



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 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 *Hymns: 121, 702, 128, 123 & 433 (choir), 757*

Prayers for healing are usually available after the 10am 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: 160, 400, 590, 41*

Collect

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; 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, especially Barbara Chalk and Keith Trimby, and we pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

READING Romans 5. 12 – 19

Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned – sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so the act of righteousness of one leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one person's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

GOSPEL Matthew 4. 1 – 11

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you," and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Tuesday 24 February

10:00am – 12noon Gillingham Mindful Café at Gillingham Social Club. This week's activity will be Wud Eye Lye
2 Ewe, what's the true definition?

Wednesday 25 February

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
7:00pm Lent Course: 'Journeys and Resting Places' in the Vicarage School Room (Week 2)

Thursday 26 February

10:00am – 12noon Eden Café and TerraCycle recycling in the Vicarage School Room
2:30pm – 4:00pm Dementia Friendly Gillingham 'Music For You' at St Martin's House, Queen Street

Friday 27 February

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 28 February

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

Sunday 1 March The Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 am Holy Communion St Mary's Church, Gillingham
10:30am **Benefice BCP Holy Communion** St Nicholas Church, Silton
Benefice BCP Holy Communion with Bishop Stephen. Everyone from the three parishes is encouraged to attend to demonstrate our unity, fellowship and love for one another in Christ as a single benefice.

Monday 2 March - Silton Lent Lunch

Come and join us for a friendly Lent Lunch at **1200 noon served at Silton Village Hall**. There will be soup, bread and cheese followed by tea or coffee. (Suggested donation £5, with all surplus donated to Christian Aid.) If you can make it, please let us know on jamesexaminer.js@googlemail.com - we look forward to welcoming you there.

Wednesday 4 March - Today at Eden, 2:00pm – 4:30pm, there will be **an opportunity to purchase a variety of handmade craft items by J K Hall** including cards, notelets and bags. Commissions also taken. A donation from each item sold will go towards St Mary's Church Funds.

Friday 6 March - Annual World Day of Prayer (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer)

This year's service is 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*

Tuesday 10 March, 6:30pm – 8:00pm Dementia Friendly Gillingham 'Dementia Awareness Session' in the Waitrose Café, Gillingham. Dementia awareness is so important whether you are affected yourself, or know someone that is, or do not know anyone at all who is. This short session will help everyone to have the essential knowledge and understanding to support and enable people living with dementia, to live well with their dementia. Free and no need to book.

Finance Bite Size 13 - Stewardship at St. Mary's

The Gospel is uncomfortably insistent that money matters, not because it is holy, but because WE ARE NOT. Jesus talks about money not as a distraction from faith, but as one of its clearest diagnostic tools. "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," he says — a remark which sounds poetic until one realises it is essentially an audit.

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.

St. Simon & St. Jude 100 Club February Winners: 1st Jill Fletcher, 2nd Jeannie Stevens, 3rd Anne Scutt