



A 9.30 am service from 2 August

Today is our first **9.30am service at St Mary's Church**. Many of us have missed the sense of being together in worship and - while there are considerable restrictions such as no singing and no refreshments - this is a significant step to restore our 'embodied community'. This service is not a 'replacement' for either the 8am BCP service or the 10.30am service, but a 25-30 minute service for everyone. Please find all details and answers to questions in the Q&A sheet which was included if you receive Parousia through the post. Alternatively, please go to www.denhamparish.church/ninethirty

If you are worshipping with us in person today at St Mary's, we're so glad you are here! To keep everyone as safe as we can, we will give clear instructions on movement of people during and at the end of the service.

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**.

email: office@denhamparish.church

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



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

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.

phone: **01895 832771**



PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet

2nd August 2020

8th 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*

Social Distancing by Christoph Lindner

We've all got used to social distancing over the last months. For some of us - especially those living on their own - this has been really hard. But we know it's important.

Of course, social distancing isn't a recent invention. In fact, over the centuries people have often practised voluntary social distance because they are afraid to be contaminated by others. Because they are the *wrong kind* of people.

That was Zacchaeus' problem. He kept his distance because he knew most of the people wouldn't want to get anywhere near him. And then the shocking realisation: This rabbi Jesus, whom I am keen to see, is addressing ... me!

"I *must* stay at your house, Zacchaeus." "He knows me by name! He wants to stay with me." And it isn't a polite option, it is an urgent request.

We all know how this encounter with Jesus changed Zacchaeus. A socially-distanced man experienced welcome, acceptance and genuine fellowship. And not with just anyone – with Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God. Zacchaeus discovered that he was part of a family – all those who recognise Jesus as Lord.

It is a tragedy when Christians today make this family into a club, socially distanced from 'undesirables' (whoever we think they are) – because Jesus sought them out, celebrated parties with them: "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." By becoming a club we may just demonstrate that we are still part of the 'lost' who haven't understood the scandalously good news.

It is a tragedy when Christians today make the gospel exclusively about securing our place in heaven and then carrying on with our lives, when God wants to make the family of Jesus the agents of his restoration here and now. If we are not particularly interested in the last, the least and the lost, we may just demonstrate that we are still part of the 'lost'.

Today we celebrate *fellowship*, the second of our HEALTHY HABITS. A fellowship with Jesus at the centre. A fellowship like no other. Welcome to the family!

STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL

OPENING PRAYER (from Psalm 84)

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!

My soul longs, indeed it faints for the
courts of the LORD; my heart and my
flesh sing for joy to the living God.

For a day in your courts is better than
a thousand elsewhere. I would rather
be a doorkeeper in the house of my
God than live in the tents of wickedness.

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.

CONFESSION & 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.

LUKE 19. 1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing
through it. A man was there named
Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector
and was rich. He was trying to see who
Jesus was, but on account of the crowd
he could not, because he was short in
stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a
sycamore tree to see him, because he
was going to pass that way. When Jesus
came to the place, he looked up and said
to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come
down; for I must stay at your house
today.' So he hurried down and was
happy to welcome him. All who saw it
began to grumble and said, 'He has gone
to be the guest of one who is a sinner.'
Zacchaeus stood there and said to the
Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions,
Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have
defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay
back four times as much.' Then Jesus
said to him, 'Today salvation has come
to this house, because he too is a son of
Abraham. For the Son of Man came to
seek out and to save the lost.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

ORGAN

Jesus stand among us
At the meeting of our lives
Be our sweet agreement
At the meeting of our eyes

O Jesus we love You, so we gather here
Join our hearts in unity
And take away our fear

PRAYERS

As we follow the Way of Christ, we
affirm the presence of God among us,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
God calls us to share in worship.
Jesus said, where two or three are
gathered in my name, I am there
among them.

**Jesus, you are the Way:
guide us on our journey.**

God calls us to share in prayer.
Jesus said, remain in me, and I will
remain in you.

Jesus, you are the Way, guide ...

God calls us to share the Scriptures.
Jesus met his disciples on the road
and opened the Scriptures to them.

Jesus, you are the Way, guide ...

God calls us to share in fellowship.
Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today I must
stay at your house."

Jesus, you are the Way, guide ...

God calls us to share in service.
Jesus said, as you do it for the least of
these, you do it for me.

Jesus, you are the Way, guide ...

God calls us to share the good news.
Jesus said, go and make disciples of all
nations.

Jesus, you are the Way, guide ...

Collect for the 8th Sunday after Trinity

Lord God, your Son left the riches of
heaven and became the poor for our
sake: when we prosper save us from
pride, when we are needy save us from
despair, that we may trust in you alone;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Lord, help us to keep going out, to
keep reaching out, and to keep
expecting you to lead us into places
outside the church. Lord, when you
seek and find some of the lost, help us
to be a church with a big enough heart
to open wide our door and to welcome
them as your cherished children. **Amen**

THE BLESSING

(Sung by Deborah Hines and Arne Tielbürger)

The Lord bless you and keep you
make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace

Amen, Amen, Amen

May his favour be upon you
and a thousand generations
and your family and your children
and their children and their children

May his presence go before you
and behind you and beside you
all around you and within you
He is with you, He is with you

Christ, whose glory is in the heavens,
fill this house and illuminate your
hearts; and the blessing of God
almighty, the Father, the Son, and the
Holy Spirit, be among you and remain
with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen