

Sunday 17th May 2026
THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION



Collect for the Week

Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

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- 8.00 am** **Holy Communion (BCP)**
President and Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am** **Parish Eucharist (CW)**
President and Preacher: The Vicar
Minister: Daphne Pilcher
- 10.00 am** **Family Service**
Lead: Wendy Anderson Link: Chris Bassett & Tommy Clamp
- Hymns: Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven
 Such love
 How lovely on the mountains
 Go forth and tell
- Readings: Acts 1. 6 - 14 (NIV page 1219)
- 6.30 pm** **Choral Evensong (BCP)**
Minister: Tim Harrold
- Introit: Coelos ascendit hodie – Stanford
Hymn: NEH 349 Come, let us join cheerful songs
Responses: Shephard
Psalm: 89 verses 1 – 15
1st Reading: 2 Samuel 23. 1 – 5 Kim Goodwin
Magnificat: Stanford in A
2nd Reading: Ephesians 1. 15 – end Brad Collins
Nunc Dimittis: Stanford in A
Anthem: God is gone up - Finzi
Hymn: NEH 486 We have a gospel to proclaim
Amen: Finzi

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY 18th May

- 9.00 am **Morning prayer – The Vicar**
10.00 am Church Centre open for private prayer

TUESDAY 19th *Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, restorer of monastic life, 988*

- Parish Office Closed
7.30 pm Worship Committee Meeting in the Lodge.

WEDNESDAY 20th *Alcuin of York, deacon, Abbot of Tours, 804*

- 9.00 am **Morning prayer at the Church Centre – Tim Harrold**
9.00 am Playtime at St Paul's, Church Centre
10.00 am Church Centre open for private prayer

THURSDAY 21st *Helena, protector of the Holy Places, 330*

- 10.00 am Church Centre open for private prayer
11.00 am Funeral of Zillah Witt at the Parish Church, Rusthll
11.00 am Communion at Mount Ephraim House - John Bazley
12.30 pm Lunch Club at the Church Centre

FRIDAY 22nd

- 10.00 am Church Centre open for private prayer
12.30 pm Community Larder at the Church Centre
6.30 pm Junior Choir Practice
7.30 pm Full Choir Practice

SATURDAY 23rd

- 10.00 am – 4.00 pm Choristers Café

NEXT SUNDAY 24th May 2026 PENTECOST/WHIT SUNDAY

Commissioning of PCC Members

- 8.00 am **Holy Communion (BCP)**
President and Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am **Joint Festival Eucharist (CW)**
President: Vicar
Minister and Preacher: Reverend Nicholas Burton
- 10.00 am – 4.00 pm Choristers Café
- 4.00 pm **Taizé Service**, Church Centre, - Tim Harrold
- 6.30 pm **Evensong (BCP)**
Minister: The Vicar

NEWS AND NOTES

From the Vicarage

Easter greetings and a warm welcome to our services today, the Seventh Sunday of Easter – the Sunday after Ascension Day, when we commemorate the glorious bodily ascent of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ into Heaven. As we worship together, I pray that we may each be given the grace to patiently wait for the refilling and re-equipping of the Holy Spirit so that we may be faithful in our worship and ardent in our service of one another.

Funeral Dates

Zilla Witt's funeral will be held at the Parish Church on Thursday 21st May 2026 at 11.00 am followed by a committal at the Kent and Sussex Crematorium, Tunbridge Wells.

Jane Wharton's Funeral will be held on Wednesday 27th May 2026 at 1.00 pm at the Parish Church followed by a committal at the Kent and Sussex Crematorium, Tunbridge Wells.

Betty Maylam's Funeral will be held at the Parish Church on Friday 29th May 2026 at 12.30 pm followed by a burial at the Nellington Road Churchyard. Friends are welcome to join the family at the Burial.

Sermons

Sermons from recent services will now be available to read on our website. They can be accessed from either the home page or under the "Worship" tab.

Events

During May we have two events taking place in support of our Organ Renovation Fund. On Wednesday May 20th at 8.00 pm we are delighted to host the Bacchus Wind Orchestra. If you have not heard them before, this is a unique opportunity to do so in our own church. And on Saturday May 30th at 6.30 pm it is the turn of our own choir who are performing their summer concert. See posters for further details or ask in the office. Would be great to see as many of you as possible support both these events.

Choristers Café

Volunteers are urgently needed to help staff the café during the weekends of May 30th/31st, June 6th/7th and June 14th. It doesn't have to be 2 hour shifts - whatever people can offer. Please contact Fiona Johnson for further information at fionaelspethjohnson@gmail.com

YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for someone to serve as Secretary of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). The role of the Secretary is to:

1. Take the Minutes at the PCC meetings and circulate them to the PCC.
2. Prepare the agenda with the Vicar for the PCC meetings.
3. Prepare and distribute documents for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and take minutes for the meeting.
4. Act as the 'official' liaison between the Parish and The Diocese of Rochester.

The PCC meets for at most two hours on a 6/7 - week cycle. Please speak to Ronnie, Chris Dobson or David Goodwin if you are interested to serve as the PCC Secretary.

BEE NEWS

Spring has certainly arrived and our hives are exceedingly busy. Having thought we had lost one of our hives over the winter, it would appear that our healthy colony have other ideas and have produced what we think are two new queens. All things going well we look forward to a productive summer of honey with THREE busy hives. Exciting news indeed.

CAN YOU HELP?

Following a recent strategy meeting the church is looking for the following:

1. A co-ordinator to mastermind the Annual Church Fayre
2. Someone to co-ordinate our marketing strategy
3. A St. Paul's Alumni co-ordinator to reach out to St. Paul's Alumni and friends, local, national and International.

If you are interested in any of these roles, please contact either:
Angela Culley. 07779098026 or Tim Harrold, Lay Minister, 07413805814 or finance@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk

EXCITING NEWS - "I am Mark" Production

It is with great excitement and anticipation that we can announce that 2026 will see an inaugural Shirley Barter Memorial Production. On 18th July we will be presenting "I am Mark", a daring new staging of the Gospel of Mark. Re-enacted by one person, "I am Mark" takes us through all the stories and drama in Mark's Gospel and presents it in the same way that the very first Christians would have experienced it. Performed in front of sell out audiences at both Rochester Cathedral and Edinburgh Fringe Festival, this is an event not to be missed. Tickets are now on sale via our website. See posters in The Lodge, Church and Church Centre for details. We expect tickets to sell quickly so please make sure you book yours soon.



The Altar flowers are given today
in loving memory of our parents,
Florence and George Curr, Pamela and
Charles Byrne and sister Susan from
Nick and Geraldine Byrne.

CONTACTS

The Vicar: The Revd. Ronnie Williams 01892 521357, mobile 07796 655225

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