

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN Sunday 3rd August 2025, 7th Sunday after Trinity



[Dear Friends](#), last Sunday we had the pleasure of hearing Dr Kumar's wise and witty words from the pulpit, reminding us that prayer only becomes truly meaningful if we are *rooted* in Christ. Anything which grows in the ground needs to be properly rooted in order to thrive, grow, flourish and bear fruit. Being rooted in Christ is about persistence in prayer, even when prayer seems not to bear fruit. Those of us fortunate enough to have gardens, especially those who are attempting to raise new plants, know that the roots need three things to survive: good nourishing soil, the right amount of moisture and freedom from pest.

Sarah and I brought nine roses with us from Wisbech (once renowned for its rose nurseries). Knowing our time at the vicarage was limited, we put them into large pots, which was fine for the first few years, but when it came to the move to Leicester, they had become rather sickly. I discovered that most of our garden is heavily clay-bound; the clay was so thick that I had to dig it over several times. It was really hard work, removing great slabs of clay and then digging in 'clay breaker' and a soil improver as well as plenty of compost.

The cost and effort were considerable. I am however pleased to report that after a winter and spring of toil the roses have bloomed; they have never looked happier or healthier, with glossy leaves and abundant blooms. And, of course, now I remember that roses are quite happy in clay, provided you can get them started. But they still need a well-prepared loam above the clay in order to retain the right amount of moisture to keep them healthy. Good topsoil will also help to prevent disease by ensuring that there is a proper balance of minerals, nutrients and fauna.

If we are to succeed in prayer; if it is to become strong, lush and fruitful, it must be well-rooted and well-tended. We must work to find a regular pattern of prayer: this is the hardest part by far, just like taking a fork to the heavy clay-bound soil. Once we have established a pattern, we must persist in the discipline of hoeing and weeding to remove the distractions and vanities which can allow prayer to run wild and become nothing more than a shopping list of fond personal wishes. But if it remains *rooted in Christ*, in his teaching and his nourishment of word and worship, prayer will deepen its roots in our lives, allowing The Lord of the Harvest to enrich our minds and bodies with His presence, His grace and His blessings.

[Matthew](#)

COMING UP AT ST DENYS:

Thursday 31st 10.30 Gentle Exercise Group in the parish centre

Friday 1st 6pm Wedding Rehearsal in church

Saturday 2nd 1pm Wedding of Sian and Zak in church and parish centre

Sunday 3rd 10am Matins in church and on Zoom; ID 820 0369 6332 (password from Ann, Churchwarden)

Monday 4th 2pm Monday Meet meet in the parish centre

Tuesday 5th 7.30pm Lily House Bereavement Group in church and parish centre

Wednesday 6th 12pm Lunch Club in the parish centre

Thursday 7th 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group meet in the parish centre

Thursday 7th 10am—12 noon Open Church

Thursday 7th 10am Holy Communion (BCP) said in church



Readings for today: Colossians 3 vs 1-11; Luke 12 vs 13-21



Revd Matthew and Sarah's roses; picture to go with the front page letter

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful the Lord God made them all (Cecil Francis Alexander 1818-1895)

All are invited to the marriage service of Sian Rigby and Zak Gardner, this coming Saturday 2nd August 2025, in St. Denys, starting at 1pm. The service is being conducted by Revd Anthony Lees-Smith. **Please be seated by 12.45pm.**

You are warmly welcome to stay for tea, coffee and cake (including Gluten Free) in the parish centre following the service. Sian and Zak would be delighted if you would stay to participate in a St. Denys group photo too, following family photographs. The car park holds only 30 cars; if you are able, please would you park elsewhere and leave the car park available for the many non St. Denys guests to park there. Thank you.



Revd Jonathan Surridge will preside and preach at our Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion service on Thursday 7th August at 10am. Refreshments will be served at the end of the service, at the back of the church.

Don't Forget! For those of you able to attend, the annual **Evington Village Fete** takes place on Saturday 9th August 12noon-5pm, on the village green. There are lots of different stalls and activities to visit/participate in and a wide range of musical and other entertainment throughout. Lunches will be served in the Village Hall as well as Afternoon teas in St. Denys parish centre. **Help is needed with the afternoon teas!** Please see Michael White to offer your help. It will be much appreciated.



VJ Day 80th Anniversary, Civic Service on Thursday 14th August in Leicester Cathedral. All are welcome, to mark the end of the 2nd World War. There will be music and bell ringing too. The time of the service is 5.30pm—6.30pm.

Evington VJ Day 80th Anniversary Celebration is taking place on Friday 15th August 12 noon onwards on Main Street, outside the Eden Café. There will be food to share or purchase, or you can take your own picnic!

Please Note that the next Bulletin will be a **DOUBLE** issue, covering Sundays 10th and 17th August 2025. Please send all material you wish to be published, which can include items relating to Friday 8th–Thursday 21st August, amongst other things, to Elizabeth Rudge, by no later than Tuesday 5th August. E-mail her at: elizabeth@rudges.org.uk Thank you.

Our fellow Christians in the city deanery, at St. Aidan's Church, St. Oswald's Road, New Parks Leicester LE3 6RJ are holding their annual Patronal Festival service on Saturday 30th August starting at 12 noon. The Festival Mass, at which the new Bishop of Richborough, Luke, will be celebrating, will be followed in the parish hall by a hearty buffet lunch. I have attended many times over the years and thoroughly enjoyed it. All are very welcome indeed.



Date for your Diary! On Sunday 5th October 2025 at 4pm, the choir of Leicester Cathedral and organists will return for a second time to St. Denys, as part of their 'Together With' scheme, to sing full Choral Evensong. Do reserve this date, and experience the singing of wonderful music to very high professional standards, in worship and praise of our Lord God.



Looking Ahead! The Leicester based Cantamici Choir will visit St. Denys to perform, in part, a Christmas programme of music in concert, on Saturday 6th December. This choir, who have visited us in the past more than once, is of an extremely high, professional standard and has toured the UK and Europe. Look out for further details. All welcome.

A reminder that a hymn/worship song suggestion box is situated at the back of the church for you to submit titles of hymns and songs that you would like to sing during Sunday worship. These will be scheduled in when it is appropriate to do so. Most suggestions so far, I am pleased to say, have been included. Most people do have favourites that they love to sing, so, please do make use of this opportunity.



Yellow Gift Aid Envelopes are in the pews week by week for people who wish to donate to St. Denys, and do so in cash. Simply enclose your donation and make sure your details are filled out in full on the front, before placing it in the collection plate at the back of the church. Your donations are much appreciated. Note, only use this method of giving if you are a UK tax payer.

Collect for the 7th Sunday after Trinity Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small as mustard seed, make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pray the sick: Pat Davies, Nigel Dearman, Ann Dixon, Zak Gardner, Mary Smith, Andy White, Richard Williams.

We pray for all those who suffer with long term health conditions in their lives.

Pray too for those who mourn including the family and friends of Angela Stevenson (formerly Plowman)



Ann Bennett (Churchwarden) 07806 877644

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

www.stdenys.org.uk

