

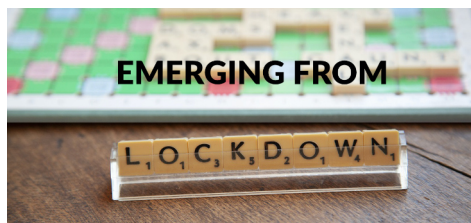
Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) 23 May 2021 - Electoral Roll 2021

This year's Electoral Roll registration will be a revised version of 2021. If there are any changes to your details, please complete a new form which is available at the following link:

tinyurl.com/electoralroll2021

or from Electoral Roll Officer (ERO), Maurice Litchmore at maurl@btinternet.com. If you need a paper copy by post, please contact our church office.

Anyone who has been a regular worshipper at Denham Parish Church (i.e. at least once a month) for at least 6 months may apply to become a member of the Church which will enable them to vote at the APCM. Signed applications should be sent to the ERO via the post or hand delivered to the Church Office **by 29 April 2021.**



We are beginning to plan our first 'onsite' events as we slowly emerge from lockdown:

Easter Sunday, 4 April

On Easter Sunday we are re-starting the 9.30am service at St Mary's (provided government rules do not change). Please sign up on our website or by calling our church office as before. Online services will continue.

New date for APCM: Sun 23 May

This delay will hopefully allow more people to attend. We are planning to hold our APCM at St Mary's and on Zoom.

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. or on Zoom.

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



Let's pray together ...

- pray God would deepen our trust in him during this time of Lent.
- 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 Joan Elding and Doris Booker.

email: office@denhamparish.church

phone: 01895 832771

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

21st March 2021

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

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*

Living on Purpose

This week we are looking at vocational well-being. Our Gospel today references those who dismissed Jesus as 'the carpenter's son.' They passed by the stupendous and saw only the trivial. They failed to see his loving care for the hurting and harassed crowds; they forgot to notice his miracles of healing; they didn't observe that he opened the eyes of the blind, made the deaf hear and the lame walk and preached the Gospel to the poor - they only saw that he was the son of the local carpenter. Jesus said 'I have come to seek and to save the lost.' He had a deep sense of vocation and his whole life was purpose-driven.

This has been a strange year. We have lived with coronavirus for 12 months and some have paid a very high price. We hold in our prayers today all who are hurting. Never was there a more appropriate time for the people of God to reaffirm purpose and the engage with the great mission of reaching out with love and care to a hurting world. Our Denham Parish Church has been doing just that these past twelve months - the doors have been closed but the church has been active.

Dave Smith' writes about his own vocation, "From the moment I accepted Jesus, I remember being filled with not only an overwhelming feeling of love, joy and peace, but also with a deep sense that I was born on purpose and for purpose." That is true for each of us. Pause a moment and let this reality inflame your imagination - you are part of God's great plan - you are here on purpose and for purpose. Our preoccupation with the trivial mustn't rob us of our vision of the truly awesome.

Dennis Healey's biography has a story that focuses on his own sense of vocation. A priest in his constituency said, "Why are you in politics? Is it to make a name for yourself? because that isn't good enough. You need a sense of vocation. You need to direct all your energies and intellect to making a difference; making the world a better place and helping the most needy in society." That advice lived with him.

I am inspired by the people of St Mary's as I observe that so very many of them are not just 'here' but are 'here to make a difference.' We are here on purpose and for purpose – may that inform everything we do. Paul writes, "I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God - this is your true and proper worship" (Romans 12:1). That is a mindset we need every day of our lives.

Ian Jennings

STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL

WELCOME

Ezekiel 37:1-5

The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life.

OPENING PRAYER

God, we may come to you dry, discouraged, feeling frail or powerless. But we come believing that you have the words of eternal life. Speak to our dry bones, may your Word and your Spirit give us life, and empower us to speak truth into this world you love. **Amen.**

HYMN

Praise to the Lord,

The Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him,
For he is thy health and salvation:
All ye who hear,
Now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord,
Who o'er all thing so wondrously reigneth,
Shieldeth thee gently from harm,
Or when fainting sustaineth:
Hast thou not seen
How thy heart's wishes have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord,
Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy
Shall daily attend thee:
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If to the end he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord,
O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath,
Come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from his people again:
Gladly for ay we adore him.

CONFESSION

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 de-liver 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

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

BIBLE READING: Mark 6.1-6

He left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were

astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION (or read page 1)

PRAYERS

God of love and kindness, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love; God of love, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are facing war, conflict and displacements, as well as the challenges of Covid-19, and we place all your precious children into your hands.

God of love, **hear our prayer.**

We pray the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father...

HYMN

Lord of all hopefulness,
Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike,
no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking,
and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts,
Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness,
Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled
at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labours,
and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord,
at the noon of the day.

Lord of all gentleness,
Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment,
whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping,
and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord
at the end of the day.

SENDING PRAYER

Holy Spirit, breathe through us, so that we might speak out words of light and life where we see only shadows and death. Send us into this world of exile with the promise of a world renewed and the power of our risen Saviour, in whose name we pray, **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

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