



In February and March we are embarking on "The Wellbeing Journey" - seven weeks

approaching wellbeing in a holistic way, covering themes such as our mindset, our physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. This journey will be part of our online services on Sundays (10.30am-11.15am) with further options to apply the lessons on your own or in a group.

Sign up to get updates and helpful materials for your journey by going onto our website:

www.denhamparish.church/events

This programme is based on the book "God's Plan for your Wellbeing" by Dave Smith.

Evening Prayer: Wednesdays, 6pm

Praying together is such an important part of our common life. We are therefore starting weekly evening prayer on Wednesdays at 6pm.

If you receive Parousia by post or on email, you will also receive with it the prayer sheet. You can also download it from our blog: www.denhamparish.church/blog

We can use this short (15-20min) prayer to 'pray together apart' at the same time. Or you can join us on Zoom:

Meeting ID: 898 4998 8454, Passcode: 189187176

or use this link:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/89849988454?pwd=QURLMTM4em8xTGdSQ3g1Q1RBYU5YZz09>



PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet

24th January 2021

The Third Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome! To protect one another and help fight the COVID pandemic we are not restarting services at St Mary's Church for the time being. But the life of our church is not being put on hold and God remains active in his world! This news and service sheet provides you with a simple service so you can worship at home. Please contact our church office if we can help in any way. *Christoph Lindner*



"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Last Sunday we asked for your favourite Bible verses and photos from 2020. The verse was picked by Gillian Winder. The photo was sent to us by Phil and Louise Hardy. It shows the crane on the Goldhill Baptist Church building site. They write: "It was a shock to see this crane go up as it's so close to our house, but is now a symbol of hope for the whole community."

A time of crisis and transition like the one we are going through at the moment is a little like this building site. Old things have to make way for the new. There is a transition phase with many complications. But the

vision of what will be gives us hope and keeps us going. This last week was the week of prayer for Christian unity and the local ministers prayed together on Zoom. James Simmons (one of the Goldhill pastors) told us how they were planning for great celebrations around Christmas time when they can worship *together and in the new building*. Visualising the good things we wait for once we come out of this in-between time can give us hope! Our church leadership is currently taking part in ChurchNEXT, a programme to help us discern what God is saying to us through this crisis and how he wants us to build a better future.

The time between the old and the new has been called a *liminal season* (from the Latin word for 'threshold'). This pandemic us such a season. Many people in the Bible had to go through liminal time, often a time of hardship, before they were ready to step into God's future - think about the journey of Israel through the wilderness into the Promised Land. In our Bible reading today, we see how Jesus had to go through his own wilderness time before he started his public ministry. What gives us hope is that our identity as followers of Jesus is secure. We can hear the Father's words "This is my beloved child" as Jesus heard it before he was tempted in the wilderness. We can counter the devil's lies with Bible truth, as Jesus did. And we don't base our hope on our own achievements, gifts or strengths, but on the fact that "the Lord your God will be with you, wherever you go!" *Christoph Lindner*

SUNDAY WORSHIP: ON SITE

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:

tinyurl.com/youtube-denham



ONLINE AND ON THE PHONE

Church Coffee Online:

Sundays, 11.15 on our Youtube channel.

tinyurl.com/youtube-denham

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



Let's pray together ...

- pray with thanksgiving for the world God has entrusted to our care.
- For medical experts, politicians and public leaders – for wisdom, compassion and integrity.
- those who are sick and those suffering from bereavement, especially the family of Jessie Sims, Geoff Newell, John Stanley.

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

STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

(Psalm 113. 1-3, 7-8)

Praise the Lord!

Praise, O servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord from
this time on and for evermore. From
the rising of the sun to its setting the
name of the Lord is to be praised.

He raises the poor from the dust, and
lifts the needy from the ash heap, to
make them sit with princes, with the
princes of his people.

HYMN

Lead us, heav'nly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing ev'ry blessing
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heav'nly joy,
love with ev'ry passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

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 of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the
poor, release to the captives, and freedom
to the oppressed: anoint us with your
Holy Spirit and set all your people free to
praise you in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

BIBLE READING: *Mark 1.12-20*

And the Spirit immediately drove him
out into the wilderness. He was in the
wilderness for forty days, tempted by
Satan; and he was with the wild beasts;
and the angels waited on him. Now after
John was arrested, Jesus came to
Galilee, proclaiming the good news of
God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled,

and the kingdom of God has come
near; repent, and believe in the good
news.'

As Jesus passed along the Sea of
Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother
Andrew casting a net into the lake—for
they were fishermen. And Jesus said to
them, 'Follow me and I will make you
fish for people.' And immediately they
left their nets and followed him. As he
went a little farther, he saw James son
of Zebedee and his brother John, who
were in their boat mending the nets.
Immediately he called them; and they
left their father Zebedee in the boat
with the hired men, and followed him.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION (or read page 1)

PRAYERS FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

God of life, you have created everyone
in your image and likeness. Grant us
the courage to stand against injustice
and prejudice.

**God of peace, God of love,
in you is our hope!**

Merciful God, you have shown us in
Christ that we are one in you. Teach us
to use this gift so that we may be able
to listen to each other and live in peace.

**God of peace, God of love,
in you is our hope!**

O Jesus, you came into the world and
shared fully in our humanity. You know
the hardships of life for people who
suffer in so many different ways. May
the Spirit of compassion move us to
share our time, gifts and resources with
all those in need.

**God of peace, God of love,
in you is our hope!**

**Lord of the Church, hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind to
serve you with joy for ever. Amen.**

**We pray the Lord's Prayer:
Our Father...**

HYMN

Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth,
saying, 'Christian, follow me.'

In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
that we love him more than these.

Jesus call us: by thy mercies,
Saviour, make us hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.

THE BLESSING

May the God of all hope fill us with all
joy and all peace as we trust in him, so
that we may overflow with hope by the
power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God almighty, the
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
among us and remain with us always.
Amen.