



Friday Fellowship News No 27, 25 October 2020

SUNDAY LINK-UP WITH 3,500 UK CHURCHES

I AM very excited to announce that this Sunday, 25 October, we're linking up with over 3,500 churches who, like us, are members of the Evangelical Alliance.

In the 1015am Service, we will be listening to a passionate message by Gavin Calver, my friend and it's Chief Executive, encouraging the Church to step up, step out and live out in this Covid-dominated world and make a difference as we stand on the Rock of Ages.



From 1 Samuel 14:6-13 Gav will share how God is calling you and me to have:

- a) courage (v8)
- b) greater togetherness as Christians (v7)
- c) faith, and
- d) action (v12).

Do come along and listen, but if you can't, log onto the St Denys YouTube channel or see the version posted on our church Facebook page. Thank you.

JOURNALING - AS A TOOL FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH THIS ADVENT?

OVER the past seven months I have been really encouraged by the number of people who have said that they have started to read the Bible daily, either through

Daily Bible Reading Notes, or via the Morning Prayer Readings we are sending out.

I have shared in recent Friday Fellowship News how highlighting a particular verse which stands out can help, and/or, writing that verse down on a card and meditating on it or, memorising the verse and the reference.

Many people find keeping a daily **Spiritual Journal** a very helpful means of keeping track of events and situations in life, how you are feeling, what God has been speaking to you about, prayer requests and answers to prayer - and an place for you simply to put on paper how you feel you are growing as a Christian, or questions that you have.

It doesn't have to be anything special. Many people simply use an A5 Notebook and write a few sentences or paragraphs each day. Some days they might just record a bible verse they've read, and a key event of that day. Whilst on others, they've used it as a form of a letter between them and God, pouring out how they are feeling, their questions, their cries of help (prayers) and also noting what they are grateful for.

For some people, they like to ask some basic questions which are good to use having heard any Bible passage, or listened to any sermon.

Questions such as:

- Is there ONE verse, or key thought that stands out to you that you'd like to meditate on, pray about, or research more this coming week? Write it down here.
- What did you learn about God? About people?
- Any life-lessons to apply? How do you plan to apply them?
- What can we pray for one another as a result of today's reading/sermon?

Any Amazon search will show you a range of leather-bound journals, but a simple book will do or, you might like to keep it as a word document on your computer, and simply add to it every day?

• **Perhaps you might start this coming Advent Sunday, 29 November, the Church's New Year's Day?**

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING – 15 NOVEMBER 2020

PLEASE join us, via Zoom, on Sunday 15th November at 3pm for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

This is an opportunity to read reports about Church activities during 2019, elect new church wardens and members of the Parochial Church Council (Trustees).

Zoom invite details will be emailed to you separate from this Friday Fellowship Newsletter, and nearer the time. Copies of Reports and Accounts shall be available via email and also posted onto the church website.

PRAYER TOPICS FOR THE WEEK

Friday – the PM and Government

Saturday – local GP surgeries

Sunday – Grange Nursing Home

Monday – Pre and Primary School

Tuesday – lonely and isolated in village

Wednesday – village young families

Thursday – for the selection of a new Bishop of Dorchester

Friday – for the £15,000 shortfall in our church budget to be met by the end of the year

BIBLE READINGS FOR NOVEMBER 2020

THESE are attached to the email covering this FFNews for you to use. As separate ADVENT Morning Prayer will be available during Advent with a Reflection on each day's reading. These will be sent out on the Friday before the start of the week, ie Sunday, so 27 November to start Advent Sunday – 29 November 2020.

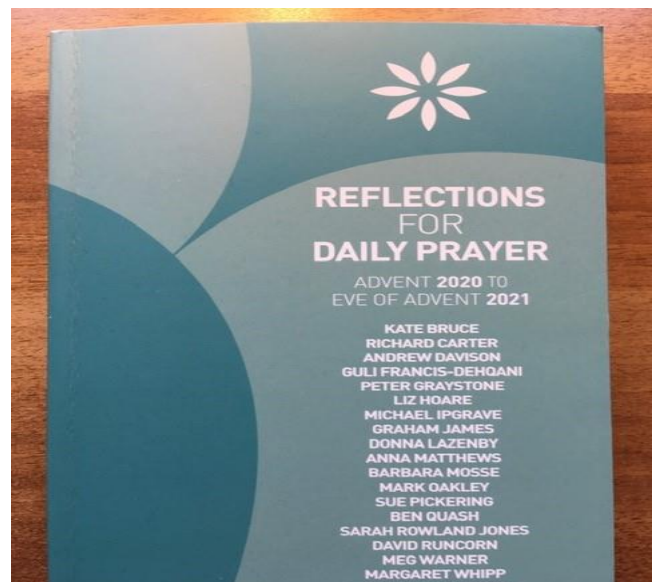
ST DENYS ZOOM COFFEE MORNINGS

THESE take place every Tuesday at 11am, and a Zoom invite is sent out by email each Monday. For 40 minutes or so, it is a great opportunity to link up with other church members, hear news and prayer requests, and we usually take a topic. These have ranged from good film or book recommendations to help us through lockdown, to special events in our lives, favourite holiday destinations to our favourite Bible stories and encounters.

Over the months we have all got to know each other better and it has helped to create deeper fellowship, one of our three stated Values. So why not join us as the colder autumn/ winter mornings set in. Why not make yourself a brew and log in at 11am each Tuesday?

REFLECTIONS FOR MORNING PRAYER

IF you have enjoyed reading the set Bible passages for Morning Prayer each week, you will, I am sure, appreciate this book which gives a daily Reflection on one of the set readings each day.



Entitled **Reflections for Daily Prayer**, published by Church House Publishing, priced £16.99, on the inside cover it gives you a very simple outline for Morning Prayer which you might like to use, fitting in the Bible Readings and suggestions for prayer where indicated. As an added bonus, on page 326 at the back of the book there is an Order for Night Prayer, also known as Compline (completeness), a simply liturgy to be said at the end of the year, usually directly before going to sleep, where you can reflect on the day and leave the day's worries with the Lord, praying for rest and asking for God's grace afresh, as you wake for the new day ahead.

Those who write the reflections are lay and ordained folk, male and female and come from all walks of life so over the year, you get a real insight into a lot of different perspectives. Also, if you do use these readings each day, every three years you will have read the whole of the Bible!

You can order online via Amazon, the Book Depository, Church House Publishing Online, or via the Christian Bookshops in Grove or Witney.

HOLIDAY DAYS

AS next week is School Half-Term, I shall be taking the 29/30th off as Holiday Days, in addition to my usual Wednesday 'day off' to spend time with the family. Any issues, please contact the Wardens. There will not be a FFN next week.

Revd Paul Eddy, Vicar.
The Vicarage

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