

## Notices

**Harvest Festivals** – Our Harvest Festivals this year are on 1<sup>st</sup> October 10am at St Michael, Smarden and 8<sup>th</sup> October 10am at All Saints, Biddenden. Please bring your food donations to the churches for our Harvest display and blessing. These will then be distributed by the Food Pantry in Biddenden, or given to the Ashford Food Bank from Smarden. After the Smarden Harvest Festival, a light buffet will be served in the church. Coralie King is organising this and asks if people would bring a dish to share.

**Homegroup** meets this Wednesday Sept 27th, at the home of Julie Lupton, 72 North Street, 7.30pm.

**PCC Meetings** – There is a Smarden PCC meeting on 25th September. Please send any agenda items to Tess or Sarah in the office.

**'Autumn Voices'** - This event will be at All Saints on Saturday 7th October and is in aid of All Saints Church and the Community Library. Tickets will be available from 1st September and can be obtained online [www.biddendenlibrary.org.uk](http://www.biddendenlibrary.org.uk) Tel: 01580 291658 or from the church on library days.

**'Merry Opera's' Handel's Messiah** – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 7pm at St Michael. This is a highly recommended innovative production of Handel's Messiah. Tickets now available for £20, Box Office: [www.merryopera.co.uk](http://www.merryopera.co.uk) or tel: 03336 664466.

## Contacts

**Priest in Charge: Revd Tess Lowe** 01580 291454

36 High Street, Biddenden, TN27 8AH

[rector@sbcofe.org](mailto:rector@sbcofe.org) (Rest day Wednesday)

**Administrator: Sarah Jay** 01580 291454

Sarah works from the Rectory cabin office Tuesdays 10.30am to 2.30pm and Thursdays 11.30am-3.30pm. [office@sbcofe.org](mailto:office@sbcofe.org)

**Smarden Churchwardens:**

**David King** 01233 770400 or 07502 025241

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**Biddenden Churchwarden:**

**Martin Giles** 07503 486379 or 01580 291649

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**Active Church Leader: Stu Tucker** 07710 520466,

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**Thank you to everyone who gives to the church financially.** We are very grateful for all your support.

If you would like to make a one-off donation, or set up a regular donation an easy and tax efficient way is to use our online giving portal. Use your mobile phone to scan in the the relevant code:

All Saints Biddenden

St. Michael Smarden



[www.sbcofe.org](http://www.sbcofe.org)

# St Michael the Archangel, Smarden All Saints, Biddenden



## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023 Trinity 16

### Our services today

8am Said BCP Holy Communion (All Saints)

10am Sung Eucharist (St Michael)

### Hymns (MP)

428 Lord, for the years

173 Glorious things of thee are spoken

431 Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour

132 Father, hear the prayer we offer

201 Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah

### Events this Week

#### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September

7pm Smarden PCC Meeting, Charter Hall

#### Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September

2pm Biddenden Community Library (All Saints)

#### Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September

7.30pm Homegroup at 72 North Street (All Saints)

7.30pm Bell Ringing Practice (St Michael)

#### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September

9am Morning Prayer (All Saints)

10am Coffee Call-In, Biddenden Community Library and Takeaway Pantry (All Saints)

2pm Memorial Service for the late

Sally Whitestone (All Saints)

#### Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September

10.30am Coffee Morning (St Michael)

#### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September

10am Biddenden Community Library and Takeaway Pantry (All Saints)

### Prayers

For healing in body, mind, and spirit we pray for **Nick Gibson, Sheilah Drake, and Maureen Watson.**

For the families and friends of **Bryan Skelton & Sally Whitestone** who have recently died, and for all who mourn.

### Services in the coming weeks

#### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October – Trinity 17

9.30am 'Breakfast Church' (All Saints)

10am Harvest Festival (St Michael)

#### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October – Trinity 18

10am Harvest Festival (All Saints)

6pm Songs of Praise (St Michael)

#### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October – Trinity 19

10am Sung Eucharist (All Saints)

10.30am Active Church (St Michael)

6pm BCP Evensong (St Michael)

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Trinity 16**

**Collect**

Lord of creation,  
whose glory is around and within us:  
open our eyes to your wonders,  
that we may serve you with reverence  
and know your peace at our lives' end,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Jonah 3: 10-end of 4**

10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

4 But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. 2 He prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. 3 And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' 4 And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' 5 Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. 6 The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. 7 But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. 8 When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.' 9 But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' 10 Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. 11 And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

**Philippians 1: 21-end**

21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. 23 I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; 24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 25 Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, 26 so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. 27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, 28 and are in no

way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. 29 For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well — 30 since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

**Matthew 20: 1-16**

20 'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; 4 and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. 5 When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. 6 And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" 7 They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." 8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." 9 When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. 10 Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. 11 And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 12 saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." 13 But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? 14 Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" 16 So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

**Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty God,  
you have taught us through your Son  
that love is the fulfilling of the law:  
grant that we may love you with our whole heart  
and our neighbours as ourselves;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.