

FROM NICHOLAS

For the third year running our Holy Week was dominated by forces and events outside of our control. The story of Holy Week – the innocent being killed by evil men, the absence of even the basic justice of war – is tragically relevant as we discover what is happening in Ukraine.

Resurrection and hope were found by the disciples in the realities of life, the brutality of the Roman empire and the political intrigues of the day. My Easter prayer is that, for all of us, in the realities of our lives, that the meaning and the relevance of the events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday will be more powerful and real than they have ever been.

BISHOP OF ROCHESTER

HM The Queen has approved the nomination of the Rt Rev Jonathan Gibbs as the next Bishop of Rochester.

Bishop Jonathan is currently the Bishop of Huddersfield in the Diocese of Leeds. He also holds the national portfolio of Lead Bishop for Safeguarding, a role he will bring with him into his post as Bishop of Rochester. His PhD was in the theology of work.

He is married to Toni and they have three children. His interests include walking, usually accompanied by their Cocker Spaniel, and rummaging in second-hand bookshops. He is a fluent French speaker with a love of France, and especially its wines. He also speaks German and Swiss-German. He and his wife, who originally met when working in Paris, enjoy entertaining and making new friends. Jonathan is also a member of the Campaign to Protect Rural England and the Campaign for Real Ale, committed to supporting village and community life. Jonathan was consecrated as Bishop of Huddersfield in York Minster on 17 October 2014.

Tuesday 12 April - A Fundraising Day for Ukraine All Saints Parish Hall

A huge thank you to those who worked so hard to make our fundraising day a success both financially and as a community witness. The café was busy with from the off with a wonderful offering of Ukrainian food and many cakes. There was a brief rest in the afternoon followed by a skilfully arranged quiz in the evening. In the raffle, the table from St Philip and St James won many prizes, to their own embarrassment and everyone else's amusement! I know that there were many contributions behind the scenes without which this would not have happened, but particular thanks go to:

Administration & Co-ordination: Sue Jones, Jen B, Judy Carr

Publicity: Jen B, Alan Ellis, Sue Jones, Judy Carr

Catering: Judy Carr, Heather Donald

Baby Clothes and Toys: Jen B

Face Painting: Serena Gardner

Raffles: Alan Ellis, Pat Jupp

Crafts: Anne Maillardet, Sue Vallente-Kerr, Vicki Webster, Kim Crewe

Cards and Painting: Annie Cooper

Quiz: David and Alison Mings

Cake Sales: Pat Ellis, Women's Institute and many of you!

Help on the day: Nigel Jones, Janice Russell, Jan Young, Tracy Abinett, Judith Armitt, Liz Williams

AND FINALLY, thanks to all who came along, publicised and supported it. We have now raised over £2,400!

UKRAINE POSTCARD

Annie has painted a water colour painting from which she has produced a postcard. The intention is that the card is sold to raise funds for Ukraine. A local printer and donations have covered the costs. Thus, all monies raised through sale of the card will go to the Ukraine DEC appeal. If you are aware of any sales opportunities, please let Annie or Nicholas know. Sellers can receive cards at no charge on the understanding that all funds raised are remitted directly to Ukraine DEC.

PILGRIMS PANTRY and UPCHAT CAFÉ Pilgrims Pantry meets every Tuesday morning from 10.30am in the Parish Hall.



The UpChat Café will restart on Friday 22 April, 10am, at St Philip & St James.

LITTLE LIGHTS

All Saints Baby and Toddlers has recommenced as 'Little Lights' on Tuesday afternoons, term time, from 1.00pm. Carers, babies and toddlers meet for play, craft, snacks, songs a short story and a prayer.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Thank you to everyone who returned their stewardship form – if you haven't done so yet, it's not too late! Please bring to church or pass to Nicholas or Sue.

APCM and ELECTORAL ROLL

This year our APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) will be on Sunday 29 May 10.00am. The revision of our Electoral Roll takes place on Sunday 1- Friday 6 May. The new roll will be published on Sunday 8 May. The Electoral Roll is our church membership list - being on the roll allows you to stand as a church officer and to vote at the APCM. Most of you will already be on the existing roll and therefore do not need to complete a new form but please check the list at the back of our churches. To join the roll, please complete a form which is at the back of churches and pass to Andrew, Electoral Roll Officer, or Sue, Administrator. Forms need to be returned by the end of April, please.

ECO CHURCH

As a church we would like to be better stewards of our planet and so we have committed to being part of the Eco Church network and work to become more 'eco-friendly'.

We can also all do our bit individually to help reduce climate change and so we are going to be including 'Green Tips' here in our newsletter and on a notice board in All Saints. We might not all be able to do everything, but each little thing we do is a step in the right direction.

This month's Green Tip is:

Green Tips



Don't tidy up the garden too early! Lots of insects and small animals may still be using dried up stems of plants or fallen leaves to keep warm when the weather turns cold.

OPEN GARDEN AT BISHOPSCOURT (24 St Margaret's Street, Rochester, ME1 1TS) as part of the National Garden Scheme, Saturday 30 April 11:00am to 2:00pm. Tickets £5.00, children free. Please see the NGS website www.ngs.org.uk.

There will be tea & cake and a plant stall (cash only). Disabled parking only.

Bishopscourt: 01634 842721 bishopscourt@rochester.anglican.org

DONATIONS TO THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF THIS PARISH

Our financial year is coming to a close. It is a year in which we have had to invest a significant sum in the care of our buildings. Unfortunately, our regular giving has dropped and plate offerings at all services have been significantly reduced by not passing the plate around as part of our COVID protection measures.

