

FORWARD MOVE



DECEMBER 2023/ JANUARY 2024

St Mary Kippington magazine

(Part of the benefice of the West Sevenoaks Team Ministry, which includes St Luke's Sevenoaks and St Mary the Virgin, Riverhead with Dunton Green)

Our mission at St Mary Kippington

To be a bridge between God and our community; sharing the love of Jesus and growing in worship, welcome and witness.

From the Team Rector: Who knows where we will be?

Were will we be this December, let alone January? Writing for parish magazines is a tricky business, especially when the edition being written includes the first month of 2024. Who knows what could be around the corner? On the 10th November, the date on which I am writing, who knows by January 31st, 2024, what will be? Internationally, in the conflict that is Ukraine, the violence that has engulfed Israel and the Palestinians in Gaza, or perhaps there may be a new International crisis to be faced? Then what about our own nation and what might be the case within our borders; what about here in Sevenoaks and, for good measure, the life of our churches; and let's get personal, in our own lives or the lives of a loved one? A great deal can happen in the space of two months. Which is why it is good that December and the birth of Jesus holds us within a framework of certainty. God so loved the world that he gave ... Behold, in the city of David, a Saviour has been born for you. Christ the Lord!

A framework of certainty. It is the paradox of the birth narrative that within the rejection faced by Mary and Joseph; the wandering to find a place for the birth, the visitors who were here and then gone in an instant, the glory of the angels that lit up the sky, but then faded as soon as they blew their trumpets, to a life as a refugee family, is the assurance and the certainty that God has come among us, the Word made flesh for us.

Each year we remind ourselves, before we travel into a new unknown year, that we have the light of Christ to guide us, especially through the difficult, confusing and dark times that may lie ahead. It is not just the light of Christ that we have to guide us, but that most beautiful word we name hope. Hope that does not reveal itself in a vague crossing of the fingers, but of a standing with Julian of Norwich and joining her song of praise: "All shall be well; all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well".

In the personal worries we may have and how what happens in the world adds to them, remember that it is in the personal that Christ also came – born, lived, died and rose for us. Take the babe of Bethlehem in your arms this Christmas and let him take you by the hand into the New Year in love.

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2023 & JANUARY 2024

Friday 1st December: 10.15-11.45am Repeat of first session of our Advent Course: **'Come, Lord Jesus, come'**

Sunday 3rd December Advent Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.30am Family Service in the Parish Centre followed by tea/coffee

6:00pm Team Advent Carol Service (St Luke's)

Wednesday 6th December

7.30-9.00pm Three Week Advent Course – 2nd Session

Thursday 7th December

10:00am Holy Communion (and every Thursday Dec and Jan, unless indicated below)

1:00pm Wedding of Emma and Nathaniel

8.00pm Choir Practise. This happens most Thursdays but please check first with Len (01732-451632 if interested in joining,

Friday 8th December

10.15-11.45am Repeat of Three Week Advent Course – 2nd Session

Saturday 9th December: 10:00am to 4:00pm. Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary the Virgin. Donations to Age UK

Sunday 10th December Second Sunday in Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.30am Matins (BCP). Sunday Club and Crèche. Coffee/tea after

11.00-4.00pm Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary the Virgin

Wednesday 13th December

11.00am Solefield School Carol Service in Church

7.30-9.00pm Three Week Advent Course – 3rd Session

Friday 15th December

10.15-11.45am Repeat of Three Week Advent Course – 3rd Session

Saturday 16th December: 10.00am Flowers for Christmas in Church

Sunday 17th December Third Sunday in Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.30am Parish Communion. Sunday Club & Crèche.

Coffee after.

6.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols followed by mince pies

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Monday 18th 11:30am Christmas Service at Kippington Home
Tuesday 19th 6pm to 7pm Kippington singing carols at Railway
Station for Christian Aid
Saturday 23rd December: 11.00am Ukrainian Service in Church

Sunday 24th December 4th Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30am Parish Communion. (No coffee/ tea after)
3.00pm Children's Nativity. *Children – come dressed as an an-
gel, shepherd or king!* 11.30pm Midnight Communion

Monday 25th December Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am Family Service in Church – *bring a Christmas present!*

Thursday 28th December – **No 10am Communion service**

Sunday 31st December First Sunday after Christmas

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30am Parish Communion. Coffee/ tea after.

