

## WEEKLY DIARY

### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December

10am Lifegroup for Women *The Rectory*  
7.30pm Lifegroup *The Rectory*

### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December

10am Little Lions Christmas Party  
*St Mark's*

8pm Lifegroup. *Call office for location*

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

10.00am Holy Communion *St Mary's*

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

2.30pm Lifegroup. *Call office for location*

## CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

We will be cleaning and decorating the church from 9.30am Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. Please do come along if you would like to help. Bring your cleaning or flower arranging gifts. If you could also bring your own duster, polish and seasonal flowers that would help, too. We will provide, tea, biscuits and a fun time. Can you contribute seasonal greenery such as holly (plain green and variegated), Ivy and berries? Please could you deliver these to the Vestry on the morning of Friday 13<sup>th</sup> between 10am and 12 Noon or 14<sup>th</sup> by 9.30am. For more info please contact the church office on 01895 832771 or speak to the churchwardens.

## "THE LATEST" ON OUR WEBSITE

It's now very easy to find the latest events, news and sermons on our website: Click on "The Latest" in the menu bar or go straight to <https://www.denhamparish.church/blog/> The latest items are always at the top. If you can't come to church you can still read the Parousia news sheet and listen to the sermon that way!

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS: Give it a go this year!

Last week Richard Fisher spoke to us about the blessing of a regular rhythm of reading the Bible. He left a few BRF Bible reading notes which cover the rest of 2019. They are free of charge and an excellent opportunity to get into a regular rhythm of Bible reading during Advent and Christmas. If you'd like to subscribe to BRF bible notes, you can do that directly through BRF or speak to Glynis Howell.

## Christmas in Denham: Spread the Word!

If you live in Denham, you should have received our *Christmas in Denham* leaflet together with *In and Around Denham* this year. Please take more of our Christmas flyers to invite family, friends and neighbours *this week*.

## Sharing the Love of Christ this Christmas

- Find out more about our **Denham Church Christmas Appeal 2019** on our blue notice board at the back of church. This year we are dividing it between local homeless charities (**SHOC/Trinity**) and **Tearfund**, two of our five mission partners.
- Our collection at the **Christingle Service** will go to the **Children's Society**.
- 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!

**Card & Bookstall:** Christmas cards & books and 2020 Calendars are now available at the back of church. Also there are some lovely new bookmarks.

**ST MARY'S KNITIVITY Christmas cards** are available again: £1.50 each. £6 for 5, £11 for 10.

**Revd Jean Wilby** passed away last week after a short illness. She lived in St Francis House and was a member of our ministry team for some years in the 1990s. We pray for her family and friends at this time.

## EXPLORE LIFE • FAITH • MEANING

*Alpha is starting soon. Find out more on page 25 in our current Denham Parish News or at [www.denhamparish.church/alpha](http://www.denhamparish.church/alpha)*



Join us from 20 January 2020!



# PAROUSIA

Weekly News Sheet

8<sup>th</sup> December 2019

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 10.30am 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*

## HOW TO PRAY FOR THIS GENERAL ELECTION by Bishop Steven Croft

### Praise (Read Ps. 46.1-3)

In seasons of earthly turmoil, our society needs a heavenly vision of God's sovereignty and justice and peace, of God's majesty incarnate in the Christ Child, of Christian hope for this world and the next, of God's justice and care for the poorest, of peace and reconciliation and purpose, of God's love for each person in creation. By the grace of God, hundreds of thousands of children and adults will come to worship in our churches over these coming weeks. May each of them catch a fresh vision of eternity and God's majesty, sovereignty and love.

### Lament (Read Ps. 12.1-2)

Naming what is wrong to God is a powerful pathway of prayer. We lament without being partisan, and we weep in order to carry that anger and sorrow into the rest of our prayer and our lives. I lament and grieve the hate speech and the death threats, the racism, the fear of antisemitism and Islamophobia. I lament the plight of the earth and the effects of climate change. I lament the mental health crisis in our nation, especially among the young. I grieve at the prospect of further division in our relationships with Europe and within the United Kingdom. I lament at the inequalities in our nation and long for the poorest to be protected.

### Thanksgiving (Read Ps. 92.1-2)

There is much that is wrong, but there is much for which we need to give thanks. For politicians and people of goodwill on every side of the political debate For dedicated civil servants. For the rule of law which is respected. For sincere and open debate whenever it happens. For the privilege of living in a democracy.

### Intercession (Read Ps. 90.13-14)

I find myself praying that people will participate in the election and will vote, for a Government which can offer leadership for a five-year parliament, for the formation of that Government's policy on the environment, for pathways to reconciliation, for the care of the most vulnerable. No party and no politician is perfect. So I pray for politicians of wisdom and character who can listen and find good, practical pathways forward.

### Discernment (Read Ps. 94.16)

Is there anything I need to do? Any action I need to take? Is some change needed in my own life?

### Stillness (Read Ps. 46.10-11)

The work of prayer must end in stillness, in peace and trust before God, in reorientation and rest.

Read or watch the whole address here: <http://tinyurl.com/bishop-steven-election>

email: [office@denhamparish.church](mailto:office@denhamparish.church)

phone: 01895 832771

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

## Worship today



8<sup>th</sup> December 2019  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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

10.30am Sung Communion St Mary's:

**Sidesteam:**  
Robin Doran & Cathy Macqueen

**Reading and Reader:**  
Romans 15. 4-13 Robin Doran  
Matt. 3: 1-10 Carlene Litchmore  
**Prayers:** Chinwendu Maduka

**Sunday Club:** Edda Lindner

**4.00pm Christingle Service.**  
**St Mary's**

**Sidesteam:**  
Janet Drane & Sam Carter

### 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. **AMEN**

### Post Communion

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

## Romans 15:-4-13

<sup>4</sup>For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; <sup>10</sup>and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; <sup>11</sup>and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; <sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' <sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Matthew 3. 1-10

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. All: Glory to you, O Lord.*

<sup>3</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' <sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Advent 2—the prophets

Jesus said, 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets: I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.'

**Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!**

*The second candle is lit and this response is used*

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.

Prophet voices loudly crying, making pathways clear; glimpsing glory, self-denying, calling all to hear. Through their message - challenged, shaken - hearts awaken: God is near!

### You have called us out of darkest night

Into Your glorious light  
That we may sing the wonders of the risen Christ

May our every breath retell the grace  
That broke into our strife  
With boundless love and deepest joy, with endless life

**May the peoples praise You, let the nations be glad**  
**All Your blessing comes that we may praise**  
**May praise the Name of Jesus**

All the earth is Yours and all within  
Each harvest is Your own  
And from Your hand we give to You  
To make Christ known

May the seeds of mercy grow in us  
For those who have not heard  
May songs of praise build lives of grace  
To spread Your Word. **May the ...**

This our holy privilege to declare  
Your praises and Your name  
To every nation, tribe and tongue  
Your church proclaims. **May the ...**

Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty  
Worthy, worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty  
All creation praise Your glorious Name. **May the...**

## Worship next week



15<sup>th</sup> December 2019  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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

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

10.30am Family Carol Service St Mary's  
**"The Angels Knew"**

**Sidesteam:**  
Cathy Macqueen & Jane Brown  
**Reading and Readers:** Sunday Club  
**Prayers:** Sunday Club

In your prayers this week, please remember **Jo Beal, Sean Ryde and Christine Willson**. Also anyone known to us who is sick or suffering the pain of bereavement at this time, especially the families of **Revd Jean Wilby**.

