

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN

**Sunday 15th December 2024, 3rd
Sunday of Advent**



Dear Friends, Busy, busy, busy! Advent seems to have barely begun, yet the days are passing quickly and soon it will be Christmas. My days seem to be reduced to a blur as our Christmas programme picks up pace. Once again, amongst the highlights, we welcome hundreds of school children to our church and teach them something of the Christmas story. Krishna Avanti School have their amazing Christingle service with us, City of Leicester College bring their year 7's, Oaklands are coming, Linden have been and even Little Poppets nursery have visited. This is also a season of carol services; including in our local care homes and don't forget we will be carol singing in the Cow and Plough on the 18th! Do come to that if you can. This weekend sees our wonderful Nine Lessons and Carols service and remember there is something for all ages on Christmas Eve with a 'Crafty Crib' craft activity session at 3pm followed by our usual all age Crib Service at 4pm. Our traditional Midnight service (starting at 11.15pm) with the joyful and fun (if a little sleep deprived) Christmas Day service at 10am on the 25th! There is lots going on, so please do come to, and invite people, to as many of the services as you can.

But equally, let us remember that it is all so quickly over, and it would be all too easy to lose sight of what all this frantic activity is for. So in amongst all the hustle and bustle, all the preparations and organisation, let us remember what it is all about.

We celebrate in this season of darkness that a great light has come into the world, we celebrate Jesus arriving and we celebrate that we have a God whose love for us knows no limits! So in amongst all the hustle and bustle I have been reminded and reminded again of some remarkably simple words from Psalm 46: "Be still and know that I am God." They are simple but powerful words, and they have reminded me to pause and remember.

So, I'm passing these words on to you too, in the hope that, in amongst it all, you will find peace in them, along with a special sense of anticipation of all that we celebrate! With Every Blessing, **Mark**

COMING UP AT ST DENYS THIS WEEK:

Friday 13th 10am Musical Toddlers meet in the parish centre

Friday 13th 11.30am Organist Rehearsal in church

Friday 13th 12pm Private Booking in church

Sunday 15th 10am Holy Communion also on Zoom; ID 820 0369 6332 (password from Qyan) **4pm Choir Rehearsal** in church, *followed by:*

Sunday 15th 6pm Traditional annual 9 Lessons and Carols service in church

Monday 16th 8am Private Booking in the parish centre

Monday 16th 8.45am City of Leicester College Visit in church

Monday 16th 10.30am Oaklands School visit to church

Monday 16th 2pm Monday Meet meet in the church and parish centre

Tuesday 17th 8.45am City of Leicester College visit in church

Tuesday 17th 10am Coffee, Cake and Fellowship in the parish centre

Tuesday 17th 1.30pm Oaklands School visit in church

Tuesday 17th 7.30pm Lily House Bereavement Support church & parish centre

Wednesday 18th 8.45am City of Leicester College visit to church

Wednesday 18th 6.30pm Carol singing in the Cow and Plough pub, Stoughton

Thursday 19th 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group meet in the parish centre

Thursday 12th 12pm Lunch Club meet in the parish centre



Monday to Thursday 9am, Morning Prayer, school visits may interrupt, so please check before coming.

Thursday 10am, Holy Communion followed by coffee until noon

[ANNUAL SERVICE OF 9 LESSONS AND CAROLS](#)

With 25+ strong choir and organ!

Lesson Readers from the church and local community

Sunday 15th DECEMBER 2024

6pm

Followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the parish centre!

ALL WELCOME!

This Christmas, when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern. Mother Teresa, 2021.

Readings for Sunday 15th, 10am: Zephaniah 3 vs 14-end; Luke 3 vs 7-18

Dr Carole Cox, a regular attender at St. Denys for 44 years, has recently moved to Lutterworth. She was sorry not to be able to say goodbye more fully, due to the move being so difficult. Carole remembers her time with us with great affection and warmth and thanks us all for our kindness, friendship and support over the years.

Hymn or Worship song Suggestions! A box with pen and paper has been put at the back of the church, for you to submit hymns or worship songs that you would like to be sung during worship on Sunday mornings in St. Denys. This will be regularly checked and any choices fitted in wherever in a service it best fits, over the long term. **Worship Committee**



Shine as a Light! This coming Saturday in St. Denys, a small Christmas tree will be erected and all the candle stands and candles installed in every pew, ready for the Carol service on Sunday evening. We need volunteers to help, the more the merrier! If you are available, please do come at 10.30am. **Thank you.**

Monday Meet will meet again in the parish centre this coming Monday 16th December, 2pm—4pm. For anyone who is lonely and wants/needs company, or wishes to meet new, friendly faces, to talk through matters that may be on your mind, or simply to chat and be with those who come along. Whatever, all are welcome. Refreshments provided.

Carol Singing in the Cow and Plough I am very grateful to Chris and Fiona Hossack who have agreed to coordinate/accompany on a keyboard, our carol singing in the Cow and Plough on Wednesday 18th December at 6.30pm. This continues a community link between St. Denys and the pub, maintained regularly for some years now. It would be wonderful to have a goodly gathering to bring Christmas cheer to the wider community. Please let me know if you wish to join in so that I can let the pub know the numbers! The more the merrier! **Qyan**



Revd Mark Batchelor, will preside and preach at his final service in St. Denys on Sunday 29th December, 10am, before moving on to pastures new in the Isle of Bute, Scotland.

Advent and Christmas Services at St. Denys!

Sunday 15th December, 10am, Holy Communion

Sunday 15th December, 6pm, Traditional 9 Lessons and Carols

Sunday 22nd December, 10am, Holy Communion

Christmas Eve 24th December, 3pm, Crafty Church

Christmas Eve 24th December, 4pm, Crib Service

Christmas Eve 24th December, 11.15pm, 'Midnight' Holy Communion

Christmas Day 25th December, 10am, Holy Communion

Sunday 29th December, 10am, Holy Communion with Baptism,

(Revd Mark's final service with us at St. Denys!)

Advent Reflection *Open wide your door to the one who comes. Open your soul, throw open the depths of your heart to see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the sweetness of grace. Open your heart and run to meet the sun of eternal light that illuminates all mankind. St. Ambrose of Milan*

Collect for the 3rd Sunday of Advent God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please continue to pray for Ukraine/Russia and the increasing tensions there, Israel/Palestine, Sudan, Myanmar and other places across the world.

Pray for the sick: Pat Davies, Ann Dixon, Zak Gardner, Alison Kedditly, Roy Lee, Alan Macdonald, Daryle Pearson, Linda Perks, Margaret Robinson, Jessica Saul, Kimberley Tyler, Andy White, Richard Williams

Pray for those who mourn including the family and friends of Simon March, Robert Mason, Shirley Claire Smith, Margaret Steel



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

www.stdenys.org.uk

