

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN

Sunday 18th August 2024, 12th Sunday after Trinity



Readings for Sunday: 10am: Ephesians 5 vs 15-20; John 6 vs 51-58; 4pm: Exodus 2 v 23—ch 3 v 10; Hebrews 13 vs 1-15

Dear Friends

I probably don't need to make a list of all the things that could be getting us down recently, so I won't. But as I prepared for a couple of weeks of multiple funerals, I kept being struck by one line in the funeral liturgy that encouraged me, namely "turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life." And in that one line I was reminded of how our whole faith is founded on the reality, that just when all seemed lost with the death of Jesus on the cross, actually a great victory had been scored.

So, on Monday, after another day of too many hours looking down, tapping away at a keyboard without enough of a break, I decided to abandon my computer and go out into the cooling night air and look upwards for a change. I was encouraged by an article that it was the peak of the Perseid meteor shower and that a coronal mass ejection combining with clear skies could even make a view of the northern lights a possibility.

Well, after a while of watching, duty called me back inside, and in terms of my main quest I had of course been unsuccessful. But actually, I felt strangely lifted. I may not have seen what I had hoped for, but I had felt the cooling breeze, seen a mysterious moon and noticed just how many stars there are to be seen, despite the streetlights. It was a reminder to me that when things seem darkest that's simply because we are not looking to God. Because when we do we notice all the amazing blessings of his creation and that is enough to change everything.

So, if, like me, things have been getting you down a bit recently, make sure you look up. Not necessarily literally, but rather look to God in everything you do, for he is the one who transforms everything, even turning the darkness of death into the dawn of new life.

With every blessing, **Mark**

COMING UP AT ST DENYS THIS WEEK:

Sunday 18th 10am Holy Communion in church and on Zoom; ID 820 0369 6332 (password from Qyan) **4pm Evensong** in church

diary

Monday 19th 2pm Monday Meet meet in the parish centre

Tuesday 20th 10am Coffee, Cake and Fellowship meet in the parish centre

Tuesday 20th 7.30pm Lily House Bereavement Support in church & parish centre

Wednesday 21st 12noon Memorial Service for the Late Jacqui Johnson in church

Thursday 22nd 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group meet in the parish centre

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

Thursday Holy Communion (BCP, said) 10am in church

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

The PCC are pleased that, following Andy having to step back due to illness, and my subsequent appeal in the bulletin, a new cleaner has been found for the parish centre. April, who is local to Evington, began duties on 1st August and is doing an excellent job. Many thanks to Andy again for all that he has done in this role in the past. We are very grateful to him.



Don't forget that Evensong will be held in St. Denys at 4pm on Sunday 18th August. All are most welcome.

Thanks are accorded to Elizabeth Rudge in respect of playing the organ for both services on Sunday 18th August.

The Late Jacqui Johnson A memorial service for Jacqui will take place in St. Denys Church on Wednesday 21st August at 12 noon.

We are very grateful to Revd Jonathan Surridge who will be presiding and preaching at our 10am Holy Communion service (said) on Thursday 22nd, this coming week.



Musical Toddlers re-convenes (term time only) in the parish centre at 10am on Friday 30th August following their summer break. If you have pre school aged children or grandchildren, why not take them along for an hour of fun and musical stimulation? For further information, please contact

Sarah our Youth Worker by e-mail: stdenysyouth@gmail.com



Community Cricket Day Friday 6th September 2024, 2.30—6pm, at Loughborough University. You are invited to a fun afternoon of cricket as Bishop Saju's team plays against the Loughborough University's Vice Chancellor's in a friendly 20/20 format game at the National Cricket Performance Centre at Loughborough University. As well as the match, there will be a range of activities for everyone, so go along and offer your support! *Pop up catering outlets will be available.*

Ride and Stride The annual Ride and Stride event, which raises money for the Historic Churches Support Trust and individual churches, for the maintenance of our ancient buildings, will take place on Saturday 14th September. St. Denys will be open from 10am—6pm. We need people (preferably two per shift) to man the church throughout this time. If you can help, a list will be put at the back of the church in time for Sunday 25th August for you to sign up to a slot or slots, which may be only 2 hours in length each. Thanks.



Mental Health Wellbeing Day Saturday 21st September 2024, 9am—2pm at St. John's Church, Hinckley. This training day is for all those who want to look after their own mental health better, and the mental health of others, particularly in a church setting. The speakers will be Dr Emma Hayward and Sangita Jobanputra. *Please take a packed lunch.* The event is free but please e-mail Kim.Ford@LeicesterCofE.org if you wish to attend.



The Hathern Band who entertained us so brilliantly during last year's Music Festival, is making a welcome return visit, to perform for us in St. Denys on Saturday 12th October. Please do come and hear their brilliant music making again, featuring Canon Dr Stephen Foster, known to many of us. Further details will be made known soon. **Qyan**

Two Quotes from Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) Italian founder of the Franciscan Order: *In the name of holy love which is God I implore all my brothers...to lay aside every obstacle, every care, every trouble, and to serve, love, adore and honour the Lord with all their might, with a pure heart and whole mind which he seeks above all. Let us make a temple and a dwelling within us for the Lord God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

It is no use walking anywhere to preach³ unless we preach as we walk.

On Thursday last I (Qyan) had the privilege of playing the organ at St. Peter's Church, Highfields, for a Memorial service for an Afro Caribbean lady. One of the hymns we sang, known to me but not in the St. Denys hymn book, is called 'When Peace Like a River (It is well with My Soul)' Based on Psalm 42 v 11. The words are rather poignant, having been written by Horatio G Spafford in 1873, immediately following a tragic shipping accident in which he survived, but his wife and children died. The tune was composed by Philip P. Bliss in 1876. The words also link, to Revd Mark's letter in this bulletin!

It is well worth listening to on You Tube or some other platform/recording you may be able to access:

1. *When peace like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."*

Refrain: *It is well, it is well, with my soul, with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.*

2. *Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control: that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed His own blood for my soul. Sing Refrain*

3. *My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more; praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul. Sing Refrain*

4. *And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall re-sound and the Lord shall descend; even so, it is well with my soul. Sing Refrain*

Collect for the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity God of constant mercy, who sent your Son to save us: remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us, that our thankfulness may grow, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray for the sick: Judith Chapman (recovering from a knee operation), Ann Bennett (recovering from hip surgery), Pat Davies, Ann Dixon, Zak Gardner, Alison Kedditly, Roy Lee, Barbara Pinder, Jessica Saul, Margaret Steel, Andy White **Pray for those who mourn including the family and friends of** Jacqui Johnson, Lionel Oakley

Revd Mark Batchelor (Curate) 07534 805454 m.batchelor@hotmail.co.uk

Gerry (Churchwarden) 07531 548793 churchwardens@stdenys.org.uk

Janette (Churchwarden & Safeguarding Officer) 0116 2414051

churchwardens@stdenys.org.uk

Sian Rigby (Reader) 07538 756709 sian.rigby2@outlook.com

Geraldine (Reader & Pioneer) 0116 2737717

Administrator (Qyan) 07803 828454 office@stdenys.org.uk

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

www.stdenys.org.uk

