

St Mary's Stelling NEWSLETTER

"Kent's most extraordinary Parish Church"



April 2018

Happy Easter!

Never Cease to Marvel

Do not take for granted all the loveliness you see - morning splendour, sunset gold, and blossom on the tree.....never cease to marvel at the wonder of these things; new life bursting from the soil, and birds on soaring wings. Commonplace the sights may be, but never let your eye grow accustomed to the glory of the land and the sky.....never grow too dull to wonder at the mystery - of the beauty of the earth, the sun, the stars, the sea. (Anon)

Dear Father, we thank you for your wonderful creation, and we thank you for giving us new life and renewed hope through the resurrection of Your dear Son.

Services for April

- 1st Easter Day Revd Norman Woods
- 8th Morning Worship Nigel Lockwood
- 15th Holy Communion Revd Phil Brown
- 22nd Morning Worship Pam Burgess & Ros Browne
- 29th (10.00am) Joint Service at Upper Hardres, followed by the APCM.

Lent Course

The six-week Lent Course, led by Julia, has now finished and has been very well attended and enjoyed throughout. The group has held some lively discussions and it has been a great opportunity to reflect on our faith, to learn from and encourage each other, and enjoy fellowship together. A big 'thank you' to Julia for organising, hosting and leading the course.

House Group

Although the Lent Course has now ended, there are two further House Group sessions planned, which will be led by Rev'd Thomas Collett-White. Thomas will

be leading discussions about evangelism, outreach and faith sharing. The sessions will also take place at Oakgate House, Manns Hill, Bossingham at 7.30 pm on Thursdays 5th and 19th April. Everyone is welcome, but it would be helpful if you could let me or Julia know if you would like to attend so that we have some idea of numbers (Tel. 709635). Thank you.

Finances

With my Treasurer's hat on, here is a quick report. Not good reading - at the end of March we have a deficit of approximately £2,000. Our total assets currently stand at approximately £14,700. So, I need to again repeat that at this rate we will have used all our reserves by 2020.

Thank you to everyone who gives money to Stelling Church. To improve our financial state, we will need to work very hard at our remaining 'events' in 2018, and also would everyone please prayerfully and carefully review the level of their giving.

Ceiling Repairs

I am delighted to say that the repairs are complete and that the scaffolding has now been removed, just in time for our Easter services. Apologies for the delays, but the new plaster and limewash has taken ages to dry, not helped by the freezing temperatures generated by the various 'Beasts from the East'!

Prayer Corner

Everlasting God, we give you thanks for feeding us.

We ask that you nourish and strengthen us with your merciful love.

We pray for those who hunger in war-torn and scorched lands, with no food for their children.

Together, we cry out for justice.

Verse for the Month... "He has Risen" (Alleluia!)..Luke 24: verse

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Help us to share generously as one global family, and to hold onto hope for a world transformed.

Bread of life, we pray your people may find life and joy in all its fullness. Amen.

Verse for the Month... **"He has Risen" (Alleluia!)..Luke 24: verse**