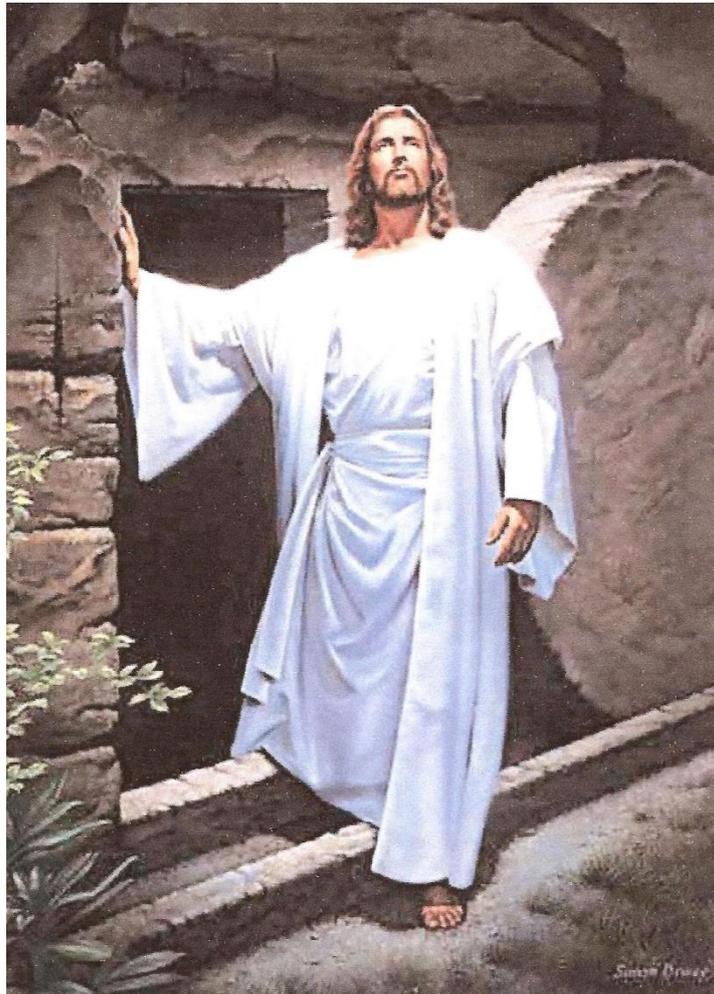


# FORWARD MOVE

April 2018



Free Parish magazine for St Mary Church, Kippington.

Please take a copy.

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

## Home groups and prayer opportunities for you to join us

### Home Groups:

*If you are interested in joining either of the groups listed below, do please phone the designated leader. You are always assured a warm welcome. Please remember that our groups meet on a fortnightly basis, unless otherwise indicated.*



#### **Tuesdays at 8.00pm**

**Lynette Leithead**

10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April.

Any new members are very welcome.

#### **Wednesdays at 10.00am**

**Joan Taylor**

18<sup>th</sup> April, then 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

We are studying the 'I Am' sayings of Christ and would welcome anyone who would like to join us.

#### **Hour of Prayer at 7.30pm**

**David Kitley**

This month the hour of prayer will be on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April, at the Vicarage.

We invite you to pray for our church family, that we may grow in faith and love and be an increasing blessing to our neighbourhood and our town.





It is always amazing that during the shortest and coldest days of the year, green shoots begin to poke their way out of the ground. It is as if something – or someone – is calling them with silent shouts: ‘It’s your turn!’ The earth may be frozen, Christmas is over, and spring seems a long way off, but like clockwork these clumps magically appear.

Great groups of snowdrops show up. They were well planted some decades ago by Dorothy Lowe when she lived in the vicarage! A larger and taller variety than usual, they have spread under the oak tree, the magnolia, and in the flower beds. Delicate white blooms to cheer the eye and the heart on days when the sun struggles to open more than half an eye. In French they are called ‘Perce-la-neige’ which means ‘pierce the snow’; very apt! I love them. Of course daffodils come next; the first bloom outside my window is almost out. (Yes, it has snowed again since I wrote that line!)

We are very fortunate in the northern hemisphere that springtime always coincides with Easter. Because the Bible says that it was Passover when Jesus was arrested and put to death, we can know for certain that it was at this time of year. In remembering his awful death, we reflect that it was for us he died. But as surely as spring follows winter, comes Easter Day! Jesus’ friends discover he has been raised from death and is alive! He has conquered death! How lovely to be reminded of this by all the flowers of springtime, and by the trees that waken from their winter sleep!

