



### A 9.30 am service from 2 August

From next Sunday onwards **there will be a short 9.30am service at St Mary's Church**. 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 will use a simple ticketing system. Please find all details and answers to other questions in the Q&A sheet which is included if you receive Parousia through the post. Alternatively, please go to [www.denhamparish.church/ninethirty](http://www.denhamparish.church/ninethirty)**

**ST MARY'S WON'T BE OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER THIS WEEK!**

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 **Jonathan Govan**.

### ONLINE AND ON THE PHONE

Our online and telephone services will continue in August.

Online: Sundays 10.30am

Stream any time afterwards:

**[tinyurl.com/youtube-denham](https://tinyurl.com/youtube-denham)**

Telephone: Available any time for a week,

Sun to Sat: **01895 714013**



CHERISH CONNECT COLLABORATE

COMMIT

In August, Christoph and Edda are inviting couples to four "marriage sessions" online. Edda and Christoph have been married for 26 years and believe more than ever that marriage is a great gift – a gift that needs looking after. Under the four headings "Cherish | Connect | Collaborate | Commit" we will watch excellent videos provided by *Care for the Family* with lots of ideas to spark off a great conversation between couples afterwards. To sign up, go to **[www.denhamparish.church/events](http://www.denhamparish.church/events)**

### ONLINE DONATIONS



If you wish to make a donation to Denham Parish Church, please scan this code with the camera or QR app on your smartphone and follow instructions.



## PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet

**26<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**7<sup>th</sup> 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! The inside pages provide you with a short service so you can worship at home. Please find more details about our new 9.30am service on the back or at [www.denhamparish.church/ninethirty](http://www.denhamparish.church/ninethirty). 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 Gift of Wisdom (Ian Jennings)

it is a moving and dramatic story in 1 Kings chapter 3. In a dream God spoke to Solomon and asked 'What do you want me to do for you?' It was an open invitation to ask God for anything. I wonder what we would have asked for?

Maybe health and strength for ourselves and loved ones, maybe resources enough to be free from worry and to able to give to those in need? I'm sure we could think of worthy things to ask God for but Solomon asked only for wisdom. Actually he requested a 'heart with skill to listen so that I may govern your people justly and distinguish good from evil.' God's response was, 'I grant you your request; I give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has been none like you before your time, nor will there be after you.'

We all need wisdom or as the Message Bible puts it, "A God-listening heart." True wisdom begins with the capacity to listen and nothing is more important than having ears tuned to God's voice. Paul wrote to Timothy and said, 'from a child you have known the holy scriptures which are able to make you wise ..' We hear God's voice through his word, through one another, through the stillness of his presence - a discerning heart hears God's voice. We can develop that sensitivity. If we lack wisdom we can ask God. 'If anyone lacks wisdom let them ask God who gives liberally without reproach - but ask in faith.' (James 1:5)

How does it begin? 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,' (Proverbs 9:10). That does not mean a cringing cowering fear but a deep sense of awe and wonder at the majesty of God. Having a clear vision of the beauty and glory of God is a good beginning - it is the seedbed for the growth of wisdom in our lives.

Because Solomon chose wisdom and not long life and wealth, God said he would receive those things as a kind of by-product. That reminds me of the principle Jesus spelt out in Matthew 6:33 'Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and everything else will be given to you as well.' When we get our priorities right - God's kingdom and wisdom - everything else finds its rightful place and we have all that we need. God, make us a wise and discerning people.

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**STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL**

## Opening Prayer (from Psalm 16)

Draw near to God,  
and he will draw near to you.

*(James 4:8)*

*We take some time to draw near and to lay down what distracts us.*

## Hymn

Love's redeeming work is done;  
Fought the fight, the battle won:  
Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,  
Lo, he sets in blood no more.

Lives again our glorious King;  
Where, O death, is now thy sting?  
Dying once, he all doth save;  
Where thy victory, O grave?

Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!  
Praise to these by both be giv'n;  
Thee we greet triumphant now;  
Hail, the Resurrection thou!

## Confession and Absolution

When we cry out to the Lord in our trouble,  
**he will deliver us from our distress.**  
God will bring us out of darkness  
**and out of the shadow of death.**

Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father forgive us  
by the death of his Son  
and strengthen us  
to live in the power of the Spirit  
all our days.

**Amen.**

## 1 Kings 3. 5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?'

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

## Matt. 13. 31-33, 44-46

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the

seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## Quiet Reflection or Time of Sharing

*Or read page 1*

## Prayers

Today we pray for our mission partner Samuel Kpagheri and his family, for his work as a Bible translation consultant with Wycliffe Bible Translators. We pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the translation work, so that the good news would resonate in the hearts of many peoples, for protection on his travels and for continued prayer and financial support.

*Collect for the 7th Sunday after Trinity*  
Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small as mustard-seed, make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## *We pray the Lord's Prayer.*

Our Father...

## Hymn

Thou, whose almighty word  
Chaos and darkness heard,  
And took their flight:  
Hear us, we humbly pray,  
And where the gospel-day  
Sheds not its glorious ray,  
Let there be light.

Thou, who didst come to bring  
On thy redeeming wing,  
Healing and sight,  
Health to the sick in mind,  
Sight to the inly blind,  
O now to all mankind  
Let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love,  
Life-giving, holy Dove,  
Speed forth thy flight;  
Move on the water's face,  
Bearing the lamp of grace,  
And in earth's darkest place  
Let there be light.

Holy and blessed Three,  
Glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might;  
Boundless as ocean's tide  
Rolling in fullest pride,  
Through the earth far and wide  
Let there be light.

## 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.