

Dear Friends,

It doesn't quite seem possible, but as I sit to write this letter, two years have passed since I (and my family) came to join you here in Denmead and time has gone by so quickly.

Time is a funny thing! In some ways time can pass by very slowly. This seems true when we're awaiting something special – a wedding, a longed-for child or an exciting treat. Time can also pass by very slowly, especially when we're awaiting news – exam results or results from medical tests or news from a loved one. As a child, time seemed to pass by slowly for me; I can remember waiting for what seemed like forever for Christmas to arrive. However, as I've grown older time seems to flash by much quicker. The years seem to disappear, and I often wonder what the passing of time will feel like as I get older still! Perhaps you feel the same. And of course, time passes even quicker when we're busy and have a thousand and one things to do. Every one of them needs to be done ASAP, and we just don't have the time we need.

Last month in my letter I reflected that not one of us knows the future. I looked at Jesus' words not to worry about tomorrow but rather trust and follow him each day, to trust in his ways and to seek his kingdom of love, peace and freedom. (Matthew 6: 25-34) Following from this, it strikes me that whatever our days of life may be, time is precious and should be managed effectively and well.



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But strictly speaking, time is not something human beings can manage well! When God stopped the sun in the middle of the sky to allow Joshua to win an important battle, that was time management! (Joshua 10:12-13). We can't stop the sun. We can't even slow it down. God can make it go backwards! (See 2 Kings 20:9-11).



So, we begin by recognising that time itself belongs to God. God made it, and He sustains it. All we can do is manage ourselves in the way we use the time God has so graciously given us. It is not time, rather it is our purposes, goals, plans and actions that we are able to manage. These four key things are not only within our power to affect, but God commands us to do so. They are the proper focus of any effort to use our time well.

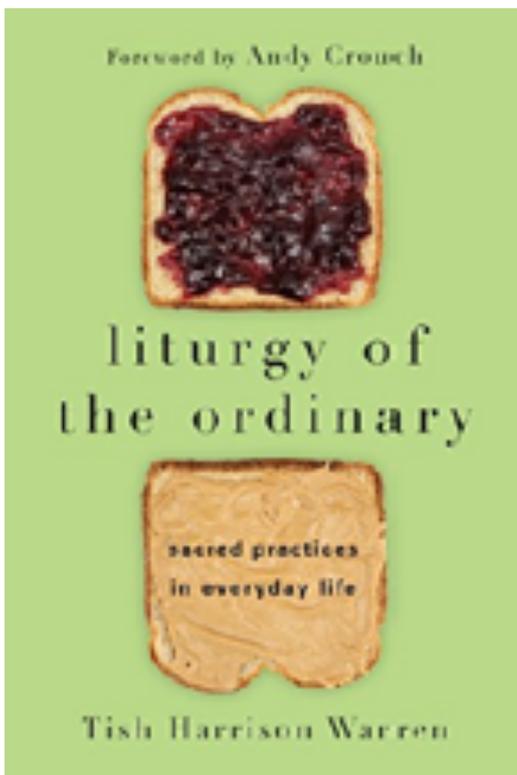
Recently I've read a very useful down-to-earth book 'Liturgy of the Ordinary' which explores everyday life events like waking up, or checking emails, or sitting in traffic, or making the bed, plus many others. The author,

Tish Harrison Warren considers how our practices and habits each day can be adapted and transformed allowing us to meet with God in everything and use our time effectively. The book contains many questions for reflection. Tish shows how every hour of each day can become an occasion of grace and renewal.

I commend this book to you as a thought-provoking read which may prove helpful in revealing how we can use our time to encounter, follow and love the living God.

With every blessing in Christ,

Revd Emma



All Saints Church Services

Sunday 3rd February: Candlemas

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion
6.00pm Healing Service

Sunday 10th February: 4th Sunday before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Praise
6.00pm Evensong

Saturday 16th February

Messy Church - CANCELLED

Sunday 17th February: 3rd Sunday before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion
6.00pm Informal Service

Sunday 24th February: 2nd Sunday before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am All Age Communion
6.00pm Evensong

Morning Prayer
is said
Mon-Fri at
8.30am –
everyone is
most welcome.

