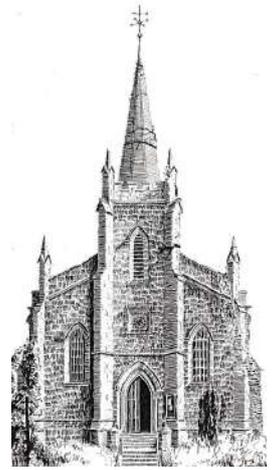


St Mary the Virgin Riverhead with Dunton Green



Sunday 8th November 2020 - Third Sunday before Advent

Wisdom of Solomon 6.12-16

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate. To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

1 Thessalonians 4.13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 25.1-13

Jesus spoke this parable to the disciples: The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

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

For your information

Team Rector On the 8th of August the Revd Mark Bridgen was instituted and inducted as the new Team Rector of the West Sevenoaks Team Ministry, which comprises the churches of St Mary's Kippington, St Mary the Virgin, Riverhead and Dunton Green and St Luke's, Sevenoaks.

Mark can be contacted, for whatever reason, by email: mark.bridgen@btinternet.com

By phone: 01732 452112

By mobile: 07375299944

As Team Rector he is available for all in the team and wants to make sure that he can be easily contacted by all.

The start of the process for the recruitment of the new Team Vicar posts in the West Sevenoaks Team

Ministry Team Vicar appointments

Following interviews, we are hopeful that information concerning the Team Vicar positions for both St Luke's Sevenoaks and St Mary the Virgin, Riverhead with Dunton Green can be released as soon as possible.

Extra services to nourish us spiritually during November

Team Prayers: Tuesday

Please note that during November Team Prayers by Zoom will be taking place every Tuesday evening 6:45pm for a 7pm start (finishing at 7:30pm)

Mark Bridgen is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Mark Bridgen's Team Prayers Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 864 1933 5142

Passcode: 982619

Evensong: Sunday

Please note that during November Evensong by Zoom will be taking place every Sunday evening 6:15pm for a 6:30pm start (finishing at 7:15pm)

Topic: Mark Bridgen's Evensong Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 850 9147 3827

Passcode: 297139

Services for November at Riverhead

There will be no services in church, all will be on Zoom.

15 Nov	9:15am	Zoom	Mark Bridgen	Family Communion
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22 Nov	9:15am	Zoom	Daphne/Mark	Parish Eucharist
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Usual Zoom login and password applies.

29 Nov	9.15am	Zoom	Mark/Daphne	Parish Eucharist
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Zoom login: 616 146 1466 password: Christmas

All three churches will be offering worship in November through a variety of ways - On line videos and Zoom. Always check out the web sites for St Mary Kippington, St Mary the Virgin, Riverhead with Dunton Green and St Luke's Sevenoaks for information every week

New Curate for the West Sevenoaks Team Ministry Benefice

I am delighted to be able to announce - following authorisation from Bishop James - that from September 2021 we will be welcoming Steve Osei-Mensah as Assistant Curate to the West Sevenoaks Team Ministry Benefice. This is one of those appointments that is in the hands of the Rector as following ordination Curates begin their ministry in a training parish. I am thrilled that Steve is coming here as he is a man of considerable gifts and will enrich our new Team Benefice as, I believe, we will be able to enrich Steve in these formative few years of his own ministry. Steve is in a self supporting ministry and lives close to Sevenoaks. In the meantime please hold Steve and his wife Emma in your prayers as the Team continues to take shape - with now an additional exciting appointment that will be a great asset to our Team. Every blessing, Mark

The CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL is going online this year!

We would love everyone to share their tree. You are invited to email a photo of your tree together with your name and a caption to;

christmas-tree-fest@stmaryriverhead.co.uk between 1st and 20th December.

The festival will open on Saturday 12th December and run until 6th January. A link to it will be announced shortly. We are hoping to raise funds for our local Age UK in addition to St Mary's and the site will offer easy ways to donate.

Do please take part in this slightly different and hopefully enjoyable Christmas experience and invite friends too.

Loaves and Fishes There is probably an even greater need for this service during these very difficult times for us all. If you are shopping for food etc if you can pop something extra into your basket I am sure it would be greatly appreciated. Margaret Holman at 2 Cranmer Road has a basket in her porch into which goods can be placed and she will undertake to deliver them to St John's

SKET (Sevenoaks Kenya Education Trust) In the past we have always supported this charity by means of our harvest celebrations through the purchase of your harvest lunch and a retiring collection. Obviously this year that is not possible so we are suggesting that perhaps those, who wished, could make a donation through the church account. PCC of Riverhead with Dunton Green 40-52-40 00024384 and marking it SKET for identification

ADVENT WINDOWS

Christmas will in many ways be different for all of us this year not least because we will be unable to sing our normal carols. However, I am proposing something a little different to help us think about the carols as well as preparing us during Advent season.

ADVENT WINDOWS are a lit window in your house, visible from the street, which is decorated however you want to depict a Christmas carol. The window is then lit up on a particular date in December, like an Advent calendar.

Across the team I am looking for 24 families to volunteer to decorate a window representing a different carol from the 1 to 24 December. This equates to 8 windows per church. The plan will be at 4pm each day the window will be lit and turned off each day at 10pm. We will publish a location map on each of the churches websites. Once your window is lit then you continue to keep it illuminated for the rest of Advent. So as the month continues there will more and more windows to view and others are invited to discover the different carols by visiting the windows during the Advent season.

Anyone who would like to can take part. The windows can be decorated any way you like, search online for "Advent Windows" for some creative suggestions. It can be an upstairs or downstairs window, a shop front, a big or small window. It should be visible from the street to avoid people having to come onto your property to view it. The window can simply be a colouring to represent the carols or something more elaborate if you are crafty and inventive.

Volunteers from all across the team are needed, and I will then allocate window days and carols. This is something to involve all the family so please email me rev.annebourne@gmail.com if you are interested and let us get creating as we prepare to celebrate the Saviour's birth

Anne Bourne

We are looking for eight volunteers from St Mary's Riverhead

Opening Hymn: All my hope on God is founded

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of nought.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Still from man to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

Music after Communion: Tantum Ergo by Severac

*Tantum ergo sacramentum veneremur cernui:
et antiquum documentum novo cedat ritui.
Praestet fides supplementum sensuum defectui.
Genitori, genitoque laus et jubilatio,
salus, honor, virtus quoque sit et benedictio.
Procedenti ab utroque compar sit laudatio. Amen.
Let us venerate this great Sacrament with bowed
heads:
Let the ancient example give way to a new rite.
Let faith make good the inefficiency of our senses.
Praise and rejoicing, safety and honour, virtue
And blessing to the Begetter and the Begotten.
To him who comes from either, be there equal
praise. Amen.*

Final Hymn: Love divine

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above;
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Closing Music: Pomp and Circumstance No: 1 by Elgar