

Parish Notices

Joint Services are being held at St Philips Church

Update on All Saints Church

During the lock-down a significant fall of masonry from one of the corbels in the clerestory occurred at the rear of the nave. We have delayed the opening of the church as a result. We are waiting for an engineer who is familiar with the building and recommended by our Architect to conduct a close inspection and advise on the future opening of the church. Robert Philo, Churchwarden, has continued to check the church inside and outside during the period of closure. After the latest heavy fall of rain some ingress of water was noted, but not out of line with similar events in the past.

Midweek Service – There will be no midweek Service until further notice.

Easy Fundraising - Great news!

We've registered with easyfundraising, it's a great site where you can help The Parish of All Saints with St Philip, Maidstone raise funds simply by doing your everyday online shopping! Please click on the link below and follow the screen instructions.

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/the-parish-of-all-saints-with-st-philip-maidstone/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=cpl

There are no catches or hidden charges and The Parish of All Saints with St Philip, Maidstone will be really grateful for your donations. Thank you for your support.

The complete Annual Reports and Accounts 2019 can be viewed on All Saints website by clicking on this

link <https://maidstoneallsaints.co.uk/APCM%20Reports%20and%20Accounts%202019%20A4.pdf>

Willington Players - Just a quick note with official confirmation that The Willington Players' production of *An Ideal Husband* by Oscar Wilde has been postponed again due to the Covid-19 pandemic, until April 2021. The Wednesday performance that St. Philip's normally attends will take place on **Wednesday 21st April, 2021**. I'd be grateful if you could confirm this with those who purchased tickets for the intended production in April 2020 and any of your other regulars. The tickets purchased for Wednesday 22nd April 2020 will remain valid for **Wednesday 21st April, 2021**.

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

Sunday 13th September 2020
Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.00am Service of the Word
At St Philips

Doors open from 9.45am



Face coverings will need to be worn inside the church building.

Next Week

Sunday 20th September
Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.00am Sunday Eucharist at St Philips
Doors open from 9.45am

Collect

Almighty God,
whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; 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

Romans 14.1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is

before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Post Communion

Lord God, the source of truth and love, Keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in 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'***

Keith Sharp
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
Irene & David Johnson
Rosemary & John Fowler
Keith Manuell & Family

C3678Z & C1367Z

Parish Office - 01622 688270
office.allsaintsmaidstone@gmail.com
www.maidstoneallsaints.co.uk
www.stphilipschurchmaidstone.co.uk

Our Facebook Page:
[Click Here for our Facebook Page](#)

Church Wardens:
Denise Joy –
denisejoy@maidstone.gov.uk
Telephone – 07788 634047

Robert Philo –
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***If anyone would like to add anything to the
weekly notices please speak to***
[***mollieneaves@gmail.com***](mailto:mollieneaves@gmail.com)
Telephone – 01622 759321



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

Year A September 6

Context is everything and the drawback of having small chunks of scripture read to us every Sunday is that we often miss the context.

But today in both the Epistle and the Gospel the context couldn't be clearer. Both passages address the issue of how we are to live in community as Christians, reminding us that whatever decisions we make cannot just be about us as individuals but must be about us as community.

The context for Matthew is of the church as the people of God. To be Christian is to be bound together in community.

Paul wrote his letter to the Romans against the backdrop of the morally corrupt and oppressive regime that was the Roman Empire.

The Christian community was particularly vulnerable as a minority group so Paul writes to encourage them to believe that in these dark times, they must try to live by a different code, as children of the light, whose guiding principle is love which is as one writer puts it, the most infectious virus in the world; love that is relentless, courageous, stands against injustice and gives itself away in unselfish service of others.

In a particularly moving piece of commentary, two American writers put it like this.

“What time is it? It is time to be dressed in Christ, to be transformed as the Body of Christ. This is no time for petty quarrels and dissension. No, my friends, the night is far gone, the day is near, so live in the day. Obey the law of love, live the Kingdom. For many of us, he continues, it feels like the night is endless and there is no day in sight, no slight glimmer of light on the horizon, but living in faith and embracing the politics of love, let us live in the day.”

Our context is very different but for many of us it still feels like the night is endless and that there is no light on the horizon. All the more reason why, as a Christian community, we must do everything we can to build each other up in love.

Pope Francis, in his first audience since lockdown said this week, ‘We don't come out from a virus the same as before. We either come out better or worse. We must choose. To come out of this better than before, we have to do so together, all of us, in solidarity.’ Owe no one anything, except to love each other.

During lockdown, along with many others, I found more time to read. A friend recommended a book by the historian Rutger Bergman called ‘Humankind, a hopeful history.’

So often we are given to believe that human beings are by nature selfish and governed by self interest – its even enshrined in christianity by the doctrine of original sin, but Bergman argues, supported by numerous examples, that humanity is not like that. Rather, it is in our nature to co-operate, to care. It is human kindness that keeps the

social contract intact, which in Christian doctrine might be framed as original blessing. 'God saw what he had made and it was very good!

As we begin to emerge from these strange times and face an uncertain future as a society and as a church it becomes more important that we treat each other with kindness, that our Christian community reflects the hope that Paul expresses. 'Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.'

Or, if you prefer the words of the novelist Henry James as he said goodbye once to his nephew Billy. There are three things that are important in human life. The first is to be kind, the second is to be kind, the third is to be kind.

Lord of the church, you call a broken people around your table. In times of disagreement, teach us to listen, loose us from prejudice, bind us to your way of forgiving grace and teach us to be kind, through Jesus Christ who stands alongside us at the heart of our community. Amen