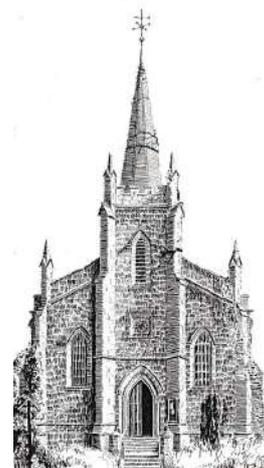


St Mary the Virgin Riverhead with Dunton Green



Sunday 4th April 2021 - Easter Sunday

Acts 10.34-43

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached – how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen – by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;

I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

John 20.1-18

Glory to you, O Lord.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

From the pen of the vicar

Alleluia, Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed Alleluia.

Today we gather to remember a central part of our faith. Jesus is alive!

As we gather online or in the church building I pray that we may be renewed in hope, love and excitement like those first disciples on Easter Day at the news that Jesus is risen.

I am aware that after a difficult year it may not seem possible for some of us to celebrate. Last Easter our church buildings were closed and we faced an uncertain year ahead. The message of Easter however, is one that moves us from darkness to light, from death to life.

In the news the other day, I read that the online search engine Google had published some of the most searched words in 2020. Last year two of the most searched words were “pray” and “hope”. These words perhaps speak of what people needed over the last year. Today as we recall Jesus appearance to Mary at the empty tomb we recall how death was not the end – with Jesus there is hope and new life.

Thank you to all those who have worked hard for our Easter service today – to the flowers, music, technology and many others. Thank you.

Happy Easter,

Andy

01732 669454 or revandyfinn@outlook.com

PLEASE NOTE THAT FROM NEXT WEEK OUR ID AND PASSWORD RETURNS TO:

Meeting ID: 616 146 1466

Password: Shoreham01

Orders of Service from April

From this Sunday, our services will look different for those joining us online as we move to a live stream of the worship on Zoom. This means the words for the services will not be shared on the screen as has previously been the case. Instead there will be orders of service for you to download at home, pick up in church or pick up from the vicarage. By not sharing the words on screen, we can enable people on zoom to get a better picture of what is happening in the Church.

From next Sunday there will be orders of service available which will match the orders of service we are using in the building. The newsletter each week will contain the words of the hymns and readings.

I am finalising the orders of service early next week and then I will distribute them via the website and email list. I am happy to deliver paper copies for those who would like them printed for them. Please do just ask.

Andy

Confirmation - May 23rd at 2pm

A service for confirmation has been arranged in the team for May 23rd at 2pm. If you would like to be confirmed, then please be in touch with Andy. The service will be led by either Bishop James or Bishop Simon. The venue is to be confirmed.

APCM – 18th April 2021

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place in Church on Sunday 18th April following the Morning Service (at around 11am). A letter came about attending last week. Please contact us if you did not receive that letter. We hope to be able to stream the APCM from the building for those who wish to access the event online.

During the APCM there will elections for:

Three representatives from the electoral roll to serve on the Parochial Church Council

Two representatives from the electoral roll to serve on the new Joint Council of the benefice of the West Sevenoaks Team Ministry. You do not have to be a PCC member to join this council but must be on the electoral roll.

If you are interested in finding out more about either the Parochial Church Council or Joint Council then please contact Andy or Ronnie Todd for more information.

Church Electoral Roll

We are going to revise our electoral roll this year from the 21st March until the 31st March. During this time people who are not on their electoral can join. If you are not on the electoral roll then please consider joining. If you wish to find out more about joining the electoral roll then please contact Margaret Nicholas for more details.

Why join the Church Electoral roll?

Joining the Church Electoral Roll is one way of saying that you belong to the church community of St Mary the Virgin Riverhead and Dunton Green. It enables you to vote and have a say at the Annual Church Meeting. It also enables you to be a part of our wider team and church structures. The electoral roll list also helps us as a church community to pray for members of our church community and to stay in touch with one another.

Events this week:

Sunday

8:00 BCP Said Holy Communion

9:30 Easter Day All Age Service

Meeting ID: 616 146 1466 Password: HolyWeek

Please note there is no Team Evening Prayer tonight.

Monday

There is no Bible Study this week.

Tuesday

There are no Team Prayers tonight.

Wednesday

8:00pm Compline

Meeting ID: 616 146 1466 Password: Shoreham01

Your prayers are asked for: Cheryl Davies and, Judy Borrowman,
In Memoriam

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

Note from Anne Blakeley

Dear All

I will be walking 100Km to raise money for Traidcraft Exchange in April. (EVEN BETTER THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE DOUBLING ALL DONATIONS) There is a fundraising page on Facebook via this link:

https://m.facebook.com/story.phstory_fbid=892371708230894&substory_index=0&id=100023742186560

Or sponsorship commitments can be emailed to me anne@straight.eclipse.co.uk

Or put through my door

Thanks

Anne

