

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN

Sunday 21st December 2025, Fourth Sunday of Advent



Readings for today, 10am: Isaiah 7 vs 10-16; Matthew 1 vs 18-end

Dear Friends, as a church, we have been extremely busy throughout the Advent period leading up to Christmas Day.

Over the last six weeks there has been a hive of activity, from school visits in which we have welcomed around 1000 children, carol services and carol singing, concerts, a Christmas Tree festival, Blue Christmas events and so much more.

We should be incredibly proud of all that we have achieved as a church, even more so because we are in vacancy! A church is not the building, it is the people, and we would not have been able to achieve all we have without everyone who has contributed, supported and prayed. I would like to take this opportunity to say how grateful I am to those who have been involved.

As we prepare for Christmas Day, I pray you find the true meaning of Christmas and are reminded that the greatest gift of all was hidden away in a humble stable, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. As our world becomes more interested in material possessions, we need to remember we have a gift more valuable and precious than anything money can buy, a gift that is able to give true life changing joy. I hope that those with whom you share the coming days, will be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas and that Jesus' love will be shared with all you meet.

So, remember, without Christ there is no Christmas. Christmas is Christ for the masses, and Jesus is the real reason for the season.

I would like to finally thank everyone for the ongoing support we have received as a ministry team. We would all like to wish you a very joyful and peaceful Christmas and we look forward to what Jesus has in store for us in 2026.

Have a wonderful Christmas. **Kimberley**



COMING UP THIS WEEK:

Thursday 18th 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group meet in the parish centre

Thursday 18th 12pm Private Booking in the parish centre

Friday 19th 12pm Private Booking in the parish centre

Saturday 20th 10am Blue Christmas in the church

Sunday 21st 10am Holy Communion in church and on Zoom; ID 820 0369 6332
(password from Qyan)

Sunday 21st 3.30pm Choir rehearsal in church

Sunday 21st 6pm Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols in church

Tuesday 23rd 7.30pm Lily House Bereavement Group church & parish centre

Wednesday 24th (Christmas Eve) 4pm Combined Crib and Christingle service in church

Wednesday 24th 11.15pm 'Midnight' Holy Communion in church

Thursday 25th (Christmas Day) Informal Holy Communion in church



18th 10am –12 noon Open Church

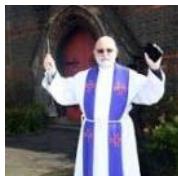
18th 10am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion (said)



Christmas Tree Festival a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas Tree Festival last weekend. The trees were all decorated to a very high standard and to choose the best was virtually impossible. The Lord Mayor took about an hour to come to her decision to choose 'Christmas Past and Present' as her choice, a very worthy winner, and then gave second and third choices and a mention to several other trees. One of the voting slips for the 'People's Choice' of tree said 'All Good' instead of choosing an individual tree. That person also said what a joy it was to see the displays, thanked everyone involved and put 'you have a lovely church'.

Thank you to all of you who supported the weekend in any way, provided cakes or raffle prizes, helped with teas, sold raffle tickets, took money on the door and generally welcomed people to St Denys. It was lovely to see people who used to live in Evington and worship at St Denys who have now moved away, but came back for the Festival, and many people that we didn't recognise.

After several months of planning, the weekend was very successful, and I think we can all be very pleased. Thanks again to everyone involved. **Ann Bennett**



Revd Canon Matthew Bradbury will preside and preach at Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion on Thursday 18th December at 10am. Refreshments will be served following the service. All are welcome.

Revd Phil White will return to preside and preach at our service of Holy Communion this coming Sunday 21st December, 10am. Refreshments will be served, as usual, in the parish centre after the service.



Revd (Fr) Canon Dr Stephen Foster will lead our Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols this coming Sunday 21st December at 6pm. We are delighted to welcome him back. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service at the back of the church.

Kimberley Tyler our Locally Authorised Minister and Pastoral Warden will lead the combined Crib and Christingle service on Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December at 4pm. All are welcome.



Revd Canon Matthew Bradbury will preside and preach at our service of 'Midnight' Holy Communion on Christmas Eve, Thursday 24th December at 11.15pm. All are welcome.





We welcome Revd James Pickersgill to lead our Informal Service of Holy Communion on Christmas Day, Thursday 25th December at 10am, alongside **Kimberley Tyler. All are very welcome.**

Christmas Services

Blue Christmas - Saturday 20th December 10am-12pm

Candlelit 9 Lessons and Carol Service - Sunday 21st December 6pm

Crib & Christingle Service - Wednesday 24th December at 4pm

Midnight Holy Communion Service - Wednesday 24th December at 11.15pm

Christmas Day Family Service/Holy Communion - Thurs 25th Dec at 10am

Collect for the 4th Sunday in 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.

Collect for Christmas Eve Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Collect for Christmas Day Eternal God, in the stillness of this night you sent your almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation: give to the earth peace that we long for and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Also pray for the sick: Joan Ackland, Karen Dawes, Ann Dixon, Revd Richard Howells, Morag and Ron Maund, Isobel Thorpe, Richard Williams.



Pray for those who mourn including the family and friends of
Sandra Morris, Suzanne Watson

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

Youth Work: www.stdny.org.uk

