



# PARISH PROFILE 2018

## **Parish**

St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Denham  
Incorporating  
St Mark's Denham Green  
St Francis New Denham

## **Incumbent**

Revd Christoph Lindner

## **Deanery**

Amersham

## **Diocese**

Diocese of Oxford

## OUR VISION



### We Pray Like Jesus

*Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come."*  
Luke 11.2

*Jesus taught his disciples to pray to God as 'Father' and was in constant communication with him. As his followers we want all our life to be grounded in our relationship with him.*

### We Welcome Like Jesus

*When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today."*  
Luke 19.5

*We have experienced God's welcome in Jesus and want to be a welcoming community for everyone.*

### We Share Like Jesus

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.* John 1.14

*We are called to share life, faith and ministry and to develop a culture of generosity that speaks of our generous God.*

## Who we are

We are the parish church of Denham in South Bucks, a diverse community with a population of about 7,000. As a church family we are united around the good news of Jesus Christ and our vision to pray, welcome and share like Jesus.

St Mary's Church in Denham Village is the historic heart of the community (the oldest part was built around 900 years ago) and the main focus of our worshipping life. Over the last 80 years the parish has grown significantly and new 'villages' within the parish boundaries such as Denham Green and Higher Denham have developed. As a result, two 'mission churches' were built: St Mark's in Denham Green and St Francis in New Denham. In the past, these were served by a training curate and a Church Army Evangelist. Currently our ministry team consists of our Rector, organist and choir director, parish secretary and ordinand-in-training. Our two churchwardens and PCC are highly engaged with our mission and ministry; a range of church groups are led and supported by many of our committed and motivated church members.



St Mary's Church building and community holds the affections of many people and is popular for baptisms, weddings and funerals. The number of weddings conducted at our parish church is well above the national average. We have a large churchyard with burial space for many years to come.

Our Rector began his ministry in March 2016 from St James in Gerrards Cross and Fulmer, after a thorough process of consultation between the Bishop of Buckingham, the Archdeacon of Buckingham, the Rector of St James and the patron, churchwardens and PCC of Denham Parish Church.

As a result of this consultation and after formal interviews, Christoph and his wife Edda brought with them a group of about 25 members of St James, who joined our church to strengthen our ministry and mission, especially to young people and families.



Since then we have successfully restarted our work with children and families through a weekly Sunday Club, a thriving toddler group ("Little Lions"), a monthly "Messy Church" and regular assemblies in both local primary schools. Since 2015 the electoral roll has grown from 102 to 126 members; about a quarter of them do not live in the parish. Over the course of an average week our worship services are attended by about 100-130 adults and 6-20 children. The worship style of our services is varied and ranges from BCP and sung Holy Communion to more informal Café Church and Messy Church.

While Denham Parish Church has been growing 'younger' over the last years, about two thirds of members are above 60. There is much scope to develop our ministry among seniors. For more information on the local community see page 9.

St Mark's Church Hall in Denham Green is a multi-purpose building, which is hired regularly by local community groups (including Brownies and Girl Guides) and the venue for our more informal services and children's groups. St Francis Chapel in New Denham hosts a monthly service and discussion group. It is part of a larger community centre and there is much scope for developing our ministry in this part of the parish.

The only other church in our parish is the Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy Name (part of St Joseph's RC Church in Chalfont St Peter). We have excellent relationships with all the churches in our area, with regular meetings of church leaders for prayer and occasional joint initiatives.

## Events through the year:





## Our vision and mission

Our church's vision is to *pray, welcome* and *share* like Jesus. As part of the Body of Christ in Denham it is our desire to become more and more like him and to represent him in this parish and beyond by word and action. The three words pray, welcome, share describe our direction of travel on this journey:

### Pray like Jesus

We believe that prayer must be the bedrock of our church's life. Before we do, God is asking us to be connected with him – if we abide in him we will bear much fruit. It is our vision to root our hearts, minds and lives in Christ through prayer, worship and Scripture and to develop rhythms of prayer, Bible reading and worship - together and on our own. We also want to explore creative ways of praying visibly in our community.

