



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 10 May The Sixth Sunday of Easter

CW Lectionary Acts 17. 22 – 31; John 14. 15 – 21

10:00am Holy Communion St Mary's Church, Gillingham *Hymns: 490, 143, 763, 454 (choir), 721*

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: 184, 113, 224, 336*

12noon Baptism of Autumn and Olive Windsor at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

Collect

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him 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, Diane Whitford, Anne Clarke, Shirley Lynch, Sandra Haward and David Clegg & family.

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

READING Acts 17. 22 – 31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him – though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring." Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

GOSPEL John 14. 15 – 21

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

Wednesday 13 May

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

Thursday 14 May ASCENSION DAY - our Lord has gone up with a shout!

CW Lectionary Acts 1. 1 - 11; Luke 24. 44 – end

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

10:30am Holy Communion at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

6:00pm BCP Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church, Silton



Collect

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

God our Father, you have raised our humanity in Christ and have fed us with the bread of heaven: mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings, we may set our hearts in the heavenly places; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

READING Acts 1. 1 – 11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This,' he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

GOSPEL Luke 24. 44 – end

Jesus said to the disciples, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.' Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Friday 15 May

9.30am – 10:00am Informal Prayer Group in the Vicarage School Room

Saturday 16 May

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

6:30pm Dementia Friendly Gillingham 'Anniversary Concert' at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

With Top Brass & Wind Concert Band, Soloist Arabella Heaton and Special Guests Belle Street.



Sunday 17 May The Seventh Sunday after Easter (Sunday after Ascension Day)

CW Lectionary Ps. 68. 1 – 10; Acts 1. 6 – 14; John 17. 1 – 11

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

St. Simon & St. Jude 100 Club May Winners: 1st Pippa Haywood, 2nd Alison Graham, 3rd Michael Cox

Thursday 4 June – Corpus Christi

7:00pm at St Mary's Church: a service of thanksgiving for the institution of Holy Communion, where we focus on and celebrate Christ's presence in the bread and wine. The choir will be singing some special music. Please come along! Please note, a small amount of incense will be used.

Friday 5 June – Afternoon Tea for Christian Aid

2:00pm – 4:00pm, in the Vicarage School Room. Suggested donation £5 on the door. Please speak to Helen or Teresa if you can supply cakes, scones or drinks.