

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN

Sunday 25th February 2024, 2nd Sunday of Lent



Dear Friends, we are now firmly into Lent, as we follow Christ's journey towards the cross. This week, in our gospel passage, Jesus says that we must "deny [ourselves] and take up [our] cross and follow [Christ]" (Mark 8:34).

Denial is an unpopular word! It feels unfair, restrictive, limiting. It makes us wonder whether life could be different, better, if the denial hadn't taken place - it sounds like, to deny ourselves is to cause ourselves to miss out on something better. It's bad enough when someone else denies us something, so why would we ever, willingly, deny ourselves something good?

Often, we answer these questions by seeking to reassure others, and ourselves, that whilst we think we might be "missing out", the things we will give up will be harming us. Sometimes, that might be true. However, following Jesus means we must make difficult choices, and deny ourselves things which, to our eye and mind, seem to be perfectly good things! Such decisions are often viewed by others, even other Christians, as foolish, unwise, reckless, or just simply unnecessary.

Have you ever felt that God was calling you to make this kind of choice, perhaps about where you live, what job you take or a relationship? We sometimes do make decisions for reasons which misunderstand God's love for us and His world, and there are times when God very simply tells us that we can choose - that one choice **isn't** more His will than another. However, the reverse is also true - there are times when we are asked to make choices which others don't understand. So why would we choose to deny ourselves to follow Jesus? Here are some reasons:

To grow God's Kingdom - sometimes God asks us to give something up so that there is space and opportunity for God's Kingdom to grow, in our lives and in other lives.

To share the gospel - sometimes we need to be willing to deny ourselves to be able to do this, perhaps because the people God is calling us to share the gospel with will not hear it (sometimes physically, sometimes spiritually) unless we deny ourselves, perhaps because we won't get to meet them, or because they would feel like we don't know/understand their lives and couldn't possibly speak into them.

Obedience - sometimes the world, society, or our own reasoning, would say "do" or "don't do" something in a direct contradiction of what the Bible tells us is God's way.

Has God asked you to "deny yourself" at all? If you would like to talk it through and pray about it, any of the ministry team will be willing to do this, but I know that our congregation holds lots of godly wisdom and experience - so I'd like to encourage you to seek to learn from one another and pray together too. With love and prayers, **Sian**

COMING UP AT ST DENYS THIS WEEK:

Thursday 22nd 2pm Private Booking in the parish centre

Saturday 24th 10am Diabetes Awareness Coffee Morning in the parish centre

Sunday 25th 10am Holy Communion in church & on Zoom ID 820 0369 6332

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

Monday 26th 8am Private Booking in the parish centre

Tuesday 27th 8am Private Booking in the parish centre

Tuesday 27th 7.30pm Cruse Bereavement Group meet in church & parish centre

Wednesday 28th 7pm Journey in Faith Course meet in the parish centre

Thursday 29th 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group meet in the parish centre

Thursday 29th 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.

Readings for Sunday: Genesis 17 vs 1-7, 15-16; Mark 8 v 31—end

Whilst both Churchwardens are away due to holidays and illness, for the next three weeks, please contact Qyan if you need to get in touch about anything. He will then direct you to the right person if he cannot help further himself. Thank you.

I am still in need of people to join the intercessions rota for Sunday morning services and/or monthly Evensong services. If this is something you would like to consider, please get in touch with me. Many thanks. **Qyan**

The next Diabetes Awareness Coffee Morning is being held on Saturday 24th February, 10—12noon in the parish centre. Open to anyone with diabetes or who knows someone who has the condition and who simply wants a listening ear and to be with other people in the same position.



FREE Saturday Morning Coffee Concerts are held once a month at St. John the Baptist Church, Billesdon. The next series begins this coming Saturday with coffee/tea etc served from 10.30am and a professional standard concert following

at 11—11.45am approx. This Saturday's concert is given by the Eve Piano Trio. There isn't a charge but donations split between the church and a worthy cause named on the day, will be appreciated. All welcome!

The Late Roy Hammond Following the morning service in church on Sunday 25th February (this coming Sunday), Roy's ashes will be interred in the Garden of Remembrance by the Arboretum. All are welcome to attend.



Crafty Church is happening again at 3pm this Sunday 25th February. Who will you invite? This week we look at Jonah and the Whale. With fish-based crafts and the story of Jonah we're going to have a whale of a time! Hope to see you there."

Last Orders Pub Night will not take place this coming Sunday evening. It is re-scheduled to Sunday 3rd March in The Cedars, as usual at 7.30pm.



Lent Home Groups 'Loving my Neighbour' continue. Viv's group is on Tuesdays at 10.30am. If you can't attend, there is a group held over Zoom every Monday at 7.30pm, log in: Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88259032868?pwd=dVBjRWxvemZKNmhEYzF1REN5dTFCUT09> Meeting ID: 882 5903 2868 Passcode: 1219

Another two beautiful flower creations by Kimberley Tyler:



Lenten Poem based on Genesis 17 vs 1-7, 15-16 (first reading for Sunday 25th February) 'Abraham' by John Henry Newman

The better portion didst thou choose, Greatheart,
Thy God's first choice, and pledge of Gentile grace!
Faith's truest type, he with unruffled face
Bore the world's smile, and bade her slaves depart;
Whether, a trader, with no trader's art,
He buys in Canaan his last resting-place, —
Or freely yields rich Siddim's ample space, —
Or braves the rescue, and the battle's smart,
Yet scorns the heathen gifts of those he saved.
O happy in their soul's high solitude,
Who commune thus with God, and not with earth!
Amid the scoffings of the wealth-enslaved,
A ready prey, as though in absent mood
They calmly move, nor reck the unmanner'd mirth.



Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.

Collect for the Second Sunday of Lent Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his way, come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray for the sick: Brenda Bedingfield, Paul Cavanagh, Pat Davies, Ann Dixon, Marion Heygate, Roy Lee, Janette Pearson, Sian Rigby, Jessica Saul, Andrew (Andy) White **Pray for those who mourn including the family and friends of** Revd Peter Blackman, Thomas Drake



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(not Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays)

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

www.stdenys.org.uk

