

# ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN

## Sunday 17th March 2024, 5th Sunday of Lent, Passiontide begins



Dear Friends, when my children were young, one of our favourite programmes to watch alongside each other, was called 'Something Special' with Mr. Tumble on the CBeebies channel. A feature of the show was its use of Makaton signing; a simple introductory signing system that it brought into the daily lives of children. We used to love going around the house mimicking what we had learned, signing messages to each other, such as "I see you" or rather more randomly "look, a cow."

Visiting Oaklands, the special school in our own parish this week, I was able to brush up on some Makaton in preparation, though this time these signs were more specific to Easter. When you visit a school like Oaklands you realise that there are lots of different ways we can communicate beyond just the spoken or written word. Even simply standing close or distant to someone sends important messages. The children communicate in ways that come naturally to them, that involve the use of the whole self, ways that, as adults, we often forget about or neglect to develop in ourselves.

How do we communicate our faith to each other? Until I studied theology, I always felt a slight sense of inadequacy in communicating the Gospel to anyone. During study, I understood that the more I learnt the more I recognised how little I knew. Feeling inadequate in this area was going to be a permanent experience! It doesn't have to be this way because God's message is simple; of how much he loves us all. As followers of Jesus, we don't need fancy words or complicated arguments to communicate this. Instead, we need to let this fundamental truth find a home within us and then reflect it back to others with the wholeness of ourselves. I'm not sure how easy it is to express the Gospel in Makaton, but I do know that reflecting God's love is something we can do with our whole body and with our whole life. It comes out in acts of kindness and patient duty, it can seep out of all that we are and do.

As we think about how we can share the love of God with our neighbours this Easter, it may be time to reconnect with ways of communicating that involve the wholeness of ourselves. In doing so, we can be involved in sharing how special it is to be loved by the God who made us, just as we are. With Every Blessing, **Mark**

**COMING UP AT ST DENYS THIS WEEK:**

**Thursday 14th 9.15am Little Poppets Nursery** visit the church

**Thursday 14th 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group** meet in the parish centre

**Thursday 14th 2pm Private Booking** in the parish centre

**Thursday 14th 7pm Choir rehearsal** in church

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

**Sunday 17th March Holy Communion 10am** in church & on Zoom ID 820 0369 6332 (password from Qyan) **4pm Sung Evensong**

**Monday 18th 8am Private Booking** in the parish centre

**Monday 18th 9am Krishna Avanti School** visit the church

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

**Monday 18th 7pm PCC Meeting** in the parish centre

**Tuesday 19th 9am Krishna Avanti School** visit the church

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

**Tuesday 19th 1pm Whitehall School** visit the church

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

**Wednesday 20th 9am Krishna Avanti School** visit the church

**Wednesday 20th 1pm Whitehall School** visit the church

**Wednesday 20th 7pm Journey in Faith Course** meet in the parish centre

**Thursday 21st 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group** meet in the parish centre

**Thursday 21st Private Booking** in the parish centre

**Thursday 21st 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 today: 10am, Jeremiah 31 vs 31-34; John 12 vs 20-33; 4pm, Exodus 7 vs 8-24; Romans 5 vs 12-end*

**Bishop of Leicester's Lent Appeal for Child Refugees** If you would like to respond to this cause, please visit the following link:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/about-us/lent-appeal>

**Evensong** will take place in St. Denys on Sunday 17th March at 4pm. All welcome.

**The PCC** will meet in the parish centre on Monday 18th March, at 7pm.

**Deanery Synod Meeting** will take place on Tuesday 19th March, 7.30pm in the Duchy Room, Wyggestons, 160 Hinckley Road, Leicester LE3 0UX. The theme will be 'Making Church Welcome for all.' This is an open meeting to which all are invited to attend.