Over the last years we have taught about prayer in our services, held a weekly prayer meeting for two years and joined "Thy Kingdom Come" - the prayer initiative started by Archbishop Justin Welby. At times we have used the "Try Praying" booklet to help people start on their own prayer journey. Beyond that we seek to make prayer a natural part of our everyday lives and of all church activities. We have a long way to go and realise that in a busy church, the priority of prayer can easily get lost.



Denham Parish Church has used the BRF Bible reading notes for many years. Over the last two years we have given away hundreds of Luke's and Mark's gospels to invite people to read the Bible for themselves.

### **Welcome like Jesus**

As a smaller church we have seen the power of a welcoming community. Our vision is that our buildings, services and events are places of welcome for all and especially for those with no previous experience of church.



We have started new forms of worship such as Café Church and Messy Church and are about to review our existing services to make sure they are welcoming and accessible. In the medium term we will review and renew all our worship services and are planning to establish a weekly informal worship service with a focus on families, as well as a more regular worship service at St Francis in New

Denham. However, with only one ordained minister on our team, this plan is not yet sustainable.

Our ultimate goal is to develop a lifestyle of welcome and hospitality, wherever we are. We have many contacts through visitors and occasional offices. We see much untapped potential in developing a thoughtful and loving follow-up.

Our welcome is also expressed by our communication in print and online. We have recently redesigned our website and are about to relaunch our church magazine, which has about 500 subscribers, most of whom are not regular worshippers.





## Share like Jesus

We are called to share life, faith and ministry and to develop a culture of generosity that speaks of our generous God. Over the next 18 months one central aim towards this goal is to establish a range of lifegroups to help all ages and stages to grow in faith and friendship (we currently have three lifegroups). We are committed to offering a course such as Alpha or START! at least once a year and to grow in confidence to share the good news of Jesus and to invite friends to find out about Jesus through the events of our church. In November 2018 we are joining other local churches to run a week of mission under the banner "Rethink".



Our work with children and families is still in its infancy and it will remain a priority for us to be part of the evangelisation of emerging generations in our country. Some of our initiatives have been more successful than others — our goal is to discover where God is already at work and join in. We have grown strong links with our two local primary schools.

We also have many opportunities to share life and faith with seniors in our parish and would like to develop this ministry further. Currently our Rector holds monthly Communion services at White Plains residential care home and Denham Garden Village.

An essential part of sharing life and ministry is team work and helping disciples to disciple others, using their gifts. We have established a pastoral care team and are committed to developing other ministries as and when we can form the right teams to lead and sustain them.

Thanks to the generosity of our church family we have met our financial needs over the last two years and paid our parish share. We invite every person who calls our church their spiritual home to take part in planned Christian giving and are committed to raising our giving to God's mission beyond our parish to 10 percent over the next years. Recently we have reduced the multiple charities our church has supported in the past to five mission partners, with whom we are building stronger relationships.



# Associate Minister (House for Duty or Self-Supporting)

## Person Specification

### *We seek an associate minister who:*

- is creative and innovative in shaping mission and discipleship
- is comfortable leading worship in a variety of styles, from BCP to Messy Church
- will develop the many opportunities we have through occasional offices
- is committed to teaching and preaching from the Bible as the divinely inspired Word of God and supreme authority
- is a team player and has a good track record of leading teams
- will take significant responsibility in some or all of the following areas: ministry to seniors, developing our prayer life, developing leaders and small groups
- will work for the equivalent of two days a week plus Sundays

