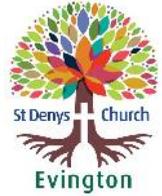


ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON

WEEKLY BULLETIN



10th January 2021 Baptism of Christ

Sunday Bible readings: Genesis 1.1-5 and Mark 1.4-11

Dear Friends

As we enter a new year and a new season in the church (Epiphany), we also enter a new lockdown. Once again we are being told to 'stay at home'. Last week the Churchwardens and I took the difficult decision to close the church building for worship. However, this does not mean that our worship ceases. Indeed, Epiphany is all about recognizing who Jesus is and worshipping him wherever we are.

Epiphany begins with the wise men and their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, reflecting Jesus' identity as King and God and Sacrifice (as in the famous Carol!) It continues with Jesus' baptism when the heavens opened and a voice declared 'You are my Son, the beloved.' And there are more stories to come this month that focus on people recognizing Jesus as the 'reflection of God's glory and exact imprint of God's very being' (Hebrews 1.3).

But what about us? Do we recognize who Jesus is? On Wednesday 6th I chalked the door of the church, echoing an ancient Epiphany tradition. In parts of eastern Europe during the last century, chalking the doors of people's homes also became a means of resistance, proclaiming faith and hope in the face of religious oppression and persecution. Do we have the courage to declare our homes to be places of worship and prayer this Epiphany, places where Jesus Christ is revealed in every room of our house, and above all in our hearts and lives?

If you would like to chalk your own door, there will be a box on the vicarage doorstep where you can collect chalk and instructions. If you would prefer someone to come and chalk your door for you, please just call me or drop me a line. May the blessing on our homes sink into our hearts and be made manifest in our words and actions.

With Epiphany blessings

Anthony

DIAL-ST-DENYS

Call **0116 4647540** to hear parts of last Sunday's service.

Call **0116 4647740** to hear a **NEW** Walk with Wonder.

Other Worship on TV or Radio

For those who can't access online worship you may be interested that the following are broadcast on Sundays:

30 minute service 8.00am Radio Leicester . Songs of Praise 1.15pm BBC1

Sunday Worship 8.10am Radio 4 . Choral Evensong 3.00pm Radio 3



COMING UP ON ZOOM AND IN CHURCH

To join us for any of the following, go to www.zoom.us/join, type in the Meeting ID, and the Password (which can be obtained from Elizabeth).

Sunday 10th January - 10.00am Morning service for The Baptism of Christ
Meeting ID: 820 0369 6332.

Due to the latest Covid 19 Tier 4 restrictions we have taken the decision to close the church. Therefore there will be no live services for the time being. All events and services scheduled for Zoom will continue as before.

Morning Prayer Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 9.00am.
Meeting ID: 850 7098 3621

Coffee Mornings on Tuesdays at 11am. Meeting ID: 857-8486-4853

Don't forget you can also join us on your landline. Call 0131 4601196 just before the time of the meeting. You will then be asked to enter the Meeting ID followed by #. This is the 9 digit code specific to each meeting. You will then be asked for their Participant ID but just press # again. Finally you will be asked for the password. You should then be able to join in.



Re:thinking Aloud – Spirituality

Monday 11th January 7.30pm Meeting ID: 891 0393 2373

Monday 18th January 7.15pm PCC Meeting

House Groups are also taking a break but we will announce in the Bulletin when they start again.

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/signup/400aac>

Our next 24 hours of prayer will be on 10th January 10am – 11th January 10am. Theme: Praying for an end to Covid. *For this month only we have moved the date to the second Sunday, so that there was time for people to sign up after the Christmas/New Year break.*

Whether you have joined in every time, or not at all, I encourage you to give it ago – you could pair up with a friend and pray together over the phone, on a walk with one other person or split the hour between you so you do half an hour each! We know that some people have responsibilities which make it difficult to set aside an hour completely to “praying”. That’s OK, too – dedicate the hour that you have given to God and continue with the tasks you need to do, and ask that God speak to you through those tasks – remember that praying is a conversation with God, it doesn’t have to be a time of complete silence, or a time where you are always consciously bringing things to God in prayer, God can meet us in our activities too. Get in touch with Sian if you have any questions.



Nigel will be on secondment to St Peter’s Braunstone from 10th January until Easter. He will be back at St Denys in time to cover Anthony’s sabbatical from May to July. Please pray for Nigel and Alison particularly as they begin to think about moving on from St Denys later this year now that Nigel has been signed off from his curacy with us.

WALK AND TALK

While we cannot meet in groups, we can share our daily exercise with one other person and support each other through this challenging time. Why not ask someone else in the congregation to walk with you so you can chat and pray as you walk? I continue to walk Rolo round the park and arboretum every day and am always happy for company! Just get in touch if you would like to walk, talk and pray with me.



Pray for the sick, in mind, body and spirit, including Mike Blount, Suzanne Watson, George Dixon, David Pearson, Brenda Johnson, Rosemary Freer, Fay Stanley and Roz Littlejones. Also pray for those who mourn, including the families and friends of Simon Fisher and those who have died as a result of Covid-19.



The Peace Centre Food Bank in Thurnby Lodge need volunteers to help pack food parcels. If anyone is interested, text VOLUNTEER to 07831 312907 for more information

The Work of Christmas

(a poem by Howard Thurman)

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:*

*To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart!*



Collect for The Baptism of Christ Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

If you need to talk, please get in touch:

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