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/benefice/34-154E/

Email: gillinghamanglican@gmail.com

Sunday 22 November Christ the King (The Sunday next before Advent)

CW Lectionary Eph. 1. 15 – end; Matt. 25. 31 – end

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

Hymns: 227, 575, 422, 557 (choir), 612

11:00am BCP Mattins St Nicholas Church, Silton

11:00am Holy Communion St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour *Hymns: 336, 263, 209, 214*

Thought for the Day by Revd Becca

This Sunday we come to the end of another church year, and we finish as ever on the high note of Christ the King. A relatively new feast day, it is a day to focus on Christ as King of Kings reigning from His Kingdom. But amongst this pomp and majesty, our Gospel reading also encourages us to remember the poor, sick, and needy. It juxtaposes a glorious divine vision with the cries of our Earthly world, suffering that Christ knew and knows well. It is a reminder, as we come into Advent, to see Christ in all we meet, to care for our neighbours whether they be here in Gillingham or on the other side of the world.

Collect

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For your thoughts and prayers

Norma Morris, Adam Cooke, Steve & Mary Rae, Rita Burns, Allen & Pauline Bryant, Carol Hebden, Diane Whitford, Sandra Haward, David Clegg, Gillian Harding, Glynis Crocker, Sue & Marie Andrew, Mary Andrews and John Lewis.

Also for your prayers – our church school of St Mary the Virgin Primary has their SIAMS inspection on Tuesday.

We commend to God's care all those who have died, especially Ivan Zvegintzov and Jennifer Croxton-Smith, and we pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

READING Ephesians 1. 15 – end

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL Matthew 25. 31 – end

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

Tuesday 24 November
9:15am Milton on Stour CE Primary School Advent Service at St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour
9:30am – 9:45am CW Morning Prayer at St Mary's Church, Gillingham
7:00pm St Mary's PCC Meeting at St Mary's Church, Gillingham

Wednesday 25 November
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
Also, today at Eden, drop in sewing – come along with whatever piece you're working on.

Thursday 26 November
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
2:30pm – 4:00pm Dementia Friendly Gillingham 'Music For You' with Old Blue Bag Band at St Martin's House
7:00pm Gillingham Community in the Vicarage School Room
Join us for Carmen, Bizet's thrilling masterpiece in a spectacular production from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Tickets £14 (ages 8+). Reserve from 07817 379006.

Friday 27 November
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 28 November
10:00am – 12noon Meditation in the Vicarage School Room

Sunday 29 November The First Sunday of Advent Common Worship Year B Begins
CW Lectionary 1 Cor. 1. 3 – 9; Mark 13. 24 – end
9:30am Parish Eucharist* St Mary's Church, Gillingham *incense will be used at this service
6:00pm **BENEFICE Advent Carol Service** St Nicholas Church, Silton

Sunday 29 November – Stitching Workshop Exhibition (in the VSR 10:30am – 12noon) Come and look at the work done this year in the workshops as well as individual pieces from members – and a chance to do some Christmas shopping from Jo's Crafts.

Wednesday 2 December – Christmas at Eden Café (2:00pm in the VSR) come and join the fun! There'll be teas and entertainment and Carols to sing. £7 on the door (cash or card). Plus, an opportunity to buy a variety of items from Jo's Crafts – lots of ideas for Christmas, including decorations and presents.

Saturday 5 December – 'Old St Nick's Coffee Morning' (10:00am – 12noon, in the VSR) Homemade cakes, tea & coffee, chocolate tombola and a hamper raffle - plus Saint Nick will come and greet the children. Donations for the Christmas hamper and chocolate tombola can be left in the Parish Office. We're also collecting any pre-loved and in good condition Christmas decorations to sell. All money raised will go to St Mary's Church funds. For more information please speak to Revd Becca or Steve Butler. Please do join us!

Saturday 5 December – Reindeer Drive (7:00pm at St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour) Come and join us for a reindeer drive! It's just like a beetle drive but we'll be drawing reindeer instead**.** Doors open at 6:45pm, with refreshments and raffle. Admission – adult £5, child £2, proceeds to St Simon & St Jude Church funds. Everyone welcome!

Sunday 6 December – Carol Service at St George's Langham (4:00pm)

Saturday 12 December – 'Christmas Spectacular' (3:30pm – 5:30pm at St Mary's Church, Gillingham) Top Brass & Wind Concert Band with soloist Arabella Heaton. Enjoy a wonderful Concert with music for everyone! Free entry, plus raffle and festive refreshments. Retiring Collection for Dementia Friendly Gillingham and Parkinsons South West.

St Mary's needs a new Treasurer – Could it be you, or someone you know? After a distinguished term of office, Mike Sargent is retiring as Church Treasurer at the end of this calendar year and we are actively seeking his replacement. This is a vital role which we obviously cannot do without. It involves keeping track of our income, paying our staff and the companies we employ. Mike has set up very smooth-running systems and recently a number of peripheral jobs have been taken on by others. Mike explains that realistically the job takes 2 – 2.5 hours per week. If it might be you, or you have any ideas, please speak to Mike or one of the Churchwardens, Helen or Tom.