

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON



WEEKLY BULLETIN

22nd March 2020 - Mothering Sunday

Dear Friends

We live in strange times! Who would have predicted at the end of our 800th celebrations that just a few months later we would be suspending all services in the church?

But life is full of surprises. As glib as that can sound, it's not a million miles from Proverbs 16.9: 'A man plans his course, but God determines his steps.' We never know what is around the corner and while that can seem exciting for some, it can be frightening for others.

This morning's reading was from Hebrews 6. In verse 19 we are told that the hope we have in God is like an 'anchor for the soul'. In times of uncertainty and anxiety, we need an anchor to steady us so that, in the words of a great hymn, 'when the strong tides lift and the cables strain' we won't 'drift' but 'firm remain'.

That's why I felt it was important to keep the church building open as long as we can for private prayer. **Anyone is welcome to come in each day between 10am and 12 noon then between 4pm and 6pm.** As the days go by, there will be prayer ideas and displays to provide inspiration or you may just like to sit in the silence and peace reaching out to God with your heart, mind, soul and strength. If Jesus is our hope - our anchor - then prayer is what fastens our little boat to the solid ground of his love.

If you are self-isolating or decide to stay at home, we will also be doing all we can to support you pastorally, practically and prayerfully.

No one would wish for our current situation but it is forcing us to look again

at what it means to be church, as not just a Sunday gathering but a dispersed people seeking to follow Christ faithfully in our everyday lives. In the words of that great hymn:

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love.*

May that be our prayer as together we enter these troubled and unchartered waters .
Every blessing, Anthony

Daily Prayers

Anthony and/or Nigel will be saying Morning Prayer at 10am and Evening Prayer at 5.30pm in church.

Text for these can be found on the Church of England website at :

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>. There is also an app and these are the prayers that will be said in church quietly every morning and evening so you might like to join in at home. We can provide hard copies if needed. Just get in touch.

Phone Chain

All those who are on the St Denys pastoral list should have had a phone call from someone else at church to let them know what was happening with services and to ask if you have any practical or prayer requests. If you didn't, please contact Elizabeth Rudge (0116 2415605) to be added to the phone chain.

This should mean a weekly phone call until we are back at church. If you would like more frequent calls, please don't be afraid to ask. Just ask the person who calls you or contact Anthony and we would be happy to arrange for more frequent chats.

Please pray especially for
David Pearson, Mike Blount
and David Botterill as well as
for the families and friends
of Bill Rose and
Brian Robertson.



Bill Rose's Funeral

This will now be family only at the crematorium but a memorial service will be held at St Denys later in the year. Please keep Christine and the family in your prayers.

Digital Pilgrims

If you are on Whatsapp and would like to be part of the church Whatsapp group where we share video links for comment and discussion, please call or email Anthony with your mobile number to be added to the group.

Website – www.stdenys.org.uk.

This is where you will find up to date information including a weekly newsletter to replace the pewsheets, links to sermons, prayer resources and other materials. There is also the church Facebook page, Twitter feed and Instagram account if you have access to those. If you do not have access to the internet, please make sure you tell the person who phones you so that we can make sure you get hard copies.

Light a Candle of Hope National Call to Prayer



Presidents of Churches Together in England have issued a call to prayer in the light of the Coronavirus pandemic. This is for all churches and people of prayer to join on Sunday 22nd March, Mothering Sunday.

At 7pm this Sunday, light a candle in the windows of your homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.

Pray for all in leadership at this time, making decisions about the containment of the COVID-19 virus, for those working in health and social care, and especially for the most vulnerable, whether elderly or those with underlying health conditions.

Alongside your prayers, take the opportunity to telephone or email someone who is isolated, buy some additional food for your local foodbank, or offer to deliver shopping for an elderly neighbour.

We may not be able to touch physically, but we can make connections in so many other ways.

A prayer for the world facing the Coronavirus pandemic

God of love and hope,

You made the world and care for all creation.

But the world feels strange right now.

The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.

Many people are anxious because of it.

Many people are anxious that they might get ill.

Many people are anxious about their family and friends.

Be with us all in our worries and help us to find some peace.

We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists who are working to discover a vaccine and to provide the right medicines and care to give hope to those who are ill.

We pray for all politicians and leaders of the world at this time of pandemic that they do not forget the poor and vulnerable. Help us at this time to reach out to all regardless of creed, country or background as we work together to seek God's love for all.

Thank you that even in these strange and unusual times, you are with us and love us fully.

Help us to look for the signs of God's goodness and love towards us.

Amen.



If you are self-isolating or need to talk, please let us know:

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