Sunday 7th January First Sunday after Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30am Family Service in the Parish Centre—tea and coffee after

Monday 8th January: 8pm Standing Committee

Friday 12th January: 10.00am Pastoral and Ministry Meeting

Sunday 14th January Second Sunday after Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30am Parish Communion. Sunday Club/ Crèche. Coffee after

Sunday 21st January Third Sunday after Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am Matins. Sunday Club and Crèche. Coffee/tea after

Monday 22nd January: 8:00pm Parochial Church Council

Saturday 27th January: 11.00am Ukrainian Service in Church

Sunday 28th January Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30am Parish Communion Sunday Club/ Crèche. Coffee after

Sunday 4th February Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30am Family Service in the Parish Centre—coffee after.

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Kippington Centre: Managed by Karen Bridgen. For all centre matters please email Karen on karen.bridgen58@gmail.com



Church opening times: The church is open from 9am to 6pm Monday to Saturday and from 12noon to 6pm on Sunday.

Forward Move: Contributions for the February magazine by Monday 22nd January. The magazine will be out Sunday 28th January. Send to: revmarkbridgen@gmail.com

Live streaming: We live stream our 10:30am services—apart from the first Sunday Family Service. Great for those housebound, on holiday, not able to make church that morning. Please spread the word! To access the live stream. Go on to your computer on Sunday before 10:30am and type in You tube. When on the You Tube site, put in on the search engine at the top – st mary's sevenoaks
A Live Stream of the service will appear from around 10:15am. Click on the live stream to watch. The service will begin at 10:30am. The Live Stream will end once the service finishes.



Giving to the Church without using cash: Recognising that more people carry little or no cash with them nowadays, we have formed a link with 'Give A Little' who help charities with digital fundraising. So you can see in Church, a symbol – a 'QR Code' – which by clicking on it (and on this one) you can donate. Anyone with a smartphone and access to the internet can simply scan this code when they will be

directed to a web page where they will be able to donate to Church funds.

As a church we take our **safeguarding responsibilities** very seriously. If you have any concerns, then please contact our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Wendy Pritchard safeguarding@stmaryssevenoaks.org

December (Christmas) services



Sunday 17th December

6.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Monday 18th

11:30am Christmas Service at Kippington Home

Tuesday 19th

6pm to 7pm Kippington singing carols at Railway Station for Christian Aid

Saturday 23rd

11.00am Ukrainian Service for Christmas in Church

Sunday 24th Christmas Eve

3.00pm Children's Nativity. *Children – come dressed as an angel, shepherd or king!*

11.30pm Midnight Communion

Monday 25th Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Family Service in Church – *bring a Christmas present!*

There will be Christmas cards printed to be distributed around the parish.

The coffee rota is at the back of church for people to sign if they can serve refreshments January and February.

Advent calendars: Thank you for all those who donated towards the Advent calendars as we had enough to cover purchasing 39 calendars for the families that use the food bank.



Ukrainian service dates at St Mary Kippington: Please note the forthcoming worship dates when a Communion service in the Ukrainian language will be taking place at Church. All are taking place on Saturdays at 11am. **January 27th** and February 24th.



Christmas Fair: Our magazine has to go to press before the amount raised at the fair—divided between church and ‘Sevenoaks; Welcomes Refugees’ - is known. Here though is expressed grateful thanks to all who have helped in anyway to make the fair a reality in the life of the church: all those on the organising committee, those who ‘manned’ stalls, those who donated in anyway. Thank you to each and everyone of you!

Prayers and best wishes: to Emma and Nathaniel (Emma Shepherd grand-daughter of Dawn and daughter of Sue) who were married at the church in December.

