

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) 23 May 2021, 10.30am

Our APCM will again be a hybrid meeting - both at St Mary's and online on Zoom. You will be able to take part and vote, no matter whether you are onsite or online.

Please sign up in advance at [www.denhamparish.church/events](http://www.denhamparish.church/events).

Everyone who is a member of our Electoral Roll is entitled to vote.

To vote for our two churchwardens for the coming year, you are also eligible to vote if you are a resident of Denham Parish.

We will publish our Annual Report 2020 in advance (both in paper form and online as a PDF). Please take the time to read it in advance and bring it to the meeting.

## Lent Appeal: Bibles in Bassar

The complete Bible translation in the West African Bassar language was completed a few years ago, but many people do not have the money to buy them. **You have given £1,224**, which will enable our mission partner Samuel Kpagheri to give away or subsidise 150 Bibles and to maintain and start literacy programmes, especially for women who are the main agents of change. In his thank-you note, Samuel writes, "I pray the Lord to bless all of you abundantly. I will make sure that the Bibles are distributed in remote areas among Christian communities, especially to women." Thank you!

## Thy Kingdom Come

Join us from Ascension Day (13 May) to Pentecost Sunday (23 May) for Thy Kingdom Come Prayer:

Pick up **prayer journals** (for adults and children/families) from church or the Rectory

Join us on **Sat 22 May for an online prayer day** - please make a note in your diary!



## PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

**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*

## Oh the bliss of those who mourn!

Really? How can there be happiness in mourning?

The word for blessing in the beatitudes is 'makarios' which is the Greek name for Cyprus - 'The Happy Isle.' It was given that name because it was considered that everything that was needed for a life that was complete, rich, fulfilled and prosperous was to be found on the island. The blessedness described in the beatitudes consists of a joy that is complete within itself and is not dependent on changes or chances. Jesus said, 'Your joy no one can take from you.' (John 16:22)

We all experience mourning at some point in our lives and it depends on how we approach it as to whether we live with sustaining joy and experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit. There is so much to learn through the path of sorrow. If we open our hearts to God in our sorrow and loss then the joy of the Lord will be our strength and we will be comforted. Do you remember this little couplet?

*I walked a mile with Pleasure // She chatted all the way  
But left me none the wiser // For all she had to say.*

*I walked a mile with Sorrow // And ne'er a word said she,  
But oh, the things I learned from her // When Sorrow walked with me.*

The blessedness of the broken-hearted is that they can learn so much of God's compassion and care and become equipped to pass that on to others.

But then there is another thought to consider and that is about mourning for one's own sin and the sin of the world. A kind of deep heart lament at the devastation wrought in our hearts and in our world through sin and selfishness. When we lament before God for the unrighteousness of our hearts and the injustice in our world we will always experience God's comfort.

G. K. Chesterton submitted the winning entry to an essay competition run by *The Times*. It was called, 'What is wrong with the world?' and Chesterton's was the shortest entry:

"Dear Sir, 'What is wrong with the world?'  
*I am.* Yours sincerely, GK Chesterton."

Waking up to that reality will always lead to repentance and 'the broken and contrite heart God will never despise' (Psalm 51:17), so we could paraphrase 'Oh the bliss of the person whose heart is broken by what they see of the world's suffering and by what they know of their own sin - for out of that sorrow they will experience the joy of God.'

*Ian Jennings*

## 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](http://denhamparish.church/events)

Online: Sundays 10.30am

Stream any time afterwards:

[tinyurl.com/youtube-denham](http://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 family of Peter Jones.

## 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](mailto:office@denhamparish.church)

phone: 01895 832771

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

## WELCOME

### OPENING PRAYER (from Psalm 30)

I will exalt you, LORD, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me.

LORD my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me.

You, LORD, brought me up from the realm of the dead; you spared me from going down to the pit.

Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful people; praise his holy name.

For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favour lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.

LORD my God,  
I will praise you forever.

### HYMN

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My dear Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of his grace!

Jesus! The name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life and health and peace.

My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim  
And spread through all the earth abroad  
The honours of thy name.

*"It's incredibly easy to get caught up in the thick of thin things."* Stephen Covey

### 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.

The Lord enrich you with his grace,  
and nourish you with his blessing;  
the Lord defend you in trouble  
and keep you from all evil;  
the Lord accept your prayers,  
and absolve you from your offences,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.  
Amen.

### COLLECT

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father. AMEN

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BANNIS

#### FIRST READING: Matt. 5.1-2,4

*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 those who mourn, for they will be comforted'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**All: Praise to you, O Christ**

### SECOND READING: James 4. 7-10

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

*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.**

### HYMN

The Church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ, her Lord:

she is his new creation,  
by water and the word;  
from heav'n he came and sought her  
to be his holy bride,  
with his own blood he bought her,  
and for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation,  
yet one o'ver all the earth,  
her charter of salvation,  
one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
one holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses,  
with ev'ry grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation,  
and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation  
of peace for evermore;  
til with the vision glorious  
her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great Church victorious  
shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union  
with God the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion  
with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy! Lord,  
give us grace that we  
like them, the meek and lowly,  
on high my dwell with thee.

### THE BLESSING

The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith; 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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