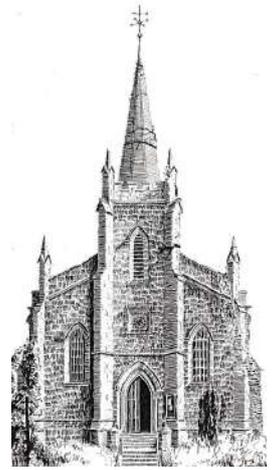


St Mary the Virgin Riverhead with Dunton Green



Sunday 29th November 2020 - Advent Sunday

Isaiah 64.1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence – as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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

1 Corinthians 1.3-9

My brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia.**

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

Mark 13.24-37

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

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
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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 Bishop of Rochester and the Patron, The West Sevenoaks Team Ministry Patronage Board, are pleased to announce the appointment of the first ever Team Vicars in the West Sevenoaks Team Ministry.

The Revd Anne Bourne, at present Interim Associate Rector in the West Sevenoaks Team Ministry will become Team Vicar with special responsibility for St Luke's, Sevenoaks and will continue to work on a part-time basis. Anne is likely to be licensed in February.

The Revd Andy Finn, who currently lives in Southsea, will become Team Vicar, with special responsibility for St Mary the Virgin, Riverhead with Dunton Green working on a full-time basis. He is likely to be licensed in January. Before being ordained Andy was a youth worker in Saffron Walden. Following ordination, Andy has served in Southsea, Chelmsford and Ingatestone. Having grown up in Folkestone, Andy is excited about returning to Kent. With his wife Tamar, and children Reuben, Caleb and Esther they are looking forward to joining us in the West Sevenoaks Team to continue to grow God's kingdom.

Anne and Andy would very much appreciate our prayers at this time.

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 You are invited to email a photo of your tree together with your name and a caption to; "

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

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.

Church Flowers Calendar 2021

The calendars should be ready very soon at a cost of £7.50. If you would like one please get in touch with me on 01732 453540 or christineanne.smith@outlook.com and I will deliver to you as soon as I have them. Payment can be made direct to church - PCC Riverhead with Dunton Green 40 - 52 - 40 account number 00024384 or cash/cheque payable to me through my door 26 Woodfields, Chipstead. Many thanks.

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 also note on the Sunday evening there will be a Zoom Team Evensong in the evening of Sunday 29th. 6:15pm for 6:30pm (finishing at 7:15pm).

Meeting ID: 858 5912 9384

Passcode: 186029

Team Prayers: Tuesday

Please note that on 1st December Team Prayers by Zoom will be taking place 6:45pm for a 7pm start (finishing at 7:30pm).

Meeting ID: 873 0838 0806

Passcode: 082130

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: O come, O come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
redeem thy captive Israel,
that into exile drear is gone
far from the face of God's dear Son.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, Adonai,
who in thy glorious majesty
from Sinai's mountain clothed with awe
gavest thy folk the ancient law.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Root of Jesse, draw
the quarry from the lion's claw;
from those dread caverns of the grave;
from nether hell the people save.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Lord of David's key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
safeguard for us the heav'nward road,
and bar the way to death's abode.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of Nations, show
thy kingly reign on earth below;
the cornerstone uniting all,
restore the ruin of our fall.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Music after Communion: There is a hope

*There is a hope that burns within my heart,
that gives me strength for every passing day;
a glimpse of glory now revealed in meagre part
yet drives all doubt away:
I stand in Christ, with sins forgiv'n
and Christ in me, the hope of heav'n!
my highest calling and my deepest joy,
to make his will my home.*

*There is a hope that lifts my weary head,
a consolation strong against despair,
that when the world has plunged me in its deepest pit,
I find the Saviour there!
Through present sufferings, future's fear,
he whispers "Courage" in my ear,
for I am safe in everlasting arms,
and they will lead me home*

*There is a hope that stands the test of time,
that lifts my eyes beyond the beckoning grave,
to see the matchless beauty of a day divine
when I behold his face!
When sufferings cease and sorrows die,
and every longing satisfied,
then joy unspeakable will flood my soul,
for I am truly home.*

Final Hymn: Lo, he comes with clouds descending

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluya!
God appears, on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen! Let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly!
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

Closing Music: Sleepers Wake (in a different version...)