

Sue's News

Warden's Report

The Christmas services went well although very different in most ways from our usual but some things were reassuringly the same.

We know many peoples plans were upset due to the ever changing COVID restrictions but Val and I hope you were able to enjoy Christmas and I know we are all looking forward to a better 2021

I have some "thank yous":

Huge thanks to Amanda and Colin for their expert help with IT every week and especially over Christmas -the overheads were lovely.

Also thanks to the bell ringers who managed to keep up traditions despite everything.

And thanks to Clive who stepped in to take services when Frances was unable to travel over

A big thanks to Frances for all her support over the last year.

And thanks to all the children from PAWS who made those lovely Christmas cards for our congregation. We loved them and it was such a kind thing to do.

2021

We look forward to 2021 with bright hope.

We do not know what it holds for us completely but we await the arrival of David and family in March with joyful anticipation and pray that God is with us all at this challenging time

ANOTHER VERY BIG THANK YOU from all of us to everyone who has made the church so festive over Christmas: to Drill Hall Motors who supplied the tree outside the church, and for the team who erected and decorated it; for everyone who has contributed to make the church so beautiful; for the bellringers; for the lovely Christmas cards that Year 3 at the school made for us, and for those arranging and leading the Christmas services. It has cheered us all this difficult year .

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

The Vicarage: The redecoration should begin early in January. After completion the vicarage will need to be cleaned. Volunteers to help with this will be very welcome!

Pevensey and Westham School News

We had a really busy end of 2020 at Pevensey and Westham. Children continued to work hard and enjoyed some socially distanced Christmas celebrations! The children enjoyed making Christmas cards for different people in our community. Hopefully many of you received one of the cards made our Year 3 pupils.

A big project for the school in 2021 will be developing our school library and increasing the selection of books available to the children. We are passionate about books and encouraging children to read for pleasure. If anyone has any 'pre-loved' books which you would like to donate to our library this would be really appreciated.

I hope you all have a fantastic new year and hopefully a little more normal than last year.

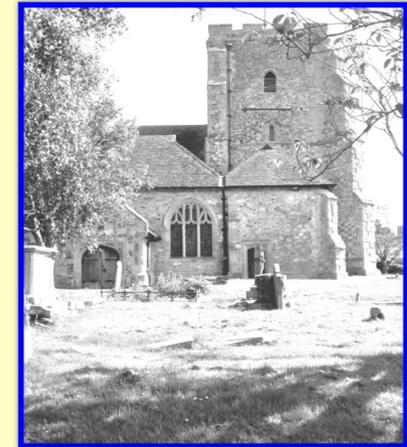


Final date for copy for the **February** newsletter:
Monday 18th January

Email: eddiemeg@outlook.com

website: stmary'swestham.org.uk

**ST MARY'S CHURCH
WESTHAM
JANUARY 2021**



The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases
His mercies never come to an end
They are new every morning, new every morning,
Great is Thy faithfulness O Lord
Great is Thy faithfulness.

based on Lamentations 3:22,23

Sunday services for January

(depending on what the current restrictions are)

Sunday 3rd *

9.45 am Service with Holy Communion

Readings; Jeremiah 31:7-14 [Psalm 147: 12-end](#)

Eph 1:3-14 John 1:10-18

Sunday 10th *

9.45 am Service with Holy Communion

Readings: Gen 1:1-5 [Psalm 29](#)

Act 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11

Readings for Evensong

Isaiah 42:1-9 [Psalm 46](#)

Eph 2:1-10 *Gospel*: Matt 2:13-end

Sunday 17th: *

9.45 am Service with Holy Communion

Readings 1 Sam 3:1-10 [Psalm 139: 1-5,12-18](#)

Rev 5: 1-10 John 1:43-end

Sunday 24th: *

9.45 am Service with Holy Communion

Readings: Gen 14:17-20 [Psalm 128](#)

Rev 19:6-10 John 2:1-11

Sunday 31st *

9.45 Service with Holy Communion

Readings Deut 18:15-20 [Psalm 111](#)

Rev 12;1-5a Mark 1: 21-28

* please be aware that things may change and make sure you let Sue Davies know if you plan to attend



Happy New Year
May it bring joy, peace and healing

New every morning is the love
our waking and uprising prove;
through sleep and darkness safely brought
restored to life and power and thought.

New mercies each returning day
surround your people as they pray;
new dangers past, new sins forgiven,
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

If in our daily life our mind
be set to hallow all we find,
new treasures still of countless price
God will provide for sacrifice.

The trivial round, the common task,
will give us all we ought to ask;
room to deny ourselves, a road
to bring us daily nearer God.

Prepare us Lord in your dear love
for perfect rest with You above,
and help us, this and every day
to grow more like You as we pray.

Prayer and Praise

A Prayer for the New Year

Lord of the years

We ask your blessing on the year to come.

Give us the resilience to bear its disappointments, energy to seize its opportunities, and openness to accept the more abundant life which you have promised to us in Christ Jesus our Lord

Amen

Heavenly Father we look forward to this New Year with anticipation when Rev David Gillard comes to be our vicar. Please bless him and his family as they move to Westham and may we welcome and support them as we worship you and serve you together.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Heavenly Father, we look forward to this New Year with apprehension as we live through the uncertainty that this rampant virus has brought to the whole world. We pray for strength when we are fearful; for peace when we are troubled, and for discernment to know when you are calling us to help others in need.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Heavenly Father we look forward to this New Year with assurance that the world is in Your hands. Thank you that vaccination is now available. Thank you for the selflessness of all people working on the front line to maintain the variety of services that we need. Please forgive us when our faith falters and strengthen and increase our trust in You our Almighty God.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Heavenly Father within our prayers we bring to you

Friends we know who need your healing touch

Friends we know who need your comfort in their grief

Friends we know who are struggling with problems of day to day living in this pandemic

May we all know your presence, protection and peace sustaining and strengthening us and all those we love

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.