

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

February 2020



**NOTICES AND
SERVICES**



Services in February

Sunday 2 nd February	11.00am Holy Communion (BCP) With the Good News Crew
Tuesday 4 th February	11.00am Percy Wood Close
Sunday 9 th February	9.30am Holy Communion 11.00am Family Service
Sunday 16 th February	11.00am Morning Prayer
Sunday 23 rd February	11.00am Family Communion
Wednesday 26 th February	Ash Wednesday - to be confirmed

Currently we are awaiting a new vicar as Reverend Andy Murphie has relocated to a parish in the Lake District. All services, baptisms and wedding bookings are proceeding as normal.

For up to date information on services please see

www.stmaryshilton.org

email: admin@stmaryshilton.org

phone: 01283 808408

facebook: [@stmaryshiltonandmarston](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryshiltonandmarston)

**To receive a digital copy of this sheet directly to your inbox
please let us know by email**

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 a Churchwarden.



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

Parochial Church Council

Next Meeting: Standing Committee/PCC – Tuesday 11th February 2020 at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom

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



Raise FREE FUNDS for the Church via the
[easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) website/app
search for St Mary's Hilton with Marston-on-Dove

Bellringing The first meeting of all those interested in learning to ring will be held at St Mary's Church Rolleston-on-Dove on Thursday 6th February at 7pm. Their tower-captain has kindly offered to help us to learn in their practice session. The first meeting will be spent helping us to figure out the best way forwards given that we have a range of abilities. For more information please speak to Nigel.

Men's Fellowship We will be organising future events for the Men's Fellowship. Please let the churchwardens know if you are interested in joining us.

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

Bible passage

Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same thing to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. Watch out for those dogs, whose evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh – though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in record to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. But whatever were gains to me I now consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brother and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.

Commentary

In our Bible passage we can see how passionate Paul was, and how strongly he expressed himself – he was a man who made loyal friends but also a lot of enemies! The passage tells us about his high status as a Pharisee in his faith community of origin. Once meticulously observant of the Jewish Law, he came to believe that it had no power to save his soul at all, that salvation was freely given by God, grace received by faith. The passage refers to Paul's valiant struggle to keep the faith from becoming just another Jewish sect. He became known as "the apostle of the Gentiles". If he had not argued and insisted that Gentiles did not have to embrace Jewish ways to be accepted by God, Christianity might never have come to those of us not of Jewish descent. We have a lot to thank him for. Much of the New Testament is by or about Paul. Here are two more quotations from his letters "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9);"he said to me, 'My Grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore, I will boast all more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me" (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Questions

- Are you an all-or-nothing person, like Paul, impetuous and passionate, or are you a more cautious person, inclined to think thing through and express yourself mildly? Did you come to faith suddenly and dramatically, as Paul did (Acts9:1-7), or has your faith grown more gradually and quietly?
- Our passage says, "But whatever gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ." Can you think of anything in our modern life that is something to be proud of in the eyes of the world, but comes to seem pointless and cumbersome when seen with the eyes of faith? For example, might faith change our attitude to awards or status or money or success in exams?
- Paul says it is in our areas of weakness that we really discover God's power. Have you found this to be true in your own experience, or can you think of someone's life that is an example of God's power shining through their weakness?

Prayer

O God, your grace to us is wonderful. Your strength lifts us up and carries us in our weakness; your love finds and saves us when we are broken and lost. We thank you for the great apostle Paul, for his passionate spirit and his faith in Jesus that came to him with such overwhelming power. Please help us to find, as Paul did, so real a vision of Jesus that our lives are transformed until we too can say – and really mean it – "for me to live is Christ, to die is gain". For we ask it in Jesus; holy name; Amen.