

*St. Mary's Church*

*A still point in a  
turning world.  
T S Eliot*

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

 Diocese of  
Rochester

The Parish Church of Riverhead with Dunton Green, Kent;  
now part of the West Sevenoaks Team Ministry

## **Weekly Newsletter**

### **Sunday 12th September**

Welcome to our newsletter for the 12th September. This Sunday we join together at 8am and 9:30 for worship. 9:30am will be zoomed from the building for those who cannot physically make it to the church building. Our Worship this Sunday will be led by Revd. Mark Bridgen as I am taking the services at St Marys Kippington.

Our Sunday Club meets on zoom this morning, please hold them in prayer as they begin a new term of meeting together. At the start of this new term four of our leaders have decided that it is time for them to step down from ministering in this way. We thank them for all they have given to this role. This means that this morning will be their last Sunday Club. Please be praying for the remaining Team as they move back into in person meeting next month and please also consider whether you may be able to step up and help as they are looking for one or two more people to serve in this way.

Finally, as we begin this new term and we are able to recommence home visits, please do be in touch with myself if this is something you would value.

Best wishes,

Andy

**Worship This Sunday 12th September**

- 8am**            **BCP Said Holy Communion**  
**Church Only**
- 9:30am**        **Holy Communion**  
**This service is taking place in church and**  
**live streamed on zoom for those who are vulnerable,**  
**housebound or self-isolating. Please see below for**  
**more information about zoom services.**  
**Meeting ID: 616 146 1466 Password: Shoreham01**
- 9:30am**        **Sunday Club Meets on Zoom**  
**Zoom details have been sent out to parents separately.**  
**Please contact Andy if you wish to have the zoom details.**
- 6:30pm**        **There is no Team Evensong Tonight.**  
**It will resume on the 26th September. - Please see below.**

**Please join us at any of our services this weekend**

**Please find the readings for our service below. Bibles and Hymn books are available in church, so you only need to print these out if you are joining us by zoom. Hymn words will be displayed on the screen.**

[Click here to download the readings for the 12th September](#)

[Click here to find the hymns/readings sheet on our website](#)

### Other Notices

#### **Kent Ride & Stride - 11th September**

Thank you to those who took part in this event this weekend. The Lovelocks and Foxes took part and if you would like to sponsor them then any sponsorship would be greatly received.

Please speak to Tess or you can sponsor them by clicking the link [HERE](#).

You can contact Tess on [rtfox@btinternet.com](mailto:rtfox@btinternet.com).

#### **Tots and Toddlers - Starts this week - Monday 13th September**

Our Parent and Toddler group restarts this week. It meets on Mondays from 1:30-3:30pm. They offer a warm welcome to all babies and pre-schoolers, their parents and carers. Come along for a chat and refreshments, craft songs and play. Pre-booking is required. For more information see our website [here](#) or email: stmarystots@gmail.com

### **Churches Together for Sevenoaks and District/ Evensong: - NEXT WEEK**

The annual Churches Together autumn act of worship will be on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of September at 6pm. Everyone welcome. The venue will be the Vine Baptist Church and the gospel singing group 'Contr4st' will lead people in worship. All welcome.

Because of the Churches Together worship, benefice Evensong will resume on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September at 6:30pm via Zoom.

### **Sunday Club**

We are looking for two more Parents to be able to help with the running of Sunday Club on a 2nd or 4th Sunday. You would not necessarily have to lead sessions but be there to encourage and help our young people in growing and developing their faith.

If this a way that you think you may be able to help and serve the Church then please have a chat with either Revd. Andy (revandyfinn@outlook.com), or speak to Tamar or Michele after the service as we would be keen to hear from you.

A DBS check would be required but this can be set up for you

### **Zoom Services**

Next Sunday (19th) there will be no livestreamed service from St Mary the Virgin Riverhead however you are invited to join with the live stream from St Lukes at 10:15am.

Over the coming weeks we have decided as a Team to offer one live streamed service a week from our 3 churches. This will enable us to bring together those of our online communities together to worship whilst ensuring the long term sustainability of zoom services. More details will follow of where the live stream will take place each week.

### **Team Prayers – returning, but in a new way:**

Each month a different church in the Team will be hosting a physical service of Team Prayers and then in the evening a half hour prayer time care of Zoom. We are

encouraging people from across the benefice to come together once a month – physically or on line – to pray for one another and for the Lord's guidance on our ministry and mission.

This month Team Prayers will be taking place from St Mary Kippington on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> of September. Physical service in church at 10am, followed by refreshments at 10:45am. At 6:45pm for a 7pm start time there will be Team Prayers via Zoom until 7:30pm.

Meeting ID: 815 0902 9021

Passcode: 218012



**YOU'RE INVITED**

# SUNDAY CLUB & FAMILIES

**Desserts and games in  
the vicarage garden.**

Sat 18 September  
2pm-4pm

RSVP: [revandyfinn@outlook.com](mailto:revandyfinn@outlook.com)

**NEXT SATURDAY - Saturday 18th September 2-4pm**

Andy would like to warmly invite all those from Sunday Club together with their

families to an afternoon of games and dessert to be held in the Vicarage Garden. Please RSVP to [revandyfinn@outlook.com](mailto:revandyfinn@outlook.com) by the 15th September to book your place.