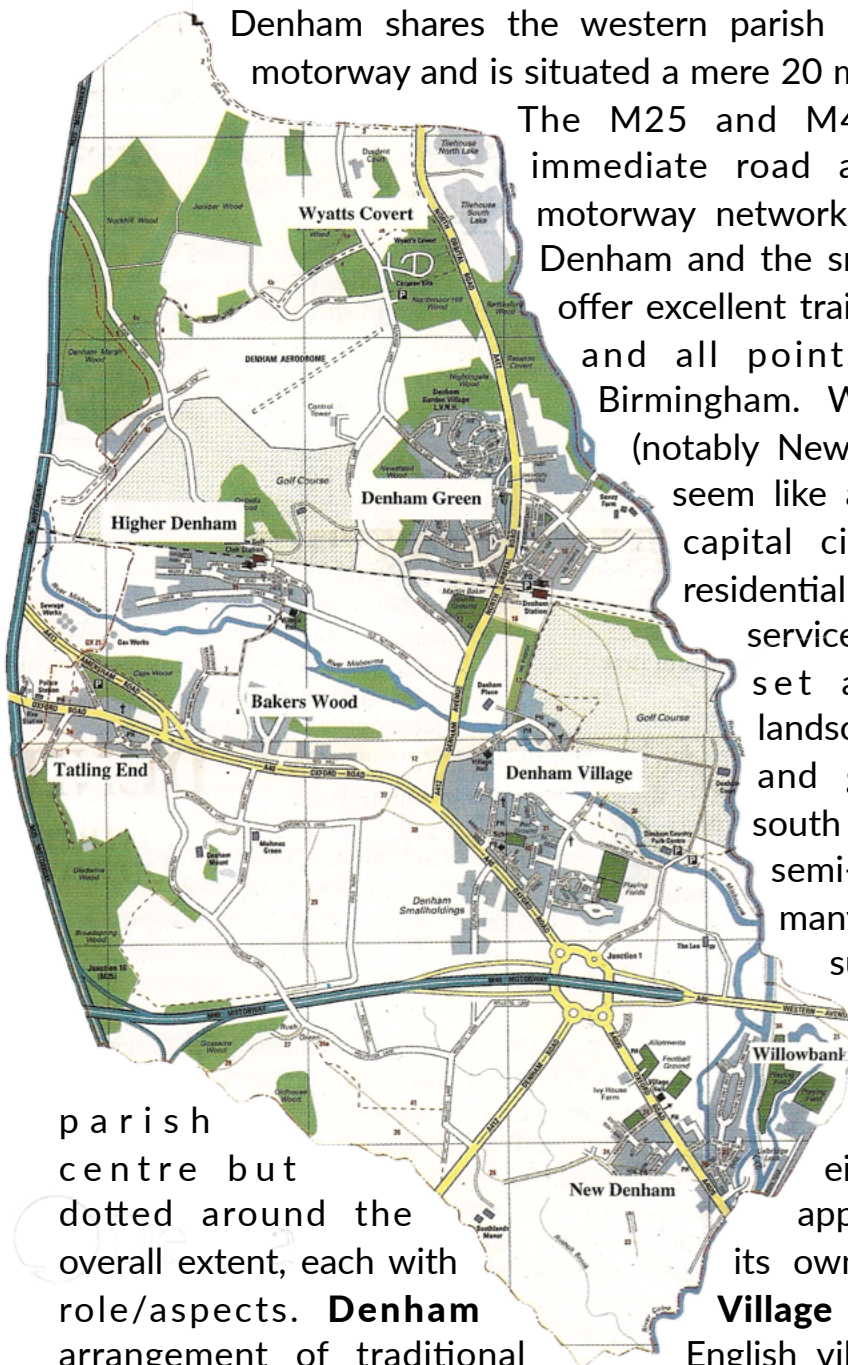
### *We offer:*

- an exciting opportunity to help us shape our mission in this new season of our church's life
- a close and collaborative working relationship with our rector and team of lay leaders
- the flexibility to work to your strengths, and opportunities to develop and nurture your gifts
- a welcoming church family
- House for Duty: provision of a family home located in the parish, with excellent transport links
- Self-supporting: provision of office space in the parish





## Denham Parish: geography and communities



Denham shares the western parish boundary with the M25 motorway and is situated a mere 20 miles from central London.

The M25 and M40 motorways provide immediate road access to the national motorway network; the railway stations of Denham and the smaller Denham Golf Club offer excellent train connections to London and all points north-westward to Birmingham. While parts of Denham (notably New Denham) may therefore seem like a western suburb of our capital city, the overall mix of residential communities, light and service industry businesses, all set amongst green-belt landscapes of fields, woodlands and golf courses, give this south Buckinghamshire parish a semi-rural air that surprises many first-time visitors from surrounding urban areas.

parish centre but dotted around the overall extent, each with role/aspects. **Denham** arrangement of traditional buildings dating back to the 16– 17<sup>th</sup> centuries; St Mary's church, the Victorian school building, the green, pubs and private residential dwellings. Even though the village is located off the main A 412 road that runs north-south through the parish, its quaint and historic nature has established it as a regional attraction with visitors throughout the year, especially those heading to the pubs and restaurant.

