

Readings for 21 July 2024

Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern
both our hearts and bodies
in the ways of your laws
and the works of your commandments;
that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First reading: Ephesians 2. 11 – end

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called 'the uncircumcision' by those who are called 'the circumcision'—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

Gospel reading: Mark 6. 30 – 34, 53 – end

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by

themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Post-Communion Prayer

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your word
be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love
shine with the light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been fed with your body
be refreshed with the fullness of your life;
glory to you for ever.

Hymns

583	Teach me my God and King
163	All hail the power of Jesus name
475	Immortal love
558	Praise to the Lord

Our Mission of the Month for July is Breathe Arts

There is a display at the back of the Church. Each MOM receives equal donations from the church plus any specific donations by individuals.

Donations for Bromley Foodbank can be left in the church porch

Items currently most needed are:

- Tinned cold & meats ● Tea
- UHT Milk ● Handwash
- Multi-surface wipes/sprays

Please remember in your prayers this week...

The Church....

The parishes of Strood, Aylesford, Barming, Burham, Coxheath and Ditton.

The Community...

For Sunday worship at St. Mary's. For the discernment of vocation in our church family.

For the daily reading of God's word. All Bible Societies, Homegroups and their Leaders.

The World ...

For Ukraine, for an end to violence and for the well-being of the population. For all victims of conflict, oppression and climate change.

The Sick ...

For all who have recently become unwell including Alan Roberts and Peter Standford and continuing prayers for Alison Fraser-Black, Sally Aldred, Heather Donovan and Angela Ash. Also, all those who bring their prayers to our Church.

The Departed ...

For those who have recently died including Ann Standford, and for all who mourn.

We remember those whose anniversaries we keep this week: Ivy Burton, Bertie Ford, Ada Levett, Nancy Cross, John Saward and Margaret Lilley.

NOTICES

- **Wednesday Services at 10am in the Chapel** - Holy Communion dates are 21st August, 18th September, 23rd October, 20th November & 18th December. Morning Prayer on the other Wednesdays.
- **The Fairtrade Stall - August:** Sun 11th & Wed 21st
September: Sun 8th & Wed 25th, **October:** Sun 13th & Wed 23rd
November: Sun 3rd & Wed 13th, **December:** Sun 8th
- **TakeTime meditation group:** 10.15 – 11am in the chapel on 10th Aug, 14th Sept, 12th Oct, 9th Nov, 14th Dec and 11th Jan.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Vicar - Vacancy

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Parish Office Open 10am–12noon

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Please use this QR code to make a donation to St Mary's. Thank you.