### **Riverhead Carnival - 19th September**

The Riverhead Carnival is fast approaching and, as usual, we will be in need of some home grown and home made goods to sell on our St Mary's stall. Please would you let me know if you are able to help with provisions. The usual delicious home made cakes, biscuits and jams, etc will be wonderful. Probably best to bring them into church on the Sunday morning, or round to me beforehand. Alternatively, I am very happy to collect them from you if you let me know.

Sunday Club will be providing some entertainment and Sunday Club information. Also Karen Forster-Pearce is providing a Minature Bottle Tombola. Karen would like donations of anything in a small bottle - with the size being anything up to a medium shampoo bottle.

Thanks,  
Ronnie

### **Pastoral Visiting and Home Communion**

Following the lifting of restrictions it is possible for us to resume pastoral visiting and Home Communion. If you would value communion being brought to you at home, a home visit or even a zoom call then please do get in touch with Andy and I will arrange for myself or Daphne to visit.

### **Steve**

In a couple of weeks, we look forward to Steve and his wife Emma joining the Team as Steve is ordained Deacon and serves his Curacy in the Team. As we prepare for Steve to join us, let us be praying for him. You may wish to use the following prayer.

**A prayer for Steve, our Curate coming to join us in September:** Grant your grace, O God our Father, to all those in this diocese who will be ordained Deacon this September. We pray for our new Curate Steve, and his wife Emma. Through his curacy with us make him what you would have him to be, so that by your blessing on the formation of his priestly ministry here, he may be made a blessing. May your guidance be upon all those in our Team who will help in Steve's training, and may he know from all of us the gift of our friendship and prayers, as we prepare to welcome him, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Service change - Sunday 26th September**

With the agreement of all three PCC's in the Team, following Steve's ordination at Rochester Cathedral on Saturday 25th of September, we are having one main morning service of welcome for him on Sunday 26th . Although each church will still have their 8am service time, all three main service times (9:30am St Mary the Virgin; 10:15am St Luke's and 10:30am St Mary Kippington) will not take place. Instead there will be one 10am Team service of Welcome for our new Curate at St Mary Kippington. Refreshments will follow in the Kippington Centre. There will be a Team Choir (please speak to Janet if you are interested) and our young people will be joining together for activities together. More details to be announced.

### **Mothers Union**

For many years this church has had a connection with Mother's Union. Before the pandemic there was a group which used to meet. Karen Forster-Pearce is looking at restarting this group with a look to a Team Mother's Union which meets with members from all 3 churches. If you would be interested in being part of this then please have a chat with Karen. Thank you.

### **Living in Love and Faith**

The Church of England has produced a major course entitled 'Living in Love and Faith'. It's about sexuality, relationships and love, and how we as Anglicans, and as Christians, understand those and are able to support and encourage each other in these relationships. Issues around relationships and sexuality are not new within the Church. However, many people in our churches have been hugely affected by the deep, and sometimes painful, disagreements on these issues over the years. The course produced allows people 'in the pews' a structured and accessible way to engage and reflect on these issues in a sensitive, careful, and prayerful way, listening in grace to one another.

As a Team we resolved that we would only undertake the course in a physical setting and although there are five sessions to the course we are offering the first as a taster session on how we 'learn together' and giving an overview about the whole course. This will take place on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of September at 10am at the Kippington Centre and will last one and a half hours. People do not commit themselves by coming to attending the rest of the course. Those who come may decide the course

is not for them; others who come will decide the opposite and commit themselves to the remaining four sessions.

All of the sessions will be led by a clergy member of the Team and the other sessions will be offered on the following dates – again at 10am.

Session 2 Wednesday 6th of October. The theme is that of 'Identity'.

Session 3 Wednesday 20th of October. The theme is that of 'Relationships'.

Session 4 Wednesday 10th of November. The theme is that of 'Sex'.

Session 5 Wednesday 24th of November. The theme is that of 'Life together'.

As churches we are then encouraged to offer our thoughts and reflections on the range of subjects addressed and these will feed into the wider discussion the General Synod of the Church of England will have concerning identity, relationships, gender and sexuality in 2022.

I do encourage you to check out the 'Living in Love and Faith' course for yourself by going on [www.churchofengland.org/LLF](http://www.churchofengland.org/LLF)

In the meantime if you would like to come to the first session on 15<sup>th</sup> of September (no commitment to attend the rest of the sessions) please contact Sue Stockbridge at St Luke's Parish Office know on 01732 743045 or email: [lukesevenoaks@btinternet.com](mailto:lukesevenoaks@btinternet.com)

Mark

### **Events this week**

#### **Monday**

9:45am Bible Study Group – Please contact Daphne for more information.  
1:30pm Tots and Toddlers

#### **Tuesday**

#### **Wednesday**

9:00pm Compline  
Meeting ID: 616 146 1466 Password: Shoreham01

#### **Thursday**

11:00am Coffee Morning to include a service of Holy Communion (zoom)

Please contact Daphne for the log in details.

**Sunday 19th September**

8am BCP Holy Communion

9:30am Morning Prayer

6:00pm Churches Together Act of Worship at Vine Baptist Church

*If you need to contact us then please email:*

**Team Vicar :** Rev Andy Finn,

St Mary's Vicarage, The Glebe Fields, Shoreham Lane, TN13 3DR – Email: [revandyfynn@outlook.com](mailto:revandyfynn@outlook.com)  
01732 669454

**Churchwarden:** Alison Bull, Email: [alison-bull@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alison-bull@hotmail.co.uk)

**Churchwarden:** Rachel Wigley, Email: [rachel.wigley@outlook.com](mailto:rachel.wigley@outlook.com)