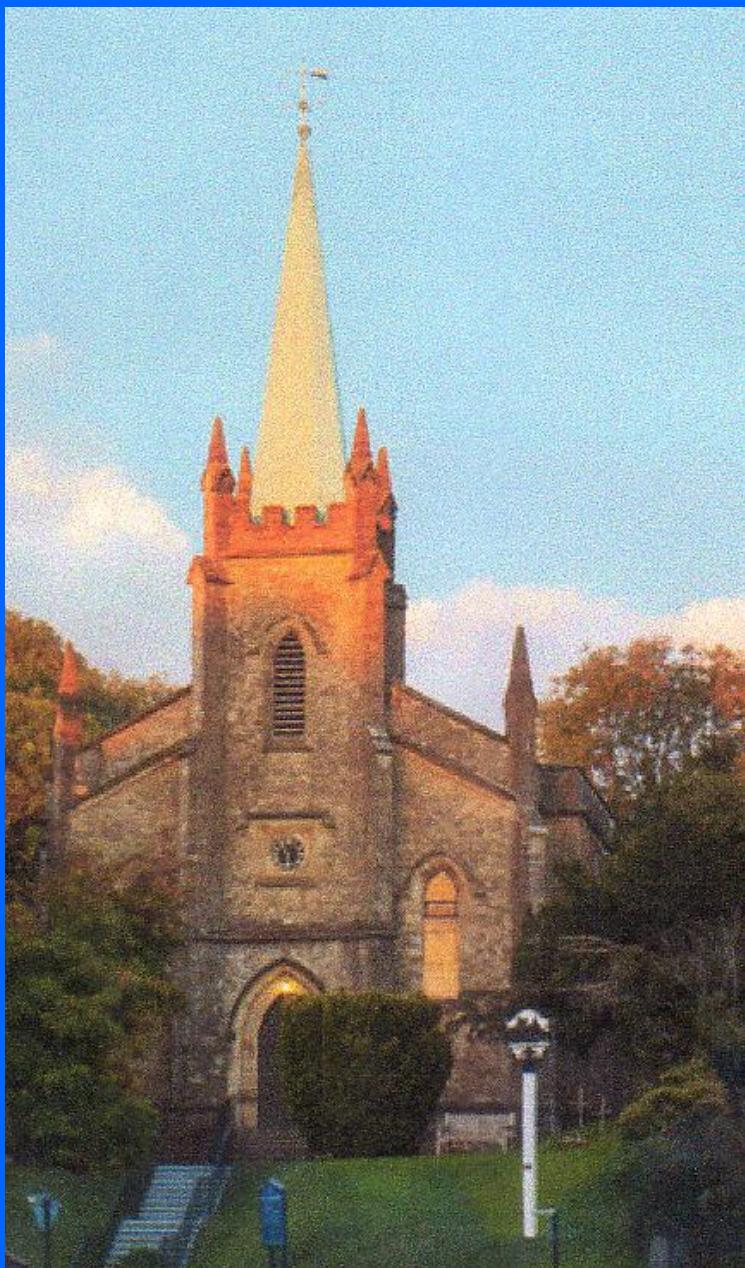


The Landmark

Parish of
Riverhead with Dunton Green
Christmas 2013



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From the Vicar

Over the weekend of 14/15 December this year, St Mary's will be holding its Christmas Tree Festival. This will be our third year of doing this. So it is rapidly becoming a tradition; a much-appreciated one. Individuals, schools, nurseries, local businesses, communities, organisations, clubs, charities all bring their trees, set them up in St Mary's church and decorate them. It looks and feels brilliant.

Feels brilliant?

Well, yes. I imagine it feels just ever so slightly like stepping through a wardrobe of dusty old winter coats and out into Narnia. Or Aladdin's cave. Or... into a stable where lies a baby in a manger. It's special. It's different from the humdrum and the hurly-burly.

