

FEBRUARY - APRIL 2020

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DENHAM PARISH NEWS

WATER OF LIFE:
ST MARY'S BAPTISMAL FONT

WATERWAYS IN DENHAM:
THE MISBOURNE RIVER

BIBLE DETECTIVES:
DID JESUS RISE
FROM THE DEAD?



Denham
Parish Church

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Cover Photo: The Easter Cross at St Mary's Church

How to find us: St Mary's UB9 5BH, St Mark's UB9 5HT, St Francis UB9 4DW

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FROM THE EDITOR

At Christmas our young people introduced us to a beautiful new song 'The angels knew' [Nick & Becky Drake: <https://tinyurl.com/theangelsknew>].

*Into the night, into the cold
Onto the stable floor
The Son of God was born
From heaven's throne, to Mary's arms
The God who made the stars
Became like one of us.
This day of love, this day of grace
This day when God came
To embrace the human race
The hope of all, the light of life
The King of Glory
Born to die for you and I.*

For me, these words encapsulate not only the awesomeness of Christmas when we celebrate Jesus, God's Son coming from heaven to earth, but they then draw us forward to Easter when we remember Jesus' death and resurrection – bringing hope to all.

Please join us as we journey through Lent towards Easter and may you find afresh the God who came 'to embrace the human race'.



Every blessing,

Cathy Macqueen

magazine@denhamparish.church

BE READY FOR SOMETHING NEW

MESSAGE FROM
NNAMDI MADUKA, ASSOCIATE MINISTER



Dear friends,

Happy new year! How has 2020 been for you so far?

A new year usually comes with some new year's resolutions. Are you stuck in a cycle of unfilled new year's resolutions? The new year can be a stark reminder of our past failures - but the Bible tells us that it doesn't have to be this way. God spoke through the prophet Isaiah:

'Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland' (Isaiah 43:18-19).

Looking at the new things that God is doing, rather than looking at our past can be challenging. Last year I made a resolution to minimise the time I spent on my smartphone. Looking back, I do not think I did very well in keeping to that. God is telling us not to dwell on the past, we can bring it to Him. He is able to make all things new and give us a fresh start. How many times in our lives do we struggle with the same inability to let go of the past? It is important to note that when God our Father says we should not dwell on 'the former things', this includes our victories as well as our defeat.

We all struggle with many failures and unfulfilled dreams but freedom comes when we realise that we need help. God invites us to accept what Jesus did on the cross and allow Him to create a new heart and right spirit within us. There is also support and encouragement we can offer to one another. Bob Stain once said that 'personal relationships are the fertile ground on which all advancements, all successes and all achievements in real life grow. I believe that if we could look into each other's heart and understand the individual challenges each of us face, we will treat each other gently with care, kindness, patience, tolerance and empathic warmth.'

Technology is a wonderful new gift that God has given to us. The way we are connected to everyone else today has the potential to change our world for good. But as we know so well, every good gift from God has the potential to be abused and used for self-absorbed ends. While the technological revolution and constant connectedness has huge benefit, it should also cause us to question whether we own them or they own us.

As we approach Lent, let us be ready to spend time with God in reading

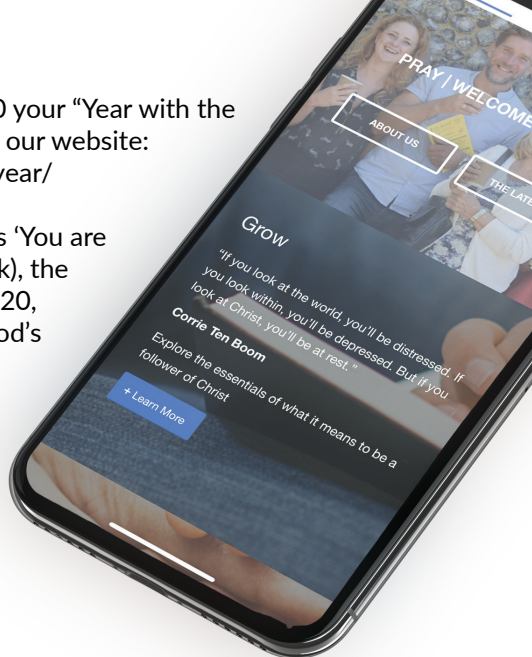
His Word and listening to Him. Make 2020 your “Year with the Bible”! Find some practical suggestions on our website: www.denhamparish.church/bible-in-one-year/

This Lent, why not invest in David Walker’s ‘You are Mine’ (available from www.brfonline.org.uk), the Bible Reading Fellowship Lent book for 2020, which explores the theme of belonging. God’s Words can give us insight and wisdom for whatever situation we may be facing. He wants to renew, help and inspire us for we are his beloved.

