



**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/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6802/)  
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**Sunday 8 March The Third Sunday of Lent** *CW Lectionary Romans 5. 1 – 11; John 4. 5 – 42*

10:00am Holy Communion

St Mary's Church, Gillingham

*Hymns: 641, 669, 762, 689 & 682 (choir), 652*

*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: 113, 209, 208, 237*



### *Collect*

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### *Post Communion*

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; 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, Sandra Haward and Maureen Atkinson.

We commend to God's care all those who have died, especially Doug Quayle and Jean Chalk, and we pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

### **READING Romans 5. 1 – 11**

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

### **GOSPEL John 4. 5 – 42**

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink," you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.' Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.' Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him

something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.' Many Samaritans from that city believed in Jesus because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

### **Tuesday 10 March**

10:00am – 12noon Gillingham Mindful Café at Gillingham Social Club. This week's activity - Tina Jay, singer.

6:30pm – 8:00pm Dementia Friendly Gillingham 'Dementia Awareness Session' in the Waitrose Café, Gillingham

### **Wednesday 11 March**

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

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

11:45am Lenten Reflection followed at 12noon by Lent Lunch at St Benedict's Catholic Church, Gillingham

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

*Also, today at Eden from 2:00pm - 4:00pm, the follow up session for the Eden bunting project.*

*Come along and see the progress so far!*



### **Thursday 12 March**

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

### **Friday 13 March**

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

2:30pm – 4:00pm Dementia Friendly Gillingham 'Name This Tune' at St Martin's House, Queen Street

### **Saturday 14 March**

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

12:30pm – 3:30pm Repair Café in the Vicarage School Room

### **Sunday 15 March Mothering Sunday** *CW Lectionary Ps. 127; Col 3. 1 2 – 17; Luke 2. 33 – 35*

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

*10am Parish Eucharist with activities for children and posies for all ladies*

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

2:30pm Café Church St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour

*Café Church will be an Informal service with cream tea, crafts and posies*

6:30pm Evensong St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour



### **Finance Bite Size 15 - Stewardship at St. Mary's**

Why do we give money? Well, if we were a business, we would say it is to pay our staff, for the upkeep of our premises, general running costs and to make a profit, but as a church we should look at it as giving to God. Yes, we have all those business-related type costs but only, yes only, to facilitate our worship, to enable us to meet as a family of God and to open ourselves and our doors to the wider community – that is the greater profit! Yes, we 'bang on' about money but we can also give of ourselves – our Time and our Talents. As true disciples, not only consider financial giving but, regularly share ourselves - there is lots to do, do please ask how you can help.

### **Church Electoral Roll**

If you are not on the St Mary's Electoral Roll and would like to be, please sign up by filling in the simple form which can be found either in church or in the parish office. Forms can be handed to one of the Wardens or posted through the office door. This would make you an official member of our congregation and give you voting rights at our AGM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) which will be on Tuesday 28 April in church. It is nothing to do with the government elections, local or national.

'We thank all the friends in Christ, both from the church and beyond, who stood with us in this crisis. When the Council gave us an empty house, your support turned it into a home. May the grace and love of Jesus Christ fill your lives abundantly. As it is written in the Gospel of Matthew, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me". With all our love and gratitude, Ramin'

**St. Simon & St. Jude 100 Club March Winners:** 1st Amanda Harbottle, 2nd June Smart, 3rd Patrick Allard