



Sunday 17th May 2026

The Seventh Sunday of Easter and Civic Sunday

You are most welcome.

A message to new visitors is found on page 3.

Our 10:30am order of service begins on page 5.

8:00am Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer*)

Celebrant: The Rector

10:30am Parish Eucharist (*Common Worship*)

Celebrant: The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Setting: 'A People's Mass - Anthony Gregory Murray with
Coventry Gloria Easter Alleluia (Tone VI) "from Ascension
Day until the Day of Pentecost" and Easter Dismissal

Hymns: Honoured in our Island's story, 394,
130 (omit v3,4,5), 412, 489

Music at Communion:

'*O God the King of glory*' Henry Purcell

'*Let all the world in every corner sing*' R Vaughan Williams

Postlude:

"Toccata from Suite Gothique Op 25" Léon Boëllmann

For your prayers

At This Time

Jennie Frampton, Lindsay Gorringer, David Robertson, Clive Taylor, HM The King, the bereaved, and those suffering during warfare.

Recently Departed Year's Mind

Jonathan Edmund Kaufmann, Dorothy Crouch, Rosa Emily Thorne, Kathleen Field, Brian James Mumbray, Amy Jeffries, Alexander James Denny, Christopher Linton Trim, Iris Mary Child, June Overy, Henry John Bragg

Reflection for the week

The Reverend Howard Pashley

I'm writing this on the day before Ascension Day, and I'm very much looking forward to bishop Rose's visit tomorrow, as I'm sure the candidates for Confirmation are.

Three of the gospel writers speak of Christ's Ascension, but John is different. For John, the Resurrection and Ascension appear to be happening at the same time; note for instance Jesus telling Mary not to cling to him, almost as if he's about to dematerialise! But one very happy inclusion in John's Gospel is the concept of the Paraclete, the Advocate, the Comforter! But I suspect that John's concept of a comforter might be different from what first comes to our minds. I think that John's comforter is more like a personal trainer. I used to spend a fair amount of time in the Gym, although perhaps not as much as my granddaughter, but I never had a personal trainer. A personal trainer doesn't often say "that's enough", a personal trainer is more likely to ask for an increase in the weights lifted, or in the number of reps. It's not a case of "Tried and failed, never mind;" as "Tried and failed, try again, fail better!"

The Holy Ghost is often depicted as a dove, but to my mind it should be depicted as great goose which

can causes great ripples of disruption when it lands on the water! But more of that later.

The time between the Ascension and Pentecost must surely have been an uncertain time for those early disciples. I can cast my mind back a decade or so to when we'd had a General Election and the votes had been counted but we still didn't know who would be forming the Government; not until a few deals had been struck! That had been an uncertain time in British Politics, and there have been many others since. Perhaps troubled politicians and others might take comfort from the reading from Peter's first letter, but I suppose there are no end of "roaring lions prowling round" at the moment. I'm sure that I'm not the only one to find the divisions between different sectors of society so strident, and I'm sure that I'm not the only one who traces this back to political disrupters influencing the "Brexit Campaign".

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost I'll be praying about the country coming together, and if I find my prayer failing I'll just have to pray harder, and fail better!

Amen.

New to St Clements?

Welcome! We're delighted that you're here

There has been a place of Christian prayer on this site for more than 1,000 years. All are welcome at our services - whatever your background and whatever your faith.

Many of the words of our service can be found from page five of this booklet. Feel free to join in with the words in bold, and to stand, kneel, or sit as you feel able and comfortable. Don't worry about getting it 'right', we're all learning to pray!

The service will start with notices and a hymn. We then bring to mind the times we've not loved God, our neighbours, and ourselves fully. Though it can be uncomfortable admitting we are sinners, we want to be honest with God (and ourselves) that we're not perfect. We can trust that God is utterly loving and forgiving.

A series of readings from scripture follows, and then the sermon, in which the preacher attempts to break open the scriptures and apply them to our lives today.

