

Parish Notices

Albert Daniels BSc

The funeral will take place at Vintners Crematorium Maidstone on Friday 18 December at 2.45 pm. The service can be viewed, by webcast, on the day and for 7 days after.

<https://www.wesleymedia.co.uk/webcast-view>
Login/order ID 59480
Password: eygkzyke
(The advice is to make sure your device is compatible before the event)

Donations to Albany Funeral Directors 669 Loose Road Maidstone ME15 9UX and are to be shared between Maidstone Area Archaeology Group, All Saints with St Philips Church and St Paul's Church Boxley Road.

I am so sorry that so many people are unable to attend but we will organise a memorial service in All Saints Maidstone next summer when COVID-19 regulations are lifted.

Diane

Friends of St Philip's Community Centre - Christmas draw:

1st prize. £50. Mrs Daphne Lee
2nd prize. £25. Mr Derek Warne
The other prizes have all been claimed.
We raised £321. Many thanks to everyone who have Supported this.
Grateful thanks to Janice for organising the draw.

Joint Midnight Eucharist at 11.30pm on 24th December at St Philips church

Joint Christmas Day Eucharist at 10.00am at All Saints Church.

A Christmas Newsletter - will be sent out to the Parish shortly



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 13th December 2020
The Third Sunday of Advent**

10.00am Joint Eucharist Service at All Saints



Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Reading

Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the

peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reading

1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Gospel

John 1.6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" 'as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Next Week

Sunday 20th December 4th Sunday in Advent

On Sunday 20th December there will be a Joint Eucharist at St Philip's 10.00am which Archdeacon Andrew will preside. PCC members asked to stay after the service for a Meeting with the Archdeacon.

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, Sue Payne & Family

Special Prayers of Hope and Compassion

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

Departed

Albert Daniels

Dorothy Mowbray (Sue Payne's Mum)

Our thoughts are with the families of
Albert Daniels and Dorothy Mowbray

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

Advent 2

I can't quite believe that it's 9 months almost to the day that I was last on a train. I remember it vividly – March 7th – a Saturday and a trip to London, more specifically to Arsenal's Emirates Stadium where Ruth, our daughter, through her work, had secured 2 seats in a box to watch my beloved West Ham. The only downside was that we lost.

How I have missed those trips and especially the opportunity to watch live football. Results are important but always more important to me is the drama of the game as the few fans who have been allowed back this week have testified. It is no coincidence that Old Trafford, the home of Manchester United, is referred to as the theatre of dreams.

All this came back to me as I read the prologue to Mark's Gospel which is our reading this morning. In this drama the writer sets the scene with the powerful words of the prophet Isaiah, 'the voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord,' and then on to the stage strides the impressive figure of John the Baptist, clothed with camel's hair, a leather belt around his waist and eating locusts and wild honey. It's an image fit for a Hollywood blockbuster and the message is equally dramatic.

John announces the coming arrival of the young man, Jesus. He is the one, declares John, the one who will bring the Kingdom of God to fulfilment. John's audience would have been ripe for his words. They had suffered years of suffering under an oppressive and corrupt regime centred on Rome and had lived with a religious elite who did nothing to alleviate the conditions of ordinary, everyday folk.

As Richard Rohr reminds us, 'Christianity began as a revolutionary movement promoting a new kind of aliveness on the margins of society. It claimed that everyone, not just an elite few had God given gifts to use for the common good. It exposed a system based on domination, privilege and violence and proclaimed in its place a vision of mutual service, mutual responsibility and peaceable neighbourliness. It put people above profit and made the audacious claim that the earth belonged NOT to rich tycoons or powerful politicians but to the Creator who loves every sparrow in the trees and every wild flower in the field. It was a peace movement a love movement, a justice movement, a joy movement, an integrity movement.'

As the drama unfolds in Mark's Gospel, we know it to be true through the words and works of Jesus that are rich with the themes of love, forgiveness, compassion and justice.

I suspect some of you saw on BBC news this week, as I did, the heart-breaking story of life in some of the most deprived communities of Burnley where poverty, hunger, sickness and death stalked the streets and where clergy and churches are doing their very best to restore aliveness and hope to those who are suffering most at the hands of this pandemic. Our daughter echoed those stories to me this week in the work she is doing with Save the Children and how often it has brought her, like those clergy in Burnley, to tears.

The context of Mark's gospel and the context of these present times are separated by over 2000 years and yet the longing for the good news of the gospel is the same.

Good news is the promise the author makes in the opening words of Mark's gospel, but it is a promise that can only be fulfilled then as now if our hearts are filled with love, compassion and justice for those who are hurting in our communities and our world.

Advent begs us to share John's vision of how the future MIGHT be and invites us all to love better, to live better and to choose better for the sake of all humanity.

'Among the poor, among the proud, among the persecuted, among the privileged, Christ is coming to make all things new.

In our homes, our churches, our communities and the places where decisions are made, Christ is coming to make all things new.

With a gentle touch, with an angry word, with a clear conscience, with burning love, Christ is coming to make all things new.

That the Kingdom might come, that the world might believe, that the powerful might stumble, that the humble might be raised, Christ is coming to make all things new.

Within us, among us, in this place, in every place, for this time and for all time, Christ is coming to make all things new.