

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON BULLETIN Sunday 25th December 2022 and Sunday 1st January 2023, Christmas and New Year edition



Dear Friends, The countdown is over and Christmas is here! Counting down to Christmas with Advent calendars and candles has been a great way to build the excitement and anticipation but counting forms a large part of the whole Christmas story.

There was the counting of people for the census of course, the reason Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem in the first place. There were the miles they counted as they travelled to get there. There were the shepherds counting their sheep and the wise men counting their gifts!

But it's not just in the Christmas story. Psalm 147 tells us that God counts the stars in the sky and knows them by name. Jesus tells us in Matthew's gospel that God also counts the hairs on our heads. The God that made the universe has that kind of intimate knowledge of each one of us. *You and I count.*

The wonderful message of Christmas is that because we count, God came to be counted as one of us. Not only that but Jesus grew up to give his life so that we might be counted among the children of God. Whatever we feel the world is telling us, in God's book each and every one of us counts.

As we begin the next countdown to the New Year, let's be kind to ourselves and one another. It's been another tough year for our world, in which we've counted too many casualties and seen too many people forced to be more careful about counting their pennies.

Perhaps as we move into 2023, rather than counting presents under the tree or carols that we've sung or mince pies that have been eaten, let's try to focus on counting our blessings, and above all the amazing blessing of knowing that we count in the eyes of our Maker and Redeemer.

*Joy to the world, the Lord has come.
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing!*



Christmas Blessings, **Anthony**

COMING UP AT ST DENYS THIS WEEK:

Saturday 24th 4pm (Christmas Eve) Crib Service in church

Saturday 24th 11.15pm (Christmas Eve) Holy Communion in church and on Zoom (password available from Qyan)

Sunday 25th 10am Informal family Holy Communion in church and on Zoom (password available from Qyan)

Thursday 29th CHURCH & PARISH CENTRE CLOSED

Sunday 1st January 2023 10am Holy Communion in church (not on Zoom)

Wednesday 4th 10am Evington Family History Group meet in parish centre

Friday 6th 10am—11am Musical Toddlers meet in the parish centre

Friday 6th 7pm—8.30pm Youth Club meet in the parish centre

Morning Prayer will restart on Monday 9th Jan (Mon-Thurs) in church

Open Church resumes on 5th Jan & every Thursday 9am—12 noon, with 10am Holy Communion (said) church and parish centre, free wi-fi and refreshments

The Late Pat Davies It is with great sadness that we record the death of Pat Davies on Saturday 17th December, aged 91. Pat attended services via the wonders of Zoom which proved a lifeline for her, and was on the rota to read the bible readings during services which she did with great eagerness and faith. Her cheerful personality, positive outlook on life and interest in other people, will be greatly missed. The PCC and Ministry team, and all who knew her, extend their deepest sympathies to her son Philip and daughter in law Kerry and family. The funeral service for Pat will take place in St. Denys Church on Friday 6th January 2023 at 11am.

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. This is the 'final call' as we need to start planning the groups. Thank you. **Sian**

A Big Thank you to all those who participated in the Carol service last Sunday. It was a truly lovely service. Thank you to Wendy and the choir who were fantastic, the readers who read brilliantly and all those who played any part in making everything go so smoothly. What an uplifting and inspiring time of worship it proved to be.

**Thank
You!**

CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN ST. DENYS

Christmas Eve 4pm Crib Service

Christmas Eve 11.15pm 'Midnight' Holy Communion

Christmas Day 10am Family Holy Communion



Christmas Tree Prayer In church, our Christmas tree by the font has been turned into a prayer tree. We would like to invite all who have prayer requests to write them on the card baubles and hang them on the tree. Your prayers will then be included in our services.



Lonely this Christmas? Some people are alone and have no-one to spend Christmas with. If this is you, or someone you know, and you would like company on Christmas Day itself, please do not be afraid to get in touch privately with Anthony or Kimberley. **Anthony and Kimberley.**

Don't forget to join us at St. Denys for Midnight Holy Communion on Christmas Eve, starting at 11.15pm.



GDPR Consent Forms This is the 'final call' for any Consent Forms outstanding to be completed and returned to Qyan by 31st December. Anyone who doesn't do so, will no longer be able to receive the bulletin and their contact details will be deleted from the main database too, meaning contact with St. Denys will be in person, in church only, whenever you attend. We really do want to keep in touch with you so if you are someone in the above position, don't delay, act today!

We are very grateful to the Revd Canon Philip Norwood who will be taking our service of Holy Communion at 10am on New Year's Day.

Readings for Christmas Eve, 11.15pm: Hebrews 1 vs 1-4; John 1 vs 1-14

Readings for Christmas Day, 10am: Titus 2 vs 11-14; Luke 2 vs 1-14

Readings for New Years Day, 10am: Hebrews 2 vs 10-end; Matthew 2 vs 13-end



God bless you all this Christmastide. May you feel his love and peace and be enriched by his blessings and grace.



Epiphany Quiet Day, Saturday 7th January 2023, 10-4, at The Stable House in North Kilworth *“Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace.”* If you are booked onto the Quiet Day, please give your £30 to Geraldine as soon as you can. We are looking forward to a day together that will include some worship, reflections from Anthony on Epiphany themes, and a gentle Walk with Wonder with Geraldine. There will also be crafts, colouring, good food and refreshment, not to mention Stanley the donkey! We could squeeze in one or two more so if you hadn't got around to booking, do have a word with Geraldine before Christmas...

Collect for Christmas Eve Eternal God, in the stillness of this night you sent your almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation: give to the earth the peace that we long for and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect for Christmas Day (First Sunday of Christmas) Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen.

Collect for the Second Sunday of Christmas (1st January) God our Father, in love you sent your Son that the world may have life: lead us to seek him among the outcast and to find him in those in need, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Pray for the sick: Mark Bulbeck, Mick Clay, Ann Dixon, Anne Harcourt, Marion Heygate, Kimberley Tyler, Helen (Rosemary Freer's daughter)

Pray for those who mourn including the family and friends of Pat Davies, 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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St. Denys website, including the Giving Links for Church and Youth Work:

www.stdenys.org.uk

