

**ST DENYS**  
STANFORD IN THE VALE



# Friday Fellowship News No 47, 26 March 2021

## CLOCKS CHANGED AT 2PM!



PLEASE DO NOT forget that the clocks go **FORWARD** on Sunday, so do change your clocks before bedtime, or you will arrive at church for our first service back as others leave 😊

## HOUR AT THE CROSS

ON Good Friday there will be a simple, reflective Hour at The Cross, ending with the congregation gathering, socially distanced, outside in the churchyard around the Easter Cross and humming/spoken-singing 'When I Survey The Wondrous Cross', then a closing prayer and depart.

Please arrive in good time (WITH A FACE COVERING) for a 2pm start. On your seat will be a Booklet with bible readings and hymns which Margaret shall play on the organ, and you can hum to or read the words. A special opportunity to reflect on the sacrifice Jesus made for you and me.

## EASTER SUNDAY

CANON Geoff Maughan from Hanney will be coming to lead, preach and preside at our Easter Sunday Holy Communion at 1015am.

It is vital you RESERVE your seat with Janet Warren please as we have a maximum capacity of 60 people in

church, socially distanced. Either call her on 01367 710789, or email [jmwarren302@gmail.com](mailto:jmwarren302@gmail.com) Please do not just turn up as we may have to, sadly, turn you away if we have reached capacity.

**Mark Woods is Bible Society's Editor.**

## PRAYER TOPICS

Saturday – the Royal family and their difficult issues

Sunday – Persecuted Christians in China

Monday – the sharing of vaccines with developing countries

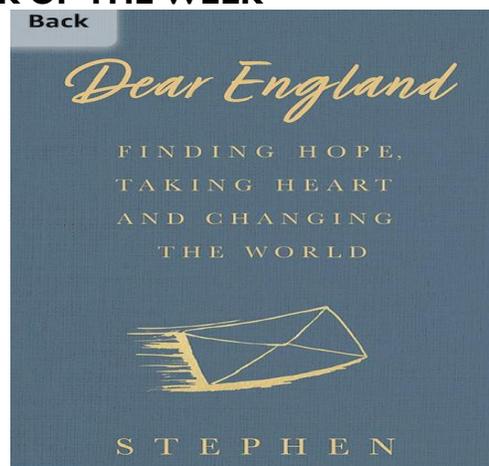
Tuesday – for many in the NHS who are exhausted

Wednesday – our local MP, David Johnston

Thursday – for all teachers – that they have a good, restful easter break

Friday – those made redundant/in financial need

## BOOK OF THE WEEK



MANY of you will know of Stephen Cottrell from his time as Bishop of Reading, when he came here, and now, he is Archbishop of York.

In this delightful little book, Stephen uses his considerable communication and evangelistic skills to write an evangelistic letter to the people of England, offering hope in Jesus Christ at a time when we have gone through a very dark tunnel.

I'd say it is focusses on people who would be Guardian/Times/Telegraph readers, not very occasional readers, but it clearly sets out the gospel and Stephen's passion and would be great to pass onto a friend having read it, and then have a chat over coffee to ask what they thought of his ideas for the future of our country.

An easy read, and well worth £11.44, though after Easter I suspect the price will drop considerably.

## **MORNING PRAYER READINGS & REFLECTIONS**

MY FINAL week reflections for Holy Week, ending on Saturday will be sent out separately. For daily Bible Readings for Morning Prayer, simply visit:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

There you will find the daily readings, Apps for your iPhone, laptop, computer etc. and loads more resources in addition to the lists I have previously provided. The Bible readings for this Sunday, Palm Sunday, are: -

### **Psalm 31: 9-18**

Have mercy on me, LORD, for I am in distress. Tears blur my eyes. My body and soul are withering away. <sup>10</sup>I am dying from grief; my years are shortened by sadness. Sin has drained my strength; I am wasting away from within. <sup>11</sup>I am scorned by all my enemies and despised by my neighbours— even my friends are afraid to come near me when they see me in the street, they run the other way. <sup>12</sup>I am ignored as if I were dead, as if I were a broken pot. <sup>13</sup>I have heard the many rumours about me, and I am surrounded by terror. My enemies conspire against me, plotting to take my life. <sup>14</sup>But I am trusting you, O LORD, saying, "You are my God!" <sup>15</sup>My future is in your hands. Rescue me from those who hunt me down relentlessly. <sup>16</sup>Let your favour shine on your servant. In your unfailing love, rescue me. <sup>17</sup>Don't let me be disgraced, O LORD, for I call out to you for help. Let the wicked be disgraced; let them lie silent in the grave.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>18</sup>Silence their lying lips— those proud and arrogant lips that accuse the godly.

### **Philippians 2: 5-11**

<sup>5</sup>You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. <sup>6</sup>Though he was God,<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>h</sup> he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. <sup>7</sup>Instead, he gave up his divine privileges<sup>[b]</sup>; he took the humble position of a slave<sup>[c]</sup> and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form,<sup>[d]</sup> he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honour and gave him the name above all other names, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **Mark: 11: 1-11**

As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead. <sup>2</sup>"Go into that village over there," he told them. "As soon as you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>3</sup>If anyone asks, "What are you doing?" just say, "The Lord needs it and will return it soon."<sup>4</sup> The two disciples left and found the colt standing in the street, tied outside the front door. <sup>5</sup>As they were untying it, some bystanders demanded, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" <sup>6</sup>They said what Jesus had told them to say, and they were permitted to take it. <sup>7</sup>Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it, and he sat on it.

<sup>8</sup>Many in the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others spread leafy branches they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup>Jesus was in the centre of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting, "Praise God!<sup>[a]</sup> Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD! <sup>10</sup>Blessings on the coming Kingdom of our ancestor David! Praise God in highest heaven!"<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>11</sup>So Jesus came to Jerusalem and went into the Temple. After looking around carefully at everything, he left because it was late in the afternoon. Then he returned to Bethany with the twelve disciples.

### **HEALTH UPDATE**

I WOULD greatly value prayers as I go in for final tests on Tuesday 6 April and then my hip replacement on Thursday 8 April. I anticipate being off work for between 6-8 weeks, but we shall keep you posted. During that time, any questions please contact the Churchwardens or Janet Warren. Clergy cover will be available should you need it. Thank you.

## **Working Party - This Saturday (27th Mar) 9.30am - 3.30pm**

YOUR INVITATION to join the St Denys Church Working Party – very socially distanced!!

Outside jobs needing doing include:

- trimming shrubs / trees, pick up fallen twigs / branches.
- Trim grass around trees. Clean out gully and drains.
- Removing ivy from tombstones.
- Bring tools as necessary.

Many thanks, Peter Gill, Co-ordinator