



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 19 July The Seventh Sunday after Trinity (Proper 11)

CW Lectionary Ps. 139. 1 – 11; Rom. 8. 12 – 25; Matt. 13. 24 – 30, 36 – 43

9:30am Parish Eucharist

St Mary's Church, Gillingham

Hymns: 282, 653, 584, 7 (choir), 569

Prayers for healing are usually available after the 9:30am service in the side chapel at St Mary's

11:00am BCP Holy Communion

St Nicholas Church, Silton

6:30pm Evensong

St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour *Hymns: 400, 590, 746, 379*

Thought for the Day by Canon Tim

There's a particularly nasty weed called darnel, toxic if consumed, which is almost indistinguishable from wheat as it grows in the field. It is not until the head forms that its presence is revealed. Darnel is wheat's evil twin. In Jesus's Parable of the Weeds, the farmer (Jesus) forbids the farmhands (us?) to go and pull it out. By doing that, he says, they're bound to uproot some of the wheat (children of the kingdom) along with the weeds (children of the evil one). Best to leave it be. How should we understand this? I don't think it should be interpreted as a call to passivity in the face of evil in the world; rather it is a realistic reminder that attempts to pluck up weeds can sometimes cause more harm than good - just think about all the civilian casualties of war, including innocent children. And anyway, should we be the ones to judge? Are we lost forever, then, in a hopelessly compromised world? No. The parable ends with the promise that, one day, in God's time and in God's wisdom, the weeds will be destroyed. Evil is temporary, only the good endures.

Collect

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he 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, David Clegg & family, Revd Nigel Done, Gillian Harding and Janet Botterill.

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

READING Romans 8. 12 – 25

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans. Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh – for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

GOSPEL Matthew 13. 24 – 30, 36 – 43

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!'

Tuesday 21 July

9:30am – 9:45am CW Morning Prayer at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

Wednesday 22 July

9:30am – 9:45am CW Morning Prayer at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

10.30am Said Eucharist 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 23 July

9:30am – 9:45am CW Morning Prayer at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

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

Friday 24 July

9.30am – 10:00am 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 25 July

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

10:00am – 12noon Silton Summer Coffee Morning at Silton Village Hall

Coffee, cake, biscuits. Sales of baked goods, preserves, bric a brac and a raffle – so come along, bring your friends and have a great time! We look forward to seeing you.

2:00pm Wedding of Benjamin Hudson and Charlotte Snook at St George's, Langham



Sunday 26 July The Eighth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 12)

CW Lectionary Rom. 8. 26 – end; Matt. 13. 31 – 33, 44 – 52

9:30am Parish Eucharist

St Mary's Church, Gillingham

11:00am BCP Mattins

St Nicholas Church, Silton

11:00am Holy Communion

St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour

St Mary's Church - Volunteers Needed:

x Church Open/Close: Mainly closing on Tuesdays and Fridays, opening/closing on Saturdays & occasional cover for those on holiday.

x Welcomers and Servers – To join the team on Sundays (starts at 9:00am).

If you are interested in any of the above, please speak to Helen or Revd Becca.

Tuesday 28 July – St Mary's Church Clean (9:00am – 11:00am)

Everyone is warmly invited to join in, so please do come along if you would like!