

# ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON WEEKLY BULLETIN

## Sunday 4th December 2022, 2nd Sunday of Advent



*Readings for today: Isaiah 11 vs 1-10; Matthew 3 vs 1-12*

Dear Friends,

If you were in church last Sunday or have caught up online, you will know I had a wonderful time on retreat at the Stable House in North Kilworth, so much so I have booked for a group to go for an Epiphany Quiet Day on 7<sup>th</sup> January (see inside!) Taking time to pause and slow down is very much part of how the traditions of Advent encourage us to prepare for Christmas, as difficult as that may be, especially with so many school visits, community carols and services! A good book can help, so do take advantage of the lending library at the back of church ...

One of the things we can easily miss in the traditional Advent readings about John the Baptist is that he didn't come telling people to prepare the way of the Lord in the places of worship of his day. Far from it, he went out into the wilderness, the desert even, as far away from polite society as he could get, a place where there were few signs of life.

Driving into the wilds of Leicestershire, at one point my Sat-Nav lost its signal, and I couldn't work out where I was or where I was meant to go. Thankfully, there is a little compass icon on the screen that re-centres you on the map. I pulled over, re-centred and was soon back on the right road.

Advent is our chance to do just that, to find a quiet spot off the busy highway, re-centre our hearts and lives on God, and only then get back on the road, hopefully with a bit more confidence that we are heading in the right direction.

Finally, if we ourselves are more roadworthy, we might be in a better position to take others along with us for the ride. Who might we invite to join us on our journey through Advent to Christmas? Who has God placed on our hearts that we can be praying for and inviting to come and meet Him?

Advent blessings, **Anthony**

## COMING UP AT ST DENYS THIS WEEK:

**Fridays 2nd & 9th 10am Musical Toddlers Group** in the parish centre

**Friday 2nd 7pm Youth Club** in parish centre

**Saturday 3rd December 4pm—8pm St. Denys Stall** at Stoughton Grange Christmas Market

**Sunday 4th 10am Matins with hymns** in church and on Zoom (password available from Qyan)

**Sunday 4th 3pm Café Church with Holy Communion** in parish centre

**Monday 5th 2pm Monday Meet** meet in the parish centre

**Tuesday 6th 7.30pm Cruse Bereavement Group** meet in the parish centre

**Wednesday 7th 10am Evington Family History Group** in parish centre

**Thursday 8th 7pm Christmas Choir Practice** in church

**Thursday 8th 7pm Evington History & Heritage Group** in parish centre

**Friday 9th 7pm Youth Music Evening** in church

**Saturday 10th 11am Faith and Friendship Group** meet 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.



**ADVENT READING** Advent, like Lent, is a great time to devote ourselves to reading something that will encourage and deepen our faith. This year for Advent, I've chosen to read the Archbishop of York's Advent Book for

2022 which is "Sleepers, Wake!" by Nicholas Holtam. I liked the look of it as it uses pictures and poetry as well as short reflections on scripture connecting Advent themes with climate justice. **What will you read this Advent?** There are lots of options in the Christian Resources bookshop but, as I did in Lent, I will be putting out a selection of my own Advent books in church as a "lending library". Please do have a browse and borrow one if you would like to, recording your name and the book title on the sheet. Another possibility is to use Advent to read through a whole gospel, or sign up for the Church of England daily reflections on their website

[www.churchofengland.org/resources/resources-advent-and-christmas](http://www.churchofengland.org/resources/resources-advent-and-christmas).

Praying that we all have an enriching and enlightening Advent. **Anthony**

## STOUGHTON GRANGE CHRISTMAS MARKET

**Saturday 3rd December, 4pm—8pm**

Visit the St. Denys stall selling lots of homemade crafts, jams, preserves, the new recipe books, cards and much more.

Singers from church will be singing carols too!

Bring family and friends along, all welcome!

**Pub Night** Sunday 4th December, 7.30pm in The Cedars, all welcome!

**The Late Christine Sivell** Christine's funeral service will be held in St. Denys church on Wednesday 14th December at 12.30pm.

### 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



### Epiphany Quiet Day, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January, 10am-4pm, at the Stable House in North Kilworth

*"Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace."*

A day to reflect on the central themes of the season of Epiphany led by Anthony and Geraldine. The day costs £30 a head including morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea (and a private chat with Stanley the donkey!). Places are limited to 15 so book early with Geraldine. Don't be put off if cost is an issue – speak to Anthony about discretionary funds. Don't be put off if you need transport – lifts will be available. Don't be put off if you have mobility issues - there will be a chance to explore the beautiful grounds but the Stable Barn with its comfy sofas and log fire will also be available throughout! And please don't be put off if you haven't been on a quiet day before, come and give it a try.



*The most important way to ensure you keep future communication with St. Denys Church is to return your GDPR consent forms by 31st December but much sooner is infinitely preferable! If you have lost yours or need a physical copy, please speak to us at church (if Qyan—when he is not playing the organ!!) Thanks to those who have already returned forms. **Qyan & Kimberley***

## Advent Poem by Rowan Williams

1. He will come like last leaf's fall.  
One night when the November wind  
has flayed the trees to bone, and earth  
wakes choking on the mould,  
the soft shroud's folding.



2. He will come like frost.  
One morning when the shrinking earth  
opens on mist, to find itself  
arrested in the net  
of alien, sword-set beauty.



3. He will come like dark.  
One evening when the bursting red  
December sun draws up the sheet  
and penny-masks its eye to yield  
the star-snowed fields of sky.



4. He will come, will come,  
will come like crying in the night,  
like blood, like breaking,  
as the earth writhes to toss him free.  
He will come like child.



*Anthony shared this poem at Thursday's 10am communion and will be sharing reflections on Advent poems on Thursdays throughout December.*

**Collect for 2nd Sunday of Advent** Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. Amen.

**Pray for the sick:** Mark Bulbeck, Mick Clay, 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.



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

[www.stdenys.org.uk](http://www.stdenys.org.uk)