

**The Parish Church of St Mary
Hilton with Marston-on-Dove**

November 2018



**NOTICES AND
SERVICES**

Services in November

Sunday 4th November

11.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

With 'Good News Crew'

Tuesday 6th November

11.00am Holy Communion at Percy Wood Close

Sunday 11th November

Remembrance Sunday

11.00am Morning Prayer

Sunday 18th November

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Family Service

Sunday 25th November

11.00am Family Communion

3.30pm Christingle Service



Please note new contact details



Vicar: Currently in interregnum – please contact the main number or speak to the churchwardens

Telephone: 01283 808408

Email: admin@stmaryshilton.org

Website: www.stmaryshilton.org



Find us on:
facebook®

Funerals:

October 18th Albert Cox

CHURCH NOTICES:



Flowers in Church You would be very welcome to put flowers in Church or give a donation for flowers to remember a special occasion or anniversary. If you would like to do this please speak to Sue Hibbert.

Thank you.

Stamp collection There is a collecting box for used postage stamps in the Church porch for 'Oxfam'.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Next Meeting: Tuesday 13th November 2018 at 7.30pm, in the Schoolroom

PCC Members: Mrs. S. Aiton; Mrs. E. Barber (Churchwarden); Mrs. H. Brown (Hon. Treasurer); Mr. A. Hibbert (Churchwarden); Mr. S. Johnson; Mr. B. Keane; Mrs W. Morris; Mr. J. Murphie (Hon. Secretary); Miss C. Owen; Mrs. L. Rees-Jones; Mrs. P. Roberts; Mrs. H. Stone; Mr. P. Walton-Knight; Mr N Brown

DIY Bible Study

In our DIY Bible Study this month, we look at Mercy. The thoughts and questions are adapted from the book '100 Stand-Alone Bible Studies' by Penelope Wilcock.

Mercy

Matthew 5:7

"Blessed are the merciful, For they will be shown mercy."

Matthew 9:13

"But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Luke 6: 36-38

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Thinking about it...

The mercy of God is a constant theme throughout the Bible, and the grace of God – his undeserved favour – is a central theme of the New Testament. A secondary theme that develops is our obligation to pass onto others the mercy we have ourselves received.

When we read these passages on mercy and forgiveness, it can look at first sight as though God's love is not, as we'd thought, unconditional. It looks as if his love and acceptance of us are made conditional upon our forgiving others and showing them mercy – when we read, for example, "Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

But when we look more closely, we see that the mercy and forgiveness we are asked to show others is a response to the mercy God has shown us – "Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?"

This means that it is possible for our attitudes and impulses to flow from the wellspring of God's kindness; for gratitude, and the consciousness of how deeply we are loved, to shape and inform the people we become. But this is more than just a lovely feeling that might wash over us if we are lucky: it is an opportunity held out to us, and a responsibility we are expected to fulfil.

A few questions...

- Being quite honest, describe how you think God feels about you. Do you really feel he loves you, or is that just something you've heard people say?
- Can you remember an incident from your own life when you saw mercy in action? Can you think of instances when you wished somebody would show mercy and they didn't?
- Is there anything in your life right now where mercy is missing? Is there an area where you need mercy – from God or from a fellow human being?

A prayer

Merciful God, your loving-kindness overflows into our lives without ceasing. You never give up on us; never withhold your love from us. Even when our hearts have been filled with hatred and resentment, in the instant we turn to you, your embrace is ready; we have the chance to start over, our sins all forgiven. So we ask you once again, God of infinite love: have mercy upon us and forgive us; cleanse us from all our sin. Renew a right spirit and a pure heart within us. O God, with whom all things are possible, fill us once again with your joy, with the full flowing of the abundant life that is your gift to us. And, by grace, so soften our hearts that we may live every day from the power of your forgiveness, as generous with our mercy as you have been to us. For we ask it in Jesus' holy name; Amen.