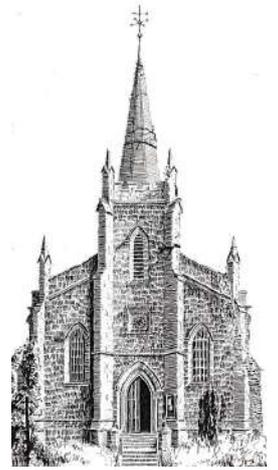


# St Mary the Virgin Riverhead with Dunton Green

**Sunday 14th March 2021 - 4th Sunday in Lent**



## ***Numbers 21.4-9***

The Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ***Ephesians 2.1-10***

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## ***John 3.14-21***

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

## From the pen of the vicar

### 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). 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.

### 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. If you wish to find out more about joining the electoral roll then please contact Margaret Nicholas for more details.

I know it is a couple of weeks away but these things can slip our mind. Do please consider putting the date in your diaries now. Please be praying for this event as we celebrate the last year and look forward as a church to the year ahead.

With best wishes,

Andy

01732 669454 or [revandyfinn@outlook.com](mailto:revandyfinn@outlook.com)

### National Day of Reflection

Tuesday 23rd March is a National Day of Reflection for people to stop and remember the past year and all those who have lost lives. St Lukes will be open and at 11:45 am there will be a short reflective communion service. Please do feel free to join the service. There will be an opportunity too to light a candle in memory of those who died or bring a daffodil or other spring flower to add to their collection. At Noon St Luke's will observe a minute's silence.

At 7pm that evening we will be having Team Prayers. That evening our Team prayers will have a particular focus of reflection to join with the National Day. Please join us on zoom as we spend time in prayer and reflect upon the past year. Zoom ID: 815 0902 9021. Passcode:218012.

**Please remember in your prayers:** The family and friends of Denis William, Mary Keer and Karen Smith. Also think of Cheryl Davies, Judy Borrowman, Roy Mace and Sue Suewing

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

**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

### **Mothers' Union**

They are asking for the following items for Rochester Prison:-  
Unwritten cards—birthday cards, sympathy cards, Easter cards  
Cadbury's Dairy Milk Easter Eggs - sold in some shops for £1  
Rucksacks - needed for prisoners being released

**I can collect Karen 01732 451396**

**REMINDERS re Easter Flowers at the end of this newsletter and volunteers to deliver Easter Cards if you have not already done so**

### **Events this week:**

#### **Sunday**

9:30 Sunday – Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday

Meeting ID: 616 146 1466 Password: Shoreham01

There will also be a Sunday Club session (a link will be sent separately)

6:30 Sunday Night Prayer and Lenten Reflections (on Zoom open from 6:15pm)

Please see the Team Rector's Notices for more details.

Meeting ID: 814 9810 6394

Passcode: 168200

#### **Monday**

9:45am Bible Study Group – Please contact Daphne for more information.

#### **Tuesday**

Please note there are no Team prayers this week.

#### **Wednesday**

7:30pm Lenten Reflections with Revd. Andy –“Living his story”. Please contact Andy for more information.

8:00pm Compline (Doors open from 7:55pm)

Meeting ID: 881 1673 3947

Passcode: 537473

#### **Thursday**

11am Coffee morning on Zoom

Meeting ID: 616 146 1466 Password: Shoreham01

### **From Peter Ashwell:**

Peter Ashwell of St Luke's is asking runners/walkers of all ages to **register asap** with the Amos Trust to RUN THE WALL ([here https://www.amostrust.org/palestine-justice/run-the-wall-2021/run-the-wall/](https://www.amostrust.org/palestine-justice/run-the-wall-2021/run-the-wall/)).

The Sevenoaks Team will join people in Palestine and across the world aiming to cover the entire 750km length of the Israeli Separation Wall. Due to our lockdown rules, people will be limited to run/walk in pairs.

The actual running/walking can take place anywhere (e.g. if your children or grandchildren are away from home) and the local event will start at 10am on Saturday 27th March in Knole Park. Please contact Peter asap on 01732 461087 or [peter.ashwell@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.ashwell@btinternet.com). If you cannot walk/run, please consider sponsoring someone who is taking part in this humanitarian event via the Team JustGiving page (<https://www.justgiving.com/team/runthewallsevenoaks2021>).

## **Holy Week 2021**

This Easter St Mary the Virgin (Riverhead and Dunton Green) are celebrating in two ways: both in the building and via zoom. Please do feel free to join us at any of our services.

Please join us on zoom by using the information below:

Zoom ID: 616 146 1466

Passcode: HolyWeek

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS CODE IS DIFFERENT TO OUR REGULAR SUNDAY MORNING CODE AND WILL BE USED FOR ALL HOLY WEEK EVENTS.**

**28 March** 9:30am Palm Sunday – Zoom only – The Sunday Club will present their Easter drama followed by a short communion service streamed live from church.

**29th March** 8pm Compline with a Holy Week reflection – Zoom only

**30th March** 8pm Compline with a Holy Week reflection – Zoom only

**31st March** 8pm Compline with a Holy Week reflection – Zoom only

**1st April** 7:30pm Team Maundy Thursday Service – Zoom and a maximum of 8 from St Marys in the building (please see how to book below for more details.)

