

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN

Sunday 17th December 2023, Advent 3



Readings for today: Isaiah 61 vs 1-4, 8-end; John 1 vs 6-8, 19-28

Dear Friends, the idea of Advent runs counter to the way in which most people fill this time of year with eating, drinking, shopping and forced jollity ... it's not easy trying to be penitential when you have to don your Christmas jumper for every school visit and sing carols in your sleep! Thankfully this week is Gaudete Sunday (or pink candle Sunday!) and we get to lighten the mood a little and think about joy.

But let us also remember that not everyone feels jolly at this time of year... On Tuesday I marked the 10th anniversary since my brother's sudden death aged just 38. Many of you walked with me and prayed for me through that incredibly difficult time, and, like me, you may find it hard to believe it was 10 years ago! Taking the time to visit his grave with my mum, look at photos and shed some tears was something I needed to do this week away from all the festive madness.

Of course, I am not alone in missing someone at Christmas. I am sure many of us do. There is a poignancy to this season. Tears flow as we sing at carol services, or we suddenly notice the empty chair at Christmas dinner. I want to say that it is ok to miss someone at this time of year, however long ago they left us. And maybe, like me, you will need to take time to remember, perhaps light a candle for them on Christmas day.

“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1.5) – words we hear read at the midnight communion on Christmas Eve. While we may need space to acknowledge the darkness, we also turn our faces to the light that is coming into the world. My brother loved everything about Christmas, so it was a fitting end to the day of his anniversary to put up the Christmas tree and smother it in tinsel and baubles. Even so, I may still have shed a tear as we turned on the lights...

However you are feeling as we approach this Christmas, may you know the peace and blessing of the Christ child. **Anthony**

COMING UP AT ST DENYS THIS WEEK:

Thursday 14th 9.30 Gentle Exercise Group meet in the parish centre

Thursday 14th 1pm Private Booking in the parish centre

Thursday 14th 2.15pm City of Leicester College Visit to the church

Thursday 14th 7pm Christmas Choir rehearsal in church

Friday 15th 10am Musical Toddlers meet in the parish centre

Friday 15th 1.30pm City of Leicester College Visit to the church

Friday 15th 7pm Youth Club meet in the parish centre

Saturday 16th 10am Church Cleaning c/o of Gerry, Churchwarden

Saturday 16th 10am Faith and Friendship Group meet in the parish centre

Saturday 16th 5.30pm Children's Concert in church, refreshments in parish centre

Sunday 17th 10am Holy Communion in church and on Zoom, ID 820 0369 6332

(password from Qyan) **4pm Choir rehearsal** in church

Sunday 17th 6pm Annual Christmas Carol Service in church/parish centre

Monday 18th 8.30am Private Booking in the parish centre

Monday 18th 8.45am City of Leicester College Visit to the church

Monday 18th 10.30am Oaklands School Visit to the church

Monday 18th 2pm Monday Meet meet in the parish centre

Tuesday 19th 10am Coffee, Cake and Fellowship in the parish centre

Tuesday 19th 7.30pm Cruse Bereavement Group meet in church & parish centre

Wednesday 20th 10am Evington Family History Group parish centre

Wednesday 20th 2.30pm Evington History and Heritage Group in parish centre

Thursday 21st 11am (10.30/40 refreshments) Walk with Wonder in Arboretum

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

Thursday 10am Holy Communion (BCP said) in church

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

Musical Toddlers meet on Friday at 10am in the parish centre. If you have nursery aged children, grandchildren or great grandchildren, why not bring them to a relaxing hour of appropriately aged soothing musical song? Led by Sarah, our Youth Worker who can be e-mailed for more information at: stdenysyouth@gmail.com

Youth Club meets this coming Friday at 7pm in the parish centre. If you are under 18 years of age, why not come along and enjoy playing the Wii, pool, table football and much more. Held on alternate Fridays during term time. Further information can be obtained from our Youth Worker Sarah at: stdenysyouth@gmail.com





Church Cleaning Saturday 16th December, 10am If you can help Gerry our Churchwarden, clean St. Denys church to make it look fresh for our worship on Sunday and over Christmas, please do come along at the time shown. It will be much appreciated. Coffee/tea provided. If you can, bring along some basic cleaning materials (dusters, polish etc). Many thanks.

Faith and Friendship Group are gathering on Saturday 16th December, 10am-12pm, in the parish centre, to collect knitted hats and scarves ready for One Roof, sew together some squares for blankets, drink coffee and eat mince pies, etc! Everybody welcome. And don't forget you can sponsor the knitting for One Roof's Winter Appeal via <https://wonderful.org/fundraisers/nDyE7>

Children's Christmas Concert Saturday 16th December, 5.30pm, some of Daphne Wilshere's children will be coming to play, as a celebration of 50 years of music teaching by Daphne, and for their annual Christmas concert. Anyone who would like to come is welcome. There will be a collection for the benefit of St. Denys Church.

Annual Candlelit Carol Service Sunday 17th December, 6pm with choir, organ, readings and carols for the congregation to join in with! A firm favourite every year, this service will be popular, so come early and grab your pew! After the service, mulled wine and mince pies will be served so do stay and enjoy some live jazzy festive music from Erica Lees-Smith.



Help Needed! Sunday 17th December, 6pm If you can assist with serving refreshments following the Carol Service, please speak to Gerry our churchwarden. It will be much appreciated. Thank you.

Last Sunday's Christingle!

Winter Walk with Wonder Thursday 21st December. Why not enjoy the beauty of God's creation with a 'Walk with Wonder' in winter on the Arboretum. Led by Geraldine, we will leave church at 11am and finish by 12 noon. Refreshments will be available beforehand, after the service of Holy Communion, in church.



Advent and Christmas Services at St. Denys Church:

Saturday 16th December: 5.30pm, Children's Christmas Concert

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

Sunday 24th December: 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



Sunday 17th December 2023

Join us at St. Denys for 10am Holy Communion and our annual traditional carol service at 6pm, followed by refreshments. All welcome.

Collect for 3rd Sunday of Advent God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with 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, Phil Tyler **Pray for those who mourn including all those who mark the anniversary of the death of a loved one this week**



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

www.stdenys.org.uk

