



STARTING SERVICES AT ST MARY'S

Thank you to everyone who has completed the survey about starting services. It's been very helpful for our planning. **Our first step to restarting life in our buildings will be a short 9.30am service at St Mary's from Sunday 2 August.** Many of us have missed the sense of being together in worship and - while there will be considerable restrictions such as no singing and no refreshments - this will be a significant step to restore our 'embodied community'. This new service will be temporary and we will continually adjust and develop the pattern as the situation changes. It is not a 'replacement' for either the 8am BCP service or the 10.30am service, but a 25-30 minute service for everyone. **Our capacity will be considerably reduced so we are probably going to use a simple ticketing system - more on this next week!**



email: office@denhamparish.church

THE LIFE WE WERE MADE FOR

A series of talks about the big questions. Catch up on previous services and talks either on our Youtube Channel (video) or on our website (audio).

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**

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.

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 and Jonathan Govan.**

phone: **01895 832771**



PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet

12th July 2020

5th Sunday after Trinity

Welcome to this new-style Parousia! The Church of England is currently following a staged process to re-open its buildings. Please **find the latest update on the back page!** In the meantime, this news and service sheet is one way of keeping in touch and worshipping together. 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*

A NEW PURPOSE -WHAT AM I HERE FOR? By Nnamdi Maduka

If you are in Christ, you have been given a new identity. God has called you into a new life, rooted in a history that predates you, anchored in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. You discover who you are in Christ, and you are given the DNA to prove it, the Holy Spirit who empowers you to live a holy life.

What am I here for, What are you here for?

The reason we live is to worship God in the beauty of His Holiness! It is only when we discover who we are that we can worship him in the beauty of His holiness.

A thorough and honest assessment of ourselves most time does not showcase us as a holy people. But holiness means being set apart for God's use, to reflect God's character in all of our ways, his goodness and love, his kindness and compassion, his concern for justice and the poor. It's not an optional extra reserved for the few! It is God's expectation for all his people at all times and in all places. God commanded his people, "Be ye holy for I am holy." (Lev 11:44)

UNION with Christ is the **anchor** of Holiness: We are in Christ and our sanctification (another word for becoming holy) is finished, full and complete. In Christ we were washed, sanctified and justified (1 Cor 6:11). In this sense Holiness is what we receive by faith of what Jesus did on the cross for us all. This is not something we achieve by ourselves. Our union with Christ gives us confidence that our holiness does not fall with our successes or rise with our successes.

Holiness is both what we are and What we called to become; It is the anchor and the **engine**. "You are in Christ" gives you assurance. "Christ is in you" gives you power. Together they help us move out in confidence. Become what you already are!

In calling us to be holy God is not asking us to make up what is lacking in us; we don't obey from a deficit, we obey out of fullness. We see that God is making us beautiful because he is making us like Jesus and he is committed to us over the whole journey.

STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL

Opening Prayer (from Psalm 119)

I do not turn away from your ordinances, for you have taught me.
How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Through your precepts I get understanding;
therefore I hate every false way.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Hymn

O Worship The Lord

in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him,
his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience,
and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him:
the Lord is his name.

Low at his feet lay
thy burden of carefulness:
High on his heart
He will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows,
and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps
as may best for thee be.

These, though we bring them
in trembling and fearfulness,
He will accept
for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give
for ev'nings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling
and hope for our fear.

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.

1 Peter 1.13-16

Therefore prepare your minds for action;
discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed.
Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance.
Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct;
for it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'

John 10. 27-30

My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

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

*The Collect for Purity
(usually prayed at the beginning of Holy Communion)*

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:

cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 fifth Sunday after Trinity
Almighty God, send down upon your Church the riches of your spirit,
and kindle in all who minister the gospel your countless gifts of grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We pray the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father...

Hymn

Holy Spirit, come, confirm us

In the truth that Christ makes known;
We have faith and understanding
Through your helping gifts alone.

Holy Spirit, come, console us,
Come as Advocate to plead,
Loving Spirit from the Father,
Grant in Christ the help we need.

Holy Spirit, come, renew us,
Come yourself to make us live;
Holy through your loving presence,
Holy through the gifts you give.

Holy Spirit, come, possess us,
You the Love of Three in One,
Holy Spirit of the Father,
Holy Spirit of the Son.

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.