FORWARD MOVE



MARCH 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: Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Each year – if you have come to worship at this time of year – then the words of the Easter refrain would ring out to you at this season of our worship. At all of our services on Easter Sunday and then each Sunday until we come to Pentecost/ Whit Sunday, we hear the refrain:

Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

It is a refrain that you can count on, that does not change as the weather changes; or as life changes; or as the circumstances around our lives change. It is a refrain that is trustworthy, sure and something to depend upon amid the fleeting, uncertain, nature of life and living.

Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The refrain means that our lives are more than the problems that beset us, the limitations of living we face; and more, much more, than the ten times whatever number are the years of which we live. As Christ conquered death, so that is a reality that can be the same for us.

Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

As we hear the Easter refrain offered and responded to again this year, we need to set the words against the great visual of resurrection – that is the tomb in which the body of Jesus was placed following his crucifixion and the stone to the entrance of the tomb now rolled away. The stone is not rolled away so as to let Christ out. The stone was rolled away so as to let the first disciples (the women) see in.

The stone is rolled away from the tomb in all of our Easter displays to remind us to see in; and, as we hear the refrain offered again, to know that we can not only put our trust in this glorious message on one magnificent Sunday, nor in one particular season of our church's worship – but it is that which we can trust in for all of our lives, and for the rest of our lives.

Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Blessing to you all. Rev Mark

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CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2024

Friday 1st March

10.00am Lent Study Course Wk 2 'Following' Centenary Rm 2.00pm World Day of Prayer Service (Vine Baptist Church)

Saturday 2nd March 2pm Wedding of Louise Witchell & Paul Marriott

Sunday 3rd March Third Sunday in Lent

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer

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

3.00pm Kippington Youth Group in The Centre

Monday 4th March 8pm Standing Committee in the Wreford Room

Thursday 7th February

10.00am Holy Communion (and every Thursday this month)

8.00pm Choir Practise. This happens most Thursdays but please check with Len (01732-451632) if interested before coming.

Friday 8th March

10.00am Lent Study Course Wk 3 'Challenging' Centenary Rm

Sunday 10th March Fourth Sunday in Lent. Mothering Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.30am Holy Communion (Common Worship) with the distribution of flowers. Collection for the Children's Society. Tea/ coffee—Centre

Friday 15th March

10.00am Lent Study Course Wk 4 'Believing' in Centenary Room

Sunday 17th March Fifth Sunday in Lent

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.30am Morning Prayer (Bok of Common Prayer). Sunday Club

and Crèche. Coffee and tea afterwards in the Parish Centre

12.30pm Christian Aid Frugal Lunch with speaker, Peter Kettle, in the Parish Centre

Monday 18th March 8pm PCC Meeting in the Parish Centre Friday 22nd March

10.00am Lent Study Course Wk 5 'Dying' in Centenary Rm

For details of our Holy Week services from Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday please see page six

Sunday 7th April First Sunday after Easter

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer

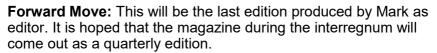
10.30am Family Service in the Centre followed by tea/ coffee

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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.



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

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THE REAL EASTER EGG 2024:

Easter Sunday is even earlier this year falling on Sunday 31st March so, although you may have



only just taken down the Christmas decorations, I will be taking orders for the Real Easter Egg at

the Family Service on 4th February. To keep the price at £4.50 per egg and ensure free delivery, the final order date will be Sunday 3rd March. As usual a 24-page Easter story-activity book is included with the Egg. As in previous years, we are also hoping to provide Sevenoaks Loaves and Fishes with an Easter Egg for all the children on their books (last year, we delivered 48 Eggs plus Hot Cross Buns for many of the families) so, if you can, please order for them as well as for yourselves and your family. I will be taking orders after the Family Service on Sunday 4th February or you can email me at: jenny.gyte@icloud.com or call me on 07794 70 20 94. Many thanks, Jenny Gyte.

Lent Study Course – 'Exploring our Journey of Faith through Word and Music'. A course of five weeks looking at faith, our faith, through Music (well-known hymns) and Word (Scripture, reflection). A time of discussion, reflecting, singing and listening. Fridays at 10am (to 11:30am) in the Wreford Room for weeks 2 to 4 and week 5 centenary room.

