

Parish Notices

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

- **April 11th Easter 2**
10.00am Service of the word at St Philips Church
- **April 18th Easter 3**
10.00am Eucharist at All Saints Church
- **April 25th Easter 4**
10.00am Eucharist at St Philips church

Zoom Services kindly offered by St Martins Church. 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 23rd May, 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 May 2021.

Electoral Roll -

Attached with the Notice Sheet is an Application for the Electoral Role. If you are not already on the Electoral Role, please complete the form and email to the church office: office.allsaintsmaidstone@gmail.com by the 10th of April. Many Thanks

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.

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

Sunday 11th April 2021
The Second Sunday of Easter



**Joint Service of the Word
St Philips Church 10.00am**

-
- 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 outside the building.

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

At St Philips Church – Waterloo Street Maidstone arrive from 9.45am for a 10am Service.

- 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 outside the building.

Collect

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Reading

Acts 4 32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any

possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Gospel

John 20.19-end

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So, the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Post Communion

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children

of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Easter Sermon and a Short Act of Worship 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,
Carol Winter, Ray Stephens,

Special Prayers of Hope and Compassion

Rosemary & John Fowler

Departed

Keith Manuell

Our thoughts are with the family of Keith Manuell

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

Easter Sunday 2021

The long day stretched into night and time crept onward towards the new day. With the first gold of dawn came a resurrection, a new hope that grew with the rising sun and went out to a waiting world.

The American preacher, Frederick Beuchner, reflects on how differently the gospels portray Christmas and Easter. Unlike the birth narratives that are accompanied by choirs of angels and bright starlit heavens, Easter dawns gradually and quietly, and almost with a whisper.

When Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb in John's account, she thought at first that it must be the gardener standing there in the shadows, and when she saw who it really was and tried to embrace him, he told her not to. In Mark's account, today's gospel, Easter is greeted by the women with fear rather than glory.

The way the gospel writers tell it Jesus came back from death not in a blaze of glory, but more like a candle in the dark, flickering first in this place, then in that place, then in no place at all. They are not trying to tell it as convincingly as they can. They are trying to describe it as truthfully as they can.

The truth for me, and I can only speak for me, is that flickering candles in the dark rather than dramatic blazes of glory, is how I so often experience resurrection, and that seems especially poignant at this time as we emerge from the darkness of lockdown, taking faltering steps into this new reality, hesitant and uncertain but still believing that with the first gold of dawn a resurrection comes, a new hope growing with the rising sun.

Although we may not fully understand what resurrection means; although it may be just a flickering flame in the darkness, if we have listened closely to the story we should hold fast to what we do know, and to what the disciples were told, that Jesus goes before us into Galilee, in other words Jesus stands with us and beside us wherever we are, inviting us to walk with him in the way of the cross which is none other than the way of unconditional love and unrestricted grace.

As one writer puts it, the resurrection is simply God's unwillingness to take no for an answer. God raised Jesus, not as an invitation to come to heaven when we die, some kind of insurance policy, but as a declaration that he himself has now established permanent residence here on earth.

Jesus stands beside us strengthening us in this life. He is the promise of a love that will not let us go; he is the promise of a love that will accompany us in our times of doubt and fear; he is the promise of a God who will prompt us to do new things, to take risks, to continue the adventure of our lives in hope, whatever challenges and obstacles we may face along the way.

So in the heartache that still affects so many people in the wake of this pandemic; in the desperate plight of those refugees fleeing the poverty and terror of Syria and other war torn countries; in the everyday experiences of those living with the reality of mental illness, addiction or abuse and in so many other places of darkness and despair, the flickering flame of resurrection demands that we continue to believe in a God who is not some remote figure way up in the clouds, but a living presence at work within us and

among us, continuing the work of resurrection, continuing the battle against inhumanity and darkness that shrouds so many in our world. The resurrection is simply God's unwillingness to take no for an answer!

In 1935 as the threat of war began to cast its shadow across Europe, an Easter Orthodox Bishop wrote this prayer. It is a forceful comment on the truth of resurrection and it speaks as powerfully into our context as it did into his

Lord Jesus Christ, the storms of life do not frighten those whose hearts are ablaze with the light of your flame. Outside is the darkness of the whirlwind, the terror and the howling of the storm. But in our souls reign quiet and light. Christ is here and the heart sings. Alleluia

A short act of worship for the Easter Season

The long day stretched into night and time crept onward towards the new day.
With the first light of dawn came a resurrection, a new hope that grew with the rising sun
and went out to a waiting world.

A candle is lit *We keep a moment of quiet so that the resurrection light may grow in us*

Lord touch my lips
that I may sing your praise with all my heart

I greet you risen Lord, Alleluia
you have conquered sin and death, Alleluia

Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
mystery of love, behind, through, and beyond all things

Rejoice heaven and earth! Exult all creation!
Jesus Christ is risen, Alleluia

As we turn our faces to you, O God, let our worship be once more a new beginning
Cleanse our spirits with your mercy, draw us ever deeper into your love
and accept our offering of prayer and praise on behalf of the world
through Jesus Christ, our Brother and our Saviour. **Amen**

Psalm 118: 1-10

The Lord is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation

Glad songs of victory
are heard in the tents of the righteous

The right hand of the Lord has triumphed
the right hand of the lord is exulted

I shall not die, but live
and recount the works of the Lord

The Lord has disciplined me harshly
but he has not given me over to death

Open to me the gates of righteousness
that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone

This is the Lord's doing
and it is marvellous in our eyes

This is the day that the Lord has made
we will rejoice and be glad in it

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
we bless you from the house of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ, once rejected and despised, but risen again in triumph
Forgive our foolishness and sin and make us witnesses to your saving power
for your love's sake. **Amen**

A reading for the day

You may wish to spend some time reflecting on the passage in conversation or silence

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, without your resurrection our faith would be empty and without hope
But you are alive, and we rejoice and dance and wonder in the mystery of your presence
among us.

We pray for your church; free us from the shackles of guilt and legalism
and help us to proclaim the message of healing and forgiveness for which you died
May you continue to walk with us and set our hearts on fire with your love

Lord, your friends and disciples must have felt utterly bereft at your death,
with all hope and purpose broken. We pray now for those who are in darkness and pain
today; those facing the keen disappointment of broken hopes and unfulfilled dreams;
lives damaged by broken relationships and broken trust; people with broken hearts
bodies broken by torture and imprisonment, and spirits broken by injustice
May you continue to walk with us and set our hearts on fire with your love

We pray Lord for broken communities across the world, ravaged by war, poverty and
hunger; we ask your forgiveness for our own apathy, and our temptation to wash our
hands of involvement in the plight of others
May you continue to walk with us and set our hearts on fire with your love

Risen Lord, as we continue to remember those who are struggling with their physical or
mental health, surround them, their families and friends, and all those who care for
them, with your presence and peace
May you continue to walk with us and set our hearts on fire with your love

Jesus Christ, you meet us; your hands still wounded but your breath warm
and your conversation engaging. Death has not changed your accent or diminished your
love. As we gather for prayer in this Easter season, cheer us by your gospel
and make our worship your Emmaus road. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Love of Jesus, fill me, joy of Jesus surprise me, peace of Jesus flood me
Light of Jesus transform me, touch of Jesus warm me, strength of Jesus encourage me
and in your risen life take me with you for love of you and love of your world
Thanks be to God, Alleluia