

Parish Notices

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

Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Will be held on Sunday 23rd May, at Archbishop Courtenay School. (10am Service of the Word followed by APCM).

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

All Saints – Corbel An application has been made to the Commissary General for permission to carry out work to stabilise the Corbels in the Main Nave.
CLICK www.maidstoneallsaints.co.uk/faculty%20applications.htm for details.

Easy Fundraising –
Help the Parish of All Saints with St Philip, Maidstone by signing up to support us for FREE on #easyfundraising. You can raise donations whenever you shop online with over 4,300 retailers including John Lewis & Partners, eBay, Argos, ASOS, M&S and more. This will make a BIG difference to us during this difficult time.
Sign up today:
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/the-parish-of-all-saints-with-st-philip-maidstone/?referral-campaign=c2s&utm_source=refsharebox

May 2021 50/50 Draw -
The winners this month were:
1st prize Unit No 121 Stephen Philo
2nd prize Unit No 118 Sarah Stevens

Brian Shaw

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

Sunday 16th May 2021
The Seventh Sunday of Easter
(Sunday after Ascension Day)



Joint Parish Eucharist
All Saints Church 10am

The Churchwardens and P.C.C. have agreed to future services on a trial basis. There will be Stewarding to ensure Government Guidelines are adhered to.

- **Masks will need to be worn at all times.**
- **Register on entry.**
- **Stewards will direct you on entry and exit.**
- **Due to Covid rules no gatherings will be permitted inside or outside the buildings.**

Next week's Service
10.00am Sunday 23rd May
Day of Pentecost
Whit Sunday

10.00am Service of the Word followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting at Archbishop Courtenay Primary School Eccleston Road, Tovil ME15 6QN

Collect

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Reading

Acts 1.15-17, 21-end

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.' So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Gospel **John 17.6-19**

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they

do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth. '

Post Communion

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; 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'*

Paul Crease, Vera Alflatt, Audrey Little,
Daphne Holland, Nigel Gunyon, Mary Wheeler,
Jane Sadler, Tricia (Barbara's Sister) David
Johnson, Carol Winter, Ray Stephens, Debbie
Proctor

Special Prayers of Hope and Compassion

Rosemary & John Fowler

***If anyone would like to add anything to the
weekly notices please speak to***
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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 –
philorob@uk.ibm.com
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Easter 6

You may not have heard the name Chad Varah, but you will almost certainly know of the organisation called 'The Samaritans'. Chad Varah was a young curate in Lincoln where he had taken the funeral of a young girl who had killed herself and it had a profound effect on him. So when he moved to London he founded the Samaritans in the crypt of his church as a tribute to her.

It reflected his belief in a God to whom no one is expendable—we all matter; or, to put it in the context of today's gospel, it was an act of love that highlighted Jesus' commandment that we are to love one another as Christ has loved us—no if's, no but's, everyone matters!

To live according to this model, he believed, as I believe, that the church must be a community in which members are known for the acts of love they do, not just for one another, but more importantly for the whole of humanity. This will be the hallmark of the Kingdom of God about which Jesus preached so much.

As the Dean of Christchurch Oxford reminds us in his new book, 'The humble church', the Kingdom of God was not a promotion exercise for serving the needs of the church. Rather, the Kingdom of God promotes the values and practices of love that are for ALL humanity, regardless of faith. The Kingdom that Jesus proclaimed went beyond the parochial Judaism of his day. It preached abundant mercy, love, justice, forgiveness, diversity, inclusion and transformation for ALL. It did not fret about growing synagogue congregations, or spend endless days devising strategies for growth. The Kingdom lives out its values and the primary value, as Jesus reminds us so powerfully in the reading, is LOVE.

These words are an immense challenge to a church that has become rather too inward looking for my liking, spending more time developing strategies for growth when our primary focus has to be rooted in Jesus' love for the community and for the world that God loves so much.

As we wait in eager anticipation for a new priest perhaps it puts into sharper perspective than ever the question that awaits him or her and us. The question being, not how we can get more people into church, but rather how can we get more people from church to love and serve the world as Christ would have us do.

The gospel could not be clearer. Our lives are to be marked by humility, gratitude, kindness, faithfulness and solidarity. Our love is to be directed towards blessing God and our neighbours, and yes, our enemies too! We are called to be the person who God wants us to become which is always a work in progress. But no matter what our struggles, LOVE is our calling. It is what motivated Chad Varah all those years ago and look how transformative the love which he embraced has become in literally saving the lives of so many of all faiths and none.

As one writer reflects, 'there will be so many reasons to withhold that love, ration it, or make it conditional, but in the end, LOVE is what God has shown us in Jesus and it is LOVE that makes us become more fully human and more and more like the one we are called to follow and to model our lives on, both as individuals and as a church.

Lord God, we thank you for calling us into the company of those who trust in Christ and who seek to follow his commandment of unconditional love. May your spirit guide and strengthen us in love and service to the world you love so much, for we are strangers no longer, but pilgrims together on the way to your Kingdom. Amen.