

## ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN Sunday 26th April 2026, 4th Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday



Dear Friends, in John 10:1-10, Jesus delivers a profound discourse using the metaphor of a sheepfold, immediately following his healing of the man born blind in chapter 9. This passage highlights the contrast between the true shepherd and imposters, emphasizing Jesus as the only valid access to salvation and life. He identifies himself not only as the Good Shepherd who calls his sheep by name but also as the very "door of the sheep".

**The True Shepherd vs. Thieves** Jesus begins by stating that anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in elsewhere is a "thief and a robber". In the context of John 9, these "thieves" are the Pharisees and religious leaders who, rather than protecting and leading the people, threaten and exclude them. Conversely, the true shepherd enters legally, and the gatekeeper opens for him. A defining characteristic of the true shepherd is that the sheep know his voice, allowing him to call them by name and lead them out.

**The Door and the Protection** Jesus further explains, "I am the door of the sheep". He acts as the sole access point to security and sustenance, stating that whoever enters through him "will be saved" and find pasture. Unlike the thieves, who come to "steal, kill, and destroy," Jesus provides protection and the ability to "go in and out" safely.

The idea of a shepherd as a 'door' is not as strange as it sounds. In some parts of the Holy Land the sheep fold was a simple circular stone enclosure with a single opening for the sheep to enter and exit. The shepherd would sleep across the entrance at night, so he became, quite literally, the door.

**Abundant Life** The culmination of this passage is the promise in verse 10: "I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly". This "life" is not merely physical survival but spiritual, eternal life that begins here and now, marked by knowing the Shepherd and being part of his community. The "abundant life" stands in sharp contrast to the destructiveness of the thieves, offering security, meaning, and true spiritual sustenance.

*Continued overleaf, under diary section.....*

## **COMING UP:**

**Thursday 23rd 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group** meet in the parish centre

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

**Friday 24th 12pm Private Booking** in the parish centre

**Sunday 26th 10am Holy Communion** in church and on Zoom, ID 820 0369 6332  
(password from Qyan) refreshments in the parish centre after the service

**Monday 27th 10am Private Booking** in the parish centre

**Tuesday 28th 9am Private Booking** in the parish centre

**Tuesday 28th 7.30pm Lily House Bereavement Group** meet in the parish centre

**Thursday 30th 12pm Private Booking** in the parish centre

**Thursday 30th 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group** meet in the parish centre

**Thursday 30th 7pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting** in the church / parish centre

**Thursday 30th 10am –12 noon Open Church**

**Thursday 30th 10am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion (said)**

diary

*.....continued from page 1:* Ultimately, John 10:1-10 is an invitation to recognize Jesus' voice and trust in him as the exclusive path to eternal security and a truly fulfilled life, rejecting the false leadership of those who seek only to destroy.

***(The above is a short exposition on the Gospel Reading for this Sunday)***

**Revd Ali Simpson-Smith** will preside and preach at the service of Holy Communion this coming Sunday 26th April at 10am. We welcome her warmly. Refreshments will be served in the parish centre at the end of the service.



**Book of Common Prayer (BCP) Holy Communion** will be held on Thursday 30th April at 10am. Revd Cecilia Adjadje will preside and preach. Please stay if you can for refreshments at the end. All are very welcome!

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)** will be held in the church or parish centre on Thursday 30th April at 7pm. This is where we review the year past, discuss the accounts and look ahead to the future. Refreshments will be served including wine and nibbles! Please make this a priority.

*Readings for Sunday 26th April: Acts 2 vs 43-end; John 10 vs 1-10*

**New PCC Members Needed!** St. Denys has vacancies on the Parochial Church Council (PCC) which it would be lovely to fill. PCCs carry legal status and members are trustees of the church. If you would like to help shape the life of St. Denys and vote on important matters, why not consider becoming a member? Existing members are a friendly team! To find out more, please speak to Ann Bennett (Churchwarden) or any current member of the PCC.



# QUIZ NIGHT

## with Fish & Chip Supper

St Denys Parish Centre  
on Saturday May 9th at 7.30pm

Tickets £20.00  
incl. supper

from Ann Mason on 0116 2739714  
and Michael White in church

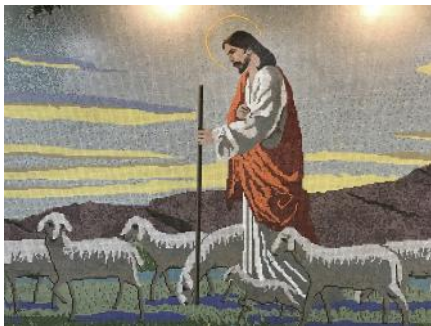
## Raffle

Bring your own drinks & glasses

**Advance Notice!** On Sunday 10th May Bishop Saju will be presiding and preaching at our 10am service of Holy Communion which will also witness the Confirmation of Lottie Tyler, daughter of Phil and Kimberley. This will be a very special, happy and joyous occasion. Most of the hymns and songs have been chosen by Lottie herself. As part of the St. Denys family, please do come and support Lottie and pray for her in this very important 'next step' in her Christian journey of faith. Refreshments will be served in the parish centre.

**The Shepherd's Voice, a poem for 4th Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday. Authorship unknown.**

Upon the verdant, Easter hill,  
The Risen Shepherd calls us still.  
We know His voice, we run to hear,  
His love removes all doubt and fear.  
Through paths of grace, He leads us home,  
No more the weary sheep shall roam.  
Good Shepherd, guard us with your staff,  
And give us life, the best of half.



*Alleluia Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!*

**Collect for 4th Sunday of Easter:** Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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

**Pray for those who mourn including the family and friends of Sheila Kent, Christopher Wren**



**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.stdenys.org.uk](http://www.stdenys.org.uk)