May you feel the arms of Jesus wrapped around you and may you reflect his love onto all you cross paths with today and always.

Nnamdi Maduka

Associate Minister



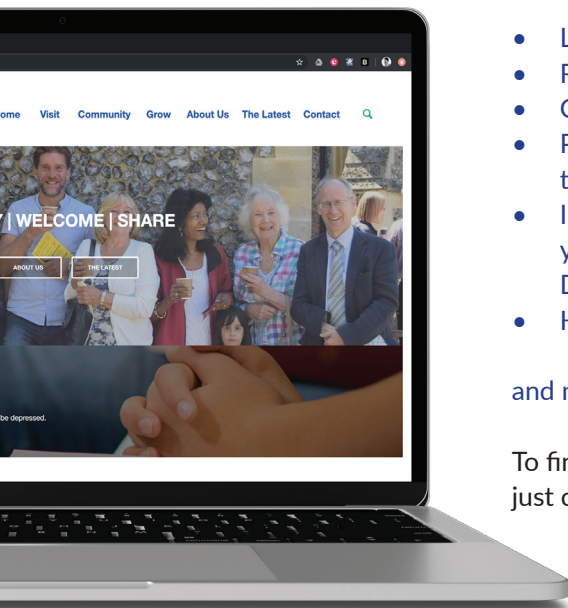
Technology – a wonderful gift!

Use it to explore our website:
www.denhamparish.church

- Listen to recent sermons
- Read the current Parousia news sheet
- Check details about upcoming events
- Practical ideas on how to pray and read the Bible
- Information for those with children and youth (Little Lions, Sunday Club and Destiny)
- How to get involved in Lifegroups

and much more!

To find the latest events, news and sermons just click on ‘The Latest’ in the menu bar or go to <https://www.denhamparish.church/blog/> (the latest items are always at the top).



DENHAM COMMUNITY HISTORY PROJECT

From its medieval origins to the present day, the village of Denham has a history rich in the spirit of community. Now today's technology provides an opportunity to record and preserve that spirit and make it accessible. Using a wealth of archive material combined with stories of village residents, the Denham Community History Project is establishing a website devoted to the village's social history.

The village has no shortage of researchers into its history. Several local residents have already put together their collections of stories, photographs and records. Some have gone into print, some have turned to Facebook, some are still working on their archives. All are immensely valuable. The Community History Project intends to provide a forum for them all.

The idea of the project is not to offer a list of chronological account of events in the village, but rather to provide stories of its residents of the long and recent past, their homes, their relationships, their working lives and their community. We aim to create a rich resource for the interest and amusement of today's residents

and of our many visitors, and a permanent repository of information about the life and character of an English village. We have a treasure trove of stories to delight and fascinate, stories which include those of local residents offering cottage bed and board to film stars of the 1930s, MPs and peers shopping alongside local farmworkers in the village butchers and grocers, the village doctor's surgery in the front room of his house whilst his grandsons and their friends explored the nooks and crannies of the local woods, field and streams.

Initially the outcomes of the research will be placed on a website, to which will be added contributions from visitors to the site with connections to Denham. The project will be active and ongoing. From the accumulated material, publications including a printed social history of the Denham Village community will be made available in book form and as short pamphlets.

For more information about the project visit
www.denhamhistory.online or email
denhamcommunityhistory@gmail.com

Village photo 1910s (Chronicle / Alamy Stock Photo)



A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ST MARK'S HALL

PART 4: 4TH DENHAM (ST MARKS) GUIDES

BY BRIAN O'REGAN



What is the connection between gin and Denham Guides? You'll need to read on, because I'm going to start with the mixer! Let's go back to 1919, the country is recovering from the devastation of WW1 and two sisters have a calling to raise the spirits of the community by serving a much-needed tonic.

Marion Gilbey, just 20, and Hilda, four years her elder, wanted to bring the fledgling Girl Guides and Brownies to Denham village. Founded nine years earlier by Robert Baden-Powell and his sister Agnes, the Guides had flourished during the war years. They made a significant contribution in local communities and even at MI5 headquarters, where 90 Guides were used as messengers. Marion and Hilda had six siblings born to William and Margerita Gilbey, and the large family lived at The Lea in Denham

(now a Hindu Centre). Hilda married in 1928 and moved away but Marion continued her work with Denham Guiding, remarkably, until her death in 1992.

