



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 going to use a simple ticketing system - more on this next week!**



email: office@denhamparish.church

HOLY COMMUNION ONLINE

Sun 26 July, 10 am

On Sunday, 26 July 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 sign up via the event on our website:

www.denhamparish.church/events/ or via our church office for more details if you'd like to join us from a telephone. After signing up you will receive an email with the login details.

Nnamdi and Ian will be online from 9.45am on the day - join them for a chat before the service!

Do you know someone in need of a car?

A member of our church family has a 17-year-old Honda Civic, which is still running very well. They'd love to give it to someone in need of a car.

Please contact 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 **Roy Burke and Jonathan Govan**

phone: 01895 832771



PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet

19th July 2020

6th 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: What can we hope for? *By Christoph Lindner*

At virtual coffee a few weeks ago we explored the apparent contradiction that God is fully in control and that at the same time we are fully responsible for our own choices and one day we will have to give an account to God!

And the one choice that is more important than all the others is this: "my will be done" or "thy will be done"?

The biblical concept of 'sin' means rebellion against God. It means living the "my will be done" life. And God is mystified by sin. Why would I choose a self-centred life when it imprisons and isolates me in tiny universe of one?

God creates this beautiful world and tells Adam and Eve, "You can enjoy the fruits of all these trees. Except for one." And guess what? They make a bee line for this one tree. We are fully responsible for our choices.

And so we need the stark reality of the cross to come to our senses. It is God shouting to the world: Have I got your attention now? I love you so much that I give my very self so you can return to me as sons and daughters. So that justice is done. Because sin and rebellion matter. They have to matter to a God of justice. And in Jesus God offers us this divine exchange: to take upon himself our rebellion and sin and to give us his righteousness. We are *in Christ* – 'ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Who like us His praise should sing!'

This is such a message of hope. During this coronavirus crisis we've been starkly reminded that we are *not* and our unsettled communities need to hear this message. We are the good news bearers, because we become part of God's mission of restoration in this life and we receive indestructible eternal resurrection life! The life we were made for.

STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL

Opening Prayer (from Psalm 103)

Praise the LORD, my soul;
all my inmost being,
praise his holy name.
Praise the LORD, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love
and compassion,
who satisfies your desires
with good things
so that your youth is renewed
like the eagle's.

Hymn

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance
he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tow'r and temple, fall to dust.
But God's pow'r, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tow'r.

Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

Confession and Absolution

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
The first commandment is this:
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the
only Lord. You shall love the Lord your
God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,

and with all your strength.'
The second is this: 'Love your neighbour
as yourself.' There is no other
commandment greater than these.
On these two commandments hang all
the law and the prophets.
Amen, Lord, have mercy.

**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.

Luke 24. 44-53

Then he said to them, 'These are my
words that I spoke to you while I was still
with you—that everything written about
me in the law of Moses, the prophets,
and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then
he opened their minds to understand
the scriptures, and he said to them,
'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to
suffer and to rise from the dead on the
third day, and that repentance and
forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in
his name to all nations, beginning from
Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these
things. And see, I am sending upon you
what my Father promised; so stay here
in the city until you have been clothed
with power from on high.'

Then he led them out as far as Bethany,
and, lifting up his hands, he blessed
them. While he was blessing them, he
withdrew from them and was carried up

into heaven. And they worshipped him,
and returned to Jerusalem with great
joy; and they were continually in the
temple blessing God.

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

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 sixth Sunday after Trinity
Creator God, you made us in your
image: may we discern you in all that
we see, and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We pray the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father...

Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Blessing

God of power, may the boldness of
your Spirit transform us, may the
gentleness of your Spirit lead us,
may the gifts of your Spirit equip us to
serve and worship you now and always.
And the blessing of God almighty, the
Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be
with us all, now and always. Amen.