

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON WEEKLY BULLETIN

27th March 2022, 4th Sunday of Lent,
Mothering Sunday



Readings for Sun 27th Mar: 2 Corinthians 5.16-end; Luke 15.1-3, 11b-end



Dear Friends, I don't know about you, but despite many things returning to normal post-pandemic, I still feel a bit socially rusty. With one thing or another it still feels quite strange, even tiring, being around people all of the time and lovely though it is, I still catch myself having the tendency to withdraw a little. It was with this in mind that some of the reflections from our Lent course on 'Difference' struck home. We were asked to reflect upon what happens when we find ourselves disagreeing or in dispute and we explored how, in this too, there is a natural tendency to withdraw and not engage.

A third thing had challenged me on this also. While reading through Paul's letter to the Romans, I was particularly struck how very different the various churches that Paul was writing to must have been. Some of them were clearly fixed on maintaining the old ways while others had in mind a totally new way of doing things. It must have been so hard for them to have managed this difference and clearly there had been lots of disagreement and I wondered whether they had also ended up withdrawing from each other and had stopped talking? Yet it is into this that Paul, fully engaged as always, writes with a focus on community that I just hadn't spotted before. Paul greets the churches leaders by name and shows them how each of their viewpoints capture parts of the truth, but how Christ ultimately unites them all in salvation. For me it was a real lesson in the importance of engaging.

It is of course natural, and sometimes necessary, to withdraw, but this week I feel the challenge is one of re-engagement. So, as the weather seems to be becoming more spring-like I'm particularly looking forward to this Sunday as we celebrate Mothering Sunday together. This of course was the traditional Sunday to return to your 'mother' church and those who worked away from home would get to re-engage with their communities and families. For us, I hope it will be a chance for us to come together and celebrate that we can now be a proper 'in person' church family once again, coming together in joy to worship God. Engagement that is a real cause for celebration!

If you, like me, are feeling challenged to re-engage with things in our church and wider community then do look through this week's bulletin for opportunities to do exactly that! With every blessing, **Mark**

DIAL-ST-DENYS: Call **0116 4647540** to hear parts of last Sunday's service. 

Call **0116 4647740** to hear a **Walk With Wonder**

To join us for the following Zoom service, go to www.zoom.us/join, type in the Meeting ID, and the Password (which can be obtained from Qyan): **Mothering Sunday 27th March, 10am Holy Communion** in church and on Zoom; ID: 820 0369 6332 Landline access - Call 0131 4601196 just before the time of the meeting. When asked, enter the Meeting ID followed by #. This is the 9 digit code specific to each meeting. You will then be asked for their Participant ID but just press # again. When asked, input the password.

Lent Course 'The Difference Course' 4th session on Sunday 2nd April, 6pm in person in church followed by **Compline** finishing at approximately 7.30pm.

Online Lent Course 3rd session on Friday 25th March, 7.30pm. Sian will be leading the same course as above, online. Zoom ID is: 865 7785 1201. Please use the usual password.

PCC meeting is on Monday 28th March, 7pm in the Parish Centre. Please pray for the members as they discuss 2021 accounts, our Fairtrade status and changes to our service pattern. Thank you.

Morning Prayer this week: 8.30am Monday, 9am Tuesday, 8.30am Wednesday, 9am Thursday in church



Thursday Drop in, 24th March and every Thursday until 12pm, in person, in church: 9am prayers, 10am BCP Holy Communion (said), 12noon prayers, with free wifi and refreshments.



Calling all gardeners, would-be gardeners, and DIYers (however unskilled!)

We need your help on Sunday 27th March 2.00pm to 4.00pm. We are developing, with the involvement of local schools and others, a community garden at the end of the church car park. There are certain structural things that need putting in place so that the next phase of development can happen, including putting in a path and building the structure for a good-sized bug hotel. Can you help on Sunday afternoon? It will be a fun time of fellowship, digging and building! All you need are willing hands and possibly a spade if you have one. Plants for the garden are also needed soon, if you can donate, but we will tell you when we require them nearer the time. If you have any questions, come along and have a chat, or drop me an email. Thanks, **Mark**

Neighbourhood Patches Come and make friends through making art! This is our project with Vitamins and Equality Action through which we hope to build more friendships across differences of faith and culture. Our next session will involve PRINTMAKING with professional artists and will be on Saturday 26th March 10am-1pm in the parish centre. Places are limited but you can book in for the session by contacting Anthony.

