

# ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN

**Sundays 28th December 2025 & 4th January 2026, 1st Sunday of Christmas and Epiphany respectively. DOUBLE EDITION**



*Readings for 28th Dec: Hebrews 2 vs 10-end; Matthew 2 vs 13-end,  
4th Jan: Ephesians 3 vs 1-12; Matthew 2 vs 1-12*

**Dear Friends,** at our Christmas midnight service, I called to mind that, for Christians, this night marked the *beginning* of the season of Christmas and Epiphany, rather than the 'last gasp' of that time of extended revelry and over-consumption which marks the secular season. While the people 'out there' are turning their attention to New Year sales and slimming aids, we should remain focussed on the presence of Our Lord among us, revealed to us as the Prince of Peace and the Hope of the World. Jesus calls us to turn away from all that is dark and strive for all that brings light and hope. Using the turn of the year as symbol for turning once again to the light might seem to support the secular notion of New Year's resolutions, but I am not a fan of this idea. Welcoming the Christ child into our lives should not be a once-a-year event, marked with 'pie crust promises' (as Mary Poppins would say). Although Baby Jesus is soon to be packed away with the Christmas decorations, if we will allow him, Jesus of Nazareth will remain with us every day for our whole lives. Even if turning to Christ every day (in prayer and promise) is something which most of us struggle to do, *every Sunday and every Thursday of the year* at St Denys offers an opportunity to hear the Word, to pray with friends, to receive the blessing of Christian fellowship and to make those little 'course corrections' which help to keep us all travelling towards the Light. At St Denys, we are still supported by a goodly crowd of people, but 'none of us are getting any younger' as they say.

I was struck by an item on the local TV news just before Christmas lamenting the impending closure of churches in Lincoln Diocese. The two vicars who were interviewed were making the point that the church can no longer afford to pay for more than a fraction of the clergy needed to lead services. Well, here's the news: services don't strictly need clergy! They just need enough committed people to provide a core of believers who can pay the bills and encourage just a few of their number to stand at the front and lead worship. ***Continued overleaf.....***

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People who don't come to church, or who only do so at Christmas, are often the first to complain when their local church is threatened with closure. Why do churches close? The reason is simple: people are not attending them in sufficient numbers. Is this because they are weary of The Church of England, or is it because they have stopped listening to God? Do they worship at other churches, or do they worship at the secular altars of consumerism and celebrity? Is it because they are so caught up in the web of those silky spiders of debt and over-work, that they cannot break free. My plea to you this year is to help St Denys to buck the trend. Be a bit counter-cultural (Jesus certainly was). Keep coming and do so regularly. Bring a friend or neighbour. Don't let the dreary whirring world distract you from the quiet joy and stillness of the Nativity and the promise of His Presence among us, which is for all year, for all time, and for everyone.

## **Matthew**

### **COMING UP:**

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

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

**Thursday 25th 10am (Christmas Day) Informal Holy Communion in church**

**Sunday 28th 10am Holy Communion** in church and via Zoom, ID: 820 0369 6332 (password from Qyan)

**Sunday 4th Jan 2026 10am Holy Communion** in church (Zoom details as above)

**Monday 5th 2pm Monday Meet** in church and parish centre

**Tuesday 6th 7.30pm Lily House Bereavement Support** in church & parish centre

**Thursday 8th 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group** meet in the parish centre

**8th Jan 10am –12 noon Open Church**

**8th 10am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion (said)**

**diary**



**Canon Matthew Bradbury** will preside and preach at our service of 'Midnight' Holy Communion on Christmas Eve, 24th December starting at 11.15pm and at Holy Communion on Sunday 4th January 2026 at 10am. Refreshments will be served in the parish centre after the latter service.



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.

**Please note that there will not be any service in church of any kind on Thursday 1st January. BCP Holy Communion will next be held on Thursday 8th January 2026 at the usual time of 10am.**

**A big thank you to all** who supported, the Cantamici Christmas concert that took place in St. Denys on 6th October. A total of £558 after all expenses, was raised for the work of St. Denys Church, a magnificent total. Thanks too, to Kay Arnachellum for the provision of the wonderful, delicious refreshments, and to her helpers Viv Robertson and members of my own family who cleared away afterwards and helped at the door. **Qyan**

**I will be away from my desk from today, Christmas Eve, until Monday 5th January 2026. Only urgent phone calls and e-mails will be answered during this time. Any other communication will be responded to upon my return.**

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas season and New Year. **Qyan, St. Denys Administrator**

### Festive Dog Walk

**New Years Day Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January**

Meet at 10.30am in St Denys Church Car Park

Before finishing at St Denys Parish Centre for Hot Drinks and Refreshments.

Dogs are optional and everyone is very welcome.

*If you require further details, please contact:  
0116 271 3812*



## Christmas Services

**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 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 Night** 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.

**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 1st Sunday of Christmas** 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. Amen.

**Also pray for the sick:** Joan Ackland, Barrie Coleman, 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



**Ann Bennett (Churchwarden)** 07806 877644

**Qyan (Administrator)** 07803 828454 [office@stdenys.org.uk](mailto:office@stdenys.org.uk)

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

Youth Work: [www.stdny.org.uk](http://www.stdny.org.uk)

