

# Service Sheet

19<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 10.30am St Mary's  
The Sunday next before Lent

**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 (Psalm 119. 7-12)

I will praise you with an upright heart  
as I learn your righteous laws.

**I will obey your decrees;  
do not utterly forsake me.**

How can a young person stay on the  
path of purity?

**By living according to your word.**

I seek you with all my heart;  
**do not let me stray from your commands.**

I have hidden your word in my heart  
that I might not sin against you.

**Praise be to you, LORD;  
teach me your decrees.**

## HYMN

Lord, thy word abideth,  
and our footsteps guideth;  
who its truth believeth  
light and joy receiveth.

When our foes are near us,  
then thy word doth cheer us,  
word of consolation,  
message of salvation.

When the storms are o'er us,  
and dark clouds before us,  
then its light directeth  
and our way protecteth.

Who can tell the pleasure,  
who recount the treasure,  
by thy word imparted  
to the simple hearted?

Word of mercy, giving  
succour to the living;  
word of life, supplying  
comfort to the dying.

O that we, discerning  
its most holy learning,  
Lord, may love and fear thee,  
evermore be near thee.

## 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

Holy God, you know the disorder of  
our sinful lives: set straight our  
crooked hearts, and bend our wills to  
love your goodness and your glory in  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**FIRST READING: 1 Cor 3. 16-23**

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, 'He catches the wise in their craftiness', and again, 'The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.' So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**SONG**

Father God, I wonder how  
I managed to exist  
without the knowledge  
of your parenthood  
and your loving care.  
But now I am your child,  
I am adopted in your family,  
and I can never be alone  
'cause, Father God,  
you're there beside me.

*I will sing your praises,  
I will sing your praises,  
I will sing your praises  
for evermore.*

*(Children leave for Sunday Club)*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****SECOND READING: Matt 5.38-48**

'You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.' You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHOIR**

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes and I shall keep it unto the end.  
*(Thomas Attwood, 1765-1838)*

**SERMON****OFFERTORY HYMN**

Christ, your words of love confound us,  
even as we give you praise,  
for the lessons that you teach us  
seem so far from this world's ways  
How can we love those who hate us  
How can we love enemies?  
What of people who abuse us?  
How can we love even these?

Make us mindful: love is action,  
not a feeling that uplifts.  
In each daily situation,  
love's the greatest of all gifts.  
It's the wiser, stronger person  
who will break the chain of hate.  
Love can usher in redemption;  
love can make a people great.

Faced with those who seek to hurt us,  
make us confident and free:  
you don't call us to be helpless  
but to stand with dignity.  
Lord, when others are demanding,  
may we know they matter more  
than our money or possessions.  
May we share, not keeping score.

If we love just those who love us,  
where's the giving? Where's the grace?  
Even sinners try to do this;  
they have friends that they embrace.  
May we do, Lord, unto others  
as we'd have them also do.  
You have shown us: Love is action.  
May we love, and make things new.

**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.**

**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**

Great is Thy faithfulness,  
O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with Thee,  
thou changest not,  
thy compassions they fail not,  
as Thou hast been,  
thou forever wilt be.

*Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Summer and winter,  
and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars  
in their courses above;  
Join with all nature in manifold witness,  
to Thy great faithfulness,  
mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin  
and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence  
to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today,  
and bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine,  
with ten thousand beside.

**BLESSING**

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## How to disagree well

*Disagreeing well is getting harder in the age of social media. Here are some helpful principles:*

- Talk face to face as full human beings whenever possible. Try to build a relationship.
- Acknowledge differences. Stand up for what you believe, but treat the other person's view with respect.
- You may win an argument but lose a friend! Be willing to say, "I don't know the answer." Our confidence is in the love of Jesus, not our perfect arguments.
- Learn to listen well. Make sure you understand the other person's viewpoint.
- Jesus didn't say "Go and sock it to them!" but "Love your enemies". Remember that God loves this person and that Jesus died for them.



*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15*



## GROWING HEARTS OF SERVICE: Café Church

From March we are planning to bring back Café Church on the first Sunday of the month at St Mark's (3.30-5pm). Could you be part of the team? We are looking for cake bakers, table hosts, kitchen team and help with setup and take-down. No one is expected to be available every month. Offer your help by putting your name down on the sign-up sheet at the back of church after the service.

## Weekly Diary

**Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 10am - Ash Wednesday Service (BCP). St Mary's**

**Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb - Little Lions toddler group.** St Mark's. Contact: eddalindner18@gmail.com

**Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1-5pm Warm Space at St Mark's**

### DIARY DATE

**Thur 9<sup>th</sup> Mar 2.30pm.** Funeral for t/l Joyce Tearall. St Mary's.

### Let's pray together ...

- For those affected by natural disasters, especially in Turkey and Syria.
- 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 families of Joyce Tearall, Pam Dymott and Kath Swinson.

**email: [office@denhamparish.church](mailto:office@denhamparish.church)**

**phone: 01895 832771**