



**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*

[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6802/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6802/)  
**Email: [gillinghamanglican@gmail.com](mailto:gillinghamanglican@gmail.com)**

**Sunday 14 December The Third Sunday of Advent**

*CW Lectionary James 5.7–10; Matthew 11.2–11*

10:00am Holy Communion

St Mary's Church, Gillingham *Hymns: 609, 38, 816, 34 (choir), 769*

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

10:30am Matins

St Nicholas Church, Silton

10:30am Holy Communion

St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour *Hymns: 79, 699, 9, 493*



3:30pm Christingle Service with Messy Church activities and refreshments at St Mary's Church, Gillingham



*Christingle is such an important time as it helps raise a lot of money in support of children and young people living in the darkest situations. Every donation, large or small, makes a difference.*

**Donations** can be taken to the Parish Office or placed in the collection plate on Sunday (in an envelope clearly labelled 'The Children's Society'). Online donations can be made by using the QR code or by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/smv-oranges>



**Collect**

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Post Communion**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

**For your thoughts and prayers**

Norma Morris, Adam Cooke, Steve & Mary Rae, Roberta Wyatt, Rita Burns, Allen & Pauline Bryant, Carol Hebden, Mary Andrews, Diane Whitford, Ann Lockyer, Jean Harding, Anne Clarke, Michael Giddings, Shirley Lynch and Sandra Harwood.

We commend to God's care all those who have died, especially Nick Holbrook and Eileen Biss, and we pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

**READING James 5. 7–10**

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**GOSPEL Matthew 11. 2–11**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

**Thank you to everyone who helped with the Advent Sunday evening service at St Mary's Church.** Thank you to Steve and Mike who set everything up, Daniel and the choir, the churchwardens and the readers and lightbearers.

**And many thanks to Asda and Waitrose** for donating sweets/cocktail sticks and oranges respectively for the Christingle Celebration at St Mary's Church.

## Tuesday 16 December

5:00pm – 6:00pm Christmas Cheer with Gillingham Arts Workshop at Gillingham Library

*Come and enjoy a festive programme of traditional carols and readings (info - [gillinghamlibrary@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:gillinghamlibrary@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk))*

## Wednesday 17 December

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

10:30am – 12noon The Gillingham Men's Group at Rawson Court

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

2:00pm – 3:30pm Dementia Friendly Gillingham 'Singing Together' at Rawson Court, admission £2.

## Thursday 18 December

9:30am Funeral of Eileen Biss at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

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

*After today, Eden Café will close for Christmas and will re-open on Wednesday 7 January.*

7:00pm Gillingham Community Cinema in the Vicarage School Room

*Tickets SOLD OUT for tonight's showing of 'Downtown Abbey - The Grand Finale'. Next film will be Jurassic World: Rebirth on Thursday 22 January at 7:00pm in the Vicarage School Room.*



## Friday 19 December

9.30am – 10am Informal Prayer Group at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

2:30pm – 4:00pm Dementia Friendly Gillingham 'Sing-a-Song of Praise' at Fern Brook Lodge

## Saturday 20 December

10:00am – 12noon Meditation in the Vicarage School Room

9:00am – 12noon Decorating for Christmas at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

*Please leave foliage for decorating today in St Mary's porch on Friday 19 December. If anyone would like to make a donation towards the Christmas flowers, we would be very grateful. Donations can be handed to a churchwarden or left at the Parish Office. Thank you.*



## 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

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



## 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

## Thursday 25 December Christmas Day

9:30am Holy Communion

St George's, Langham

10:00am Holy Communion

St Mary's Church, Gillingham

10:30am BCP Holy Communion

St Nicholas Church, Silton

10:30am Holy Communion

St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour

**St Mary's Advent Appeal** - This year we're supporting **Christian Aid's Appeal for the DRC**. Christian Aid is working with trusted local partners to deliver a financial assistance programme, which offers immediate emergency aid to families who've fled their homes – supporting mothers to protect their children from hunger, malnutrition, disease and pain. Specially labelled contributions may be left at the Parish Office or in the Sunday collection, or you can give via Christian Aid's website: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christmas-appeal>

## Finance Bite Size 8 – (St Mary's) How we indirectly pay our clergy

St. Mary's largest expense item is what is known as the Fairer Share and it is what we are asked to pay to the central funds of the Diocese of Salisbury. So, what is it for and why should we pay it? Well, it pays clergy stipends, their pensions and housing. It also pays for training and administration – basically the cost of being church. It does NOT pay for Bishops neither does it pay for our cathedral. 89% of the total diocesan budget goes directly to local ministry whereas the share payments they receive only contribute 71% of that budget!

**Rev Becca, our new Rector, and her family** are due to move in to The Vicarage in early January. As a welcome we would like to give her a token to help her settle in. If you would like to contribute, please put this in the collection plate in December in an envelope clearly labelled 'Becca'.

**St. Simon and St. Jude 100 Club December Winners:** 1st Sheila Fricker, 2nd Louise Cotter, 3rd Tim