



Morning Sunrise, Denham

A SHORT SERVICE ON YOUR TELEPHONE!

Dial **01895 714013** to listen to a weekly sermon and prayers. Do give it a try!

SPRING HARVEST AT HOME

Spring Harvest is one of the biggest Christian gatherings in the UK and this year it was online and free. You can still watch many of the sessions and seminars. Find out more at springharvest.org

ONLINE BIBLE READING GROUPS

After Easter we will be starting several weekly online Bible reading groups. We will be reading the gospel for the following Sunday together. Interested? Please let our church office know.



**Denham Parish Church:
We are online and on call!**

Sunday Worship: Join us for our online Sunday service each week at 10.30am on Youtube, followed by 'Virtual Coffee' at 11.15am. Use this address in your internet browser:
tinyurl.com/youtube-denham

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.

In your prayers this week, please remember anyone known to us who is suffering the pain of bereavement at this time – especially the families of **Sue Fletcher, Mary Silvester, Joyce Brodie (Heather O'Regan's mother) and Norman Francis** (Norman and Jo were members of St Mary's for many years).



PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet
19th April 2020
2nd Sunday of Easter

Welcome to this new-style Parousia! All Church of England buildings remain closed. 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 keeping in touch and worshipping together. You can download it from our website or ask for a paper version to be sent to you. 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

Doubt and Faith

Today, I'm reflecting on a man with an unfortunate nickname: Doubting Thomas. I've always thought that Thomas got a raw deal in how we, the Church, talk about him. Earlier in John, he's the disciple that has faith to follow Jesus toward potential death (John 11:16), but we don't call him faith-filled Thomas, or Thomas the brave.

He's the 'doubter', defined and named by this one moment of what seems to me quite reasonable, logical disbelief.

Who knew Jesus was going to rise from the dead? Who anticipated that the laws of biology, sin and death would be upended?

I am a mixture of faith and doubt, and honestly, the proportion fluctuates from day to day.

What are my doubts and questions at the moment? Jesus, I ask You to meet me, like Thomas, in the place of my uncertainty.

I pray for someone now who does not believe that Jesus is real, alive and offering them new life. Jesus, I ask You to address their doubts and make Yourself tangible to them today.

According to Church tradition, Thomas, the doubter, made it all the way to India sharing the Gospel before he was martyred for his faith.

What a difference one encounter with Jesus makes.

Lord, I surrender my doubts to You. I yield to Your greater understanding and Your perfect plan. Jesus, please give me the gift of faith so I can act and pray in the light of Your resurrection life today.
Carla Harding, Lectio365

Opening Prayer (From Psalm 57)

Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.

I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples. For great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.

Hymn

Love's redeeming work is done;
Fought the fight, the battle won:
Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,
Lo, he sets in blood no more.

Lives again our glorious King;
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, he all doth save;
Where thy victory, O grave?

Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
Praise to these by both be giv'n;
Thee we greet triumphant now;
Hail, the Ressurrection thou!

Confession and Absolution

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:

John 20. 19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and

yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Quiet Reflection or Time of Sharing

(or read page 1)

Prayers

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.

Lord, I surrender my doubts to You. I yield to Your greater understanding and Your perfect plan. Jesus, please give me the gift of faith so I can act and pray in the light of Your resurrection life today.

The Collect for Second Sunday of Easter:
Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father.

We pray for our world in the grip of this pandemic.
May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who feel safe remember those who are truly vulnerable and afraid.
May we who have the luxury of working

from home remember those who have to choose between preserving their health and making ends meet.

May we who have had to cancel our trips remember those who have no place to go. May we who settle for quarantine at home remember those who have no home. May we who have a degree of security remember those who face distress and hardship because of loss of employment. As fear grips our country let us choose love. During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other may we find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours. Amen.

We pray the Lord's Prayer.

Hymn

**We have a gospel to proclaim,
Good news for all throughout the earth;
The gospel of a Saviour's name:
We sing his glory, tell his worth.**

**Tell of that glorious Easter morn,
Empty tomb, for he was free:
He broke the pow'r of death and hell
That we might share his victory.**

**Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel-message we proclaim:
We sing his glory, tell his worth.**

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.