

## Track and Trace at our church

Have you downloaded the NHS Covid app? As a church we are committed to keeping others safe and you can now use the app to check in at St Mary's and St Mark's - simply scan the code on the NHS track and trace posters.

Find out more at <https://covid19.nhs.uk>

## HARVEST GIFTS - THANKYOU!

Thank you to all who donated food, gift vouchers and money to our Harvest collection. We raised a total of £450 to support and encourage people in our community. Thank you for practising the healthy habit of gladness and generosity!

## THE REAL ADVENT CALENDAR

The new design Real Advent Calendar is the UK's only Fairtrade calendar which comes with a free 24 page Christmas story-activity book and which supports charitable causes.

**Please consider giving it as a gift to friends and neighbours to help them discover the real story of Christmas.**

Order the Real Advent Calendar from Denham Parish Church and take advantage of free delivery (pick up your calendar from our church office after we notify you).

To order, please contact our church office.

**IMPORTANT:**

**Please order by 31 October.**

## Please pray for ...

- those affected most by this crisis through sickness, loneliness, loss of job
- medical experts, politicians and public leaders – for wisdom, compassion and integrity.
- those who are sick namely Jessie Sims and those suffering from bereavement especially the family of David Nicholson

## Living well through the next six months

Living with COVID-19 will be hard for everyone this winter. The Prime Minister has asked us all to observe the Rule of Six. There are lessons that Christians can draw from this number to help us live well in these times.

### > SIX MONTHS IS THE NEW HORIZON

Focus on Easter and lean back into the great themes of the church year.

### > SIX DAYS TO WORK AND A SABBATH TO REST

Reclaim the gift of one day each week for rest and re-creation.

### > SIX PEOPLE TO JOURNEY WITH

Rediscover church as small groups of people supporting one another.

### > SIX WAYS TO BE SALT AND LIGHT

Identify the people and community organisations you can support.

### > SIX PERCENT TO YOUR CHURCH

If your income is stable, increase your giving to sustain the local church.

### > SIX PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR

Pray for people you know to discover the riches of our faith.

"...neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." *Romans 8.37-39*

Find out more: [oxford.anglican.org/six](https://oxford.anglican.org/six)

## 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

18th October 2020

19<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. **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*

## Render unto Caesar... by Ian Jennings

I picked up a book from my shelf today. It was given to me by my Father-in-law in 1969 so it's a bit battered but still much loved. Out of its pages fell a 100 Lira Turkish bank note. On this old Turkish bank note was a picture of Kemal Atatürk, the Father of the modern Turkish Republic, who died in 1938. On the 100 Lira bill he is wearing a crisp white shirt with a bow tie. He is now almost forgotten, as are his reforms.

When Jesus said, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's" he was talking about what is temporary and soon sinks into the dust. When he added, "and unto God the things that are God's," he was speaking about that which never fades, that which is eternal.

They were planning to catch Jesus out again – if he answered the question by saying, "Yes you should pay your taxes," he would be on the side of Rome. If he said "No don't pay your taxes," he would have been against Rome – either way he would lose – either the people would be angry with him or Rome would be. His answer was not just clever, it was profound. The really important statement here is about rendering to God those things that are God's. What exactly is that? We could talk about our worship, our time, our resources, our love. Yes all of those but, fundamentally, we are to give ourselves. Nothing less is good enough to render to God – God calls for all that we are. Paul writes to the Romans, "Whether we live, we live unto the Lord. Whether we die we die unto the Lord. Whether we live therefore or die we are the Lord's." (*Romans 14.8*)

Jim Elliot, who died taking the Gospel to the Huaorani people in Ecuador, wrote, "He is no fool who gives up that which he cannot keep in order to gain what he cannot lose." He rendered to God the things that are God's – himself. That is the only thing that makes sense, as it is the path of unfading joy, both in time and eternity.



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

## WELCOME

### OPENING PRAYER (from Psalm 147)

Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting. The Lord heals the broken-hearted, and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

### 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

**Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement; bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days. Amen.

## COLLECT

Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### SONG

Our God is a great big God (x3)  
And he holds us in his hands.  
He is higher than a skyscraper  
And he's deeper than a submarine  
He's wider than the universe  
And beyond my wildest dreams  
And he's known me and he's loved me  
Since before the world began  
How wonderful to be a part  
Of God's amazing plan!

### BAPTISM of David Samsonov

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome David and uphold him in his new life?  
**With the help of God we will.**

### Profession of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?  
**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?  
**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.  
**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

## The Baptism

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ, against sin, the world, and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

### The Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism: David by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.

**We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.**

### BIBLE READING

#### Matthew 22. 15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

## PRAYERS

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### HYMN

The Kingdom of God is justice and joy; for Jesus restores what sin would destroy; God's power and glory in Jesus we know, and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

The Kingdom of God is challenge and choice, believe the good news, repent and rejoice! His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross, our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal, in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole; the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call, and all things cry 'Glory!' to God all in all.

### THE BLESSING