



Open to God, Open to all

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



www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6802/
Email: gillinghamanglican@gmail.com

Sunday 11 January The Baptism of Christ (The First Sunday of Epiphany)

CW Lectionary Acts 10. 34 – 43; Matt 3. 13 – end

Hymns: 327, 109, 108, 107 and 332 (choir), 227

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

Collect

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Post Communion

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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, Shirley Lynch and Sandra Harwood.

We commend to God's care all those who have died, 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 Matthew 3. 13 – end

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

Faculties - problems and solutions

Churchwardens and anybody else involved or interested in the faculty procedure is warmly invited to attend Deanery Synod **on Tuesday 20 January, 2 for 2:30pm, at Shillingstone Church Centre, Blandford Road, Shillingstone, DT11 0SW**, to hear a presentation by Dan Crooke and Revd Canon Jonathan Triffitt on the faculty system and the internal review carried out by the diocese in 2025. Dan is the DAC Secretary, oversees the Church Buildings Team and is Diocesan Lead for Net Zero. Jonathan is the Deputy Diocesan Secretary, Director of Ministry & Mission and Bishop's Missioner. They will address the concerns that arose in January 2025 and Deanery Synod's vote of no confidence in the faculty procedure.

Wednesday 14 January

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

Also, at Eden today, 'Experiment with Stitch'. The stitch for January will be variations of SATIN stitch. Embroidery threads will be available, but please bring your own fabric. No booking required.

Thursday 15 January

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

Friday 16 January

9.30am – 10am Informal Prayer Group in the Vicarage School Room

Saturday 17 January

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

Sunday 18 January The Second Sunday of Epiphany CW Lectionary 1 Cor. 1. 1 - 9; John 1. 29 - 42

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

10:30am BCP Holy Communion St Nicholas Church, Silton

6:30pm Evensong St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour (Plough Sunday)

For Plough Sunday: Ps. 65; Isaiah 55. 6 - 11; Mark 4. 26 - 32



Sunday 18 January – Sunday 25 January Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

For 2026, materials were prepared by the faithful of the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with their brothers and sisters of the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches.

<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2026/>

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Daily Sessions

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| Sunday 18 January | 12noon | St Mary's Church, Gillingham |
| Monday 19 January | 12noon | St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour |
| Tuesday 20 January | 12noon | Vicarage School Room, Gillingham |
| Wednesday 21 January | 12noon | St Benedict's Church, Gillingham |
| Thursday 22 January | 12noon | St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour |
| Friday 23 January | 12noon | St Benedict's Church, Gillingham |
| Sunday 25 January | 6:00pm | St Benedict's Church, Gillingham (Main Service) |

Celebration of Life for Pauline Rolph

Pauline Regina Rolph, of Wyke, Gillingham died on 5 November, 2025, aged 101, after a long life, well lived. Much loved aunt, great aunt, great, great aunt and cousin. A celebration of Pauline's life will take place **at St Mary's Church, Gillingham on 21 January at 1:30pm**. Friends are warmly invited to attend the service in remembrance of her. Donations, if desired, to St Mary's Church. All enquiries to Brachers, F/D, Gillingham, tel.01747 822494.

Finance Bite size 11 – St Mary's Advent and Christmas Appeals

The appeal for the Democratic Republic of Congo raised £90 in cash plus unknown individual donations made directly to Christian Aid. The Christingle and Crib Service collections enabled St Mary's to send £307 -13 to the Children's Society. Overall, our giving the Mission, Evangelism and Local Charities for 2025 raised £1,643 – 63.

Our Iranian friends

You have probably heard that Ramin, Fariba and Zahra are back in Gillingham on what is hoped to be a permanent basis, having been found a flat by Dorset Council. The difficulty is that this flat is unfurnished – at the time of writing it has just beds and a washing machine (no chairs, table, curtains or carpets). If you can think of any ways in which you could help, either financially, with furniture and other household necessaries, or with practical assistance (ex: access to a van to help move large items), please let Margaret know. In addition, Ramin is not well. The family undoubtedly feel embarrassed at requesting more help when you have been so generous when they first came here. Thank you.