



*Readings for today: Galatians 1 vs 11-16a; Matthew 19 vs 27-end*

Dear Friends, this week we said a fond farewell to Barrie Coleman, former Churchwarden of St Denys, dearly beloved husband of Marjorie, and a loving and devoted father, grandfather and great-grandfather. At his funeral I was privileged to read out some wonderful family reminiscences, penned by Marjorie and family. Jeff, one of their sons, told us this: *'There was nothing like a hug or a handshake from Barrie to let you know he cared and accepted you for who you are.'*

You can tell a lot from a person's handshake. It seems Barrie's was always utterly genuine. I am sure we have all experienced the other kind of handshake, which discloses insincerity or aggression; clammy and limp or painfully crushing. We need more people like Barrie.

I am writing this bulletin letter having been following the news surrounding the meeting of world leaders and their chief economists at Davos in Switzerland. President Trump has just issued what seems to be something of a climbdown over his absurd proposal to take Greenland by force of arms, but he is still pursuing a claim to its 'ownership' which flouts all notions and norms of international law and diplomacy. His agents, under the sinister acronym 'ICE', are terrorising innocent people, his own citizens, in some ghastly attempt to rid their nation of a class of vilified and demonised people. I am sure I am not alone in hearing echoes of the jackboots of Nazi Germany. The gallant people of his nation who gave their lives to save the world from such horrors must be turning in their graves. I do not believe I am being controversial in proposing that Donald Trump has brought shame upon his own great nation and that his egregious actions and pronouncements throughout the short term of his presidency are causing huge consternation amongst many, if not most, decent Americans, and all around the world. He is a man whose hand I would definitely not wish to shake.

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When we shake hands with each other and exchange the peace at church, it is an outward and visible sign of Christ's peace. St John's Gospel Chapter 14, verse 27, records what Jesus said:

*'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid'.*

Barrie is now at peace and beyond the troubles of the world in the embrace of his Lord and Saviour. We all earnestly seek that peace on earth and will only find it when we are at peace with ourselves and with each other. Peace is costly, fragile, and can never be taken for granted. I pray that the peacemakers, whom Jesus blessed and called 'children of God', will remain 'the still, small voice of God', and with God's gentle and sincere handshake of trust and protection will win back the world from those whose hands are raised in threat and stained with blood.

Peace be with you. **Revd Matthew**



#### **COMING UP:**

**Friday 23rd 12pm Private Booking** in the parish centre

**Sunday 25th 10am Holy Communion** in church and on Zoom, ID: 820 0369 6332 (password from Qyan) followed by refreshments in the parish centre.

**Monday 26th 10am Private Booking** in the parish centre

**Tuesday 27th 9am Private Booking** in the parish centre

**Tuesday 27th 7.30pm Lily House Bereavement Support** in church & parish centre

**Thursday 29th 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group** meet in the parish centre

**Thursday 29th 12pm Private Booking** in the parish centre

**Thursday 29th 10am –12 noon Open Church**

**Thursday 29th 10am BCP Holy Communion (said) or Morning Prayer**



***Thought: Peace, love, faith, hope and joy are the gifts of Christ our Lord, thus says the Lord, will the world know my friends, peace, love, faith and hope are the gifts of Christ our Lord.***

**We are very sad to report that Brenda Johnson** (Maxine de Hoedt's mother) passed away at home, last Saturday 17th January. Brenda had reached the marvellous age of 104 (and a half!) and had lived a very full life, remaining quite fit and healthy until recent months.

The funeral service for Brenda will take place at Great Glen Crematorium on Tuesday 17th February at 2.30pm. All who knew her are welcome to attend.



**We welcome back Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster** who will preside and preach at our service of Holy Communion this coming Sunday 25th January at 10am, marking the Conversion of Paul. Refreshments will be served in the parish centre after the service. Please do stay if you can.

**Lily House Bereavement Group** will meet this coming Tuesday 27th January at 7.30pm in church and the parish centre meeting room, as they do every Tuesday evening. This is for anyone who has been bereaved at any time, and seeks comfort, company, chat and guidance. Refreshments are provided.

**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](#).



**On Thursday 29th, at 10am** the service will be either BCP Holy Communion or Morning Prayer, to be confirmed. Refreshments will be served at the back of the church after the service. All are welcome.

**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/>

**Friends, don't forget!** I welcome contributions for the bulletin at any time, from anyone, which I will include when possible. Do you have a short poem, anecdote, Christian message, story, event etc that you would like to share? Material will only be edited for reasons of space and spelling, if necessary. Do get in touch! Thank you. **Qyan**

**Plus! I still need people** to join the Reader and Intercessor rota. We are in particular, critically short of people to do the intercessions but need more readers too. Guidance will be given if necessary. Please contact me if you feel that you can be part of this ministry. **Qyan**

**Collect for the Conversion of Saint Paul**

Almighty God, who caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul; grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



**Collect for 3rd Sunday of Epiphany** God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed; anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your peoples free to praise you in Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

**Please pray for all those suffering from long term health conditions**

**Pray for those who mourn including the family and friends of** Barrie Coleman, Brenda Johnson, Revd Brian Thompson



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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)

