

UNITY UPDATE

January 2017

The Monthly Newsletter from the Whitstable Team Ministry

The Vast Ocean of Gods Love and Grace



In my first curacy from 1994 to 1998 in Paddock Wood we always began the new year by saying this prayer together.

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

It is the Covenant Prayer written by John Wesley. We used it because the church where I was curate was a Local Ecumenical Partnership between an Anglican and Methodist church.

I have been reflecting on the theme of self-denial recently and comparing it to some of the themes in Buddhism which is an increasingly

popular religion and philosophy in our culture today. In Buddhism too there is the theme of dying to self and in particular dying to desire, through self-control and meditation. Buddhists try and escape the power of their own passions through reflection and self-discipline as part of their spiritual journey.

However, where Buddhism and Christianity part company is that we as Christians believe that through this self-denial and abandonment to God, we will find an even richer source of life that is found in the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. As we die to self, so we live for Christ. We abandon our own desires and demands, in order that we truly find ourselves alive in Christ.

As we begin this new year, we need to reflect on those words of Christ, "Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it." Matthew 10.39 and elsewhere in the gospels. Yes I agree with the Buddhists that the way to freedom is to escape the powerful control of our own self-centred desires. Where I part company, and where I hope you part company, is in our conviction that beyond this escape from the prison of self we find the vast ocean of God's love and grace available to us through Christ.

As we press on into 2017, let us ask for more of that presence of Christ. In the words of that chorus by David Bryant from the 1980's "Jesus take me as I am, I can come no other way. Take me deeper into you, may my flesh life melt away. Make me like a living stone, crystal clear and brightly honed, Life of Jesus shining through, giving glory back to you."

Rev Simon Tillotson

Details of Services and events at your Local Church

REGULAR SERVICES

ALL SAINTS



**Church Street
Rev'd Simon
Tillotson
01227 272308**

Regular Sunday Services:

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am Sung Eucharist with Family
Communion on 2nd Sunday
6.30pm Choral Evensong (last Sunday)

Regular Weekday Service:

Thursdays 10.00am - Eucharist with healing
prayer

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST



**Swalecliffe Court
Drive
Rev'd David Vannerley
07510 838123**

Regular Sunday Services:

9.00am Holy Communion - CW Order 2
(3rd Sun)
10.30am Parish Eucharist
(1st, 2nd, 4th Sun)
Morning Praise (3rd Sun)
4.00pm Café Church - Church Centre
(1st Sun)
6.30pm Evening Prayer
(1st, 3rd & 5th Suns)
6.30pm Village Praise in St John the
Baptist Church Centre
(2nd Sun)
6.30pm Village Praise - Chestfield WI
(4th Sun) (3rd in December)
6:30pm Joint worship with SFC.
(5th Sun)

Regular Weekday Services:

The Eucharist is celebrated each Wednesday
at 10.00am in the Church Centre (Healing
Ministry 1st)

ST PETER



**Sydenham Street
Rev'd Simon
Tillotson
01227 272308**

Regular Sunday Services:

9:30am Sunday School, Church House
10.45am Sung Eucharist
6.30pm Sung Evensong. (Benediction
with anointing and laying-on of
hands with prayer for healing on
1st Sunday of the month).

Regular Weekday Service:

Tuesday 10am Said Eucharist.
Wednesday Quiet Hour 1pm - 2pm.

