



# Service Sheet

28<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 10.30am St Mary's

## The First Sunday of Advent THE ADVENT HOPE

**Welcome to St Mary's Church!** We are so glad you are here – whether you are in the church building or watching online. If you are here for the first time or visiting, please say hello (in the chat feature online, or to the service leader or a member of the welcome team in church). You can find out more about our church on our website ([www.denhamparish.church](http://www.denhamparish.church)) or Facebook page ([facebook.com/denhamparish.church](https://facebook.com/denhamparish.church)).

### WELCOME

#### HYMN

Come Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free  
From our fears and sins release us  
Let us find our rest in Thee

Israel's strength and consolation  
Hope of all the earth Thou art  
Dear desire of every nation  
Joy of every longing heart

Born Thy people to deliver  
Born a child and yet a King  
Born to reign in us forever  
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring

By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone  
By Thine all sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

#### 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

**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

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

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

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Jesus said 'keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.'  
(*The first candle is lit*)  
Jesus is the light of the word.

**A light no darkness can ever put out.**

## SONG

(*Children leave for Sunday Club after song*)

Advent candles tell their story  
as we watch and pray;  
longing for the Day of Glory,  
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,  
changed for gladness on that Day.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33. 14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL READING:

**Luke 21. 25-36**

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

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

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the

Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

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

## SERMON

Jesus is coming back! That is one of the central aspects of the season of advent for Christians. It is unhelpful to try to work out which of the current events might be signs of his return, or to work out a date. Even Jesus said that he did not know the date of his return (Mat 24.36).

More importantly, let's live as those who know he will be returning. If you had only one week to live, how would you spend that time? Here are some words to help us reflect: say sorry | mend | appreciate | celebrate | give | witness.

## HYMN

In the darkness we were waiting  
Without hope without light  
Till from Heaven You came running  
There was mercy in Your eyes  
To fulfil the law and prophets  
To a virgin came the Word  
From a throne of endless glory  
To a cradle in the dirt

*Praise the Father, Praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit three in one  
God of Glory  
Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings*

To reveal the kingdom coming  
And to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation  
You did not despise the cross  
For even in Your suffering  
You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation  
Jesus for our sake You died

And the morning that You rose  
All of heaven held its breath  
Till that stone was moved for good  
For the Lamb had conquered death  
And the dead rose from their tombs  
And the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come  
To the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born  
Then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this Gospel truth of old  
Shall not kneel shall not faint  
By His blood and in His Name  
In His freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ  
Who has resurrected me

## 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. 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.*

## CHOIR

Soon and very soon  
We are going to see the King  
Soon and very soon  
We are going to see the King  
Soon and very soon  
We are going to see the King  
Hallelujah hallelujah

We're going to see the King

No more crying there...

No more dying 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

Lo! he comes with clouds descending,  
once for mortal sinners slain;  
thousand, thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ appears on earth to reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold him,  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
we who set at naught and sold him,  
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing (x3)  
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion  
still his dazzling body bears  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshippers  
with what rapture (x3)  
gaze we on those glorious scars.

Yea, amen! let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the pow'r and glory,  
claim the kingdom for thine own.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

## THE BLESSING

The Lord bless and watch over you,  
the Lord make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you,  
the Lord look kindly on you and give you  
peace; 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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## Christmas 2021 The Courage to Invite!

**PRAY:** Who would you like to share the good news of Jesus with this Christmas? Pray for them daily.

**TAKE** several *Christmas in Denham* flyers.

**INVITE:** A personal invitation to come to a carol or Christmas service together is by far the best way.

**HOST:** Invite friends and neighbours to a *carols party* and watch one of our streamed services at your home. Let the office know and we will provide some tips and *Why Christmas* booklets.

### Let's pray together ...

- For joyful courage as we live out the good news of Jesus..
- For care of God's creation and our efforts to combat the effects of climate change
- For the vulnerable and the sick.
- For the families and friends of Robert Dell, Maurice Parfitt, Sylvia Gammond and all those who have lost loved ones

