

# ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON BULLETIN Sunday 19th March 2023, 4th Sunday of Lent, Mothering Sunday



Dear Friends, this year, Mothering Sunday is going to be a little bit strange for me as it is the first year that I will not be seeing my Mum; she is currently in Antigua on holiday! As I was writing her Mother's Day card to hide in her luggage, I took the time to consider to the origins of Mothering Sunday.

Mothering Sunday dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century when people were given time off by their employers to return to their families and 'mother' church to attend a special service. When I look back on my own journey of faith, I am fortunate to recall the very first time I walked into a church - I was 21 years old and needed some TLC after a very challenging few years. I was nervous as I opened the church door, having no idea if the people I would meet would be "normal"! I need not have worried as I very quickly felt loved and cared about - I believe that as a church we are great at welcoming new people, and so many have commented to me about the welcome they have received at St Denys. I wonder if you remember the very first time you entered a church, how did you feel?

We know from the bible that God is everywhere and in everything (Psalm 139 v7-12, Jeremiah 23 v24, Acts 17 v24, ...) so why are church numbers not increasing in the UK, and I wonder if there is anything, as God's people, we can do to help?

God has blessed us with gifts and fruits from the Holy Spirit to share with others, and so if the people who need to hear the gospel are not coming into our building, it's important that we try to share the good news and our gifts outside of the "church" walls.

I would encourage you over the coming weeks to ask God what gifts he would like you to use. Is he asking you to be more involved in church? This doesn't always mean you have to be doing something practical during the services, it could be helping financially, praying or sending a word of encouragement to someone. Maybe you could help offer pastoral care outside of the church, and if so, I would love to hear from you! Blessings, **Kimberley**

**COMING UP AT ST DENYS THIS WEEK:**

**Thurs 16th & 23rd 10.45am (after Holy Communion)** Lent Course in church

**Thursday 16th & 23rd 7pm** Choir rehearsal in the church

**Friday 17th & 24th 10am Musical Toddlers Group** in the parish centre

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

**Saturday 18th 2pm Faith and Friendship group** meet in the parish centre

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

**Sunday 19th Evensong** 6.30pm in church

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

**Monday 20th 7pm PCC meeting** in the parish centre

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

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

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

**Thursday 23rd 2pm Staff Meeting** in the parish centre

**Friday 24th Youth Music Evening 7pm** in church

**Morning Prayer 9am Monday—Thursday** in church

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



*Readings for today: Exodus 2 vs 1-10; Luke 2 vs 33-35*

**Evensong** is today, 19th, 6.30pm in church followed by **Pub Night** in the Cedars. Everyone is very welcome to either or both.

**Lent Course 2023: The Shack** Group A: continuing in person in church, or via Zoom, Meeting ID: 841 3387 6616) 26th March, 2nd April. Each meeting in church, 6.30pm—8pm. Group B: continuing in person on 23rd, 30th March after the 10am Communion service in church.

**Help Needed!** Can you, or anyone you know, help to audit the church accounts for 2022? If you are able to assist in this way, please speak to Michael, Treasurer, who will be happy to discuss what is needed further. Thank you.

**Arbor House** The next service will be held on the 27th March at 2.30pm. All are welcome and our clergy team and residents would love to see other members of the St. Denys church family there and interact socially with you.

**Schools this Easter - Help needed!** Would you like to play a part in telling the Easter story to our young, primary school aged children? Six or more volunteers are needed for each visit. If you can help on one of the dates below, please contact **Mark**. Thank you.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March Oaklands (visiting the school) 9.00am-11.00am

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March Krishna Avanti (Yr1) 10.00am-11.00am and 1.00pm



**Palm Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

11am Palm Sunday Celebration with Walk of Witness  
*Refreshments served from 10.30am*

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

6pm Compline

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

**6.30pm A Journey through Holy Week with the Messiah**

A massed choir and soloists will sing selections from Handel's Messiah with readings from Matthew's gospel and seasonal hymns

**Maundy Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

6pm Bring and Share Meal with Footwashing and Communion

**Good Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

10am-12noon Good Friday Children's Activity Morning

2pm Last Hour

**Easter Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

6.15am Dawn Service

10am Easter Communion

3pm Café Church

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

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

**Quiet Day Retreat** Thursday 30th March, please contact Mark for details if you wish to go. Cost £30, to include food but discretion exercised for those who need it. Lifts will be provided. It would be great to fill all spaces available.

**Working with One Roof, Community Consultation** in the Church and Parish Centre Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 10.30am—12 noon to hear about an idea for the development of the old Youth Centre in the church car park. Talk informally with all those involved. Refreshments available. All welcome including everyone from St. Denys Church.

**Café Church Confirmations 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 3pm** Bishop Saju will be joining us for Café Church on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April for confirmations. At the moment we have two candidates, Anthony would love to hear from others. If you haven't been confirmed and would like to find out more, please contact him asap.

**Coronation of King Charles III** Saturday 6th May being shown in full in St. Denys Church on the big screen. All are welcome! Can you assist with the provision of tea and cake? Contact Qyan or Kimberley if you can. Thank you.

**Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Lent** Merciful Lord, you know our struggle to serve you: when sin spoils our lives and overshadows our hearts, come to our aid and turn us back to you again; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Pray for the sick:** Mick Clay, Ann Dixon, Gwilym Edmonson-Jones, Susan Hall, Roy Hammond, Marion Heygate, Roman Orzel, Suzanne Watson **Pray for those who mourn** including the family and friends of Mark Bulbeck, Nigel King and all those who have died from Covid 19, also those killed in the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.



**Revd Anthony (Vicar)** 0116 2155500 [vicar@stdenys.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stdenys.org.uk) (not Tues, Weds or Fri)

**Mark (Curate)** 07534 805454 [m.batchelor@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:m.batchelor@hotmail.co.uk) (not Fridays)

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**Sian (Reader)** 07538 756709 [sian.rigby2@outlook.com](mailto:sian.rigby2@outlook.com)

**Geraldine (Reader)** 0116 2737717

**Janette (Safeguarding Officer)** 0116 2414051 [janpears13@aol.com](mailto:janpears13@aol.com)

**Administrator (Qyan)** 07803 828454 [office@stdenys.org.uk](mailto:office@stdenys.org.uk)

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

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