The church is
open during
daylight hours,
for private
prayer. If you
wish to light a
candle, there is a
candle stand in
the chapel.

Next Messy Church – Saturday 16th March at 3.30

For all families with children.

The whole family is welcome to Messy Church, grandparents and carers included.

Join us in this fun-filled afternoon of craft, singing and eating together.

We meet in the Church Hall from 3.30pm – 5.30pm.

Further information at

www.allsaintsdenmead.org.uk/messy-church

or from Revd. Emma Racklyeft 023 9226 2647



Saying goodbye to Revd Sandie and Geoff

On Sunday 6th January we said a fond farewell to Revd Sandie and Geoff Osborne as they retire to the Isle of Wight.

Revd Sandie and Geoff first came to All Saints parish 7½ years ago as Sandie began her curacy. In recent years Sandie served as Associate Priest at All Saints.

As a church and community, we are thankful to them both for their ministry, time, commitment, love, care and compassion amongst us. Revd Sandie has been involved in many areas of church life including Messy Church, pastoral visiting, leading services and much, much more. Geoff has supported Sandie's ministry as well as also helping at Messy Church, serving as Health and Safety Co-ordinator and playing his guitar in worship. We will very much miss them both but wish them well for the future. We pray God's blessing upon them as they settle into a new community and make new friends.

Revd Emma



Home Visiting

If you are lonely, sick or housebound or would just like someone to visit you, All Saints Church has a confidential visiting team and one of our members would willingly come, visit and spend time listening to you.

Please phone us on 9226 8757. If the answerphone is on leave a message and we will phone you back.

NEARLY SOLD OUT!

Concert by Hampshire Police Male Voice Choir

Saturday 23rd March at 7.30pm

at All Saints Church

There are only a few tickets left for this concert so this is your last chance to buy tickets (£12 each including light refreshments) available from the Church Office (9-11.30am Mon-Fri) or download an order form from: www.allsaintsdenmead.org.uk



We are delighted to welcome back this much-loved and very popular choir which attracts huge audiences. The Choir's Musical Director, Terri Freeman LRAM, LTCL, FISM, is a professional vocal teacher and is on schedule to become the choir's longest serving Musical Director early this year. She conducted her very first concert with the choir at All Saints in October 1997 and her 10th anniversary was celebrated with another fundraising concert at the church. The Choir's accompanists are Nigel Smith and Sian Bibby-Hsia, the choir's deputy accompanist and occasional deputy MD.

Formed in 1940 as the Portsmouth City Police Choir, it was in demand to lift

morale and for fundraising activities in the battered city. After police reorganisation in 1967 it became the Hampshire Police Male Voice Choir, and now has about 60 members, retired officers and members of the Community. It has performed in prestigious venues at home and abroad. HPMVC raises thousands of pounds for local and national organisations and promotes the Hampshire Constabulary's Crime Prevention, Community Safety and Trading Standards messages.

Come along and bring your family and friends to enjoy the Choir's extensive repertoire of music ranging from the most sacred to sea shanties, folk songs and "show stoppers".

World Day of Prayer

This will take place on Friday, 1st March at 2pm at St Wilfrid's church, Cowplain.

As last year, we are combining with other churches and denominations in the area for the annual World Day of Prayer, to which all are invited. We will be part of a great wave of prayer encircling the globe – starting as the sun rises over Samoa and ending some 36 hours later back in the Pacific, as the sun sets over American Samoa. We will be praying and sharing with people in over 120 countries and islands around the world. Each year the service is put together by people of a different country and this year it has been written by the women of Slovenia. If you are able to join us, you will be most welcome.



From the Registers

Baptisms

Sunday 13th January Harry Turnbull

Funerals

Friday 18th January Mr Michael Partridge

Wednesday 16th January Mrs Teresa Benham

Tuesday 29th January Mrs Kathleen Distin

Bereavement Support

There is a monthly 'Tea and Friendship' afternoon for anyone recently bereaved. This is an informal time when people can meet others, have tea and make friends.

