

ST MARY CHURCH NEWSLETTER
SUNDAY 28TH APRIL 2024
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

Acts 8: 26 – end and John 15: 1 - 8

10.30am Holy Communion (CW) Service:

Acts 8: 26 – end

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.)²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.'³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?'³¹ He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.'

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?'³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?'³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing.

⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

John 15: 1 – 8

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower.² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.



Prayers

Please 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

Ascension Day Team Service on 9th May

This joint service will be held at St Mary Kippington, starting at 7.30 on Thursday 9th May. There will be a combined Choir of all three Churches and it promises to be a lovely service. Please do come and join us if you can.



Mark's Installation

An invitation has been extended to us to attend Mark's installation by The Lord Bishop of St Albans at Barkway Church on 21st May at 7.30pm. It would be lovely if a group of us could support Mark and Karen in their new Parish. If you wish to go, please let me know before May 5th. Thank you.



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 Unlocking/Locking: Thank you to everyone who has offered to help during the week. 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

Sevenoaks (Loaves and Fishes) Foodbank would like to thank the church family at St. Mary's Church Kippington and St. Mary' Church Riverhead for your generosity this year.

Your food donations helped to keep our store cupboards replenished which enabled us to continue to support our clients in the local community. Please pass on our thanks to all who contributed and thank you once again for your support and generosity.



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 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: centre@stmaryssevenoaks.org

