

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON BULLETIN Sunday

23rd April 2023, 3rd Sunday of Easter, St George's Day



Readings for today: Acts 2 vs 14a, 36-41; Luke 24 vs 13-35

Dear Friends

I hope you are still enjoying Easter and remembering that Easter lasts for 50 days until Pentecost so plenty of time yet to keep eating those chocolate eggs!

In the meantime, while munching on my chocolate, I've been thinking about Thomas, Jesus's disciple, the one who gets a bad press for all his supposed doubts. Poor Thomas just wanted to be sure the risen Jesus was the "real deal", he wanted to see for himself and not just have it second-hand. Whether or not he did touch Jesus's wounds (and if you look up John 20, the Bible doesn't actually tell us), he was offered the chance to discover for himself that Jesus was indeed alive.

On our wonderful break in Somerset last week, Wendy and I made the most of a bit of sunshine to climb Glastonbury Tor and visit Cheddar Gorge. We couldn't resist also going into the cheese factory in Cheddar to see real cheddar from Cheddar being made, nor could we resist paying over the odds for a tasty piece of authentic cave-matured cheddar from Cheddar to take home!

With so much in our world today that is simulated, virtual or fake, is it any wonder that we like Thomas might hunger for the authentic, the "real deal"? Yet when it comes to God, many of us still rely on priests or holy people and places to mediate for us, to bridge the chasm that lies between us and the divine. What the risen Jesus offered Thomas was his own experience of faith and hope, to know for himself not just in his head but in his heart that new life was indeed, and without doubt, possible.

I am really looking forward to Bishop Saju coming to Café Church on 30th April to confirm people in the faith they have claimed as their own, the "real deal". For all of us that go along to support them, may it also be a chance to rediscover our own authentic faith in the risen Jesus and the new life he offers to all. Every blessing, **Anthony**

COMING UP AT ST DENYS THIS WEEK:

Thursday 20th April straight after the service, **FINAL Lent Course** in church

Friday 21st & 28th 10am Musical Toddlers meets in the parish centre

Friday 21st 7.30pm Youth Music Evening in church

Sunday 23rd April 10am Holy Communion in church and on Zoom, ID 820 0369 6332 (password available from Qyan)

Sunday 23rd 3pm Café Church meet in the parish centre

Tuesday 25th 7.30pm Cruse Bereavement Group in church & parish centre

Wednesday 26th 10am Evington Family History Group in the parish centre

Wednesday 26th 6.30pm Rowlatt's Hill Allotment Society parish centre

Friday 28th 7pm Youth Club in the parish centre

Morning Prayer Monday—Thursday 9am in church

Open Church every Thursday 9am—12 noon Holy Communion (said BCP) at 10am, free refreshments and use of church wifi



Visit to Wells Cathedral, Somerset There is something very special about the nations Cathedrals, Abbeys and parish churches, whatever their size and location, especially those that still maintain a choral tradition. As part of a locally based choir we sing in, Anthony and family and myself, spent a day singing in Peterborough Cathedral in January and last weekend, in the glorious setting of Wells Cathedral, Somerset, the UK's second smallest city outside of the city of London, singing for all the services there. It was my first visit. The splendour and majesty of the building, as well as and more importantly, the highest standards of choral singing from the choir, and organ playing from Leicester's very own Simon Headley, offered to God in worship, was deeply moving. One felt an immensely strong spiritual connection to our risen Lord and Saviour. On more than one occasion during the two days, I found myself with a lump in my throat!

May I encourage you as part of your devotion to God, even if choral music isn't normally to your liking, whenever you are able, to visit our cathedrals etc and experience for yourself, the beauty and power of choral music offered to God to the highest of levels. You won't regret it! Roll on singing in Gloucester Cathedral in late August! **Qyan**



Worship for Everyone 22 April, 9.30-3.30 at St Martins House A free workshop to provide some basic skills, knowledge and experience in leading simple acts of worship in local churches. To book email claire.stapleton@leicestercofe.org This may prove useful as we move towards lay led services within individual churches, with the roll out of Minster church communities and less reliance on the clergy, within two or three years. Also suitable for anyone who would like to try leading services.

Renewal of Vows On Easter Sunday we had the chance to remember our baptismal calling to “go forth and multiply” the good news of the risen Jesus and the love, joy and peace he offers. If you have been away from church for a bit or feel you have drifted in your faith, maybe this Easter season would be a good time to make a fresh commitment to follow Christ. Even if you have already been baptized and confirmed in the past, you would be very welcome to join those being confirmed on Sunday 30th April at 3pm with Bishop Saju. There will be an opportunity in the service to renew the promises made at your baptism and confirmation. If you’d like to talk to Anthony or Mark about it first, please contact do speak to them.

Coronation of King Charles III Saturday 6th May being shown in full in St. Denys Church on the big screen. All are welcome! The church will be open from 9.30am. Refreshments including coffee and cake will be provided! Look out for the Daily Prayer booklets we are currently giving out for free!



Electoral Roll Revision It is time to make additions and changes to the Electoral Roll in time for the APCM. If you are already on the roll, you do not need to do anything.

If you are fairly new to St Denys and would like to sign up, please speak to Elizabeth Rudge or fill in an application form (at the back of the church.) Being on the Electoral Roll makes you a full member of the church and allows you to vote at the Annual Meeting, and you will be eligible for election to the PCC and other roles. The Roll will be closed to new members from 1st May until the APCM.

The Great Gift of Easter is hope – Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake. because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

St Denys Church Annual Sponsored Walk 2023 A sponsored walk will take place on Saturday 20th May. Meet at St Denys car park at 8.00am and then drive to Woodhouse Eaves to start the walk from the public car park at 9 a.m.

The picturesque walk in Charnwood Forest will be led by Bill King across the fields to pass through Swithland Woods and on to Bradgate Park where we will break for coffee at the Deer Park Café. You will then pass by Old John and out of the park to cross the Lingdale golf course and back to Woodhouse Eaves. Walkers are advised to bring a waterproof, packed lunch and a drink.

Sponsorship forms and walk details are available from myself or at the rear of the church. All funds raised will help support St Denys Church. Many thanks for your support.

Anyone wishing to join the walk please contact myself, Roy Hammond on 01162 881256 or 07400 900702.

Alternatively, please e-mail: royhammond36@gmail.com



Collect for the 3rd Sunday of Easter Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Pray for the sick: Ann Bennett, Mick Clay, Ann Dixon, Gwilym Edmonson-Jones, Roy Hammond, Marion Heygate, Roman Orzel, Suzanne Watson **Pray for those who mourn** including the family and friends of Janet Bailey, Barbara Blohm, John Coltman, Brigid Hudson, Frank Millington, Robert Warwick.

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

Mark Batchelor (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

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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

