

**ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN**  
**Sunday 11th January 2026, Baptism of Christ,**  
**1st Sunday of Epiphany**



*Readings for today: Acts 10 vs 34-43; Matthew 3 vs 13-end*

Dear Friends, Firstly I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. It is now a year since we had a priest attached to St Denys and over the last year we have had many special events and have received rich blessings from God. I pray that we will go forward into 2026 with thankfulness, optimism and hope for the future, because whatever the New Year brings we can be assured that God will continue to bless us, both individually and as a church.

In the first week of December, a friend and I went to Curve Theatre for a wonderful production of The Sound of Music. Other people from St Denys went to it too. The whole show was a delight, the singing, the dancing, the scenery and especially the children. The musical is based on the story of Maria who wanted to become a nun, but struggled with the strict rules of silence and obedience and was considered to be a problem to the other nuns who called her 'a flibbertigibbet, a will o' the wisp, a clown'. Eventually Reverend Mother realises Maria is not ready to take her vows and sends her away to become a governess to the Von Trapp family's seven children.

One of my Christmas presents was very much linked to this show. Quite unexpectedly I was given a book entitled 'The Sound of Musings' in which the author shows a deeper dimension to the life of Maria, encouraging us to look at her life and link it with our Christian lives in many different ways. When Maria was told she must leave the convent to become a governess she found it a life-changing challenge and we are reminded in 'The Sound of Musings' of Peter stepping out of the boat when Jesus challenged him. We sometimes need to 'step out of the boat' and take on something new and, perhaps, unknown, that we cannot do without God's help. A final prayer from the book:

*Dear Lord, help me to trust that when you call, you will equip. Please help me recognise, respond and be ready when you call. Amen.*

With best wishes, **Ann Bennett**

## **COMING UP:**

**Friday 9th 12pm Private Booking** in the parish centre

**Sunday 11th 10am Holy Communion** in church and on Zoom, ID: 820 0369 6332 (password from Qyan) followed by refreshments in the parish centre.

**Monday 12th 10am Private Booking** in the parish centre

**Tuesday 13th 9am Private Booking** in the parish centre

**Tuesday 13th 7.30pm Lily House Bereavement Support** in church & parish centre

**Wednesday 14th 2.30pm Evington History & Heritage Group** in the parish centre

**Thursday 15th 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group** meet in the parish centre

**Thursday 15th 12pm Private Booking** in the parish centre

**Thursday 15th 7pm PCC Meeting** in the parish centre



**Thursday 15th 10am –12 noon Open Church**

**Thursday 15th 10am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion (said)**



**The Revd (Fr) Canon Dr Stephen Foster** will return to preside and preach at the Holy Communion service on Sunday 11th January at 10am. As usual, refreshments will be provided in the parish centre after the service. All are very welcome.

**Arbor House** is a very near neighbour of St Denys, being just round the corner in High Street. For many years we have had a very good relationship with the home which accommodates around thirty elderly residents. Over the years we have led services and at one time taken Holy Communion to those who would like to receive it. We are now a small group who continue to do this outreach from St Denys. The services and chat with the residents are always appreciated and we have got to know some of them very well.

We are now looking for one or two more St Denys people to join us. It is not a big commitment, once a month on a Monday afternoon for about half an hour, and very enjoyable and worthwhile. Our next service is on 12<sup>th</sup> January at 2.15pm. Please have a word with me to find out more, or just turn up next time. You will be made very welcome. **Ann Bennett**

**The Evington History and Heritage Group** will next meet in parish centre on Wednesday 14th January at 2.30pm. Trevor Allen will return to talk about the St. Margaret and Woodgate areas of Leicester city. Visitors are welcome for the small cost of just £3.

**Canon Matthew Bradbury** will preside and preach at our service of Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at 10am on Thursday 15th January followed by refreshments at the back of the church.



**The Parochial Church Council (PCC)** will meet on Thursday 15th January at 7pm in the parish centre. Please pray for it as it's members seek to discern the will of God for St. Denys, and often have to make tricky decisions in so doing. Your prayers will be much appreciated. Thank you.

**The Late Barrie Coleman** It is with great sadness that we report that Barrie passed peacefully away on Christmas Day. He and Marjorie have attended St. Denys for decades. He had latterly been living at Scraftoft Court care home. Barrie was always friendly, kind, gentle and a quiet soul and was so lovely to talk to at all times. The PCC and people of St. Denys send their deepest condolences to Marjorie and all the family at this very difficult time.

The service for Barrie will take place on Wednesday 21st January in St. Denys Church, at 12.30pm, followed by refreshments in the parish centre. All who knew him are warmly invited to attend.



**Bishop's Chaplaincy Lecture, given by Lord Alan Beith, former Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, Wednesday 28th January, 5.30pm—8pm at St. Andrew's Church, Jarrom Street**

Law lies at the heart of Christian and Jewish traditions, and underpins the British constitution itself. Yet today, critics call it 'rule by judges' and others argue that unjust laws need not be obeyed. In a world of shifting values and contested authority, does law still matter? Join us for the Bishop's Chaplaincy lecture, delivered by Lord Alan Beith, who will explore the place of law in public life, the tensions it now faces and why it continues to matter. The lecture will be followed by a question and answer session.

[Book a free spot here.](#)

**Diocesan Prayer Diary** Every four months, the diocese issues a prayer diary with daily prayer requests. Why not try using this as part of your everyday prayer cycle? January—April is available now, accessible online, by using the following link: <https://leicester.anglican.org/everyday-faith/prayer-diary/>

**A short poem, included in the light of recent snowfall across the country:**

Winter's embrace

Snowflakes fall, a silent lullaby,  
Blankets of white beneath twilight sky,  
Bare branches etched in frost's sigh,  
Cold winds weave through the night,  
Stars alight, crisp and bright,  
Warm fireside light,  
Frozen plight,  
Deep night,  
Still.



***(With thanks to 'Hello Poetry' - contributor 'renseksderf' 2024***

**Collect for 1st Sunday of Epiphany, Baptism of Christ** Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognise him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

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

**Pray for those who live with long term health conditions**

**Pray for those who mourn including the family and friends of**  
Barrie Coleman



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St. Denys website, including the Giving Links for Church and Youth Work: [www.stdenys.org.uk](http://www.stdenys.org.uk)

