



Service Sheet

27th November 2022, 10.30am, St Mary's
First Sunday of Advent

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) or Facebook page (facebook.com/denhamparish.church).

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Jesus said 'keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.'

Amen: Come soon, Lord Jesus!

(The first candle is lit)

Jesus is the light of the word.

A light no darkness can ever put out.

HYMN

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.

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.

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

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. 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**

SONG

With me, God is with me
Yes He's with me every step
With me, God is with me
Yes He's with me every step
And I know God is with me every step I go
Yes I know God is with me every step

With you, God is with you
Yes He's with you every step
With you, God is with you
Yes He's with you every step
And I know God is with you
every step you go
Yes I know God is with you every step

*And oh the love of God
is with me every day
Every step I take
He will lead me on
into his perfect plan
Walking hand in hand*

With us, God is with us
Yes He's with us every step
With us, God is with us
Yes He's with us every step
And I know God is with us
every step we go
Yes I know God is with us every step

(Children will leave for Sunday Club now)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST READING: Romans 13. 11-14

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: Matt 24. 36-44

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said, 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

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.**

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 ev'ry 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

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.**

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.**

Father, you made the world and
love your creation. You gave your
Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.
His dying and rising have set us free
from sin and death. And so we
gladly thank you, with saints and
angels 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.**

We praise and bless you, loving
Father, through Jesus Christ, our
Lord; and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit, that broken
bread and wine outpoured may be
for us the body and blood of your
dear Son.

On the night before he died he had
supper with his friends and, taking
bread, he praised you. He broke the
bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is
given for you; do this in
remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took
the cup of wine. Again he praised
you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that
Jesus did, in him we plead with
confidence his sacrifice made once
for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of
life and cup of salvation, we
proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and
resurrection you have set us
free. You are the Saviour of the
world.**

Lord of all life, help us to work
together for that day when your
kingdom comes and justice and
mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms and
bring us with all the saints to feast
at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ,
and in Christ, in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are
yours, O loving Father, for ever and
ever.

**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

*Please follow the directions of our
sidesteam. There is no one-way system
anymore. Please return to your seat
through the middle aisle.*

*We now take communion in both
bread and wine again. Please feel
under no compulsion to receive the
wine, though.*

*If you'd like to receive a blessing, please
keep your hands at your sides as you
come forward.*

*If you'd like to receive Holy
Communion seated in the pew, please
let a member of our sidesteam know.*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**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

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon the throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own;
awake, my soul and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends each burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou has died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

THE BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness
shine upon you, scatter the
darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him
when he comes in glory; and the
blessing of God, the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit be with you now
and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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Weekly Diary

TODAY 4pm. Forest Church Advent Special
St Mary's

Weds 30th - Little Lions toddler group.
St Mark's. Contact eddalindner18@gmail.com

Friday 2nd 6pm. Carols on the Green.
Denham Village Green.

Sun 4th 3.30pm. Carols at Cafe Church.

St Mark's

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!

HOTEL TO HOME: Response | Welcome

Have you filled in your response form already? There is still time. Pick up a paper copy or find it on our website: 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.

Can you help us welcome people this Christmas?

Hundreds of people will come to our Christmas services and we do not have enough welcomers. You will give out service sheets, provide a friendly welcome and help in other practical ways. Victoria will make sure you know what to do? **Be the friendly face of our church! Contact Victoria in the church office to offer your help!**

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 and Nigel Hone.



NEW MAGAZINE OUT!

The Christmas issue of Denham Parish News is out! Please pick up extra copies to give to family, friends and neighbours. It's a great way to invite people for our Christmas events and services - the whole programme is included.

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

AVAILABLE NOW for Advent and Christmas: *Christmas Cards from St Mary's*, featuring our Christmas stained glass window (£1 each)

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This year's Christmas Appeal will be split evenly between two of our mission partners: **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 AT ST MARY'S POSTERS

We have A4 and A3 posters with our Christmas programme. Can you ask a shop, pub, surgery, community space etc. in Denham to display it? Let's make sure people know! Pick up posters after the service at the back of church.

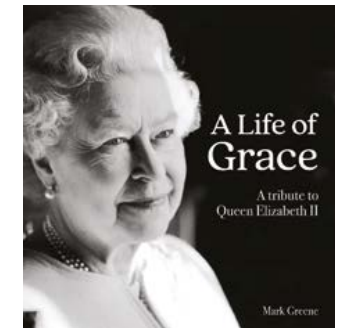
Are you on social media? Please post our flyer there.

Download the PDF at www.denhamparish.church/christmas

A Life of Grace

Mark Greene has written a moving tribute to Her Majesty the Queen. Beautifully illustrated and carefully researched, 'A Life of Grace' brings home the impact of a life of dedication and service. An ideal gift for family, friends, colleagues or neighbours.

Usual price £7 +P&P. Buy it for the special price of £4 at St Mary's Church before or after services or from St Mary's Office during the week (while stocks last).



Christmas at St Mary's 2022

Sun 27th Nov 4.00 pm
(Advent Sunday)

Forest Church Advent Special. St Mary's

*Fun for all ages • Make an Advent candle
Sign up: Call St Mary's Church office or go to
www.denhamparish.church/Christmas*

Sun 4th Dec 3.30 pm

Carols at Café Church. St Mark's

Favourite carols • Christmas treats • Time to chat

Sun 11th Dec 4.00 pm

Christingle Service. St Mary's | YouTube

*Celebrate Christmas with that famous orange!
A child-friendly service for all ages*

Sun 18th Dec 10.30 am

**Carols for All Ages by Candlelight.
St Mary's | YouTube**

*Readings, carols, anthems and songs, with
contributions from all ages*

6.30 pm

**Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight.
St Mary's | YouTube**

Reflective service with readings, carols and choir anthems

Sat 24th Dec 4.00 pm
(Christmas Eve)

Crib Service. St Mary's | YouTube

*For all ages. Children are invited to bring a new toy
as a gift for RNIB Sunshine House School (Northwood)*

11.00 pm

Midnight Holy Communion. St Mary's | YouTube

Sun 25th Dec 9.00 am

Christmas Day Holy Communion. St Mary's

10.30 am

**Christmas Day Family Service.
St Mary's | YouTube**

A short service for all ages, celebrating Jesus' birth

www.denhamparish.church/christmas