

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN

Sunday 26th November 2023, Sunday next before Advent, Christ the King



Readings for today: Ephesians 1 vs 15-end; Matthew 25 vs 31-end

Dear Friends, A couple of weekends ago, I spent the Saturday with a group of Christian young adult friends. We had an extended time of worship with a couple of talks/sermons from members of the group, some free time, and a prayer space where each person's face was on the wall, so we could pray for one another by name and write on it, any words from God, Bible verses or personal encouragements.

One of the talks was from a friend who, like me, has had a lot of health issues in the past year. There were lots of good things in what she said, but I want to share one with you, a quote from St Denys' favourite fantasy land - Narnia!

In the Magician's Nephew, Polly and Digory witness Aslan singing Narnia into being, and yet, even before that is complete, they have inadvertently, brought evil into the new world, from a "dying" other world - the Queen of Charn, who later returns as the White Witch. To protect Narnia, Aslan sends Digory on a mission to collect some fruit from a special tree. All Digory wants to do is find something that will cure his dying Mother, and had thought about bargaining with Aslan, but realised that wasn't a good idea. Having said "Yes" he is then desperate and begs Aslan for something that will cure his Mother. Then he looks up at Aslan's face:

"What he saw surprised him as much as anything in his whole life. For the tawny face was bent down near his own and (wonder of wonders) great shining tears stood in the Lion's eyes. They were such big, bright tears compared with Digory's own that for a moment he felt as if the Lion must really be sorrier about his mother than he was himself."

This image of Aslan, representing God, caring about our griefs even more than we do ourselves is a powerful one which we find repeated throughout the Bible, from Jesus weeping at Lazarus' tomb, to prophecies of Jesus taking up our suffering and bearing our pain (Isaiah 53), of "the LORD being close to the broken-hearted" (Ps 34:18).

God knows our suffering and shares our pain and grief, for ourselves or those we love. He carries us amid that pain and suffering, comforting and sustaining us, and we know that we have the ultimate hope - of eternity in God's holy city, with God in the midst of us, with no more crying, no more pain, no more death (Rev 22). Let's hold onto that hope today. With love and prayers, **Sian**

COMING UP AT ST DENYS THIS WEEK:

Friday 24th 10am Musical Toddlers meet in the parish centre

Saturday 25th 10.30am Wreath Making Workshop in the parish centre

Sunday 26th 10am Holy Communion in church and on Zoom, ID 820 0369 6332

(password from Qyan) **3pm Crafty Church** in the parish centre

Monday 27th 8.30am Private Booking in the parish centre

Tuesday 28th 8.30am Private Booking in the parish centre

Tuesday 28th 7.30pm Cruse Bereavement meet in church and parish centre

Wednesday 29th 10am Evington Family History Group parish centre

Wednesday 29th 7pm Journey in Faith Course meet in the parish centre

Morning Prayer Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9am in church. **Thursday 10am** in church.

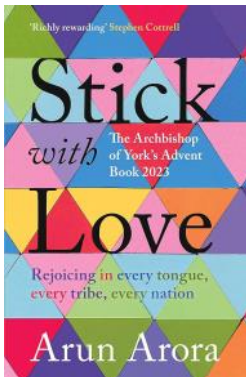
Open Church 9am—12noon Free wi-fi, refreshments, chat! All welcome.

A big thank you to all those who offered prayers to God in respect of the knee operation I underwent last Tuesday. It was a success. Your prayers were very much appreciated. **Kimberley**

Wreath Making Workshops The remaining session will take place on Saturday 25th November 10.30am—12.30pm. Please contact Gerry if you wish to attend. Cost is £15, all materials supplied. Please bring gloves and secateurs for handling the holly!

10th Anniversary of the Parish Centre On Sunday 26th, our parish centre will be ten years old. To celebrate, there will be cake and fizz provided after the 10am service. Do join in the celebration by staying behind and partaking, if you can. All welcome, including all users/hirers of the parish centre. It will be lovely to see you.

Setting out the Candles On 30th November at 11am the candles will be set out in church for our Advent and Christmas services. Help is needed! If you are available to assist, please turn up then. Many hands make candles light!



Advent reading: Advent begins on 3rd December. During busy preparations for Christmas, why not make time to rest and focus on your relationship with God? Taking up an Advent book can be a great way to do that. I will be reading “Stick with Love” by Arun Arora, a collection of short daily readings to help us consider the biblical picture of the Church as the people of God, drawn from every tribe, every tongue and every nation. If you’d like to join me, you can pick up a copy from Christian Resources or online. **Anthony**

Knitted Nativity: our knitted Mary, Joseph and of course Donkey will be doing the rounds during Advent looking for hospitable homes! If you would like to host them for 24 hours, please sign up at the back of church and more details will be sent to you at the end of the month. We need 21 households to sign up to make it work and everyone is very welcome of all ages. It is a great way to get to know other people in church a bit better too! Any questions, speak to Anthony.



Christmas Carol Singing We will be carol singing under the marquee at Stoughton Christmas Market on Saturdays 2nd and 9th December at 4pm, 5pm and 6pm for short stints on each occasion. Monies raised will be in aid of the One Roof Leicester charity. Mulled wine will be provided! If you would like to join in, please speak to Wendy or just turn up at the appointed time! Thank you.

Stoughton Grange Christmas Market Saturdays 2nd and 9th December St. Denys will be having a Christmas stall where we hope to sell lots of goodies in aid of St. Denys! Help is needed from 8 pairs of people to man the stalls between 4-8pm on both dates (2 people per hour!) If you are confident with cash handling etc and greeting the public and would like to help, please speak to **Janette Pearson**. Many thanks.

Stoughton Grange Christmas Market Christmas Hampers Please sign up for the item you wish to donate to the Christmas hampers. Last year we had duplicates and it was a struggle to get the items in. Many thanks for your generosity. **Janette**

St. Denys is a Fairtrade Church As reported a few months ago in the bulletin, St. Denys has Fairtrade status once again, after an absence of a year. This means that we should only be using Fairtrade approved and marked tea, coffee and sugar in the church and parish centre. Other items purchased should be Fairtrade marked wherever possible. Please help us to help developing countries achieve sustainable and equitable trading relationships, by using only Fairtrade marked food and drink products at St. Denys. Thanks.



Mark visits City of Leicester College for Interfaith Week



Wreath Making Workshop



The Faith and Friendship Group and the Eden Knit and Natter Group are making hats and scarves for those who need them. If you can help with knitting or crocheting hats and scarves, please speak to Anthony. You can sponsor them for One Roof's Winter

Appeal via <https://wonderful.org/fundraisers/nDyE7>

Collect for Last Sunday before Advent Stir up O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you, be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray for the sick: Brenda Bedingfield, Pat Davies, Ann Dixon, Gwilym Edmonson-Jones, Marion Heygate, Michael Matts, Roman Orzel, Sian Rigby, Jill Sinclair, Patrick Smith, Phil Tyler **Pray for those who mourn including the family and friends of:** Michael Cole, Rosemary Freer, John Hancock



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

www.stdenys.org.uk

