

Service Sheet

4th February 2024, 10.30am, St Mary's
The Second Sunday before Lent
You are not forgotten by God

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).

Christoph Lindner, Rector

WELCOME

OPENING PRAISE (from Psalm 147)

How good it is to sing praises to our God,
how pleasant and fitting to praise him!
He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.

He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
his understanding has no limit.

HYMN

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, alleluia
Thou burning sun with golden beam
Thou silver moon with softer gleam

*O praise Him O praise Him
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise him, alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice:

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest us both warmth and light:

Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness
O praise Him alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father,
praise the Son
And praise the Spirit three in One

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 and his resurrection. 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

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

BAPTISM OF JOHN CHRISTOPHER
Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome John and uphold him in his new life?
With the help of God we will.

Profession of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?
I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?
I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?
I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.
This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Baptism

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ, against sin, the world, and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.

The Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism: John, by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.

We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.

Lighting of the Baptism Candle

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. John, you have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

Shine as a light in the world, to the glory of God the Father.

SONG

*Be strong and courageous
Do not be afraid
Don't be discouraged
For the Lord your God will be with you (x2)
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

“GREAT WORKS OF ART”

SONG

I am fearfully and wonderfully made
I am fearfully and wonderfully made
He who put the stars in place
And knows them all by name
Has made me fearfully and wonderfully made

I am made in the image of God
I am made in the image of God
From the top of my head
to the tip of my toes
My Lord my name He knows
I am made in the image of God
(Children leave for Sunday Club)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40. 21-31

²¹ Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³ who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵ To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and

see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. ²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God'? ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹ but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

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

SECOND READING: Mark 1. 29-39

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³² That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' ³⁸ He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' ³⁹ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

SERMON

OFFERTORY HYMN

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
(x2)

Our God, You reign forever
Our hope, our strong Deliv'rer

*You are the everlasting God,
the everlasting God
You do not faint, You won't grow weary
You're the defender of the weak,
You comfort those in need
You lift us up on wings like eagles*

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: BRF Ministries, 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

Thou, whose almighty word
Chaos and darkness heard,
And took their flight;
Hear us, we humbly pray,
And where the gospel-day
Sheds not its glorious ray,
Let there be light!

Thou who didst come to bring,
On thy redeeming wing,
Healing and sight;
Health to the sick in mind,
Sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind
Let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love,
Life-giving, holy Dove,
Speed forth thy flight;
Move on the waters' face,
Bearing the lamp of grace,
And in earth's darkest place
Let there be light!

Holy and blessed Three,
Glorious trinity,
Wisdom, love, might;
Boundless as ocean's tide
Rolling in fullest pride,
Through the world far and wide
Let there be light!

SENDING PRAYER

**Creator God,
you count all the stars,
not one of them is missing
from your love.**

**Thank you that we are
All remembered by you,
And that no one misses out
on your loving care. Amen.**

BLESSING

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TIME TO CHAT | FOOD FOR THOUGHT

CAFÉ CHURCH

FAVOURITE HYMNS AND PRAYERS | COFFEE AND CAKE

God in the life of Ian and Susan Bickerstaffe

Sunday, 4 February, 3.30–5.00pm

St Mark's Hall, Denham Green

email: office@denhamparish.church

phone: 01895 832771

Diary

WEDS 7th FEB

Little Lions toddler group. St Mark's.

Contact: kathypaine16@gmail.com

FRI 9th FEB

10am AED Training Course, St Mark's

Sign up: www.denhamparish.church/aed

SUN 11th FEB

9am: Holy Communion at St Mary's

10.30am: Holy Communion at St Mary's

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WEDS 14 Feb, 10am: *Ash Wednesday* Holy Communion, St Mary's

FRI 8 March, 7pm: Concert with *Torfaen Male Welsh Choir*, St Mary's

SUN 10 March, 10.30am: *Mothering Sunday* Family Service, St Mary's

SUN 28 April, 10.30am: Sunday Worship with *Annual Church Meeting (APCM)*

Please note: There will be no 9am service so we can all come together.

MON 27 May: *Denham Village May Fayre*

SUN 8 September: *St Mary's Festival*

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 family of Pamela Gough.

