

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 27th June - The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Last week I shared during the services about the Reflective process which begins this week. As I prepared to begin this process this week, I was reminded of something that I wrote in the newsletter back in March this year. When I described the start of reopening the church for services I described it as "a journey." The realisation was that for some weeks it would not be "a finished article". Many would not feel able to come back to church, we would have issues with the sound (which we worked hard at but still can be a struggle) and there would be things that made the services look different to how they were.

The difficult but truthful reality is that we are still on that journey. Many restrictions from the guidance on Covid are still in place - we still can't process the Gospel, kneelers have been put away (to aid cleaning), not Singing (which we all miss) and not having more than one person at the altar. There are also practical issues such as making sure that the things we do are able to be seen on Zoom, which restrict how much we move around the building. All these put together means that our services for many do not look like the services you remember from 2019. I understand that this may be challenging and upsetting for some but please do bear with us as we continue this journey back out of the Covid period.

As we begin to start the reflective process this week (see below) can I encourage you to come and share some of your fears, your hopes for returning and to be

prayerful to ask the question what is God calling us to do at this time and in the future?

Andy

Worship This Sunday

- 8am** **BCP Said Holy Communion
Church Only**
- 9:30am** **Holy Communion**
**This service is taking place in church and
live streamed on zoom.**
Meeting ID: 616 146 1466 Password: Shoreham01
- 9:30am** **Sunday Club**
**Our Sunday Club meets on zoom during our
9:30am service. A link will be sent separately.**
- 6:30pm** **There is no Team Evensong this week.**

Please join us at any of our services this weekend
The hymns and readings for our 9:30am service can be found below
[Click here to download the hymns/readings](#)
[Click here to find the hymns/readings sheet on our website](#)

Requests for Prayer
Please remember in your prayers:
Cheryl Davies, John Jenkins, Esther Finn

Rotas

Many thanks to all those who have filled out the Doodle poll for Rotas between August and October. If you have not done so please could you do so by the end of

this week. We are particularly short of sides people for both the 8am and 9:30 service. If you feel that you be able to serve in this way then please let me know.

Thanks.

Other Notices

Invitation to any from the three churches for a walk around each of our respective parishes: - FIRST ONE THIS WEEK!

We felt it would be a good idea to have an opportunity to walk around our parish boundaries to enable as many in our congregations to have an enjoyable stroll; enjoy fellowship and to get to know each other's parishes better. The guide will be each of the Team Vicar's and we will start at each church (parking if needed). Each evening will begin at 7pm.

St Luke's - Wednesday 30th of June

St Mary the Virgin - Monday 19th of July

St Mary - Wednesday 1st of September

Just turn up!

Can you help?

Being part of the church family it is good to be able to use our gifts to help and support each other. As we emerge from lockdown we are conscious that there are areas of our Church life with which we would value the support of congregational members with. We are particularly looking to find help with our Church Buildings and with Finance to support our Treasurer. If you think that you have skills or time to be able to help in this area then please have a chat with Stuart or Andy as we would love for your help in these areas of our church life. Thank you.

Retirement of Bishop James

Bishop James, our diocesan Bishop is retiring at the end of July 2021 having been our diocesan Bishop for over ten years. There will be a special service of farewell which will take place on July 3rd in Rochester Cathedral. The diocese is planning to make a gift to Bishop James at that service on the 3rd July. If you would like to contribute to a gift for Bishop James then the church has set up a giving page to make this possible. Please click here to find out how you can donate to this gift.

[Donate for a gift to Bishop James](#)

Kneelers

As part of our preparation for a Wedding on the 17th July, the Kneelers have been removed from the Side Chapel to make space for the couple to be able to sign the

Marriage Document on the day. This is to aid with cleaning that we have to undertake at this time. The hope is that Guidance permitting, following our service on the 19th, the kneelers will return to the pews.

Loaves and Fishes

Margaret Holman would like to thank everyone for the massive support which they have been giving to this worthy cause

A Reflective Process

As we look towards September and Church Life beginning to return to a new normal, it would be good to have an opportunity to talk and discuss about some of our hopes and fears around returning to Church life and worshipping together. I am conscious that for many of us having been on zoom for the last year will have felt quite a change to where you were as a parish. We have all been changed by the last couple of years – it would be wrong to say otherwise. It would be good to review what God has been teaching us as a church community over the last year and to see what God is asking of us. There will also be the opportunity to pray together. It would be good to ask the following questions.

- As we return what are our fears of returning to Church life?
- What are our expectations of what Church will be like?
- What sort of church is God asking us to be both now and, in the years, to come?

To have the opportunity to share these reflections, I have three opportunities to come together and to share your thoughts.

Please feel free to join me to talk about this on:

29th June between 11 and 12 – in the Church building.

30th June between 2pm and 3pm – a session on zoom.

Meeting ID: 858 4244 6084 Passcode: 432558

6th July between 7:30pm and 8:30pm – a session on zoom.

Meeting ID: 841 2928 0148 Passcode: 433845

If you would like to contribute to this process but are unable to make any of the above sessions then please get in touch with Andy.
Let us be praying as we go through this process together.

Events this week

Monday

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

Tuesday

11:00am Reflective Process - meet in Church.

Wednesday

2:00pm Reflective Process - meets on Zoom (see notice for zoom details).

7:00pm Walk around St Luke's Parish. Meet at St Luke's church.

8:00pm Compline

Meeting ID: 616 146 1466 Password: Shoreham01

Thursday

11:00am Coffee Morning (zoom)

Please contact Daphne for the log in details.

Sunday 4th July

8am BCP Holy Communion

9:30am All Age Worship.

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

Churchwarden: Alison Bull, Email: alison-bull@hotmail.co.uk
Churchwarden: Rachel Wigley, Email: rachel.wigley@outlook.com