

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

### St Mary's Church:

During the renewed lockdown there will be no services at St Mary's Church.

Online: Sundays 10.30am

Stream any time afterwards:

[www.denhamparish.church/blog](http://www.denhamparish.church/blog)



### Church Coffee Online:

Please find the link at

[www.denhamparish.church/blog](http://www.denhamparish.church/blog)

Telephone: Available any time for

a week, Sun to Sat: **01895 714013**



## EXCITING NEWS



With a heart of gratitude, Nnamdi and Chinwendu Maduka announce the arrival of a baby girl to our family. The birth was premature, but mother and baby are doing great.

## HELP WITH ERRANDS

Please contact our church office if you need help with shopping or other errands. We would love to help!

### 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 and those suffering from bereavement, especially the family of Sylvia McBride and Robin Marshall.

## Living well through the next six months

Living with COVID-19 will be hard for everyone this winter. While the Rule of Six is not applicable during the renewed lockdown, 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.

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

## 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

**15<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent**

**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*

## Futility or Fertility? By Ian Jennings

The parable of the talents is another thought-provoking and challenging story of Jesus. It is not about being high achievers but it is about reaching our full potential and being all that we can be in terms of the Kingdom of God. There was no shame in receiving one talent, but shame was in the fact that he buried it. He dug a hole in the ground and put it in, covered with earth and forgot about it. A hole in the ground goes nowhere, it is a picture of futility. *He chose futility rather than fertility.*

The man with one talent chose what he thought was the easiest option but it turned out to be the most costly. Laziness, inertia, lack of ambition or creativity these are not good choices to make, and they really are choices. We are called to do what we can with what we've got in the service of God's kingdom. Only *doing* does it and not doing *does not do it!* One young man said because he didn't want to look stupid he wouldn't get into a swimming pool until he had learned to swim. There is an obvious flaw in his logic. He will never be a swimmer unless he ventures in. We all need to take the plunge if we are going to reach our full potential in the service of God's kingdom.

The leadership team at St Mary's have recently been talking of courage. Along with welcoming, praying and sharing like Jesus we also need to be courageous like Jesus in the work of mission and outreach. We tend to step back instead of stepping forward when presented with challenges. The good news is that when we step out, God steps in - into our battles, tasks, challenges, opportunities. We don't need to choose the hole-in-the-ground option of futility.

When Canon Andrew White began his ministry, his mentor was Donald Coggan who became Archbishop of Canterbury. He said to Andrew, "Many will tell you to take care, my advice is take risks." That became a foundation of Andrew's remarkable ministry. It is not about foolhardy and irresponsible risk-taking but it is about using our God-given gifts in the service of God. We are not called to play it safe but to be activists - disciples indeed; learning to live the way of Jesus in our context and in the moment. *What are you doing with the gifts that God has given you?*

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phone: 01895 832771

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

## OPENING PRAYER (from Psalm 90)

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

## HYMN

**Immortal, invisible,**  
God only wise,  
In light inaccessible  
Hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious  
The Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious,  
Thy great name we praise.

To all life thou givest  
To both great and small;  
In all life thou livest,  
The true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish  
As leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish;  
But naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory,  
Pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore thee,  
All veiling their sight;  
All laud we would render,  
O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendour  
Of light hideth thee.

## 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

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## BIBLE READING: Matthew 25 14-30

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long

time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for

this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**REFLECTION or read page 1**

## PRAYERS

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

## HYMN

**Take my life, and let it be**  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet, and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only for my King;  
take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold;  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect, and use  
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine:  
it shall be no longer mine;  
take my heart: it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure-store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

## THE BLESSING

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