



PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet

27th September 2020

16th Sunday after Trinity

Welcome to St Mary's Church! We are so glad you are here. Today's service is a Holy Communion Service. Due to current restrictions it will be in one kind (bread) only. Please familiarise yourself with the detailed information in this booklet.

Christoph Lindner, Rector

Who are you? How dare you? By Ian Jennings

This was really the question that the chief priests and elders were asking Jesus when they said, "By what authority do you do these things?" Earlier in this same chapter Jesus overturns the tables of the money men and cleanses the temple, "My house shall be called a house of prayer," Jesus says, "but you have made it a den of thieves." They were incensed and wanted to know how dare he do this.

Jesus answers a question with a question, if they answer his question he will answer theirs, "John's baptism - where did it come from? Heaven or men?" They are silenced by that question because the people firmly believe John's message and ministry was God-ordained. If they say what they want to say they instantly lose the crowd, so they say nothing. Their silence is met with his silence. But then he holds up a mirror to them in the story he tells. It is the story of the two sons; one says he will work in the vineyard but doesn't and the other says he won't, but does. "Which one did what the Father wanted?" asked Jesus. That is a question that they can and do answer. In this story he shows them themselves. The prostitutes and tax collectors will enter the kingdom of God before them for they began from a position of rejection but came to a place of acceptance and now, forgiven and restored, they are followers of the truth. On the other hand these religious leaders in theory began from a position of acceptance and faith but in their hearts they have turned away from God.

They began by saying to Jesus, "Who do you think you are?" He concludes by showing them themselves and, in effect, saying, "this is who *you* are!" The challenge for us is to ask ourselves what do we see in the mirror of God's word as it is held up to us? We are called to "Love mercy, do justice and to walk humbly with our God." Covid 19 has brought such disruption to everything. We must not lose sight of who we are called to be. We are called to care and for that care to be translated into action, even during a time of coronavirus. The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopalian Church of the USA, Michael Curry says of his own country in its present turmoil, "I cannot help but notice love's profound and tragic absence."

Jesus' question helps us to look at ourselves in the mirror. What do we see? Do we see ourselves walking the path of love? Do we see ourselves as beloved children of God who are growing as reconcilers, healers and justice makers in the name of Christ? That's the path we must consciously choose as disciples of Jesus, because "those who live in love, live in God and God lives in them."

STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL

OPENING PRAYER (from Psalm 25)

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

HYMN

At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of glory now;
'Tis the Father's pleasure
We should call him Lord,
Who, from the beginning,
Was the mighty Word.
Humbled for a season,
To receive a name
From the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,
Faithfully he bore it,
Spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious
When from death he passed.
Surely, this Lord Jesus
Shall return again,
With his Father's glory,
With his angel train;
For all wreaths of empire
Meet upon his brow,
And our hearts confess him
King of Glory now.

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
Amen. Lord, have mercy.

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.

COLLECT

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace a our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE READING

Matthew 21. 23-32

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard

today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

THE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal

God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word; through him you have created all things from the beginning, and formed us in your own image.

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin, giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross; you raised him from the dead and exalted him to your right hand on high.

Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit, and made us a people for your own possession.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

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.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

At present we receive Holy Communion in one kind (bread) only.

We have devised a one-way system for receiving the bread and then returning to your place through the empty first pew. Please refer to the diagram on page 7 for details and familiarise yourself with your pew number. We are inviting people to come forward by pew number starting with pew No. 1. Please keep a distance of two meters to the person in front of you. If you'd like to receive a blessing, please keep your hands at your sides as you come forward. Please walk back to your pew after you receive the wafer and consume it there.

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

HYMN

May the mind of Christ my Saviour live in me from day to day by his love and pow'r controlling all I do and say.

May the word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour, so that I may triumph only in his saving pow'r.

May the peace of God my Father rule my life in ev'rything, that I may be calm to comfort sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me, as the waters fill the sea; him exalting, self abasing, this is victory.

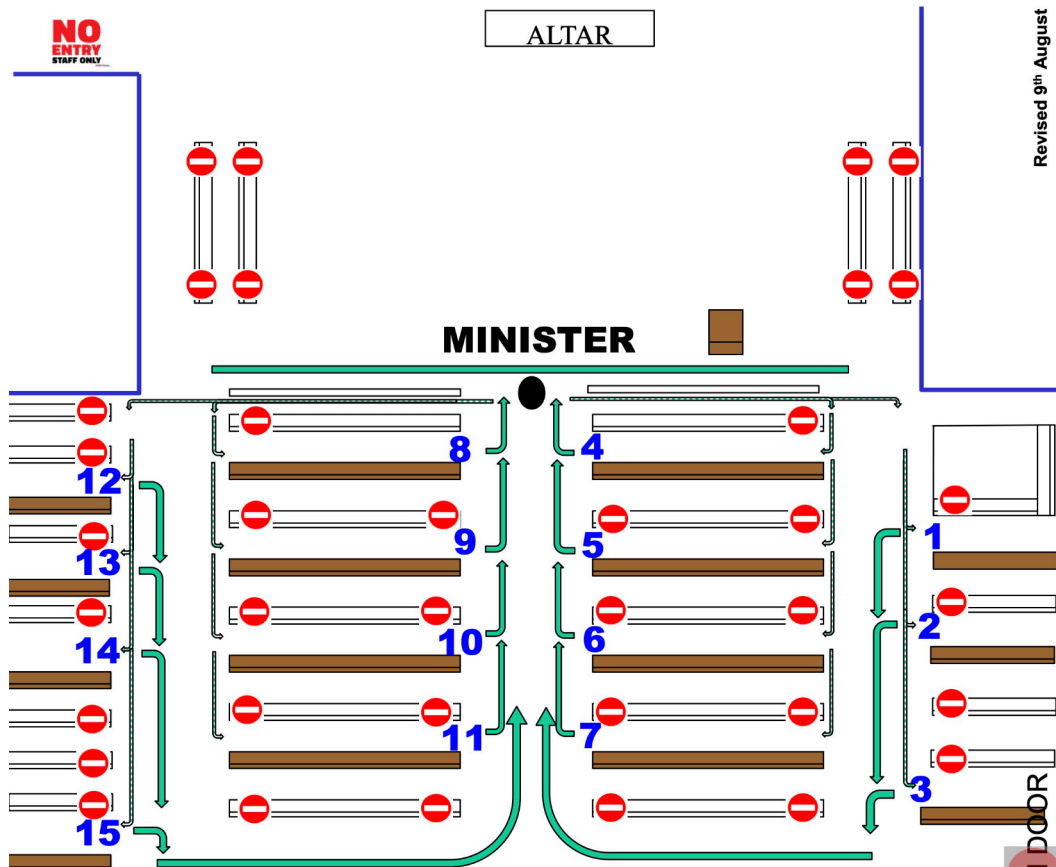
May I run the race before me, strong and brave to face the foe, looking only unto Jesus, as I onward go.

THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your 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 you and remain with you always. Amen.

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

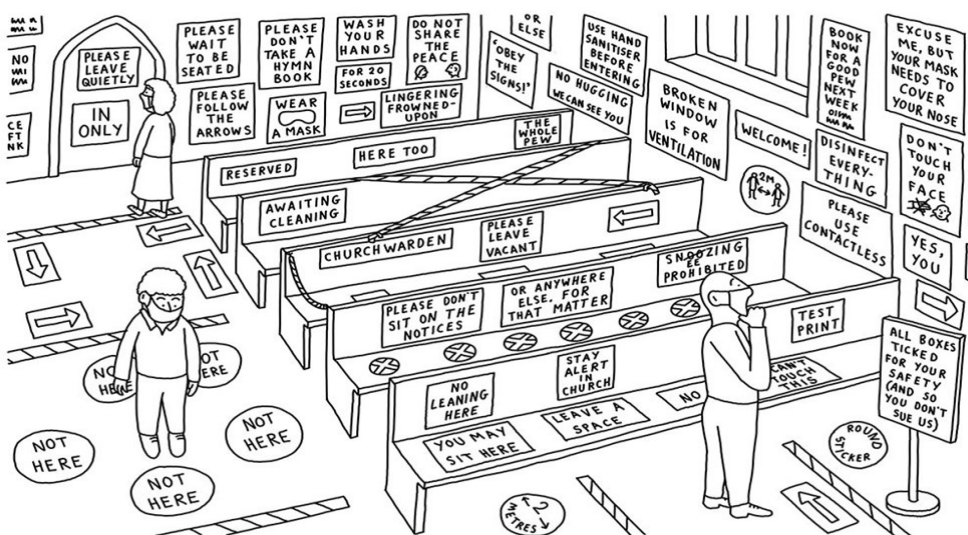
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Revised 9th August

SOUTH DOOR

SIGNAGE DURING A PANDEMIC

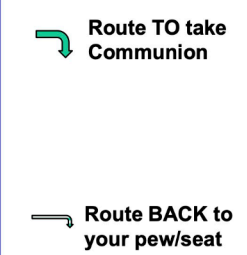


Cartoon by Dave Walker

ONE WAY SYSTEM

Starting with pew 1, follow the bolder arrows to the front. Once you have received the bread, please follow the circular route back through the empty 1st pew) to your eat and consume your bread there. Thank you

HOLY COMMUNION



Harvest Gifts and Photos


This coming Sunday is Harvest Thanksgiving. Supermarket vouchers are a great alternative to food gifts and can bless people in need! We will deliver them to people in our parish and to food banks in our area. If you'd like to bring food gifts, only tinned goods, please. PLEASE SEND US A PHOTO of your harvest or how you celebrate God's beautiful creation (ideally with you in the picture!). Email rector@denhamparish.church by the end of Thursday, 1 October.


SPRING HARVEST 2021

We're going to Spring Harvest, a Christian holiday and festival, from 6–10 April 2021. To find out more go to springharvest.org or speak to a church member who has been before.

SUNDAY WORSHIP: ON SITE,
ONLINE AND ON THE PHONE

St Mary's Church 9.30am
Please register at
www.denhamparish.church or by calling
the church office.

Online: Sundays 10.30am
Stream any time afterwards: 
tinyurl.com/youtube-denham

Telephone: Available any time for 
a week, Sun to Sat: **01895 714013**

Please pray for ...

- those affected most by this crisis through sickness, loneliness, loss of job
- pupils, students, parents and teachers as the academic 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.

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), at **St Mary's Church and on Zoom**. Please register for the meeting at denhamparish.church/events or by calling our church office.

We distributing the Annual Report electronically (as a PDF file) as much as possible but if you are not online or would like a paper copy, please pick one up at the 9.30am service or call the church office and we will deliver a copy to you.

St Mary's Festival: Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who planned, helped with and attended St Mary's Festival - we had a fantastic time. 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 £1,290 for St Mary's Fabric Fund. Thank you!

Guitar Lessons

Guitar lessons - socially distanced lessons in Chalfont St Giles (online lessons also available). Highly experienced teacher with over 20 years' experience training worship leaders and musicians. Electric, acoustic and bass for both worship and rock and pop at all levels. Daytime and evening availability from £35 per hour. Call Andy Chamberlain 07801 498591 | www.chalfontguitarlessons.com

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.

email: office@denhamparish.church

phone: 01895 832771