

ST DENYS

STANFORD IN THE VALE



Friday Fellowship News No 31, 20 November 2020

PRIVATE PRAYER – SUNDAY 11am

ALTHOUGH we can't meet for public worship on Sunday, the church will be open for Private Prayer between 11am and 12noon. Please bring a face covering, gel your upon arrival and follow the usual instructions once inside.

MP ENCOURAGEMENTS

WHAT incredible Psalms we have had this week in our Morning Prayer Bible readings! So many, so relevant to where we are in the midst of Covid and well worth writing down, memorising and meditating upon.

Today, Friday. Psalm 63: v 6-8: ***“I lie awake thinking of you, meditating on you throughout the night.***

“Because you are my helper, I sing for joy in the shadow of your wings.

“I cling to your strong right hand holding me secure.”

These past weeks in morning prayer, we have been looking at the book of Daniel. On Friday, we arrived at chapter 10 and at verse four in your bibles you may well have read it states *“on April 23, as I was standing on the bank of the great Tigers river”*

I, like you, was intrigued by the accurate reference but when I looked it up in my study bibles, the notes said *“on the 24th day of the first month, of the ancient Hebrew lunar Calendar. This date in the book of Daniel can be cross checked with dates in surviving Persian records and can be related accurately to our modern calendar. This event that we are reading about occurred on April 23, 536BC!”*

I find it staggering to think that modern-day archaeology has helped us to gain new insights into the Old Testament and, just as you and I perhaps keep a journal, this would have been the journal

entry of some kind, even if in Daniel's mind, till it got to be put onto parchment, that Daniel recorded for that day!

SUNDAY BIBLE READINGS & MESSAGE

THE readings for this coming Christ The King Sunday are Psalm 95: 1-7, Ephesians 1: 15-end and Matthew 25: 31-end.

I had prepared a sermon based on those readings, then on Thursday, on my Facebook timeline from a pastor I follow, I watched an incredible message which I believe is deeply inspired and anointed for us in these days. So much so, that I shall be uploading it to our FB page and our YouTube Channel over the weekend as I feel sure that you, like me, will be very encouraged and blessed by it.

ZOOM - APCM

MANY thanks to all who logon onto our Zoom APCM last Sunday.

It was a productive time and we all look forward to next year, being able to meet face to face for it.

Nigel Archer and Margaret William were re-elected as Churchwardens, though Margaret has given notice that she will only hold office until the APCM in 2021. My thanks go to both for being willing to stand again and, to carry on with the great job they both do.

ADVENT ZOOM SESSIONS

SO far, I have not had anyone say they would like to join a Zoom session for Advent to look at the questions related to the Sunday sermons.

Please can you drop me an email if you would like to join in. I can then see if there is sufficient

demand or, whether the questions can simply be used in personal reflection.

I fully understand that after months of zoom the novelty has worn off! It may well be that people just do not feel this the right medium for discussion of this nature. Please email me asap to vicar@stdenys.org if you would want to join in on a Thursday evening, or a daytime sessions, as I'd like to make a decision this coming week ahead of Advent Sunday. Thank you!

PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

AT this time of year when we think of family and friends we'd love to meet, can we also think about and pray for Christians, our spiritual family across the world, who are not only coping with Covid without the top-rate medical services we have with the NHS, but also suffer persecution?

As a church we support Open Doors, a leading international charity, based in Witney, who have supported the Persecuted Church for decades, and our own Nigel Archer is current working for them.

The link to their Christmas appeal and resources is here, but do have a good look at their main website and if you feel led, why not sign up to their newsletter to keep up to date?

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/resources/finding-family/>

THANK YOU!

OVER the first two weekends of October we held a Thanksgiving Appeal opportunity for the church family – and village – to make a donation to help with the church's finance for 2020.

As a result, we are delighted to announced that as of today, donations are £8,735, plus Gift Aid we can reclaim of £1416.25, making a total Thanksgiving of **£10151.25!**

The Churchwardens, PCC and I would like to thank all who gave so generously!

PUBLIC PURPOSES CHARITY

I am also delighted to announce that the Trustees of the Public Purposes Charity have most generously given us a Covid Emergency Grant of £5,000 to cover outgoings which, without their support, would have put us into the red this year.



Our sincere thanks to the Trustees for their ongoing support.

As a result of the Thanksgiving Appeal and the Public Purposes Charity Grant, the PCC has decided it is now able to pay the Parish Share to the diocese in full for 2020. We thank God for His faithfulness and provision.

HEALTH UPDATE

AFTER a long wait, I am delighted to say that next Thursday, 26 November, I have my Orthopaedic Pre-Assessment at the GW Hospital ahead of my full Hip Replacement operation.

As yet I don't have a definitive date for the operation, and obviously in Covid season, all elective surgery is at the mercy of wards/beds being needed for Covid patients. So, I would greatly value your ongoing prayers that the operation comes soon, for help with pain relief and, good sleep. Thank you!

NEWS TO SHARE?

IF you have news to share with the wider church family, do drop me an email and I'd love to include it in future editions of FFNews. Just email what you'd like me to add, plus picture if you have one, to vicar@stdenys.org

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