

PRAYING LIKE JESUS

“Try Praying”

Do you have friends, neighbours or family members who would like to try praying but don't know how to start? Our church office can provide you with a “Try Praying” booklet - a seven day journey into prayer. If they are online, please point them to trypraying.co.uk

“Lectio 365”

An excellent app to help us read the Bible and pray daily. Find out more here: <https://www.24-7prayer.com/dailydevotional>

“7.14 PRAYER”

2 Chronicles 7.14 exhorts us to pray for our land in times of crisis. In the week leading up to Pentecost Sunday we will pray for 7 days and 14 hours each day (7am to 9pm). You can sign up to pray for one hour and there will be resources with suggestions for prayer during that hour. There will be a link to sign-up online or you can call our church office. at the usual opening hours to sign up.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

(This is a new national phone line provided by the Church of England)

A SERVICE ON YOUTUBE!

Sunday Worship at 10.30am on Youtube, followed by ‘Virtual Coffee’ at 11.15am: tinyurl.com/youtube-denham

A SERVICE ON YOUR TELEPHONE!

Dial **01895 714013** to listen to a weekly service from Denham Parish Church. Do give it a try!

A NEW FOOD BANK

Our local community support group have just set up a food bank, operating from the May Coles Room of the Village Memorial Hall in Denham Village. They are taking donations at the Village Hall on Mondays 9-11 and Thursdays 2-4 or any time to 17 Ashcroft Drive.

In your prayers this week, please remember anyone known to us who is suffering the pain of bereavement at this time – especially the families of **Sue Fletcher, Marian Gollop, Diane Scanlon, Frances Jessup and Norman Francis** (Norman and Jo were members of St Mary's for many years).



PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet
3rd May 2020
4th Sunday of Easter

Welcome to this new-style Parousia! All Church of England buildings remain closed. But the life of our church is not being put on hold and God remains active in his world! This news and service sheet is one way of keeping in touch and worshipping together. You can download it from our website or ask for a paper version to be sent to you. The inside pages provide you with a simple service so you can worship at home. Please check our website or Facebook page on a regular basis and do contact our church office if we can help in any way.

The Shepherd's Voice by Tom Wright

“The sheep listen to his voice. (...) I am the gate for the sheep.” Jesus in John 10

We stood on the cliffs and watched as the mother birds swooped in from the sea with mouthfuls of fish. There, below us, were thousands, probably tens of thousands, of young birds, all waiting eagerly, all screaming their peculiar cry. Somehow, unerringly, the mothers picked out the single voice of their own chick from the teeming, noisy crowd.

I suppose we shouldn't be too surprised. Perhaps all human voices sound alike to birds—yet a father or mother will recognize their child's voice in a crowded room.

To this day, in the Middle East, a shepherd will go into a crowded sheepfold and call out his own sheep one by one, naming them. They will recognize his voice and come to him.

In many Eastern sheepfolds, the shepherd lies down at night in the gateway, to stop the sheep getting out and to stop predators getting in.

Here Jesus seems to indicate the way in which the shepherd keeps the sheep safe, and, like God himself in Psalm 121.8, watches over their going out and their coming in. The emphasis is on the safety, and the fulfilled life, of the sheep. The shepherd has no business looking after his own interests. His priority are the sheep. Find a king like that, and you've found the Lord's anointed.

The promise of full life, full to overflowing, is as relevant for us today as it was then. The modern Western world has discovered how unsatisfying materialism really is, and is looking for something more, something beyond.

STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL



email: office@denhamparish.church

phone: 01895 832771

Opening Prayer (From Psalm 5)

Let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

Surely, LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favour as with a shield.

Hymn

The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
And he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living waters flow
My ransomed soul he leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
Within thy house for ever.

Confession and Absolution

St Paul says, 'Be imitators of God; love as Christ loved; do not grieve the Holy Spirit; put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice.'
So let us confess our sins to God, who forgives us in Christ.

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 God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bible Reading:

John 10. 1-10

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.'

Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Quiet Reflection or Time of Sharing (or read page 1)

The Apostles' 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

We pray for all aspects of the current crisis – for those who are suffering and grieving, for health care staff, scientists and leaders, for those working in critical jobs, for those who are anxious.

Ever present God, be with us in our isolation, be close to us in our distancing, be healing in our sickness, be joy in our sadness, be light in our darkness, be wisdom in our confusion, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Collect for the 4th Sunday of Easter:
Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

We pray the Lord's Prayer.

Hymn

Great is thy faithfulness,
O God my father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not,
Thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning

New mercies I see;

All I have needed

Thy hand hath provided,

Great is thy faithfulness,

Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin
And a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence
To cheer and to guide;
Strength for today
And bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine,
With ten thousand beside.

Blessing (based on 2 Timothy 1.7)

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.