

ST MARY'S NOW OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER

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.

HOLY COMMUNION ONLINE

TODAY (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. **It is not too late to register to receive your login details:** Please go to tinyurl.com/HC28June

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.
Services from previous weeks are still available on Youtube or on our website.*

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 families of **Katie Shaw, Valerie King and Margaret Weston (Kathy Paine's mother).**



PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet

28th June 2020

3rd 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*

Union with Christ: A New Identity

If you have a young child or grandchild, chances are you know the anthem from the Disney film *Frozen*: "It's time to see what I can do, to test the limits and break through! No right, no wrong, no rules for me, I'm free! Let it go! Let it go!" Princess Elsa has captured the modern secular mindset perfectly: autonomy, individuality, freedom. But we are increasingly learning that it comes at a high price: If I have to choose my own identity, then it can lead to paralysis ("Which is the right one?"), increased anxiety ("If it's all up to me and I feel inadequate, then I have only myself to blame!"), less contentment with what we have and the partners we choose ("If there is so much choice, surely one of them must be perfect!").

In a culture that prizes individual freedom above all else, we end up imprisoned in the constantly shifting labyrinth of our own desires: "Each in the cell of himself is almost convinced of his freedom." (W. H. Auden). It is ironic that Princess Elsa sings her anthem to human autonomy from inside an ice prison of her own making!

If we allow for the existence of God in such a world, he can only be a convenient, but distant deity, whom we may allow to bless our plans, but not to make plans for us.

But Christianity offers another way to be: Union with Christ gives us permission to rest. Amongst the many choices there is one that is more important than all others: Thy will be done or My will be done? Our true identity comes from the great biblical truth that God is adopting us as his children. Through Jesus' death and resurrection our past mistakes are forgiven and our future is secure as part of his family. We are invited to lay down the heavy yoke of a self-centred life and to carry Jesus' easy yoke.

STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL

Opening Prayer (from Psalm 16)

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Hymn

I heard the voice of Jesus say,

'Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon my breast.'

I came to Jesus as I was,
So weary, worn and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
The living water, thirsty one;
Stoop down and drink and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in him.

Confession and Absolution

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.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly
repent, have mercy upon us, pardon and
deliver us from all our sins, confirm and
strengthen us in all goodness, and keep
us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ,
our Lord. Amen.

Epistle: Colossians 3.1-4

So if you have been raised with Christ,
seek the things that are above, where
Christ is, seated at the right hand of
God. Set your minds on things that are
above, not on things that are on earth,
for you have died, and your life is hidden
with Christ in God. When Christ who is
your life is revealed, then you also will be
revealed with him in glory.

Gospel: Matthew 11. 25-30

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you,
Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
because you have hidden these things
from the wise and the intelligent and
have revealed them to infants; yes,
Father, for such was your gracious will.
All things have been handed over to me
by my Father; and no one knows the Son
except the Father, and no one knows the
Father except the Son and anyone to
whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you that are weary and
are carrying heavy burdens, and I will
give you rest. Take my yoke upon you,
and learn from me; for I am gentle and
humble in heart, and you will find rest
for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and
my burden is light.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Quiet Reflection or Time of Sharing

Or read page 1

Prayers

Lord Jesus Christ, source of all life and
joy, we gladly take your yoke upon
ourselves and lay down the heavy yoke
of a self-centred life without you.

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love
our neighbour, and to care for those in
need as if we were caring for you. In
this time of anxiety, give us strength to
comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated of our love,
and your love, for your name's sake.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.
(From St Patrick's Breastplate)

Collect for the Third Sunday after Trinity
God our Saviour, look on this wounded
world in pity and in power; hold fast to
your promises of peace won for us by
your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

We pray the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father...

Hymn

I cannot tell

how he whom angels worship
should stoop to love
the peoples of the earth,
or why as shepherd
he should seek the wand'rer
with his mysterious promise
of new birth.

But this I know,
that he was born of Mary,
when Beth'lem's manger
was his only home,

and that he lived at
Nazareth and laboured,
and so the Saviour,
Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell
how silently he suffered,
as with his peace
he graced this place of tears,
or how his heart
upon the cross was broken,
the crown of pain
to three and thirty years.
But this I know,
he heals the broken-hearted,
and stays our sin,
and calms our lurking fear,
and lifts the burden
from the heavy laden,
for yet the Saviour,
Saviour of the world, is here.

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.