

St Mary's Stelling NEWSLETTER

"Kent's most extraordinary Parish Church"

January 2018



Happy New Year!

The great thing about walking with God in life is that there is always the opportunity to start anew - God always offers us a new day and a new dawn, no matter what has gone before. At the start of the New Year, why not take a moment to thank Him for last year, ask His forgiveness for where you have fallen short, and dedicate this new year to Him - to serve Him and love Him afresh.

Services for January

7 th	Morning Worship	Nigel
14 th	Morning Worship	Geoff
21 st	Holy Communion	Rev'd Graham Whittlesea
28 th	Morning Worship	Pam/Ros

Finances

In summary, we have a 'true' net deficit at the end of the year of approximately £4,800, an average of £400 per month. I will produce detailed audited accounts to accompany the Annual Report shortly. Our Parish Share for 2018 is agreed at just over £11,000, and is of course our largest annual expense by far.

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

Ceiling Repairs

The ceiling repairs needed following the plaster fall are underway. I was hoping that all would be completed by now, but when we inspected the ceiling after the scaffolding was erected, it is not as straight-forward as we thought (it never

is, is it!). We will need to replace some of the timber laths, and repair a much larger area of plaster than first thought - an area of about 12 sq. mtrs. This will greatly increase the cost of repairs, so I am liaising closely with the insurance company and Loss Adjustor. Sorry, we will have to live with the scaffolding for a bit longer.

Sponsored Sleep-Out!

The final figure for money raised by the Sleep-Out event in October was over £3,300, which is an amazing amount and a testament to the generosity of our small and caring community.



Julia and I presented a cheque in December to Catching Lives on behalf of St Mary's Stelling. The other people in the photo are (left) James Duff, who is a Trustee and you may recognise him from the Sleep-Out service, and Jason Hanford, who is also a Trustee of Catching Lives.

Prayer Corner

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again.
Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time, many will see the

Verse for the Month: Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Proverbs 3:5-6

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wonders of God, and live forever to praise
Your glorious name. Amen.

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