

DIARY DATE: APCM 11 OCTOBER

Our postponed Annual Parochial Church Meeting will now take place on **Sunday, 11 October in the morning** (exact time and venue TBC).

We are updating our **Electoral Roll**. If there are any changes to your details, please complete a new form (available at the main entrance of St Mary's, from the electoral roll officer (maurl@btinternet.com) or online (denhamparish.church/apcm). Anyone who has been attending St Mary's for at least 6 months may apply to become a member of the Church which will enable you to vote at the APCM. Completed application forms **should be returned by 13 September**.



The current crisis can be an opportunity for a personal "reset". Here are the next themes:

Sun 30 August: **RESET your online life**

Sun 6 September: **RESET your job**

Sun 13 September: **RESET God**

ONLINE: tinyurl.com/youtube-denham

ON THE PHONE: 01895 714013

AT ST MARY'S: Sundays 9.30am

Please pray for ...

- those on holiday and those whose holidays have been cancelled.
- young people who have received their exam results.
- those who are bereaved, especially

email: office@denhamparish.church

phone: 01895 832771

ST MARY'S FESTIVAL: 12 & 13 Sep

We are making plans for this year's St Mary's Festival which are flexible enough to respond to the evolving situation and will hopefully be a mix of events in and around St Mary's and online. **For the morning of Saturday 12th September we are planning a community activity.** On Sun 13th we will have celebration services and a range of other activities. **Please make a note in your diary. More details very soon!**

THANK YOU FROM EDDA

Edda's ablation (surgery to correct her heart arrhythmia) was successful. She and Christoph would love to thank everyone for their prayers and support.

REFLECTING TOGETHER ON THE IMPACT OF COVID

Please complete our **community survey** on the impact of this current crisis on ourselves and our community. You can find it on the back pages of the current Denham Parish News or go to: tinyurl.com/denhamcovid

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

23rd August 2020

11th Sunday after Trinity

Welcome to this new-style Parousia! 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.

Finishing well by Ian Jennings

When I was 14 I was short and podgy. I had a growth spurt at 15 but I was never an athlete. I hated the weekly cross country run because I was always in danger of being last. There were 4 of us who were slightly tubby and extremely slow so we had an agreement to walk in together at the end of the run so that no individual would experience the humiliation of being the last man. It was an exercise in sharing the shame, mitigating the humiliation. It couldn't be described as finishing well!

I ran my first half marathon at 65 and have been running ever since. It was a proud moment when I entered a trail run in North East Lincolnshire a couple of years ago and a week later received a letter in the post congratulating me for being first in my age category and enclosing a modest cheque as my winners prize. I could never have predicted that at 14!

St Paul always kept his eyes on the goal. 'I press towards towards the mark for the prize of high calling of God in Christ Jesus,' he said to the Philippians. (Philippians 3:14) He had a burning passion that motivated him and he kept the finishing line in sight. It is not just about starting well it is about finishing well. King Saul started well but finished badly. He was a humble young man who considered that he wasn't worthy to be King. But Samuel anointed him king and his reign began well. However the finish is a very sad story. He fell upon his sword and his life ended miserably on the bloody battlefield of Gilboa. His epitaph in his own words is, "I have played the fool, I have erred exceedingly." (1Samuel 26:21) That is so sad - a life that began with so much potential ended in so much defeat and humiliation.

On the other hand Paul was able to write to Timothy when he saw the finish line, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my race, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7) It would be wonderful if arising out of Coronavirus we sharpened our commitment to focus on these priorities - to fight the fight - to run the race - to keep the faith, and to do so with passion and purpose. May we not only be aware of our mortality and vulnerability; may we be super conscious of our privileged calling as followers of Jesus so that we may always press towards the goal of the high call of God in Christ Jesus.

STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL

HYMN

Praise to the Lord,
The Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him,
For he is thy health and salvation:
All ye who hear,
Now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord,
Who o'er all thing so wondrously reigneth,
Shieldeth thee gently from harm,
Or when fainting sustaineth:
Hast thou not seen
How thy heart's wishes have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord,
Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy
Shall daily attend thee:
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do,
If to the end he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord,
O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath,
Come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen
Sound from his people again:
Gladly for ay we adore him.

CONFESSION

**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.

COLLECT

God of glory, the end of our searching,
help us to lay aside all that prevents us
from seeking your kingdom, and to give all
that we have to gain the pearl beyond all
price, through our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

BIBLE READINGS

2 Timothy 4. 1-8

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus,
who is to judge the living and the dead,
and in view of his appearing and his
kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim
the message; be persistent whether the
time is favourable or unfavourable;
convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the
utmost patience in teaching. For the time
is coming when people will not put up with
sound doctrine, but having itching ears,
they will accumulate for themselves
teachers to suit their own desires, and will
turn away from listening to the truth and
wander away to myths. As for you, always
be sober, endure suffering, do the work of
an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

As for me, I am already being poured out
as a libation, and the time of my departure
has come. I have fought the good fight, I
have finished the race, I have kept the
faith. From now on there is reserved for
me the crown of righteousness, which the
Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me
on that day, and not only to me but also to
all who have longed for his appearing.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

John 14.1-6

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Believe in God, believe also in me. In my
Father's house there are many dwelling-
places. If it were not so, would I have told
you that I go to prepare a place for you?
And if I go and prepare a place for you, I
will come again and will take you to
myself, so that where I am, there you
may be also. And you know the way to
the place where I am going.' Thomas said
to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you
are going. How can we know the way?'
Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the
truth, and the life. No one comes to the
Father except through me.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

REFLECTION (or read page 1)

HYMN

Thine for ever! God of love,
Hear us from thy throne above:
Thine for ever may we be
Here and in eternity.

Thine for ever! Lord of life,
Shield us through our earthly strife;
Thou the life, the truth, the way,
Guide us to the realms of day.

Thine for ever! O how blest
They who find in thee their rest!
Saviour, guardian, heav'nly friend,
O defend us to the end.

PRAYERS

Merciful God, we entrust to your
unfailing and tender care those who are
ill, in pain or grieving. May they know
that whenever danger threatens, your
everlasting arms are there to hold us
safe. Comfort and heal them, and restore
them to health and strength; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We pray the LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh
Fulness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones he came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died –
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on him was laid:
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground his body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am his and he is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from his hand
Till he returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all
understanding, keep our hearts and
minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and
the blessing of God almighty, the Father,
the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among
us and remain with us always. **Amen.**