

Blessing (based on 2 Timothy 1.7)

May God's perfect love drive out our fears.

May Jesus, the Good Shepherd, hold us in his arms.

May the Holy Spirit fill us with his power, love and self-discipline.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with us now and always. Amen.

Would you like to receive this news and service sheet through your letter box each weekend for the time being? Please contact our church office and let us know.

Would you like to receive a paper copy of Morning and Evening Worship to use for prayer at home? Please contact our church office.

Mothering Sunday Flowers

If you are planning to go on a walk this Sunday, do pass by St Mary's Church door and pick up a bunch of flowers (one per family, please).

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 by 25 March.

Electoral Roll

Have your details changed? Please contact Maurice Litchmore at maurl@btinternet.com by 27 March.

Denham Parish Church: We are here for you!

Our Sunday services and mid-week groups have been put on hold for the time being to help combat Coronavirus disease. *This does not mean that the life of our church and community is being put on hold!*

Stay connected: Please find the latest updates at www.denhamparish.church/blog or on our Facebook page (search for "Denham Parish Church").

Get in touch: Please call our church office on 01895 832771 and leave your contact details if we can help with deliveries (food, medicine, etc.) or if you would like to speak to one of our ministers.

**Light a candle of hope
at 7pm this Sunday:
A national call to prayer**



In the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic, Presidents of CTE are calling all churches to a National Day of Prayer & Action on Sunday 22nd March



cte.org.uk/calltoprayer

email: office@denhamparish.church

phone: 01895 832771



PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet

22nd March 2020

4th Sunday of Lent

Mothering Sunday

Welcome to this new-style Parousia! As of this week, the Church of England has put all services and meetings on hold to help combat Coronavirus disease. But the life of our church is not being put on hold and God remains active in his world! This news and service sheet is one way of staying in touch with you. You can download it from our website or ask for a paper version to be sent to you (see back page). The inside pages provide you with a simple service so you can worship at home. Please check our website or Facebook page on a regular basis and do contact our church office if we can help in any way. Christoph Lindner, Rector

God of the Weak

The God of the Bible revolutionises our understanding of the value of every human being. In ancient near Eastern religions, only kings were made in the image of God and everyone else was of secondary importance. The patriarch of the family often had the right to decide during the first week of a newborn baby's life whether they were going to live or not. But the Bible states that each human being is made in the image of God. God is described as a loving father, a caring mother, the good Shepherd, who goes after the one lost sheep and leaves the 99 behind.

In the face of an unprecedented health crisis, we move all the levers available to us to protect human life and it doesn't matter whether you are young or old, weak or strong. In fact, we take special care to protect the vulnerable.

And because we are made in the image of God, we are to show his care to the vulnerable – especially at a time such as this.

May we be carriers of good news and eternal hope for our friends, our families, and those who have never considered the promises of a God who says: "Do not be afraid for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." (*Isaiah 43.1*)

And may we have the humility to ask for and accept help from others. For that is also a way in which we can affirm the value of others and strengthen our community. May you know God's love and care at this time.

Christoph Lindner

website: www.denhamparish.church

Opening Prayer (From Psalm 27)

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Hymn

Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice
Tender to me the promise of His word
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice

Confession and Absolution

*Human sin disfigures the whole creation,
which groans with eager longing for God's redemption.
We confess our sin in penitence and faith.*

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from your sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bible Readings

Matthew 12:9–13

He left that place and entered their synagogue; a man was there with a withered hand, and they asked him, "Is it lawful to cure on the sabbath?" so that they might accuse him. He said to them, "Suppose one of you has only one sheep and it falls into a pit on the sabbath; will you not lay hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a human being than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the sabbath." Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and it was restored, as sound as the other.

John 10:7–10

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.
This is the Word of the Lord. ALL: Thanks be to God.

Quiet Reflection or Time of Sharing

Prayer

We give thanks for those who have shown us God's love and care - mothers and fathers, grandparents, godparents, friends. We pray for those who show sacrificial care to others amidst the current health crisis.

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake. May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable. May we who are retired or able to work from home remember those who go to work and ensure that we are supplied with our basic needs. May we who have the flexibility to care for our children as schools are closing remember those who have no options. May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go. May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economy remember those who have no margin at all. May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home. As fear grips our country, let us choose love. Let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours. Amen. *(Cameron Bellm, 2020)*

We pray the Lord's Prayer.

Hymn

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices
Who wondrous things has done, in whom His world rejoices
Who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love and still is ours today

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace and guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills in this world and the next