

St Mary's Stelling NEWSLETTER

"Kent's most extraordinary Parish Church"



July 2018

Services for July

- 1st Holy Communion
Rev'd Grahame Whittlesea
- 8th Morning Worship
Janet & Richard Lockwood
- 15th Baptism & Holy Communion
Rev'd Phil Brown
- 22nd Morning Worship Nick Hunt
- 29th (10.00am) Joint Service (Holy Communion) - at Upper Hardres.

All Services start at 9.30am except the Joint Service on the 29th, which starts at 10.00am.

Home Group

The Home Group met on 20th June at our home Oakgate House, and again was very well-attended and valued. The developing bond of love and trust as a Church family was again evident as we shared and learned from each other's thoughts and experiences. This time we tackled the challenging question of: 'What's the use of praying?' This is of course a huge topic, and we could only hope to scratch the surface in the time available. We explored several reasons to pray, and rooted these in the Bible. Hopefully these verses and passages gave us some insight into what is probably the most multi-faceted gift of love and devotion which God has given us.

The Home Group will take a short summer break, and hopefully meet again in September.

Finances

The joint PCC of Upper Hardres and Stelling had a meeting on 28th June with Archdeacon Jo Kelly-Moore and the Diocesan Secretary Julian Hills to discuss our concerns over the structure and level of our parish share commitments. We are striving to agree an affordable and sustainable arrangement, which in turn will better allow us to fulfil our ministry and mission in the local community. It was a positive meeting where our concerns were listened to, and a further meeting with

Diocese, Deanery and Treasurers is planned for August.

With my Treasurer's hat on, here is a quick report. We continue to be in a serious financial position - at the end of June (half-year) we have a Receipts/Payments deficit of approximately £4,800, which I forecast to increase to £7,500 by the end of the year. Our total assets currently stand at just over £12,000. So, at this rate we will have used all our reserves by 2020.

Windmill Fete



The Windmill Fete took place last Saturday 30th June, and Stelling Church had a stall as usual, selling cakes, jams, plants, bric-a-brac, etc. The stall raised over £300, which will go towards our Church running costs. Thank you to all who contributed to the success of our stall and to the success of the Windmill Fete.

Date for your Diary - Barn Dance

Just to get the date in your diary early - a Barn Dance is planned for Saturday, 24th November at Bossingham Village Hall (7pm).

Prayer Corner

Let us 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 for right.

Lord Jesus, we praise you for your power and goodness. May your Spirit be at work in all our hearts today. Help us to come to you as our Lord and Saviour, with both healthy fear and deep faith in our hearts.

In your name we pray, Amen.

Verses for the Month: I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. Matthew 11: 25-26