

# St Mary's Stelling NEWSLETTER

"Kent's most extraordinary Parish Church"



November 2017

## Welcome!

The clocks have gone back, Winter is around the corner, and oh yes, there are 55 days until Christmas Day!

Please continue to pray for God's guidance for The Way Forward for Stelling and Upper Hardres Churches. Pray that each of us develops and strengthens our own personal relationship with God, and that He shows us how to use the special gifts, skills and talents which He has given to each of us.

## Services for November

5 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion	Revd Chris Duncan
12 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day	Bossingham VH
19 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion	Revd Phil Brown
26 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship	Nigel Lockwood

## Dates for your Diary

**Christingle Service** Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December (3pm) Revd Norman Woods.

## Sponsored Sleep-Out!



A big thank you to everyone who supported the Sleep-Out. The event set out to raise the plight of the homeless, show our concern and empathy for individuals affected by homelessness, and also to raise some money to help the homeless through the great work of Catching Lives. We reflected these aims during our worship time on Friday evening by 'Remembering the Homeless'. Most of us thankfully have never been homeless. Most

people who are homeless never expected to be homeless, but things happened to them or circumstances changed and they became homeless. We recognise how vulnerable we all are, and it is not hard to see how it could happen to any of us, or those we love.



15 people took up the challenge to 'Sleep-Out'. Sleeping-out had a profound effect on all of us and took to another level of understanding as to what homeless people endure. 'Storm Brian' definitely helped with this on the night!

We received great support from Stelling Minnis CE Primary School who raised £115.85 via a 'non-uniform day', Upper Hardres Church who donated their Harvest collection of £200, and the local and wider community. Money is still coming in, and the current amount, including Gift Aid, is approximately £1,500. Thank you to all of those who 'slept out', worked so hard to raise sponsorship, attended the worship, or helped in any way. It is much appreciated. Julia and I have written a fuller report for the next edition of the Parish mag.

## Prayer Corner

Heavenly Father, we pray that we may not be afraid to stand up and be counted in a world that often ignores the values of Christ.

For all Church leaders, that they may not be afraid to speak out, and so provide a voice for truth and justice in the world.

For our political and civil leaders, that they may respect freedom of religion and freedom of conscience. For those who are suffering in the cause of right.

Verse for the Month: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. Psalm 23

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For all of us, that our lives may bear witness  
to the faith we say with our lips. Amen.

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