

ST MARY CHURCH NEWSLETTER
SUNDAY 21ST APRIL 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

Readings: Acts 4: 5 – 12 and John 10: 11 – 18

10.30am Matins Service:

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Acts 4: 5 – 12

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹ This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone."

¹² There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

John 10: 11 – 18

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

Collect

O ALMIGHTY God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers

Pease remember Julia MacLeod in your prayers following a car accident.

Mid-Week Service of Holy Communion

During interregnum, there will be no mid-week service at St Mary Church. St Luke's Church holds a BCP Holy Communion Service in their Lady Chapel every Thursday at 10.00am, to which you are warmly invited.



NOTICES

From Mark and Karen:

Dear friends of St Mary Kippington

We both want to express our heartfelt and very grateful thanks for the many acts of kindness that took place on our last Sunday - 14th April.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our final service and we were touched and appreciated very much the anthem sung by the choir as a gift to us.

It was then lovely to see so many staying for our farewell lunch.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking those who made the lunch possible;
the gift given of the Camelia;
the words given from a number of people;
the presentation from the adults and young people of Sunday Club;
the worship song sung by the Music group composed specifically for us;
the unique card signed by so many;
and the very generous financial gift given.

We were touched and humbled by both the kindness and love shown towards us.

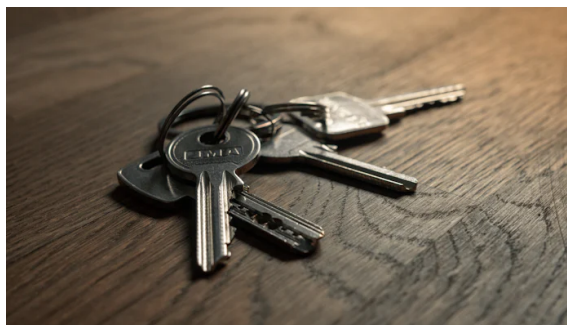
While words are inadequate to express our thanks, we need to let you know of our deep-felt thankfulness not only for all that we received on Sunday, but for all the time that we have shared together.

Our warmest wishes and prayers of love go with each and every one of you.

Mark and Karen.



Church opening and locking: We need three more people, please, to join a team of six to open the church 9am Monday to Saturday and to make sure it is locked at 6pm. One day of the week will be allocated to each person.



If there are insufficient volunteers, the church would have to stay locked which would be a sadness. On Sundays, during interregnum, the church will be locked following the 10:30am service.



Coffee rota and putting out tables for refreshments

The coffee rota, at the back of the Church, takes us up to 28th September. As usual, we are looking for volunteers to serve coffee, tea and biscuits after the main Sunday service.



We are also looking for volunteers to set out the tables and chairs for this. This task can be done either before the start of the service, or during the last hymn. There will be a form at the back of the Church where you can sign up. It would be great if different people can volunteer each Sunday. Thank you.



Giving to the Church without using cash: Recognising that more people carry little or no cash with them, we have formed a link with 'Give A Little' who help charities with digital fundraising. We now have in the Church, a symbol – a 'QR Code'. Anyone with a smartphone and access to the internet – which is available within the Church building on our new wi-fi for all – can simply scan this code where they will be directed to a web page to donate to Church funds.



Loaves N Fishes

At present, due to the shortage of people on the "Unlocking/Locking Church team", we have had to suspend donations to Loaves N Fishes. Once we have a full team comprising six people, we will be able to start collecting donations again.



As a church we take our **Safeguarding responsibilities** very seriously. If you have any concerns, then please contact Wendy Pritchard, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, using safeguarding@stmaryssevenoaks.org, or the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer. All their contact details can be found on the 'Safer Church' poster in the children's corner at the back of church. These details are also on our website.



To connect to the internet in Church, select Kippington Church network and enter **K1pp1ngt0n** as the password.

For next Sunday's newsletter, please send all items to Sue Shepherd on the office email address: office@stmaryssevenoaks.org by Tuesday.

All bookings and enquiries for the Centre should now be directed to Kate O'Gram by emailing: stmaryscentrekippington@outlook.com

