

Parish Notices

The funeral of Robin Barnes - will be taking place at 2.00pm on the 8th March at Vinters Park Crematorium. Numbers are restricted. Our thoughts are with the family of Robin Barnes at this sad time. Lionel will be attending to represent the choir and All Saints.

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>

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

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

Congratulations to ROWAN JAMES who (via teleconferencing practical lessons and assessments, and email written assignments) has worked long and hard during the lockdown to achieve the Dark Blue "Voice for Life" Award of the Royal School of Church Music -

Andrew M Williamson, Choirmaster All Saints church

PCC Zoom Meeting - Thursday 4th March at 6.30pm.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Will be held on 25th April, Time and place TBA.

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

The draft accounts and supporting documents are now on their way to our Independent Examiner for presentation at the APCM due in April 2021.

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

**Sunday 28th February
The Second Sunday of Lent**

No Parish Eucharist



Collect

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Reading

Genesis.17.1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will

'If you want to be my disciple...'

I have always been something of a television addict and lockdown has not helped. I can resist until lunchtime and then its 'Bargain Hunt' with lunch and after supper, well there's not much else to do! But perhaps what has changed is my choice of viewing. In lockdown I have been drawn more to programmes which offer something of a 'feel good' factor. Two stand out – 'Death in Paradise', a gentle murder mystery set in the warmth of the Caribbean, and 'The Repair Shop', a place where worn out treasures are lovingly restored to their owners.

In a recent edition of the Repair Shop someone had brought in their Grandmother's ancient ice cream maker. It was literally falling apart and looked beyond repair, but it was carefully stripped down, put back together, and returned to its owner as good as new. It was a tearful, joyous reunion and deeply moving. Giles Fraser, a Vicar of a parish in the Old Kent Road, clearly shares my love of the programme. 'Oh my word', he tweeted, 'I love the repair shop. I feel I need to be taken there myself. Perhaps that's Lent – stripped down and then restored.'

And perhaps that's something of the meaning behind the words of Jesus in our gospel this morning. 'If you want to become my disciple, you have to take up your cross and follow me.' We have to take a hard look at our life and reflect on all that prevents us from living that life in the footsteps of the one who we claim to follow. To be a disciple means living a 'disciplined' life of love and compassion and Pope Francis offers a framework for such a life in which he asks the question 'Do you want to fast this Lent'

So fast from hurting words and say kind words. Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude. Fast from anger and be filled with patience. Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope. Fast from worries and have trust in God. Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity. Fast from pressures and be prayerful. Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy. Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others. Fast from grudges and be reconciled. Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.' In other words 'be stripped down and then restored.'

DEANERY PRAYERS FOR MARCH



Thank you for your continued prayers for the churches and people of our deanery. This month our focus parish is St Paul's, currently in vacancy.

Members of St Paul's lead our prayers this month:

Please give thanks for the faithful service of our churchwardens, our lay team, our pastoral team, our visiting clergy, and in fact anyone who has worked hard during this period of both interregnum and lockdown to ensure the worship and mission of St. Paul's has been able to continue.

Please pray:

- ◆ that we can compile a parish profile that accurately represents the needs of our people and the wider parish, so that St. Paul's may flourish in the future and continue to be a beacon of hope in our community.
- ◆ that we succeed in attracting and appointing an incumbent who will not only serve the parish faithfully but will also have the creative vision to establish fruitful partnerships across the Deanery, and indeed with our brothers and sisters in Christ outside the Anglican tradition in this town, as well as other secular groups and organisations (as Andrew modelled for us when he was Area Dean).
- ◆ that we are able to hold our congregation together in a variety of ways during this time of lockdown so that we might emerge as a resilient body of people bound by loving relationships.
- ◆ that none of our members feels excluded (now or in the time to come) from being part of St. Paul's special and unique contribution to the kingdom.
- ◆ that we are able in time to resume our full and active roles in other initiatives across the town (such as Street Pastors, Winter Shelter, Fremlin Walk Chaplaincy, etc) and maybe even join in other works of mission where we are currently not represented.
- ◆ that we are able to welcome back our hall users as soon as we are allowed to do so, and that they will be keen to return so that we are able to support one another.

General Prayers:

Pray for everyone affected by the pandemic: all who are sick, lonely or feeling rejected; for those who are caring for or worried about loved ones; for relationships under pressure and families struggling to make ends meet; all who have lost their jobs, desperately looking for work, or having to make important decisions; and for all who find working or studying from home difficult or who feel they are putting themselves at risk by having to go out to work.

Pray for hospital staff and carers looking after extremely sick patients; for our scientists and researchers, making and adjusting vaccines, and for those who are administering them; and for the many people who continue to provide us so reliably with our essential services.

BBC
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LENT WORSHIP

Sunday 21st February

to

Sunday 28th March at 11am

Featuring St. Martin's on

28th February and

21st March