



# PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet

11<sup>th</sup> July 2021

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

**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*

## John the Baptist: - A Man who lived his message

John the Baptist was a compelling character. He lived simply in a harsh wilderness, cared little for comfort and called Israel to repent – to admit their wrongs and change their life. He baptised many, challenging them to live generously, simply and justly. John confronted both people and power structures – so much so that he was arrested and eventually executed for speaking out about the actions of the ruler Herod Antipas.

Jesus described John the Baptist in this way 'Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist' (Mathew 11:11a).

William Barclay writes that John, 'was a man who lived his message. Not only his words, but his whole life was a protest.'

If someone wrote about my life, what would its message be? How can I learn from John's example to use my voice and my actions to live in a way that honours God today?

*"Lord, please show me where You want me to stand up - or stand out - so that others will encounter You. John challenged his nation to turn back to God. How has my nation turned away from God? Lord, show us where our culture worships money, comfort, power or something else; instead of You. In humility we ask You to forgive us."*

John wasn't building his own brand, gathering likes and followers, expanding his influence in Israel. He knew exactly why he was there, and who would stand on the stage he had built. Who takes centre stage in my life? Am I content to 'exit stage left' and allow Jesus to stand in the spotlight?

*"Jesus, I often consider myself the lead role in my life, but today I want to be more like John. Help me decrease, so You can increase (John 3:30) in me and in my interactions with others."*

This story reminds us of the persecution of many people today in the name of Jesus. Sometimes we can do little except pray for them, men and women guilty only of their Christian name and faith. Sometimes our prayer may reach out into political action or public advocacy. May our hearts reach out in compassion for all who are imprisoned or tortured or separated from family in the cause of what is right and good.

Herod made an unwise promise and his pride would not let him back down.

*"Lord, direct my intentions and guide my words so that I might give you glory."*

How might this awful story help me in my prayer? Perhaps I might think of the vulnerable, the innocent, the foolish – all those who are exploited to achieve the ends of others.

*"I pray that I might grow in compassion for them. Amen"* Nnamdi Maduka

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

## WELCOME

### Psalm 46.10-11

**God says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

### HYMN

Christ was raised  
even death could not contain him  
We are saved  
Satan’s power he overcame  
No more shame  
no more guilt and condemnation  
In his name in his name  
Christ is raised he is seated with the Father  
And the Spirit that raised him gives us life  
So we’ll live to the glory of our saviour  
Hallelujah he’s alive

Christ was raised the restorer of creation  
By his grace making earth and heaven new  
We are changed agents of his re-creation  
In all we do, all we do  
Christ is raised  
so our struggles have a purpose  
He’s alive so our work is not in vain  
And we’ll serve for the glory of our saviour  
Hallelujah Jesus reigns

Chris was raised  
bringing all the world together  
Making peace  
breaking down our walls of hate  
And one day every knee will bow before him  
For his praise for his praise  
Christ is raised with a new and glorious body  
Scars of love in his hands and in his side  
So we’ll sing to the glory of our saviour  
Hallelujah King of life

## 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 you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## COLLECT

Creator God, you made us all in your image: may we discern you in all that we see, and serve you in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GOSPEL READING: Mark 6.14-29

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.*

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus’ name had become known. Some were saying, ‘John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.’ But others said, ‘It is Elijah.’ And others said, ‘It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.’ But when Herod heard of it, he said, ‘John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.’ For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, ‘It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.’ And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, ‘Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.’ And he solemnly swore to her, ‘Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.’ She went out and said to her mother, ‘What should I ask for?’ She replied, ‘The head of John the baptizer.’ Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, ‘I want you to give me at once the head

of John the Baptist on a platter.’ The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

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

## SERMON

### 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**

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

## **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.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our  
joy, at all times and in all places

to give you thanks and praise,  
holy Father, heavenly King,  
almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word; through him  
you have created all things from the  
beginning, and formed us in your own  
image. Through him you have freed us  
from the slavery of sin, giving him to be  
born of a woman and to die upon the  
cross; you raised him from the dead and  
exalted him to your right hand on high.

Through him you have sent upon us  
your holy and life-giving Spirit,  
and made us a people for your own  
possession.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious  
name, for ever 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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus  
Christ, and as we follow his example and  
obey his command, grant that by the  
power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of  
bread and wine may be to us his body  
and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was  
betrayed, took bread and gave you  
thanks; he broke it and gave it to his  
disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my  
body which is given for you; do this in  
remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took  
the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it

to them, saying: 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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we  
remember his offering of himself made  
once for all upon the cross; we  
proclaim his mighty resurrection and  
glorious ascension; we look for the  
coming of your kingdom, and with this  
bread and this cup we make the  
memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high  
priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and  
praise, and as we eat and drink these  
holy gifts in the presence of your divine  
majesty, renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love and unite us  
in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ  
our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth  
and heaven, we worship you, Father  
almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and  
power be yours 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 you 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

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.

