

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN

Sunday 3rd December 2023, Advent Sunday



Readings for today: Isaiah 64 vs 1-9; Mark 13 vs 24-end

Dear Friends,

Are you the type of person who is patient, good at waiting for things and prepares carefully and effectively for what is to come your way soon? Or do you act with impatience, want to get things done quickly and perhaps get things out of the way, over and done with as soon as possible, not willing to wait, sometimes to the detriment of yourself and others around you?

As one gets older, the years seem to pass with increasing speed! It is incredible to think that we have arrived at Advent once again, the beginning of the church's year. Yet much of our world ignores this season, eager to start the festivities of their largely secular Christmas as early as possible. To ensure maximum profit, businesses start selling related merchandise as early as August in some cases, and Advent isn't even considered! We see this all around us.

As Christians, we can in our own way, lead by example in observing Advent, the definition of which means arrival. We must wait and prepare for the second coming of Christ, the promised event, which none of us know when will occur. It is a time to fast, rather than to feast, to be penitential and dig deep within our souls, to acknowledge our failings before God and genuinely be intent on renewal, as the celebrations of the birth of Christ draws near.

The significance of the colours used for the Advent wreath candles during the four Sundays in Advent will help us! Purple is used for the first candle symbolising hope, the second for peace and the fourth for love. Purple is historically associated with the supremacy of the royalty and kingship of Christ. The third is pink standing for joy, and is known as the shepherd candle, the third Sunday also being Gaudete Sunday coming from the Latin "rejoice", the sense of joy and anticipation as Christmas approaches. Finally, the white candle, or "Christ candle" sits in the middle of the wreath and is lit on Christmas night signifying Christ's purity meaning the completion and fulfilment of the season, as we move into Christmas with the birth of Christ, the light of the world.

May each of you have a deeply meaningful and spiritual season of Advent as you spend time in reflection and penitence, and in anticipation of Christ's second coming.

Qyan

COMING UP AT ST DENYS THIS WEEK:

Thursday 30th Nov 9.30 Gentle Exercise Group meet in the parish centre

Thursday 30th Nov 10am Morning Prayer (not Communion)

Thursday 30th Nov 11am Headway Charity Management meeting parish centre

Thursday 30th Nov 2pm Private Booking in the parish centre

Friday 1st Dec 10am Musical Toddlers meet in the parish centre

Friday 1st 7pm Youth Club meet in the parish centre

Sunday 3rd 10am Holy Communion in church and on Zoom, ID 820 0369 6332
(password from Qyan)

Monday 4th 8.30am Private Booking in the parish centre

Monday 4th 2pm Monday Meet meet in the parish centre

Tuesday 5th 8.30am Private Booking in the parish centre

Tuesday 5th 1pm Krishna Avanti School visit in church

Tuesday 5th 7.30pm Cruse Bereavement meet in church and parish centre

Wednesday 6th 11.15am Funeral service in church

Wednesday 6th 10am Evington Family History Group parish centre

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

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



A Big Thank You to Gerry and Peter for organising the Wreath making sessions last week in the parish centre. Over three sessions, several people enjoyed learning from Peter in making their wreaths and enjoying each others company in so doing. The picture shown is just one example of what was achieved during the Saturday session, hanging proudly in place on the creator's front door, bedecked with lights.



Lots of people stayed after the service last Sunday to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the opening of our parish centre. After blessing the centre, Revd Anthony gave thanks through prayer, to all those living and departed, who played a part in the past and currently. The centre is a wonderful community resource and is very popular, being used constantly. The picture shows the superb, delicious, anniversary cake made by a friend of our churchwarden Janette.





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!

Knitted Nativity: our knitted Mary, Joseph and of course Donkey will be setting off on their journey on Advent Sunday 3rd December at the 10am service. There are still spaces to host them so let Anthony know if you would like to join in asap.



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>

Christmas Carol Singing takes place 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!



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**. If you are able to donate to the Christmas hampers, please sign up against the item you wish to donate, on the list at the back of the church. Many thanks in advance for your generosity.

Advent and Christmas Services at St. Denys Church:

Advent Sunday 3rd December: 10am, Holy Communion. This will be the only service in church on this day.

Sunday 10th December: 10am, Holy Communion

Sunday 10th December: 3pm, Christingle

Sunday 17th December: 10am, Holy Communion

Sunday 17th December: 6pm, Carol service

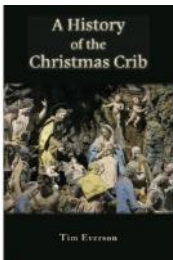
Sunday 24th December (Christmas Eve) 10am Holy Communion

Sunday 24th December (Christmas Eve) 3pm Crafty Church leading into ...
4pm Crib Service

Sunday 24th December (Christmas Eve) 11.15pm Holy Communion

Sunday 25th December (Christmas Day) 10am Holy Communion

Sunday 31st December (New Year's Eve) 10am Holy Communion



A History of the Christmas Crib by Tim Everson, from gospel times to the present day. A book written by the brother in law of a member of our congregation. This is the first full history book about the Crib, written in the UK in nearly 100 years. To find out more, please see the link: <https://www.ypdbooks.com/religion-and-spirituality/2203-a-history-of-the-christmas-crib.html> There is a collection of Advent books available to borrow at the back of church.

Collect for Advent Sunday Almighty God, as your Kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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



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

www.stdenys.org.uk