

# St Mary's Stelling NEWSLETTER

"Kent's most extraordinary Parish Church"



August 2017

## Welcome!

.....to the new monthly Newsletter. This is intended to provide news and information, and keep us all in touch with what is happening in and around the Church and the Church Family. I hope to send this out at the start of each month. If it is to be of value, it will need everyone to support it by submitting news, updates, feedback etc.

## Services for August

6 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship	Nick
13 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship	Geoff
20 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion	Rev Phil Brown
27 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship	Nigel

## The Way Forward

The Resolution passed by the PCCs of Upper Hardres and Stelling not to pursue the appointment of an Associate Minister at the present time, but with the proviso that the Diocese does not sell the Rectory but let the property, has been accepted by the Diocese. Arrangements to let The Rectory are underway.

Whilst we obviously wanted to immediately appoint a replacement for Lynne, our finances do not allow this. We are where we are, and we must now see this as an opportunity - we now have some time to work together to advance our spiritual, pastoral, outreach, fundraising and social pillars. Above all, let's pray for guidance and vision for The Way Forward.

## Finances

In summary, we have a 'true' net Year-to-Date deficit at 30<sup>th</sup> June of just under £2,400, which is in line with the Budget 2017 figures I produced in April. Clearly this is a very serious financial position. Our 2017 Parish Share is currently

£11,700, and is of course our largest annual expense by far. As a result of the decision to not replace Lynne, we expect to receive a reduction in Parish Share this year - I will keep you posted when negotiations take place in September.

Thank you to everyone who gives money to Stelling Church, it is much appreciated. If you are signed up for Gift Aid I will shortly let you have a note of your total donations made in the last tax year, and also the additional amount of tax reclaimed on your donations. As you may know, I can reclaim from HMRC an additional 25p for every £1 you donate - please have a word with me if you want to sign up. In order to improve our financial state, we need to work hard at our 'events', and also would everyone please prayerfully and carefully review the level of their giving.

## Sponsored Sleep-Out!

We are organising a sponsored Sleep-Out at Church, to enable adults and children to have a brief experience of what it is like to be homeless, and at the same time to support Catching Lives.

We hope to include the school, the local community, and of course local Churches. An exciting event to organise and look forward to, and if you would like to help please let me or Julia know (709635). More details to follow, but at this stage please book the date in your diary - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October.

## Prayer Corner

We thank God for our own personal relationship with Him, and for showing us how to use the special gifts, skills and

Verse for the Month: "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" Mark 1: verse 15

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talents which He has given to each of us,  
for His glory. Amen.

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God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Mark 1: verse 15