



ONLINE BIBLE READING GROUPS

It's not too late to join our weekly online Bible reading groups. We are 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 at 10.30am on Youtube, followed by 'Virtual Coffee' at 11.15am: tinyurl.com/youtube-denham
Stay connected: Updates at www.denhamparish.church/blog or on Facebook (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.

A SERVICE ON YOUR TELEPHONE!

Dial **01895 714013** to listen to a weekly service. Do give it a try!

A NEW FOOD BANK

Our local community support group have just set up a food bank, operating from the May Coles Room of the Village Memorial Hall in Denham Village. They are taking donations at the Village Hall on Mondays 9-11 and Thursdays 2-4 or any time to 17 Ashcroft Drive.

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, Marian Gollop, Diane Scanlon, Frances Jessup and Norman Francis** (Norman and Jo were members of St Mary's for many years).

email: office@denhamparish.church

phone: **01895 832771**



PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet
26th April 2020
3rd 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.

HOLY COMMUNION AND THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

When Edda and I lived in Hamburg, Mr and Mrs Labenz came to visit us regularly. They were Jehovah's Witnesses and delighted that we were happy to talk. One year they invited us to their Maundy Thursday service and we were stunned when bread and wine were passed through the rows but no one ate or drank, because at the start it was declared that no one was part of the 144,000 elect.

The Emmaus disciples in our gospel reading walk with Jesus, dejected and without hope because their hope that Jesus might be the rescuer from God has been destroyed. He is dead! Jesus explains to them how the Messiah had to suffer and how all of Scripture points to him, but they only recognise him when he breaks bread at supper, a vivid reminder of his last supper: "This is my body, given for you" – Holy Communion.

One of the consequences of the current lockdown is that we cannot come together to share bread and wine in Holy Communion. How we look forward to the day when we will gather together again with a deepened joy, to share the peace and draw near with faith to receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. And to that greater day, that Jesus spoke about, when we will drink from the fruit of the vine with Jesus in the kingdom of God!

But we can continue to feed on Christ, the living bread in our prayers and Bible reading - all of Scripture points to him! And we are still the 'communion of saints' - the *body of Christ*, as St Paul puts it - although we are physically apart.

We told Mr and Mrs Labenz how deeply sad we were that no-one received the symbols of Jesus' sacrificial love. Sadly, they never visited us after that.

Today, let's invite Jesus to have supper with us, to reveal his divine glory and set our hearts on fire again.

Christoph Lindner

STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL

Opening Prayer (From Psalm 131)

My heart is not proud, LORD,
my eyes are not haughty;
I do not concern myself with great matters
or things too wonderful for me.
But I have calmed and quieted myself,
I am like a weaned child with its mother;
like a weaned child I am content.
Israel, put your hope in the LORD
both now and forevermore.

Hymn

Glorious things of thee are spoken,

Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for his own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvations's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,
Never fails from age to age.

Saviour, if of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
Let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
Boasted pomp and empty show;
Solid joys and lasting treasure
None but Zion's children know.

Confession and Absolution

If my people, who are called by my name,
will humble themselves and pray and seek
my face and turn from their wicked ways,
then I will hear from heaven, and I will
forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2
Chronicles 7:14)

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:

Luke 24. 13-35

Now on that same day two of them were
going to a village called Emmaus, about
seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking
with each other about all these things that
had happened. While they were talking
and discussing, Jesus himself came near
and went with them, but their eyes were
kept from recognizing him. And he said to
them, 'What are you discussing with each
other while you walk along?' They stood
still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose
name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you
the only stranger in Jerusalem who does
not know the things that have taken place
there in these days?' He asked them, 'What
things?' They replied, 'The things about
Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet
mighty in deed and word before God and
all the people, and how our chief priests
and leaders handed him over to be
condemned to death and crucified him.
But we had hoped that he was the one to
redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is
now the third day since these things took
place. Moreover, some women of our
group astounded us. They were at the
tomb early this morning, and when they
did not find his body there, they came back
and told us that they had indeed seen a
vision of angels who said that he was alive.
Some of those who were with us went to
the tomb and found it just as the women
had said; but they did not see him.' Then
he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are,
and how slow of heart to believe all that
the prophets have declared! Was it not
necessary that the Messiah should suffer
these things and then enter into his glory?'
Then beginning with Moses and all the

prophets, he interpreted to them the
things about himself in all the scriptures.
As they came near the village to which
they were going, he walked ahead as if he
were going on. But they urged him
strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is
almost evening and the day is now nearly
over.' So he went in to stay with them.
When he was at the table with them, he
took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave
it to them. Then their eyes were opened,
and they recognized him; and he vanished
from their sight. They said to each other,
'Were not our hearts burning within us
while he was talking to us on the road,
while he was opening the scriptures to us?'
That same hour they got up and returned
to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven
and their companions gathered together.
They were saying, 'The Lord has risen
indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!'
Then they told what had happened on the
road, and how he had been made known to
them in the breaking of the bread.
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.*

Walk with us Lord, on our life's journey.
Stay with us Lord,
when the darkness closes in.
Set our hearts on fire, Lord,
with your living word.

The Collect for Third Sunday of Easter:

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with
boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to
proclaim your risen life and fill us with your
peace, to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

We pray the Lord's Prayer.

Hymn

In Christ alone my hope is found

He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh
Fulness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones he came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on him was laid:
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground his body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am his and he is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from his hand
Till he returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

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.