

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN Sunday 12th April 2026, 2nd Sunday of Easter *Readings for this Sunday 10am: Acts 2.14a, 22-32; John 20.19-end*



Dear Friends, our Gospel on Sunday, John chapter 20, verses 19–31, captures the transformative moment when the risen Jesus moves his disciples from fearful isolation to empowered mission. It is Easter Sunday evening, yet the atmosphere is not celebratory; the disciples are huddled behind locked doors, consumed by terror of the Jewish authorities. Their fear represents the natural human reaction to trauma and uncertainty. However, Jesus, showing that his resurrected body is not limited by physical barriers, appears in their midst, bringing a comforting, transformative greeting: "Peace be with you".

The Gifts of the Risen Lord Jesus does not rebuke them for deserting him; instead, he offers his peace, showing them his wounds to prove his identity. These nail-pierced hands and pierced side serve as a reminder that the risen Jesus is the same Jesus who was crucified, yet he has defeated death. After granting peace, he offers a commission: "As the Father has sent me, I also send you". Furthermore, he breathes on them—a deliberate act recalling God breathing life into Adam in Genesis—and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit". This acts as a commissioning, empowering them to continue his work, particularly in proclaiming the forgiveness of sins.

Doubting Thomas and Final Blessing Thomas, one of the Twelve, is not present and refuses to believe, demanding to see and touch the wounds. A week later, Jesus appears again specifically for Thomas, allowing him to touch his wounds and inviting him to believe. Thomas offers the highest confession of faith in the Gospel: "My Lord and my God!". Jesus' final words in this scene constitute a vital promise for future believers: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe".

The Purpose of the Gospel John concludes by explaining that these signs are written not merely as history, but so that readers may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief, they may have life in his name. The locked room is opened, and the fear is transformed into a worldwide mission of peace and forgiveness.

A brief exposition on the Gospel Reading for Sunday 12th April 2026.

COMING UP:

Sunday 12th 10am Intercultural Worship in church and on Zoom, ID 820 0369 6332 (password from Qyan) refreshments in the parish centre after the service

Monday 13th 10am Private Booking in the parish centre

Monday 13th 2.15pm Short Service at Arbor House.

Tuesday 14th 9.30am Private Booking in the parish centre

Tuesday 14th 7.30pm Lily House Bereavement Group meet in the parish centre

Thursday 16th 12pm Private Booking in the parish centre

Thursday 16th 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group meet in the parish centre

Thursday 16th 10am –12 noon Open Church

Thursday 16th 10am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion (said)

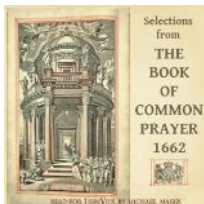
diary

Intercultural Worship will be held in St. Denys this coming Sunday 12th April at 10am. This will be led, as before, by Jessie Tang and Michael Ravuri who have visited us twice before. This will be an interesting



and refreshing service with hymns, songs and prayers etc, both traditional and modern in other languages as well as English. All are welcome. Note that there won't be a Holy Communion service, this being the only service today.

Arbor House will hold it's next service on Monday 13th April at 2.15pm. All are welcome to join our churchwarden and others from St. Denys, for this short service which is always to the delight of the residents of the home.



'Book of Common Prayer (BCP) Holy Communion will be held on Thursday 16th April at 10am. Revd Robert Hinsley or Revd Stuart Voce will preside and preach. Please stay if you can for refreshments at the end at the back of the church. All are very welcome!

Road Closure! Please be aware that on Monday 27th April, Church Road outside St. Denys will be closed for four weeks to enable gas works to take place, although access to the church car park should be granted.



Easter Thought: Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord, alleluia alleluia, give praise to his name! (Donald Fishel, b.1950)

Advance Notice! The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held in the church or parish centre on Tuesday 30th April at 7pm. This is where we review the year past, discuss the accounts and look ahead to the future. Please make this a priority in your diaries! Thank you.



New Hedging! I am pleased to say that the new hedging has been planted around the **Gardens of Remembrance** and is looking very good. A big thank you goes to the group of volunteers who removed the old plants, dug compost in and planted the **250 new plants** which are a variety of Euonymous. We are very grateful for the bequest left to St Denys by the late Joyce Richards and to the family of the late Brenda Johnson who kindly donated money to St Denys in her memory. We were able to use this money to fund the new hedging. Both ladies were faithful worshippers at St Denys for many years, so this has been a very appropriate use of their money. **Ann Bennett**

Hymn Suggestions A reminder that, at any time, you may make a request anonymously if you wish, for us to sing a hymn or song of your choice for Sunday morning services, by writing down the title and leaving it in the black hymn request box at the back of the church. Any suggestions will be considered and fitted in when it is appropriate to do so. **Qyan**

I am still looking for more people willing to go on the rota to read bible readings during Sunday worship, and prepare and lead the intercessions. If you can help, please do get in touch. Guidance will be given if wanted. **Qyan**.

Many thanks to those people who took time out to decorate the church with flowers for Easter. The displays are absolutely beautiful and enhance even further, our wonderful church building. Thank you so much.



Thanks also go to all those who are on the rota for providing refreshments in the parish centre after Sunday worship. Your efforts are much appreciated week by week and enable not only thirst to be quenched, but fellowship with one another to grow—an important ministry!

Easter Morning Light

Easter morning wakes the land,
With gentle sun and blossoms grand.
Hope arrives on feathered wings,
In pastel skies, new joy it brings.

The stone is moved, the shadows flee,
Love restores what's meant to be.
From quiet dawn to songs of cheer,
New life whispers, Hope is here.



Easter Thought: We have a gospel to proclaim, good news to all throughout the earth; the gospel of a Saviour's name: we sing his glory, tell his worth. Tell of that glorious Easter morn, empty the tomb, for he was free; he broke the pow'r of death and hell that we might share his victory. (Edward Joseph Burns b. 1938)

Collect for 2nd Sunday of Easter: Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace; to the praise of God the Father. Amen.

Pray for the sick: Ann Dixon, Revd Richard Howells, Ron Maund, Pauline Mitchell, Sue Mitchell, Gail Russell, Isobel Thorpe, Richard Williams.

Pray for those with long term health conditions

Pray for those who mourn including the family and friends of Christopher Wren



Ann Bennett (Churchwarden) 07806 877644

Qyan (Administrator) 07803 828454 office@stdenys.org.uk

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

Youth Work: www.stdenys.org.uk

