

Parish Notices

Scam Emails - We have been made aware of a scam email which was sent to someone within the congregation. Please check that the person/people emailing you are genuine.

Zoom Service kindly offered by St Martins Church - Thursday Morning Holy Worship 10.00am

St Martin's Church Zoom Link for Services
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/866070731>

All Saints – Corbel - A Faculty has been granted and received authorising the work to be carried out on the stabilisation of the corbels in the main nave of All Saints church. This work has now started.

Future Services July-August 2021

JULY 2021

4th July	Eucharist	All Saints
11th July	Eucharist	St Philips
18th July	Eucharist	All Saints
25th July	Service of the Word	St Philips

AUGUST 2021

1st Aug	Eucharist	All Saints
8th Aug	Eucharist	St Philips
15th Aug	Eucharist	All Saints
22nd Aug	Service of the Word	St Philips
29th Aug	Eucharist	All Saints

Parish Open Meeting - about the future management/Team about St Philips Community Centre. On Saturday 17th July from 10.00am - 11.00am.

50/50 Club - If you are not currently a member but would like to join for the next year, you will find documentation at the back of All Saints Church. Alternatively, attached to the notices are 2 documents which you will be able to print out and complete. We need as many new members as possible, so do please consider joining!

Brian Shaw

If anyone would like to add anything to the weekly notices please speak to mollieneaves@gmail.com

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

**Sunday 18th July 2021
The Seventh Sunday after Trinity**



**10.00am Joint Eucharist Service
At All Saints Church**

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

- 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 inside or outside the buildings.

Next week's Service

**Sunday 25th July 2021
The Eighth Sunday after Trinity
10am Joint Service of The Word
at St Philips Church**

Collect

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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

Ephesians 2.11-end

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called 'the uncircumcision' by those who are called 'the circumcision'—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ

Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

Gospel

Mark 6.30-34, 53-end

The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Post Communion

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Sermon from +Peter is attached

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, David Johnson, Ray Stephens,
Debbie Proctor

Special Prayers of Hope and Compassion

Rosemary & John Fowler

David Johnson is now a resident at Charing
House Care Home, Canterbury Street,
Gillingham ME7 5LA tele 01634 584600. He
would welcome people to contact him, please
call the home first if you would like to visit.

Michael Hocking

Church Wardens:

Denise Joy – denisejoy@maidstone.gov.uk

Telephone – 07788 634047

Robert Philo –

philorob@uk.ibm.com

Telephone - 07775 813258

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](#)

Mark 6:14-29

I was reflecting on England's momentous semi-final win over Denmark with our youngest son who is a sports psychologist with the academy youngsters at Wolverhampton Wanderers. Part of our conversation centred on the qualities of leadership that we have seen in the England manager.

James remarked that a significant part of his success has been his willingness to build a team around him who both have the skills that he does not have but also, and, perhaps more significantly, people who have been given the freedom to criticise him when they don't agree with him. He went on to suggest that too many leaders just build what he called 'echo chambers' around them – people who will collude with the leader even if they disagree, creating a cabal of yes men and women.

It is pretty clear that Herod is one such leader. The establishment figures of both religion and state have conspired together to keep Herod in power because it suits them and it is a power that keeps the people enslaved.

The Herodian dynasty ruled in collaboration with the religious elite who maintained the Temple and Synagogue systems. Together, observed one commentator, they headed up a kind of theocracy. In return for the delivery of peace within the Roman province, Herod was prepared to allow temple and synagogue worship with the administration of civil laws – an echo chamber keeping both him and the religious elite in power.

At the time of Herod the influential and wealthy comprised just 5% of the population. The majority of the rest were poor. It was into this febrile atmosphere of poverty, disease and oppressive power that John the Baptist came and he refused to be part of Herod's echo chamber. He was the voice crying in the wilderness, the prophet who confronted both the religious and secular leaders with the scandal of privilege and power that kept the people enslaved.

Jesus, his cousin, is cut from the same cloth; the preacher who in Luke's words, has come to bring good news to the poor, release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind and to let the oppressed go free. Mark tells the tragic story of John because it is a foretaste of what is to happen to Jesus. He too refused to be part of the echo chamber that colludes with those who oppress and enslave their people and will pay the ultimate price on the cross.

Both John and Jesus echo God's call to a new way of living and its seen most powerfully in Paul's image of the church as the Body of Christ. We are called to be a community whose way of living runs contrary to the prevailing culture – to pioneer a new way of living as neighbours in one human community.

More than ever in our history we need to be an echo chamber for Christ-like living. Not fear, but love; not prejudice but openness; not supremacy but service; not inferiority but equality; not resentment but reconciliation; not isolation but connection; not the spirit of hostility but the Holy Spirit of hospitality.

My fear is that the church is talking rather too much to itself and too little to the world – we have created our own echo chamber which speaks almost obsessively of how to grow the church rather than how to grow the Kingdom.

Brian McLaren, an American pastor, describes it much clearer than I can. ‘Jesus’ message is the living, transforming, non-violent, and revolutionary message of the gospels that institutional Christianity has often missed or kept hidden’, and he poses the question, ‘what if Jesus didn’t come to start a new religion but rather came to start a political, social, religious, economic and spiritual revolution that would give birth to a new world where truth, integrity, justice, reconciliation, mercy and love prevail.’

There is a difference between talking about transformation and God’s love and stepping out in confidence to live a loving life. Our walk must match our talk, and in John, in Jesus and in Paul that is what we see. God give us the grace and courage to walk in their footsteps.

God of the prophet, whose word cuts through the webs of power, and holds the tyrant to account. Be with all those who raise their voice against oppression and misrule, who are imprisoned and abused for freedom’s sake; Help us to stand and speak with them and witness to your Kingdom now. Amen