We pray for the needs of the Church and world, and then the altar is prepared. A collection will be taken, as 'giving' is an important part of

our Christian lives, but don't worry if you're unable to contribute as a visitor.

The priest leads the Eucharistic Prayer - the prayer of thanksgiving - during which we offer bread and wine to God, and He transforms it into the Body and Blood of Christ.

All baptised Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion (it's fine to only receive the Body or Blood if you prefer. For reasons of hygiene please don't dip the wafer into the chalice). Or do come forward holding this booklet to receive a blessing. **If you need a gluten-free wafer please let someone at the door know before the service.**

We share refreshments in the Sunley Room (accessed up the ramp behind the organ), and you are most welcome to stay. Toilets may also be found here.

The Church is open daily for peace and prayer. If you'd like to know more about our worship or faith, do talk to people in the congregation or one of the priests. You can also visit our website, www.stclementschurchsandwich.org.uk

Music at 10:30am today

On this Sunday after Ascension the choir sings an anthem dedicated to God's glory - *O God the King of glory*. Composed by Henry Purcell (1659-1695) it is one of his earliest surviving full anthems written in the 'old', largely homophonic (hymn-like) style that had been prevalent in churches and chapels throughout Britain for many years. It was composed in February 1679 and survives in the Gostling part-books now held in the library of York Minster. In this brief work, probably written for performance before the Collect for the Sunday after Ascension, the composer's youthful individuality surfaces in the upwards rising phrases imitating the ascension and the adventurous chromaticism of 'the words urging Jesus to 'leave us not comfortless'.

This is followed by an exuberant anthem 'Let all the world in every corner sing' - a setting of words by the early 17th century Welsh poet and Anglican priest George Herbert. Earlier in the service we will have sung this as hymn, but this setting by Ralph Vaughan Williams captures the dramatic nature of the words underpinned by a very busy organ part. Vaughan Williams seems to have enjoyed setting the words

'The Church with Psalms must shout, no door can keep them out' and it only slows down momentarily for the more reflective words 'above all, the heart must bear the longest part'. The piece forms the final movement of a set of 'Five Mystical Songs' composed between 1906 and 1911 and is a triumphant hymn of praise.

The outgoing voluntary is the familiar Toccata from the Suite Gothique, Op. 25 - a set of pieces for organ composed by Léon Boëllmann in 1895. He was a Parisian organist with a tragically short life, dying in his mid-thirties. This piece is a thrilling one starting quietly in the minor key but leading to a grand conclusion with major tonality, all set in the grand style of impressive French organ toccatas that were very popular in France at the end of the nineteenth century.

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Order of Service

The Gathering

Stand for the entrance of the Choir, then Town Councillors, and we sing:

Honoured in our Island's story
bound that England's trade might flower,
in a firm Confederation
safe defence in danger's hour,
five strong towns, the noble Cinque Ports
each for each a watchful tower.

Hastings, Sandwich, Hythe, New Romney,
towns whose story now we hymn,
bound in strength with glorious Dover,
ancient towns and many a limb,
beacons for our growing nation
through the ages dark and grim.

Lord, grant grace to each Lord Warden
in the strength of Walmer's Keep,
heirs of Wellington and Churchill,
vigilant while others sleep,
watchful for the towns they care for
set beside the mighty deep.

Thanks to God for this great story
set within our nation's lore,
through successive generations
firm in peace and strong in war,
that this land may rest in safety
while the Cinque Ports guard our shore.

Words: The Very Reverend Robert Willis (1947-2024)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen. The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed, alleluia!**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confessing our Sins

The Celebrant introduces a period of silence in which all call to mind their sins. Then all kneel or sit.

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

The Celebrant pronounces the forgiveness of sins. All stand.

Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth. Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father. Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth.

We worship you, glory in the highest, give you thanks, glory in the highest, praise you for your glory. Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us, have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer, receive our prayer.

Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth. Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, You alone are the most High, Jesus Christ, With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, the glory of God the Father. Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth. Amen.

