

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN Sunday 3rd May 2026, 5th Sunday of Easter



Dear Friends, I seldom wax lyrical about our 'royals', especially as some members of 'The Firm' (as Queen Elizabeth used to call it) have let the side down so very badly over recent years; however, I think it only right that I take a moment to thank the King for proving that the British Constitutional Monarchy is completely safe in his hands and remains a force for good. Sarah is, and always has been, a committed royalist and follows the activities of the royal family assiduously. I am perhaps less devoted, and sometimes a little cynical, although, as a clergyperson, I have sworn an oath of allegiance to the Queen and her Heirs and Successors (that'll be Charles!) so I am, legally and spiritually, one of the King's humble servants. I also had the rare privilege of meeting him in Wisbech a few years ago (when he was Prince of Wales) and found him to be absolutely charming and utterly sincere. I was especially impressed by his way of making each individual he met the absolute centre of his attention. A firm dry handshake with true eye contact and a comforting smile mean such a lot when the moment is so fleeting.

I wonder if you, like me, had considerable reservations about His Majesty's trip to the United States? I had real concerns that King Charles was going to end up in one of those awful, televised Oval Office shouting matches with 'Mr President' using him as a political punchbag. King Charles has however shown that there is another way of doing international diplomacy. His speech to Congress is a lesson in charm, subtlety, tolerance, humour and truth. To paraphrase his messages: '*We don't always agree, but we can remain friends*'. '*We all need NATO*'. '*Power has to be answerable to those who grant it*' (his reference to Magna Carta). He used humour to good effect and was able to telegraph signs of encouragement to the Democrats without offending the Republicans.

Mr Trump also appears to be delighted, saying '*Charles agrees with me, even more than I do*,...' which says it all really. I thought it might turn out to be a disaster, but I should have had more faith. Our King has done more to restore international relations with the American People (who matter to us, whether we like it or not) than any politician could have hoped. ***Continued overleaf.....***

Continued from previous page.....Yes, I know the King will have had considerable assistance with the drafting of his speeches and will have been briefed in detail about what to say and what not to say. But he did exactly what he needed to do in reaffirming the Special Relationship, which is not always a comfortable one but is entirely real; we share so much culturally, linguistically, historically. Many of us have friends and relatives ‘across the pond’, which is why we are so heartbroken and anxious about the awful things we have seen happening ‘over there’. King Charles has also proved how effective a Constitutional Monarch can be. He is not a politician, but he has ‘soft power’. He cannot make decisions, but he can speak for the Nation. He is not a celebrity, a passing vapour, but he always draws attention, represents something solid, embedded, almost timeless, with international renown and credit. He has no political authority and yet his words are hugely impactful. He is also answerable for his actions; monarchs, and those who bob along in their wake, can rapidly and irrecoverably fall from grace. We used to chop off their heads, now their roaring mob are the paparazzi, and their chilly scaffold is the fickle media. So, may I venture a ‘*Thank you, your Majesty, and God save the King*’ on behalf of us all? *Canon Matthew*

COMING UP:

Thursday 30th 12pm Private Booking in the parish centre

Friday 1st May 12pm Private Booking in the parish centre

Sunday 3rd 10am Holy Communion in church and on Zoom, ID 820 0369 6332 (password from Qyan) refreshments in the parish centre after the service

Monday 4th 2pm Monday Meet meet in the parish centre

Tuesday 5th 9am Private Booking in the parish centre

Tuesday 5th 7.30pm Lily House Bereavement Group meet in the parish centre

Thursday 7th 12pm Private Booking in the parish centre

Thursday 7th 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group meet in the parish centre

Thursday 7th 10am –12 noon Open Church

Thursday 7th 10am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion (said)

diary

Readings for Sunday 3rd: Acts 7 vs 55-end; John 14 vs 1-14

Easter Thought: To God be the glory, great things he has done! So loved he the world, that he gave us his son (Frances Jane van Alstyne 1820-1915)

Hello and Love to all at St. Denys! Yesterday, Wednesday 29th April, I attended the funeral of a distinguished church musician I knew in a church in Hexthorpe, Doncaster. As I expected, through musical connections, Revd Alan Lacey (retired) was also in attendance. Alan and his wife Anne had a long connection with St. Denys before retirement. They send their love and best wishes to us all. **Qyan.**



Canon Matthew will preside at Holy Communion this coming Sunday 3rd May at 10am. Chris Hossack will deliver the address on the work of Christian Aid. Christian Aid week this year is 10th—16th May. Refreshments will be served in the parish centre after the service.

Revd Jonathan Surridge will preside and preach at the service of Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion this coming Thursday 7th May at 10am. Refreshments will be served in the parish centre at the end of the service.



St Denys Church
Evington

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

Confirmation Service next Sunday 10th May, Bishop Saju will be presiding and preaching at our 10am service of Holy Communion at which Lottie Tyler, daughter of Phil and Kimberley, will be confirmed. As part of the St. Denys family, please support Lottie by your attendance and pray for her as she takes this very important 'next step' in her Christian journey of faith. As usual, refreshments will be served in the parish centre after the service.

The Funeral Service for the late Sheila Kent who died on the 4th April aged 102, will take place at Countesthorpe Crematorium on Friday 15th May at 1pm. A Revd Martin Stephenson will lead the service. All who remember Sheila from her long standing attendance at St. Denys, are warmly invited to attend. **Qyan**

A Poem for 5th Sunday of Easter, *authorship unknown*:

No troubled hearts, no fearful sigh, The Lord prepares a place on high. Though hearts may feel the anxious fray, He is the Truth, the Life, the Way.	Branches clinging to the Vine, Let Resurrection love now shine. He goes before to build our home, never again to walk alone.
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Collect for 5th Sunday of Easter: Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, 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, Revd Canon Michael Wilson

Pray for those who mourn including the family and friends of Sheila Kent, Edward John Lee (Ted), Christopher Wren



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

