



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/

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Sunday 15 February The Sunday next before Lent

CW Lectionary Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1. 16 – end; Matthew 17. 1 – 9

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

Hymns: 279, 281, 603, 134 & 695 (choir), 610

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

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

6:30pm Evensong St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour *Hymns: 486, 424, 649, 225*

Collect

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask 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 2 Peter 1. 16 – end

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

GOSPEL Matthew 17. 1–9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

All in the Benefice are invited to join our Lent Course: 'Journeys and Resting Places' taking place on 6 Wednesdays in Lent; **Feb 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 7pm in the Vicarage School Room-**planned to last an hour. Please sign up on the sheet in St Mary's, or let Miriam know- and copies of the course can be collected from the Parish Office.

Tuesday 17 February

10:00am Burning Palm Crosses at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

We will be burning Palm Crosses in the churchyard at St Mary's today ready for Ash Wednesday services - you are welcome to join us!

Wednesday 18 February ASH WEDNESDAY

CW Lectionary 2 Cor. 5. 20b – 6.10; John 8. 1 – 11

10.30am Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

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

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

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

6.00pm Holy Communion with imposition of Ashes at St Nicholas Church, Silton

7:00pm Lent Course: 'Journeys and Resting Places' in the Vicarage School Room (Week 1)



Thursday 19 February

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

7:30pm St Mary's PCC Meeting in the Vicarage School Room

Friday 20 February

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

Saturday 21 February

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

Sunday 22 February The First Sunday of Lent

CW Lectionary Romans 5. 12 – 19; Matthew 4. 1 – 11

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

Thought for the Day

We are about to turn into the season of lent, and whilst many will be admirably giving up chocolate or gin, I would also encourage you to turn towards your inner life of faith and 'take up' carving out a bit of extra time with God. On Sunday I will be 'burying the Alleluia' at St Mary's; we turn away from this joyous shout of praise for a quieter season of reflection. Our fast makes the triumphant shouts of Easter all the more sweeter! Our youngest members have made a banner which will be hidden, before being displayed over the Easter period. I hope some of you will be able to join us at the weekly lent group as we journey together to the cross, and we can all seek to find a sliver of our day for extra prayer, reading and study of scripture.

With my blessings, Rev'd Becca.

Annual World Day of Prayer (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer)

This year's service is on **Friday 6 March at 2:30pm in St Benedict's** new Catholic Church in the High Street. The service has been prepared by Christian Women from Nigeria with the title "I will give you rest, come". So please do come, everyone is welcome. Light refreshments will be served after the service. *Contact Margaret 822193*

Finance Bite Size 12 – Stewardship at St. Mary's

Have you ever wondered why we have a collection plate and a card reader as you come into church rather than passing a collecting bag during the offertory hymn? Well, it allows us to give gracefully - giving freely rather than being put on the spot.

Vicarage Schoolroom Bin Rota

We need more helpers to join the VSR Bin Rota. This involves taking a turn periodically to put out the food and rubbish/recycling bins, and collecting them in after they have been emptied. Please contact Alan Jeffs on awjeffs@btinternet.com if you are willing to add your names to the rota.

Grateful thanks

I should like to thank so many of you for all the messages of support, flowers, cards, and visits following my knee replacement last week. This has been a real challenge, but made so much better with your thoughts and support. I hope to be able to get to the Eden cafe again soon. Best wishes Mitch and Jane (Mitchell)