

ST DENYS

STANFORD IN THE VALE



Friday Fellowship News No 16 17 July 2020

CHURCH RE-OPENING FOR PRIVATE PRAYER – SUNDAY 19 JULY. 2-3PM

I AM delighted to say that St Denys Church shall be open this coming Sunday, 19 July, from 2-3PM for Private (Silent) Prayer. My sincere thanks to the team which has got the church Covid-safe.



It would be really appreciated if you would arrive with a face covering and on arrival, clean your hands using the hand-sanitisers available. It would be good if you take a look at this vital resource:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-after-4-july>.



Stewards will be on hand to encourage all attending to keep 2m distance from each other.

This will be a time of Private Prayer and not led, therefore the church will be silent.

Having cleaned your hands please make your way to an empty chair/pew, placed appropriately socially distanced.



On the chair/pew, you will find a freshly printed Prayer Sheet (thanks Steve Upton) to aid you, if you wish to use it. Whether you do or not, please TAKE THE SHEET WITH YOU as you leave.

You may not want to stay for the whole hour, but whenever you do leave, please leave in silence and keep 2m from any others attending.



Once outside the church, again, we would encourage you to maintain social distancing and not stand outside the North Porch, restricting the exit point.

We are providing this prayer opportunity for personal use and, to enable us to prepare more fully for when we open St Denys for Corporate Worship in September. The Stewards present will be noting anything they feel will improve things for September, and likewise, if you have any thoughts please let me know and I shall pass them onto Nigel and the Task Group.

We look forward to welcoming back to St Denys those who can make it on Sunday.

● The church will re-open, God willing, for worship on Sunday 6 September.

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA HILL

Bob Ely shared these kind words at Sylvia's funeral this week:-

"Sylvia was born on the 8th April 1911 in Lichfield. Lichfield is famous for Dr. Samuel Johnson the author of the first English Dictionary. Some of this must have worn off on Sylvia because she always played a mean game of Scrabble! At the age of 7 she had an early memory of the end of WWI, and the fact that one could once again obtain sugar! Her father was in the army and she subsequently married an Army Officer, but Sylvia was in no way a Military Martinet. They lived for many years in Cumnor so our Sylvia was always a local girl.

Sylvia arrived at Penstones about 25 years ago. She always took life as she found it and never complained, and all her friends remember her sunny and cheerful disposition. Even when she broke her hip she wasn't phased and was very soon striding out with a wheeled support or Zimmer frame, round the courtyard. Sylvia loved gardening and flowers and in her latter years, when being wheeled around the courtyard, she stopped every so often to admire the local flowers.

She worked hard in her allotment and on her balcony. Even in her 90's she would personally carry up compost and potting plants to arrange there.

One of my early memories of her was when she was 98, snow and ice were on the ground and she would ring people up and say, "*I am just off to the Co-op can I get you anything while I'm there*".

She was a lifelong practising Christian and while she was able she would walk to St Denys Church, saying "*there's no point in getting out the car for such a short journey*".

Latterly the Revd Paul Eddy would come to celebrate Holy Communion in her Drawing room with her family. Some of us were privileged to be invited to join in these Services. As she leaves us, her wonderful family consists of 4 children, 13 grandchildren and at least 11 great grandchildren, all of whom were devoted to her.

As we say Goodbye to this dear friend, we pray that she may Rest In Peace."

BIBLE READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

Fri 17:

Psalm 139

I Sam 3: 1-4:1a

Luke 20: 20-26

Sat 18:

Psalm 121

I Sam 4: 1b-end

Luke 20: 27-40

Sun 19:

Psalm 86: 11-end

Rom 8: 12-25

Matt 13: 24-43

Mon 20:

Psalm 126

I Sam 5

Luke 20: 41-21:4

Tue 21:

Psalm 132

I Sam 6: 14-end

Luke 9: 1-3

Wed 22:

Psalm 30

I Sam 6: 15-end

Luke 8: 1-3

Thur 23:

Psalm 143

I Sam 8

Luke 21: 29-end

TOP 20 CHRISTIAN BOOKS FOR SUMMER READING

1 The Bible (various versions), 2 The Confessions (Augustine), 3 Pilgrims Progress (Bunyan), 4 The Crook in the Lot (Boston), 5 Holiness (Ryle), 6 Expository Thoughts on the Gospels (Ryle), 7 The Screwtape Letters (Lewis), 8 Mere Christianity (Lewis), 9 Knowing God (Packer), 10 The Cross of Christ (Stott), 11 God's Big Picture (Roberts), 12 The Reason for God (Keller), 13 The Prodigal God (Keller), 14 New Bible Commentary (IVP), 15 Dig Deeper (Sachs), 16 The Hiding Place (Ten Boom), 17 God's Smuggler (Andrew), 18 Can we trust the Gospels? (Williams), 19 Where is God in a Coronavirus world? (Lennox), 20 The Unquenchable Flame (Reeves).

I have copies of the vast majority of these. If you would like to borrow my copy to skim read before purchasing your own copy, let me know and I can make it available (you'll have to clean the surfaces and/or leave for 72 hours before use).

VICAR'S HOLIDAYS

I will be on my summer break from 25 July to 12 August inclusive.

With my love and prayers

Revd Paul Eddy, Vicar

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