voice for Life" Award of the Royal School of Church Music -

**Andrew M Williamson, Choirmaster All Saints church**

---

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting** – Will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> April, Time and place TBA.

**The draft 2020 accounts** for the Parochial Church Council can now be found by clicking on this link  
[www.maidstoneallsaints.co.uk/annual%20parochial%20church%20meetings.htm](http://www.maidstoneallsaints.co.uk/annual%20parochial%20church%20meetings.htm)

The draft accounts and supporting documents are now on their way to our Independent Examiner for presentation at the APCM due in April 2021.

---

**Invitation from St Martins Church** - Dear friends, you are warmly invited to join our Online Community Quiz on 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm on Zoom  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/633461023>  
More information can be found on the attached poster or on our Ignite Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/4275586522461859> This is very much a community event for everyone – last month we were joined by 30 people from around Maidstone and even from further afield – so please do feel free to invite your family and friends and to share the event through social media.  
Hope to see you at the Quiz  
God Bless  
Andrew

**The Parish of All Saints  
With St Philip, Maidstone and  
St Stephen, Tovil**  
[www.maidstoneallsaints.co.uk](http://www.maidstoneallsaints.co.uk)

**Sunday 07<sup>th</sup> March  
The Third Sunday of Lent**

**No Parish Eucharist**



### Collect

Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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.

### Reading

#### Exodus 20.1-17

Then God spoke all these words:  
I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your



## Jesus drives the traders from the temple

From the teacher of love, compassion and forgiveness, this is pretty strong stuff! Many commentators have suggested that the passage is an illustration of Jesus' humanity, revealing his capacity for anger, but that is to seriously miss the point. This is, rather, a challenge from Jesus to a religious system so embedded in its own rules and practices that it is no longer open to a fresh revelation from God, a temptation that exists for Christianity today as much as for the Judaism of Jesus' day.

The contemporary church can be so stuck in its ways as to be closed to the possibility of reformation, change and renewal. One of the benefits of a long period of exile, as the lockdown has been, is the opportunity to reflect on what is really important in our lives, and in the specific context of this reflection, what is really important for us as a church (please do respond to the questions I posed at the beginning of Lent if you are able to). I think the pastoral letter that Bishop Guy Deroubaix wrote to his diocese of St Denis in Paris offers some important clues as to how we might answer that question.

“We love our church with all her limitations, and her riches too; she is our Mother. For this reason we respect her, and while we do so, we dream that she will never lose her beauty. May she be a church where it is good to live, where you can breathe, and say what you think, a church of freedom. A church which listens before speaking, which welcomes instead of judging, which forgives without wishing to condemn, which announces rather than denounces, a church of mercy. A church where the simplest of our brothers and sisters will understand what the others are saying and where the wisest of leaders will know what he/she doesn't know; where the people of God will be revealed in its entirety, a church of wisdom.

A church where the Holy Spirit will be able to feel at home because everything hasn't been foreseen, settled and decided in advance, an open church. A church where the audacity to do something new will be stronger than the habit of doing things as they've always been done. A church where everyone can pray in their own language, express themselves according to their culture, live with their own history. A church of which people will say, not 'see how well organised they are', but 'see how they love one another.'

Church of All Saints, St Philip's and St Stephen's, church of suburbs, streets and housing estates, you may be small, you may be fragile, but live in hope; lift up your heads and believe always that the Lord is with you.”

**BBC**  
**one**



# **LENT WORSHIP**

***Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February***

***to***

***Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 11am***

***Featuring St. Martin's on***

***28<sup>th</sup> February and***

***21<sup>st</sup> March***