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 15 November The Second Sunday before Advent

CW Lectionary Ps. 90. 1 – 8; 1 Thess. 5. 1 – 11; Matt. 25. 14 – 30

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

*Hymns: 676, 657, 787, 686 (choir), 754 (omit *verse)*

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

6:30pm Evensong St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour *Hymns: 148, 459, 422, 224*

*After this service, there will be an opportunity to stay behind for a very short healing service. This will include prayers, laying on of hands and anointing. Please feel free to join us in the Good Shepherd Chapel to receive this ministry for yourself or on behalf on someone known to you.

Thought for the Day by Revd Philippa

It's no coincidence that the word 'talent' means BOTH an ancient sum of money or weight AND an innate or natural ability. Today's parable is the reason: in late medieval England, the interpretation of this very reading made that connection between the money that Jesus was referring to and the abilities that God gives us. The shift became so complete that we now have to explain the monetary definition to make full sense of the story! And perhaps there's a small lesson for us in that. We can't deny that money and what we do with it matters, but, as our world has become so preoccupied with getting and spending, maybe as Christians we need to strive to be truly counter-cultural in our attitudes towards wealth?

Collect

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

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, Sarah Snook, Mary Andrews and John Lewis.

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

READING 1 Thessalonians 5. 1 – 11

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

GOSPEL Matthew 25. 14 – 30

Jesus said to his disciples, 'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not

sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."'

Tuesday 17 November
9:30am – 9:45am CW Morning Prayer at St Mary's Church, Gillingham
10:00am – 12noon Gillingham Mindful Café at Gillingham Social Club. Activity: Christmas Card Making

Wednesday 18 November
9:30am – 9:45am CW Morning Prayer at St Mary's Church, Gillingham
10.30am Said Eucharist at St Mary's Church, Gillingham
12:30pm Funeral of Barry Bashford 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
7:00pm 'Seekers and Searchers' in the Vicarage School Room *(Session 4)*
A group which offers a gentle introduction to those new to the Christian faith, or the chance for more exploration. Following the Bible Society's 'The Bible Course', sessions are every other Wednesday.



Thursday 19 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

Friday 20 November
9.30am – 10:00am Informal Prayer Group at St Mary's Church, Gillingham
By 1:00pm today (Christmas Shoebox Appeal) – please drop off your shoeboxes at the Parish Office.

Saturday 21 November
10:00am – 12noon Meditation in the Vicarage School Room
10:00am – 12noon Visiting Mere Branch of the Salisbury Guild of Ringers at St Mary's Church, Gillingham
10:00am – 12noon Christmas Coffee Morning at Silton Village Hall (in aid of Silton PCC Charity Giving)
Coffee, Mince Pies, Baking, Books, Bric a Brac, Preserves and Christmas Items.



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
11:00am	BCP Mattins	St Nicholas Church, Silton
11:00am	Holy Communion	St Simon & St Jude, Milton on Stour

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).



Saturday 5 December – Help required for 'St Nick's Coffee Morning' (10:00am – 12noon, in the VSR)
We need cakes for the home-made cake stall and donations for the Christmas hamper and chocolate tombola (these donations can be left in the Parish Office). We also need volunteers on the day to help make tea and coffee. Please support this event – all proceeds to St Mary's funds. If you would like to help please speak to Revd Becca or Steve Butler.



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.

Saturday Closer needed for St Mary's Church – we are looking for a volunteer to lock up the church on Saturday afternoons. If you are able to help, please speak to Helen, Tom or Revd Becca.