Week 2: Following – Friday 1st March.. Week 3: Challenging – Friday 8th March. Week 4: Believing – Friday 15th March. Week 5: Dying – Friday 22nd March. Please let Rev Mark know if you are attending.

Key holders for Kippington Centre: We are compiling an up to date list of all those **who have a key** for the Centre. Please let Karen the Centre Manager know.

Leading Prayers at our 10:30am service (not Family Service). It will be good to have a couple of more people to join our team of intercessors. Please speak to Mark if interested. Please note new people joining will be given a book of intercessions for each Sunday of the Church's Year which they can use/ adapt.

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Kippington Youth Group: The next meeting of KYG Sunday 3rd March at 3pm in the Centre.

Holy Week Services (all at St Mary Kippington unless stated)



Palm Sunday (24th March)

8am Holy Communion (BCP) and 10:30am Parish Communion – special service for Palm Sunday. (Both services palms are distributed)

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week (25th, 26th and 27th)

7pm each evening Compline (Night Prayer, with evening hymns: CD's). Short addresses at each service in turn on 'the supporting cast of Holy Week'. Monday – Looking at Mary Magdalene; Tuesday – Looking at Peter and Wednesday – Looking at Pilate

Maundy Thursday (28th) - Team event

6pm Passover Supper and Holy Communion (at St Mary the Virgin). (There will be a list to sign for catering purposes at the back of church soon)

Good Friday (29th)

2pm Choir led service of readings, anthems, reflections and hymns around the cross

Easter Sunday (31st)

6:30am Sunrise service outside church, followed by breakfast (Centre)

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:30am Family Communion

(Easter Egg hunt for the children after)

Over refreshments following the service it will be nice to have Simnel cake to offer. If anyone can bake a simnel cake to share please let Karen know.

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Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Sunday 14th April at 10:30am.

Short Holy Communion service at 10:30am Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 10:45am Nomination forms for both churchwardens and Parochial Church Membership are at the back Church News

of church. **Deadline** to return them to Mark being the **24**th **March** due to the forthcoming interregnum.

Electoral Roll Update 2024

The electoral roll needs to be updated before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 14th April. If your name is on the electoral roll then you are eligible to vote at the meeting. All PCC members and all Sidespersons must be on the roll.

If you are already on the roll, and would like to stay on, no action is required. Names will be carried forward for 2024.

If you would like your name to be added, get a simple form from me. You need to be baptized and aged 16 or over. If you live outside the parish, it is a requirement that you have attended this church for at least 6 months. Please return completed forms to be at the address below.

If you have moved in the past year, please let me know your new address (contact details below).

If you would like your name to be removed, please let me know (contact details below).

If you are not sure whether or not your name is on, there is a copy of the current electoral roll in the Open Corner at the back of church.

Deadline for all changes is Wednesday 27th March.

The electoral roll with then be renewed and no more changes can be made until after the meeting. Please call or email me if you have queries. Zoë Anderson (tel: 01732 779649 or 07775 766777)

Zoe.g.anderson@gmail.com. 14 Kippington Road

World Day of Prayer service (formerly known as Women's World Day of Prayer) at the Vine Baptist Church on **Friday 1**st **March at 2pm**. All welcome.

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Loaves and Fishes Food Bank for March

This month the Food Bank really needs:

Breakfast cereals (but not Weetabix or Cornflakes). Tinned fish (but <u>not</u> tuna), stewed steak, chicken casserole, chicken curry, ham/spam, corned beef, macaroni cheese, tomatoes, custard and rice pudding

Also needed

Rice sauces, instant noodles, biscuits, cooking oil, sugar, washing up liquid, men's grooming products, women's hygiene products, shower gel

Not needed at the moment as plenty in stock:

Baked beans, tinned peas, pasta, rice, mayonnaise, tea, hot chocolate

<u>Please leave your donations in the Children's corner at the back of church</u>



Frugal Lunch

Sunday 17th March 2024, at 12.30pm



St Mary's Church Centre, Kippington Road TN13 2LL

Come and join us for our annual Christian Aid Frugal Lunch.

