

Notices: Please let Judy know of anyone who would appreciate a visit or Home Communion and if anyone moves in near you. Many thanks, 270227.

**STITCH, CHAT AND CREATE.**

Meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of the month in the afternoon in the Tower Room, 2 pm – 4 pm at Wittersham Church. Everyone welcome,

**We are here to help:**

**Priest: Rev'd Judy Darkins**

The Rectory, The Street, Wittersham, Tenterden,  
Kent TN30 7EA  
e-mail [judyrdarkins@gmail.com](mailto:judyrdarkins@gmail.com)  
Telephone 01797 270227

**Church Wardens:**

**Wittersham: Terry Kirby 270844**

**Vacancy**

**Deputy:**

**Felicite Sykes 270639**

**Ebony: Vacancy**

**Deputy: Joyce Bates 270379**

**Organists: Giles Ridley 270370**

**Jennifer Maynard 270804**

**Websites: [www.wittershamchurch.com](http://www.wittershamchurch.com)**

*From the rotas, a polite reminder for March 17th:-*

Coffee: Jane W & Caro

Church Cleaning: Spring Clean Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10 – 1.00pm. Volunteers please.

Readers: Jill Dahlhoff, Roger Kimber.

*In LENT join the **Smartie** challenge. Take a tube of smarties - eat the contents - fill the tube with coins - bring back when filled to a Sunday Service.*

**Thank You**

For our Easter Sale please can we have donations in kind for the raffle, hampers etc.

Suggested items: chocolate, candles, nice toiletries. There is a box at the back of the church.

**Electoral Roll**

The Electoral Roll has to be revised this year so please make sure you have filled in a new form even if you were previously on the Roll. Completed forms should be left for Jennifer in the box at the back of the church.

*St. John the Baptist, Wittersham  
St Mary the Virgin, Ebony*

**Sunday March 10th**

**IN WITTERSHAM THE ALTAR CANDLES ARE LIT 10 MINUTES BEFORE THE SERVICE. MAY WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT QUIET IS THEN KEPT TO ALLOW OTHERS TIME AND SPACE FOR REFLECTION AND PREPARATION.**

*Welcome to our churches today, if you are a visitor or a newcomer please make yourself known to the clergy or those on duty. All are welcome at the altar rail to receive the sacrament or a blessing.*

**In Wittersham Church there is a hearing induction loop for all services and large print service books are also available.**

*The toilet facility at Wittersham is located just outside the Church, turn left and follow the path round to the building on your right. Activities for children are available in the North aisle Children's area of Wittersham Church.*

**Services today**

9.00 am Holy Communion at Wittersham

10.00 Active Church with breakfast rolls at Wittersham

**Readings and Collect for 9.00 am**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6: 1-10

Gospel: Matthew 4: 1-11

O Lord, who for our sakes didst fast forty days and forty nights; Give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the Spirit, we may ever obey thy godly motions in righteousness and true holiness, to thy honour and glory, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen

**Reading and Hymns for 10.00 am**

**The temptation of Jesus**

**NHWS 267 Peace perfect peace**

**NHWS 255 One more step along the world I go**

**NHWS 289 Seek ye first the Kingdom of God**



**EASTER LILIES**

No Flowers in Lent but if you would like a lily in remembrance of someone dear to you please put their name on the list at the back of the church.

If you would like to give a donation towards the cost please (because of recent thefts) put this in the wall safe by the welcome table.

Some thoughts for prayer: From the Diocesan prayer diary this week. We pray for the Churches of Madagascar, The Archbishop's School at Canterbury, the Anglican Communion in Maridi (Uganda), Ughelli , Ukwa, Umuahia (Nigeria), Ho (West Africa), Marsabit, Maseno East, Maseno North (Kenya), Ukhahlamba (South Africa), Maryland, Upper South Carolina, Utah (USA), Masasi (Tanzania) Upper Shire (Central Africa), Hokkaido (Japan) and the Honduras.

#### **The Lent Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

As we come to the beginning of Lent let us come to this penitential time in love with our neighbours and those whom we find difficult. May the love of God show through us in what we do and say. We pray for peace in the world especially those who have suffered, and continue to suffer because of war, violence and oppression. We pray for meaningful dialogues between nations as well as all who seek to do harm to others.

We ask that you bless all our people, those who live in Ebony and Wittersham. We pray for our leaders Archbishops Justin and John and for our diocesan Bishop Trevor and his wife Margaret as they prepare for his retirement. In our own churches this week we pray for the PCC and Standing Committee. We pray for all who are preparing for marriage. We are mindful of those who are persecuted for their faith and pray that you will comfort and encourage them in their situation.

We pray for our nine parishes and this week we remember the work at St Michael's. In our two parishes we pray for our school in Wittersham, for the staff, children, governors and parents .

We pray for those who are hungry or cold and all who are sleeping rough giving thanks for the aid agencies who bring them relief. We pray for the vast numbers who lack the bare necessities of life because of natural disasters or failure of their crops. Through the gifts we offer for their relief may we show something of our gratitude for all that you have given us.

We remember those who are sick or lonely. We thank you for much healing and pray that you will bring comfort, wholeness and peace to all who suffer in body, mind or spirit. We pray for a good recovery for those who have recently had an operation. **Especially we pray for those who have asked for our prayers: Amanda and her parents Penny and Rod, Terry, Pat and Roger, Valerie, Bob, Jenny F, Tracey and Kim and all who watch and wait. We pray with thanks for the work of the hospitals.**

We pray for those who have lost loved ones recently especially Anthea at the sudden loss of Julian. May he rest in peace. We pray for all who mourn. O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish.

Almighty God you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life: give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive these his inestimable gifts and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen

#### **Services in the coming weeks.....**

##### **Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup>**

9.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Ebony  
10.30 am Matins BCP at Wittersham

##### **Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 am Parish Eucharist at Wittersham

##### **Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup>**

10.30 am Mothering Sunday Service Eucharist at Wittersham (Joint service)

##### **Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup>**

9.00 am Holy Communion at Ebony  
10.30 am Parish Eucharist at Wittersham

##### **Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 am Palm Sunday Parish Eucharist, starting with procession inside the church.

Weekday services at Wittersham this week:

Monday	8.30 am Morning Prayer
Tuesday	8.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday	8.30 am Holy Communion
Thursday	8.30 am Morning Prayer
Friday	8.30 am Morning Prayer

#### **Coming events:-**

##### **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March Lent Lunch at Wittersham**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March , 10 -1 pm Spring Clean in the church

##### **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March, Ebony Lent Lunch.**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April, Easter Sale and Coffee Morning 10 – 12 Village Hall.

#### **Early advice of plant sale**

We are planning a plant sale and refreshment afternoon on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Could you please either plant some extra seeds in pots or some cuttings.

We would be grateful for any plants you can donate to make this a really superb plant sale

**The celebration of Sir Julian Younger's life will be on Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> at 1.00 pm in Wittersham Church.**