



PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet

25th April 2021

4th Sunday of Advent

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

What the Beatitudes are really about

Jesus wasn't simply a great teacher, and if we try to describe him like that we will misunderstand him. The famous 'Sermon on the Mount', which runs through chapters 5, 6 and 7 of Matthew's gospel, sets out, in Matthew's presentation of it, the main themes of Jesus' proclamation. But these 'blessings', the 'wonderful news' that he's announcing, are not saying 'try hard to live like this.' They are saying that people who already are like that are in good shape. They should be happy and celebrate.

Jesus is not suggesting that these are simply timeless truths about the way the world is, about human behaviour. If he was saying that, he was wrong. Mourners often go uncomforted, the meek don't inherit the earth, those who long for justice frequently take that longing to the grave.

But Jesus is saying that with his work it's starting to come true. In our world, still, most people think that wonderful news consists of success, wealth, long life, victory in battle. Jesus is offering wonderful news for the humble, the poor, the mourners, the peacemakers. He announces God's new covenant.

So when do these promises come true? There is a great temptation for Christians to answer: in heaven, after death. At first sight, our reading seem to say this: 'the kingdom of heaven' belongs to the poor in spirit.

This, though, is a misunderstanding of the meaning of 'heaven'. Heaven is God's space, where full reality exists, close by our ordinary ('earthly') reality and interlocking with it.

In the Lord's Prayer, we pray that God's kingdom will come, and God's will be done, 'on earth as it is in heaven'. The life of heaven – the life of the realm where God is already king – is to become the life of the world, transforming the present 'earth' into the place of beauty and delight that God always intended. And those who follow Jesus are to begin to live by this rule here and now. That's the point of the Sermon on the Mount, and these beatitudes in particular.

Tom Wright

STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL

WELCOME

HYMN

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me,
and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.

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

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.
Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOSPEL READING: Matt. 5. 1-3

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ

READING : Philippians 2.3-11

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

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 everything,
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.

May His beauty rest upon me,
as I seek the lost to win,
and may they forget the channel,
seeing only Him.

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.

Father, you made the world and love your creation. You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death. And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels 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.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ,

and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, 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 follow the directions of our sidesteam and 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

Beauty for brokenness

Hope for despair

Lord in Your suff'ring world

This is our prayer

Bread for the children

Justice joy peace

Sunrise to sunset

Your kingdom increase

Shelter for fragile lives

Cures for their ills

Work for the craftsmen

Trade for their skills

Land for the dispossessed

Rights for the weak

Voices to plead the cause

Of those who can't speak

(Chorus)

God of the poor

Friend of the weak

Give us compassion we pray

Melt our cold hearts

Let tears fall like rain

Come change our love

From a spark to a flame

Refuge from cruel wars

Havens from fear
 Cities for sanctu'ry
 Freedoms to share
 Peace to the killing fields
 Scorched earth to green
 Christ for the bitterness
 His cross for the pain

Rest for the ravaged earth
 Oceans and streams
 Plundered and poisoned
 Our future our dreams
 Lord end our madness
 Carelessness greed
 Make us content with
 The things that we need

Lighten our darkness
 Breathe on this flame
 Until Your justice burns brightly again
 Until the nations learn of Your ways
 Seek Your salvation
 And bring You their praise

THE BLESSING

Christ crucified draw you to himself, to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

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

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Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