**2nd April** 9:30am All Age Service for Good Friday – Zoom only

2:00pm Hour at the Cross – A service of reflection and contemplation - Zoom only.

**4 April** 9:30am Easter Day – All Age communion service – Live streamed on Zoom with a maximum of 24 attendees in church (please see how to book below for more details.)

### **Booking to attend Church services in the building –**

For Maundy Thursday:

The Team Communion service on Zoom and in St Mary's Riverhead – the numbers for this service are limited to 8 people only from each of the 3 churches. Please contact Colin Butson on the contact details below from Monday 8th March to book your place. Places are available on a first come, first served basis for each church. If we have more than 8 people we will start a waiting list. If there are still spaces in Holy Week then we will contact those on the waiting list to offer the place to them.

### **For Easter Day:**

There is a limit of 24 people in total. Please contact Colin Butson from Monday 8th March on the details below to book your place.

**Colin Butson can be contacted on 01732 458356**

### **Lent reflections**

A reminder that our Lent reflections continue across the group this week. Please see below for information on the sessions

### **Lent course:**

For 6 weeks starting on **Wednesday 24th February** Andy is going to share reflections from the Lent book for 2021 "Living His story." This will help us think about how Our own stories and God's story connect. Once we realise this we are better equipped to tell the story to others.

There will video clips, a reflection and questions to take away and reflect upon.

We are going to meet on **Wednesday evening at 7:30 for 30 minutes** before Compline which starts at 8:00pm.

**Wednesday 24th Feb, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st at 7:30pm**

Please let Andy know at [revandyfinn@outlook.com](mailto:revandyfinn@outlook.com) if you are interested in joining the reflections and I will send the details of how to join.

## **Lent groups on different nights across our team if other things take your interest!**

### **Thursday evening Lent groups at St Mary Kippington**

During the five weeks of Lent, Zoom Lent group will be taking place on Thursday evening.

We shall be using the film 'The Theory of Everything' which tells the extraordinary story of Jane and Stephen Hawking. Set at the University of Cambridge, it details the life and marriage of the theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking - starring Felicity Jones and Eddie Redmayne.

We will be watching clips of the film care of the Zoom facility and so you won't need to have seen it before! Each week we shall be exploring topics as: awe and wonder, faith and science, mystery and miracles, love and relationships. No preparation is needed and the course is designed to be accessible to everyone. 7:30pm to 9pm Feb 25th; March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th. Let Mark know if you want to attend and he will send you login details: [mark.bridgen@btinternet.com](mailto:mark.bridgen@btinternet.com)

### **St Lukes – Tuesday day time 10.30am – 12noon:**

This year for Lent, St Luke's will take a journey looking at 'Holy Habits' in the life and passion of Jesus. These include Jesus guided by Scripture; Jesus serving with gladness; Jesus praying and Jesus making disciples. Each session will begin with a short act of worship, prayer, bible reading and discussion.

Please let Anne know you would like to join by email: [rev.annebourne@gmail.com](mailto:rev.annebourne@gmail.com)

There is no compulsion to join each week as they are stand-alone sessions.

### **Team Rector's Notices**

6:30pm Sunday 14th March. 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)

### **Team Prayers**

Will now be taking place fortnightly on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month:

February 23rd and March 9th and 23rd.

Login in details:

Meeting ID: 815 0902 9021

Passcode: 218012

**(All three churches will be offering worship in March 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)**

### **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.

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

## **Living in Love and Faith**

Dear friends,

I have been conscious that the publication of a significant report in the life of the Church of England on issues to do with identity, gender, sexuality, relationships and marriage (Living in Love and Faith) has not yet been able to be brought into the life of the Team. We do aim to do this, but due to the nature of the topics involved we wish to do this though physical get togethers over a number of weeks as there is a five week course that we can take part in, unpacking the issues within the report. As this cannot yet be planned, I am - in the meantime - offering a Zoom get together (for anyone who wishes to come) on Monday 15th of March at 8pm. The purpose of this is to give an overview of the report, to gently touch some of the issues involved, to recognise where there are areas that have and are causing hurt and difficulty (in the lives of individuals and the Church of England), to have a time for general discussion and for people to raise any questions. I felt that as a Team it was important to recognise the report at this stage before too many weeks go by since its publication. Login details are not being mentioned on our newsletters, but only given to people as they contact me if they wish to attend. Therefore, if you do, please email me on: [mark.bridgen@btinternet.com](mailto:mark.bridgen@btinternet.com)

The nature of our gathering on the 15th will be wrapped in sensitivity and grace.

## **Easter Flowers**

Despite lots of things being different at the moment, one thing remains – Jesus’ love for us all.

This Easter, we are holding both in church and on Zoom services to celebrate Jesus’ sacrifice for us all and his resurrection. We are going to decorate the church with small flower arrangements.

If you would like to give towards the flowers in memory of a loved one, please use the link or the QR code below and then send the names of your loved ones to Rachel Wigley on [Rachel.Wigley@outlook.com](mailto:Rachel.Wigley@outlook.com).

The flowers and the names of your loved ones will be displayed in church, and on Zoom before and after the 9.30am Easter Sunday service.

Any donations left over will go towards church funds.

To donate:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/16150>