

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN

Sunday 22nd December 2024, 4th Sunday of Advent



Readings for Sunday 22nd: Micah 5 vs 2-5a; Luke 1 vs 39-45 [46-55]

Dear Friends,

We have just a very few days of Advent left. This Sunday, we will be lighting the 4th of our Advent candles in church. This will then leave the beautiful, white, central candle, waiting to be lit, at our Midnight Service. The white candle, symbolic of Jesus, the Light of the world; reminding us of his coming to live amongst us; the Word made flesh. Emmanuel, God with us. So amazing, when we really stop and think about it. Like Mary, the mother of Jesus, let us take time to ponder these things in our hearts - which we may find is part of our taking time to be still in God's presence.



You may have seen our latest churchyard trail, of Bible verses and photographs, along the main path to church. The trail reminding us of something of the Christmas story; there for all who use the path to see; to ponder upon.



It is likely that these next few days, to Christmas, may be busy for us. In all our preparations and busyness, let us not lose sight of the true meaning of this festive season; Christmas is all about Jesus – Christ the beginning, and heart, of Christmas.



Christmas can be a difficult time for people, for various reasons. But whatever our circumstances or situation, may we all find our hearts, our lives, being touched by the light, warmth, joy, love and peace of Christ this Christmas; that we may be able to rejoice and celebrate his coming into our world. Emmanuel, God is with us.

A Haiku for Christmas:

The world waits, watches.

Quietly Christ comes. Rejoice!

Celebrate the King!

A very happy Christmas. **Geraldine**

COMING UP AT ST DENYS THIS WEEK:

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

Thursday 19th 12pm Lunch Club meet in the parish centre

Friday 20th 8am Private Booking in church

Sunday 22nd 10am Holy Communion also on Zoom; ID 820 0369 6332 (password from Qyan)

Tuesday 24th (Christmas Eve) 3pm Crafty Church in the parish centre

Tuesday 24th (Christmas Eve) 4pm Crib Service in church

Tuesday 24th (Christmas Eve) 11.15pm 'Midnight' Holy Communion in church

Wednesday 25th 10am Christmas Day Holy Communion in church

Monday only, Morning Prayer 9am

Revd Mark Batchelor, our Curate, 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.

Christmas Cards can and are being left at the back of the church by members of the congregation who don't regularly see their intended recipient. Please remember to check on the cabinets/tables at the back of the church in case any of them are for you, so that they don't get missed, and to avoid them being there a long time. Thank you.

We are very pleased to say that, sooner than anticipated, the church heating has been restored! Yippee!! This is due to replacement parts having been sourced and fitted. Many thanks to the Churchwardens and Treasurer who have been, and continue, to work very hard in investigating a more permanent solution. It is a very big and difficult task to have to deal with.

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 is suitable, over the long term. **Worship Committee**

Reading & Intercessing! If you are not on these rotas and would like to try either of these ministries, please do have a word with me. Guidance will be given if wanted. I need more people to fulfil these tasks. Many thanks. **Qyan**

Postage Stamps Used postage stamps, whether franked or not, can be collected for a worthy cause. St. Denys has a bag/box at the back of the church for stamps to be submitted. Instead of throwing any stamps away, why not give them to St. Denys? Do make sure about an inch of the envelope remains around each stamp however. See **Qyan** for further info. Thank you.

From January 2025 with Revd Mark having moved away, we will be welcoming different clergy, and lay people occasionally, to lead our services and to preach every Sunday. This arrangement will continue until and possibly beyond when Minster Communities are confirmed and whichever such community St. Denys will be a part of, begins it's new life. I am in the process of arranging for visiting clergy, some well known and not so well known to us, to take our services. The first half of the year is largely covered. **Qyan**

The Christmas Tree for St. Denys has been delivered. On Saturday coming, 21st December, it will be decorated. Can you help to do this? Artistic flair isn't important! Do go along for a fun morning with others to help create a beautiful finish! Start time 10.30. Many thanks. **Michael White**



A Quiet Day is being held on Friday 10th January, at the Stable House Barn in Kilworth, 10am to 4pm, cost is £40 per person. This is an opportunity to relax after the busyness of Christmas, a time to share fellowship and to reflect on the past year, and to prepare for the year to come. If you are interested in attending, please contact Gerry Goode (Churchwarden) by 31st December. **Note:** This is a change of date from the previous message. **Gerry**



LEFT: Another wonderful flower creation by Kimberley Tyler, who attends flower arranging classes.



A big thank you to anyone who helped in any way with last Sunday evening's Carol service. It was a joyous occasion and for me, is the point where it really starts to feel like Christmas! The mulled wine afterwards was delicious!

Advent and Christmas Services at St. Denys!

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 thought: *Like a candle flame, flickering small in our darkness, uncreated light shines through infant eyes.* **Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)**

Collect for the 4th Sunday of Advent Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Pray for the sick: Barrie Coleman, Pat Davies, Ann Dixon, Zak Gardner, Alison Keddilty, 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