Like St Mary's Christmas Services themselves, it says something about the fact that no matter how hard our lives are - their complications, their difficulties - there is also, and always will be, something *else* going on. There is always another way of looking at things. Another way of being. And there is always someone or some group of people who care.

It may 'only' be a Christmas Tree Festival. But it is most definitely not *just* one. It is a symbol of hope, of a community of diverse people with diverse interests and needs, that cares. And, yes, it is a symbol of love. It is a symbol of everything that Christmas and the Christmas story brings: "Peace on Earth and Goodwill towards All."

Come and step into the world of Christmas this year; our services, our Christmas Tree Festival. You can find the dates and times of everything that's going on at St Mary's over this period here in our magazine. Come and experience the sights and sounds and feeling of Christmas for yourselves.

Wishing you every blessing for Christmas and a peaceful New Year.
God bless
Martin



Riverhead Parish Council

May I take this opportunity of wishing the people of Riverhead God's richest blessing on them and their families at this Christmas time and for a prosperous New Year.

We have been busy renovating the area under the Heights with the help of a grant from the West Kent Cold Store Development. We have installed a fountain and street furniture to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee, and to replace a fountain put up in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee which was lost in the widening of the A25 in the 1960's.

We have planted some new trees to help soak up the carbon dioxide pollution in an air quality management area due to heavy traffic. Our thanks go to Councillor Isabel Mercer who has pushed through this project over the past three years, as well as Leslie Bowles from Sevenoaks District Council and Landscape Services, our contractor.

We have also been in receipt of a grant from Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust, a part of the Landfill Company in Bat and Ball. This has enabled us to put up more robust fencing in Riverhead Parkland, two new signs at the entrances to the Parkland, and 50 meters of grasscrete in an area of the parkland near to the lion sculpture which becomes a quagmire during the wintertime. We are grateful to our contractors Tate Fencing, Michael Chewter Landscape, and Royston Edwards sign writer.

Recent figures from the District Council show that since 1997 council Tax has risen 1% in Riverhead, which given inflation of 3% amounts to a fall in council tax of 35% over this period. Our view is that low Taxation and free parking charges help businesses to thrive. We are fortunate that our shop occupancy is 100%

Clive Himsworth
Chairman, Riverhead Parish Council

Dunton Green Village Hall

Dunton Green Village Hall was built in 1851. It was originally the village school and remained so until 1910 when, what was then called the New Dunton Green Council School, was opened on the site on which it stands today.



The building was donated to the Village by the Wreford family and has been a Library, Temporary Hospital in the war, Host to WI meetings, Bingo and a Baby Clinic.

Thanks to a grant from the builders of Ryewood Estate, the hall which was looking in a somewhat dilapidated state, has been given a facelift and been brought properly into the 21st century. It has been completely rewired, a disabled toilet has been added in an extension to the side, and the existing toilets and the kitchen refitted. It is now fully booked on most days of the week with such diverse activities as dog training, baby music sessions, a history group, mums and toddlers, dancing and a youth club. If buildings could talk it would very possibly express its delight at making such a valuable contribution to the community

Christmas Services at St Mary's

15th December	3.00pm	Family Carols at Christmas Tree Festival
22nd December	7.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
24th December	2.30pm	Crib Service with Christingle
24th December	4.00pm	Christingle
24th December	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
25th December	8.00am	Holy Communion
25th December	9.30am	Family Eucharist



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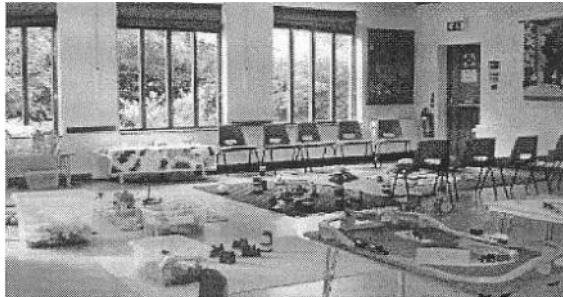
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TOTS AND TODDLERS

