



# Service Sheet

**22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024, 10.30am, St Mary's**  
**Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**  
**Building Strong Relationships: Faith in Action**

**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 PRAISE (From Psalm 1)

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,

**or take the path that sinners tread,  
or sit in the seat of scoffers;**

but their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
**and on his law they meditate day and night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
**which yield their fruit in its season,  
and their leaves do not wither.**  
**In all that they do, they prosper.**

## HYMN

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
and publish abroad his wonderful name;  
the name all victorious of Jesus extol:  
his kingdom is glorious; he rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save;  
and still he is nigh: his presence we have:  
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,  
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

Salvation to God who sits on the throne!  
Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son.  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give him his right:  
All glory and pow'r, all wisdom and might,  
all honour and blessing, with angels above,  
and thanks never-ceasing and infinite love.

## 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

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen**

## ABSOLUTION

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**

## THE COLLECT

Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life: deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SONG

I am a city on a hill  
I am a light in the darkness  
Jesus living in me can change the world  
(x2)

Let my light shine let my light shine  
Let my light shine  
(x2)

*If God is for me who can stand against me*  
*Let my light shine let my light shine*  
*Let my light shine*  
(x2)

We are a city on a hill  
We are a light in the darkness  
Jesus living in us can change the world  
(x2)

Let your light shine let your light shine  
Let your light shine. Let it shine  
(x2)

*If God is for us who can stand against us*  
*Let your light shine let your light shine*  
*Let your light shine* (x2)

*(Children leave for Sunday Club)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FIRST READING: James 2. 14–26

<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup> So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. <sup>18</sup> But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. <sup>19</sup> You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. <sup>20</sup> Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith apart from works is barren? <sup>21</sup> Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works.

<sup>23</sup> Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” and he was called the friend of God. <sup>24</sup> You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. <sup>25</sup> Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? <sup>26</sup> For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

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

### GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5.13-16

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

<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. <sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### THE CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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

Before You I kneel my Master and Maker  
To offer the work of my hands  
For this is the day You've given Your servant  
I will rejoice and be glad  
For the strength I have to live and breathe  
For each skill Your grace has given me  
For the needs and opportunities  
That will glorify Your great name

Before You I kneel and ask for Your goodness  
To cover the work of my hands  
For patience and peace to shape all my labour  
Your grace for thorns in my path  
Flow within me like a living stream  
Wear away the stones of pride and greed  
'Til Your ways are dwelling deep in me  
And a harvest of life is grown

Before You we kneel our Master and Maker  
Establish the work of our hands  
And order our steps to seek first Your kingdom  
In every small and great task  
May we live the gospel of Your grace  
Serve Your purpose in our fleeting days  
Then our lives will bring eternal praise  
And all glory to Your great name  
And all glory to Your great name

### 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 right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turn away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.  
**You embraced us as your children and welcomed us to sit and eat with you**

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.  
**He opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying; Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.  
**Father, we do this in remembrance of him; his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.  
**Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.  
**As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the World we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**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**

*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 side 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:**

#### **CHOIR: Elgar, 'Ave verum'**

#### **SONG**

Beauty for brokenness  
Hope for despair  
Lord in Your suff'ring world  
This is our prayer  
Bread for the children  
Justice joy peace  
Sunrise to sunset  
Your kingdom increase

Shelter for fragile lives  
Cures for their ills  
Work for the craftsmen  
Trade for their skills  
Land for the dispossessed  
Rights for the weak  
Voices to plead the cause  
Of those who can't speak

*God of the poor  
Friend of the weak  
Give us compassion we pray  
Melt our cold hearts  
Let tears fall like rain  
Come change our love  
From a spark to a flame*

Refuge from cruel wars  
Havens from fear  
Cities for sanctu'ry  
Freedoms to share  
Peace to the killing fields  
Scorched earth to green  
Christ for the bitterness  
His cross for the pain

Rest for the ravaged earth  
Oceans and streams  
Plundered and poisoned  
Our future our dreams  
Lord end our madness  
Carelessness greed  
Make us content with  
The things that we need

*God of the poor...*

Lighten our darkness  
Breathe on this flame  
Until Your justice  
Burns brightly again  
Until the nations  
Learn of Your ways  
Seek Your salvation  
And bring You their praise

*God of the poor...*

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Lord, we pray that your grace may always  
precede and follow us, and make us  
continually to be given to all good works;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**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**

Hope of our calling:  
hope through courage won;  
By those who dared to share  
all Christ had done.  
Saints of today,  
Christ's banner now unfurled,  
We bring his gospel to a waiting world.