WHAT'S ON AT THE STAG SEVENOAKS

WHAT'S ON SCREEN

ANDRÉ RIEU'S WHITE CHRISTMAS
2ND & 3RD DECEMBER

WONKA - STARRING TIMOTHÉE CHALAMET
FROM 8TH DECEMBER

FERRARI - STARRING ADAM DRIVER & PENÉLOPE CRUZ
FROM 26TH DECEMBER

ONE LIFE - STARRING ANTHONY HOPKINS & HELENA BONHAM CARTER
FROM 1ST JANUARY

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: DEAR ENGLAND
25TH JANUARY

HALF-PRICE WEDNESDAYS!
GET 50% OFF CINEMA TICKETS WHEN BOOKED ON THE DAY

BOX OFFICE: 01732 450175
 WWW.STAGSEVENOAKS.CO.UK
 THE STAG SEVENOAKS,
 LONDON ROAD,
 SEVENOAKS, TN13 1ZZ

WHAT'S ON STAGE

JACK & THE BEANSTALK PANTOMIME!
8TH - 31ST DECEMBER

BABY BROADWAY CHRISTMAS CONCERT
10TH & 23RD DECEMBER

JACK & THE BEANSTALK *ADULTS ONLY*
15TH DECEMBER

RHIANNON - FLEETWOOD MAC SHOW
18TH DECEMBER

OUTSIDE THE BOX COMEDY CLUB:

MILTON JONES 7TH JANUARY

PHIL WANG 9TH JANUARY

SARA PASCOE 19TH JANUARY

SEVENOAKS ENTERTAINERS - PETER PAN
25TH - 28TH JANUARY

F09

FREE HOT DRINK OR POPCORN

ENJOY A FREE HOT DRINK OR SMALL POPCORN ON PRODUCTION OF THIS VOUCHER AND A VALID THEATRE OR CINEMA TICKET.

VALID UNTIL 01/01/24

LOAVES & FISHES FOOD BANK for DECEMBER AND JANUARY

**Over these months the Food Bank really
needs:** Breakfast

cereals (but not Weetabix or Cornflakes) Tinned fish (but **not** tuna),
stewed steak, chicken casserole, ham/spam, corned beef, macaroni
cheese and custard

Also needed

Rice sauces, instant soup, instant noodles, instant pasta, biscuits,
cooking oil, peanut butter, chocolate spread, marmite, tin openers,
men's grooming products, women's hygiene products, shower gel

Not needed at the moment as plenty in stock:

Baked beans, tinned carrots, tinned tomatoes, tinned peas,
pasta, mayonnaise, tea, hot chocolate

**Please leave your donations in the Children's corner at the
back of church**



MISSIONS AND CHARITIES

Demelza House is our local children's
hospice responsible for
delivering clinical care and emotional
support for children and

teenagers facing serious or life limiting conditions throughout Kent,
East Sussex and South-East London. The charity is named after
Demelza Phillips who inspired the creation of the first residential
hospice in Sittingbourne in 1998.

An additional residential hospice was built in Eltham, South-East
London in 2009, to serve five boroughs of South-East London. With
two residential hospices and a community hub in East Sussex,
Demelza provides clinical care, symptoms and medication
management, and a full range of services including end of life
care. Ancillary services include support for parents and family
liaison together with day care, short breaks, community care,
creative therapies and bereavement services.

The PCC has supported Demelza House for many years with an
annual grant. Individuals wishing to support Demelza might care to
visit the Demelza Charity Shop at 114 High Street, Sevenoaks.

Stephen Day

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Demelza
Hospice Care for Children

SUNDAY CLUB AND KIPPINGTON YOUTH GROUP

Sunday Club:

Unfortunately numbers continue to be low because it has proved difficult to build up a core group of children attending regularly since the Covid lockdown. Occasionally a family arrives with young children now and we are ready to teach them and have a good time. However, we would like to build up a regular group of children coming to church and Sunday Club as part of this is being with other people/children. Let's hope that at some stage we will be able to have a group of regular children attending. Your prayers for our continuing children's work would be much appreciated.