(Map courtesy of Denham Parish Council)



**Denham Green** is the main commercial centre of the village, with its retail outlets, professional services, restaurants and petrol station, straddling the A 412, Watford to Slough main road. This is the largest populated area in our parish, including mostly post-war housing, Denham Green Academy (primary school), and a doctor's and two dentists' surgeries. Recent modern residential redevelopments include Denham Garden



Village (a retirement village on the site of the old Licensed Victuallers National Home), Landmark Place (retirement apartments) and a recent development of the old Denham Film Studios. We have several care homes for the elderly in the parish with close associations to St Mary's Church.

**New Denham** and **Willowbank** are those residential parish outposts adjacent to the boundary with the London Borough of Hillingdon and the town of Uxbridge, the nearest largest town to Denham and the interchange for the local bus transport service. Uxbridge is also the western terminus for the Metropolitan and Piccadilly Underground lines from/to London.

**Baker's Wood** and **Tatling End** are hamlets accessed from the A40 Oxford Road, the latter including a roadside inn, restaurant and convenience store, together with the local fire station.

By contrast, **Higher Denham** is somewhat isolated from the rest of the parish, comprising private residencies (arranged up the hillside away from the River Misbourne) and the headquarters of the internationally renowned aircraft ejector seat manufacturer, Martin-Baker Aircraft Company, the major employer in the parish.

Other sources of employment in the parish are Intercontinental Hotel Group (IHG) and Bosch in Denham Green, Smith's Garden Centre in New Denham and other smaller family-run garden nurseries.





**Wyatts Covert** is a mobile homes park of more than 100 privately owned residencies for the over 55 age group. This is located at the northern end of the parish alongside **Denham Aerodrome**, licensed for private small aircraft use.

Around our communities and golf courses, the greater proportion of the parish extent is farmland and wooded areas. Working the land has been a fundamental part of Denham since the time of the Domesday Book and is reflected today by dotted farmsteads and garden nurseries. Green landscapes of a more relaxed nature are our two private members' golf courses: Denham Golf Club and the Buckinghamshire Golf Club that hosts major tournaments. Also within the parish boundaries lies Denham Country Park with a visitors' centre and excellent walks along the Grand Union Canal.



Other leisure and social pastimes are centred on the facilities offered by the communities themselves; the Village Memorial Hall, Higher Denham Community Hall, New Denham Community Centre (with St Francis Chapel). Together with St Mark's Church Hall in Denham Green they host a variety of social activities that serve those communities directly and attract participants from across the parish and beyond.





## Pattern of Worship

### Sundays

8.00am Holy Communion (weekly, 5-15 adults)

Venue: St Mary's Church. A reflective BCP service of Holy Communion with a short homily.



10.30am Morning Worship or Holy Communion (weekly, 70-120 adults, 6-20 children)

Venue: St Mary's Church. Our main Sunday service with sung Holy Communion, led by our choir, on the second and fourth Sunday; Morning Worship (often with baptisms) on the other Sundays; with Sunday Club for children each week (except special all-age family services). Once a month: "Destiny" for older children and younger teenagers in the Rectory.

3.30pm Café Church (first Sunday, 20-25 adults)

Venue: St Mark's Church Hall. An informal service with traditional hymns and prayers and opportunities to talk around tables. Homemade cakes and drinks are served.

4.00pm Messy Church (fourth Sunday, 8-15 adults, 5-12 children)

Venue: St Mark's Church Hall. Established in the autumn of 2017, following the Messy Church pattern of activities & crafts / celebration / joint meal. All-ages stay together throughout.



## **Mondays**

10.30am Holy Communion (third Monday, 6-15 adults)

Venue: Denham Garden Village. An informal service of Holy Communion for residents (BCP).

