

HOLY COMMUNION ONLINE

On Sunday, 28 June we are offering a short service of Holy Communion on the Zoom video conference app at 10am (straight before our regular Youtube service). It will last for about 20 minutes. **You have to register to receive your login details:** Please go to tinyurl.com/HC28June or contact our church office for more details if you'd like to join us from a telephone.

ST MARY'S NOW OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER

Starts Monday 22 June:

Mon to Sat: 11.30 am – 12.30 pm

Sun: 10 am – 12 noon.

Please follow the safety and social distancing guidelines given in church.

CHURCH OFFICE OPEN!

All through the current crisis our church office has remained open. Victoria is working her usual hours and would be delighted to receive a phone call from you. She will do her best to help (we also have a group of volunteers who can help with errands) or will enjoy having a chat! 01895 832771. Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri: 10am-12.30-m, Thur 12.30-3pm



email: office@denhamparish.church phone: 01895 832771

THE LIFE WE WERE MADE FOR

*A series of talks about the big questions.
Both in our online service and on the phone.*

Sun 21 June: The story of my life

Sun 28 June: Who am I?

Sun 5 July: Where I am headed?

Sun 12 July: What am I here for?

Sun 19 July: What can I hope for?



Online: Sundays 10.30am

Stream any time afterwards:

tinyurl.com/youtube-denham



Telephone: Available any time for a week,

Sun to Sat: **01895 714013**

Churchyard Roses

Have you seen the roses in our churchyard at the moment? They look beautiful and smell amazing too, thanks to the team who come and water, prune and take care of them on a regular basis. Would you consider sponsoring one of the new roses, perhaps in memory of a loved one? Please call the church office for more details.

In your prayers this week, please remember anyone known to us who is suffering the pain of bereavement at this time – especially the family of **Katie Shaw, Valerie King and Margaret Weston (Kathy Paine's mother).**



PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet

21st June 2020

2nd Sunday after Trinity

Welcome to this new-style Parousia! The Church of England is currently following a staged process to re-open its buildings. In the meantime 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 our church office to send you a paper version. 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*

ABIDING IN CHRIST *by Christoph Lindner*

Today is Father's day and we thank God for the example and inspiration that (both biological and spiritual) fathers have been for us. But imagine for a moment your parents are mean and critical, that you have always been a disappointment to them and they to you. But then, one day, you find a dusty suitcase in the attic. You pick the lock, open the trunk and discover papers that prove you had, in fact, been abducted as a baby. These aren't your parents after all—no, they're criminals! You discover that your real mom was a painter at the Sorbonne in Paris and your real dad was a Nobel Prize-winning scientist. And you say to yourself, "Of course, this explains everything! I am extraordinary!" Now, this was always true of you, but it didn't change your life until your eyes were opened to it.

When we respond to the love of God and follow Jesus, he joins his life to ours. In baptism, we confess that we have died with Christ and risen to new life with him. Our life is his and his life is ours! We have been grafted into God's own life, invited in to participate in the fellowship of God. Our life is extraordinary! But often we sense a gap between that knowledge and the reality of our own lives. Over the next weeks we will explore this 'union with Christ' and how we can close the gap between theology and lived reality. One of St Paul's favourite expressions is that we are 'in Christ' and the Gospel of John calls it abiding in Christ: "Abide in me as I abide in you," Jesus says in today's gospel reading. To capture what this new reality looks like, the Bible uses powerful pictures: the parts of a body, a living temple, the union of husband and wife, a vine and its branches. Please join us on this journey into the fullness of **the life we were meant for**. You can listen to the sermons on Youtube or telephone (see page 4).

STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL

Opening Prayer (from Psalm 103)

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.

Hymn

Sing to God new songs of worship,

All his deeds are marvellous;
He has brought salvation to us
With his hand and holy arm:
He has shown to all the nations
Righteousness and saving pow'r;
He recalled his truth and mercy
To his people Israel.

Sing to God new songs of worship,
Earth has seen his victory;
Let the lands of earth be joyful
Praising him with thankfulness:
Sound upon the harp his praises,
Play to him with melody;
Let the trumpets sound his triumph,
Show your joy to God the King!

Confession and Absolution

"But while he [the prodigal son] was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him." *Luke 15:20*

We come to God as children of a compassionate Father, who has shown his great love for us by giving his own Son to die in our place.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour

in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading: John 15. 1-11

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Quiet Reflection or Time of Sharing

Or read page 1

Prayers

We pray that God would send his renewing Spirit to enable his church to carry the Good News into our communities and to the ends of the earth. We pray for the many people traumatised by the COVID crisis.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of life and, above all, for the gift of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour. Help us to proclaim and live your good news and may your love overflow to others through us.

We pray for those who seek to bring about equality and social justice.

We thank you for the joy of families and friendships. Today we remember fathers. We pray that the fathers we know may be true role models and an inspiration to their families.

We pray for medical researches, all those who work in our hospitals, for all initiatives to combat COVID-19.

We pray for those who long for peace. Bring them your presence, encouragement and peace.

Collect for the Second Sunday after Trinity
Faithful creator, whose mercy never fails: deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living word, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We pray the Lord's Prayer.
Our Father...

Hymn

I am the Light whose brightness shines,
on every pilgrim's way,
And brings to evil's darkest place
The glorious light of day.

I am the Well from whose fresh springs
life-giving water flows
And on each side the tree of life
With leaves for healing grows.

I am the Vine whose branches grow
United in one root;
Who dwell in me, and I in them,
Shall live and bear much fruit.

I am the Way, the Truth, the Life,
And truth shall set you free
To seek and find the way to life
And live that life in me.

Closing Prayer

Gracious and ever-loving God,
we offer our lives to you.
Help us always to be open
to your Spirit in our thoughts
and feelings and actions.
Support us as we explore and practise
the healthy habits of the Christian life.
Form in us the character of Jesus.
Grow in us faith, hope and love. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
The Lord make his face to shine upon
us and be gracious to us; The Lord look
kindly upon us and give us peace. And
the blessing of God Almighty, the
Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be
with us all, now and forever. Amen.