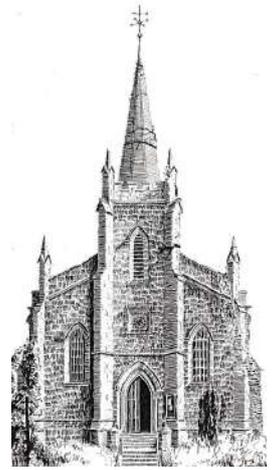


St Mary the Virgin Riverhead with Dunton Green



Sunday 11th October 2020 - 18th Sunday after

Isaiah 25.1-9

O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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

Philippians 4.1-9

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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 22.1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to the chief priests and Pharisees in parables, saying: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.” But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.” Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, “Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?” And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” For many are called, but few are chosen.’

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

From your Team Rector: Dear friends, from September we will begin the process of the recruitment for the Team Vicars in the life of West Sevenoaks Team. I would like to thank all those from St Mary the Virgin and St Luke's who have worked tirelessly and faithfully to prepare parish profiles. Advertising, shortlisting and interviews will take us to the beginning of November. As we begin the process, I offer a prayer below for your personal and corporate prayers throughout this time. God bless this team and each of you. Mark

Our gracious God, we thank you for your guidance thus far in the birth of our new Team Ministry. We pray now that you will guide us as we come to the recruitment of our new Team Vicars. Come alongside all those who will make applications and all those who will discern, that your will be done and your kingdom come. Amen.

And a prayer for those in the Team fulfilling their charge of shortlisting and interviewing candidates

Almighty God, giver of every good gift, we pray that you will look graciously upon our churches of St Mary the Virgin and St Luke's at this time. Guide the minds of those whom we have appointed to choose new Team Vicars for our churches and team, that by their diligence, prayerfulness and openness to your Spirit, they may discern what is your will and bring that to fruition, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

West Sevenoaks Team – Fortnightly Tuesday prayers by Zoom: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays

On every second and fourth Tuesday there will be half hour prayers offered for our new Team and an area, in turn, of the life of its ministry. People will be invited to join us care of Zoom and the meeting id and passcode will be:

Meeting ID: 974 868 8695

Passcode: 7bEsdU

People are invited to Zoom from 6:45pm for a 7pm start. We will always end at 7:30pm.

Dates this year are:

Tuesday 8th and 22nd of September; 13th and 27th of October; 10th and 24th of November; and the 8th of December. (No prayers on the 22nd of December)

Services at St Lukes are 8.00am BCP Holy Communion Service, people will be asked to enter and exit via the North Porch. At 10.15am there is also a Parish Eucharist which is being zoomed for those not able to attend, but the code is not generally circulated until Saturday afternoon as a new one is used each week for security purposes. For this later service people arrive at 10.00am and are ushered to a seat, leaving promptly at the end, but can distance chat in groups of six outside. There is no criteria for attending and anyone is welcome.

St Mary Kippington – services

SUNDAYS

8:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10:30am

1st Sunday: Family Service, usually in the Parish Centre (or outdoors weather-permitting)

2nd Sunday: Holy Communion

3rd Sunday: Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)

4th Sunday: Holy Communion

5th Sunday: Holy Communion with Healing or Morning Prayer in the Celtic tradition

THURSDAYS

A Common Worship Communion service is held at the Church every Thursday from 10am. In the winter this service takes place in the Centenary Room – which is adjoined to the church

Services For October We are very happy to announce that we will hold some Sunday services in church in October. Please see the attached document which describes what to expect when coming to church for The full schedule of October services is as follows:

4 October 8am Church - BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Zoom - Family service

7 October. 8pm. Zoom - Compline

11 October. 8am. Church - BCP Holy Communion
9.30am. Zoom - Eucharist

14 October. 8pm. Zoom - Compline

18 October. 8am. Church – Communion by extension
9.30am. Zoom - Morning Prayer

21 October. 8pm. Zoom - Compline

25 October. 8am. Church - BCP Holy Communion

9.15am. Church - Holy Communion immediately followed at 9.45am by the APCM

28 October 8m Zoom - Compline

From November we plan to hold both the 8am service and the 9.15am service in church – there won't be a 9.30am Zoom service. Further details will be given nearer the time. We also hope to stream the 9.15am church service when we have solved a few technical issues.

Link for all Zoomed services is 616 146 1466 password – stmarys

Our Church APCM will be held in church on Sunday 25 October 2020 at 9.45am, immediately after a short Eucharist service at 9.15am, again in church. All the documents will be on the church website and a few photocopies will be available in church on the day. Ronnie Todd, PCC Secretary

Independent Enquiry into Sexual Abuse of Children in the Church of England

It is a profoundly sad time for the Church in coming to terms with its failures exposed in the recent report. The immediate question is how we are responding to it in the life of the West Sevenoaks Team Ministry.

Firstly, we acknowledge that the report could open or reopen wounds in people in terms of any such situations they have faced in previous years. If this is the case – and people want to talk to someone independently please be aware of the new Safe Spaces helpline, on 0300 303 1056 or email: safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk

Secondly, the report has been distributed internally within the team to churchwardens and safeguarding officers for their prayerful readings and I will be valuing any reflections they have in terms of living with the report and anything we can do to embed its findings in the life of the team. (We will, of course, be awaiting and acting on reflections from the diocesan safeguarding team)

Thirdly, the report will feature on the agenda of all three PCC meetings in October and November. It will be distributed to all current and new PCC members following the last ACPM's. In turn I and we will be valuing all reflections PCC members have.

Finally (and also as importantly) if anyone has any reflections concerning the report and how we can use it to make sure all our churches are safe spaces, then please speak to your safeguarding officer or myself as Team Rector. Mark

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

Please pray for Sarah Seuwing - The daughter of Peter Flynn's friend Pat who is very seriously ill

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 000024384 and marking it SKET for identification

The Children's Society Margaret Holman has catalogues for the society's Christmas cards which can be collected from her porch (perhaps when you are dropping off your gifts for Loaves and Fishes) There is also a folder containing the full size cards for you to see. They can be purchased either through Margaret or by ordering directly online

.Opening Hymn: Firmly I believe and truly

Firmly I believe and truly
God is Three and God is One;
and I next acknowledge duly
manhood taken by his Son.

And I trust and hope most fully
in that manhood crucified;
and each thought and deed unruly
do to death, as he has died.

Simply to his grace and wholly
light and life and strength belong,
and I love supremely, solely,
him the holy, him the strong.

And I hold in veneration,
for the love of him alone,
Holy Church as his creation,
and her teachings as his own.

Adoration ay be given,
with and through the angelic host,
to the God of earth and heaven,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Music after Communion: God be in my head, by Walford Davies

God be in my head,
and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes,
and in my looking;
God be in my mouth,
and in my speaking;
God be in my heart,
and in my thinking;
God be at mine end,
and at my departing.

Closing Hymn: Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, song of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

**Closing Music: Brother James Air (Psalm 23)
by Malcolm Archer**