



**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 20 September The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 20)

CW Lectionary Ps. 105. 37 – end; Phil. 1. 21 – end; Matt. 20. 1 – 16

9:30am Parish Eucharist St Mary's Church, Gillingham *Hymns: 641, 284, 650, 629 (choir), 475*

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

3:00pm Messy Church Vicarage School Room

6:30pm Evensong St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour *Hymns: 95, 122, 249, 115*

Thought for the Day by Revd Jeffrey

Ninety years ago in the Autumn of 1936, 200 unemployed men from Jarrow in north-east England began their 300 hundred mile, three and a half week march to London to protest about the loss of their industry, their jobs and their livelihoods. The organisers of the Jarrow campaign, part of our social history, were inspired by their radical MP Ellen Wilkinson, who sadly died nearly ten years later still only in her 50s. So I ask: who has inspired you to do or achieve something, great or small? In our first reading today Paul is clearly inspired by his faith in Jesus Christ. So, ask yourselves who have you inspired, young or old?

Collect

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; 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, Shirley Lynch, Sandra Haward, David Clegg, Gillian Harding, Glynis Crocker and Sue & Marie Andrew.

We commend to God's care all those who have died, especially Anne Clarke, Nicola Bright, Susan Bending and Martin Love, and we pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

READING Philippians 1.21 – end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians. For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well – since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

GOSPEL Matthew 20. 1 – 16

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

Tuesday 22 September (*The Parish Office is closed this week, re-opening Tuesday 29 September*)

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

10:00am – 12noon Gillingham Mindful Café at Gillingham Social Club. With – Brue Boys (Male Voice Choir)

Wednesday 23 September

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

7:00pm St Mary's PCC Meeting in the Vicarage School Room

Thursday 24 September

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

11:00am Funeral of Martin Love at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

2:30pm – 4:00pm Dementia Friendly Gillingham 'Music for You' at St Martin's House



Friday 25 September

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

7:30pm An Illustrated and Imagined Conversation with John Constable at St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour

We are delighted that Sam Woodcock will be conversing with John Constable to find out what brought him to Dorset in 1823, and to Milton in particular. Admission is free but please donate, if you can, to help with urgent repairs to our church. Refreshments, including wine, and a raffle. Parking alongside at Milton School (SP8 5QD) All Welcome!



Saturday 26 September

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

2:45pm – 3:30pm Visiting Purbeck Ringers at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

Sunday 27 September The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 21)

CW Lectionary Phil. 2. 1 – 13; Matt. 21. 23 – 32

9:30am Parish Eucharist St Mary's Church, Gillingham

10:30am Harvest Festival St George's, Langham

11:00am BCP Mattins St Nicholas Church, Silton

11:00am Harvest Festival St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour

For Milton Harvest, CW Lectionary Cor. 9. 6 – end; Luke 12. 16 – 30



St George's and St Simon & St Jude will be collecting donations for the Foodbank. The Foodbank currently has an urgent need for tinned vegetables, tinned soup, tinned meat & tinned potatoes. If you can, please bring these to the Harvest Festivals.

Saturday 3 October at 6:30pm – The Mill Singers (Male Voice Choir) at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

'Dementia Friendly Gillingham' invite you along to enjoy an evening with the wonderful 'The Mill Singers'.

Entry is £12 on door (which includes interval drinks and nibbles). There will also be a raffle.



Sunday 11 October – St Mary's and St Nicholas' Harvest Lunches

For St Mary's – 12noon for 12:30pm in the Vicarage School Room

The lunch will consist of a ploughman's lunch (cheese or ham), apple crumble with custard or cream and a glass of cider or fruit juice. Kindly specify your preference when booking and any special dietary needs. Entertainment will be an open mic so please let the parish office have details of what you are going to perform. We require this in advance to help us plan the schedule of entertainment. This event is in aid of church funds. Tickets are £12 (children u16: £2) and are available from the parish office or Steve Butler. Come and join us as a church family to celebrate harvest!

For St Nicholas – 12:30pm at Silton Village Hall

A Harvest lunch will be served at around 12:30pm by James and Katie Smith. There will be hot food, coffee or tea - a glass of wine is also included in the ticket price of £10. The whole congregation is welcome and if you would like to join in, please book your place soon with James on jamesexaminer.js@googlemail.com.

Benefice Book Club – Over the next couple of months, we are hoping to start a Book Club. Each month, we will choose a book (nothing too heavy!) with a Christian theme to read and then meet to discuss ... with drinks and nibbles, of course! If you would be interested in getting involved, please contact Revd Philippa on revdphilippa@gmail.com (or speak to her when you see her) with an idea about which evenings or afternoons are most suitable for you.

Revd Philippa – Please note that Revd Philippa's regular working days will be Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Wherever possible, any variations to this pattern will be advised in the Pew Sheet in advance.