

WEEKLY DIARY

Monday 9th March

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

Wednesday 11th March

- 10.00am Little Lions Toddler Group *St Mark's*
8.00pm Lifegroup *Call office for location*

Thursday 12th March

- 10.00am Holy Communion *Vestry*

Friday 13th March

- 2.30pm Lifegroup *Call office for location*

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
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

CORONAVIRUS AND THE CHURCH

Find the latest Church of England advice
at tinyurl.com/corona-churches

THE BLESSING OF GRANDPARENTS!

Have your grandparents been an important
influence on your faith journey? We'd love
you to share your story in a few short
sentences for an article in the next Denham
Parish News. Please send your contribution
to our church office or email it to
magazine@denhamparish.church

Gardening Help Needed

Would you have a couple of hours you could
offer to help with gardening and simple
maintenance tasks in the churchyard? We
want to put a small team together. If so,
please contact Dexter Brown: 07903476535
or dexterjane@btinternet.com

DIARY DATE!

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)
26 April 2020 – 11.45am

This is an important date in our church's
calendar, when we look back to thank God
for all his blessings in 2019 and look forward
with hope and faith to step into his mission
for us. The meeting will take place after our
morning service. *Please try to be there!*

Electoral Roll 2020

This year's Electoral Roll registration will be
a revised version of 2019. If there are any
changes to your details, please complete a
new form which is available at the main
entrance (by the internal post tray) of the
Church or from Maurice Litchmore at
maurl@btinternet.com. Anyone who has
been attending St Mary's for at least 6
months may apply to become a member of
the Church which will enable you to vote at
the APCM. Completed application forms
should be returned by 27 March 2020.



PAROUSIA

Weekly News Sheet

8th March 2020

2nd Sunday of 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: Adoption

Christoph Lindner

As we are preparing for the launch of our new Mission Action Plan we continue to reflect on what healthy families (aka churches) look like.

In 2004 our friends Nat and Helen moved to Johannesburg (South Africa), together with their three children, to establish *Johannesburg Bible College*. Since then they have adopted Isaac. He is as much part of the family as their biological children.

Adoption is at the heart of the Christian story - children are adopted into a family not because of their inherent merit or worth but because a family reach out to them in love and make a firm commitment to them, giving them equal status with their biological children.

But to all who received Jesus, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:12-13)

While we are all children of God in a general sense (he loves us and has created us), the Bible clearly teaches that only those who receive Jesus and believe in him are children in a more specific sense. This is divine adoption! In between creation and adoption stands the Fall, our rebellion against God and the subsequent breakdown of our family relationship with God (Adam and Eve hide from God in the garden!).

Adoption is by the will of God (*John 1.12-13*) and received by faith (*Acts 16.31*). The adoption certificate is the cross (*Romans 6.3-4*). This is truly good news for everyone (*Matthew 28.18-20*).

As a follower of Jesus you are an adopted son or daughter. Welcome to the family!



Worship today



8th March 2020
2nd Sunday of Lent

8.00am Holy Communion *St Mary's*

Sidesman: Carlene Litchmore
Reader: Stephen Barrett
Readings: 1 Thessalonians 4. 1-8
Matthew 15. 21-28

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

10.30am Sung Communion *St Mary's*

Sidesteam:
Jane Brown & Mike Stewart
Readings:
Psalm 121 Carole Wadlow
John 3.1-17 Sharon Williams
Prayers: Chinwendu Maduka
Servers: Sam Carter & Clergy
Sunday Club: Sonja Clements

Collect

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

Post Communion

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

Psalm 121

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

2 **My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

3 He will not suffer your foot to stumble; he who watches over you will not sleep.

4 **Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.**

5 The Lord himself watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

6 **So that the sun shall not strike you by day, neither the moon by night.**

7 The Lord shall keep you from all evil; it is he who shall keep your soul.

8 **The Lord shall keep watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore.**

Lord, ever watchful and faithful, we look to you to be our defence and we lift our hearts to know your help; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

John 3. 1-17

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

³Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' ³Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' ⁴Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' ⁵Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' ⁹Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' ¹⁰Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things

and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away

Slain for us and we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King

The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ
Torn for you eat and remember
The wounds that heal the death that brings us life
Paid the price to make us one
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin
Shed for you drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
To respond and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth
As we share in His suffering
We proclaim Christ will come again
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King

Worship next week



15th March 2020
3rd Sunday of Lent

8.00am Holy Communion *St Mary's*

Sidesman: Philip Constable
Reader: Roger Gage
Readings: Ephesians 5. 1-14
Luke 11. 14-28

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

10.30am Morning Worship *St Mary's*

Sidesteam:
Sylvia Gammond & Cheryl Webb
Readings:
Psalm 95 Sandra Wickenden
John 4. 5-42 Jenny Ashe
Prayers: Ann Collins
Sunday Club: Kathy Paine
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.

