



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 4 October The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 22)

CW Lectionary Phil. 3. 4b – 14; Matt. 21. 33 – end

8:00am Said Trad Holy Communion St Mary's Church, Gillingham

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

Hymns: 291 (vs 5 to the end), 592, 595, 423 (choir), 490

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

11:00am Morning Worship St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour

Today's service at Milton will be a pet blessing and celebration for St Francis Day. Pets and teddies of all sizes welcome for a blessing. There will be crafts for children and singing. We will also have the opportunity to remember pets that we have lost. All are welcome to join us!



Thought for the Day by Revd Becca

Today is the feast day of St Francis, 800 years after his passing in 1226 in Assisi, Italy. He founded male and female religious communities, as well as the third order for lay people, which continue today. Many who belong to this Franciscan way of life have recently been on an impressive pilgrimage, from the North finishing in London this weekend (via Gillingham!). His life and teaching gives us a wonderful example of close relationship with God, living a Christ-like way of life, living peacefully, living well within community, and living responsibly and with love amongst the nature and creatures of God's creation. Pope Francis, who took his name, said of him: "He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace." Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* #10

Collect (for St Mary's)

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting 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 (for St Mary's)

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints 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, 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, Margaret Luker and Nicola Bright, and we pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

READING Philippians 3. 4b – 14 (for St Mary's)

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL Matthew 21. 33 – end (for St Mary's)

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: 'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: "The stone that the builders

rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes"? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.' When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Tuesday 6 October

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

10:00am – 12noon Gillingham Mindful Café at Gillingham Social Club. Activity – Country Music Request Time!

Wednesday 7 October

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

10.30am Said Eucharist at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

2:00pm – 3:30pm Dementia Friendly Gillingham 'Singing Together' at Rawson Court

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

Also today at Eden, Jo's Crafts – It's never too early to shop for Christmas!

7:00pm 'Seekers and Searchers' in the Vicarage School Room (Session 1)

A new group which offers a gentle introduction to those new to the Christian faith, or the chance for more exploration. We will be following the Bible Society's 'The Bible Course' over 8 weeks + a bonus session to discuss the Christmas story. These sessions will be every other Wednesday.



Thursday 8 October

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

7:00pm Gillingham Community Cinema (GCC) in the Vicarage School Room

Come along to GCC's first streaming event: a Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Concert – Adventurous Journeys (Beethoven/Wagner). Tickets £10, reserve from 07817 379006.



Friday 9 October

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

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



Saturday 10 October

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

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



Sunday 11 October The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 23)

CW Lectionary Phil. 4. 1 – 9; Matt. 22. 1 – 14

9:30am Harvest Festival St Mary's Church, Gillingham

For St Mary's Harvest CW Lectionary Cor. 9. 6 – end; Luke 12. 16 – 30

11:00am Harvest Festival St Nicholas Church, Silton

11:00am Holy Communion St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour



For St Mary's – the Harvest collection will be split between the Foodbank and Dorset Women's Refuge.

For St Nicholas – all donations of dried goods, tinned food etc. will be gratefully received and later donated to The Trussell Trust, who desperately need donations to continue their work in the Gillingham area.

St Mary's Harvest Lunch (Sunday 11 October – 12noon for 12:30pm in the Vicarage School Room)

Come and join us for a ploughman's lunch (cheese/ham), pudding and a glass of cider or fruit juice. Kindly specify your preference when booking. Entertainment will be an open mic so please let the Parish Office have details of what you are going to perform. Tickets are £12 (children u16: £2) and are available from the Parish Office or Steve Butler.

We need several people to make an apple crumble for the lunch, please let me know if you can help. No crumble, no dessert! We will provide custard and cream to go with them. Thank you, Kate Wickson 833 663.

Jo's Crafts – Christmas Card Making Workshop (Wednesday 14 October at Eden Café)

Come along and join in the fun! No need to book. Cost – £2.50 which includes a donation to St Mary's Church.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Please take your shoebox to the Parish Office by **Friday 20 November (not the date given in the leaflet)**. If you have any problems getting there, please let me know. I have one empty box if you need one. Margaret Porter 822193

Who is Isaac? A blue envelope for Isaac was left at St Simon & St Jude after the Benefice Service on Sunday 30 August. If you know who left this envelope please contact the Parish Office.