

PLEASE HELP US PLAN BY FILLING IN THIS SHORT SURVEY!

We are expecting that the government will allow us to hold services in our churches again from July. We are awaiting detailed guidance, but there will be considerable restrictions such as social distancing, no singing, Holy Communion in one kind (bread) only. We do not know yet how long this transition period will last. In the short term, we are planning to introduce a weekly shorter service (max 30 min) at St Mary's at 9.30am while still continuing online services at 10.30am.

1. Once services restart at St Mary's (based on the outline above), which ones will you attend?

- Only the 9.30am service at St Mary's
- Only the online service at 10.30am
- Both St Mary's and online
- Neither

2. If the 9.30am service at St Mary's includes Holy Communion I will receive Holy Communion (bread only).

- Yes
- Probably
- Probably not
- No

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 **Roy Burke, Katie Shaw, Valerie King**

3. I attend church (either online or at one of our buildings)...

- weekly.
- once or twice a month.
- occasionally.

4. I am...

- under 18.
- 18-35.
- 36-50.
- 51-65.
- over 65.

5. I would like to make the following comments (optional):

Please return this survey to our church office (St Mary's Church, Village Road, Denham, UB9 5BH) by 12 July.

You can also fill it in online:

tinyurl.com/StMarySurvey2020

or scan the QR code below:



PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet

5th July 2020

4th 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*

The life we were made for: A new horizon. *By Ian Jennings*

Our union with Christ is an awesome reality when we consider who he is. Paul writing to the Colossians gives us a soul stirring picture of the person of Christ - the one with whom we are united. 'All things were made by him, he is before all things and by him all things cohere.' In other words he is the most powerful, potent personality in the whole of the universe - he created everything and by him all things hold together. Without him everything would smash into fragments. And we are in union with him and complete in him.

Jesus prays for us to his Father in John 17 - that we may share fully in the unity and love shared by the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit. So where are we heading? Into a deepening relationship with God? I once heard a friend announce the title of his sermon as, 'The high cost of the free gift.' It sounds like a contradiction in terms, but of course the free gift is salvation and the high cost is discipleship. Wilbourne Rankin in his book *Union with Christ* speaks of two dominant voices that appear to be in conflict; they are 'the way of extravagant grace - just believe' and 'the way of radical discipleship - just obey.' The truth about grace is that it assures you that you are absolutely accepted and loved by God. It's not about what you do but about what Christ has done; its not about what you achieve but it's about what you receive. We can rest in the knowledge that we are completely loved - we deserve nothing and yet have everything. Yet that should not be an excuse for spiritual laziness. In his book *The Cost of Discipleship*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer talks about cheap grace.... grace without the cross.

So where are we heading - struggle, stress and striving or relaxing, resting, skiving? Those are two extremes of the high cost of the free gift. Where is the balance? It comes through true union with the living Christ. The central basis of our lives shifted from self to Christ. I often pray the prayer - 'May we see Christ in others and be Christ to others, that we may dwell in him and be in us.' Discovering the secret of the indwelling Christ helps us both to rest in grace and serve with grace.

email: office@denhamparish.church

phone: 01895 832771

STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL

Opening Prayer (from Psalm 118)

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Hymn

Seek ye first the kingdom of God,

And his righteousness,
And all these things
shall be added unto you;
Allelu, alleluia.

Alleliua, alleliua, alleluia, allelu, alleluia.

You shall not live by bread alone,
but by ev'ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of God;
Allelu, alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you,
Seek and ye shall find;
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you;
Allelu, alleluia.

Confession and Absolution

Who am I when many of the certainties that I took for granted have been stripped away? We're grieving what we've lost. We are fearful of what's to come. We are confused about the right way forward.

*Some of us have experienced new positive steps, more time, more space, more creativity, new healthy habits - others have had a profound experience of stress, anxiety, grief, sickness or loneliness. Jesus says: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me."
Let's renew our trust in God.*

Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.

Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May almighty God,
who sent his Son into the world
to save sinners,
bring us his pardon and peace,
now and for ever. Amen.

Epistle: Colossians 1: 15-20

He [Jesus Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Gospel: John 17. 20-23

Jesus is praying for his disciples:

'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, >>>

that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Quiet Reflection or Time of Sharing

Or read page 1

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers

May we see Christ in others and be Christ to others, that we may dwell in him and be in us.

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.

Collect for the Fourth Sunday after Trinity
Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought Salvation to our wayward world: draw us in harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

We pray the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father...

Hymn

Lord of the Church,

we pray for our renewing:
Christ over all, our undivided aim.
Fire of the Spirit, burn for our enduring,
wind of the Spirit, fan the living flame!
We turn to Christ
amid our fear and failing,
the will that lacks the courage to be free,
the weary labours, all but unavailing,
to bring us nearer what a church should be.

Lord of the Church,
we seek a Father's blessing,
a true repentance and a faith restored,
a swift obedience and a new possessing,
filled with the Holy Spirit of the Lord!
We turn to Christ
from all our restless striving,
unnumbered voices with a single prayer:
the living water for our soul's reviving,
in Christ to live, and love
and serve and care.

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.