

## ONLINE AND ON THE PHONE

Our online and telephone services will continue in September.

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**



### St Mary's Festival: Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who planned, helped with and attended St Mary's Festival last weekend - we had a fantastic time and the weather was very kind to us. As we navigate these choppy waters it was a joy to celebrate our community and the faith that makes us a family. Over the course of the weekend you donated a total of £1150 for St Mary's Fabric Fund. Thank you!



Sailing, Fishing and the Storms of Life

### Please pray for ...

- those affected most by this crisis through sickness, loneliness, loss of job
- pupils, parents and teachers as the new school year gets under way
- those who are sick or suffering from bereavement especially Jessie Sims and the families of Kerry Harrison, Jennifer Marshall and Thelma Mann.

email: [office@denhamparish.church](mailto:office@denhamparish.church)

## APCM 11 OCTOBER, 10.30am

Our postponed Annual Parochial Church Meeting will now take place on **Sunday, 11 October at 10.30am** (after the 9.30am service). Please register for the meeting at [denhamparish.church/events](https://denhamparish.church/events) or by calling our church office.

We are planning to stream the APCM live from the church on our YouTube channel.

**We are planning to distribute the Annual Report electronically (as a PDF file) as much as possible but if you are not online or would like a paper copy, these can be picked up at the 9.30am service on 4<sup>th</sup> October or call the church office and we will deliver a copy to you.**



Open Garden at the White House

## MAKING A DONATION

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. You can also leave a gift in the offering plate as you leave. **Thank you!**



# PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet  
**20<sup>th</sup> September 2020**  
**15<sup>th</sup> 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. 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*

### The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard by Nnamdi Maduka

It is so easy to define grace as an unmerited favour but what does that mean to us and people around us? In the parable of the vineyard workers, Jesus' story makes no economic sense, and that was his intent. The parable is about coveting, about our frustration with the grace of God as it applies not to us, but to others. We are invited to see ourselves in the story, and then apply it to ourselves. He was giving us a parable about grace, which cannot be calculated like a day's wages. The employer in Jesus' story did not cheat the full-day workers. No, the full-day workers got what they were promised. Their discontent arose from the scandalous mathematics of grace which shows clearly that favour is not a product of labour. They would not accept that their employer had the right to do what he wanted with his money. Christ has prepared a home for all, we all are invited into his place of rest that we do not deserve. None of us gets paid according to merit, none of us is saved by our good works, for none of us comes close to satisfying God's requirements for a perfect life.

Be satisfied with what you have, "godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Timothy 6:6). Many of us base our self-worth on what we own or achieve. We only feel good about ourselves when we are involved in certain relationships or reach certain goals. It is both scriptural and wise to have goals for your life, but don't undermine yourself by believing that you are 'less than' because you have achieved or acquired less than someone else. The scriptures teach that when you make God's purposes your number one priority, He rewards us based upon the opportunities that He gives us. The only condition to fulfil in order to receive His grace is 'if we can confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in our heart that God raise Him from the death, we will be saved' (Romans 10: 9). It does not matter whether you are a late-comer like the robber crucified with Jesus, a gate-crasher or "the worst of all sinners" (as St Paul described himself in 1 Timothy 1: 15), God has made provision for all of us despite our shortcomings. In His economy it is not rewards that prevail, it is grace that prevails!

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

**OPENING PRAYER (from Psalm 105)**  
O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.  
Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.  
Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.  
Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.

### **HYMN**

**Glorious things of thee are spoken,**  
Zion, city of our God;  
He whose word cannot be broken  
Formed thee for his own abode.  
On the Rock of Ages founded,  
What can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded,  
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,  
Springing from eternal love,  
Well supply thy sons and daughters,  
And all fear of want remove.  
Who can faint while such a river  
Ever flows their thirst to assuage?  
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,  
Never fails from age to age.

Saviour, if of Zion's city  
I through grace a member am,  
Let the world deride or pity,  
I will glory in thy name.  
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,  
Boasted pomp and empty show;  
Solid joys and lasting treasure  
None but Zion's children know.

### **CONFESSION**

**Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. 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, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **HYMN**

**Be still, for the presence of the Lord,**  
the Holy One, is here;  
come, bow before him now,  
with reverence and fear.  
In him no sin is found,  
we stand on holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One, is here.

Be still for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around;  
he burns with holy fire,  
with splendour he is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight,  
our radiant King of Light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place,  
he comes to cleanse and heal,  
to minister his grace.  
No work too hard for him,  
in faith receive from him;  
Be still for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place.

### **BIBLE READING: Matthew 20. 1-16**

1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; 4 and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. 5 When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. 6 And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' 7 They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' 8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' 9 When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. 10 Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. 11 And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 12 saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have

made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' 13 But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? 14 Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' 16 So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **SERMON**

### **PRAYERS**

**Our Father, who art in heaven...**

### **HYMN**

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty,  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee.

*(Sung by the Choral Scholars of St Martin in the Fields)*

### **THE BLESSING**

*Songs and Hymns reproduced under CCLI licence 61893*