ST ALPHEGE, WHITSTABLE



**High Street
Rev'd Rachel Webbley
01227 273329**

Regular Sunday Services:

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am Family Communion & Junior
Church (Family Service 3rd Sun)
Laying on of hands for healing in
chapel afterwards on 1st Sunday
4.30pm Evensong (1st Sun)

Regular Weekday Service:

Wed 10.00am Holy Communion

ST ALPHEGE, SEASALTER



**Faversham Road
Rev'd Canon Steve
Coneys
01227 276795**

Regular Sunday Services:

8.45am Holy Communion
In Seasalter Christian Centre
10.10am Lighthouse (short all-age
service)
In Seasalter Christian Centre
11.00am All Age Worship
In Seasalter Christian Centre
11.15am Holy Communion (BCP) 1st Sun
In Old Church, Church Lane

Regular Weekday Services:

Tue 9.15am Morning Prayer
Wed 9.15am Holy Communion
Fri 9.15am Morning Prayer
All in the Old Church

ST ANDREW



**Grimshill Road
Georgina Hedley-Smith
georgina@stalphegeseasalter.org**

Regular Sunday Services:

First service for 2017 is on 8th
January at 6.30pm

WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

Sunday	1st
Tuesday	3rd
Saturday	7th
Saturday	7th
Sunday	8th
Wednesday	11th
Saturday	14th
Sunday	15th
Tuesday	17th
Thursday	19th
Saturday	21st
Sunday	22nd
Sunday	22nd
Sunday	22nd
Thursday	26th
Saturday	28th
Sunday	29th

Second Sunday of Christmas

10am: Mothers Union Christmas Review - Social Meeting at Seasalter Christian Centre

9am - 11am: St John's Saturday Market in Church Centre

9am - 12pm: St Alphege Whitstable Coffee Morning

Baptism of Christ

10am: Mothers Union Corporate Communion at St. John's Church Centre, Swalecliffe

9am - 12pm: St Alphege Whitstable Coffee Morning

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Diocesan meeting looking at draft Diocesan Strategy for renewal. Venue TBC. Open to all, contact Steve Coneys for details.

2.30pm: Mothers Union Talk by David Sims on the Week of Christian Unity in Thorpe Room at All Saints.

9am - 12pm: St Alphege Whitstable Coffee Morning

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

3:15pm: Installation of the new Archdeacon in the Cathedral Quire

6:30pm: Service of Christian Unity at Swalecliffe Free Church

12 noon: Mothers Union Cathedral Prayer Time.

9am - 12pm: St Alphege Whitstable Coffee Morning

4th Sunday of Epiphany

The following activities take place every week:

St Alphege Whitstable

The Cafe is open every day except Sunday between 9:00am - 12:00pm, with lunches being served on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 12:00pm - 2:00pm.

St Alphege Seasalter

Thursdays at 10.30 am: Open Door

Fridays at 6:15pm: Prayerpoint

Fridays at 8:00pm (30 minutes). Silent Prayer of the Heart

All Saints

Mondays at 2:00pm: CAMEO (Come and meet each other)

Thursdays at 11:00am: Film Club

Team Prayer:

Mondays at 5.00pm at St Alphege, Whitstable

Evening Prayer and prayers for the Team.



Mothers Union Fellowship:

All are welcome at our meetings, you do not have to be a member, and lifts are always available. Tel. Margaret Lakin-Hall (leader) 01227 262471.

StArs HOMEWORK CLUB

For Primary School Children, 3:30pm - 5:00pm every Wednesday during term time at St Andrew's Church, Grimshill Rd

Would you like to join our team supporting children with their homework?

Do you know of children who would benefit from this supportive, fun group?

Please contact Rev Rachel (01227 273329) for more info.

ALPHIES: Thursdays during term time at Seasalter Christian Centre. A shared lunch together between 12:00pm - 1:00pm, then a short babies and toddlers service with story, singing, craft and special activities for the youngest in our churches! Finished by 2:00pm at the latest. Call Jane Myhill for more information: 01227 276923



Cinderella.

4th & 5th February 2017 - 7pm
St Andrews Church Hall, Grimshill Road.

Entry is **FREE**. Tickets available from Georgina.
Email: georgina@stalphegeseasalter.org



Our Panto is raising money to support the work of LIV Village. Donations on the night are very welcome. www.liv-village.com



St Alphege, Seasalter

UNITY UPDATE

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Please email if you would like to be sent a PDF version of Unity Update