Kippington Youth Group:



This is very different with 16 young people who have been to at least one of our recent half-termly meetings of the

Kippington Youth Group. Some of these youngsters have been members of Sunday Club in the past and they have also invited their friends. The most recent meeting, on 12th November, was great fun. As well as games in The Centre, semaphore messages were sent in the unlit church and sparklers were enjoyed out in the dark as well as burgers and s'mores (toasted marshmallows between chocolate digestives!) were eaten. Youth group meets regularly twice a term on Sunday afternoons. If you see the next ones advertised (in this magazine or on the church news letter) do invite any children you know, in Y6 or above. We have wonderful teams of people leading in both Sunday Club and Kippington Youth Group which many churches would envy. Let's spread the news about these two groups for children and young people.

Jean Day

Carol Singing at Sevenoaks Railway Station

Christian  **Aid**

We believe in life before death

Tuesday 19th December 2023 – from 5pm - 8pm

Let us share the greatest Christmas tradition of all – love

The churches of St Luke, the Drive Methodist and St Mary Kippington have been participating together in this joyous and successful event for a decade. We are now seeking **volunteers from these and neighbouring churches to form three Carol Singing Groups** to share with commuters the feeling and meaning of Christmas that Christians possess.

There are three sessions: 5pm to 6pm; 6pm to 7pm; 7pm to 8pm. Our slot is from 6pm – 7pm. Do come and join in. If this time is not convenient for you, you would be welcome to join either of the other two groups. And volunteers are needed to collect – more details below.

In addition to singers, **collectors** are needed for each of the three sessions. This activity is not arduous. It requires a ready smile and wishing commuters a happy Christmas when acknowledging their generosity on behalf of Christian Aid. Commuters have been positive about this event in the past and have donated generously each year, totalling some £7,500 over the ten years.

For people who would like to donate but will not be in the station on 19th December here is the link to a GiveStar/Christian Aid Fundraising page which is open now and will stay open for a month after Christmas: <https://tinyurl.com/Carols-at-station-2022> or you can scan the QR code which takes you to the same page:

Need more information?

*Jean and Stephen Day – day@kent2.co.uk
or Peter Ashwell – 01732 461087 or peter.ashwell@btinternet.com*



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Confirmation Service 19th November.

We are delighted to reproduce below photos of those confirmed from both this church and St Luke's. From Kippington our

candidates were:
Danusia Atkinson
Grace Williams
Craig Williams
Lottie Nicholson
Stanley Nicholson



Our Gardening Pages Janet Eilbeck Tel 07710 397523

I *could* write an article this month about how good a time it is to cut back, sweep up, plant trees or prune them, renew pots and enjoy your Cyclamen and Christmas cactus. All of which is the case. But I won't do that this year. The garden can look quite bare in November and December, which makes them good months to contemplate the view from the house, with a cup of tea in hand and a notebook and pencil. Allow your imagination to wander. What would you like to be looking out on next year. This month I am going to try to capture some garden design basics, not quite as shown in the text books.

Vistas. Where do you see and enjoy the garden from? Should it look great from your wonderful new family room? Or as you drive in? Or from your terrace? What is stopping it from being what you would like it to be? Can you capture any of that on paper?

Three dimensions. Most plans start off as flat drawings as viewed from above and the sketches that indicate heights and vistas come later if at all, but they can be the most important, especially where you are not starting with a blank canvas. Tip: take photos of those vistas, including reference points like walls and fences, and print out the best few as A4. Trace over (greaseproof paper will do) the outlines that will remain (fences, neighbouring trees and roofs, the garage/drive, and the things you love) then put a white sheet behind it and copy your tracing a few times. Now you can start to play - the extra copies mean you can try out different things. Your sketches should automatically have roughly the right scale because you have the reference points. These are your basic ideas but they need to be tested.

Purpose. What do you want your garden to be and do? A safe play space? Entertaining? Show? More or less height? More variety of shape and form? Easier maintenance? Have your ideas as captured so far delivered this? If not, modify the sketches.

