

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON WEEKLY BULLETIN

Sunday 11th December 2022, 3rd Sunday of Advent



Readings for today: Isaiah 35 vs 1-10; Matthew 11 vs 2-11

Dear Friends,

We are already nearly halfway through Advent (depending on when you are reading this!) Among all the busyness of this season, it is a delight to be involved in welcoming so many local children into church and helping to share the Christmas story with them. It has been estimated that during these last 2 or 3 weeks of the school term, we will be spending time with around 800 children, from local schools and a nursery. Various classes and groups are coming into church, and visits are being into some of the schools. So many children, together with teachers and assistants, hearing the message of Christmas – hearing something of Jesus, of the love of God. And the children always seem to really enjoy coming into church.

There is a lot of work going on, with local children, in various ways. It would be great to know that people are praying for this work, this ministry, and for the children, the schools. Also, being prepared to pray for all that God is leading us to do, to be involved in – ways in which we can join in with what He is doing – as his people, in this place.

As God's people, we are all called to pray – talking with, listening to, God, helping to build up our relationship with Him. But for some people – perhaps those who may feel there does not seem to be much they could do or be involved in – maybe you would like to be especially involved in this vital ministry, the ministry of prayer. Please do speak with myself or Anthony, if you would like to be involved in this way, as a 'Prayer Warrior.'

But, especially in the busyness of Advent, may we all ensure we spend time with our loving Father God, as we reflect on His very special gift to us – the presence of His own dear Son, Jesus. **Geraldine**



COMING UP AT ST DENYS THIS WEEK:

Thursday 8th 7pm Christmas Choir Practice in church

Fridays 9th and 16th 10am Musical Toddlers Group in parish centre

Saturday 10th 11am Faith and Friendship Group in parish centre

Sunday 11th 10am Holy Communion in church and on Zoom (password available from Qyan)

Sunday 11th 3pm Christingle Service in church

Monday 12th 10am Krishna Avanti School visit in church

Tuesday 13th 9.30am & 1.30pm Whitehall School visit in church

Tuesday 13th 6.30pm Cruse Bereavement Christmas party—church and parish centre

Wednesday 14th 9.30am Whitehall School visit in church

Wednesday 14th 10am Evington Family History Group in parish centre

Wednesday 14th 12.30pm Funeral service for Christine Sivell in church

Friday 16th 7pm Christmas Choir Practise in church

Friday 16th 7pm Youth Club in parish centre

Morning Prayer: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays 9am in church

Open Church every Thursday: 10am Holy Communion (BCP said), the use of free wi-fi and refreshments! All welcome.



GDPR Consent Forms There are still a lot of Consent Forms to be returned! The deadline is looming fast! Don't delay, return today! No return means no bulletin or further contact with St. Denys except on Sundays if you come to church. Please hand the completed forms to **Qyan**

Online House Groups Kimberley and I are keen to offer an online house group for those who cannot easily get out to join a regular in person house group. If you would like to be part of this group, please contact me, or email Qyan, to let us know which evenings of the week would work for you. **Sian**

Rereading the Christmas Story - a workshop led by Discipleship at Leicester Cathedral Saturday 10 December, 10am-12noon, St Nicholas, Leicester

Whether you are reading the Christmas story for the first time or hundredth time this year, this workshop offers a space to practically explore how we might read it afresh this season, with opportunities for small group discussion, creative activities, and personal reflection.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN ST. DENYS

11th December 3pm Christingle
18th December 6pm Candlelit Carol Service
Christmas Eve 4pm Crib Service
Christmas Eve 11.15pm 'Midnight' Holy Communion
Christmas Day 10am Family Holy Communion



Carol Singing On the evening of Tuesday 13th December, 7pm, some folk from St. Denys will be carol singing at the Cow and Plough and raising funds for the Appeal mentioned below. It's always a very popular night so why not come along and join in. All welcome.

Christmas Hamper Appeal Thank you so much to all those who have contributed towards the Help the Homeless collection in church which will be hugely appreciated at St Peter's, Highfields. As usual, over the Christmas period in our carol services and when we are out carol singing, we try to raise funds for One Roof Leicester and their work with the vulnerable in our city. This year, ORL and Community of Grace are running a special appeal so they can create over 60 Christmas hampers for the families and individuals they already support across our part of the city. You can donate online at www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/hampers22 or make a donation at the carol service on 18th December. Please give as generously as you can. Many thanks. **Anthony**



Ministry in local care homes

Did you know that St Denys has a very active ministry among the elderly and housebound in our community? Every month members of the team go out to Pilgrim Homes and Pilgrim Gardens as well as twice a month now to Arbor House. That is in addition to all the visits that go on to the growing number of church members who can no longer make it to church physically. They are still very much a valued part of our church family! In the run up to Christmas we will be visiting homes with cards made by one of our church's young people. On **Tuesday 20th December at 3pm** we will be having a carol service in Arbor House itself and they would love to see other church members there too. If you would like to come along or get more involved with this ministry, please have a word with Geraldine, Mark or Anthony.

“It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope.” “At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God’s own love and concern.” “During Advent, we occupy our greatest longings.” **Mother Teresa**

The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is **meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.** This third week **focuses our intention on joy.** Joy is a very real and deep happiness that is rooted in faith and trust. In this third week of Advent, we pause and reflect on the first half of the season, as well as look ahead to the last weeks.

Christian Resources! have you purchased all your gifts and cards for Christmas yet? If not, why not consider going to the Christian Resources shop in St. Martin’s House, next to the Cathedral where you will find a wide range of cards, books and other gifts including CDs? Alternatively, visit their website at: <https://www.christianresourcesleicester.com>

Collect for 3rd Sunday of Advent God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray for the sick: Mark Bulbeck, Mick Clay, Pat Davies, Ann Dixon, Ann Harcourt, Marion Heygate, Kimberley Tyler (having had a second, new knee operation) **Pray for those who mourn including the family and friends of** Christine Sivell and those who have died from Covid-19.



Revd Anthony (Vicar) 0116 2155500 vicar@stdenys.org.uk (not Tues, Weds or Fri)

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Administrator (Qyan) 07803 828454 office@stdenys.org.uk

St. Denys website, including the Giving Links for Church and Youth Work:

www.stdenys.org.uk