### 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.

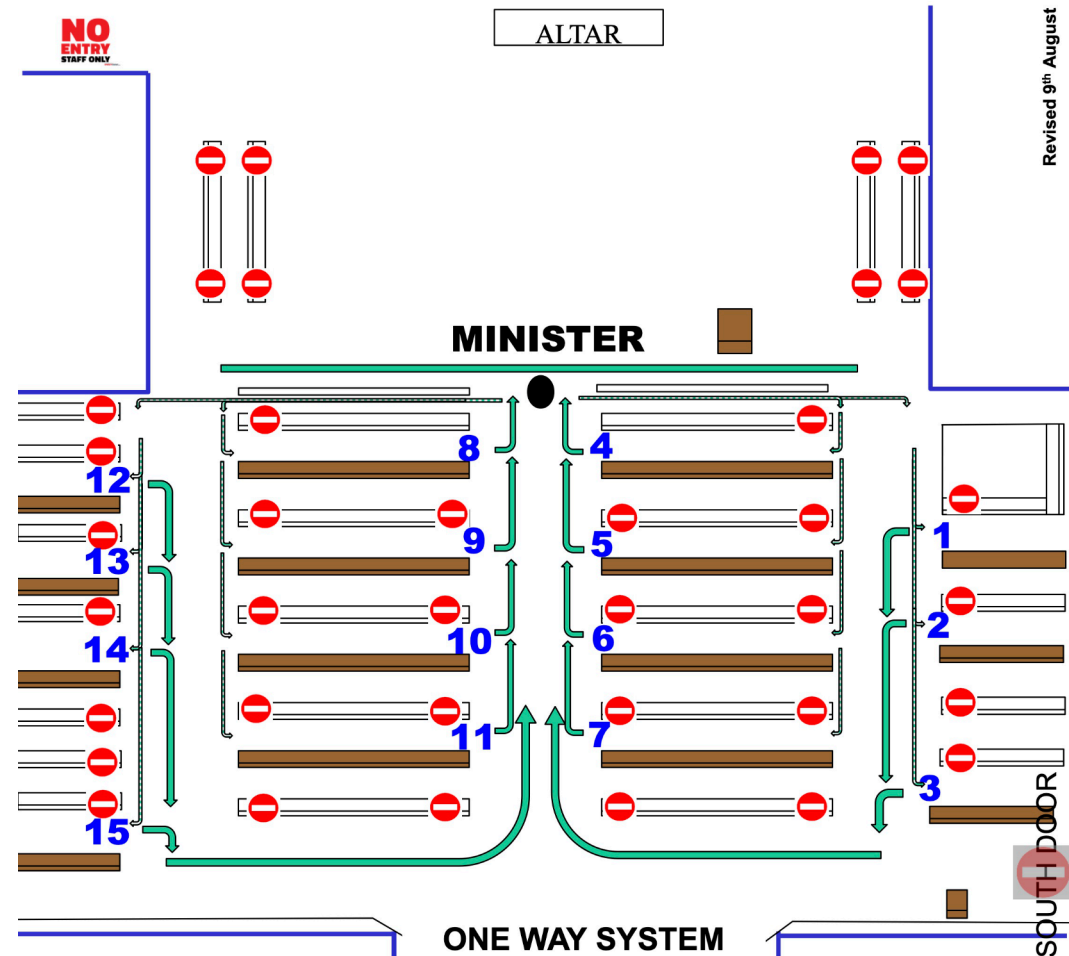
# GIVE IT A GO!

*There are many ways to use your gifts at Denham Parish Church. Have you considered helping with the following groups and ministries? Talk to the people in brackets to find out more!*

- Sunday Club for children [Edda Lindner]
- Little Lions Toddler Group [Kathy Paine]
- Destiny (older children and teenagers) [Jane Brown]
- Choir [Louise Hardy]
- Seniors [Ian Jennings]
- Bellringing [Andrew Simpson]
- Coffee after church [Jenny Browne]
- Office help [Victoria Lucas]
- Camera and sound operators [Christoph Lindner]
- Distributing Denham Parish News [Cathy Macqueen]
- Packing boxes for Give and Share [Craig Alexander and Caroline Goodwin]

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** are now on sale on the Bookstall at the back of church.

**DENHAM MANOR** are inviting us to make green handprints with Christmas messages for all the residents. They will be making a Christmas tree design with these to help decorate the home. **Drop off your handprint at the church office.**



## HOLY COMMUNION

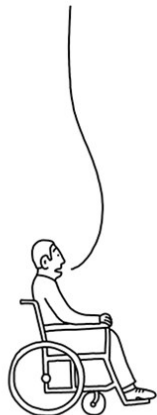
**ONE WAY SYSTEM**  
Starting with pew 1, follow the bolder arrows to the front. Once you have received the bread, please follow the circular route back through the empty 1<sup>st</sup> pew) to your eat and consume your bread there. Thank you

- Route TO take Communion
- Route BACK to your pew/seat

# THE ENDING OF RESTRICTIONS

WHAT IT MEANS FOR MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

FREEDOM FOR YOU  
MEANS ISOLATION  
FOR ME. I'LL NO  
LONGER FEEL SAFE  
GOING OUT NOW  
THAT MOST PEOPLE'S  
MASKS ARE OFF



I'M TERRIFIED  
THAT MY VACCINE  
WON'T PROTECT  
ME FROM THE  
NEW VARIANTS  
THAT WILL  
NOW DEVELOP



I'VE KEPT MYSELF  
HIDDEN AWAY FOR  
ALL THIS TIME FOR  
THE SAKE OF OLDER  
PEOPLE. NOW I'M  
BEING ALLOWED TO  
BE FREELY INFECTED,  
WHEN NO ONE KNOWS  
THE LONG-TERM  
CONSEQUENCES



WE CAN  
SING HYMNS  
AGAIN!



## An Evening with Christy Wimber

*international guest speaker*

**Weds 1 Dec, 7:30–9:30pm  
at The Hub**

*Light refreshments, a short time of  
worship, the Christy sharing on:*

**How is the Holy Spirit asking us to  
move forward following the recent  
months of general disruption?**

*Organised by the local joint churches 'Prayer Together' group*

