

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 last opportunity to spread the word!**

Sharing the Love of Christ this Christmas

- **Denham Church Christmas Appeal 2018:**

Find out more 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. All collections from our carol and Christmas services will go towards the appeal. You can also give cash gifts or by cheque (payable to *St Mary's PCC*; please mark the back of the cheque "Christmas Appeal").

- 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. Don't miss it!

Prom Praise 2019: Saturday 27th 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

WEEKLY DIARY

Thursday 20th December

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

EXPLORE LIFE • FAITH • MEANING

Alpha is coming to Denham.



Join us in January 2019!

www.denhamparish.church/alpha

Have you spotted the Alpha banners at St Mary's and St Mark's? Alpha flyers with all details are available 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.

We are planning to have a CONFIRMATION SERVICE AT ST MARY'S IN 2019. Alpha is an excellent way to prepare or to work out whether you are ready to make this public commitment to your faith in Jesus.

01895 832771



PAROUSIA

Weekly News Sheet

16th December 2018

3rd 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

An open letter to Parliament and a prayer for our leaders

Last week Steven Croft, the Bishop of Oxford, sent an open letter to Parliament, warning our MPs and peers of four particular dangers and temptations:

The first is to allow your course to be shaped by self-interest and personal ambition.

The second is to allow yourself to be swayed by narrow party interest and the pursuit (or retention) of power in the short term. We need our MP's and peers to act now in the greater national interest and for national unity.

The third is to nostalgia, a romantic attachment to the past. We must deal with the world as it is, not as we would like it to be and steer our course accordingly.

The fourth temptation is to idealism: in a world of difficult choices and necessary compromise to hold onto an ideal which is no longer tenable (whether of a particular kind of leaving or remaining).

Bishop Steven continues: "At this time of year, Christians tell the world with great joy the story of the birth of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve, who came to act not in the interests of one nation or party but to all the people of the earth; who came to face the difficult realities of an imperfect world and to offer his life for the salvation of the world." (Read the full letter here: <https://blogs.oxford.anglican.org/the-four-temptations/>)

A Prayer by John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York

God of eternal love and power, save our Parliamentary Democracy; protect our High Court of Parliament and all its members from partiality and prejudice that they may walk the path of kindness, justice and mercy.

Give them wisdom, insight and a concern for the common good.

The weight of their calling is too much to bear in their own strength, therefore we pray earnestly, Father, send them help from your Holy Place, and be their tower of strength. Lord, graciously hear us. Amen.

www.denhamparish.church

01895 832771

Worship today



16th December



3RD 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

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Luke 2:8-20

⁸ That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹ The Saviour—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹² And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

¹⁵ When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. ¹⁷ After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. ¹⁸ All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, ¹⁹ but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. ²⁰ The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

Matthew 2:1-12

¹ Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ² "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him."

³ King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴ He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote:

⁶ 'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸ Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"

⁹ After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹² When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

Worship next week



23rd December



4TH SUNDAY OF Advent

8.00am Holy Communion St Mary's

Sidesman: Carlene Litchmore

Reader: Stephen Barrett

Readings: Philip 4.4-7
John 1. 19-28

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
Sidesteam: Pam Montgomery & Sylvia Gammond

Readings and Readers:

Hebrews 10.5-10 Caroline Ashcroft
Luke 1.39-45 Stuart Montgomery
Prayers: Philip Thompson
Servers: David & Judith Babb
Sunday Club Leader: Edda Lindner

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.

