

## Parish Notices

### **All Saints Remains Closed**

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**Sunday 23rd August, Eleventh Sunday after Trinity** – Morning service at St Philips 10.00am doors open 9.45am

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### **All Saints 50/50 Club**

The final draw for this year's 50/50 Club took place on 9 August and the prize winners were:  
1st prize Unit 65 Catherine Stevens

2nd prize Unit 75 Geoff Lay

The 1st draw for the 2020/21 year will take place on Sept 13th

Thank you to all those who participated in the Club this year

Brian Shaw

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### **Standing Committee Meeting –**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August, 6.30pm at St Philips

**PCC Meeting –** Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August, 6.30pm at St Philips

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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

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**The Parish of All Saints  
with St Philip, Maidstone and  
St Stephen, Tovil**  
[www.maidstoneallsaints.co.uk](http://www.maidstoneallsaints.co.uk)

**Sunday 16th August 2020  
Tenth Sunday after Trinity**



**10.00am Service of the Word at St Philips**

Doors will be open at 9.45am

**Face coverings will need to be worn inside the church building.**

### **COLLECT**

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **Reading**

#### **Matthew 15. 21-28**

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at

all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

### **POST COMMUNION**

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Special prayers for those in need**

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

Keith Sharp  
Jean Williamson  
Paul Crease  
Vera Alflatt  
Millie Moss  
Audrey Little  
Daphne Holland  
Nigel Gunyon  
Mary Wheeler  
Jane Sadler  
Tricia (Barbara's Sister)

### **Special Prayers of Hope and Compassion**

Clive & Andrea Lever  
Irene & David Johnson  
Rosemary & John Fowler  
Keith Manuell & Family

### **Departed**

Rosemary Richards

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[www.stphilipchurchmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.stphilipchurchmaidstone.co.uk)

**Our Facebook Page:**  
[Click Here for our Facebook Page](#)

***If anyone would like to add anything  
to the weekly notices please speak  
to***  
[\*\*\*mollieneaves@gmail.com\*\*\*](mailto:mollieneaves@gmail.com)

I think we managed 'lockdown' reasonably well.

The weekly shop at Tesco's in Grove Green was a high point in the early weeks despite the queues and social distancing; we managed our daily exercise (mostly) and found some new walks in the process and now we are adjusting to masks.

What we have missed, as I am sure you have, is social interaction, community. Technology has helped. We have not become masters of Zoom but we have managed to facetime our kids and we have held a weekly facetime meal with my former colleague and his wife which was a bit weird but effective, not least because as well as eating together we enjoyed conversation.

It was on one of these occasions that +Peter put me in touch with a reflection from the spiritual writer, David Holly who seemed to speak so powerfully into the situation we all found ourselves in

He writes, 'today, perhaps we are brought to the mountain top; tomorrow we may be calling out to the depths. Today we look upon the Lord, radiant are our faces; tomorrow we may have to call Darkness our friend. Today we may luxuriate in the source of all life; tomorrow the hand of death may lie heavily upon us.

Today we know why the Lord is mindful of us; tomorrow we may question why he even troubles to visit us. Today our joy cannot be contained; tomorrow our sorrow may be more than we can bear. Today we see how good it is for us to be here; tomorrow we may wonder with Job if it were better for us never to have been born.

Let us now ascend this mountain of God which his right hand has won and ponder in his presence the seemingly conflicting truths in which is to be found our unending happiness.

I have gone back to this piece many times in the past weeks and was reminded of it again this week as on Wednesday we celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration from which our readings this morning come.

The transfiguration is a story of two parts. There is the exhilaration and wonder of the mountain top experience when our faces are radiant and when we can luxuriate in the source of all life, but then there is the walk back down the mountain to face the heartache of the epileptic child and his parents who can see only darkness as their friend.

I guess that is how these past weeks and months have been for many. There have been mountain top experiences where communities have come together; new friendships made, remarkable acts of courage performed by our key workers and chronically sick folk leaving hospital to the cheers of relief from hospital staff.

But alongside the glory has been the suffering of those who could not breathe, the loneliness of those trapped by shielding and the grief of those unable to hold the hands of those they love the most – today perhaps we are brought to the mountain top; tomorrow we may be calling out from the depths alongside the thousands of innocent victims of the Beirut tragedy. And let us never forget that the Feast of the Transfiguration falls on August 6<sup>th</sup>, the very day that the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Today we look upon the Lord, radiant are our faces; tomorrow we may again have to call darkness our friend.

What to make of these troubling times. The author, Ben Okri reflecting on this period of pandemic offers me a helpful guiding post. 'Perhaps', he says, this long pause gives us a chance to examine ourselves, to ask what kind of a society we want to be part of, what kind of a world we want.' I am also asking myself what kind of a church does God want us to become as we emerge from this time.

However much we may wish to, we cannot go back to how things were. In the language of the current time we have to find a new normal, to rediscover what it means for us to be the church. In these last 3 weeks our different communities have worshipped together as one and now we have to negotiate a vacancy.

What do we want a new priest for? To do the things a priest has always done or to help us discover afresh what it means to be the community of God's people in worship of Him and in the service to His people.

We have before us the vision of God's glory on the mountain top as well as the harsh reality of trying to live out God's life in the day to day events of our lives. What makes it possible is God's promise that through it all, when today our joy cannot be contained and when tomorrow our sorrow may be more than we can bear, is that we are forever and at all times held in the arms of God's grace.

Amen