



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 16 August The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity (Proper 15)

CW Lectionary Ps. 133; Rom. 11, 1 – 2a, 29 – 32; Matt. 15. 21 – 28

9:30am Parish Eucharist St Mary's Church, Gillingham Hymns: 518, 679, 740, 455 (choir), 806

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

11:00am Baptism of Alfred Dewing St George's, Langham

11:00am BCP Holy Communion St Nicholas Church, Silton

6:30pm Evensong St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour Hymns: 305, 495, 422, 15

Thought for the Day by Revd Philippa

Today our Gospel is a passage that can feel unsettling. We are accustomed to the idea that God is eternal and unchanging. But here we see Jesus changing His mind! His first response to the Canaanite woman is to ignore her and, when His disciples complain about the racket she is making, apparently to dismiss her as outside the fold. And yet ... by the end of the story He has done what she has asked and even commended her faith.

Perhaps our lesson from this small interaction is that, while God does not change, WE do. When we make ourselves vulnerable, He will meet us in our need and answer our prayers. When our need changes or our openness to God's grace increases, we will find out more about His mercy and compassion. God's nature does not change; Jesus' nature does not change; but our understanding of the depths of His love changes every time we reach out to Him.

Collect

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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 of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; 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, Diane Whitford, Anne Clarke, Shirley Lynch, Sandra Haward, David Clegg, Revd Nigel Done, Gillian Harding, Susan Bending and Wendy Horne.

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

READING Romans 11.1 – 2a, 29 – 32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

GOSPEL Matthew 15. 21 – 28

Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

Tuesday 18 August

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

Wednesday 19 August

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

5:00pm Collection of Cakes for the Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

*Request for all those who are baking for this year's Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show Church Tent. We prefer tray bakes, loaf cakes or small cupcakes for children. Nothing creamy. Please leave cakes in the box labelled **CAKES FOR SHOW** at St Mary's Church. It will be on the bench left of the door inside the church. **We will collect WEDNESDAY 19 August at 5:00pm.***



Thursday 20 August

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

Friday 21 August

9.30am – 10:00am Informal Prayer Group at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

7:30pm A Talk by Reg Pengelly about Thomas Hardy's Work at St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour

We are delighted that Reg will be giving a talk on "Thomas Hardy – his novels, short stories, and his life in Dorset". Entry is free but please donate, if you can, to help with urgent repairs to our church. Reg will have available copies of his book about Hardy's novels. They will be discounted at £10 (£15 on Amazon) so please bring some cash with you. Refreshments & Raffle Parking in School alongside – just follow the road sign.

Saturday 22 August

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

11:00am A short act of remembrance to mark VJ Day at Gillingham War Memorial, High Street Car Park

Sunday 23 August The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 16)

CW Lectionary Rom. 12. 1 – 8; Matt. 16. 13 – 20

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

Sunday 30 August – 11:00am Benefice Holy Communion at St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour

But please meet from 10:30am for coffee and croissants so we can spend some time in fellowship together.

Saturday 5 September, 11:00am – 2:00pm – St Mary's Church Fun Day

We really need some help with the community fun day in partnership with Little Cherubs toddler group. They are running teas and coffees in the VSR but need donations of cakes to sell, teddies for the teddy tombola, or other unwanted gifts, toys, toiletries, bottles, chocolates etc.

I would really value some help in the church and churchyard, overseeing some games and activities for children, as well as manning the church for anyone who comes in. I have two volunteers for the teddy drop from the tower but any help setting this up or helping from the ground would be appreciated.

This is to raise money for the church and the toddler group, as well as to provide something fun for our community. Do speak to Rev Becca if you can help, thank you!

Saturday 12 September – Ride and Stride 2026 (raising money for Dorset Historic Churches Trust, DHCT)

Gillingham – Meet at 9:30am at St Mary's Church. We will be again walking as a team to raise money for DHCT. We've planned a 5km circular walk around Gillingham starting and finishing at St Mary's. All are welcome to join. Bring a packed lunch to share at the end if you like. For more information, contact Kate Wickson 833663

Silton – To raise money for DHCT, Diana Masters and Mike & Michaela Metcalfe will be doing a walk (prior to 12 September). And on the day Peter Williams will be aiming to get close to his personal best: visiting 45 x Dorset churches on his bicycle! To sponsor Silton's Ride and Stride, please contact Diana (mastersbagmore@btinternet.com) or Peter (peterwilliams53@gmail.com)

Gillingham Car Link – Volunteer Drivers Needed!

Every week, Gillingham Area Car Link helps people across the SP8 postcode area who have no transport of their own to attend essential medical appointments. Sadly, for the first time in our history, we are having to turn people away because we simply don't have enough volunteer drivers to meet the need. Volunteering is completely flexible. You decide how often you're available, how far you're happy to travel and which journeys you accept. To find out more about becoming a volunteer driver, visit www.gillinghamcarlink.org.uk, email walkerphilsu@gmail.com or call 824645.