



The Parish Churches of St Mary the Virgin, Gillingham,  
St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour and St Nicholas, Silton



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### **Sunday 31 March EASTER SUNDAY**

*CW Lectionary Acts 10. 34-43; Mark 16. 1-8*

9:30am Holy Communion St George's, Langham

10:00am Holy Communion St Mary's, Gillingham

*Hymns: 205, 216, 196 (after Gospel), 212, Anthem: Christ the Lord is Risen Again and 204 (choir), 218*

10:30am BCP Holy Communion St Nicholas, Silton

10:30am Holy Communion St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour *Hymns: 357, 670, 67, 575.*

#### **Collect**

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

#### **Post Communion**

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### **For your thoughts and prayers**

Gillian Harding, Margaret Grant, Norma Morris, Doreen Pitman, John & Loren Cottrell, Gwen Small, Adam Cooke, Wendy Abbott, Clive Drake, Steve & Mary Rae, Roberta Wyatt, Rita Burns, Allen & Pauline Bryant, Carol Hebden and Mary Andrews.

We commend to God's care all those who have died, especially Norman Pullen, Jean James, Pearl Lewis, and Jack Skelton-Wallace, and we pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

#### **READING Acts 10.34-43**

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

#### **GOSPEL Mark 16.1-8**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

## Tuesday 2 April

2:30pm St Mary's Mothers' Union meet in the Vicarage School Room. Everyone welcome

## Wednesday 3 April

10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

2:00pm – 4:30pm Eden Café and TerraCycle recycling in the Vicarage School Room

**PLEASE NOTE there will be no board games this afternoon.** Next games afternoon Wednesday 1 May.

2.00pm – 3.30pm Dementia Friendly 'Singing Together' in Rawson Court. £2 inc. refreshments

## Thursday 4 April

10:00am – 12noon Eden Café and TerraCycle recycling in the Vicarage School Room

12noon Funeral of Jack Skelton-Wallace at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

7.30pm St Mary's Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting in St Mary's Church, Gillingham

## Saturday 6 April

10.00am Meditation in the Vicarage School Room

## Sunday 7 April 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter *CW Lectionary Acts 4. 32-35; John 20. 19-end*

08:00am Holy Communion St Mary's Church, Gillingham

10.00am Holy Communion St Mary's Church, Gillingham

10.30am BCP Holy Communion St Nicholas Church, Silton

10.30am Morning Worship St Simon & St Jude Church, Milton on Stour



**Diocese  
of Salisbury**  
Making  
Jesus Known

At this time of year, we are beckoned outside after a long, cold and often wet winter. Spring has sprung and all creation calls us to go outside, to tend to our gardens and to admire the new life around us.

The benefits to our health from time outside are well known. Growing something from a small seed to a flourishing plant or flower requires care, skill

and patience which not only brings us satisfaction but also slows us down. Unlike life in the modern world, nothing in nature is instant or immediate – it will not be rushed.

In this Easter Season, our scriptures also draw us outside. On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene finds herself in a garden, outside of Jesus's tomb, so much so that she mistakes the resurrected Christ for the gardener. There is a vast passage of time between Adam and Eve's banishment from the Garden of Eden to that moment when, in a garden, Mary realises that it is the *risen* Christ who calls her by name. Yet now in that garden, Mary and all who throughout the ages proclaim, 'I have seen the Lord' are restored to God's eternal presence.

Maybe then there is something in the Easter Season when the resurrected Christ is 'made known' to us that can help us as we – as the Church of today – seek to make him known. Firstly, we need to go outside: to be active in our communities, in our schools and in reaching out to all as we show them the love of God; the God who – through Jesus – calls us by name. And secondly, all of this takes time. There can be an understandable anxiety about the often low numbers of people who come to church. Yet let us never forget that it took time for the good news of Jesus Christ to spread through active discipleship – like growth in a garden, nothing of this was immediate or instant – we need to persevere. As the Declaration of Assent made by all who are being ordained or licenced to a new appointment states, our faith is one that the church is called upon to 'proclaim afresh to each generation.'

I pray that we can do this; go outside, take time to build relationships with all around us, show to all the love, compassion and forgiveness of God and in doing so Make Jesus Known afresh, to all generations.

*Bishop Stephen*



## CHARITY PLANT SALE Saturday 25 May Gillingham Town Meadow

St Mary's Church is taking part and would ask that you please remember the church when sowing your seeds and let us have any spare seedlings, plants and garden related items. We made £175 last year and would like



to do even better this time. House plants and well-rooted cuttings sell well and any kind of vegetable seedlings or young plants are popular. Plant pots and vases will be on sale as well as other garden-related items you would like to donate. Thank you. *Meriol Cottrell. Tel. 01747 825819*

## DATE FOR THE DIARY

**Saturday 15 June Bournemouth Male Voice Choir. 6.30pm at St Mary's Church, Gillingham.**

Entrance £10 to include a drink and nibbles during the interval. Fundraising for St Mary's Church.