

Parish Notices

Friends of St Philip's Community Centre -

The Christmas Draw is to take place on Sunday 6th December. Anyone who has tickets please return through the letterbox of Janice Underdown at 32 Greenside Maidstone ME15 7RU by 5th December.

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



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

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.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

Telephone - 07775 813258

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

Sunday 29th November 2020
The First Sunday of Advent



Due to the Current Lockdown Restrictions No Services will be held in the Parish this week Church Buildings will remain closed Until Sunday 6th December

An Advent Reflection

At this time of year my Mum, almost obsessively, started to count down the days to the shortest day, something I have inherited and the good news is that it is only 3 weeks until the days start getting longer again. The light will start to grow! I'm always glad that this coincides with Advent, the season that dares to defy the darkening days and awaken our imagination to the possibility of hope and today, Advent Sunday, marks its beginning. Advent, as we anticipate Christmas, beckons us to wait, and as Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds, commented this week, 'to look and watch and not be done in by the present gloom. For the people of the first Christmas this meant yearning for the end of military occupation and daily suffering or humiliation. The light was coming into the world and no darkness, not even imperial Roman violence, would be able to kill it off.' So Advent offers an invitation for all of us in these days of gloom, both the gloom of shortening days as well as the gloom of the continuing pandemic, to lift our eyes towards the light that WILL come.

'O Come thou dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine Advent here. Disperse the

gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight.'

+Peter

Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit one God, now and for ever.

Reading

Isa.64.1-9

Gospel

Mark 13.24-end

Post Communion

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Prayer for Advent

We bless you, our God, mighty sovereign power gentle caring mother, you do not forget your children we bless you our God for your great gifts to us; Creation, fragile and beautiful; scripture, revealing your truth And you bless us with your forgiving love, with the vision of your Kingdom shedding light in the darkness of these times Bless us and disturb us O God with that vision of your Kingdom, as we voice our hopes to you now; may they strengthen and reassure us in the coming days. As we look towards the light of Christmas, we pray for those whose lives are shrouded in darkness; for those caught up in conflicts around the world; those fleeing from violence and oppression; those trapped in poverty and those seeking refuge and asylum. We pray for the homeless, excluded from what the rest of us are doing, cold, struggling to keep a hold of who they are We pray for those who are ill, coping with physical pain; dealing with anxiety and depression; fearing for their future; and for those who are working in the care sector who are already overwhelmed by the effects of the pandemic We pray too for those who have become isolated through the lockdown,

especially those in care homes, who long for human contact; for those who are struggling with their relationships, especially at this 'family time' when the cracks are kept just below the surface. And for the deepest hopes of our hearts, we pray now, naming them in the silence of our hearts Into the mess of this world a fragile child will come, yelling in the night for his mother, needing milk and clean linen. We pin our hopes on you, tiny, fragile baby, our God pushed out into the world through pain and into poverty. Give us grace to know that you, O God, are with us, and assured by the love and light of your presence may our hope be reborn this day and everyday. Amen

You might like to make your own Advent wreath from greenery in the garden and place a candle in the centre, lighting it each day with these words:

O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal, O Radiant Dawn, O Dayspring from on high shining with the glory of the rainbow, come and renew in us your gift of hope.

Next Week

**Sunday 6th December
2nd Sunday in Advent**

**There will be a 10.00am joint
Eucharist Service at St Philips
Church Waterloo Street Maidstone**

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)
David Johnson, Ray Stephens

Special Prayers of Hope and Compassion

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

Departed

Albert Daniels

Our thoughts are with the families of
Albert Daniels