Pastoral Care We are looking for a Churchwarden with pastoral care as their main focus. Could this be you? In addition, anyone interested in being a part of the pastoral care team as prayer back-up, or visiting, please speak to Ann Bennett, Julie Paton or any member of the staff team.

If you are currently in contact with, and supporting anyone in the parish or congregation, keep on with the selfless care you give. Please also check in with Ann or Julie so that we don't double up on people or miss anyone out. Many thanks, **Ann Bennett and Julie Paton**

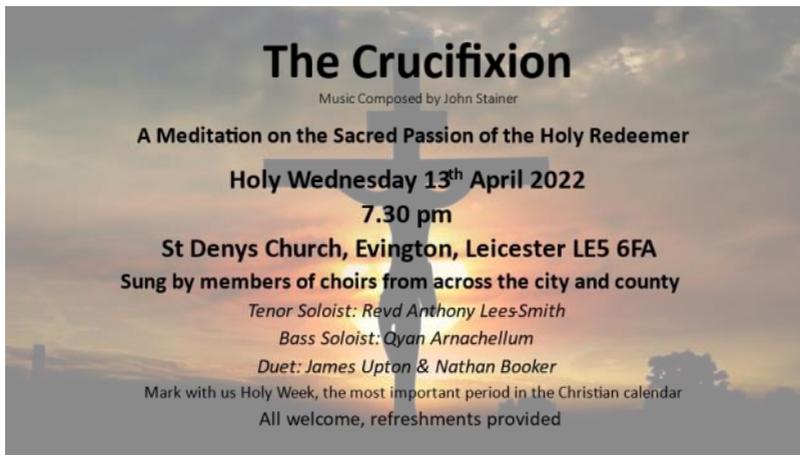
Please pray for our Youth and Community worker, Sarah who is doing amazing work with the children and young people of St Denys and the Evington community. Pray that she will be sustained in her work. Pray also that those being contacted about sponsorship / grants will have their hearts moved by the Lord and assist us with the necessary funding so that Sarah's work can continue. Thank you, **Youth Work Taskforce**

Easter Flowers If anyone would like to make a contribution towards the purchase of flowers for the Easter displays in church, it would be greatly appreciated. Please place your donations in one of the specially labelled envelopes on the table at the back of the church. We are also looking for people to help with arranging the flowers, which will take place on Easter Saturday, 16th April. If you would like to help with the flower arrangements, please give your name to the Churchwarden, **Gerry Goode**.



Lord, as we prepare to mark once again, your death and passion, we earnestly pray for the people of Ukraine in their pain and grave distress, suffering immensely due to Russian barbarism. We lift to you those who have been killed and seriously injured and the whole population who have had their lives turned upside down by this war. We don't understand why, but Lord, visit them we pray, may they feel your love. We cry out to you to end this evil. May we learn to lay at the foot of the cross, all the sins of the world, trusting in you. Amen.

13th April 7.30pm (see poster below) A service of devotion to mark Holy Week. All welcome to come along, to hear and support this moving work, to include congregational hymns, sung by an intergenerational choir. No charge for entry but donations for the work of St. Denys will be gratefully appreciated on the night.

A poster for a service titled 'The Crucifixion'. The background is a silhouette of a cross against a sunset sky. The text is centered and reads: 'The Crucifixion' in large bold letters, followed by 'Music Composed by John Stainer'. Below that is 'A Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer', 'Holy Wednesday 13th April 2022', '7.30 pm', 'St Denys Church, Evington, Leicester LE5 6FA', and 'Sung by members of choirs from across the city and county'. It lists soloists: 'Tenor Soloist: Revd Anthony Lees-Smith', 'Bass Soloist: Qyan Arnachellum', and a duet: 'Duet: James Upton & Nathan Booker'. At the bottom, it says 'Mark with us Holy Week, the most important period in the Christian calendar' and 'All welcome, refreshments provided'.

Collect for 4th Sunday of Lent Merciful Lord, you know our struggle to serve you: when sin spoils our lives and overshadows our hearts, come to our aid and turn us back to you again; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray for the sick, in mind, body and spirit, including: Helen, Brenda Bedingfield, Mick Clay, John Nightingale, David Pearson, Lucy Robinson **Pray for those who mourn**, including the family and friends of Jean Campbell, Mary Powell and all those who have died as a result of Covid 19.



If you need to talk, please get in touch:

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Geraldine (Reader) 0116 2737717

Qyan (Administrator) 07803 828454 office@stdenys.org.uk

St. Denys website, including the Giving Links for Church and Youth Work:

www.stdenys.org.uk