

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN

Sunday 28th September 2025, 15th

Sunday after Trinity



Readings for today: 1 Timothy 6 vs 6-19; Luke 16 vs 19-end

Dear Friends, I had rather hoped the tatty St George flags would have gone by the time we came back from holiday, but some are still there, fluttering at half-mast on lamp posts. The red crosses daubed on the pedestrian crossings and roundabouts are fading and grubby, with the scuffing of feet and tyres. Don't the people who painted them realise that a flag laid on the ground and trampled is a sign of abject submission? The flag of St George is, in any event, a curious choice for English people. Scholars believe George was a Roman soldier (with a Palestinian mother and a Syrian father) who was martyred at Lydda during the reign of Diocletian when he refused to renounce Christianity. Richard *Cœur de Lion*, who spent most of his ten-year reign 'at home' in Aquitaine or on crusade, adopted 'St George for England' because of the heroic legends which had attached themselves to the 'martial saint' over the intervening centuries. There was no dragon of course: this was a misinterpretation of early Christian iconography depicting the Saintly Soldier rescuing a woman (the Church) from 'the beast' (pagan Rome). I think it's a pity King Richard didn't choose from a whole list of very worthy English Saints like Alban, Edmund or Dunstan.

Meanwhile, a Union Flag sticker has also been affixed to a BT exchange box I pass every morning when walking the dogs. I wonder what it is intended to say. It puzzles me why people would display it as a protest against the absorption and coexistence of people of different races, beliefs and origins. We were all taught at school that the Union Flag dates from the time of James I (VI of Scotland) when England and Wales were joined with Scotland, but did you know that the version of the flag we use today was only confirmed in its current design in 1801, with an Act of Union with Ireland? The people of Eire subsequently chose the republican tricolour, but the flag of the United Kingdom, in my opinion at least, still represents the best example of 'unity in diversity' you could imagine. I feel sure none of us would dare to suggest that the English, Welsh, Scots and (Northern) Irish are 'all just the same'. Perhaps it's their explicit diversity and rivalry which makes the United Kingdom such a vibrant place. Here, so many different identities under one flag, generate a competitive creativity and quiet determination to 'get along' which other nations still envy. The Union Flag represents an ever-evolving rainbow nation formed and re-formed by successive waves of invaders and immigrants, each importing and sharing the riches of their language, culture and spirit. Long may it continue.

Friday 26th 12pm Private Booking in the parish centre

Sunday 28th 10am Intercultural Worship in church and on Zoom; ID 820 0369 6332 (password from Qyan)

Tuesday 30th 9.30am Private Booking in the parish centre

Tuesday 30th 7.30pm Lily House Bereavement Group church & parish centre

Wednesday 1st Oct 12pm Lunch Club in the parish centre

Thursday 2nd 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group meet in the parish centre

Thursday 2nd 12pm Private Booking in the parish centre

Thursday 2nd 10am—12 noon Open Church

Thursday 2nd 10am Holy Communion (BCP, said)



Jessie Tang the diocesan Intercultural Ministry Director, and her colleagues, will lead us in Intercultural Worship this coming Sunday 28th September, at 10am. They joined us back in March for the first time, and what a wonderful and refreshing time of worship it proved to be. Please note that there will not be Holy Communion in St. Denys on this day.

St. Luke's Church, Thurnby will host an informal concert by Ron Berry (Organ) and Mike Lessiter (Bass/Baritone singer) on Saturday 4th October at 11am. Refreshments served from 10.30am. FREE! All welcome.

Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion (said) will take place next Thursday 2nd October at 10am, with Revd Jonathan Surridge presiding and preaching. Refreshments will be served after the service. All welcome.

Bishop Martyn, Bishop of Leicester will preside and preach at our service of Holy Communion on Sunday 5th October at 10am. Refreshments served afterwards.

