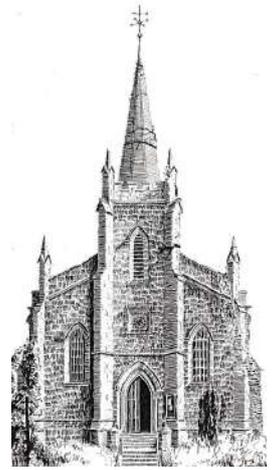


St Mary the Virgin

Riverhead with Dunton Green



Sunday 15th November 2020 - Second Sunday before Advent

1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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 25.14-30

Jesus said to his disciples, 'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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

For your information

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
22 Nov	9:15am	Zoom	Daphne/Mark	Parish Eucharist

Usual Zoom login and password applies. 616 146 1466 stmarys

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

The CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL is going online this year!

A special festival website has been developed and we would love everyone to share their tree.

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 Margaret Holman would like to thank everyone for the massive support which they have been giving to this worthy cause. Sadly 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

Bible Study A group of us continue to meet on zoom every Monday morning at 9.45am for Bible Study if you are interested in joining us you would be made very welcome. Please contact "Daphne Harrison" daphneharrison@yahoo.co.uk or "Ronnie Todd" vat.lady@hotmail.co.uk

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

Team Rector The Revd Mark Bridgen is the 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.

Extra services to nourish us spiritually during November

Evensong: Sunday Please note that during November Evensong by Zoom will be taking place. This Sunday evening - the 15th of November - 6:15pm for a 6:30pm start (finishing at 7:15pm) Topic: Evensong
Zoom Meeting ID: 895 2925 8458. Passcode: 886448

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). This Tuesday - 17th. Topic: Team Prayers Zoom Meeting ID: 830 3918 4166. Passcode: 480954

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

Reflecting and Suggesting Exercise

Dear friends,

We have been distributing our Reflecting and Suggesting Exercise across the churches as a way of valuing everyone's opinion and suggestions as regards how we can both grow our churches and team. It has gone out through the email distribution portals of all three churches and as hard copies sent to everyone on our electoral rolls not on those lists. However, due to the second lockdown we have not yet been able to give the opportunity to those who are not on the electoral roll, distribution lists, but still come to worship. As such hard copies of the leaflet and response sheet will be found in all three churches when we reopen for worship - on both the 6th and the 13th of December. Thus the deadline date to receive your valuable and valued suggestions, if you wish, will be the 15th of December. If you have any questions concerning the Reflecting and Suggesting exercise please contact me.

Every blessing, Mark.

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

Opening Hymn: Alleluia, sing to Jesus

Alleluia, sing to Jesus!
His the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluia, his the triumph,
his the victory alone:
hark, the songs of peaceful Sion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of every nation
hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia, not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
alleluia, he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how:
though the cloud from sight received him,
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
"I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia, bread of angels,
thou on earth our food, our stay;
alleluia, here the sinful
flee to thee from day to day:
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia, King eternal,
thee the Lord of lords we own;
alleluia, born of Mary,
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:
thou within the veil hast entered,
robed in flesh, our great High Priest,
thou on earth both Priest and Victim
in the Eucharistic feast.

Music after Communion: O God, you search me

*O God, you search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me:
ever the maker and keeper of my days.*

*You know my resting and my rising.
You discern my purpose from afar,
and with love everlasting you besiege me:
in every moment of life and death, you are.*

*Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
you have known its meaning through and
through.
You are with me beyond my understanding:
God of my present, my past and future, too.*

*Although your Spirit is upon me,
still I search for shelter from your light.
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.*

*For you created me and shaped me,
gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
safe in your hands, all creation is made new*

Final Hymn: To God be the glory

To God be the glory! Great things He hath done;
so loved He the world that He gave us His Son;
who yielded His life in atonement for sin,
and opened the life gate that all may go in.
*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord! Let the earth
hear His voice;*

*praise the Lord, praise the Lord! Let the people
rejoice:*

*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son
and give Him the glory; great things He hath
done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord! Let the earth
hear his voice;*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord! Let the people
rejoice:*

*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son
And give him the glory, great things he hath
done!*

Great things He hath taught us, great things He
hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.
*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord! Let the earth
hear His voice;*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord! Let the people
rejoice:*

*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son
And give Him the glory, great things he hath
done!*

Closing Music: Chorale prelude on Ein feste burg, by Walther