The real rejoicing of Easter comes because this gives us hope beyond the grave (or crematorium). It is not, as Hamlet puts it, that ‘undiscovered country, from whose bourn *no traveller returns*’. *Someone did return – Jesus. This was attested by all who knew him. So sure were they that spent the rest of their lives telling people about him. The words he spoke to them were written down also for us. ‘My Father’s house has many rooms ... I am going there to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.’* I shall remember this promise in a few days from now when I take the funeral of a dearly loved husband, father, grandfather, friend.

And they are words that I invite you to take for yourself too; to put your trust in the one who died but is now alive forever, to put your hand in his hand and walk with him through each day, till we see him... This is the hope of Easter, that is why we celebrate!

With best wishes and with love in Christ,

David

## **Church services need to be shorter, says bishop**

I congratulate Chris Saunders on his summary of the recent questionnaires in last month's Forward Move. I am disappointed however to learn that service length is set to remain at 70-75 minutes. I searched Google: 'What is the ideal length of church service?' A Telegraph article sprang up which I summarise:

A senior bishop has urged churches to slash the length of services to encourage people to worship more. The Bishop of Lichfield said that services have become too long, recommending clergy should aim to keep them to no more than 50 minutes and make sure they are careful not to preach for too long.

The bishop said there had been a tendency to devise "more and more intricate services for our own use – forgetting those who might come if we made things simpler for them to start with". He said services, which used to last for 50 minutes are now taking an hour and a half, adding: "Sometimes I find myself thinking that this is a good way of saying 'Go away' to young people who come to visit us. If you're trying to attract newcomers, these services need to be much shorter. We are excluding people who we should be welcoming."

The Church has been active in recent years in trying to encourage people to return to their local congregation by holding special services with well-known hymns. The Vatican has told Catholic clergy to keep their sermons under eight minutes to cater for people who found it hard to concentrate for long periods.

*Ian Campbell*

## **Should our church services be shorter?**

First, let me thank Ian for his kind words about the summary of last year's Church Family Questionnaire which I wrote for last November's 'Forward Move'. I'm grateful for the feedback he has provided, and for surfing the net to look for other points of view.

I should also add that there was a transcription error in the article, which could have led to the thought that we were out of touch with reality about the length of our services! It was not the intention to suggest that services never ran for longer than 75 minutes – rather that the 1030 Matins and Communion services normally run for 70-75 minutes but may be longer on special occasions.

Having said that, it hasn't gone unnoticed that these services have in fact been a bit shorter over the last few months: seldom longer than 65 minutes, and not more than 75 even with a visiting speaker or a healing service.

As the author of the November piece I volunteered to prepare a response to the Bishop of Lichfield's comments as highlighted by Ian - so the following is my own personal view.

We provide a range of services for a range of needs. Our monthly Family Service – which is provided for *families*, not just young children – is the one aimed most obviously at newcomers and does indeed last around 50 minutes – or even less.

Where we have a liturgical service in church with music, I really don't see how we could squeeze it into an hour without rushing it. What is important, I would suggest, is consistency – and we are getting better at achieving this through starting more promptly and shortening long hymns. Those 'special' services – with visiting speakers, prayers at the altar rail for healing, etc – will probably take a bit longer and we should allow for this.

As for the length of the sermon, the few people who raised this in the Questionnaire felt that 10-15 minutes was fine – with only one asking for it to be shorter. Where we do have a visiting speaker, I think it's important for them to know what our practice as a church is when it comes to sermon length – but I do think it's unreasonable to say "you are really welcome, we are eagerly looking forward to your message to us. But you've got twelve minutes". Let alone eight minutes! Is there a danger that we become too focused on timekeeping and miss out on the blessing and fellowship that our Church services provide?

The PCC has debated the length of services a number of times, and do believe we have got the balance about right. That's not to say we are complacent – there are a number of messages coming out of the questionnaire and I, for one, will ensure they aren't forgotten.

*Chris Saunders*

## NEW BEGINNINGS IN MARCH



### **Wedding**

24<sup>th</sup>

James Warner and Sarah Valentine

### **Funeral**

27<sup>th</sup>

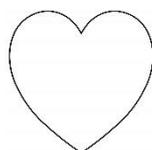
Derek Thomas, aged 87

Dear Friends

I would like to thank you all for your many prayers and messages of good will which have meant so much to me and my family following my recent illness. I am happy to say that I am much better and although not completely up to strength, I am back to my normal day to day life.

With my best wishes to you at this Easter time.

