

### Christmas in Denham: Spread the Word!

Please take more of our Christmas flyers to invite family, friends and neighbours. Could you offer them to local shops, surgeries and other public places or put them through the letter boxes in your road? **This week is the best time to spread the word!**

### Sharing the Love of Christ this Christmas

- Find out more about our **Denham Church Christmas Appeal 2018** on our blue notice board at the back of church. This year we are dividing it between local homeless charities (**SHOC/Trinity**) and our **Church Growth Fund**, which enables us to share the love of Christ in new ways.
- Our collection at the **Christingle Service** will go to the **Children's Society** ([www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk))
- Please bring a new toy to our **Crib Service** on Christmas Eve as a gift for the **RNIB Sunshine House** in Northwood.

Thank you for helping us share the love of Christ this Christmas!



### LICENSING SERVICE FOR OUR NEW ASSOCIATE MINISTERS:

**Tue 22 Jan, 7.30pm, St Mary's**

Alan Wilson, the Bishop of Buckingham will be licensing Ian Jennings and Nnamdi Maduka in our church. Refreshments afterwards. All are welcome!

**Prom Praise 2019:** Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm at the Royal Albert Hall. Booking opens in December. Anyone who would like to join the party, please let Caroline Ashcroft know. £10 deposit for tickets. A coach will depart from either St Mary's or St Mark's on the day.

Those who remember **Gladys Hockley, "Laddy"**, will be sad to hear that she passed away recently at her home in Gerrards Cross. She attended St Mark's and St Mary's when she lived in Denham and was a prominent member of Denham WI for many years.

[www.denhamparish.church](http://www.denhamparish.church)

### WEEKLY DIARY

#### Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December

10.00am Lifegroup for Women. *The Rectory*

#### Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December

10.00am Little Lions Toddler Group *St Mark's*

#### Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December

10.00am Holy Communion. BCP. *St Mary's Vestry*

7.30pm Lifegroup  
*26 Lindsey Road, Denham*

### EXPLORE LIFE • FAITH • MEANING

#### Alpha is coming to Denham.



Join us in January 2019!

[www.denhamparish.church/alpha](http://www.denhamparish.church/alpha)

Our Alpha flyers with all details have arrived. Please take one at the back of church. In 2019 we are inviting all the church family and everyone in and around Denham to (re-)explore the Christian faith together. We will be running Alpha on Monday mornings, Monday evenings and Thursday evenings (as well as a Youth Alpha on Tuesdays). **Can you make a commitment to come to one of the three?** Who can you invite to come with you?

*Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone's welcome. It runs in cafés, churches, universities, homes—you name it. No two Alphas look the same, but generally they have three key things in common: food, a talk and good conversation.*

*Alpha is for everyone; no question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish. We don't assume any background knowledge of or belief in Christianity and everyone is welcome.*

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# PAROUSIA

Weekly News Sheet

9<sup>th</sup> December 2018

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Welcome to church! If you are here for the first time or visiting, please say hello to the service leader or a member of the welcome team so we can welcome you personally. During the 10.30 service there is Sunday club for children. If your child is under three or if you would like to help him/her settle, you are welcome to join in.  
*Christoph Lindner, Rector*

### JOHN THE BAPTIST

*(John's story is told in all four Gospels. His coming was predicted in Isaiah 40:3 and Malachi 4:5; and he is mentioned in Acts 1:5, 22; 10:37; 11:16; 13:24, 25; 18:25; 19:3, 4.)*

John the Baptist was unique. He wore odd clothes and ate strange food and preached an unusual message. But John did not aim at uniqueness for its own sake. Instead, he aimed at obedience. He knew he had a specific role to play in the world—announcing the coming of the Saviour—and he put all his energies into this task.

This wild-looking man had no power or position in the Jewish political system, but he spoke with almost irresistible authority. People were moved by his words because he spoke the truth, challenging them to turn from their sins and baptizing them as a symbol of their repentance. They responded by the hundreds. But even as people crowded to him, he pointed beyond himself, never forgetting that his main role was to announce the coming of the Saviour.

The words of truth that moved many to repentance goaded others to resistance and resentment. John even challenged Herod to admit his sin. Herodias, the woman Herod had married illegally, decided to get rid of this wilderness preacher. Although she was able to have him killed, she was not able to stop his message. The one John had announced was already on the move. John had accomplished his mission.

God has given each of us a purpose for living, and we can trust him to guide us. John focused his life on the truth he knew from the Old Testament Scriptures. Likewise, we can discover in God's Word the truths he wants us to know. And as these truths work in us, others will be drawn to him. God can use you in a way he can use no one else. Let him know your willingness to follow him today. *(From: Life Application Study Bible)*

[www.denhamparish.church](http://www.denhamparish.church)

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## Worship today



9<sup>th</sup> December



Second Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion *St Mary's*

Sidesman: Carlene Litchmore

Reader: Alison Barrett

Readings: Rom. 15.4—13  
Luke 21. 25-33

9.55-10.00 Pre-service Prayer  
*St Mary's, front of church*

10.30am Sung Communion  
*St Mary's: With Sunday Club for Children*

Guest preacher: Rev'd Martin Williams

Sidesteam: Marion Francis & Joan Bell

Readings and Readers:

Phil 1.3-11 (pg 193 NT) Ann Collins

Luke 3.1-6 Beverley Gray

Prayers: Carlene Litchmore

Servers: Janet Allen & Sam Carter

Sunday Club Leader: Francis Moloney

4.00pm Christingle Service

*St Mary's*

Collect

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

How deep the Father's love for us,

How vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure.

How great the pain of searing loss -  
The Father turns His face away,  
As wounds which mar the chosen one  
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,  
My sin upon His shoulders;  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,  
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer;  
But this I know with all my heart -  
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Purify my heart

Let me be as gold  
And precious silver  
Purify my heart  
Let me be as gold  
Pure gold

Refiner's fire  
My heart's one desire  
Is to be holy  
Set apart for You Lord  
I choose to be holy  
Set apart for You my Master  
Ready to do Your will

Purify my heart  
Cleanse me from within  
And make me holy  
Purify my heart  
Cleanse me from my sin  
Deep within

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Jesus said, 'No one more important than John the Baptist has ever been born; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

Jesus is the light of the world.  
A light no darkness can ever put out.

We sing:  
Advent candles tell their story  
as we watch and pray,  
longing for the Day of Glory,  
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness  
changed for gladness on that Day.

John the Baptist, by his preaching  
and by water poured,  
brought to those who heard his teaching  
news of hope restored:  
'Keep your vision strong and steady,  
and be ready for the Lord.'

Luke 3.1-6

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

All: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

<sup>3</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; <sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

All: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

## Worship next week



16<sup>th</sup> December



Third Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion *St Mary's*

Sidesman: Philip Constable

Reader: Mary Gage

Readings: 1 Cor. 4.1-5  
Matt 11. 2-10

9.55-10.00 Pre-service Prayer  
*St Mary's, front of church*

10.30am Family Carol Service  
*St Mary's: led by Sunday Club*

Sidesteam:  
David Babb & Cathy Macqueen

Readings and Readers: Sunday Club  
Prayers: Sunday Club

In your prayers this week, please remember **Vi Slade and Christine Willson**. Also anyone known to us who is sick or suffering the pain of bereavement at this time especially the families of **Jane Lamb & Robert Weeks**.