The Celebrant introduces the Collect with the words 'Let us pray' and a period of silence. Then

The Celebrant says: Let us pray: O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *All say Amen.*

The Scriptures

Acts 1.6–14

So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey

away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Remain seated as the Choir sing Psalm 68 v1–10, 32 – end

Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered let them also that hate him flee before him.

Like as the smoke vanisheth, so shalt thou drive them away : and like as wax melteth at the fire, so let the ungodly perish at the presence of God.

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God : let them also be merry and joyful.

O sing unto God, and sing praises unto his Name : magnify him that rideth upon the heavens, as it were upon an horse; praise him in his Name jah, and rejoice before him.

He is a father of the fatherless, and defendeth the cause of the widows : even God in his holy habitation.

He is the God that maketh men to be of one mind in an house, and bringeth the prisoners out of captivity : but letteth the runagates continue in scarceness.

O God, when thou wentest forth before the people : when thou wentest through the wilderness;

The earth shook, and the heavens dropped at the presence of God : even as Sinai also was moved at the presence of God, who is the God of Israel.

Thou, O God, sentest a gracious rain upon thine inheritance : and refreshedst it when it was weary.

Thy congregation shall dwell therein : for thou, O God, hast of thy goodness prepared for the poor.

Sing unto God, O ye kingdoms of the earth : O sing praises unto the Lord;

Who sitteth in the heavens over all from the beginning : lo, he doth send out his voice, yea, and that a mighty voice.

Ascribe ye the power to God over Israel : his worship and strength is in the clouds.

O God, wonderful art thou in thy holy places : even the God of Israel, he will give strength and power unto his people; blessed be God.

1 Peter 4.12–14; 5.6–11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory,

which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn 394

Turn to face the Book of the Gospels as it moves to the centre of the nave. A Gospel proclamation is sung.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 17.1–11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom

you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

A sermon is preached.

The Creed

I believe in God, the Father
almighty, creator of heaven
and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his

only Son, our Lord, who was
conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was
buried; he descended to the
dead. On the third day he rose
again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of
the Father, and he will come to
judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and
the life everlasting. Amen.

The Intercessions & Peace

*Kneel or sit to pray. The following
response may be used:* Lord, in
your mercy **hear our prayer** *At
the end:* Merciful Father, **accept
these prayers for the sake of your
Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Stand for the Peace The peace of the
Lord be always with you. **And also
with you.**

*The altar is prepared
while we sing.*



*A collection, taken
as the congregation
arrived, is offered up
to God. If you would like to make
a donation please leave it in the
safe beside the north porch after the
service, use the cardreader there,
scan the QR code here, or head to :
www.stclementsandwich.org.uk/donate
Thank you.*

*Hymn Number 130 (omit
v3,4,5)*

The Eucharistic Prayer

*The Celebrant prays over the
offerings, and all respond Amen.*

The Lord be with you. **And also
with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We
lift them to the Lord.** Let us give
thanks to the Lord our God. **It is
right to give thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant prays the Preface,
leading into:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God
of power and might, heaven
and earth are full of your
glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Hosanna in**

the highest. *All kneel or sit*

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of
all holiness; grant that by the power of
your Holy Spirit, and according to your
holy will, these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of
our Lord Jesus Christ; who in the same
night that he was betrayed, took bread
and gave you thanks; he broke it and
gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given
for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took
the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it
to them, saying: Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for
the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often
as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death
on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made
once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension, and looking for
his coming in glory, we celebrate this
memorial of our redemption. As we
offer you this our sacrifice of praise and
thanksgiving, we bring before you this
bread and this cup and we thank you
for counting us worthy to stand in your
presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and
gather into one in your kingdom all who
share this one bread and one cup, so that
we, in the company of Mary, Clement,
Peter, Paul, and all the saints, may
praise and glorify you for ever, through
Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and
with whom, and in whom, in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory
be yours, almighty Father, for ever and
ever. *All say boldly: Amen.*

Preparation for Communion

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Jesus, lamb of God, have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper. **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. **Therefore let us keep the feast, alleluia.**

Holy Communion

Sidespeople will indicate when to move for Holy Communion. All

who are baptised are welcome to receive Communion, or do bring this booklet with you to indicate that you wish to receive a blessing instead.