Enjoy a simple Sunday lunch with friends and please donate what you would have spent on your Sunday roast!



Peter Kettle, an experienced Christian Aid Volunteer who has spoken at our lunches before, will be talking about Christian

Aid and the particular needs at present.

Every gift, every action, every prayer, every one of us can change lives.



It would be helpful to have an idea of how many are coming, so please email: Jean Day at day@kent2.co.uk to let us

know. Last minute decisions fine!

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MISSIONS AND CHARITIES



CMS – Surprising News!

Readers of 'Forward Move' will be interested to read that our link Mission Partners, Kylie and Bhim Bahadur have decided that the time is right for them to end their period of overseas service with Church Mission Society; accordingly in the summer they will be relocating to the Republic of Ireland. Please remember them in your prayers. Due to restrictions of publishing certain details online, more details are available in the printed version of 'Forward Move' available at the back of the church.

Stephen Day

God of love, whose will it is that everyone should be saved, bless the Church Missionary Society and those who have gone out in its fellowship to preach, to teach and to heal. Guard, guide and use them; raise up more people in your worldwide church to pray and to work, to care and to understand, to give to you and to go for you, that your church may grow, your will be done, your kingdom come, and your glory be revealed. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray for the spread of the gospel in places where missionaries are working. Pray for the many thousands of unreached people groups with no access to the gospel.

Pray for Christians in troubled parts of the world. Pray for missionaries dealing with isolation, danger or other difficulties. Pray for the spiritual growth of missionaries. Pray for the children of missionaries, either on location or living away from their parents. Pray for those undergoing training in preparation for mission. Pray for God to continue to raise up new missionaries. Pray for the financial and practical needs of missionary organisations.

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Please find outlined below some ways that the PCC is looking for people to step forward and help in the interregnum from the 15th April

All offers of help and/ or more information please contact Mark. These are just bullet points of the 'jobs' we need people to help with. (Other jobs have already been filled)

Kippington Centre Manager

We are in an active conversation with a person prepared to take on many aspects of the role. We now need a volunteer to do **two things.** Open up for ten children's parties (all Saturday afternoon) and check up afterwards. 10 parties expected to be covered. Check the centre twice a week (time to suit) to make sure everything is okay. (Person would liaise with the new Centre co-ordinator)

Ukrainian Service - monthly service

Two hours per month to liaise with the Ukrainian community when their service takes place.

Forward Move Magazine

It will need a new editor. However, the PCC has agreed that during the interregnum it will be produced on a quarterly basis – following this month's edition. It needs someone to do this though.

'Garden'

With Anne stepping down, need a new volunteer to join lan in maintaining church grounds.

<u>Kippington Nursing Home:</u> One leader already come forward – important to have another! Brenda plays the organ. Service orders are all done and so it is someone who, with Brenda, can help take the Morning Prayer service there. Once a month. Service is twenty minutes.

<u>Church opening and locking:</u> Two people have come forward – good to have two more. Someone to open the church 9am Monday to Saturday and to make sure it is locked at 6pm.

Food Bank collection

On a monthly basis someone to put out the food around the font (Thursday am) for the food bank for people to pick up.

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Our Gardening Column

We have enjoyed some milder days already and I am sure you will have been able to make a start on your gardens. Here, the snowdrops are still going, primroses and crocuses are out, hellebores are superb and daffodils are just opening. The cherry trees and camellias are in flower and the buds are ripening on magnolias, rhododendrons and azaleas. There are new leaves coming on the roses and shrubs and the birds are singing - what could be nicer?

We are sure to have more frosts before the weather settles but don't panic if new buds are nipped or browned - they will come back

This year I have added a couple of small new trees, a cornus and a witch-hazel (which I will need to keep well watered all summer), taken out some dead shrubs, moved a few things around, replaced two trellises and started to tie things in to them.

Although I feel quite on top of things at the moment, I can see that the weeds are just starting to make headway. I laid a lot of bark last year, which will help, and I have a big sack of chippings in my

wheelbarrow so I can put them down to cover bare patches as and when I do a spot of weeding or some new planting.

