

WEEKLY DIARY

Monday 17th February

10.00am Women's Lifegroup *The Rectory*
10.30am Holy Communion
Denham Garden Village

7.30pm Lifegroup *Call office for location*
NO ALPHA THIS WEEK

Thursday 20th February

10.00am Holy Communion *St Mary's*

Friday 21st February

2.30pm Lifegroup *Call office for location*

DENHAM PARISH NEWS

Magazines with a 'Complimentary Copy' sticker are available at the back!

Praying for Christians in Nigeria

By Nnamdi Maduka

There is a growing appeal for action as Christians continue to be persecuted in Nigeria.

"Every day," says Father Joseph Bature Fidelis, of the Diocese of Maiduguri, "our brothers and sisters are slaughtered in the streets."

In a dramatic appeal to the charity, "Aid to the Church in Need", Father Fidelis says the situation in northern Nigeria continues to deteriorate for Christians who are under attack by fundamentalist Islamic militants. His latest appeal follows the abduction of four young seminarians in the city of Kaduna, in north western Nigeria. An estimated 1000 Nigerian Christians were murdered in 2019 alone for their faith. Some 6000 of them have been killed since 2015.

Although the government of Muhammadu Buhari says it has put a number of security measures in place, it appears incapable of preventing continued violence. Father Fidelis appeals on behalf of Nigerian Christians, 'please help us not be silent in the face of this immense persecution'.

CORONAVIRUS AND THE CHURCH

WE PRAY

Pray for those infected by the coronavirus in China and around the world, for those who care for them, for health specialists and authorities who are combatting the spread of infection, and of course for all who at this time are feeling anxious.

CORONAVIRUS

Based on the World Health Organization's declaration that this is a public health emergency of international concern, [the UK Chief Medical Officers have raised the risk to the public from low to moderate](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public).

This permits the government to plan for all eventualities. The risk to individuals remains low.

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>)

If someone is ill then call 111. Do not soldier on. This will help prevent the spread of disease.

HOLY COMMUNION

Wash hands. Presiding ministers will use hand sanitizers immediately before the Preparation of the Table and Eucharistic prayer.

Consider receiving Holy Communion in one Kind. It is Anglican teaching that to receive the sacrament in one kind only (ie. just the bread) is to receive the sacrament in its entirety. Should you feel ill or not wish to drink from the chalice then you can receive the consecrated bread alone. NB: Intinction (dipping the wafer) bears similar risks of infection as drinking from the cup. At this time there is no need to refrain from sharing **the Peace**.

(Based on advice from the Diocese of London)



PAROUSIA

Weekly News Sheet
16th February 2020
2nd Sunday before Lent

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

Healthy Family: This Will Hurt! By Ian Jennings

When I was sixteen I had a serious car accident. It was the days before compulsory seat belts and I was in the front the passenger seat. I was projected through the wind screen and so suffered a feather fracture of the skull and many lacerations of the scalp. I was rushed to hospital and the surgeon said, 'I'm going to stitch your scalp back on but I don't plan to use any anaesthetic – if you can stand the pain it will aid the healing process. But it will hurt!' He was right – it did! But he was also right in that my scalp did heal quickly.

The experience of discipleship will hurt at times. Jesus said to his disciples, 'in this world you will have trouble.' It is unavoidable if we walk the path of true discipleship there will be times when it will hurt. Jesus went on to say, 'But cheer up because I have overcome the world.' There will be healing – ultimate and eternal. But as we live out our calling as disciples of Jesus we will experience and suffering and sacrifice. That is part of the deal.

For some the sacrifice is huge and the suffering intense. Sheila Cassidy was arrested and tortured when serving as a missionary in Chile. She went on to be the Director of a Hospice. She wrote a book called *Sharing the Darkness*. She writes, 'Right at the heart of the mystery of suffering is the grace that sustains us all, carers and cared for alike. It comes as freely and as surely as the sunrise, piercing the blackness of grief and despair, restoring once again the hope of things unseen.'

Jesus said, 'if any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.' Sacrifice is part of the adventure of discipleship. It may take many forms but it will involve moving out of our comfort zones and embracing new challenges. 'Lord what would you have me to do today,' is a good place to begin in our morning prayers. We may well be surprised by the opportunities that open up to us as a result. It may hurt as we step out of our comfort zones but it will also bring healing – to us and to others.

And ultimately, as St Paul says, 'The suffering of this present time is not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us.'

Worship today



16th February 2020
2nd Sunday before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion *St Mary's*

Sidesman: Philip Constable
Reader: Roger Gage
Readings: 2 Cor. 11. 19-31
Luke 8. 4-15

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

10.30am Morning Worship *St Mary's*
Healthy Family: "This is going to hurt!"
(Suffering and Sacrifice)

Sidesteam:
Brian and Heather O'Regan
Readers:
Rom. 8. 18-25 Anne Thomas
Matt. 16. 24-26 Stuart Montgomery
Prayers: Carlene Litchmore
Sunday Club: Kathy Paine

Collect

Almighty God, give us
reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your
likeness in Jesus Christ our
Lord. **Amen**

Café Church

The God Who Heals

Sun 1 March, 3.30pm, St Mark's
How can we receive the healing
work of God in our lives? This
will be a **Holy Communion**
service with an opportunity to
receive **prayer and anointing**
with oil.

Romans 8. 18-25

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Soon and very soon

We are going to see the King
Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King
Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King

Hallelujah hallelujah
We're going to see the King

No more crying there
We are going to see the King
...

No more dying there
We are going to see the King
...

Matthew 16. 24-26

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Jesus, you have called us:

Come, follow me,
take up your cross,
deny yourself and live.

Jesus, I am willing though I am weak;
I'll trust you and I'll go where you lead.

I will follow, I will follow,
I will follow where you lead.

Jesus, you have shown us
how we should live:
in sacrifice, humility and love.

Jesus, I am willing though I am weak;
I'll follow you with your Spirit in me.

We will follow, we will follow,
We will follow where you lead.

Worship next week



23rd February 2020
Sunday next before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion *St Mary's*

Sidesman: Carlene Litchmore
Reader: Alison Barrett
Readings: 1 Cor. 13.
Luke 18. 31-43

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

10.30am Sung Communion *St Mary's*
Healthy Family:
"What we need is a miracle!"
(Signs and Wonders)

Sidesteam:
Robin Doran & Pam Montgomery
Readers:
Acts 4. 5-13 Carlene Litchmore
Luke 7. 11-23 Robin Doran
Prayers: Michael Carmody
Servers: Sam Carter & Clergy
Sunday Club: Edda Lindner
Destiny at the Rectory: Jane Brown

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.

