

Parish Notices

Piano - One of our congregation would like to know if anyone/organisation would like a Piano. No charge. Please contact mollieneaves@gmail.com who will kindly pass on your contact details Thank you

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

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

**Sunday 08th November 2020
Remembrance Sunday
03rd Sunday before Advent**

**Due to the Current Lockdown Restrictions
No Services will be held in the Parish until
further notice**

Church Buildings will remain closed



**Next Week
Sunday 15th November 2020
2nd Sunday before Advent**

Thought for the week

Today is Remembrance Sunday but why do we remember I wonder. Is it not more important to put the past behind us and move on? There is always a danger that in our remembering we become too focussed on the past looking back through rose coloured glasses but the past is rarely as wonderful as we imagine. And that isn't the way people of faith are invited to remember. For those of us who come to break bread together, we are invited, in the words of Jesus, to 'do this in remembrance of me.' It is not an invitation to go back in time to remember Jesus as he was; rather it is an invitation to bring our memory of Jesus into the present and in so doing to bring the love, compassion and mercy that was so much a part of his life into the way we live our lives here and now. So as we rightly remember today those who have been lost in war and conflict, let us pray ever more urgently for a just and lasting peace for the whole of humanity.

+Peter

Please see Service sheet Attached

Collect

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Reading

Amos.5 18-24

Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Gospel

Matthew 25. 1-13

'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Post Communion

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

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

Special Prayers of Hope and Compassion

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

Departed

Beryl MacCallum
Irene Johnson
Keith Sharp
Trish Weston

Our thoughts are with the families of
Beryl MacCallum, Irene Johnson, Keith Sharp &
Trish Weston

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Our Facebook Page:

[Click Here for our Facebook Page](#)

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*If anyone would like to add anything to the
weekly notices please speak to*

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[01622 759321](tel:01622759321)

Last Week's Sermon for All Saints Day - 01st November 2020

This week has been grey, very grey and it's only just November! With the virus on the increase again, even in the South East and the prospect of another lockdown looming, we could be facing a pretty dark winter. As one writer put it in the paper this week, 'For the first time ever, I fear winter. The clocks have gone back and darkness is heavy and complete by 5pm in the afternoon, as if it's another layer of restrictions, a new curfew against the growing infection rates. But I'm not without hope. Every time I see the darkness settle like snow outside my window, I remember the yellow blue light of high summer and know that we move closer to it each day.'

In the midst of these darkening days, today we celebrate a feast of light - All Saints Day when we remember with deep gratitude all those in whom the bright light of love, compassion, and justice have shone making a difference to our lives and the life of the world.

As Martin Luther King, one of that multitude of glorious light and life giving saints observed, 'Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that and hate cannot drive out hate only love can do that.'

I wonder who those people have been for you over the years; those who shone with love and compassion and enriched your lives by their presence. I wonder who those people are now who shine with love, enabling you to live through these times and blessing you with hope for the future.

I was looking through some papers the other day and came across the name of the nurse who was in charge of my mother's care. Her name was 'lovely'. I have no idea if she was a person of faith. What I do know is that she lived up to her name in the way she cared for my Mum and lit up the room every time she entered; just one of that multitude, talked about in our Revelation reading, that no one can number, but through whom the light of God's love has shone.

Another person who has brightened my life this week, but in a very different context, is the staff priest at St John's Washington Square, Gini Gerbasi. The patio outside her church became a safe space for those who were protesting peacefully against the killing of George Floyd back in the summer. In scenes which you may remember, police cleared the area with tear gas and rubber bullets to make way for a Donald Trump photo opportunity, holding up a bible outside the church.

Bravely, she referred to that act as sacrilege, 'holding up sacred scriptures moments after people had been driven away by violence is wrong.' She bore witness to those words of Martin Luther King which continue to give people hope in our deeply divided and troubled world. 'Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that; hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.'

She witnessed to the truth that too often the church is happy to preach about the idea of love but far more reluctant to proclaim and live the reality of love which as Gini discovered can be very costly.

All Saints Day is a feast of light, here to remind us that all those who have lived and continue to live that reality, walking in the way of love, compassion, justice and peace, whatever their faith or lack of it, are part of that great multitude of God's saints which no one can number and blessed are they and blessed are we when we live that life NOW.

So today, despite the gathering gloom of the coming winter, is a day to give thanks for those in whom the light of love, compassion and justice have shone in our lives and in the life of the world. It is also a day when we recommit ourselves to the Jesus manifesto, the beatitudes, which was our gospel reading this morning.

Can I end with a blessing that comes from another great bunch of saints, the Franciscans?

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done, to bring justice and kindness to all our children and to the poor.

Morning Worship

Opening Sentences

In the beginning, before time, before people, before the world began.

God was

Here and now among us, beside us, enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven. **God is**

In the future, when we have turned to dust and all we know has found its fulfilment.

God will be

Not denying the world, but delighting in it, not condemning the world, but redeeming it, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

God was, God is, God will be

Prayer

Lord God, early in the morning when the world was young you made life in all its beauty and terror, you gave birth to all we know. Hallowed be your name

Hallowed be your name

Early in the morning when the world least expected it, a newborn child crying in a cradle announced that you had come amongst us, that you were one of us. Hallowed be your name

Hallowed be your name

In the midst of this current crisis when many are fearful and when the future is so uncertain we continue to believe that you walk with your people. Hallowed be your name

Hallowed be your name

Our faith reminds us that in a guarded graveyard the footsteps in the dew proved that you had risen, offering the promise of life and hope to all your people. Hallowed be your name

Hallowed be your name

So now, as we gather in our homes we continue to be your church celebrating your creation, your life, your death, your resurrection and your enduring and unfailing love for us; so to you we pray;

Lord bring new life where we are worn and tired, new love where we have turned hard hearted, forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded, hope where we feel anxious and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit who is our constant guide.

Loving God, source of healing and comfort, fill us with your grace, that the sick may be made whole, that those who care for us may be strengthened, that the anxious may be calmed, and those most vulnerable be protected, in the power of the Spirit, in the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Psalm 121

I will lift up my eyes to the hills but where shall I look for help
My help comes from the Lord who has made heaven and earth

The Lord will not let your foot stumble, the one who guards you will not sleep
The one who keeps watch over his people shall neither doze or sleep

The Lord is the one who will guard you, the Lord at your right hand will be your defence
So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor yet the moon by night

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil yes it is the Lord who will keep you safe
The Lord shall take care of your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forever

The Gospel reading of the day

Someone may choose to offer a reflection on the reading

Prayers *Someone leads the congregation in prayer and conclude with the following prayers*

Christ be with me, Christ within me
Christ behind me, Christ before me
Christ beside me, Christ to win me
Christ to comfort and restore me
Christ beneath me, Christ above me
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger
Christ in hearts of all that love me
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger

God bless this city and move our hearts to pity lest we grow hard
God bless this house with silence, solitude and space that we may pray
God bless these days of rough and narrow ways lest we despair
God bless the night and calm the people's fright that we may love
God bless this land and guide us with your hand lest we be unjust
God bless this earth through pangs of death and birth and make us whole

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you wherever he may send you
May he guide you through the wilderness and protect you through the storm
May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you
May he bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors

