

## Parish Notices

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As our services have currently been suspended, please find below the https links to join the Zoom services kindly offered by St Martin's. **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>

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**Thursday Morning Holy Worship 10.00am St Martins Church Zoom Link for Services**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/866070731>

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**PCC Zoom Meeting** - Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm.

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**Annual Parochial Church Meeting** – Will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> April, Time and place TBA.

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**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](http://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 April 2021.

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**Amazon Smile** - Amazon has donated £22.67 to your organisation (The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of All Saints With St Philip Maidstone And St Stephen Tovil) as a result of AmazonSmile programme activity between 1 October and 31 December, 2020. The donation has been deposited to your organisation's bank account on or before 12 February, 2021. This money has been shared out between the three churches and will be shown in the PCC accounts for February. The Easyfundraisingmoney will be arriving next and this will be a larger sum! Hopefully you've signed up and spread the word but just in case, here are the details. *Shop AmazonSmile* at <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1134146-0>, and Amazon donates to The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of All Saints With St Philip Maidstone And St Stephen Tovil, at no cost to you.  
Lional Marchent

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**February 2021 50/50 Club** - The draw has taken place for February and the winners are as follows:

**1st Prize** Unit No 5 Beryl Sutton  
**2nd Prize** Unit No 120 Catherine Stevens  
Congratulations to the winners!  
Brian Shaw

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

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February  
1st Sunday of Lent**

**No Parish Eucharist**



### **Collect**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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**

#### **Genesis 9.8-17**

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the

everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

### **Gospel**

#### **Mark 1.9-15**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

### **Post Communion**

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**On behalf of St Philips, Special Thanks to +Peter and Liz who, where possible left a Pebble and Prayer on our doorsteps for Lent. This is also kindly being arranged for All Saints soon by Robert and Claire.**

**Reflection is attached from +Peter**

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### **Additional Notices**



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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### **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,  
Ray Stephens,

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

Rosemary & John Fowler, Keith Manuell & Family

### **Departed**

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

Parish Office - 01622 688270  
[office.allsaintsmaidstone@gmail.com](mailto:office.allsaintsmaidstone@gmail.com)  
[www.maidstoneallsaints.co.uk](http://www.maidstoneallsaints.co.uk)  
[www.stphilipschurchmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.stphilipschurchmaidstone.co.uk)

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

**Church Wardens:**  
Denise Joy – [denisejoy@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:denisejoy@maidstone.gov.uk)  
Telephone – 07788 634047  
Robert Philo –  
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## **A short act of worship for the season of Lent**

Lent is a time of preparation for Easter, and for penitence, reflection and spiritual growth  
As we begin this act of worship we take a moment to be still and know that God is here

A candle is lit

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

Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me  
**deliver me from evil, O Saviour and Redeemer**

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

Lord of the wilderness, I worship you  
**all praise to your name. Amen**

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 103: 8-17**

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy  
slow to anger and of great goodness

He will not always be chiding us  
nor will his anger continue for ever

He has not dealt with us according to our sins  
nor punished us according to our wickedness

For as the heavens are high above the earth  
so great is his mercy on all those who fear him

As far as the east is from the west  
so far has he removed our sins from us

As a father has compassion on his children  
so is the Lord tender towards those who fear him

For he knows what we are made of  
he remembers that we are but dust

Our mortal days are like grass  
We flourish like a flower of the field

When the wind passes over it, it is gone  
and its place will know it no more

But the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever on those who fear him  
and their righteousness on their children's children

God of infinite gentleness, have mercy on us your children; heal all that is broken in us,  
and renew our strength by your unquenchable love, revealed to us in Jesus Christ  
your Son, our Lord. **Amen**

### **The Gospel reading of the day**

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

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Lord of Lent, come to your church and ask us your hard questions. Are we faithfully  
proclaiming your gospel? Are we demonstrating in our life together the justice of your  
Kingdom? Have we welcomed the weak and given prominence to the poor?

Come to your church and spring clean our ways of life, our structures and our priorities.  
Point out to us the cobwebs, the extravagance and the waste. **Create in us a clean heart,  
O God, and renew a right spirit within us**

Lord of Lent, come to the nations and challenge our idolatries; spring clean the cupboard  
of the world's false gods. Sweep away false pride, the self-seeking, the deceit, the  
corruption and the lies. May the kingdoms of this earth seek justice, peace and the  
integrity of creation. May we look beyond immediate advantage to seek the common  
good, and be drawn to it, as a lark to the dawn. **Create in us a clean heart, O God, and  
renew a right spirit within us**

Lord of Lent, look with compassion on those whose minds are full of anxiety and  
bewilderment. Be with the lonely, the imprisoned, the despairing and the sick and dying.  
Assure them of your presence even in the darkest of times. **Create in us a hopeful spirit  
as we walk through these days of sadness and shadow**

For ourselves, Lord, we pray that you will spring clean our lives this Lent. Show us clearly  
the effortless sins we no longer even notice, and help us to address the sins which sit on  
our shoulders every day, our constant companions. Give us both discipline in dealing with  
some faults and gentleness in dealing with others, and help us to know the difference.  
**Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Mystery of Goodness, by whose gaze we are called into being and held in life;  
Teach us the secrecy of prayer which seeks no reward; the generosity of love which  
forgets itself; and the blessed assurance of your presence in our life's journey;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour and friend. **Amen**

The cross: **We will take it.** The bread: **We will break it.** The pain: **We will bear it**  
The joy: **We will share it.** The Gospel: **We will live it.** The love: **We will give it**  
The light: **We will cherish it.** The darkness: **God shall perish it.**  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**



## A reflection on the wilderness

As Liz and I discovered on our pilgrimage to Jordan, the desert, or the wilderness as Mark describes it, is a very harsh environment. The familiar Lenten hymn gets it absolutely right, 'sunbeams scorching every day, chilly dewdrops nightly shed.' As well as the extremes of temperature, what is also very striking is the profound silence of this vast space, and God invites Jesus into this silence to reflect on the challenge of ministry which God has put before him. There are distractions by way of the temptations, but Jesus is resolute and he emerges from this wilderness experience with a greater clarity about how his ministry will take shape.

We have all known something of the wilderness over these past weeks and months and if your feelings are in anyway similar to mine, you will have experienced a sense of loss and perhaps of desolation as we have been kept apart from each other as a church community. But as a friend of mine has put it, what are we going to do with this long pause? Normally a group of us would meet during Lent under Paul Fletcher's guidance to reflect on our faith in some way. Although we cannot physically meet I wonder if we might spend some of our 'wilderness time' to reflect on what impact Covid and its accompanying lockdown has had for each of us in relation to our church life.

So here are some questions that I hope you might engage with during Lent.

What have you realised is important to you about your church?

What have you missed and how have you sustained your faith journey?

What is NOT important anymore and what can you let go of?

As we come out of this time apart what kind of church would you like to see emerge?

What will now strengthen us and help build up our wider community?

And as we have journeyed through this time what has given us cause to hope?

You may not want to address every question and that's fine, but I would value your response and you can forward them to [pmaurice51@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pmaurice51@hotmail.co.uk)

*Spirit of the desert, you invited Jesus into the wilderness to discover his truth and his calling. Awaken our hearts and minds during this Lent and help us to see what you have in store for us, for our church, for our community and for our world. Amen*