

Notices

Rosemary Fowler, Rachel and Tim would like to thank all those who helped to make the Thanksgiving service for John so special. We have been very touched by all the messages of sympathy we have received.

Community Café

The opening times for the remaining Saturdays are the 9th & 16th of December from 10-2pm. Conversations following the piloting of the cafe are in hand and details will be released shortly re ongoing openings early in the New Year as well as Lent up until Easter. The Cafe has been well received not only by members of the church but also by those who have joined us with no connections which is over 50% of our clientele. The need is there, and much detailed conversations have been held...and thank you too, to those who staffed the pilot scheme as well as the support that has been given from others. We press on hopefully to the next phase... We will restart the Community Cafe on Saturday January 13th after we have been closed over the Christmas period on December 23rd and 30th as well as January 6th.

More volunteers are needed and if you feel you are free to help them, please speak with either Elspeth or Robert Philo. Thank you...

Celebrating Life Festival

From Friday June 21st to June 30th featuring a Flower Festival with events for schools, concerts and choirs, workshops, literary days, charities, and professional lectures in the fields of education, health, end of life care and dialogue re Christian ministry in a changing society as well as meals, daily prayer, and special Sunday Services. The detailed programme is now provisional and last-minute events are being planned. This will be confirmed by the PCC at the end of January 2024 before the printing begins if publicity...

The Parish of All Saints
With St Philip, Maidstone and
St Stephen, Tovil

Sunday 10th December 2023
Second Sunday of Advent



10am Morning Worship (Making Your Christingles) at St Stephens (Archbishop Courtenay School

Next Week's Service's

Sunday 17th December
Third Sunday of Advent

10.00am Carols and Readings around the Christmas Events at St Philips

Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Reading

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in

a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Post Communion

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Book these dates now...

Christmas across the Parish In December
At St Philips

- **Wednesday 13th – 6.30pm** Christmas Cheer and Joy!
- **Sunday 17th - 10am** Carols and Readings around the Christmas Events
- **Monday 18th** from 6pm Carol Singing around the streets ending with soup and rolls.
- **Sunday 24th Christmas Eve 5pm** Community and Church Christingle
- **Sunday 31st 10am** Morning Worship to prepare for the New Year

At All Saints

- **Saturday 23rd- 4.30pm** The Carol Service
- **Sunday 24th – Christmas Eve 3.30pm** The Christingle Service
- **11.30pm -** The First Communion of Christmas
- **Monday 25th – Christmas Day 10am** Christmas Family Communion

We continue this week until Christmas Day, welcoming in our churches thousands of children, young people and adults to concerts, Carol services and other Christmas events.

Please remember all taking part in these seasonal and Christingle activities, that a deeper awareness and understanding of God's love for them and our world, will shine as light into the darkness and chaos that currently surrounds and impacts us, focused on the peace and joy of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem that first Christmas morning.

Special prayers

*Matt 5.3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven'*

*Daphne Holland, Mary Wheeler, Jane Sadler,
Sue Marks, Pamela Hocking, Claire & Family,
John Wilson*

Vicar: All saints, Maidstone with St. Philip's, and St. Stephen's Tovil

The Very Revd. John S. Richardson
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**Please note Revd John will be on Leave on
Wednesdays of each week.**
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