Donations can be made at our services by cash or cheque in the collection plate, a stewardship envelope or standing order for regular giving please speak to Nicholas, the Churchwardens, Sue Jones or Alison Mings.



We are now also offering this QR code in our printed materials. Scanning the code with the camera on your smart phone will take you to the Give a Little page for our parish. You can choose how much, whether to Gift Aid, and request a receipt.

SAFEGUARDING – VOLUNTEER ROLE AGREEMENTS

The Church of England Safeguarding Requirements expect all members who have already have a voluntary role in church to complete a Volunteer Agreement. These will start to be sent out to you by email or post. If you need a printed copy, please contact Sue Jones on 01634 296050. Please sign and return within the next week if possible. You will require two referees, and these will be provided by the Church Wardens.

PRAYER CHAIN

Carole Morrad has asked me to remind you that the Prayer Chain are always willing to take prayer requests. If the prayer is not for you then we do ask that you have the permission of the person you are asking us to pray for.

DEMENTIA RESOURCES

At this time, those who live with dementia are understandably disoriented and upset. It has been a difficult and concerning time for their families too. Carole and Annie, our Anna Friends, have gathered some resources which are now available on the website. In particular there are a number of online training and awareness courses available at no cost.

SAFEGUARDING RESOURCES

RELEASE THE PRESSURE - new helpline from Kent County Council

Mental well-being remains a huge concern at this time.

A new phone line is available through Kent County Council, offering 24/7 access to a highly trained and experienced team, to provide expert support no matter what a person is going through.

People are encouraged not to suffer in silence and to text the word Kent to 85258 or call the number 0800 107 0160, for free confidential support.

SAFE HAVENS

Mental Health Matters can help any resident of Kent or Medway aged 16+ by offering a warm, welcoming, safe and comfortable environment. Contact: 07850 901151 or 07808 79503

CONTACT US

Vicar: The Reverend Nicholas Cooper	01634 717580	vicar@allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk
Pioneer Minister: The Revd Sue Vallente-Kerr	07940 161044	pioneer@allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk
Administrator: Sue Jones	01634 296050	pa@allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding Officer: Vicki Webster	01634 515580	webstervictoria95@gmail.com
Parish Hall Team	07526 094 017	roomhire@allsaintsfrindsbury.org.uk

Prayer Diary 24-30 April 2022

“...in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” *(Philippians 4:6)*

Prayers from the Church of England to use in our prayers for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Let us pray to the Lord, who is our refuge and stronghold.

For the health and well-being of our nation, that all who are fearful and anxious may be at peace and free from worry:
Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the isolated and housebound, that we may be alert to their needs, and care for them in their vulnerability:
Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**


For our homes and families, our schools and young people, and all in any kind of need or distress:
Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For a blessing on our local community, that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship, where all are known and cared for:
Lord, hear us, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Church's Ministry	<i>Praying for the people, groups and mission and outreach of the churches in our parish, diocese and worldwide Anglican communion</i>
Community	<i>Praying for our community, our parish and Medway</i>
People of the Parish	<i>Praying for those who live in Frindsbury and Wainscott, (FW), Upnor (U), Chattenden (C) and those who work on Medway City Estate (MCE)</i>

Easter 2	Sunday, 24 April
Church's Ministry	<i>Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father.</i> Pray we may shine with the light of the risen Christ
Community	Give thanks for family life and those we hold dear in our hearts, praying for their health, well-being and hope.
People of the parish	Gardenia Close (FW), Lochat Road (C)
	Monday, 25 April
Church's Ministry 	On World Malaria Day "Harness innovation to reduce the malaria disease burden and save lives." pray for charities and organisations working to combat malaria.
Community	Pray for all in education: teachers, support staff and administrators, pupils and students; pray for Hilltop School
People of the parish	George Summers Close (MCE), Lodge Hill Lane (C)
	Tuesday, 26 April
Church's Ministry	Pray for our Vicar, Nicholas Cooper, and his family
Community	Pray for Pilgrims Pantry, our church café – for those volunteering and those coming along and for Little Lights – our baby and toddler group
People of the parish	Lower Rochester Road, Main Road (C)
	Wednesday, 27 April
Church's Ministry	Pray for the elderly, isolated and vulnerable; pray for those who care for them that they would be strengthened and encouraged. Pray for staff and residents of Shawswood
Community	On Stop Food Waste Day, we give thanks for the diversity of creation and the world's resources and pray for wisdom not to waste what we have.
People of the parish	Margetts Place (U), Marden Road (FW)
	Thursday, 28 April
Church's Ministry	Pray for churches in Strood deanery in interregnum; for St Helens, Cliffe and St Francis, Strood
Community	Pray for those in positions of authority making decisions at national and local level; pray for Kelly Tolhurst, MP
People of the parish	Maritime Close (MCE)
	Friday, 29 April
Church's Ministry	Pray for 27 th All Saints Scouting Groups – leaders, helpers and young people
Community	Pray for UpChat Café – for those helping and those coming along
People of the parish	Mason Way (FW), Mayfair (FW)
Easter Eve	Saturday, 30 April
Church's Ministry	Pray for all community keyworkers. Pray for staff and patients at Medway Hospital
Community	Pray for all who are struggling in body, mind or spirit
People of the parish	Songbird Crescent