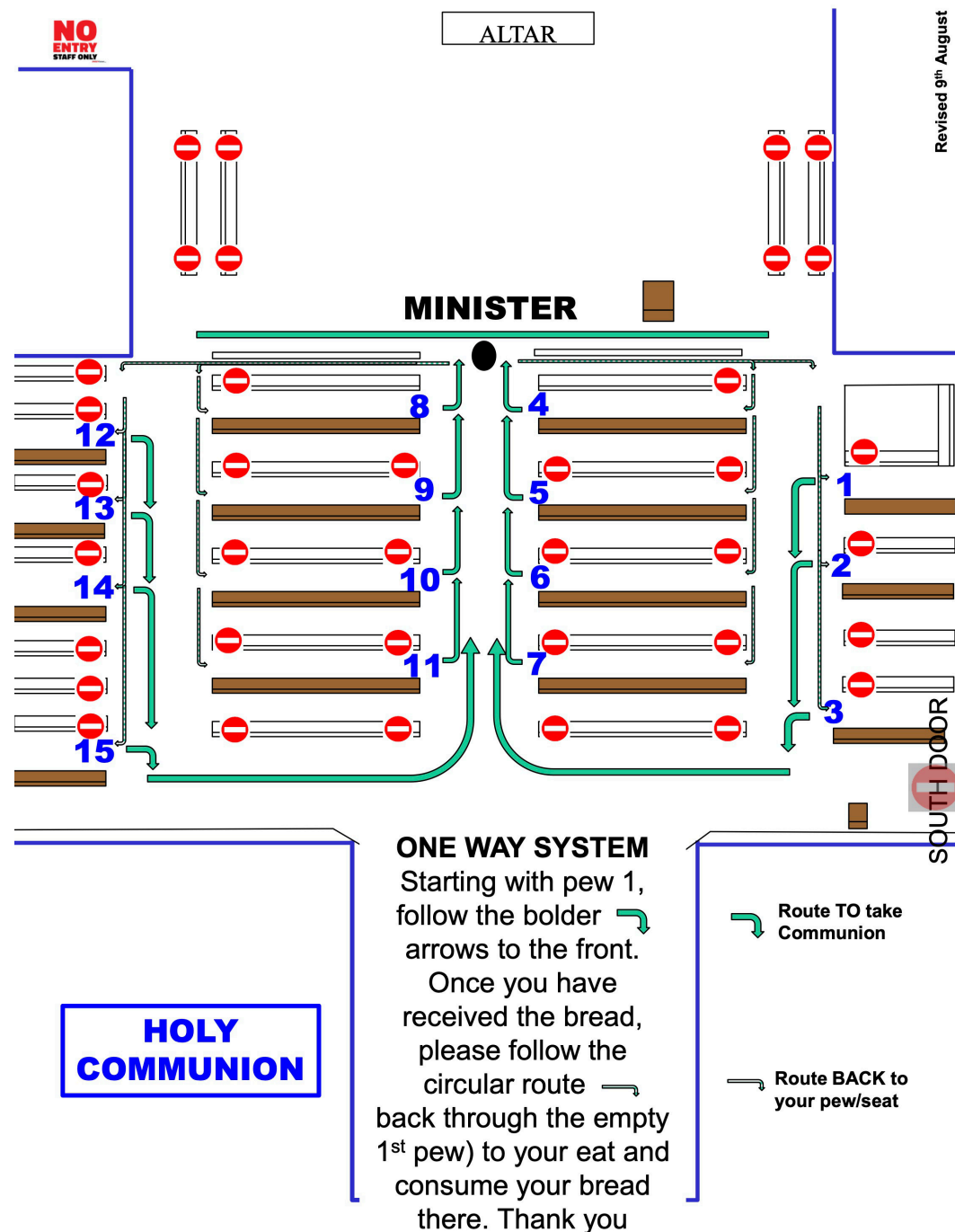
Blessed are the merciful, for

they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for



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

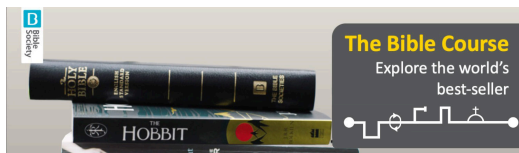
This year's Electoral Roll registration will be a revised version of 2021. If there are any changes to your details, please complete a new form which is available at the following link:

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**.



THE BIBLE COURSE

Get a bird's eye view of the all-time bestselling book! In eight sessions we will explore the big story of the bible and its themes.

This course is suitable for anyone – those who want to understand the book better which forms the basis of their faith and those who want to explore it because it has shaped our thinking, values, culture, language and literature like no other.

Starts on Zoom from Monday, 10 May

Find out more and sign up:

www.denhamparish.church/biblecourse

SUNDAY WORSHIP: ON SITE

St Mary's Church: 9.30am

Onsite Sunday morning worship.
Please register in advance by calling our church office or going to denhamparish.church/events

Online: Sundays 10.30am

Stream any time afterwards:

tinyurl.com/youtube-denham



ONLINE AND ON THE PHONE

Church Coffee Online:

Sundays, 11.15 on Youtube and Facebook.
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.
- For medical experts, politicians and public leaders – for wisdom, compassion and integrity.
- those who are sick and those suffering from bereavement especially the families of Jean Frost, Sean Ryde and Irene McLaughlin.

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