

WEEKLY DIARY

Monday 24th February

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

Ash Wednesday 26th February

- 10.00am Holy Communion *St Mary's*
8.00pm Lifegroup *Call office for location*

Thursday 27th February

NO HOLY COMMUNION

Friday 28th 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.

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.

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.

Find the latest Church of England advice at [tinyurl.com/corona-churches](https://www.churchofengland.org/livelf)

LENT RESOURCES

How will you mark Lent? The Church of England's #LIVELENT programme (which includes an app) will focus on Care for God's Creation: www.churchofengland.org/livelf
Tearfund's Lent devotional *ALIVE* (prayers, poems, reflections) can be ordered here (as daily email or booklet):
https://www.tearfund.org/en/lenf_2020



PAROUSIA

Weekly News Sheet

23rd February 2020

Sunday next 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: What we need is a miracle

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. Acts 2.43

Jesus and his disciples spread the good news in both *proclamation* (preaching) and *demonstration* (healings, miracles).

For Luke, who wrote a gospel and the Book of Acts, signs and wonders

- ◆ bestow benefits (often physical) on those blessed by them.
- ◆ show that Jesus truly is the Son of God in whom 'there is salvation' (Acts 4.12)
- ◆ show that the Kingdom of God truly is among them.
- ◆ form part of the Christian witness and produce faith.

Wherever signs and wonders are done in the name of Jesus today, they have the same potential. God works through the regular rhythms and rules of creation (e.g. modern medicine!), in response to faithful prayer and through specific acts of grace, sometimes miraculous.

Healthy Habits

From Pentecost we will explore and practise healthy habits of Christians. When we grow in Christlikeness, that itself is a gift of God's grace. The more we practise healthy habits, the more signs and wonders we will see, with the habit of prayer playing a prominent role. And there is no greater miracle than the transformation of the human heart!

When we follow Jesus, the initiative always lies with him! It is important to remember this when it comes to miracles: we cannot produce them 'to order' and sadly the realm of God's supernatural intervention can be misused for human manipulation and deceit. We need to humbly recognise that there will always be an element of mystery as to why we see some signs and not others. Many questions beginning with 'why' will remain. But as followers of Jesus we are already part of the greatest miracle of all – Jesus' resurrection and our firm hope of overflowing and eternal life as we follow him.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Rom. 8:28) (Based on Andrew Roberts: Holy Habits)

Worship today



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 Joyce Tearall

Luke 7. 11-23 Robin Doran

Prayers: Michael Carmody

Servers: Sam Carter & Clergy

Sunday Club Edda Lindner

Destiny at the Rectory: Jane Brown

Collect

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

Post Communion Prayer

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

Acts 4. 5-13

⁵The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone." ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.' ¹³Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus. This the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Luke 7. 11-23

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹¹ Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. ¹²As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. ¹³When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, 'Do not weep.' ¹⁴Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, 'Young man, I say to you, rise!' ¹⁵The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, 'A great prophet has risen among us!' and 'God has looked favourably on his people!' ¹⁷This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country. ¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. So John summoned two of his disciples ¹⁹and sent them to the Lord to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' >>>

²⁰When the men had come to him, they said, 'John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"' ²¹Jesus had just then cured many people of diseases, plagues, and evil spirits, and had given sight to many who were blind. ²²And he answered them, 'Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them. ²³And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Holy Spirit Living Breath of God

Breathe new life into my willing soul
Let the presence of the risen Lord
Come renew my heart and make me whole
Cause Your word to come alive in me
Give me faith for what I cannot see
Give me passion for Your purity
Holy Spirit breathe new life in me

Holy Spirit come abide within
May Your joy be seen in all I do
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin
In each thought and deed and attitude
Kindness to the greatest and the least
Gentleness that sows the path of peace
Turn my strivings into works of grace
Breath of God show Christ in all I do

Holy Spirit from creation's birth
Giving life to all that God has made
Show Your power once again on earth
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways
Let the fragrance of our pray'rs arise
Lead us on the road of sacrifice
That in unity the face of Christ
May be clear for all the world to see

Worship next week



1st March 2020
1st Sunday of Lent

8.00am Holy Communion *St Mary's*

Sidesman: Philip Constable

Reader: Mary Gage

Readings: 2. Cor. 6. 1-10
Matt. 4. 1-11

9.55-10.00am Pre-Service Prayer

St Mary's, front of church

10.30am Family Service *St Mary's*
40: God's Number for Life Change

Sidesteam:

Robin Doran & Jane Brown

Readings:

Psalms 32

Matt 4. 1-11

Sunday Club Activity: Kath Sole

3.30pm Café Church *St Mark's*

"The God Who Heals"

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**.

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.