Hope of our calling:  
hope with grace outpoured,  
From death's despair  
the gift of life restored;  
Our call to serve, to wash each others' feet,  
To bring Christ's healing touch to all we meet.

Hope of our calling:  
hope by faith made bold;  
To sow God's righteousness  
throughout the world;  
Bring peace from conflict,  
fruitfulness from weeds,  
The kingdom's harvest from a mustard seed.

Hope of our calling: Spirit-filled, unbound,  
Old joys remembered  
and new purpose found,  
Our call refreshed by sacrament and word,  
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

### **THE BLESSING**

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

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### **PRAYER FOR ISRAEL & GAZA**

Our Maker and Sustainer,  
we pray for the people of Israel, Gaza and  
Palestine amid the continued violence.  
We mourn the lives of those  
who have died in the attacks.  
We pray for those who are wounded.  
May they find healing and comfort.  
We pray for those who are grieving.  
May they know your ever-present help.  
We pray for those  
who have been taken hostage.  
As they walk through this dark valley,  
may they have your protection  
and fear no evil.  
And we pray for those  
who have the power to make peace.  
May they yield  
to reasonable considerations  
and reach a peaceful resolution. Amen

### **Let's pray together**

- For those who have lost loved ones, especially the families of Hamish Ritchie and Len Dane.
- For those who are unwell, especially Beverly Gray, Margaret Sargent, Ann Collins, Craig Alexander.
- For the Maduka family as they settle in to their new parish.
- For those suffering the consequences of war, natural disasters and oppression.
- For children and families as the new school year begins.



## DIARY

**WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> September, 4pm**

**The Haven** Bereavement Group,

*St Mary's Vestry*

**THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> September, 7pm**

**Choir Rehearsal, St Mary's Vestry**

**SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> September**

**9am Holy Communion**

**10.30 Sunday Service.**

**SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> October:**

**Harvest Thanksgiving**

**9am Holy Communion**

**10.30 Sunday Service.**

**3.30 Café Church at St Mark's**

Harvest Gifts: Supermarket vouchers are a great alternative to food gifts and can bless people in need! We will deliver them to people in our parish and to foodbanks in our area.

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

phone: 01895 832771



**Could you be our next Parish Administrator? Do you know someone who might be interested in applying?**

You will have excellent administration and people skills and work closely with our Rector and the leadership of our church. This role is for 16–20 hours per week over four or five days.

**Closing date: 6pm Monday 30 September**

Request a detailed job description and application form from [rector@denhamparish.church](mailto:rector@denhamparish.church)

### CHANGED OFFICE HOURS

Please note the new office hours:

Monday 09:30am – 11:30 am

Tuesday 09:30am – 11:30 am

Wednesday Office Closed

Thursday 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Friday: Office closed



This week we will be starting the “Joining the Family” course in a range of small groups. It will equip us to ‘be family’ for followers of Jesus for believers of Muslim background. We are inviting all church members to join one of our small groups for this six week course. Our groups meet on different days of the weeks, both online and ‘in the room’. Find out more and express your interest here:

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

**HARVEST  
THANKSGIVING**  
**A Service for All Ages**

**Sunday 6 October  
10.30am**

**St Mary's Church Denham**  
***There will be a Sunday Club  
with activities for children***  
**[www.denhamparish.church](http://www.denhamparish.church)**

**Harvest Gifts**  
Supermarket vouchers are a great alternative to food gifts and can bless people in need! We will deliver them to people in our parish and to foodbanks in our area.

**BUILDING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS**  
***Lessons from the Letter of James***

***Next Sunday (22 September):***  
**Taming the Tongue: Words that Heal, Not Harm**

## **PATHWAY MAGAZINE**

The latest issue of the Oxford Diocese magazine can be picked up at the back of church.

## **HELP WITH BURIALS OF ASHES**

Do you know anyone who could occasionally help as 'grave digger' for burials of ashes? An appropriate fee will be paid. Please contact our church office.

## **NNAMDI MADUKA'S LICENSING SERVICE**

Wednesday, 9 October, 6pm

*Waltham St Lawrence Church*

We have ten spaces for members of our congregation. Please sign up at the back of church. There will probably be a live stream, too. More details to follow.

## **NEW AV SYSTEM AT ST MARY'S**

An upgraded AV system is being installed this week. It will give us more flexibility and reliability and introduce a projection screen that can be retracted when not in use. It will probably take a few weeks to fine-tune the new system and train up the operators. At 10.30 we will reduce the amount of paper given to the congregation and show words and images on screen. There will be no change for 9am.

## **GET TRAINED!**

We'd like to expand our team of operators. You will be fully trained on the new system. Interested? Get in touch with Christoph.