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month between 2-4pm in the church hall. For more information please phone All Saints Church office 9226 8757.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

The Church of the Sacred Heart and St Peter the Apostle
356 London Road, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO7 7SR

Parish Priest:

Rev Mgr Canon Jeremy Garratt

(023) 9226 2289

shspa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

www.waterlooville-catholic.org.uk



Mass Times

Saturday Mass Vigil: 6.15 pm

Sunday Masses: 10.30 am Children's Liturgy; 6.30 pm Folk Mass

Please refer to Newsletter for weekday Mass times.

SALE

Denmead Baptist Church are holding a Church Sale

at The Cornerstone, Mead End Road

Saturday 9th February

10am - 12 noon

Items for sale will be tables, chairs, kitchen units, crockery, cutlery, kitchen equipment, skittle alley, bookcases, cake display unit, and bric a brac.

A Painting for Candlemas

This month of February opens with the celebration of Candlemas. On the 2nd we recall that special moment of enlightenment when Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the temple.

They meet Simeon, who represents the waiting people of Israel – a nation looking for a better world now that the holy city was in the hands of Roman invaders.

Simeon clung to the hope that God would come to bring freedom and a new life. When it came, there was no fanfare, no warning. St Luke in his Gospel tells us of an ordinary family from faraway Nazareth who go to Jerusalem to perform the religious duties for the firstborn son. But in their encounter with Simeon we see and hear something extraordinary.

The scene is captured in this beautiful painting of 1623 that hangs in the National Gallery: 'The Presentation in the Temple' by Guercino. The artist Giovanni Barbieri had the curious nickname Guercino which means 'Squinty.' Why squinty, we are not sure, for all is clear and lyrical in this work.



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also find
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At the base of the canvas we see the turtle doves with two ducks, but the heart of the scene focuses on Mary, Joseph and Simeon linked by the Christ-Child. Notice the gentle hands of Mary, the strong, supportive hands of Joseph, and the outstretched, waiting hands of Simeon. He may be an old man, but he is ready to welcome the babe, who is offered as a sign of hope and light for the future. A candle burns at the right side to emphasise the light shed by this meeting of infancy and old age.

St Luke by tradition was an artist himself, depicting the stories of his gospel with the deft strokes of a painter. In this scene the words of the evangelist and the skill of a 17th century Italian artist tell us that, at whatever age we are, we can also find light and hope as we offer our hands and our hearts to welcome the Christ-Child.

By the Rev Michael Burgess

Denmead in Bloom – We Need You!

Would you like to become a DiBber? We are always happy to welcome new volunteers to our working parties. No experience is necessary and you can do as much or little as you like.

We are busy pruning the living willow play area in Harvest Field off Southwick Road and at the end of May will be clearing the containers in front of the shops and replanting them for summer.

Working parties take place whenever a job needs doing but we also need people who can do a regular job such as watering. We are a friendly bunch and always have a break for refreshments and a laugh and a chat during working parties.



Come & Join Us!

Contact me if you would like to help keep Denmead blooming and be added to our email list for information on when we are working next.

Liz Williams, DiB Coordinator,

023 9226 9642,

liz@greensleeves.eclipse.co.uk

Denmead Twinning Association

Early in a new year we all tend to look back on what's happened and then look forward enthusiastically to the year ahead.

That is really the same with us in twinning; at our AGM in mid-January we looked back on the twinning events and things that have happened in 2018, followed by a delicious meal at Barnard's restaurant in the village.

Looking ahead we have several social events lined up for the next couple of months. The first is this month.

Saturday 23rd February – Travel around the World Tasting Wines

We shall sample some delicious wines from different countries as we travel around the world, with each wine accompanied by delicious canapes from that country.

Janine Pert, recently from Discover Wines, will lead us on our wine travels; during the evening you will have the chance to drink at least half a bottle of wine and an impressive amount of excellent food.

Tickets available (members £15 non-members £16) from John Byrne 023 9225 3621 or email byrne.jv@gmail.com

We are always looking for new members to join us.
Interested? Then contact Patrick Binks 9226 2912

