



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



Open to God, Open to all

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Sunday 21 December The Fourth Sunday of Advent

CW Lectionary Rom. 1. 1 – 7; Matt. 1. 18 – end

10:00am Holy Communion

St Mary's Church, Gillingham *Hymns: 45, 30, 313, 52 (choir), 394*

Prayers for healing are usually available after the 10am service in the side chapel at St Mary's

10:30am Carol Service



St Nicholas Church, Silton

2:30pm Carol Service

St Mary's Church, Gillingham

6:30pm Carol Service

St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour



Collect

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

READING Romans 1. 1 – 7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL Matthew 1. 18 – end

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,' which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Wednesday 24 December Christmas Eve

4:00pm Crib Service

St Mary's Church, Gillingham

5:30pm Crib Service

St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour

6:00pm BCP Christmas Eve Communion

St Nicholas Church, Silton

11:30pm Midnight Mass

St Mary's Church, Gillingham *Hymns: 70, 58, 89, 84, 78 (omit *vs)*

Collect

Eternal God, in the stillness of this night you sent your almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation: give to the earth the peace that we long for and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Post Communion

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever.

READING Titus 3.4–7

When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

GOSPEL Luke 2: 8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Thursday 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30am Holy Communion	St George's, Langham
10:00am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Gillingham <i>Hymns: 72, 65, 66, 68, 78 (omit *vs)</i>
10:30am BCP Holy Communion	St Nicholas Church, Silton
10:30am Holy Communion	St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour <i>Carols: 12, 17, 2, 10</i>



Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.

Post Communion

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord.

READING Hebrews 1.1–4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

GOSPEL John 1.1–14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.



Wishing everyone a Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year



Saturday 27 December

10:00am Meditation in the Vicarage School Room

Sunday 28 December The Holy Innocents CW Lectionary 1 Cor. 1. 26-29; Matt. 2. 13-18

10:00am Holy Communion	St Mary's Church, Gillingham
10:30am Matins	St Nicholas Church, Silton
10:30am Holy Communion	St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour

St Mary's Finance Bite Size 9 – Christmas is a time for giving

It is a tradition at St. Mary's that the collection at the Christingle Service and the Crib Service is donated to The Children's Society. The society has for 140 years been there for young people when they need support. They work on the basis that a future of hope and happiness belongs to every child. Please give generously.



The Parish Office will be closed from 25 December - 1 January. Re-opening Friday 2 January.
Eden Café will be closed from 24 December - 1 January. Re-opening Wednesday 7 January.