I tell myself that if I keep on top of the ordinary weeds, I can devote more time to my anti-bindweed campaign in the older borders.

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I still have some roses to prune but I have finished taking the deadwood out of my hydrangeas, removing the old leaves from ferns and cutting down the dead grasses to the height of the new growth.

My salvias and fuschias are pruned hard back and I have attacked the Japanese anemone

in two areas of border but there are big patches still to tackle. It is much too vigorous but very pretty:

I find that if I try to take out as much as I can, I will still have more than enough for the late summer display.

It is hard on the back though, so I have to remind myself not to do too much of any one job all at once. Stretching regularly and moving on to a different job means that in the end I can get more done with least damage!

I have started to divide up some plants that have outgrown their

spaces and am building up my stock of pots for sale.

I plan to make a start on some seeds next week.

I am always happy to take saleable items if you are doing the same.

Happy Easter and enjoy the delights of spring.

Janet



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A Christian's View of Ethics.

Question: what is ethics?

Answer: ethics is about how we decide what is right and what is wrong.

Question: what is Christian ethics?



When we talk about Christian ethics we are not saying:

- a) those who are not Christian do not live by a moral code;
- b) Christian ethics are superior to other ethical systems that people have;
- or c) all Christians agree about what is right and what is wrong. If only!

But what principles and values in my Christian faith should I apply to help me in deciding what is right and wrong?

Let's take a simple ethical issue to see the difference in terms of ethics and Christian ethics. Xenotransplantation. What is it? This is transplanting a pig's heart in a human.

In considering transplanting a pig's heart in a human, we may consider facts such as the following: There is a shortage of

heart donors and those requiring a heart transplant are dying. There is a possibility of retroviruses crossing the boundary between pig and humans and, if the person then has children, of entering the genetic pool: Are we using pigs to an end rather than valuing the life of the animal in itself?

Yet also as Christians we may want to think about such things as: all species were made distinct by God and therefore should not be mixed: God is creator and we should not be interfering in his creation.

So, what are the main authorities or resources for Christian ethics?

1) The Bible. The Bible is the "witness to the 'central events' of the faith but remember not to every problem with which the Christian may be concerned.

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2) The Tradition of the Church. In ethics, what past generations thought and said and did is important but is not the overruling authority for same reasons as the Bible.



3) Reason. To use the authority of reason means that:

We must consider all the available evidence. The conclusion must not be predetermined but follow from the evidence; The argument should be coherent and not illogical. Theologian Richard Hooker regarded Scripture, Reason and Tradition as working in a creative tension with each other. Anglican theology is usually based upon these three planks – that we make decisions about what God wants by reference to Scripture, tradition and reason. We first seek guidance from what the Bible teaches. Then we look to see how previous generations of Christians have interpreted that. All the time we are doing this, we are using that human faculty, reason, which distinguishes us from other forms of life. It entails the prayerful use of our minds to discover what we should do with the help of the Holy Spirit.

For the Christian, authority lies with God and Christian ethics is a matter of obedience to the will of God. A Christian, by seeking to make decisions about right and wrong, wants to be true to God and be true to living a Christ like life.

Using the Bible in terms of ethical guidance.

There are there ethical codes in the Bible?

The Old Testament. The 'Ten Commandments' is an obvious ethical code. The Old Testament offers a basic assumption: 'What is good' is what is willed by God. If God's Will is communicated in the Old Testament, how do we know what God is saying? Some of the ethical teaching in the Old Testament is now irrelevant or ignored altogether, or superseded by Jesus' teaching.

The teaching of the Prophets who reminded people about the nature of God including holiness, righteousness, justice and steadfast mercy and loving kindness.

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The Wisdom Literature or Writings (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes etc) highlights the importance of wisdom in ethical decision-making.



The New Testament in ethical decision making.