Maggie Moat



## EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO CALENDAR FOR APRIL

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

**EASTER SUNDAY. HE IS ALIVE**



- 6.30am Sunrise Communion followed by breakfast in The Parish Centre  
(Please note that this service takes place outside. Come well wrapped up!)
- 8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 10.30am Easter Family Holy Communion in Church with an Easter Egg Hunt  
Crèche available. Coffee and tea afterwards in The Parish Centre

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

- 10.00am Holy Communion
- 10.45am Coffee and tea in the Parish Centre

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

- 2.00pm Marriage of Hazel Ross and Nils Wieboldt



**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April First Sunday after Easter**

- 8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 10.30am Holy Communion (Common Worship)  
with Baptism of Grace Andrews  
Youth Group, Sunday Club and Crèche  
Coffee and tea afterwards in the Parish Centre



**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April**

- 10.00am Holy Communion
- 10.45am Coffee and tea in the Parish Centre
- 11.15am Holy Communion at Kippington Nursing Home

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April Second Sunday after Easter**

- 8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- 10.30am Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)  
Youth Group, Sunday Club and Crèche  
Coffee and tea afterwards in the Parish Centre

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

- 10.00am St Mary's Monkeys restart in the Parish Centre



**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

- 10.00am Holy Communion
- 10.45am Coffee in the Parish Centre

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April      Third Sunday after Easter**

8.00am      Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
10.30am      Holy Communion (Common Worship)  
                Youth Group, Sunday Club and Crèche  
                Coffee and tea afterwards in the Parish Centre  
6.0 – 8.00pm. Youth Group Safari Supper

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April

7.30pm      Monthly Hour of Prayer at the Vicarage

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April

10.00am      St Mary's Monkeys meet in the Parish Centre

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April

10.00am      Holy Communion  
10.45am      Coffee in the Parish Centre

**Sunday 29th April      Fourth Sunday after Easter**

8.00am      Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
10.30am      Celtic Morning Prayer  
                Youth Group, Sunday Club and Crèche  
                Followed by the APCM in the Parish Centre at 11.30am  
                Lunch will be provided: please book with Avril Hunter or Hazel Ross

## CALENDAR FOR MAY

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

10.00am      St Mary's Monkeys meet in the Parish Centre

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

10.00am      Holy Communion  
10.45am      Coffee in the Parish Centre

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May      Fifth Sunday after Easter**

8.00am      Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
10.30am      **Family Service in Church**, with Baptism of Rosie Sangster  
                Crèche available  
                Coffee and tea afterwards in the Parish Centre  
6.30pm      Evening Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)



Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May

10.00am      St Mary's Monkeys meet in the Parish Centre

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May      **ASCENSION DAY**

10.00am      Holy Communion  
10.45am      Coffee in the Parish Centre  
11.15am      Holy Communion at Kippington Nursing Home

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May      Sunday after Ascension Day**

8.00am      Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
10.30am      Holy Communion (Common Worship)  
                Youth Group, Sunday Club and Crèche  
                Coffee and tea afterwards in the Parish Centre



## A Reminder:



If you would like to help raise funds for this worthy cause by delivering and collecting fund-raising envelopes, please talk to either Jean or Stephen Day after the 10.30am service on Sundays. Thank you.

*Sue Shepherd*

## A New Church Warden

At our annual church meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> we shall be thanking Mrs Avril Hunter for the four years in which she has served us so faithfully as church warden. What does a churchwarden do? They are responsible to the Bishop for the care of a church. They do not have to be in church every Sunday. They do not have to be good at talking to builders; they can delegate such jobs.

The point is that we really need someone to take over as warden. Each church should have two wardens. Might you be able to serve us and God as warden? Please pray that this post will be filled – and be ready to offer yourself – maybe! Do enquire: no obligations!

*David Kitley*

## Coffee Rota



Coffee and tea are served after the 10.30am services each Sunday in our church centre, along with drinks and biscuits for the children – and grown-ups! This is a great way for us to get to know one another and to welcome newcomers.

It is staffed by volunteers! Please consider helping, telephoning Caireen with your offers.

With grateful thanks from everybody!

## Readers and Intercessions for April

|  |                                     |  |                                 |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday</b>           |                                     |  |                                 |
| 6.30am   | Sunrise Holy Communion              |  |                                 |
| 8.00 am  | Holy Communion (BCP)                | Acts 10: 34-43<br>Mark 16:1-8                            |                                 |
| 10.30am  | Family Service                      | To be decided<br><i>Intercessions</i>                    |                                 |
| <br>   |                                     |  |                                 |
| <b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday of Easter</b> |                                     |  |                                 |
| 8.00am   | Holy Communion (BCP)                | Acts 4: 32-35<br>John 20:19-end                          |                                 |
| 10.30am  | Holy Communion (CW)<br>With Baptism | Acts 4: 32-35<br><br><i>Intercessions</i>                | Irene Rea                       |
| <br>   |                                     |  |                                 |
| <b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday of Easter</b> |                                     |  |                                 |
| 8.00am   | Holy Communion (BCP)                | Acts 3: 12-19<br>Luke 24: 36b-48                         |                                 |
| 10.30am  | Morning Prayer (BCP)                | Acts 3: 12-19<br>Luke 24: 36b-48<br><i>Intercessions</i> | Patrick Howe<br>Sue Shepherd    |
| <br>   |                                     |  |                                 |
| <b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>                        |                                     |  |                                 |
| 8.00am   | Holy Communion (BCP)                | Acts 4: 5-12<br>John 10: 11-18                           |                                 |
| 10.30am  | Holy Communion (CW)                 | Acts 4: 5-12<br>John 10: 11-18<br><i>Intercessions</i>   | Wendy Pritchard<br>Graham Roper |
| <br>   |                                     |  |                                 |
| <b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>                        |                                     |  |                                 |
| 8.00am   | Holy Communion (BCP)                | Acts 8: 26-40<br>John 15: 1-8                            |                                 |
| 10.30am  | Holy Communion (CW)                 | Acts 8: 26-40<br>John 15: 1-8<br><i>Intercessions</i>    | Brenda Ross<br>Len Ross         |