**Minster Communities** - We have received an invitation from the Archdeacon to begin the process of forming a Minster Community. There will be a lot of meetings and discussions over the next year or so, although final decisions will rest with the PCC. *The PCC is currently small and overstretched and so we are appealing for more members for this important period in the church's life.* If you feel God might be calling you to represent St Denys in the discussions about Minster Communities, please speak to Anthony before the next PCC meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

**Leicester Cathedral** the next FREE lunchtime professional music event will be held on Monday 25th March at 12.30pm, lasting approximately 45 minutes. The Cathedral's Associate organist, David Cowen, will play a programme of music appropriate for Lent. All welcome.



**Would you be interested in taking part in a study into footwear within the General Hospital?** The study is looking to recruit people with either type 1 or 2 diabetes aged 18-80 years old with some loss of sensation in their feet (for example, cold/numb feet or feet that are painful/tingling etc.) The study involves two visits to the diabetes centre with up to £10 travel and/or parking expenses provided for each visit. Two out of three participants are able to retain their custom-made footwear as a thank you for taking part, which is looking at how footwear fit guidelines affect pressures and temperature of feet, in people with diabetes. If you wish to know more with a view to participating, please contact: Petra Jones, Senior Research Associate, Leicester Diabetes Centre, Email: [petra.jones@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:petra.jones@uhl-tr.nhs.uk) Tel: 0116 258 4974.

---

## **‘Passiontide’**

Music by Simon Mold

A Meditation on the Passion of the Sacred Redeemer

**St. Denys Church, Holy Tuesday 26th March 2024, 7.30pm**

Sung by members of choirs from across the city, county and beyond

*Narrator: Revd Anthony Lees-Smith*

*Jesus: Stephen Cooper*

*Mary: Erica Lees-Smith*

*Pilate: Qyan Arnachellum*

*Organ played by: Philip Millward*

*Mark with us Holy Week, the most important period in the Christian calendar*

---

## Holy Week and Easter Services in St. Denys Church

24th March, Palm Sunday, 10am, Holy Communion with Liturgy of the Palms and dramatized Passion reading

Monday 25th March, 6pm, Compline

Tuesday 26th March, 7.30pm, Performance of 'Passiontide'

Wednesday 27th March, 6pm, Compline

Maundy Thursday 28th March, 10am, Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday 28th March, 6pm, bring and share meal with informal Holy Communion and foot washing in parish centre

Good Friday 29th March, 2pm, The Last Hour

Easter Sunday, 31st March, 7am, Dawn service

Easter Sunday, 31st March, 10am, Holy Communion



**'Stories from the Road'** 'Observations from the saddle of an aging Harley' by Revd Nigel Rostock. *"An uplifting and faith affirming read, which encourages us all to look for God's hand at work in every area and chapter of life, just as Nigel does."* Rt Revd Saju Muthalaly, Bishop

of Loughborough. Our former Curate and member of the motorcycling God's Squad, will be visiting St. Denys to sign copies of his new book on Wednesday 1st May at 4pm. This follows the official launch at the church where he is Vicar, St. Peter's Church, Woodshawe Rise, Braunstone LE3 1RH on Saturday 27th April at 4pm. Why not try and attend on one of the dates? It promises to be truly fascinating.

**Collect for the fifth Sunday of Lent** Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Pray for the sick:** Brenda Bedingfield, Pat Davies, Ann Dixon, Marion Heygate, Alison Keddily, Roy Lee, Janette Pearson, Barbara Pinder, Sian Rigby, Jessica Saul, Dr Margaret Steel, Andrew (Andy) White **Pray for those who mourn including the family and friends of anyone we know personally who has died**



**Revd Anthony Lees-Smith (Vicar)** 0116 2155 5000 [vicar@stdenys.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stdenys.org.uk)  
(not Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays)

**Mark Batchelor (Curate)** 07534 805454 [m.batchelor@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:m.batchelor@hotmail.co.uk) (not Fridays)

**Sian (Reader)** 07538 756709 [sian.rigby2@outlook.com](mailto:sian.rigby2@outlook.com)

**Geraldine (Reader & Pioneer)** 0116 2737717

**Administrator (Qyan)** 07803 828454 [office@stdenys.org.uk](mailto:office@stdenys.org.uk)

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

[www.stdenys.org.uk](http://www.stdenys.org.uk)