Likes and dislikes - time for some lists. Colours? Must-have plants? Which months and seasons are most important to me for peak garden performance? Be positive.

Soil type. What grows well nearby is an easy way to gauge this. Sevenoaks is generally quite neutral in PH and neither chalk nor clay. This makes it, usually, ok for all except those species that insist on a lot of acid. (Typically rhododendrons, azaleas, heathers and maples like acid soil but different varieties of these

species will be more or less demanding. Check the labels.)

Direction of sun. Use one of your sketches, or some photos, to indicate sun and shade at different times of day, and add a NSEW to the master copy.

Other barriers and constraints. Will you need to add drains, paths or other features at ground level not visible on the photo? Are there features you would like to hide? An ugly garage wall or a shed? Does your sketch accommodate that? If not, change it.

Firming up. You might now have some firm ideas you would like to explore on a traditional top down plan. Measure the area more accurately (pacing is fine if you measure, say, 5 paces first and divide the result by 5 and use that as your multiplier, or measure a long cane). Now you may need a larger sheet of paper: if you can keep to A4 it makes the copying process easier - otherwise, there's Kall Kwik. Fit the shape to the paper and draw the key and Immoveable points on your master plan. Then take your copies on which to draw. Always use soft pencil and have a rubber to hand.

Conventions. Garden design books, or the internet, will have lots of examples that show the usual conventions - showing shade areas under trees, minimum path widths for different purposes etc. Within flower beds, allow one square metre for a large perennial or half for a small one, otherwise use the height/spread information on line.

Evergreen vs deciduous. You should create a sufficient mix of evergreen planting such that, by this time of year, you do not have a bare patch of soil because everything has died back. A good proportion of evergreen planting is at least 40%, and a further 20% should have some winter structure, even if leafless (eg. a rose bush).

However, I am conscious that this is all starting to sound a bit technical. You can stop at any point and call in a professional, who will be grateful to have some ideas to work with, however



undeveloped, and will be able to deal with more advanced complications like steeply sloping plots. Or of course, you can ask me to draw out your ideas for you, which I am always happy to do (for a small donation to church development funds). But first, draw up a chair, make a cup of tea and just look out of the window. Let your imagination take over.

God and the Arts

'The Virgin of the Lilies' by Carlos Schwabe

We are all well aware how art can celebrate the wonder of this world. In this edition of 'Forward Move' we come alongside Mary and Jesus standing above the world: high on the clouds with a glorious path of tall, elegant lilies that lead like a stairway to the earth beneath. This is 'The Virgin of the Lilies' by Carlos Schwabe. He was born in Germany and then lived in Switzerland and France, painting this canvas in 1899 when he was 33 years old.

It is like a scene caught when we look out of the window in an aeroplane. We can see the earth beneath and spot hills and valleys, roads and settlements, and a river weaving its way through the countryside. Mary and Jesus are haloed in a lunar-like radiance. The lilies are symbols of purity and obedience, the qualities that will take them to that scene at Bethlehem which we give thanks for at Christmas. The heavenly light shining out in the painting brings hope and joy to the world below, transforming lives with the wonder of the Saviour's birth.



Jesus holds three nails in his hand as a sign that His life will be tempered by rejection, suffering and death. But the lilies growing tall and straight in the skies are signs of new life and resurrection. The light come down to earth at Christmas can never be extinguished. That light and love are expressed in this vivid, moving painting of Carlos Schwabe as they are caught up in the carol of Christina Rossetti we sing at this time:

*Love shall be our token, Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all people, Love for plea and gift and sign.*

Poems by Geoffrey Rush for Christmas, which we include here on a free of charge basis for use in any not-for-profit publication

The word (John 1: 11 – 14)

Sometimes
words are not enough
for everything we have to say.
Words can't beat like a heart.
A verb won't sweat or bleed.
A noun doesn't get thirsty.
An adjective cannot feel pain.
Something gets lost
in translation into words.
So when God
needed to express
a love deeper than words
he used body language
of a kind not known on earth before.



