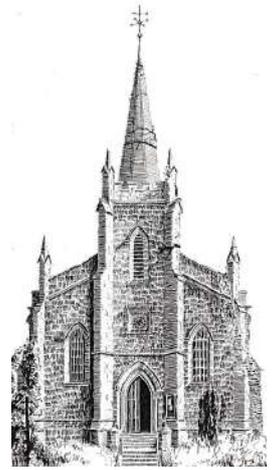


St Mary the Virgin Riverhead with Dunton Green



Sunday 28th February 2021 - 2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17.1-7,15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Romans 4.13-25

The promise that Abraham would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations'). Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations,' according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him,' were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in God who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

Mark 8.31-38

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Events this week:

Sunday

9:30 Sunday – Holy Communion on Zoom (open from 9:15am)

Meeting ID: 616 146 1466 Password: Shoreham01

There will also be a Sunday Club session (a link will be sent separately)

6:30 Sunday Night Prayer and Lenten Reflections (on Zoom open from 6:15pm)

Please see the Team Rector's Notices for more details.

Meeting ID: 814 9810 6394

Passcode: 168200

Monday

9:45am Bible Study Group – Please contact Daphne for more information.

Tuesday

Please note there are no Team prayers this week.

Wednesday

7:30pm Lenten Reflections with Revd. Andy – "Living his story". Please contact Andy for more information.

8:00pm Compline (Doors open from 7:55pm)

Meeting ID: 881 1673 3947

Passcode: 537473

Thursday

11am Coffee morning on Zoom

Meeting ID: 616 146 1466 Password: Shoreham01

Holy Week 2021

Below are a list of the Holy Week services. More details about the services will follow shortly but please put them in your diary.

28 March 9:30am Palm Sunday – Zoom only – consisting of a Sunday Club Easter drama followed by a short communion service streamed live from church;

29th March 8pm Compline with a Holy Week reflection – Zoom only

30th March 8pm Compline with a Holy Week reflection – Zoom only

31st March 8pm Compline with a Holy Week reflection – Zoom only

1st April 7:30pm Team Maundy Thursday Service – more details to follow shortly.

2nd April 9:30am All Age Service for Good Friday – Zoom only

2pm Hour at the Cross – Zoom only.

4 April 9:30am Easter Day – All Age communion hybrid service in church for a maximum of 24 attendees with the remainder participating on Zoom;

Please remember in your prayers: The family and friends of Denis William, Mary Keer and Karen Smith.

Also think of Cheryl Davies, Judy Borrowman and Sue Suewing

If you would like a friend or member of your family added to this list please let Margaret N know.

Lent reflections

A reminder that our Lent reflections continue across the group this week. Please see below for information on the sessions

Lent course:

For 6 weeks starting on **Wednesday 24th February** Andy is going to share reflections from the Lent book for 2021 "Living His story." This will help us think about how Our own stories and God's story connect. Once we realise this we are better equipped to tell the story to others.

There will video clips, a reflection and questions to take away and reflect upon.

We are going to meet on **Wednesday evening at 7:30 for 30 minutes** before Compline which starts at 8:00pm.

Wednesday 24th Feb, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st at 7:30pm

Please let Andy know at revandyfinn@outlook.com if you are interested in joining the reflections and I will send the details of how to join.

Lent groups on different nights across our team if other things take your interest!

Thursday evening Lent groups at St Mary Kippington

During the five weeks of Lent, Zoom Lent group will be taking place on Thursday evening.

We shall be using the film 'The Theory of Everything' which tells the extraordinary story of Jane and Stephen Hawking. Set at the University of Cambridge, it details the life and marriage of the theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking - starring Felicity Jones and Eddie Redmayne.

We will be watching clips of the film care of the Zoom facility and so you won't need to have seen it before! Each week we shall be exploring topics as: awe and wonder, faith and science, mystery and miracles, love and relationships. No preparation is needed and the course is designed to be accessible to everyone. 7:30pm to 9pm Feb 25th; March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th. Let Mark know if you want to attend and he will send you login details: mark.bridgen@btinternet.com

St Lukes – Tuesday day time 10.30am – 12noon:

This year for Lent, St Luke's will take a journey looking at 'Holy Habits' in the life and passion of Jesus. These include Jesus guided by Scripture; Jesus serving with gladness; Jesus praying and Jesus making disciples. Each session will begin with a short act of worship, prayer, bible reading and discussion.

