

# Service Sheet

20<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 10.30am, St Mary's  
The Sunday next before Advent

## Christ the King

**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)).

*Christoph Lindner, Rector*

### WELCOME

#### OPENING PRAYER:

When we are happy  
When we are full of joy and laughter

**God welcomes us**

When we are angry  
When people let us down and make us sad

**God welcomes us**

When we are tired  
When we need to stop and curl up and rest

**God welcomes us**

God of welcome  
God whose door is always open

**We are glad to meet you here**

### HYMN

Rejoice, the Lord is King!  
Your Lord and King adore;  
mortals, give thanks and sing,  
and triumph evermore.

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice,  
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

Jesus the Saviour reigns,  
the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our stains,  
he took his seat above.

His kingdom cannot fail;  
he rules o'er earth and heav'n;  
the keys of death and hell,  
are to our Jesus giv'n.

He sits at God's right hand,  
till all his foes submit,  
and bow to his command,  
and fall beneath his feet.

### CONFESSION

**God of mercy, we acknowledge that we are all sinners. We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done, and are mindful of all that we have failed to do. For the sake of Jesus, who died for us, forgive us for all that is past, and help us to live each day in the light of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### COLLECT

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. **Amen**

## SONG

*Be strong and courageous  
Do not be afraid  
Don't be discouraged  
For the Lord your God will be with you  
Oh be strong and courageous  
Do not be afraid  
Don't be discouraged  
For the Lord your God will be with you  
Wherever you go, wherever you go*

When troubles come  
The Lord your God is with you  
He will always be there by your side  
He is strong when you feel small  
and frightened  
You will never, ever be alone

*(Children leave for Sunday Club)*

## FOCUS ON SAFEGUARDING

### FIRST READING: Colossians 1. 11-20

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from God's glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was

pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING: Luke 23. 33-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

### OFFERTORY 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.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you, and of your own do we give you. Amen.**

## HOTEL TO HOME UPDATE

### PRAYERS

*We pray for our five mission partners: Bible Reading Fellowship, Church Army, SHOC/Trinity, Tearfund and Wycliffe Bible Translators. We thank you for their sharing of good news in action and word and pray that you would sustain and inspire them. May they see rich fruit in their work for you.*

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

And can it be that I should gain  
an in'trest in the Saviour's blood?  
Died he for me, who caused his pain?  
For me, who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left his Father's throne above  
so free, so infinite his grace;  
emptied himself of all but love,  
and bled for Adam's helpless race;  
'tis mercy all, immense and free;  
for, O my God, it found out me.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
my chains fell off, my heart was free;  
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!  
Alive in him, my living Head,  
And clothed in righteousness divine,  
bold I approach the eternal throne,  
and claim the crown,  
through Christ my own.

### BLESSING

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## Weekly Diary

**Tues 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12.15pm**  
**Funeral of Christine Willson.** St Mary's

**Weds 23rd - Little Lions toddler group.**  
St Mark's. Contact eddalindner18@gmail.com

**Sun 27<sup>th</sup> : Advent Sunday**  
**4pm Forest Church Advent Special.**  
St Mary's: Fun for all ages • Make an Advent candle.  
**Please sign up for this event:**  
Call St Mary's Church office or go to  
[www.denhamparish.church/Christmas](http://www.denhamparish.church/Christmas)

## REMEMBERING LOVED ONES

TODAY 2.30pm, St Mary's

A service to give thanks for those we love who have passed away. With refreshments afterwards.

## GIVE AND SHARE at Christmas

We need help to pack and distribute Christmas boxes. Volunteers are required from 8th to 16th December at St Mark's Hall. If you can spare even a couple of hours please e-mail Dexter on [dexterbrown125@gmail.com](mailto:dexterbrown125@gmail.com)

### Find out about other ways to help:

Pick up a flyer at the back of church or go to [www.denhamparish.church/giveandshare](http://www.denhamparish.church/giveandshare)

## AVAILABLE NOW for Advent and

**Christmas:** *Christmas Cards from St Mary's*, featuring our Christmas stained glass window (£1 each), *The Real Advent Calendar*, telling the story of Christmas (£5 each). Purchase them after the service at our bookstall.

## CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This year's Christmas Appeal will be split evenly between two of our mission parnters: **SHOC/TRINITY** working with homeless people in our area and **TEARFUND**, which works with local partners across the world where the need is greatest.

## CHRISTMAS IN DENHAM

Please pick up our Christmas flyers today and invite family, friends and neighbours to our Advent and Christmas services. **Are you on social media?** Please post our flyer there.

Download the PDF at [www.denhamparish.church/christmas](http://www.denhamparish.church/christmas)

## WELCOME TO STEPHEN

We are very pleased to announce that after a process of discernment, and having gone through the Safer Recruitment process, we have appointed Stephen Armstrong as our regular organist and choirmaster. He will be playing on Sundays (except first Sunday of the month) and for weddings, funerals and baptism services when he is available. Do say hello and welcome him!

## A LIFE OF GRACE

Mark Greene has written a moving tribute to Her Majesty the Queen. An ideal gift! Usual price £7+P&P. Buy it today for £4.

## HOTEL TO HOME UPDATE

Please fill in your response form by Advent Sunday (27 Nov). Pick up a paper copy or find it on our website:

[www.denhamparish.church/hoteltohome](http://www.denhamparish.church/hoteltohome)

**Would you like to receive a free copy of "Thank God It's Monday"** (while stocks last)? Email or call our church office.

### Let's pray together ...

- For creation care and all our efforts to look after our planet - individually, as a nation and international community. For concrete steps after COP-27.
- For conflicts and wars in our world: For people of peace to find ways of making peace.
- For those who are unwell.
- For those who have lost loved ones, especially the family of Christine Willson.