

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 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

Join us today for **ONLINE COFFEE** from **11.15am** (tinyurl.com/youtube-denham)

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 the families of Jennifer Marshall and Wendy Sterry (Cynthia Sterry's daughter-in-law)

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 be a mix of events in and around St Mary's and online. **For the morning of Saturday 12th September we are planning a range of community activities - a 1k walk, 5k walk, 5k run and 20k cycle ride** – all starting from St Mary's Church and finishing there. Each activity will take up to one hour; it's not about being competitive but having fun together in God's beautiful creation. On **Sun 13th** we will have celebration services in the morning and a range of other activities, including **Open Garden at the White House** (12 noon – 4pm) and a **concert** at 4pm. **Please take a flyer with more details and invite friends and family to join us!**

FIND THE LATEST UPDATES at
denhamparish.church/festival

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

30th August 2020

12th Sunday after Trinity

Welcome to St Mary's Church! We are so glad you are here. If you are here for the first time or visiting, please say hello to the service leader or a member of the welcome team so we can welcome you personally. **Please take this sheet with you at the end of the service.** If you read this at home, please find a simple service on the inside pages, which you can use to guide your prayers. *Christoph Lindner, Rector*

A Whole New World Out There by Christoph Lindner

When I was a student in the late 80s I had my first taste of the internet. Working as a student assistant in the linguistics department of Freiburg University, I had to exchange data with a US university *online* by typing cryptic commands into a computer terminal. I couldn't have dreamed how much this embryonic internet was going to transform most spheres of life.

This change has of course been accelerated by the Coronavirus crisis - it's hard to imagine how we would have coped without online shopping, working, school lessons, online entertainment and ... church services!

Any new invention has the potential to be a blessing or a curse depending on how we use it and the internet is no different. The World Wide Web has been a gift for many - fostering *relationships*, providing *resources* and giving voice to people suffering from *repression*. But over the last few years we have increasingly learned about the dangers of online fraud, crime and exploitation, binge watching, game and social media addiction, the psychological burden which social media places on many (especially young) people, and the illusion that our hankering for money, sex and power can be satisfied.

It is instructive that many Silicon Valley bosses keep their own children away from the internet as long as possible. Eric Schmidt, who was chairman of Google for many years, has written that there is now a tale of two civilisations: "One is physical and has developed over thousands of years, and the other is virtual and is still very much in formation."

So, what should we think of it and how should we use the internet as Christians?

The Apostle Paul reminds his readers to think about things that are *pure, beautiful, commendable, excellent* and then to live that way (*Philippians 4.8-9*). How does my use of the internet stack up against that standard? Where do I see a need for a reset?

At times it will be right to retreat from the internet for a time, to even establish a rhythm of fasting from screen time. But as followers of Jesus we are called to be good news people in all spheres of life. "You will be my witnesses to the ends of the world" says Jesus to his disciples before he leaves them. The ends of the world include the World Wide Web.

We are the first generation of Christians inhabiting that virtual world. How do we represent Christ in that world?

email: office@denhamparish.church

phone: 01895 832771

STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER (from Psalm 95)
**O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock
of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with
thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him
with songs of praise!
For he is our God, and we are
the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.**

HYMN

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore;
Mortals, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore.

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

Jesus the Saviour reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains,
He took his seat above.

His kingdom cannot fail;
He rules o'er earth and heav'n;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus giv'n.

CONFESSION

**Almighty God,
long-suffering and of great goodness:
I confess to you,
I confess with my whole heart
my neglect and forgetfulness
of your commandments,
my wrong doing, thinking,
and speaking;
the hurts I have done to others,
and the good I have left undone.
O God, forgive me,**

**for I have sinned against you;
and raise me to newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the God of love and power forgive
you and free you from your sins, heal
and strengthen you by his Spirit, and
raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COLLECT

God of constant mercy, who sent you
Son to save us: remind us of your
goodness, increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BIBLE READING

Philippians 4. 4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will
say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be
known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do
not worry about anything, but in
everything by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving let your requests be
made known to God. And the peace of
God, which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in
Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true,
whatever is honourable, whatever is
just, whatever is pure, whatever is
pleasing, whatever is commendable, if
there is any excellence and if there is
anything worthy of praise, think about
these things. Keep on doing the things
that you have learned and received and
heard and seen in me, and the God of
peace will be with you.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

HYMN

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of his word,
What a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

*Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey*

Not a burden we bear,
Not a sorrow we share,
But our toil he doth richly repay;
Not a grief nor a loss,
Not a frown nor a cross,
But is blest if we trust and obey.

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

**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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

(Sung by Jonathan Veira)

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

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.

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