



# Service Sheet

10<sup>th</sup> December 2023 10.30am, St Mary's  
The Second 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](http://www.denhamparish.church)) or Facebook page ([facebook.com/denhamparish.church](https://facebook.com/denhamparish.church)).  
*Christoph Lindner, Rector*

## WELCOME

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Jesus said, 'No one more important than John the Baptist has ever been born; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

**Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!**

*(The second candle is lit.)*

Jesus is the light of the world.

**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.

Prophet voices loudly crying,  
making pathways clear;  
glimpsing glory, self-denying,  
calling all to hear.  
Through their message - challenged,  
shaken - hearts awaken: God is near!

John the Baptist, by his preaching  
and by water poured,  
brought to those who heard his teaching  
news of hope restored:  
Keep your vision strong and steady,  
and be ready for the Lord.'

Mary's gift, beyond all telling,  
we recall today:  
Son of God within her dwelling,  
born to show the way. >>>

Who could guess the final story?  
- cross and glory; Easter Day!

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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.

### 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.

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### COLLECT

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and Saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

### SONG

Who is this man who was born as a child though he was God? (JESUS!)  
Who is this man who loved the small, the sick, the poor? (JESUS!)  
Who said that God wants us all to be like little children? (JESUS!)  
Who gave his life so that I could be a child of God?

*Jesus, Son of God and Saviour  
He is Jesus, Son of God and Lord!  
Jesus, Son of God and Saviour  
He is Jesus, Son of God and Lord!*

Who can I turn to when I need a friend and helper? (JESUS!)  
Who can I talk to when I feel so weak and small? (JESUS!)  
Who is this man who will keep all the good things he has promised? (JESUS!)  
Who's got the power to make me a child of the greatest King?

*(Children leave for Sunday Club)*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### FIRST READING: 2 Peter 3.8-15a

<sup>8</sup> But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. <sup>11</sup> Since all these things are to be dissolved

in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup> waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup> But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15</sup> and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

#### GOSPEL READING: Mark 1. 1-8

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

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

<sup>1</sup> The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup> As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" <sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

*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**

### OFFERTORY HYMN

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announce that the Lord is nigh; awake, and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then he cleanses be ev'ry breast from sin; make straight the way for God within; prepare we in our hearts a home, where such a mighty guest may come

For thou are our salvation, Lord, our refuge and our great reward; without thy grace we waste away, like flow'rs that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and bid the fallen sinner stand; shine forth and let thy light restore earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee whose advent doth thy people free, whom with the Father we adore and Holy Ghost for evermore.

### 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.**

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

*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. **If you require a gluten-free 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.*

## DURING HOLY COMMUNION:

There is a Redeemer,  
Jesus, God's own Son,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Holy One.

*Thank you, O my Father,  
For giving us your Son,  
And leaving your Spirit  
Til the work on earth is done.*

Jesus, my Redeemer.  
Name above all names,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
O for sinners slain.

When I stand in glory, I will see his face,  
And there I'll serve my King for ever,  
In that holy place.

## 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

Longing for light, we wait in darkness  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
Light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.

## BLESSING

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

*Songs and Hymns reproduced under CCLI licence 61873*

## GIVE AND SHARE

Helpers needed please until 15th December - *Give and Share* will be distributing Christmas hampers to needy families in the local community through local schools. 6th -8th – drivers needed to collect and transport from supermarkets to St Mark's Hall. 9th-15th – packers needed at St Mark's Hall and drivers to distribute hampers to local schools. **Please contact Dexter** [dexterbrown125@gmail.com](mailto:dexterbrown125@gmail.com) or text 07903 476535 if you can help in any way.

### Let's pray together....

- For those suffering the consequences of war, natural disasters and oppression. We pray especially for the conflict in Israel and Gaza, and in Ukraine.
- For those who have lost loved ones especially the families of Alastair McGhee, Elizabeth Grimes and Ronald Barber.



In December we will be at St Mary's Vestry!

**THE WELL**  
Worship | Pray | Listen

Join us tomorrow, Mon 11 December at 8.00pm at **St Mary's Vestry**. Once a month we set aside time to let God speak to us and to bring our needs and the needs of the world to him. Just turn up.

## DIARY

**Today - 4pm Christingle Service**  
St Mary's

**Mon 11<sup>th</sup> 8pm. The Well.** St Mary's

**Weds 13<sup>th</sup> Little Lions toddler group.** St Mark's. Contact: [eddalindner18@gmail.com](mailto:eddalindner18@gmail.com)

**Weds 13<sup>th</sup> The Haven.** Bereavement Group. St Mark's House

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at St Mary's 9am: Holy Communion**

**NO 10.30am: Sunday Service**

**4pm: Carols for all ages**  
**6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols**

### Christingle Collection

Please take a Christingle collection candle from the back of church and return by 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. All proceeds gratefully received will go to the Children's Society.



## THE HAVEN

### A Bereavement Drop-In

*A Place of Safety, Welcome*

*And Hope Renewed*

- For all who are living through pain of bereavement and loss
- Facilitated by Sandy Wickenden & Rev Azita Jabbari
- Relaxed and welcoming atmosphere over a cuppa and light refreshments

**St Mark's House, 80 Green Tiles Lane**

**Wednesday, 13 December, 4pm**

Would you like to find out more? Contact the Church office [office@denhamparish.church](mailto:office@denhamparish.church) or via our church office 01895 832771

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

## We now have an AED (Defibrillator) at St Mark's House (next to St Mark's Church Hall)

Receive AED and general first aid training for free!  
Saturday 6th January 10am-1pm  
Saturday 20th January 2pm-5pm  
Friday 9th February 10am-1pm



Sign up online  
or call 01895 832771.

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



**There will be no 1030 service on Sunday 17 and 24 December! Please join us for the Carol and Christmas Eve services or for 9am Holy Communion.**

# Denham Church Christmas Appeal

2023



As we celebrate Jesus Christ, the greatest gift of all, will you help us to bless people who are struggling this Christmas? We will divide our gifts equally between two charities we have partnered with for many years:



Trinity provides housing in and around Uxbridge to people suffering the effects of homelessness. In previous years they have housed more than 250 people and helped them to move from a life of dependency to achieve their full potential. Trinity also helps homeless people in Slough through its partner SHOC (Slough Homeless Our Concern).



Tearfund is a Christian charity that partners with churches in more than 50 of the world's poorest countries. They tackle poverty through sustainable development, responding to disasters, and challenging injustice. Tearfund believes an end to extreme poverty is possible. Their life-changing community training empowers people with skills and knowledge to become self-sufficient, so there's no going back to extreme poverty. 9 out of 10 trained communities went on to build or improve vital facilities like water points, schools and health clinics. £211 of value can be created from every £1 invested in Tearfund's life-changing training, alongside community contributions.

## How to give

You can make a donation at one of our carol and Christmas services or give online by scanning the QR code below. Thank you for helping to make a difference this Christmas!



### **Advent Talks with Ian Jennings:**

*"The Four Last Things"*

[www.youtube.com/DenhamParishChurch](http://www.youtube.com/DenhamParishChurch)