

ST DENYS
STANFORD IN THE VALE



Friday Fellowship News No 20 4 September 2020

WELCOME BACK!

I AM delighted that we can gather again at St Denys for worship this coming Sunday (6SEP) for worship.

As I explained recently, the Revd Nigel Knights Johnson, who helped me out last year, has kindly agreed to become part of the 'ministry team' and support me until I have my hip operation. I have a consultant surgeon appointment on Oct 1, so hopefully we shall know more details/timescale after that. It is likely Nigel will lead/preach quite a bit with my parts (sermons) recorded as standing, or sitting for any length of time is very painful.

A 'HELLO' FROM NIGEL!

PAUL has asked me to tell you a bit about myself since I will be helping out for the next few months as much as I can.

I am married to Sarah and we have three adult sons who are now carving their own careers out, one in Spain, one in London and one in Surrey. My family home is in central London, and my wife comes from Sheffield. But we have retired to live in Long Hanborough, between Oxford and Witney, basically because we met in Oxford.

I came to Christ just after leaving boarding school and as a result of meeting some committed Christians in Edinburgh. Yes, I was baptised and confirmed, but it was only in Edinburgh that I met committed Christians who convinced me of its truth. I would say that God caught me at a good time: I was searching for what life was all about, saw people who lived knew their Faith. I wanted it and Him. And they put me on to a brilliant Church to go to in London where I really got going in the Faith.

The Oil Company BP sponsored me through what was called a Sandwich Degree, combining work and study, and I continued working with them after it finished. But I had been asking God the question 'What do You want me to do with my life?' and the answer, realistically, was - to become ordained.

I went to Theological College in Oxford, did a curacy in a classic Bible Belt Church just outside of London, which as an excellent training Parish. But we felt that the next step was outside Parish ministry, and I joined the Army as a Chaplain. I was there for 23 years before retiring and doing nine years in a country Parish in Guildford Diocese.

There I served three Churches in four villages which held – and still holds - only 1900 people. No new estates there! It was a perfectly sized Parish in the sense that it was small enough for me to get to know people very well. But by age 65 we felt God saying it was time to move on, and Sarah wanted her own house, and the best way to do so was to retire officially from parish ministry.

I still help out as much as possible, if I can fit in between my other, mostly sporting tennis (TEFL has gone off the radar with COVID, sadly). And Paul's need is something I hope I can help with in just a small way.

Rev Nigel Knights Johnson

BIBLE REASINGS FOR SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2020 - TRINITY 13

Psalm 119: 33-40

Teach me, LORD, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end. Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart.

³⁵ Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight. ³⁶ Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. ³⁷ Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word. ³⁸ Fulfill your promise to your servant, so that you may be feared. ³⁹ Take away the disgrace I dread, for your laws are good. ⁴⁰ How I long for your precepts! In your righteousness preserve my life.

Romans 13: 8-end

⁸Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet,"^[a] and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself."^[b] ¹⁰Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.

¹¹And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. ¹³Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.^[c]

Matthew 18 15-20

¹⁵"If your brother or sister^[b] sins,^[c] go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'^[c] ¹⁷If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸"Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be^[a] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be^[f] loosed in heaven.

¹⁹"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

BIBLE READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER

The Daily Bible readings for Morning prayer are as follows:-

Fri 4th:
Psalm 139
2 Sam 16: 1-14
Acts 10: 1-16

Sat 5th:

Psalm 121

2 Sam 17: 1-23

Acts 10: 17-33

Mon 7th:

Psalm 126

2 Sam 18: 1-18

Acts 10: 34-end

Tue 8th:

Psalm 132

2 Sam 18: 19-19:8a

Acts 11:1-18

Wed 9th:

Psalm 119: 153-end

2 Sam 19: 8b-23

Acts 11: 19-end

Thur 10th:

Psalm 143

2 Sam 19: 24-end

Acts 12:1-17

Fri 11th:

Psalm 144

2 Sam 19: 24-end

Acts 12: 1-17

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS - ZOOM

SADLY we had no interest shown in a new Discipleship group via Zoom for September, so we shall keep promoting this opportunity now we are able to get back to services with the hope of providing this new resource for October.

If you would like to take part in a one-hour-a-week Zoom Discipleship Group, to share ideas on the Sunday message and reading, from October, do email me, vicar@stdenys.org

JOHN WAKEFIELD

SADLY John, a faithful member of our 9am congregation, died this week having very recently been diagnosed with cancer. John is now with his Lord and his funeral arrangements have yet to be made, but due to Government restrictions on numbers, I'm sure folk will understand that Joanna will need to invite close family/friends on this occasion. Please can we give thanks to God for John's life, and pray for Jo in her grief.

SUNDAY SERVICE

FINALLY a reminder to come with a face covering, wash hands with gel on arrival and sit in one of the allocated seats, exiting via the door, top left, by the High Table in the Chancel. Children to go straight to village hall by 1010am and NOT to church please. Thank You!

With my love and prayers:

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