

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN
Sunday 29th December 2024, 1st Sunday of
Christmas & Sunday 5th January 2025,
Epiphany



Dear Friends, four and a bit years ago, I arrived at St. Denys for the first time as a young and naive ordinand during the Covid lockdowns (well I was younger than I am now!) Consequently, church looked very different to usual, for one thing it was all online, which had the major advantage of having names written underneath everyone's faces - ideal to get to know you all! It was also a time of disruption and uncertainty as we tried to work out what a 'new normal' would look like. In the end the 'new normal' has ended up looking not so different from the old normal as things gradually snapped back into familiar places.

One thing that marked this time however was the warmth of the welcome I had. It has been a welcome that has developed into continuing loving care, not to mention a lot of patience when I've got things wrong! I have made good friends here and I will always be indebted for the generosity of spirit that has always been so abundant. It has made St. Denys an ideal place for me to discover and learn what it is to be a priest, free to try new things without fear of being judged. Together with Anthony's amazing teaching, mentoring and example, I feel I have learnt such a lot, as well as loving every moment of course! I also hope I have been able to serve you, at least reasonably well, over the past few months since Anthony left.

But it is in the nature of curacy that it must end. Although I am departing a couple of months sooner than I had thought I would, I know that God has plans for me and for Sarah as we move to the Isle of Bute. Change is often a daunting thing, but it also gives way to opportunities, and I hope we will all collectively remember this, whether we are negotiating life in a Minster Community or life on a Scottish island. God holds us all as we seek to serve him in all that we do.

So, for now it is time to say Goodbye, which is simply an ancient contraction of 'God be with you'. However, Goodbyes often anticipate meeting again in the future. I will certainly return to St. Denys to visit and always be grateful for the time I have spent here. With Every Blessing, **Mark**

COMING UP AT ST DENYS:

Sunday 29th 10am Holy Communion with baptism in church, also on Zoom; ID 820 0369 6332 (password from Qyan) (**Revd Mark's final service with us**)

Monday 30th 9am Morning Prayer in church

Sunday 5th Jan 2025 10am Holy Communion in church, also on Zoom
(details as above)

Monday 6th 2pm Monday Meet meet in the parish centre

Tuesday 7th 7.30pm Lilly House Bereavement Support in church & parish centre

Wednesday 8th 12pm Best Community Charity Lunch Club in parish centre.

diary

Readings for Sunday 29th: Luke 2 vs 41—end; for Sunday 5th: Ephesians 3 vs 1-12; Matthew 2 vs 1-12

This bulletin is a double issue. The next edition will be out for Sunday 12th January.

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. **Thank you Mark**, for all you have done for us in St. Denys Church, the parish and the wider Evington community. Your extremely hard work and long hours invested in us is much appreciated. With very best wishes for your new life in beautiful Scotland.

Christmas Cards can and are being left at the back of the church for people. Please remember to check on the cabinets/tables 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 and particularly Rod Dawes and Ian Palmer who have been instrumental in bringing us to this point, and continue to work very hard in investigating a more permanent solution. It is a 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**

On Sunday 5th January (Epiphany) we are most pleased to welcome Revd Adrian Jones from St. Mary's, Knighton who will preside and preach for us at our 10am service of Holy Communion. All are welcome.



Thursday Holy Communion Services 10am Please note that the pattern of these will change with immediate effect. We are *hoping* (not promising) to hold one a month on the first Thursday, from February. There may be some months when the frequency is increased. Either way, it will depend on visiting clergy availability. Please keep a regular eye on the bulletin for information. There will **NOT** be a Holy Communion service in church on Thursday 2nd January.

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. Relax after the busyness of Christmas, it is also 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**

A very happy Christmas Season and New Year to you all. Please remember all those for whom Christmas is a difficult time—those who live alone, the lonely, those in ill health, those who are without loved ones and for whom the pain of loss never goes away, the unloved and all those in war torn areas of the world where to merely live decently every day, is impossible; and for those who don't know and seem so far away from the love of Christ.

Hail the heaven born prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings; mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the new-born King.

Collect for Christmas Day Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen.

Collect for the First Sunday of Christmas (29th December) God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Collect for Epiphany (5th January 2025) Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end 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, Kimberley Tyler, Andy White, Richard Williams

Pray for those who mourn including the family and friends of anyone we know personally.



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

www.stdenys.org.uk