## **Tuesdays**

10.00am Service with discussion group (first Tuesday, 4-8 adults)

Venue: St Francis Chapel. An informal service with hymns, prayers and an opportunity to discuss the topic of the short homily.

2.00pm Holy Communion (last Tuesday, 10-20 adults)

Venue: White Plains Residential Care Home. An informal service of Holy Communion for residents (Common Worship).

## **Thursdays**

10.00am Holy Communion (weekly, 6-15 adults)

Venue: St Mary's Church Vestry. An informal service of Holy Communion with a short homily (BCP)



## Diocese of Oxford

The Diocese of Oxford serves the mission of the Church in Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes. The Diocese comprises more than 600 parishes, with over 800 churches, serving a diverse population of more than 2 million people located in all types of settings.

Due to the size and complexity of the Diocese, we have three Area Bishops who exercise considerable strategic & pastoral oversight for their Archdeaconries. The Bishop of Buckingham is the Rt Revd Alan Wilson who has been the Area Bishop since 2003.

With the appointment of the new Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, a new common vision is emerging for the Diocese of Oxford; we are called to be a Christ-like Church, which is *contemplative*, *compassionate* and *courageous*.

The following strategic priorities have been emerging:

- Make a difference in the world
- Support and grow the local church
- Establish new churches and congregations
- Serve our schools
- Invest in Milton Keynes
- Renew discipleship and ministry

These priorities will be supported centrally by resources, training, conferences, workshops, and much more. The diocese is inviting benefices and their priests to share a vision rather than demanding a response. It wants all its priests to flourish in ministry and to deepen their enjoyment of God.

Alongside the emerging diocesan vision, the priorities and principles for the Buckingham Archdeaconry are set out in our Buckingham Mission Action Plan (see <http://www.oxford.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Bucks-Archdeaconry-Plan-0515.pdf>)





## Amersham Deanery

Oxford Diocese is one of the largest in England, made up by the counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. If Bucks alone were snipped off and made into its own diocese, it would still be the 5th biggest in the country! It has great tracts of agricultural countryside, but the metropolitan area of Milton Keynes also lies within the county and Slough, which was historically part of Bucks, is just across the county boundary in Berkshire.

Besides this, the Chilterns, being on the Metropolitan and Chiltern tube and rail lines, are a favourite area of residence for those working in the City financial community. Property prices are correspondingly high.

Deaneries of varying sizes provide the context for the day to day working of the Church of England parishes locally. Amersham Deanery, of which Denham Parish is a part, is one of the largest and almost certainly the wealthiest in the Diocese. However, while many households could be described as 'comfortable' there are patches of significantly less prosperous housing. Denham Parish itself is socio-economically very diverse.

There is an excellent spirit of cooperation between all parishes in the Deanery, and the clergy chapter is strong. Our two co-area deans (Tim Harper and Martin Williams) and their assistant (Cassa Messervy) aim to provide pastoral care and supervision for incumbents, and can be relied on to provide a listening ear, help and advice whenever needed.

Tim Harper

Co-Area Dean



## Further Information

### Websites

Our website: [www.denhamparish.church](http://www.denhamparish.church)

Website of the Diocese of Oxford: <https://www.oxford.anglican.org>

Website of Amersham Deanery: <http://www.amershamdeanery.org.uk>

Denham Parish Council website: <http://www.denhambucks-pc.gov.uk>

Each application pack will include our **Annual Report for 2017**, which contains our financial information, details on our ministry team, PCC and committees, as well as reports from all our ministry areas. You can also download the report from our website:

<https://www.denhamparish.church/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Annual-Report-2017.pdf>

We appreciate that there may be **further questions** that you would like to ask before making an application. Our Rector, Christoph Lindner, would be pleased to have an initial, informal conversation (01895 834733 or [rector@denhamparish.church](mailto:rector@denhamparish.church)).

For an **application pack**, please contact

The Bishop of Buckingham's Office, Sheridan, Grimms Hill,  
Great Missenden, HP16 9BG

Telephone: 01494 862173 | Email: [bucksapplications@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:bucksapplications@oxford.anglican.org)

Enhanced DBS disclosure is required



“ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ”

*John 15:5*