Choral Evensong! On Sunday 5th October at 4pm, the choir and organists of Leicester Cathedral will return for a second time to St. Denys, as part of their 'Together With' scheme, to sing Choral Evensong. This is a relaxing service, held, as it was first designed hundreds of years ago, with the choir singing the Psalm, Canticles, Responses and anthem and the congregation joining in with the hymns. All are welcome to experience a rich, spiritual time of worship with glorious music and singing. Refreshments will be served in the parish centre after the service.

Harvest Festival and Kimberley's Licensing as a Locally Authorised Minister will take place, with Holy Communion on Sunday 12th October, 10am followed by a bring and share harvest lunch in the parish centre. All are very welcome.



Earlier this year, I had the privilege and joy of taking part in an episode of BBC 1's DIY SOS program. For the uninitiated, the program aims to transform the houses of families who don't have the resources or knowledge to adapt their homes, when a member of their family has a disability or genetic condition.

The Leicester project took place in Aylestone at the home of eight-year-old Isla who was born with Mandibuloacral Dysplasia, a rare genetic disorder that makes her bones brittle and causes her to age prematurely. The main aim was to adapt the house to meet Isla's specific needs, including a downstairs bathroom

and lower light switches and door handles to improve her independence. Needless to say, the DIY SOS team didn't stop at that and within eight days the house had been virtually gutted and rebuilt. To find out more details of the transformation, tune in to BBC 1 on **Friday 3rd October at 8pm.**

Virtually everyone involved gives of their time for free - plumbers, electricians, heating engineers, roofers, general volunteers, all work without pay. The materials for the build are provided free of charge by local businesses. What was particularly pleasing for the Leicester project was that there was an overwhelming community response, with an exceptionally high number of volunteers and tradespeople getting involved, resulting in a record number of responses to the appeal for help. Nick Knowles, the presenter of the programme, stated that they had received almost 1000 offers of help and that it was one of his favourite builds ever.

I was a general volunteer and spent my days doing a variety of activities i.e. sweeping the floor and cleaning up after the tradespeople, trundling around the site with a wheelbarrow full of rubbish or building materials, digging up the drive, painting a pergola etc. I lost count of the number and variety of tasks I was asked to undertake but I would do it all again. The atmosphere throughout the project was amazing. The camaraderie very special. Even the neighbours played their part. Daily we were given home baked goodies, biscuits, cakes, muffins and one evening we were even treated to fish and chips!

I felt it was an honour to play even the smallest part in making a real difference in Isla's life and found the whole experience deeply rewarding. I would encourage anyone to take part in this program, should the opportunity arise. The DIY SOS team are always on the lookout for new projects. So, if you know of someone with a disability here in Evington who could do with some help with their home, why not nominate them? **Gerry Goode**

Christmas Wreath Making Workshops



- Venue:** St Denys Parish Centre, Church Road, Evington LE5 6FA
- Dates:**
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| Saturday 22 nd November | 10.30am to 12.30pm |
| Tuesday 25 th November | 1.30 to 3.30pm |
| Wednesday 26 th November | 2.15 to 4.15pm |
| Wednesday 26 th November | 6 - 8pm |
- Cost:** £17, all materials provided, although please bring along your own secateurs and gloves for the holly! If you wish to bring extra materials e.g. Christmas Baubles, Berries, Fairy lights etc you are welcome to do so.

The workshops will be led by Peter Felstead of Leicester City Council. The workshops used to be held in Evington Hall.

If you are interested in booking a place on one of the workshops, please contact Peter on: 07305 887989. Alternatively, give your name to Gerry Goode who will then pass your details on to Peter.

Collect for the 15th Sunday after Trinity Lord God, defend your church from all false teaching, and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Please pray for all those you know, with long term health issues.

Pray for the long term sick: Joan Ackland, Pat Davies, Nigel Dearman, Ann Dixon, Zak Gardner, Morag and Ron Maund, Mary Smith, Richard Williams. **Pray for those who mourn including the family and friends of** Penny Judge, Joyce Richards and anyone we know personally.



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

Youth Work: www.stdenys.org.uk

