

Blessing (based on 2 Timothy 1.7)

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWS AND SERVICE SHEET THROUGH YOUR LETTER BOX EACH WEEKEND ?

Thank you to those who have let us know. **We will not send one to you next weekend, unless you let our church office 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.

NEW: A SHORT SERVICE ON YOUR TELEPHONE!

Dial

01895 714013

to listen to a weekly sermon and prayers. Do give it a try!

Talk to Ian, Nnamdi and Christoph

Our ministers have each arranged an hour each week, when they are next to their phone and would love to chat and pray with you:

Nnamdi: Mon, 5-6pm, 07951 485370

Christoph: Wed, 11am-12pm, 01895 834733

Ian: Fri, 3-4pm, 07866 679025

(Of course we'd love to talk to you at other times if we are available!)

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.

email: office@denhamparish.church

phone: 01895 832771



PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet

29th March 2020
5th Sunday of Lent

Welcome to this new-style Parousia! As of this week, the Church of England has closed all church buildings 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

You have been prepared!

We all know how hard it is to be positive, even when we experience a series of minor hiccups in our well-laid plans. So what has prepared us for this unprecedented Coronavirus crisis?

Firstly, we have complete trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are promised eternal life. We are in a unique position to come through this with strength, composure and honour if we trust in him and follow God's laws. The Ten Commandments are a simple checklist, re-read them, you'll be surprised at how pertinent many of them are right now! The best guide as to how we should behave is without doubt the Lord's Prayer - "lead us not into temptation" or: "don't be tempted to hoard!" It doesn't get clearer.

Secondly, our ability to pray. This is a real test for us. We are a family, a family who prays together. Together? Absolutely, being together in normal times is a wonderfully uplifting and spiritual experience. We can't do that now but we don't need to. Prayer is transformative and joint prayer even whilst observing social-distancing rules, is what will sustain us, lift us and give us the strength and confidence to carry on. Praying the Lord's Prayer at midday is a great discipline, easy to remember and hundreds of others will be praying with you.

Thirdly, our calling is to put our prayers for the world into action. Even those of us who are not on the internet do have phones. Make sure we keep in contact with as many people as possible, very much including friends we've not spoken to for years. This is true brother- and sisterhood, showing we care beyond our immediate family or church.

You have been prepared!

Clive Ashcroft

STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL

Opening Prayer (Psalm 91.1-2)

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Hymn

Come down, O Love divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with Thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become
Mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings
Weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass
The pow'r of human telling;
Nor can we guess its grace,
Till we become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit
Makes his dwelling.

Confession and Absolution

Sin is at its heart forgetting about God and letting our eyes to be drawn to our fears and failures and to attractions that glitter like gold. 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 Reading: The Raising of Lazarus

John 11. 17-27,32-45

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Quiet Reflection or Time of Sharing

(or read page 1)

Prayer

We pray for all aspects of the current crisis – for those who are suffering and grieving, for health care staff, scientists and leaders, for those working in critical jobs, for those who are anxious.

Unshakeable God, you are my ever-present help in times of trouble. Amidst all the isolation, grief and fear caused by this crisis, renew in me your peace, restore to me your perspective, and reveal to me your presence and love.

The Collect for this Sunday:

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of
your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered
on the cross we may triumph in the
power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

We pray the Lord's Prayer.

Hymn

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of his grace!

Jesus! The name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim
And spread through all the earth abroad
The honours of thy name.