

WEEKLY DIARY

Monday 27th January

10.00am Women's Lifegroup *The Rectory*
7.30pm Alpha *The Rectory*
7.30pm Lifegroup. *Call office for location*

Tuesday 28th January

7.30pm PCC Meeting *St Francis Chapel*

Wednesday 29th January

10am Little Lions Toddler Group
St Mark's

8pm Lifegroup. *Call office for location*

Thursday 30th January

10.00am Holy Communion *St Mary's*

Friday 31st January

2.30pm Lifegroup. *Call office for location*

DENHAM PARISH NEWS

Hot off the press – the new magazine! Please take extra copies to give away, and put them in public and community places around the parish (of course, asking the owners for permission beforehand!)

Snowdrops

Have you seen the snowdrops starting to appear in the churchyard round the back of the vestry? Take a few minutes to go and have a look, they are beautiful.

Café Church:

God in the Life of Val Dewhurst Sunday, 2 Feb, 3.30pm, St Mark's

Val and her family lived in Denham for 36 years. She will talk about being part of the local community and church, and her experience of God's faithfulness in the ups and downs of life.

Please take a leaflet at the back. Who could you invite to come with you?

I've heard a thousand stories

of what they think You're like
But I've heard the tender whisper
of love in the dead of night
And you tell me that You're pleased
and that I'm never alone

*You're a Good, good Father
It's who You are, it's who You are
And I'm loved by You
It's who I am, it's who I am*

I've seen many searching for answers
far and wide

But I know we're all searching
for answers only You provide
Because You know just what we need
Before we say a word

You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us

Love so undeniable I can hardly speak
Peace so unexplainable
I can hardly think
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still
Into love, love, love



PAROUSIA

Weekly News Sheet

26th January 2020

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

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 a 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

THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

Ian Jennings

At St Mary's we are currently looking at the subject of *Building a Healthy Church Family*. The early followers of Jesus were quick to respond to his call and to embark upon the adventure of discipleship. The subtitle of Alison Morgan's latest book is, "*the Plural of Disciple is Church*." We are in this together; a community of disciples; sharing in the glorious adventure of following Jesus.

I am very unhappy with the 'pew fodder' concept of Church life. Andrew Roberts says we sometimes reduce the adventure of discipleship to 'turning up, shutting up and paying up.' That is a dull and deadly vision of church and one that is essentially unhealthy. True discipleship is never dull. As a church we need to be Kingdom-focused, and actively engaged in the service of the King. There is an urgency in this call in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark. The word, 'immediately' crops up. Jesus said 'follow me' and 'immediately they left their nets and followed him.'

True disciples do not graduate from arm chairs! Only doing does it! And not doing does not do it! We may feel inadequate and hesitant and inclined to say, 'I haven't got what it takes!' The good news is that God has got what it takes and is ready to empower us with his Spirit. It is true to say, 'what I give he takes and what he takes he cleanses and what he cleanses he fills and what he fills he uses.'

Let us respond wholeheartedly to the urgent call of discipleship as we move forward into 2020.

"I have grown up believing in God and I believe that being an England international and a lawyer has not just happened by accident. I am a person who has a relationship with God, and it's a very active one. So whether I'm having my breakfast, driving, stood on the pitch or about to take a penalty, I will be praying, or in my mind speaking to God."

Eniola Aluko, former professional footballer with 102 caps for England's women's team

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Worship today



26th January 2020
3rd Sunday of Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion St Mary's

Sidesman: Carlene Litchmore
Reader: Alison Barrett
Readings: Romans 12. 16b-end
Matt. 8. -13

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

10.30am Sung Communion St Mary's
*Healthy Family: The call to discipleship
in Matthew and Mark.*

Sidesteam:
Sylvia Gammond & Cheryl Webb
Readers:
1 Cor 1.10-18 Anne Thomas
Matt. 4. 12-23 Jenny Browne
Prayers: Ann Collins
Servers: Carlene Litchmore & Clergy
Sunday Club: Edda Lindner
Destiny: Jane Brown &
Kim Van Campfort

Collect

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news
to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

1 Cor 1.10-18

¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul', or 'I belong to Apollos', or 'I belong to Cephas', or 'I belong to Christ.' ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. ¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Matt. 4. 12-23

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵ 'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.' ¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' ¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. ²³ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Worship next week



2nd February 2020
4th Sunday of Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion St Mary's

Sidesman: Philip Constable
Reader: Mary Gage
Readings: Rom 13. 1
Matt. 8.23

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

10.30am Family Service St Mary's
Healthy Family: "Follow me!"

Sidesteam:
Anne Thomas & John Breese
Readers:
Luke 5. 1-11 Charlotte Hearnden Smith
Prayers: Clergy
Children's Activity: Kath Sole

3.30pm Café Church St Mark's
God in the life of Val Dewhurst
(please see back page)

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 family of **Dr June MacGregor**.