### THE BLESSING

Christ, who has nourished us with  
himself the living bread, make you one  
in praise and love, and raise you up at  
the last day; 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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### HYBRID CHURCH

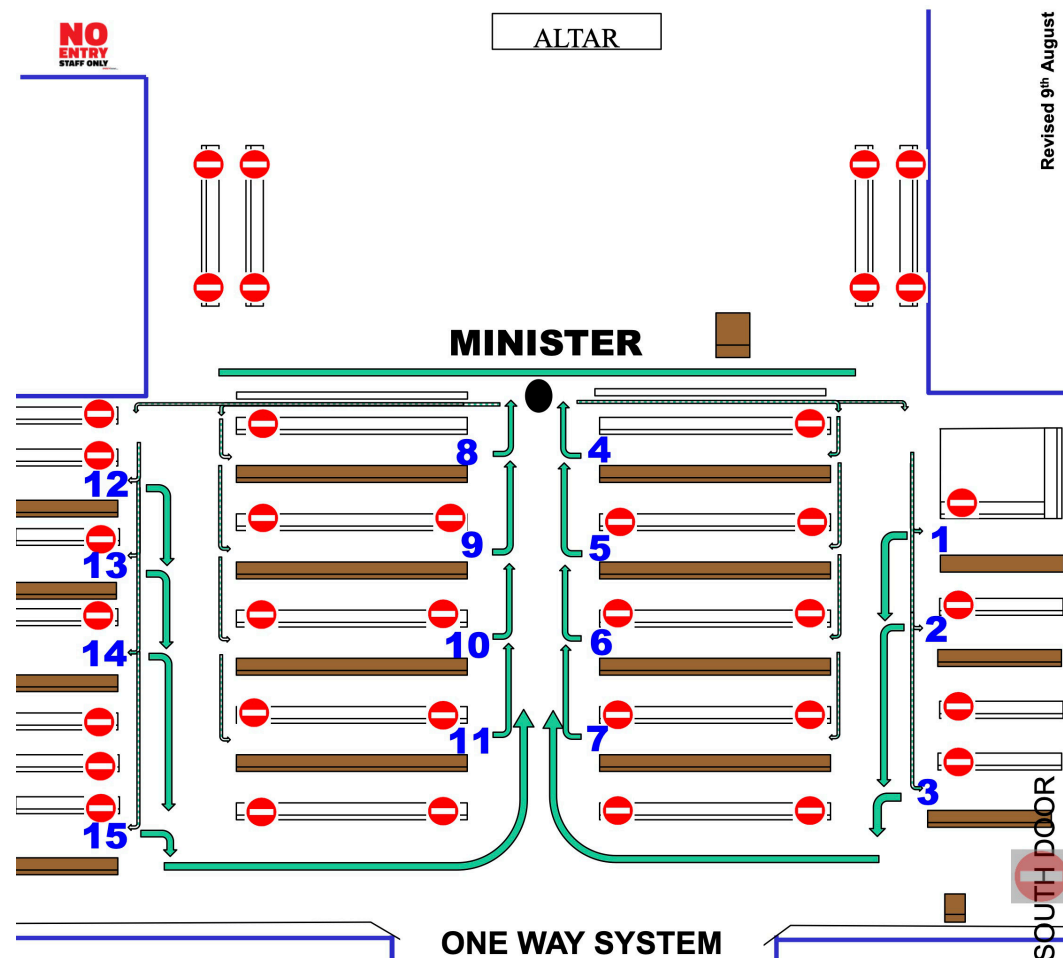


Over the last 16 months we have gained a lot of experience with online church. While it was first a necessity when our church buildings had to close, it has now enabled many people to join us who do not live locally, who have limited mobility, who live in a care home or who are away from Denham for a time.

As the end of lockdown is imminent we are exploring ways of not losing those gains and at the same time make our future service pattern sustainable. Currently, the length of our 9.30am service is limited so that those who lead our 10.30am online service can be ready for it.

Over the summer we will take our first steps with "Hybrid Church": One service, that you can join either online or onsite at St Mary's. We have invested in a stable internet connection for the church and in a simple camera-streaming system. More details soon.

Do you enjoy using technology and have an eye for visual aesthetics? Would you consider becoming part of our team of camera operators? Full training will be provided. We hope to have a large enough team so no one is 'on duty' more often than once a month. Interested? Please contact Christoph at [rector@denhamparish.church](mailto:rector@denhamparish.church).



### HOLY COMMUNION

#### ONE WAY SYSTEM

Starting with pew 1, follow the bolder arrows to the front.

Once you have received the bread, please follow the circular route back through the empty 1<sup>st</sup> pew) to your seat and consume your bread there. Thank you

Route TO take Communion

Route BACK to your pew/seat

# THE TEST EVENT

TO SEE WHETHER WE CAN HOLD CHURCH SERVICES AS WE DID BEFORE

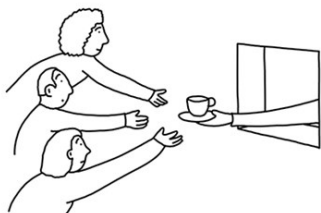
Cartoon by Dave Walker



UNLIMITED CONGREGATIONAL SINGING



UNRESTRICTED SHARING  
OF THE PEACE



THE COMMUNAL CUP

I DIDN'T  
LIKE THAT  
HYMN



I DON'T  
ENJOY  
THE PEACE



THAT WASN'T  
BRILLIANT  
COFFEE



CHECK THAT EVERYONE  
IS NEGATIVE

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

**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](https://denhamparish.church/events)

**Online: Sundays 10.30am**

Stream any time afterwards:

[tinyurl.com/youtube-denham](https://tinyurl.com/youtube-denham)



**Church Coffee Online at 11.15am:**

Sundays on Youtube/Facebook or Zoom.

**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.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

## 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