

UNITY UPDATE

March 2017

The Monthly Newsletter from the Whitstable Team Ministry



Anne Moreton writes:

Isaiah said “This is the kind of fasting I have chosen. To loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke. Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter - when you see the naked to clothe them, and not turn away from your own flesh and blood.”

Our shops have already moved on from Father Christmas to the Easter display of chocolate rabbits and chicks, eggs and appropriate food to buy to celebrate the next holiday. Escape to the sunshine has already been booked and Good Friday renamed the Great Get Away Day. Maybe we need to ask ourselves how far we have moved from the original keeping of Lent. Do we see it as a time to just give up something.. chocolate probably.... but otherwise get on with our normal lives?

If we turn our thoughts to Shrove Tuesday and look back on its history, we will find how very different was the expectation of how Christians should keep it, and Ash Wednesday and the Lenten days that follow.

The noun Shrove comes from the verb to shrive, which just means 'make a confession'. A shriver is

a confessor, a priest, a shrift is a confession. And we still talk about giving someone short shrift... which originally came from the time given for confession before execution. They had short shrift, the hangman wasn't going to hang about! So Shrove Tuesday originally was the day on which we did penance and cleansed our souls. And Shrove Tuesday a time to turn out our cupboards and rid ourselves of any rich foods, aiming to have a simple diet without meat fats, eggs and milky foods. And making pancakes is a way in which we use up most of these foods. Throughout the Christian world this has developed into a day of celebration, Mardi Gras and other such festival events, including pancake races which still taking place in parts of our country.

But this is not what God wants, as Isaiah very positively tells us. Fasting time, or a giving up of favourite foods, for Christians should have an outcome that is practical, forgetful of self and remembering of others. There should be a harvest from our Lent.... a time spent in becoming more aware of the needs of our neighbour. Time spent in prayer, that we may grow closer to God, and more aware, day by day of what He requires of us. Our Lenten time could and should lead us to a time of celebration, sins forgiven, neighbour remembered, new life celebrated.

The Prodigal Son said: “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am not worthy to be called your son.” The son had travelled far from his father - the father who watched and waited for his return, and then came to meet him halfway. And there was a celebration. A sinner returned and all the saints in heaven raised their voices in thanksgiving.

We are called to prepare ourselves during Lent to be ready to hear those voices and join with the saints in heaven in the great exclamation of Easter, 'He is risen'.

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 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, 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 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
(Not 3rd Sun)
10.30am Morning Praise in Church Centre
(3rd Sun)
4.00pm Café Church - Church Centre
(1st Sun)
6.30pm Evening Prayer
(1st & 3rd 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 Swalecliffe
Free Church *(5th Sun)*

Regular Weekday Services:

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

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 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 MARCH

Wednesday	1 st
Wednesday	1 st
Saturday	3 rd
Sunday	4 th
Tuesday	7 th
Saturday	11 th
Sunday	12 th
Thursday	16 th
Friday	17 th
Saturday	18 th
Sunday	19 th
Wednesday	22 nd
Saturday	25 th
Saturday	25 th
Sunday	26 th
Thursday	30 th

8pm: Solemn Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes at All Saints

Ash Wednesday Service as St Alphege.

9am - 12pm: St Alphege Whitstable Coffee Morning

First Sunday of Lent

10am: Mothers Union Talk on "Prospect Field" by Michael Page. Seasalter Christian Centre.

9am - 12pm: St Alphege Whitstable Coffee Morning

Second Sunday of Lent

2.30pm: Mothers Union Lenten Reflections. Thorpe Room, All Saints.

11am: Mothers Union Wave of Prayer. All Saints Church

9am - 12pm: St Alphege Whitstable Coffee Morning

Third Sunday of Lent

7:30pm:: Visit by Bishop Trevor to All Saints

3pm: Mothers Union Lady Day. Archdeaonry Service with Evensong at Canterbury Cathedral. The girls choir will be singing.

9am - 12pm: St Alphege Whitstable Coffee Morning

Fourth Sunday of Lent

12pm: Mothers Union Cathedral Prayer time.

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 Andrews, 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.

Philosophy and Faith course at the All Saints Vicarage

Tuesday evenings 7.30pm to 9.15pm

Looking at some of the key questions since the Enlightenment

Tuesdays during Lent and then continuing for three more weeks after Easter break

See www.philosophyandfaithatallsaints.blogspot.co.uk for more details or contact Simon at 01227 272308 or tillotsons@gmail.com

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

40 days of prayer to *shift* the spiritual atmosphere & enable things to happen.

the SHIFT

February 1st - March 12th 2017
6am-7am at SCC (Sundays 7am-8am)

WALK THE LABYRINTH

The labyrinth is an ancient symbol, metaphor and experience of prayer, holding, healing and renewal.

You are invited to come and explore and learn about the Labyrinth at **St Alphege Church**. It will be introduced by Dr Martin Garsed.

Saturday
1st April 2017
9:30am - 11:00am



We are all in a rush and
have no time for
reflection.

Come and step out of
your every day and

SACRED SPACE
A TIME TO BE QUIET AND
AT PEACE IN A WORLD OF RUSH

JOIN US ANY TIME
BETWEEN 8PM - 9PM
11TH APRIL 2017
ALL SAINTS, WHITSTABLE

UNITY UPDATE

Editor: Steve Charman

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