

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON BULLETIN Sunday

19th February 2023, Sunday next before Lent



Readings for today: 2 Peter 1 vs 16—end; Matthew 17 vs 1-9

Dear Friends, some of you were treated to the sight of my first attempts at knitting on Sunday and one or two people commented to me afterwards on how activities like knitting can be spiritually good for us. They can help to slow us down, steer our focus away from ourselves, and even provide a good rhythm for prayer (once we get to grips with the basics!)

In Paul's letter to the Colossians, he writes about the whole body being "joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love" (4.16). Watching the terrible scenes from the earthquake zone in Turkey and Syria, I know I have felt the pull of those threads that knit us together as one humanity.

Like it or not, we are bound together. We may violently disagree with one another on all sorts of things but the message from Paul (e.g., Galatians 3.28) is that our unity does not depend on us but on Christ. What that means with regard to our fellow human beings is that we have a responsibility to play our part to help them. Likewise, when it comes to the disagreements in the church, we cannot walk away from one another. We are to "promote the body's growth" and build one another up in love. In knitting terms, we cannot let a stitch drop!

So, what might that look like for us in Evington this week? Are there people we need to work harder to love, people with whom we have fallen out or had a disagreement? How might we go beyond just being civil to positively promote their wellbeing, their growth in faith and love?

If we aren't sure what our part in any of this looks like, Lent (which begins on Ash Wednesday 22nd February) is as good a time as any to pray, reflect and seek support with those questions. You might consider joining the Lent course, signing up for the Quiet Day or speaking to one of the staff team, or you might even join the knitters!



Every blessing, **Anthony**

COMING UP AT ST DENYS THIS WEEK:

Friday 17th February 10am Musical Toddlers meet in parish centre

Friday 17th 7pm Youth Club meet in the parish centre

Sunday 19th 10am Holy Communion in church and on Zoom (password available from Qyan) **3pm Café Church** meet in the parish centre

Sunday 19th 6.30pm Evensong in church followed by **Pub Night**, in Cedars

Monday 20th 2pm Monday Meet meet in the parish centre

Tuesday 21st 10am Coffee, Cake and Fellowship in parish centre

Tuesday 21st 7.30pm Cruse bereavement Group meet in the parish centre

Wednesday 22nd 10am Evington Family History Group in parish centre

Wednesday 22nd 6pm Holy Communion with 'ashing' in church

Thursday 23rd 7pm Choir Rehearsal for Holy Week in church

Friday 24th 10am Funeral Service in church

Saturday 25th 11am Faith and Friendship Group meet in the parish centre

Morning Prayer 9am Monday and Thursday only this week, in church

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

Prayer Ministry is available after any church service. If you want to receive prayer or pray with someone after any church service, for any reason, or you wish to have help in offering it, please ask a member of the Ministry/Staff Team and they will be pleased to help you or recommend someone.

Evensong takes place again on Sunday 19th February at 6.30pm. This will be followed by **Pub Night** in the Cedars at 7.45pm approx. All welcome to both.



Ash Wednesday Holy Communion with ashing, in church at 6pm.

Morning Prayer will NOT take place on Tues 21st and Wed 22nd this week.



Choir Rehearsals begin this coming Thursday 23rd Feb in church, 7pm in preparation for the special Holy Week service.

Faith and Friendship Group next meet on Saturday 25th February in the parish centre, 11am—1pm. This will be their second knitting session. All are welcome to join in with what promises to be a lot of fun.



Lent 2023: The Shack The remarkable story of The Shack, originally a novel by William P. Young, will be the foundation of our 5-session Lent course this year. It offers a moving story of healing and finding peace amidst pain, while also raising profound questions about God and suffering, how we think about the Trinity, and where we can find hope even in our darkest moments. Everyone is welcome to be part of either of the two study groups:



Showing of the Film in Church (with popcorn!): Monday 20th February from 6pm with film starting at 6.30pm (film length is about 2 hours 15 minutes)
Study group A: Monday 27th February 6.30-8pm either in church or via Zoom (Meeting ID: 841 3387 6616)
Study group B: Thursday 23rd February 11am in church after the midweek service

After the first week, Group A may move to a Sunday evening if that proves to be easier for people. If you can't make the film showing and would like to borrow a DVD, let us know.

There are scenes in the film which may be upsetting. If you have concerns or would like to know more, please speak to **Anthony**.

**DUST +
GLORY**

Lent 2023 If you think that you will struggle to make it out of the house to attend a Lent group this year but would still like to travel through this season with others, albeit from the comfort of your own home, then read on. I am hoping that a number of us, who would otherwise miss out, will be able to join in

working our way through the Church of England's Lent booklet 'Dust and Glory.' If you think you, or someone you know, may be interested then please let me know and I will be happy to drop a booklet off with you and discuss the best ways of keeping in touch with me and others to discuss and pray our way through Lent together. If you are interested, then phone me (leave a message if I can't answer) on my number 07534 805454. Or if you have the technology, you can text me or email me at m.batchelor@hotmail.co.uk. There is no cost involved though a voluntary £2 donation to cover the cost of the booklets would be appreciated. Do be in touch. **Mark**



Lent Quiet Day at The Stable House The first St. Denys retreat day of the year in January was so good that we have booked the Stable House again; for Thursday 30th March. If you would like to join a day of retreat, contemplation and reflection in beautiful and comfortable surroundings, then see or contact Mark for details. Even though it will be in Lent, food, drinks and even cake will be included in the £30 cost of the day (do talk to Mark if that is going to be an obstacle). Lifts to get there will be arranged. Look forward to hearing from you. **Mark**

Please continue to pray for Sarah our Youth Worker and all the work she is doing within the parish and community. Pray that God will bless this work and that it increases and continues, and the funding may be found to sustain it. Please also promote the Youth Club and Youth Music Group held on alternate Friday evenings in the parish centre and church respectively during term time.



Please note that Café Church will NOT take place on Sunday 26th February. **Don't forget!** Get in touch if you want to sing in the choir on Wed 5th April.

Collect for the Sunday next before Lent Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray for the sick: Mark Bulbeck, Judith Chapman, Mick Clay, Ann Dixon, Roy Hammond, Marion Heygate, Roman Orzel, Suzanne Watson **Pray for those who mourn including the family and friends of** all those who have died from Covid 19 and have been tragically killed in the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.



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

Mark (Curate) 07534 805454 m.batchelor@hotmail.co.uk (not Fridays)

Gerry (Churchwarden) 07531 548793 geraldinegoode368@btinternet.com

Sian (Reader) 07538 756709 sian.rigby2@outlook.com

Geraldine (Reader) 0116 2737717

Janette (Safeguarding Officer) 0116 2414051 janpears13@aol.com

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

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

www.stdenys.org.uk

