

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN for Sunday 16th August 2026, 11th Sunday after Trinity



Readings for today: Romans 11 vs 1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15 [10-20] 21-28

Dear Friends I have just finished making two cardboard box pinhole 'camera-obscura' devices so that both our granddaughters can safely watch the eclipse this evening. Sarah and I remember the one in August 1999 very well. It was, I recall, a bit cloudy, but we managed to show our two boys the eclipse with the time-honoured 'reflection in a bucket of water' method. They weren't terribly impressed and wanted to get back to their games. Eclipses used to fill people with dread, and the ability to predict them was regarded as magic, even wicked; now they are events for public entertainment. Our knowledge of the origins and structures of the universe becomes more sophisticated as each age passes. Scientists at the Cern Large Hadron Collider think they have just created a bubble of energy which, for a split second, reproduced the state of the universe immediately after the big bang.

Even though (and perhaps because) we only get the chance to see eclipses a few times in our lives, they still fill us with wonder and speak to us of eternity. Tonight's untimely crepuscular skies and premature birdsong, followed by that eerie silence and cooling air, remind us that eclipses are part of the 'long game' of the universe; predating life, ageless even before the dinosaurs raised their heads. They were just a ticking second on the earth's clockface by the time our ancestors walked out of Africa to colonise the verdant lands of the north. They had occurred many, many millions of times long before Thales of Miletus, Pythagoras, Copernicus and Galileo began to unpick the mysteries of the heavens. They will silently persist for aeons beyond our time and will still be marking the gyrations of our solar system long after the human race has become extinct. What strange creatures will gaze upon the solar eclipse when we are gone? Will they know the peace of God which surpasses all understanding? Will they still look up and acknowledge with awe that: *The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork...* **Matthew**

COMING UP:

Sunday 16th 10am Worship for All Holy Communion in church and on Zoom, ID 820 0369 6332 (password from Qyan) **4pm Evensong** in church

Monday 17th 2pm Monday Meet meet in the parish centre

Tuesday 18th 11.15am Celebration of Life Service, for the late Phoebe Achurch in church

Thursday 20th 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group meet in the parish centre

Thursday 20th 10am—12pm Open Church

Thursday 20th 10am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion in church

diary



Revd Phil White will preside and preach at our Worship for All Holy Communion service this coming Sunday 16th August at 10am. All are welcome. After the service, please do stay for tea, coffee and chat in the parish centre if you can.

Evensong will take place in church this coming Sunday 16th August at 4pm led by the Archdeacon of Leicester, the Venerable Richard Trethewey. All are welcome to this quiet, spiritual, reflective time of worship.



The Late Phoebe Achurch The Celebration of Life service for Phoebe will take place in church on Tuesday 18th August at 11.15am. If you knew Phoebe, you are warmly welcome to attend. The family request, please, **do not wear black** but more colourful attire to reflect Phoebe's joyful personality. All are welcome back to her home afterwards for refreshments (please ask for the address and it will be announced on the day.)

Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion (BCP, said) will be held in the South Aisle of the church by Canon Matthew Bradbury this coming Thursday 20th August at 10am. Refreshments will be served at the back of the church afterwards. All are welcome!



Reflections on Iceland, part 2; After our visit to the Grimskirkja Cathedral we resumed our wanderings around Reykjavik, eventually finding ourselves outside the magnificent glass covered Concert Hall on the sea front. We ventured inside and, in the basement, we discovered a visitor attraction called the 'Volcano Express'. Curiosity got the better of us and we decided to buy tickets to find out what exactly the 'Volcano Express' was. Wow, what a hair raising but exhilarating and educational experience! If you would like to hear more about this, you'll have to come to our presentation evening which we will be holding in a few weeks' time.



Day three proved to be just as busy as Sunday. The day started off at a cliff top geothermal pool called 'The Sky Lagoon'. Gerry had hoped to visit the world-famous 'Blue Lagoon' but the hotel staff advised us not to, telling us that the Blue Lagoon was overpriced, too crowded, too far away and anyway, in their opinion, not as good as the newer Sky Lagoon, where all the locals frequented. We took their advice and spent a fabulous few hours soaking in the steaming thermal waters of a lagoon over-looking the Atlantic Ocean. The lagoon boasted an infinity pool, a waterfall and a traditional Icelandic Spa experience called 'The Skjol Ritual'. The ritual takes bathers on a revitalizing sensory journey through contrasting temperatures, involving an ice-cold plunging pool, a sauna and five other sensory experiences.

However, the most surreal experience of all for me was queuing at a pool side bar for two Aperol Spritz whilst chest deep in steaming water! Edited photos of this will be shown at the presentation evening!

We stayed in the pool so long that I was surprised we didn't come out looking like two wrinkled prunes!!

Our lagoon experience was followed by an equally interesting but contrasting experience called the Lava Show. Reykjavik is the only place in the world where you can have a ring side seat as real molten lava pours down a channel into a small pool in the middle of the auditorium. Wearing very little protective clothing, other than a pair of heat-resistant gloves a scientist then gives a presentation on the formation of lava, the different transformational stages of lava and its impact on Iceland's landscape. It was truly fascinating.

And all of this before we even set foot on the ship that would take us on a seven-day voyage around Iceland. **Michael and Gerry (see overleaf too!)**



'The Lava Show' part of Michael and Gerry's adventures on their recent trip to Iceland.

The Lava Show is such a unique experience, there is no other show in the world like it! Located in [Iceland](#) the [Lava Show](#) is a family run business, showcasing the experience of a real lava fall and making it possible for people to get up close to it. To see an interview with the show's Co-Founder, Ragnhildur Ágústsdóttir, about how the show began, and the experience it creates for visitors, google 'Iceland's Lava Show' and you should be able to find it from there.

RIDE AND STRIDE The annual Ride & Stride takes place on the 12 September (2nd Saturday in September.) I intend to organise a group to walk round a few churches in the city centre. This will not be too onerous, and you can do as much or as little as you can manage. More details later - but speak to **Elizabeth Rudge** if you are interested.

Urgent Help Needed! We urgently need people to help by **setting up the Zoom on a Sunday morning**. Currently, we are very grateful to Ian and Phil who do this, but when Kimberley moves on Phil will be doing so too. Phil is very willing to train people and assures me that it is not difficult. Please consider whether this is something you could have a go at. It is very much appreciated by the two or three people who use it most weeks.

Collect for 11th Sunday after Trinity God of glory, the end of our searching, help us to lay aside all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom, and to give all that we have to gain the pearl beyond all price, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen. **Pray for the sick:** Geoff Bunce, Ann Dixon, Revd Fr Peter Hibbert, Sue Mitchell, Val Spriggs **Pray for those who mourn including the family and friends of** Phoebe Achurch, Bill Mann



Ann Bennett (Churchwarden) 07806 877644

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

Jan Vaughan (Safeguarding Coordinator) 0116 2592 524 or 07763 674727



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