The annunciation (Luke 1: 26 – 38)

Angels move
like electricity
and do not wear watches.
They are in the communications business.
They attend training courses
in calming startled humans.
They visit often
but are usually well disguised.
They have their work to do.
But now and then
they let the mask slip
to show their true identities.
They do this when it matters
that there should be no misunderstanding.
Some have seen angels.
Be humble and expect them
and they will come
in their own good time
or rather in God's time.



The nativity (Luke 2: 1 – 7)

Was it necessary to go to this extreme?
To take for a carrier a village girl
unmarried and disgraced,
nine months pregnant on an exhausting journey
to a strange town with nowhere to stay,
in a century with no healthcare or sanitation?
What purpose was achieved, except to show
how the weight of his love is so exhausting
it will break the back
of our most stubborn pretensions
and how in a manger
would be the last straw to do it?

The shepherds (Luke 2: 8 -20)

It was done plainly enough.
The night sky was a perfect billboard,
the sound effects spectacular.
Only a few were awake
and in the right place
at the right time when heaven,
unable to contain its
amazement any longer,
spilled out momentarily into earth
and explained itself.

The message was clear as day
but his timing was, as always, surprising,
and the show ran for one performance only.



The magi (Matthew 2: 2 – 12)

Will you study these signs as carefully
as you study the prices in the Christmas catalogues?
Will you seek out the manger as diligently
as you search for the right scarf or this year's toy?
Will you examine your heart's pilgrimage
and be sure towards what stable
it carries its precious gifts?
Will you be a wise fool to find and follow
the strange star of truth in a sky full of glittering lies?

Bible Reading, Reflection and prayer for the Advent Season

Advent is a time of preparation for the feast of Christmas. Within the hustle and bustle of the preparation for Christmas, I invite you to take just five minutes time out of the business to prepare spiritually for Christmas during this Advent period of watching and waiting.



Prayer to begin the time of reading, reflection and prayer.

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sunday 3rd December Advent 1

Read: Luke 21:25-36

Reflection: In what has been a difficult year how often do we stop to look at the sky – whether it be a sunrise or sunset, the stars and moon on a clear night, or the clouds passing overhead. So we stop and wonder if there is more than just our small planet, floating alone in the universe? Where also do we look for signs of God's coming in the world – where are the glimmers of light that show us God's presence? In family and friends. In creation. In praying for one another. Or do you see glimmers of God's presence in another way?

Prayer: O come quickly Lord, to our world. We pray for all who are hungry, sick, lost or alone, for those who have no hope. Help us to open our eyes to see your presence and open our hearts to respond to those in need. We pray for all agencies preparing to help those in need this Christmas. Amen.

Sunday 10th December Advent 2

Read: Luke 3:1-6

Reflection: John the Baptist prepared the people for the coming of Jesus. His voice was important in that day. We hear many voices today - what are those that are important to you? – how do you ensure you make time to hear God's voice? Spend a few moments in stillness now, attentive to God's voice.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to put our trust in you, the one who says to us 'do not fear.' Help us to trust your Son, born to set all people free. We ask for opportunities to speak about our faith. We pray for all those who are held captive by fear. Help us to bring the freedom of your kingdom here to earth. Amen.

Sunday 17th December Advent 3 Read: Luke 3:7-18

Reflect: We are reminded in this passage how John prepared the way for Jesus coming to baptise with the Holy Spirit. How are you preparing for the coming of Jesus and how may this time be less busy for you? Who could you share the good news of Jesus with? Spend a few moments praying for this person.

Prayer 'How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given.' Lord God as we wait this advent with the darkness and uncertainties of this world, let us still our hearts and minds to make space to see the light through the darkness and allow Christ to enter in. Amen.

