

Parish Notices

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>

Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Will be held on 25th 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

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

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

March 2021 50/50 Draw

The draw has taken place and the winners were as follows:

1st prize Unit No 101 Mr Howard Cooke
2nd prize Unit No 106 Mr & Mrs Poole

Congratulations to them both
Brian Shaw

25th March - We remember the Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary (Lady Day)

Next Sunday 28th March - Palm Sunday.

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

**Sunday 21st March
Passiontide Begins**

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

No Parish Eucharist



Collect

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ Delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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

Jeremiah 31.31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Gospel

John 12.20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Post Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

Reflection is attached from +Peter

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,
Ray Stephens,

Special Prayers of Hope and Compassion

Rosemary & John Fowler, Keith Manuell & Family

Departed

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

Parish Office - 01622 688270
office.allsaintsmaidstone@gmail.com
www.maidstoneallsaints.co.uk
www.stphilipchurchmaidstone.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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A new covenant

The prophecy of Jeremiah is dominated by doom and gloom, condemning the people of Judah for their sin and announcing the imminent destruction of the nation and their exile out of their homeland to Babylon which was to come. And yet, in the midst of this dark valley of despair comes a cluster of verses which radiate like a dazzling diamond offering the bright promises of hope, comfort and restoration. 'The days are surely coming', declares the Lord, 'when I will make a new covenant. In those days I will put my law within them and I will write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.'

The more I read those verses from today's reading, the more they seemed to speak of the times we are currently living through when all of us are searching for that dazzling diamond that will bring us hope, restoration and comfort. As people of faith we are called back to discover the grace of God that will sustain us in these challenging times. That is the eternal truth that runs throughout scripture. Whatever the doom and gloom is that we may be experiencing, it is never the last word. We have been grasped by grace and captured by love and as Easter will demonstrate in a couple of weeks' time, God's promise is always of a new beginning.

For us, living through this pandemic, exiled from our churches, and currently without an Incumbent, this might seem a hard truth to grasp. But I was struck by what a former colleague, Bishop Nick Baines, said to his Diocesan Synod at the weekend.

'The days ahead are full of opportunities some of which we wouldn't have invited and which we don't welcome. But they are the gift we are given, however uncomfortable. The days ahead are full of challenge, but when has the church not faced unprecedented challenges. The days ahead are full of promise, the promise of God to be faithful as we seek to be faithful to our calling as disciples. I do not know what the future holds, but I do know that we can face it together as the gift that God has given for this generation.'

Lord of the new covenant

In Christ you draw all people to yourself;

Strengthen us now with your grace to embrace whatever the future may hold

Amen.