

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 1st August - The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Welcome to our services this week.

It was great to join together last Sunday and be able to sing together in our church services.

This week at our All Age Service we welcome the Baloha family to our service for the Baptism of Amelia. We celebrate with them as we welcome Amelia into the Church family.

At our PCC meeting on Tuesday night we discussed the way forward for our services.

Over the next two months we look forward to adding servers, the choir and crucifer back to our worship. We are also looking at the return of Coffee.

From next Sunday (8th August) we are going to ring the bell as we gather for worship at 9:20. At this point I am going to give the opportunity for some of us to gather in the Side Chapel to pray for our community, for the service and those gathering for worship. Can I encourage some of us to be present at this time to join in prayer for our community?

Some people have asked me about the future of Zoom services. As we encourage people to join us back with the Church community in the building, we intend to keep the zoom live stream available for those who are vulnerable, housebound or self-isolating. Over the next couple of months, in order that those who operate zoom can have a break, we are going to share zoom with St Lukes. This Sunday we will be welcoming some of St Luke's congregation onto our zoom feed.

Just a reminder that many of our midweek activities are on a break for the Summer and

will restart in September.

This Sunday we continue looking at Jesus in the Gospels as we look at Jesus walking on Water. As we continue to look at Jesus afresh this Summer, lets hear those words of Hebrews that says "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith."

Andy

Worship This Sunday

- 8am BCP Said Holy Communion
Church Only
- 9:30am All Age Worship to include a Baptism
This service is taking place in church and
live streamed on zoom for those who are vulnerable,
housebound or self-isolating.
Meeting ID: 616 146 1466 Password: Shoreham01
- 6:30pm There is no Team Evensong Tonight

Please join us at any of our services this weekend

This Sunday Morning our Order of Service includes a Baptism so please click below for the order of service which has the Baptism, Hymns and Readings in.

[Click here to download the order of service for the 1st August](#)

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

Requests for Prayer

Please remember in your prayers:

Cheryl Davies, John Jenkins, Geoff and Julia Holland, the family and friends of Beryl Houson.

We need you!!

We are rather short of people to undertake roles within our church community at present. In particular we really need sides people. This is an important role in welcoming people and to help with the smooth running of the services. If you think you can serve the church in this way then please do chat with Andy. It is not an onerous role and the more people who volunteer the easier it becomes!

Thank you.
Andy

Other Notices

Walk around the Parishes:

Many thanks to all those who joined the walk around our Parish last Monday evening. It was great to have fellowship together and consider areas of the community which we could be praying for. The final walk will be on the **1st September** around the parish of St Mary's Kippington.

Please come along as we learn about the Parish and pray for the community too. The guide will be each of the Team Vicar's and we will start at the church (parking if needed). We will start at 7pm.

The Funeral of Beryl Houson

A service to give thanks for the life of Beryl Houson will take place in St Mary the Virgin at 11:30 on Monday 9th August.

Beryl was known to a number of the congregation here and her family have played an important part in the life of this church.

If you are free then please join us at this service to celebrate Beryl's life. Please also keep Beryl's family in your prayers at this time.

Thank you.

Home Communion

With the lifting of restrictions we are starting to plan Home Communion visits. If you would value communion being brought to you at home then please do get in touch with Andy.

8am service times during clergy holidays.

Please note that with the PCC's approval it was agreed that instead of arranging outside cover for an 8am service when team clergy are away, one of the 8am service times on that Sunday is cancelled. Each church's 8am service time being cancelled on an equal basis.

Please kindly note therefore:

Sunday 8th of August. **No 8am service at St. Luke's** (8am services at St Mary the Virgin and St Mary Kippington as normal)

Sunday 22nd of August. **No 8am service at St. Mary the Virgin** (8am services at St Luke's and St Mary Kippington as normal)

Sunday 29th of August. **No 8am service at St. Mary Kippington** (8am services at St Mary the Virgin and St Luke's as normal)

SAVE THE DATE!!

Kent Ride & Stride

This fantastic event will take place again this year on Saturday 11th September 2021.

Participants plan their own routes with the assistance of a printed list of churches and chapels [open](#).. There are usually some 700 of these places of worship open, scattered right across this big county, and wherever you go you'll be assured of a warm welcome. Go individually, as a couple, with friends and family, with a cycling club, with your work colleagues, with school friends, with choirs, with a sports team – whoever you wish.

50% of all sponsorship money raised can go to the church or chapel of your choice, with the other 50% going to the Friends of Kent Churches, who distribute it by grant aid to help the most needy churches in the county.

Steve

This September 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.

Loaves and Fishes

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

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 15th of September at either 10am or 7:30pm (venue tbc) 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 both 10am and 7:30pm.

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

In the meantime if you would like to come to the first session on 15th 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

Mark

Events this week

Our Midweek Activities are on a break for the Summer and will return in September.

Sunday 8th August

8am BCP Holy Communion

9:30am Holy Communion

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: revandyfinn@outlook.com
01732 669454

Churchwarden: Alison Bull, Email: alison-bull@hotmail.co.uk

Churchwarden: Rachel Wigley, Email: rachel.wigley@outlook.com