Please let Anne know you would like to join by email: rev.annebourne@gmail.com

There is no compulsion to join each week as they are stand-alone sessions.

From the vicar and churchwardens

As there are signs of optimism that the vaccine rollout combined with this third lockdown are having an impact on reducing the rate of spread of the Covid-19 virus, the PCC has considered how we may bring some services back to church whilst recognising the need to continue to provide Zoom services. The PCC feel this will be best achieved by taking small steps.

So, at first, we will try a hybrid model whereby a service takes place in church that is also broadcast live via Zoom, with a small number of people physically present in church and others present on Zoom.

The plan for our **9.30am services** is:

28 February, 7 March, 14 March and 21 March – Zoom only;

28 March (Palm Sunday) – Zoom only – consisting of a Sunday Club Easter drama followed by a short communion service streamed live from church;

4 April (Easter Day) – All Age communion hybrid service in church for a maximum of 24 attendees with the remainder participating on Zoom;

11 April onwards – hybrid services in church and on Zoom.

The plan for our **8am services** is to restart these in church from 11 April. We are looking at whether we can restart these earlier than this date and will let you know if this is possible.

We are pleased to announce that we are hosting a hybrid church/on Zoom team **Maundy Thursday service (1 April) at 7.30pm**. This will be a communion service. There will be places for 8 people from each church and we will be asking people to register if they wish to attend in the building. Please do give priority to those who cannot access worship via Zoom if possible. If there is more interest than the 8 places available then we will put names on a waiting list.

Wednesday Compline services at 8pm will continue on Zoom.

We feel that the pattern of services outlined above will enable us to start moving back into the building whilst also allowing everyone to participate in the service. We will continue to follow Church of England and Government guidelines on Covid safety, as we did before.

We thank you for your understanding and support as we strive to facilitate worship in a safe and inclusive manner.

Andy, Rachel and Alison

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

Items particularly requested at present are:- Chicken in White Sauce, Tuna, Tinned Ham, Custard, and Tinned Fruit

Mothers' Union

They are asking for the following items for Rochester Prison:-

Unwritten cards—birthday cards, sympathy cards, Easter cards

Cadbury's Dairy Milk Easter Eggs - sold in some shops for £1

Rucksacks - needed for prisoners being released

I can collect Karen 01732 451396

Team Rector's Notices

6:30pm Sunday 28th Feb. Team Evensong (Open from 6:15pm for fellowship before worship begins)
Meeting ID: 814 9810 6394
Passcode: 168200
(Please note this is now the same id and passcode)

Team Prayers

Will now be taking place fortnightly on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month:
February 23rd and March 9th and 23rd.
Login in details:
Meeting ID: 815 0902 9021
Passcode: 218012

(All three churches will be offering worship in March 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)

Sunday Night Prayer and Reflections - 'Living with shadows'

Every Sunday evening in Lent (by Zoom) there will be a service of Night Prayer concluding with a reflection focusing on living with shadows. As Jesus walked with the shadow of the cross around him, so we acknowledge shadows that people walk with today. People can depart following the end of the service and reflection, or can stay for a time of discussion.

6:30pm service time (opens at 6:15pm). Login details available nearer the time.

28th of February - living with body image; 7th of March - living with mental health; 14th of March - living with addictions; 21st of March - living with loneliness

Living in Love and Faith

Dear friends,

I have been conscious that the publication of a significant report in the life of the Church of England on issues to do with identity, gender, sexuality, relationships and marriage (Living in Love and Faith) has not yet been able to be brought into the life of the Team. We do aim to do this, but due to the nature of the topics involved we wish to do this though physical get togethers over a number of weeks as there is a five week course that we can take part in, unpacking the issues within the report. As this cannot yet be planned, I am - in the meantime - offering a Zoom get together (for anyone who wishes to come) on Monday 15th of March at 8pm. The purpose of this is to give an overview of the report, to gently touch some of the issues involved, to recognise where there are areas that have and are causing hurt and difficulty (in the lives of individuals and the Church of England), to have a time for general discussion and for people to raise any questions. I felt that as a Team it was important to recognise the report at this stage before too many weeks go by since its publication. Login details are not being mentioned on our newsletters, but only given to people as they contact me if they wish to attend. Therefore, if you do, please email me on: mark.bridgen@btinternet.com

The nature of our gathering on the 15th will be wrapped in sensitivity and grace.