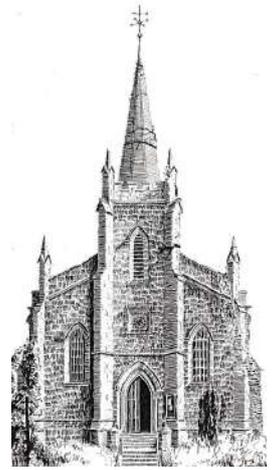


St Mary the Virgin Riverhead with Dunton Green



Sunday 22nd November 2020 - Christ the King

Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

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

Ephesians 1.15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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 25.31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

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.

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

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, we are 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, and decorated however you want, from a simple drawing to a complicated design, to depict a Christmas carol. The window is then lit up on a particular date in December, like an Advent calendar. It is a team initiative so we are asking for eight volunteers from each parish - we have three so far from Riverhead. 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 be 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 the windows, days and carols will then be allocated. 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 five volunteers from St Mary's Riverhead

If you shop Amazon Black Friday Week deals from 20th - 30th November, you can do more than discover great deals: Simply shop at smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1128522-0 or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app, and AmazonSmile donates to The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Riverhead with Dunton Green at no extra cost.

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

Please note that during November Evensong by Zoom will be taking place. This Sunday evening - the 22nd of November - 6:15pm for a 6:30pm start (finishing at 7:15pm)

Meeting ID: 818 5369 7538

Passcode: 934530

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 - 24th. November

Meeting ID: 818 8663 7119

Passcode: 006989

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: King of glory, King of Peace

King of glory, King of peace,
I will love thee;
and that love may never cease,
I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
thou hast heard me;
thou didst note my working breast,
thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing thee,
and the cream of all my heart
I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried,
thou didst clear me,
and alone, when they replied,
thou didst hear me.

Seven whole days, not one in seven,
I will praise thee;
in my heart, though not in heaven,
I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort
to enrol thee:
e'en eternity's too short
to extol thee.

Music after Communion: O holy city, seen of John: Music by Howells

*O holy city, seen of John,
where Christ, the Lamb doth reign,
within whose four-square walls shall come
no night, nor need, nor pain,
and where the tears are wiped from eyes
that shall not weep again.*

*O shame to us who rest content
while lust and greed for gain
in street and shop and tenement
wring gold from human pain,
and bitter lips in blind despair
cry "Christ hath died in vain".*

*Give us, O God, the strength to build
the City that hath stood
too long a dream, whose laws are love,
whose ways are brotherhood,
and where the sun that shineth is
God's grace for human good.*

*Already in the mind of God
that City riseth fair:
lo, how its splendour challenges
the souls that greatly dare:
yea, bids us seize the whole of life
and build its glory there.*

Final Hymn: Christ triumphant, ever reigning

Christ triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
hear us as we sing:
Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.

Word incarnate, truth revealing,
Son of Man on earth!
Power and majesty concealing
by your humble birth:
Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.

Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,
victim crucified!
Death is through the cross defeated,
sinners justified:
Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.

Priestly king, enthroned for ever
high in heaven above!
Sin and death and hell shall never
stifle hymns of love:
Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.

So, our hearts and voices raising
through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon you gazing,
this shall be our song:
Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.

Closing Music: Prince of Denmark's March by Jeremiah Clarke