

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN

Sunday 28th January 2024, Presentation of Christ in the Temple/Candlemas



Dear Friends, this Sunday, we will be celebrating the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, or Candlemas, our last look back to Christmas before we turn towards Lent, leading to Holy Week, the Cross, and on to Easter.

Last Sunday morning, I spoke of all the praise there was, surrounding the birth of Jesus. So many people in the Christmas story - Mary, Elizabeth, the unborn John, the angels, the shepherds, Simeon - had their own song of praise. Everywhere, we see praise! And, as we think about it, so there should be! Jesus, God's Son, the long-awaited Messiah quietly entered our world. God among us, in human form. No wonder there was so much praise!

We are called to be people of praise, to worship God. He is worthy of our praise, worship, thanksgiving. Praising God is about coming before Him with true, heartfelt, praise; worship that comes from the heart. Praise and worship that are born out of thanksgiving.

Whatever our situation or circumstances, there are things for which we can praise and thank God. Sometimes, it is about having our eyes open; maybe taking time to stop and look, to wonder; perhaps allowing ourselves to see things differently. It may be music or art that leads us to praise; perhaps someone's words or actions. Often there will be something in creation that draws us closer to God.

Recently, there have been some beautiful days, frosty, with blue sky, sunshine, the frost glistening in the sun; beautiful sunsets. At this time of year, we see the trees in all their stark, majestic beauty, and if we look closely, we see new buds, already formed - the promise of new life. And now, the snowdrops - or Candlemas bells - are just coming out. So much beauty everywhere. See *pictures overleaf*.

As we see God's blessings, all around us; as we become more aware of the abundance of His good gifts in our lives, may it encourage us to thank God, to praise and worship Him. May we become people whose daily lives are full of praise and thanksgiving. **Geraldine** 1

COMING UP AT ST DENYS THIS WEEK:

Thursday 25th 2pm Private Booking in the parish centre

Thursday 25th 7pm Choir rehearsal in church (for Passiontide performance)

Friday 26th 10am Musical Toddlers meet in the parish centre

Sunday 28th 10am Holy Communion in church & on Zoom ID 820 0369 6332

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

Monday 29th 8am Private Booking in the parish centre

Tuesday 30th 8am Private Booking in the parish centre

Tuesday 30th 7.30pm Cruse Bereavement Group meet in church & parish centre

Wednesday 31st 10am Evington Family History Group meet in the parish centre

Wednesday 31st 7pm Journey in Faith Course meet in parish centre

Thursday 1st February 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group meet in the parish centre

Thursday 1st 7pm Choir rehearsal in church

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.

Two pictures to accompany Geraldine's front page letter:



Crafty Church will take place on Sunday 28th January, 3.00pm with the theme of 'the patience of Simeon and Anna' as we remember the Presentation of Christ in the temple. With such an intergenerational theme, why not bring the whole family along and invite friends too? All welcome!

Personal Prayer If you would like/need personal prayer after any service in church, please speak privately to any member of the Ministry Team present, and they will be very glad to pray with and/or for you.

Readings for today: 10am: Hebrews 2 vs 14—end; Luke 2 vs 22-40

Leading in Prayer Would you like to lead the prayers during Sunday morning worship in St. Denys? I need more people to join the rota for doing this, which would entail preparing and delivering prayers every so often. If you think this is a ministry you would like to develop, please speak to me. **Qyan**

Parish Centre Cleaning the PCC are urgently seeking, currently for the short term, someone who is willing to clean the parish centre throughout, once a week in periods when the centre isn't booked. This is due to the current caretaker being off sick. If you think you would like to help us in this way, and would like more information, please contact **Qyan**. Thank you.

Holy Week Devotion, Singers Still Needed! On the evening of Tuesday 26th March, during Holy Week, St. Denys will host a performance of a rarely heard but beautiful choral work entitled 'Passiontide.' It will be conducted by the composer himself, local musician Simon Mold. We need singers of all voice parts to make up the choir. If you are available on this night, and would like to take part, please contact me. Rehearsals will be on Thursday evenings in church at 7pm and begin this coming Thursday, 25th January. Don't worry if you can't attend every one, but attending most rehearsals is necessary. Thank you, I look forward to hearing from you. **Qyan**

Last Orders! Sunday 28th January, 7.30pm. Join Revds Anthony and Mark in The Cedars for a social drink and chat. All welcome.

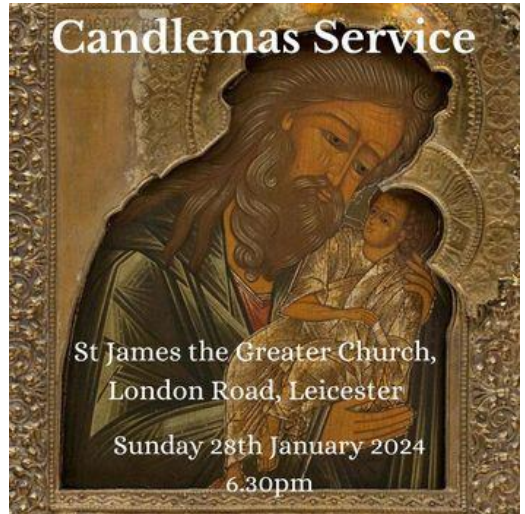
Faith and Friendship Group meet on Saturday 3rd February, 11am—1pm where Sian will be teaching the art of Iris Folding. All welcome. Iris folding is a paper craft technique that involves folding strips of coloured paper in such a way to form a design. The centre of the design forms an iris—a shape reminiscent of the iris diaphragm of a camera lens.

ATC Sunday is on Sunday 4th February. The Air Cadets will be joining us at the 10am service which will be a modern language Morning Prayer service, not Matins. All are welcome.

Holy Unplugged with our Youth Worker Sarah on Sunday 11th February at 4pm. A calm and relaxing time of contemporary acoustic worship.



Aslan's Tears from the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Picture drawn by **Sian Rigby** as detailed in her bulletin letter last December.



Collect for the Presentation of Christ in the Temple & Candlemas Lord Jesus Christ. Light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God. Amen.

Pray for the sick: Brenda Bedingfield, Pat Davies, Ann Dixon, Marion Heygate, Michael Matts, Roman Orzel, Sian Rigby, Jill Sinclair, Andrew (Andy) White **Pray for those who mourn including the family and friends of** Thomas Drake, Gwilym Edmonson-Jones



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

www.stdenys.org.uk