*After all have received Holy Communion, **Stand as the Celebrant says** Let us pray: 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. **All say Amen.***

All say Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Hymn 412

Going out into the World

*This is followed by the blessing and dismissal: The Lord be with you. And also with you. **The Celebrant blesses and dismisses the congregation.** Go in the peace of Christ, alleluia, alleluia. **Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!***

The National Anthem

*God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King!*

*Thy choicest gifts in store
On him be pleased to pour,
Long may he reign.
May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and
voice,
God save the King.*

The organ postlude is part of our act of worship, please remain quiet. If you are able, do please stay for refreshments after the service - served this week from in front of the High Altar, while Vestry roof repairs are undertaken

**Don't miss our new
souvenir guidebook,
complete with
foreword from the
Lord Warden of
the Cinque Ports
and afterwords
from the Right
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of Sandwich. Available now
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(cash in the safe beside the porch, or card
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SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 2026 1:00^{PM}-5:00^{PM}

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Our Vestry/Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (essentially our Annual General Meeting) will be held on **Sunday 24th May, which is Pentecost, after the 10:30am Parish Eucharist.**

Though only those on the Electoral Roll may vote during the APCM itself, any who feel an affinity with St Clement's are welcome and encouraged to attend as we reflect on 2025, discuss plans for the future, and elect our Parochial Church Council. Annual Reports and Accounts will be published this week.

We are looking for candidates to stand for Deanery Synod.

This group meets a few times each year for meetings co-chaired by the Rector as Area Dean, and by the Lay Chair. The purpose of Deanery Synod is to ensure communication between parishes, the Diocese, and the wider Church of England, and members elect those who sit on Diocesan Synod, who in turn elect members of the General Synod. If you have a passion for understanding what God is doing in this wider Diocese, especially during an important time of prayer and co-operation while our Deanery prepares a Deanery Action Plan, please speak to the Rector or a Churchwarden.

Zoom Compline

Join us for our service of quiet prayer and reflection on Zoom, hosted by St Clement's Church, Sandwich. Next Compline: Wednesday 27th May, 7:30 pm (Duration 25 minutes)

To join, please visit: www.stclementsandwich.org.uk
and go to Services -> Worship & Prayer -> Zoom Compline
for login details.

Parish Directory

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Parish Administrator

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The week ahead

Monday 18th May - Feria

Tuesday 19th May - Feast of St Dunstan, B

Wednesday 20th May - Alcuin of York, Deacon, Ab

10:00am Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer*)

Thursday 21st May - Feria

Sir Roger Manwood's Founders Day

7:00pm Evening Prayer, followed by PCC meeting

Friday 22nd May - Feria

9:45am Morning Prayer

From 10:00am Coffee Pot (*Parish Hall*)

Saturday 23rd May - Feria

Sunday 24th May - Pentecost

8:00am Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer*)

10:30am Parish Eucharist

Celebrant: The Revered Doctor Jeanne Males

Preacher: The Rector

Day	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Monday	Ps 93, 96, 97+ Numbers 22.1–35	Ps 18 + 1 John 2.18–end
Tuesday	Ps 98, 99, 100 + Numbers 22.36–23.12	Ps 68 + 1 John 3.1–10
Wednesday	Ps 2, 29 + Numbers 23.13–end	Ps 36, 46 + 1 John 3.11–end
Thursday	Ps 24, 72 + Numbers 24	Ps 139 + 1 John 4.1–6
Friday	Ps Psalms 28, 30 + Numbers 27.12–end	Ps 147 + 1 John 4.7–end
Saturday	Ps 42, 43+ Numbers 32.1–27	Ps 48 + John 15.26–16.15

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