## PRAYERS TO SHARE

*“Holy God, our lives are laid open before you;  
Rescue us from the chaos of sin,  
And through the death of your Son bring us healing and make us whole.  
In Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.”*

This prayer is the Collect used in our Ash Wednesday service this year. In the service leaflet we read that the Church declares Lent to be – among other things – a time for self-examination and repentance, so perhaps we can consider this Collect as we go on our way through Lent. I have also found these verses in a book of prayers:-

*“Lord, what would we have done? Would we have fallen asleep and then run away terrified, like the disciples in Gethsemane? Thank you that you forgive us our weakness, when we opt out and run away from conflict and cost.*

*Lord, what would we have done? Would we have shouted ‘Hosanna’ on one day and ‘Crucify’ on another? Forgive us when we fail you because it is easier to follow the crowd.*

*Lord, what would we have done? Would we have been harsh and judgemental like the Pharisees? Forgive us when we are quick to condemn.”*

The Bible tells us that Jesus often went off by himself to be alone with his Father, and to pray. So we too need to find time to be quiet, to stop our thoughts from wandering off, to wait upon God, to listen for him, to make space for him. David Winter wrote:- ‘*Waiting for God is not a waste of time, but the best possible way to spend it.*’ And Donald Coggan wrote:- ‘*The most important part of prayer may well be simply keeping quiet in God’s presence.*’ In this way we can pray for his peace.

Soon we will come to Palm Sunday and to Holy Week, and to the impossibility of our fully comprehending the mental, physical and spiritual suffering which Jesus was to undergo – for us.

*“All you who pass by here  
Stand still, pay heed and watch.  
Where will you find a love  
That can compare to this?”*

We who know how Holy Week will end can take with us through these difficult days, these words of Desmond Tutu’s:-

*“Goodness is stronger than evil,  
Love is stronger than hate,  
Light is stronger than darkness,  
Life is stronger than death,  
Victory is ours through him who loves us,”*

## Wonderful Church Bulletins!

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services: The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00pm - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

And this one just about sums them all up: The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

*Dave White*

# ST. MARY KIPPINGTON



## MINISTRY TEAM

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Rev'd Canon David Kitley, Vicar         | email: <a href="mailto:kitley@clara.net">kitley@clara.net</a> |
| Rev'd Lynette Leithead, Associate Vicar |   |
| Ms Lisa Cornell (Ordinand)              |   |
| Joan Taylor (Licensed Lay Minister)     |   |
| Sharon Fishwick (Pastoral Assistant)    |   |

## CHURCHWARDENS

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Mrs Avril Hunter |  |
| Mrs Brenda Ross  |  |

## TREASURER

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Mr Chris Saunders | <a href="mailto:kippingtontreasurer@hotmail.co.uk">kippingtontreasurer@hotmail.co.uk</a> |
|-------------------|--|

## PLANNED GIVING CO-ORDINATOR

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Zoë Anderson | <a href="mailto:zoe.g.anderson@gmail.com">zoe.g.anderson@gmail.com</a> |
|--------------|--|

## ORGANIST

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Mr Len Ross |  |
|-------------|--|

|  |  |
|--|--|
| SUNDAY CLUB (3-11 years)<br>Mrs Jean Day | YOUTH GROUP (11 years plus)<br>Mrs Cathie Kitley |
|--|--|

|   |  |
|---|--|
| CENTRE MANAGER<br>Mr Graham Roper<br>(01732) 460786 | OFFICE AT ST. MARY<br>Sue Shepherd<br>(01732) 451117<br><a href="mailto:office@stmaryssevenoaks.org">office@stmaryssevenoaks.org</a> |
|---|--|

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|--|--|
| FORWARD MOVE<br><a href="mailto:forwardmove@hotmail.com">forwardmove@hotmail.com</a> | CHURCH WEBSITE<br><a href="http://www.stmaryssevenoaks.org">www.stmaryssevenoaks.org</a> |
|--|--|

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