Tots and Toddlers offers a warm welcome to all babies and preschoolers, their parents and carers. The group takes place in the Church Hall every Monday 1:45pm - 3:45pm. For more information please contact Diane Williams 01732 762434 or Doris Gosnold 01732 451892

LITTLECOURT LUNCH CLUB



St Mary's joins with the Christ Church URC and other local bodies to run this weekly lunch which takes place on Tuesdays at the URC Church Hall by Kippington Road. It enables the housebound, elderly and others to meet for an excellent lunch and companionship. Members can be picked up and brought home if they wish; either by an Age Concern bus or by volunteers in private cars. There are some vacancies. If you are interested please ring Pam Rankin on 01732 460209 or Deirdre Montanaro on 01732 455435.

CHURCH HALL

Our Church Hall is used by the Church on a regular basis by our groups and after-service activities. However it is also available for hire for parties, meetings and classes. For more information about hiring the church hall for an event please use the following contact details:
Margaret Nicholas Tel: 01732 457324
Email: magnicholas@tiscali.co.uk



WELHAM JONES

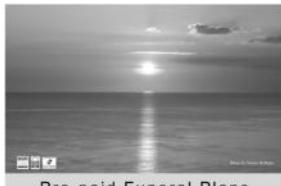
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The Children's Society



We are keen and regular supporters of the Children's Society which provides help and comfort for children in desperate need. To help please contact Margaret Holman 01732 450408.

ADVERTISING

It is our wish that this magazine grows into a quarterly publication that comes to represent the whole of the Riverhead and Dunton Green community. This is however reliant on the support of local individuals and businesses. If you would like to advertise in the next publication or have ideas for topics to include that affect our area or are members of a local association that would to be included then please contact us:
magnicholas@tiscali.co.uk

Music and Choir

New singers are always welcome in the Church Choir. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 8-9 in the church, and the choir sings at the 9.30 Service on Sundays, except for the Family Service on the first Sunday of the month when there is an instrumental group [mainly school-age] which accompanies the hymns and songs.

Please phone Janet Sharp about singing or playing on 01732 452715

CONTACTS

Vicar Revd. Martin Booth

Riverhead, Sevenoaks TN 13 3DR

01732 455736 & stmaryriverhead@aol.com

Churchwardens: John Curtis 01732 453176 jscurtis@btinternet.com

Barry Sharp, 01732 452715 barjansharp@tiscali.co.uk

Church Website: www.stmaryriverhead.co.uk

**FOR A FULL LIST OF CONTACTS PLEASE SEE THE
CHURCH WEBSITE**

Musical Bumps

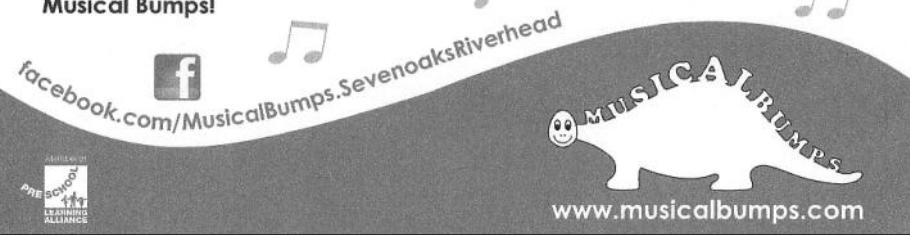
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Tuesdays

Birth - 6 months	10am - 11am
Birth -13 months	11.20am - 12.20pm
Birth - 13 months	12.45pm - 1.45pm

Bradbourne Lakes

It has been a very frustrating year for the committee of the Residents' Association. A case of one step forward and two steps back.

Thankfully the plenteous rainfall has kept the lakes full and even sometimes almost overflowing. The very late and cold spring meant that we had almost no ducklings at a time when one would have expected them and then suddenly as late as August and September, everywhere one saw broods of ducklings, many of which surprisingly survived. Our faithful Canada goose nested in her usual spot and produced five goslings who eventually flew off to the Wildlife Reserve but come back almost daily for a short time.

