

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN

Sunday 8th February 2026, 2nd Sunday before Lent, Racial Justice Sunday



Readings for today: Romans 8 vs 18-25; Matthew 6 vs 25-end

Dear Friends, most of you will know that I am not a scientist although I have always had an interest in science, and particularly the big questions about the creation of the universe.

As Christians we are taught to believe many things which, in this modern secular age, seem impossible such as the virgin birth, Christ's resurrection from the dead and turning water into wine. Can science prove us wrong?

Professor Richard Dawkins, the eminent evolutionary biologist and atheist, is a proponent of the view that modern science can disprove the existence of God. He does not mince his words when it comes to his contempt for religion, describing the Old Testament God as a, "petty, unjust, unforgiving control freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser." He considers the teaching of religion to children to be mental abuse and religious faith as a divisive force fostering fanaticism and bigotry.

I very briefly summarise below some of his key arguments as to why he considers there cannot be a supernatural, all-powerful, personal God. He argues that:

1. Darwin's theory of evolution and that theory alone explains how life forms have evolved over the millennia from the primordial swamps to the present day. There is no need for a grand designer and thus the concept of God as creator is redundant.
2. Evolution is a process driven not by God but the actions of what he terms "selfish genes", motivated by a strong survival instinct.
3. Everything - from consciousness to morality - arises solely from the evolutionary process. Ultimately, when everything is broken down to its constituent parts, life forms are nothing but a collection of atoms, molecules and electrical impulses.
4. Evolution is a complete, exclusionary process which explains all life in the universe and obviates the need for a designer God.

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5. The concept of a single God, the foundation of the Abrahamic faiths, is incompatible with those religions such as Hinduism which believe in multiple deities. This conflict demonstrates that faith is nothing but a fiction.

6. Science and religious faith are incompatible and science trumps faith.

As a Christian, I find Dawkins views deeply depressing. Is there no place for religious faith in the modern world? I believe that there is and in a second part of this treatise I will explore why other eminent scientists still hold a deep belief in God.

Part 2 to follow next week—Keith Vaughan (Guest Writer)

COMING UP:

Thursday 5th 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group meet in the parish centre

Thursday 5th 12pm Private Booking in the parish centre

Friday 6th 12pm Private Booking in the parish centre

Saturday 7th 10am Minster Community 'Green Group' meeting in parish centre

Sunday 8th 10am Holy Communion in church and on Zoom, ID 820 0369 6332 (password from Qyan) followed by refreshments in the parish centre.

Sunday 8th 11.30am approx short PCC meeting in church following the service

Monday 9th 10am Private Booking in the parish centre

Tuesday 10th 9am Private Booking in the parish centre

Tuesday 10th 7.30pm Lily House Bereavement Support in church & parish centre

Wed 11th 2.30pm Evington History and Heritage Group meet in the parish centre

Thursday 12th 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group meet in the parish centre

Thursday 12th 12pm Private Booking in the parish centre



Thursday 12th 10am –12 noon Open Church

Thursday 12th 10am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion (said)



Revd Ali Simpson-Smith will preside and preach at our service of Holy Communion this coming Sunday 8th February at 10am. This is the first time Revd Ali will have led us in worship. We warmly welcome her. Please do stay for refreshments after the service if you can.

Leicester Cathedral have begun their Spring season of classical music lunchtime recitals featuring a mixture of different instruments, piano, organ, saxophone, voice, french horn and tuba! 45 minutes of relaxing music to soothe the soul. Held every two weeks on Mondays at 12.30pm. The next recital is on Monday 9th February. Free entry. Please see the Cathedral website for more details: <https://leicestercathedral.org/lunchtime-recitals>

Arbor House the service this month at Arbor House is Monday, 9th February at 2.15 pm. It will take the usual form of some well-known hymns, readings and prayers. You would be most welcome to join us if you would like to. **Ann Bennett**



Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion (said) will be held this Thursday 12th February at 10am in church. The President and Preacher will be Revd Stuart Voce. Refreshments will be served at the back of the church after the service. All are very welcome.

St Jerome's *Book Club*



A Zoom gathering for those interested in reading and discussing books that stimulate the mind and spirit.

We meet monthly at 7.30pm.



12 February

The age of AI by Jason Thacker



12 March

Everything Belongs by Richard Rohr



16 April

To be decided



Joining

For the Zoom link, please email: liz.rawlings@leicestercofe.org

The Funeral Service for the late Brenda Johnson will take place at 3pm on Tuesday 17th February in Great Glen Crematorium. The Revd Liz Wilson and Kimberley Tyler will take the service. Please note the change of start time! All who knew her are warmly welcome to attend.

Flower Creation by Kimberley Tyler

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/>



Collect for the 2nd Sunday before Lent Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray for the sick: Joan Ackland, Ann Dixon, Revd Richard Howells, Ron Maund, Isobel Thorpe, Richard Williams.



Pray for those who mourn including the family and friends of Brenda Johnson, Morag Maund, Revd Brian Thompson

Prayer Tree (picture left) in St. Denys If you have someone or something you wish to be prayed for, write a brief description on the cards by the tree and hang it on the tree. On the first Thursday of each month at Holy Communion, the cards will be read and the requests prayed during the service.



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St. Denys website, including the Giving Links for Church and Youth Work: www.stdenys.org.uk

