

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN Sunday 17th May 2026, 7th Sunday of Easter



The Sunday after Ascension Day (sometimes called the Seventh Sunday of Easter) is on May 17th this year and occupies a unique "in-between" space in the Christian liturgical calendar. Opening the time of patient expectation between the glorious and wonderful Ascension of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, this day focuses on themes of anticipation, mission, and enduring presence of Christ, even though he is no longer physically in the world. What message might it offer to a "comfortless" world where people are expecting to be rescued from their own folly and indifference?

The Collect for this day, from the Book of Common Prayer addresses this time of transition: *"O God the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven: We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Ghost"*. The words *'Lead us not comfortless'* echo down the ages. This prayer acknowledges the temptation to feel the Gospel lacks urgency or encouraging words after the joys of Easter and the Ascension, during that pause when we are simply waiting for Whitsun and looking forward to the promise of the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel reading for this Sunday, from John 17, takes us back to an intimate moment with Jesus who is praying for his disciples just before his passion. Our Lord was anticipating his resurrection and ascension. He speaks of being "no longer in the world," yet he does not pray for his followers to be taken out of it with him. Instead, they are to be sent off as missionaries to the weary world, to make His Father's name known, serving as living signals of his kingdom until he comes again.

This Sunday is a moment of mature faith when we are encouraged to occupy that 'in between' space where so much fruitfulness can be found in what appears an empty place. We are called to recognise that Jesus reigns in glory, even while the world looks away. In the reading from Acts, set just before the Ascension, Jesus reminds his disciples that it is *'not for them to know the times and seasons'* of their Father's will. This time is rather a short pause for prayerful waiting and for reflection on what it means to be a witness, a "living stone," in a world that is indifferent or hostile to the gospel. **PTO**

Continued from previous page.....This Sunday also comes at the beginning of 'Thy Kingdom Come' a global call to prayer between Ascension and Pentecost initiated by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, which invites all Christians to pray for more people to know Jesus. More details of this can be found at thykingdomcome.global. This Sunday is not a time for drumming our fingers and for waiting for holy things to happen, but an active, expectant time of common prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit's power; bringing us the power to live out the mission of the ascended Christ here on earth. **Reflection for 7th Sunday of Easter**

COMING UP:

Thursday 14th Gentle Exercise Group meet in the parish centre

Thursday 14th 12pm Private Booking in the parish centre

Friday 15th May 12pm Private Booking in the parish centre

Sunday 17th 10am Worship for All with Holy Communion in church and on Zoom, ID 820 0369 6332 (password from Qyan) refreshments in the parish centre after the service **4pm Evensong** in church

Monday 18th 10am Private Booking in the parish centre

Tuesday 19th 9am Private Booking in the parish centre

Tuesday 19th 7.30pm Lily House Bereavement Group meet in the parish centre

Thursday 21st 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group meet in the parish centre

Thursday 21st 12pm Private Booking in the parish centre

Thursday 21st 10am –12 noon Open Church

Thursday 21st 10am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion (said)

diary



Lottie Tyler would like to thank everyone who came to church last Sunday for worship and to witness her Confirmation. She is very grateful for your love, support and prayers and for joining in with what proved to be a joyful time of celebration with Bishop Saju.

May the Holy Spirit light your way, so that your FAITH and LOVE grow stronger every day.

Congratulations on your Confirmation Lottie.



Thy Kingdom Come, 'God with us' a week of prayer beginning Thursday 14th May (Ascension Day) as Christians from across the world join together in prayer from Ascension Day to Pentecost.

One of the simplest and most powerful invitations of Thy Kingdom Come is this: to pray faithfully for five people you would love to know the love of Jesus. Write their names down, hold them in prayer each day and ask God to guide them, bless them, and draw near to them. If you are not sure who to choose, simply begin by asking God to lead you. Prayer takes patience and discipline, but small acts of faithfulness can, over time, change lives.

For more information and Resources, see this week's edition of Diomail.

The Funeral Service for the late Sheila Kent will take place at Countesthorpe Crematorium on Friday 15th May at 1pm. All who remember Sheila from her long standing attendance at St. Denys, are warmly invited to attend. **Qyan**

We warmly welcome back the Revd Sharon Plant who will preside and preach at our Worship for All service, with Holy Communion, this coming Sunday 17th May at 10am. This is a new, more informal style of worship which we have every third Sunday of the month. Coincidentally, this will be Sharon's very last service in our diocese, before moving to take up a clergy position in Holkham in the diocese of Norwich in June. We look forward to seeing you! Refreshments will be served in the parish centre after the service. All are welcome.



Evensong will take place in church this coming Sunday 17th May at 4pm. We are delighted to welcome, possibly for the first time, Revd Canon Alastair Helm who will lead and preach at this service. All are welcome.



Revd Riffat Zamurad, Vicar of St. Mary's, Humberstone with Christ Church, Thurnby Lodge, will preside and preach for the first time for us, at our service of Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion next Thursday 21st May at 10am. Refreshments afterwards. All welcome.



The Funeral Service for the late John Edward Lee ('Ted') will take place on Tuesday 26th May, 10am in St. Denys Church and will be taken by the Revd Nigel Rostock. Refreshments will be available in the parish centre after the family have returned from the Crematorium following the church service. All who knew Ted are warmly invited to attend the church service and parish centre. Donations in memory of Ted may be made to The British Heart Foundation. **Picture left** shows Ted with his late wife Pearl.

Advance Notice! Archdeacon's Visitation Monday 15th June at 7.30pm, in St. Andrew's Church Jarrom Street. This is a joyful service in which all Churchwardens in the city deanery will be 'sworn in' as they renew their commitment to serve. Please do attend if you can, to support Ann Bennett, our churchwarden. It will be much appreciated. Thank you.

Collect for Ascension Day, 14th May: Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven: help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father's side, where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for 7th Sunday of Easter: Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, 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 Michael Elsom, Sheila Kent, Edward John Lee (Ted)



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

Youth Work: www.stdenys.org.uk

