

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN
Sunday 4th February 2024, 2nd Sunday
before Lent and ATC Sunday



Readings for today: 10am: Colossians 1 vs 15-20; John 1 vs 1-14

Dear Friends, It was great to be back at the Stable House in North Kilworth for 24 hours last week and I am really looking forward to our day there together on 10th Feb when we will be thinking about the Transfiguration story (Mark 9) before diving into Lent.

Along with having a good chat with Stanley the donkey, I took myself off for a prayer walk down into the woods. The red kites were circling up above me in the clear blue sky and it was a beautiful afternoon. I turned a corner and came out into a clearing with a pile of dead wood. Above it, to my amazement, was a crowd of tiny faeries dancing in the sunlight. No, the vicar hasn't started hallucinating! They were in fact winter gnats lekking (the males showing off to their potential mates ...) but the beauty of the scene caught my imagination and I saw something else, something magical, a picture that will stay with me for a long time.

When Peter, James and John went up the mountain with Jesus, they were treated to the most wondrous sight that captured their whole imagination. The scene was seared into their memories and inspired them long after the event took place. It was a moment that opened their eyes to God's eternal perspective and his presence and purposes in Jesus Christ.

Echoing Paul in Ephesians 1.18, St Augustine wrote that "the whole business of our life is to restore sight to the eye of the heart whereby God can be seen." There is much in our world and maybe in our own lives that we would rather not face and see right now. Not many of us would want to look too closely at a bunch of gnats either! But what if we paused, took a deep breath, and asked God to open the eyes of our hearts so that we might see something else, his miraculous gift of hope perhaps, something joyous and life-giving even in the midst of pain and struggle.

Every blessing, **Anthony**

COMING UP AT ST DENYS THIS WEEK:

Thursday 1st 7pm Choir rehearsal in church

Friday 2nd 10am Musical Toddlers meet in the parish centre

Friday 2nd 7pm Youth Club meet in the parish centre

Saturday 3rd 11am Faith and Friendship Group meet in the parish centre

Sunday 4th 10am Morning Prayer & ATC Sunday in church & on Zoom ID 820 0369 6332 (password from Qyan)

Sunday 4th 3pm Informal Communion in church

Monday 5th 8am Private Booking in the parish centre

Monday 5th 2pm Monday Meet meet in the parish centre

Tuesday 6th 8am Private Booking in the parish centre

Tuesday 6th 7.30pm Cruse Bereavement Group meet in church & parish centre

Wednesday 7th 10am Evington Family History Group meet in the parish centre

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

Thursday 8th 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group meet in the parish centre

Thursday 8th 2pm Private Booking in the parish centre

Thursday 8th 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.

Monday Meet meet in the parish centre every first and third Monday each month, 2-4pm. Are you lonely, bereaved or simply want to meet others for a time of relaxing chat and social interaction with no pressures? Come along where you will be made most warmly welcome. Refreshments are provided.

Leading in Prayer Would you like to lead the prayers during Sunday morning worship in St. Denys? It would be lovely to have more people to join the rota 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**

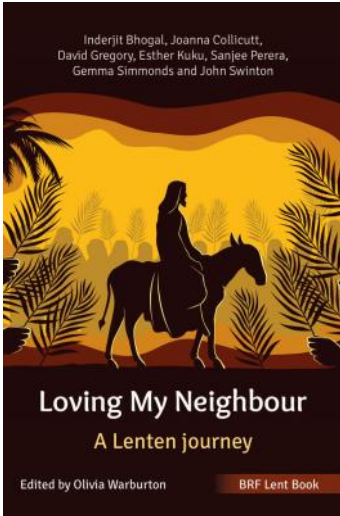
Personal Prayer If you would like/need personal prayer after any service in church, please speak privately to any member of the Ministry Team present, and they will be very glad to pray with and/or for you.

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.



LENT begins on 14th February with our Ash Wednesday service at 6pm. During Lent this year we would love you to join in as we explore Loving My Neighbour in book groups or individually. Mark is sourcing copies of the book and more details of times and days are coming soon so watch this space!

Holy Week Devotion, Singers Still Needed! Save the date!



On Tuesday 26th March, during Holy Week, St. Denys will host a performance of a beautiful choral work entitled 'Passiontide.' It will be conducted by the composer himself, local

musician Simon Mold. We still 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 continue this Thursday 1st Feb. 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**

Did you know that our friends at St. Peter's, Highfields hold FREE Saturday evening film nights in the church? They begin at 6pm and refreshments are provided: **3rd Feb** Evita (True life story of Eva Peron played by Madonna), **10th Feb** Monsters Inc (A girl, Boo, wanders into the Monsters world and it is the monsters who are scared silly!), **17th Feb** Oppenheimer (the breathtaking global phenomenon written and directed by Stephen Nolan), **24th Feb** Sister Act 2. All are very welcome.



SNOWDROPS By Annie Matheson (1853-1924) *Sent in by Judith Chapman*

“Where are all the snowdrops”

Said the sun?

“Dead” said the frost “buried and lost, everyone”

“A foolish answer” said the sun

“They did not die, asleep they lie, everyone”

“And I will awake them” said the sun

“Into the light all clad in white, everyone”

“It’s rather dark in the earth today” said one little bulb to its brother

“But I thought that I felt a sunbeam’s ray

We must strive and grow ‘til we find our way”

And they nestled close to each other.

They struggled and strived by day and by night,

‘Til two little snowdrops, in green and white,

Rose out of the darkness and into the light,

And softly kissed each other.



Collect for the 2nd Sunday before Lent Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray for the sick: Brenda Bedingfield, Pat Davies, Ann Dixon, Marion Heygate, Michael Matts, Sian Rigby, Jessica Saul, 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