Sunday 24th December Advent 4 Read: Luke 1:39-55

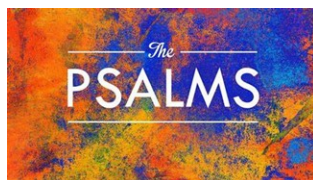
Reflect: There is immense energy and excitement in this passage. Mary is rushing to see Elizabeth: the child leaps in Elizabeth's womb. Mary must have been relieved to see Elizabeth and we get a real sense that they were kindred spirits, two women of different ages, yet their lives and spirits entwined by the extra ordinary events. Google, if you are able, on the internet some images of this story. What kind of picture would you paint to capture the meeting of these women? Thinking of the words of The Magnificat – Mary's song of praise what do you long for to be better and just in our world?

Prayer : O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer, Our spirits by Thine advent here. Lord our hearts cry out to you - come and comfort all those who are distressed. Come heal divisions. Come in might and dispel the darkness of our current time Come Lord Jesus, Come. Amen.



Exploring the books of the Bible.

The Old Testament: **Book of Psalms**



Author and Date: Individual psalms come from diverse periods of Israel's history, but at every stage they served as the song-book of God's people. King David is reputed to have written about half of the Psalms. It is difficult to be precise concerning dates, but evidence is that the psalms come from a period covering 1050 to 586 BC.

Key Themes: The Psalter is fundamentally the hymnbook of God's people. It takes the basic themes of Old Testament theology and turns them into song. The Songs cover the character of God. Creation and Fall. Election and Covenant. Doubt and Faith. Repentance. Anguish and Anger. Indeed, it could be argued, what theme is not covered.

Types of Psalms: The Psalms can be identified according to some basic categories:

Laments, which lay a troubled situation before the Lord, asking him for help. This category is the largest by far, - up to a third.

Hymns of praise, which call God's people to admire his great attributes and deeds. Examples include Psalms 8; 93; and 145.

Hymns of thanksgiving. As with laments, there are community (Psalm 9) and individual (Psalm 30) thanksgiving psalms.

Hymns celebrating God's law (Psalm 119).

Wisdom psalms (Psalms 1; 37), which reflect themes from the Wisdom Books

Songs of confidence, which enable worshipers to deepen their trust in God amid difficult circumstances (Psalm 23).

Royal psalms, which present the Davidic monarchy as the vehicle of blessing for God's people.

Historical psalms, which take lessons from the history of God's dealings with his people (Psalm 78).

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Who's Who at St Mary Church Kippington (Part of the West Sevenoaks Team Ministry)

Rev Mark Bridgen. Team Rector, with special responsibility for St Mary Kippington and (currently) St Mary the Virgin, Riverhead with Dunton Green. (01732) 452112/
07375299944: revmarkbridgen@gmail.com

Rev Anne Bourne. Team Vicar, with special responsibility for St Luke's. 07512734224: rev.annebourne@gmail.com

Rev Stephen Osei-Mensah. Associate Curate across the Team. rev.stephen.osei-mensah@outlook.com

St Mary Kippington

Churchwardens: Brenda Ross (01732) 451632.

hazelnutwoods43@yahoo.co.uk

John Worth john.jenniferworth@gmail.com

St Mary Parish Office: Sue Shepherd. (01732) 451117

office@stmaryssevenoaks.org

Treasurer: Chris Saunders 07775577270.

kippingtontreasurer@hotmail.co.uk

Planned Giving Co-ordinator: Zoe Anderson 07775766777

zoe.g.anderson@gmail.com

Parochial Church Council Secretary: Caroline Howe

howe56@btinternet.com

Kippington Centre Manager: Karen Bridgen (01732) 452112

karen.bridgen58@gmail.com

Church Organist: Len Ross. (01732) 451632

Sunday Club: Jean Day. day@kent2.co.uk

Youth Group—KYG: c/o Rev Mark and Jean Day

Pastoral Assistant: Sharon Fishwick (01732) 459349

sfishwick1960@gmail.com (also prayer group co-ordinator)

Forward Move magazine: revmarkbridgen@gmail.com

Church Website: www.stmaryssevenoaks.org

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Wendy Pritchard

safeguarding@stmaryssevenoaks.org