We have unfortunately made very little progress with our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund but have great hopes that things are shortly going to move much faster. There is so much information that has to be garnered before one can even start to go out to tender and that again is a slow process.

We have listened to complaints by members of the association regarding the condition of the roads and pavements, the nuisance parking and the excessive speeding along the roads around the estate. All these have been addressed with varying degrees of success. Two letters to the Kent Highways Authority have still not produced a satisfactory reply but some of the parking problems have been alleviated and we are investigating participating in "Speed Watch".

Sadly we have suffered a rather large number of burglaries and damage to cars around the estate and the police and neighbourhood watch urge everyone to be on the lookout for anything suspicious and to report anything unusual. If it is not a real emergency but you are just suspicious dial 101 and they will make a note and investigate the situation. If it proves to be nothing there is no harm done.

We look forward to a year with a great deal more progress to report.

Margaret Nicholas



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The Year at St Mary's

The Parish of Riverhead with Dunton Green has had a pretty full and productive year.

We started in January with a delayed (due to the weather) Christmas Party. The supper was "bring and share" and the entertainment was "home grown" and much fun - possibly due to the fact that not much happens in January as a rule.

Easter is the church's most important festival and therefore there were many meaningful services beginning with the Easter morning walk followed by breakfast prior to the 9.30am Eucharist. Forty odd stalwart bodies walked around five miles starting at 6.00am (remembering that it was the day the clocks went forward) and were more than ready for their cooked breakfast.

We celebrated the publication of Martin Booth's book in April and in May hosted the most fantastic concert by the Hermitage Ensemble from St Petersburg. The church was packed and the music amazing.

Since their arrival Martin and Maggie Booth have completely renovated the Vicarage garden and the congregation have been able to take full advantage of this. The Sunday School held a very successful picnic lunch inviting those who had been fairly recently baptised to join them. The first event of a somewhat busy September was our Patronal Festival which was once again a "bring and share" affair in the garden. We just about managed to finish our lunch before the heavens opened and virtually drowned us all.

As always we participated in the "Ride and Stride around Kent Churches" part of a national event which always takes place on the second Saturday in September. Sadly the weather this year must have put off a great number of folk for we had only around twenty five visitors to the church whilst it is usually in the region of fifty or more. Our two walkers raised around £300 (half of which comes to the church and half to the Friends of Kent Churches). Once again we participated in the excellent Dunton Green Festival. We also had our regular stall at the Riverhead Carnival. The weather was extremely cold and wet but people were very kind and supported it well.

Finally there was a very moving service on All Souls Day to Commemorate the Faithful Departed. Around sixty people attended and lit candles in memory of loved ones no longer with us.

We look forward to another successful year in 2014

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Is Jesus on your list this Christ - mas?

When Jesus called that Christmas week I wasn't
at my best;
And the house was much too cluttered to
entertain a guest.
He seemed to notice everything, the cards still
unaddressed,
The gifts piled high awaiting wraps, the baking and
the rest.
His eyes fell on the evergreen and presents 'neath
the tree,
It's my birthday that you celebrate - what are you
giving me?
'What am I giving him?' I thought; ashamed no
words I found
So many costly things I'd bought, he looked at me
and frowned
I prayed he'd let the question pass, but when he
did persist,
I blurted out the truth at last, 'you were not on
my list"





ST. MARY'S RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

Festival of Christmas Trees

Saturday 14th December 2013 10am - 5pm

Sunday 15th December 2013 11am - 4pm

at St. Mary's Church, Riverhead

**A fantastic display of Christmas trees (all shapes
and sizes) provided by local organisations
and businesses**

* * * * *

**Free admission
Refreshments available.**

**There will be a short Family Carol Service held at
3.00pm on Sunday 15th December 2013**