

# St Mary the Virgin Riverhead with Dunton Green

**Sunday 31st January 2021 - Presentation of Christ in the Temple**



## ***Malachi 3.1-5***

Thus says the Lord God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ***Hebrews 2.14-18***

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

## ***Luke 2.22-40***

When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons". Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Services for January at Riverhead

We would like to confirm that 31st January 9.15am service will be on Zoom. There will not be an 8am Communion, but our Team churches at St Mary Kippington and St Lukes will be holding services, please consult their websites for details.

You might also like to join

**Compline** on Wednesday evenings at 7.45 for 8.00pm

and the **Coffee Morning** on Thursdays at 11.00am

Link has been sent separately

## From the pen of the vicar – 31st January 2021

Dear all,

Can I thank you again for your kind welcome this weekend? It has been great also to see more of you during the week and to begin to get to know you. Please do not hesitate to ring or email me if you would like time to talk or get to know me over a cup of coffee. This morning Mark Bridgen will be taking our communion service on Zoom as we come to the end of Epiphany.

Over this last week we have seen the sad news that we have reached over 100,000 covid related deaths. Each of those deaths is not just a number but a life lost and a family who are grieving. Therefore, we need to support each other. We do this by following the guidelines. But we also do it by reaching out to each other with care and kindness.

In response to this the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have encouraged people to come together and spend a short time in prayer each day starting at 6pm on February 1st. They have suggested we pray for the victims of the pandemic, those on the front line and the public bodies and private businesses that make up our common life. Bishop James has said “It seems fitting to begin this season of prayer on the eve of Candlemas, when we recall Anna and Simeon and how they embraced the presence of God in a disciplined spirit of patient waiting and intercessory prayer for the hope of the Messiah.” Can I urge us to take time to stop and pray each day, joining with many others across the country at this time?

With best wishes,

Andy

**NB You will find a suggested prayer at the foot of the following page**

**Prayer List** Please remember in your prayers: Sarah Suewing, Cheryl Davies, Denis and Diane Williams and family, Judy Borrowman, and Karen Smith

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

### **Fun and Games for All on Zoom 4.00pm Saturday 20th February**

A couple of hours of fun and relaxation including a quiz and a scavenger hunt giving everyone an opportunity to meet Andy and his family in an informal setting.

It might be nice to bring along a drink of tea, coffee or something more alcoholic and perhaps a few nibbles to give it even more of a party atmosphere.

RSVP to me at magnicholas@tiscali.co.uk if you would like to attend and you will be sent the link

## Webinar on Monday 1st February at 11.00am

We are privileged to be joined by Hannah Rich, Senior Researcher at Theos and the author of the report *Growing Good: Growth, Social Action and Discipleship in the Church of England (2020)*.

This report, the fruit of extensive on the ground research on behalf of Church Urban Fund and Theos, explores the intimate relationship between social action, growth and discipleship. Each of these commitments have a key role in our calling and the report shows their inseparability.

If you are able, I would encourage you to attend this to hear Hannah first hand and to give space for questioning and debate.

One small additional plus: there won't be any awkward break out rooms to negotiate.

Details for signing up can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/2VtpB7L>

## **Team Rector's Notices**

6:30pm Sunday 31st 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)

Tuesday 2nd – Team Prayers (Open from 6:45pm) 7pm to 7:30pm

Meeting ID: 815 0902 9021

Passcode: 218012

(Please note this is now the same id and passcode)

All three churches will be offering worship in January 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

## **Licensing of Revd Anne Bourne**

On behalf of the West Sevenoaks Team Ministry an invitation is extended across the three churches to: The Licensing by the Rt Revd Simon Burton-Jones of the Revd Anne Clare Bourne to be Team Vicar of the benefice of the West Sevenoaks Team Ministry, with special responsibility for St Luke's, Sevenoaks. Tuesday 9th of February 7pm. Due to restrictions in place there can only be a limited number of people in St Luke's for the occasion. The service however will be live streamed from the church for people to watch and the relevant id and passcode are to be found below.

Every blessing, Rev Mark Bridgen. Team Rector of the benefice of the West Sevenoaks Team Ministry

Topic: LICENSING SERVICE

Time: Feb 9, 2021 06:30 PM London

Meeting ID: 817 9732 1687

Passcode: 397632

## **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.

21st of February - living with dementia; 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.

## **Team Ash Wednesday service**

8pm 17th of February at St Luke's. Our intention is for a public act of worship that will be live streamed.

## **Archbishop's Prayer**

**We remember before God those who have died and we pray that God's love will surround all who mourn them, now and always**

Gracious God,

as we remember before you the thousands who have died,  
surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion.

Be gentle with us in our grief,  
protect us from despair,  
and give us grace to persevere  
and face the future with hope  
in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Amen.

