



Service Sheet

**23rd April 2023, 10.30am, St Mary's
The Third Sunday of Easter**

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

GATHERING PRAYER

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed, hallelujah!

Meet with us and walk with us,
open your word, break the bread.
May we see you, risen Saviour,
warm our hearts with your presence.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed, hallelujah!

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.

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

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.

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

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

THANK YOU, IAN!

SONG

Our God is a great big God,
our God is a great big God,
our God is a great big God
and he holds us in his hands.

He's higher than a skyscraper
and He's deeper than a submarine.
He's wider than the universe
and beyond my wildest dreams.
And he's known me and he's loved me
since before the world began.
How wonderful to be a part
of God's amazing plan.

(The children leave for Sunday Club)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST READING: 1 Peter 1. 17-23

¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. ²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living

and enduring word of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR: Lead me, Lord

GOSPEL READING: Luke 24. 13-35

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' ¹⁹He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' ²⁵Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary

that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?'

²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

OFFERTORY HYMN

Grace! 'tis a charming sound
Harmonious to my ear;
Heav'n with the echo shall resound x2
And all the earth shall hear. x3

'Twas grace that wrote my name
In life's eternal book;
'Twas grace that gave me to the Lamb, x2
Who all my sorrows took. x3

Grace taught my wandering feet
To tread the heavenly road;
And new supplies each hour I meet, x2
While pressing on to God. x3

Oh, let Thy grace inspire
My soul with strength Divine!
May all my powers to Thee aspire x2
And all my days be Thine! x3

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 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.

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. Please return to your seat through the middle aisle.

We take communion in both bread and wine. Please feel under no compulsion to receive the wine, though. We now have gluten free communion wafers available, if you require a GF wafer, please make this known to the minister distributing communion.

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.

HYMN during Communion

In Christ alone my hope is found

He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought
and storm

What heights of love,
what depths of peace
When fears are stilled,
when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones he came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on him was laid:
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground his body lay

Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am his and he is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from his hand
Till he returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

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

Lord for the years

your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us,
cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us,
pardoned and provided:
Lord for the years,
we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word,
The word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts
and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains,
rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word,
receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land
in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure,
wealth and care:
For young and old,

for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land,
be pleased to hear our prayer.
Lord, for our world;
when we disown and doubt you,
loveless in strength
and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless,
lost indeed without you:
Lord of the world,
we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves;
in living pow'r remake us-
self on the cross
and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us,
for the future take us:
Lord of our lives,
to live for Christ alone.

CHOIR: A Clare Benediction (*J Rutter*)

May the Lord show his mercy upon you;
may the light of his presence be your guide:
May he guard you and uphold you;
may his spirit be ever by your side.

When you sleep may his angels watch over you;
when you wake may he fill you with his grace:
May you love him and serve him all your days
Then in heaven may you see his face

BLESSING

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 7th May

No 9am service!

10.30am Coronation Weekend
Community Service at St Mary's

No Café Church!

Sunday 21st May

10.30am Sunday Service with
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH
MEETING

Saturday 24th June, 4.30pm

Ordination of Azita Jabbari as Priest at
St Mary's Wendover

Weekly Diary

Weds 26th - Little Lions toddler

group. St Mark's. Contact:

eddalindner18@gmail.com

Weds 26th 8pm. Baptism preparation

Evening.

Please sign up with our church office!

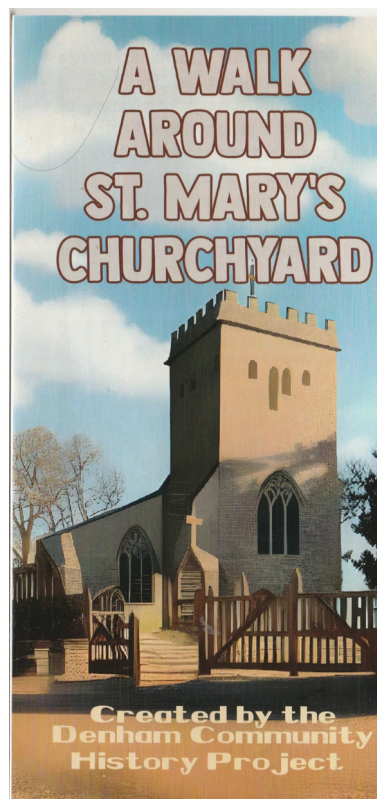
What does it take to be a bellringer?

We have an expert and dedicated team of bellringers at St Mary's. What does it actually take to become one?

Our bell tower captain, Andrew Simpson, would love to tell you more and give you an introductory taster.

Becoming proficient as part of the band of ringers does take several months of training, but it's good fun and our bellringers are a friendly lot.

We are also looking for more people to take an occasional turn to chime the bells on a Sunday morning. This can be learnt in a single session. For more information contact Andrew: andrew@simpson.trumail.com, (01895) 255594



DENHAM WALKING GUIDES

Since 2019 the Denham Community History Project has been telling stories about the history of our village and its people on its website at www.denhamhistory.online. Now you can purchase **three walking guides** to the village, including a guide to a stroll around St. Mary's churchyard. They're on sale at the church book stall - £3 each or £7 for three. All proceeds (and any extra voluntary donations) go to support work on the project. As a bonus, there's a QR code on the leaflets. It can be used to download audio versions of the guides on your phone to listen as you walk.



DIARY DATE:

AZITA'S ORDINATION AS PRIEST

Sat 24 June, 4.30pm

St Mary's Church, Wendover

Places are limited onsite, but Azita's ordination service will be streamed live. More details to follow very soon.

SPREAD THE WORD!



CORONATION WEEKEND AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

SUNDAY, 7 MAY, 10.30 am
Coronation Community Service

MONDAY, 8 MAY, 2 pm–5 pm
St Mary's Royal Tea and Tour

*Have a cuppa on us, free of charge, and take a tour of
St Mary's Church with special Coronation flower decorations*

www.denhamparish.church

