

Parish Notices

Thank you- to everybody who has joined Easyfundraising so far and started to raise money for the Parish as they shop! We have also now signed up to Amazon Smile so you can raise money for the Parish each time you shop on the Amazon website. Click the link below and search for 'The Parish of All Saints with St Philip'. Each time you shop on Amazon Smile 0.5% of your purchase will be donated to the Parish without costing you any extra money! Many thanks for your support.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1134146-0>

Below is also the link to register for Easy Fundraising:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/the-parish-of-all-saints-with-st-philip-maidstone/?invite=5WJHW0%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm_content=srt

APCM - The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- has been scheduled for Sunday 25th October at Archbishop Courtenay School. The current plan is to have a short joint service at 10.00am followed by the meeting itself immediately afterwards at 10.30am. There will be no refreshments available, sadly, due to Coronavirus precautions. Please note that these arrangements are subject to change. We will need people to put their names forward for the various offices to be filled, i.e. PCC representative member (3 year term), Deanery Synod member (3 year term), Church Warden and Deputy Churchwarden. Forms will be available from Sunday and can be supplied in soft copy form as well. If there are any questions please contact Robert Philo. **The complete Annual Reports and Accounts 2019 can be viewed on All Saints website by clicking on this link** <https://maidstoneallsaints.co.uk/APCM%20Reports%20and%20Accounts%202019%20A4.pdf>

**25th October 2020 - End of summer time
clocks go back 1 Hour**

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

**Sunday 25th October 2020
The Last Sunday after Trinity
Bible Sunday**

**10.00am Joint Eucharist Service at
Archbishop Courtney School directly
followed by our APCM**



Face coverings will need to be worn

Next Week

**Sunday 1st November
All Saints Day
4th Sunday before Advent**

10.00am Eucharist Service at St Philips
Doors open from 9.45am

Joint Services will be held at St Philips

No Mid-week service

Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and forever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Readings

Leviticus 19.1-2,15-18

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:
Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. You shall not render an unjust judgement; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with

Special Prayers of Hope and Compassion

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

Departed

Keith Sharp
Trish Weston

Our thoughts are with the families of
Keith Sharp & Trish Weston

C3678Z & C1367Z

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Our Facebook Page:

[Click Here for our Facebook Page](#)

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

justice you shall judge your neighbour. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbour: I am the LORD. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the LORD.

Gospel

Matthew 24.30-35

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see “the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven” with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. ‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Post Communion

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Special prayers for those in need

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

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



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 Feast of St Luke

Isaiah 35:3-6; Luke 10:1-9

Last week, for the first time ever, I penned a letter to a national newspaper. I wrote 'On Friday next week we will bury my 97 year old mother whose last four years have been in a care home who have looked after her wonderfully. I have listened with increasing anger at the empty rhetoric of a government who have claimed to put their arms around the care sector. The only arms my mother craved were from her family and since lockdown, without them, she has gradually faded. We may never know the true cost borne by so many of our loved ones because of the lack of human contact. All I do know is that we have to find a way of restoring the human touch that makes our lives worth living.'

Today the church celebrates the life of St Luke, the beloved physician, who wrote so movingly and so beautifully of the touch that Jesus brought to those who were in pain or distress. His gospel continually calls the Christian community to practice more fully Jesus' concern for the oppressed, the overlooked and the outcast. The Kingdom community of which he speaks is one where God's grace and love can begin to flow so that those who are hurting can be restored, healed and forgiven.

Those same hopes and longings are echoed in the tone of Isaiah's words that proclaim the good news of God's care for all God's people.

Those to whom these words are addressed have not yet seen sorrow and sighing flee away. There are weak hands that need to be strengthened, feeble knees that need to be made firm and fearful hearts that need courage and encouragement.

His words are addressed to the Jewish people who have spent nearly 60 years in exile from their homeland but they could just as easily be addressed to us today as we struggle to live with the present reality of this dreadful pandemic.

They explain the longing, the need for hope and for an end to sighing and sorrow.

'Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, be strong and do not fear. Here is your God.'

But in these past weeks and months we have become paralysed by fear and the only conversations that seem to be happening are about restrictions, what we cannot do.

We may never know the true cost borne by so many of our loved ones because of the lack of human contact. What I do know is that we have to find a way of restoring the human touch that makes our lives worth living.

I was appalled to see the superintendent at Milton Keynes Crematorium step in to prevent a loving son offering the comfort of touch to his distraught mother and I will not be prevented from putting a hand on the shoulder of my loved ones on Friday if their grief becomes too much to bear alone.

The most common phrase by far in the scriptures is 'Do not be afraid', but we are afraid. So I do believe that it is time to reset the conversation in a way that offers the possibility of hope in this despair and some light in the darkness; to refocus our thinking NOT on what we cannot do, but on what we can do to make life worth living in these difficult times.

Nick Baines, the Bishop of Leeds, reminded us in his thought for the day last week that faith does not take us out of the world but commits us to the world. At the heart of the Christian story is incarnation – Jesus, God made human, who comes to us in touch and taste to comfort, heal and restore our broken world.

As we recognise how fragile our life is, the more we need to realise how important it is to look after each other; to not be afraid of declaring our love for all our fellow human beings and finding appropriate ways of expressing it so that life truly is worth living.

So in these times we pray, 'strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, be strong and do not fear. Here is your God.'