

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 or via our church office.

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.

Please pick up the Annual Report 2020 from church or ask us to send it to you.

Please take the time to read it in advance and bring it to the meeting.

Thy Kingdom Come

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

"The Upper Room": Please join us on Saturday 22 May for a day of prayer leading into Pentecost Sunday.

We will pray for 10 hours from 6am in the morning to 7pm in the evening. All through the day you can join us on Zoom - whether that is for one hour or for several hours spread out through the day.

There will be special hours to focus on particular prayer requests:

- 10 am Praying for our workplace
- 2 pm Praying for the persecuted church
- 4 pm Praying with families (all ages welcome)

Please sign up here to receive the Zoom login details: www.denhamparish.church/prayer



PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet

16th May 2021

The Seventh 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

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

When do you enjoy food most? I think it is usually when we are very hungry. After the Covid 19 restrictions, people are now hungry for many things, things we used to take for granted such as hugging, shaking hands, holidays, etc. Our appetite is a basic means of sustaining life and growth in the natural part of our lives. Maintaining our hunger for God is not only a prerequisite for discipleship; it is the vital precondition for social transformation. Martin Luther King Jr. dreamed of a mountain summit, a vantage point from which he saw a future of racial equality. Jesus had a dream, too, a dream shared on the mountain top, a dream in which his followers will embrace his Be-Attitudes, attitudes that will transform their love for God and their neighbours. Only those who have ascended the hill of the Lord and become thoroughly overwhelmed by the presence and purpose of God are adequately prepared to confront the injustice and oppression in today's world.

Righteousness is a complicated biblical word which means being in a right relationship with a righteous God. How can we hunger and thirst for a right relationship with God? We do this when we repent of all our sins and believe that Jesus paid the full price of our sins at Calvary. We are made righteous through the righteousness of God when we believe in the finished work of the cross. We live in right relationship with God not because of what we have done but solely because of what Jesus has done. When we hunger and thirst for righteousness, God not only does a work in us, He also begins to do a great work through us.

Bishop Steven writes, 'the church needs to live courageously in a fragmented world; to live out our call to love God and our neighbour through seeking justice and peace and bearing witness to our faith.' As Christians we must therefore have a 'righteousness consciousness.' We are to ensure that we remain hungry for a right relationship with our loving heavenly father (legal righteousness). Secondly, we are to maintain a healthy appetite for living in a right relationship with each other (social righteousness). In Christ we can tap into a divine source of supply that will not only meet our immediate needs but the needs of others. To be fully human means to live out the innate longing for justice, which is an essential part of each of us.

To hunger and thirst for righteousness is to demonstrate a deep desire for all that God has done for us.

Nnamdi Maduka

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 family of Jean Fuller.

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

HYMN (Based on Psalm 121)

I lift my eyes up to the mountains
Where does my help come from
My help comes from You
Maker of heaven
Creator of the earth

Oh how I need You Lord
You are my only hope
You're my only prayer
So I will wait for You
To come and rescue me
Come and give me life

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, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father. **AMEN**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BANNES

FIRST READING: Matt. 5.1-2,6

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 hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

SECOND READING: Phil. 3.7-14

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

HYMN

Gracious Lord, our hands are empty
Beggars seeking life and grace
Graft our lives into your own life
Gift your Spirit in this place
Hearts of stone we lift for blessing
Hearts of flesh we seek anew
Help our eyes see with compassion
Comforter, our joy renew

Servant Lord, you came in meekness
Stooping low to show our worth
Banish pride, restore love's sweetness
Help us heal your wounded earth
Give us hunger for your kingdom
Thirst to see your ways prevail
Satisfy our hope for justice
Make us lights which will not fail

Living Lord, your name is mercy,
Love made flesh in life and word
Kindness shown to the unworthy
Grace which can be touched and heard
Pure in heart, you offer wholeness
Open eyes that cannot see
Win for all complete forgiveness
Come to set your people free

Son of God we seek your healing
Over this fragmented globe
Mend our lives, our homes, our nations
Making peace, one seamless robe
Help your church to be courageous
Joined in your eternal search
For the lost, the least, the helpless
Make us more a Christ-like Church

PRAYERS

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your son our saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**
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

Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added
unto you; allelu, alleluia.

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
allelu, alleluia.*

You shall not live by bread alone,
but by ev'ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of God;
Allelu, alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you,
seek and ye shall find;
knock, and it shall be opened unto you;
Allelu, alleluia.

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.**