Jesus' Teaching. The character of Jesus' teaching has three priorities: The priority is to live in response to God's love which means living within God's kingdom or rule and loving our neighbours as ourselves. The second priority is where Jesus asserts an authority to interpret the Law and to go far beyond it, healing on the Sabbath for example. And the third priority is in looking at Jesus. Jesus lived out his own life in total obedience to God and total trust in God.

There are some challenges in using the Bible in Christian Ethics.

Firstly, there is considerable diversity of principles and ethical codes: different strands in the Old Testament; different approaches in the New Testament. Secondly, biblical writers were living in a very different culture and thought world than our own. Thirdly, there is often no clear basis for today's ethical problems – greenhouse gases, animal experimentation, for example. Fourthly, we need to remember that Jesus repudiated some Old Testament teachings. Fifthly, the Bible is the witness to the central events of our faith. It was never intended to be an encyclopaedia of moral instruction, or a compendium of moral rules. Sixthly, we need to take note of the generalities of ethics in the Bible, such as the Ten Commandments, or the command to love God and neighbour. Finally, the Bible cannot be used as the sole authority for Christian ethics. Christians have always used other authorities and sources.

The heart of Christian ethics is 'love God and love your neighbour'. This maxim is based upon the conviction that God has made a covenant of love and faithfulness with humankind which is to be the pattern of our relationships to others.

Easter Hymns: Thine be the glory

The words:

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son, endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won; angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb; lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom; let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting: [Refrain]

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life; life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife; make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love; bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:

Because of the hymn's magnificent tune, based on a chorus by Handel, this hymn sems older than it actually is.

It actually comes from a Swiss original composition and the author was Edmond Budry, who died in 1932.

He wrote the words to the hymn in 1884 following the death of his first wife.

It was then translated into English by a Baptist missionary, Richard Hoyle.

It speaks of Christ's victory over death and the grave. It tells of Jesus meeting us now risen from the dead. It proclaims the hope that from the death of our bodies our spirits will soar in our home above.

From a personal death is written a hymn that is seemingly fixed into our Easter Sunday liturgy. Indeed, Ministers feel an overarching sense of guilt if they do not include it in the services for the day, so popular and powerful has it become.

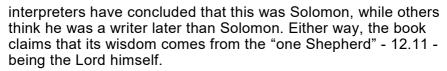
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Exploring the books of the Bible. The Old Testament:

Book of Ecclesiastes

Author

The author of Ecclesiastes calls himself "the Preacher" - 1.1. Some



Theme and Interpretation of Ecclesiastes

The theme of Ecclesiastes is the necessity of fearing God in this fallen, confusing world. Each human being wants to understand all the ways God is acting in the world, but he cannot, because he is not God. And yet the faithful do not despair but should cling to God, even when they cannot see what God is doing. The Lord deserves his people's trust. They can leave everything to him while they seek to understand what it means to "fear God and keep his commandments" - 12.13. This is true wisdom.

Key Themes

There are six main themes to the Book of Ecclesiastes—these are as follows:

The tragic reality of the fall.

The "vanity" of life.

Sin and death.

The joy and the frustration of work.

The grateful enjoyment of God's good gifts.

The fear of God.

Date

Your guess is as good as mine. If Solomon is accepted as the author then the date becomes easy in terms of 970 to 931BC reputed to be the years of his life. If a later writer then it can be anywhere between 450BC to 180BC.

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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

<u>Planned Giving Co-ordinator:</u> Zoe Anderson 07775766777 zoe.g.anderson@gmail.com

<u>Parochial Church Council Secretary:</u> Caroline Howe howe56@btinternet.com

<u>Kippington Centre Manager:</u> Karen Bridgen (01732) 452112 <u>karen.bridgen58@gmail.com</u> **ONLY UNTIL MARCH 31ST**

Church Organist: Len Ross. (01732) 451632 Sunday Club: Jean Day. day@kent2.co.uk

Youth Group—KYG: Jean Day

Pastoral Assistant: Sharon Fishwick (01732) 459349

<u>sfishwick1960@gmail.com</u> (also prayer group co-ordinator)

Forward Move magazine: See details in the newsletter

Church Website: www.stmaryssevenoaks.org

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Wendy Pritchard

safeguarding@stmaryssevenoaks.org

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