As you read this, Girlguiding in Denham will have celebrated its centenary in January (they were first registered with the Girl Guides Association in January 1920) - a poignant time to get back to our church hall and find out what goes on and who are the movers and shakers that carry on the great work started by the Gilbey sisters. There has been a common theme to the groups I have found using St Mark's Hall and very appropriately for a church facility, the theme is "serving". The title of R.F. Delderfield's novel *To Serve Them All My Days* springs to mind. Alison Leah is the District Commissioner

and has been involved with the movement for 17 years. She began because her daughter was joining Guides and the leader was leaving. Alison (guide name Tigger) has recently handed the main leader role to Abi (Roo), recently qualified as Guide Leader. She had been a Rainbow, Brownie and Guide and returned after University to help



lead Brownies and now Guides. Jean Brodie's famous line "Give me a girl at an impressionable age, and she is mine for life" could apply to Girlguiding! The third leader is Tracy (Winnie). The tribute of serving definitely applies to Natalie (Swan), who has been a Brownie, Guide, Young Leader and for seventeen years, the Unit Helper.

My visit is for the Christmas pizza-party, so some girls have dispensed with the eye-catching blue uniform. I'm with a group of five 11- & 12-year-olds playing card and board games, who went to the same primary school but now attend different schools. The Guides is a regular date when they can catch up and go on great trips together:- ice-skating and Paris Disneyland were popular recent events. Some of these trips are generously funded by St Francis New Denham and Willowbank Community Association.

I am here the day after the general election when the hall was used as a polling station. These young guides all want to vote when they are 18, but one remarked "I will probably do the wrong thing" which could apply to a few million of us! During the campaign they have watched election programmes at school and know who the prime minister is – so if you're reading this, Boris, why not drop in?

The previous week I dropped in on Tuesday when the Rainbows (ages 5-7) meet and are followed by



Brownies (7-10). Their leader is Sam Dreehan (Brown Owl) ably assisted by husband Paul (Rooster). This evening the Rainbows are making Christmas cards and tree decorations but were happy to share insights into their futures. Imogen (5) observed that when you go to university you have to sleep there! That's not going to appeal to Ruby (6) who wants to stay home all her life and not go to school. But these girls are in an organisation where as they progress through Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and beyond they will learn many life-skills and get encouragement from dedicated leaders to fulfil their potential in a safe environment. Claire (Bluebird) assists with the Brownies having previously helped with Rainbows. Her 13-year-old daughter, Chloe, was a Rainbow, Brownie and Guide and has now returned to be a young leader with the latter as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award. You can see how girls in the Girlguiding movement value their own experience and want

to give something back. It seems to me that the foundations have been carefully prepared and built upon these past hundred years.

Sam has been leading the Brownies for seven years but was a helper for a similar period before that. She and Paul gave me an insight into the badges girls can earn and also the more mundane but essential administration that ensures that the legacy will be preserved into the next century of service.

I enjoyed a great tonic spending time with the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, but where is the gin? Well, Marion and Hilda's father William was a director and shareholder in W&A Gilbey Ltd., a company founded by his father Alfred and uncle Walter. Arriving back from the Crimean War they built a thriving business importing Cape wines, later the firm distilled a gin which in 1895 became known as Gilbey's London Dry Gin. The gin survives to this day but the company has been absorbed into the global giant Diageo plc.

You can also enjoy Gilbey cuisine locally today. Gilbey's restaurants in Old Amersham and Eton are owned by brothers Michael and Bill Gilbey together with their respective wives Linda and Caroline. So how do they fit into the family tree? Well, the brothers' grandfather, William, was brother to Marion and Hilda who are

therefore grandaunts to Michael and Bill. I can well recommend Gilbey's in Old Amersham for the ambience, great food and service. Just one other family link: Linda's great-great-grandfather was Sir Walter Gilbey, the "W" in W&A Gilbey Ltd.

I am grateful to Jane Graham who provided some of the background detail. Jane is creating an archive of the first century of Girlguiding in Denham and is looking for photographs, press cuttings and stories. If you can help, please contact her directly on:- 01753 655183 or 07813 106949
[email: janefgraham47@gmail.com](mailto:janefgraham47@gmail.com)

Would you like to help with your local Girlguiding unit? Alison Leah would be delighted to hear from you on:- 01753 883703 or 07968 387137
[email: girlguidinggxde@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:girlguidinggxde@yahoo.co.uk)

"And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skilful hands he led them."
Psalm 78:72





Bible Detectives

DID JESUS REALLY RISE FROM THE DEAD?

One evening, Holmes and I shared a companionable evening in his study, our glasses filled with a most enjoyable port. While he was reading The Times, I revisited the gospel accounts of Jesus' resurrection.

Watson: My dear Holmes, it strikes me as rather fanciful that some people still believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, don't you?

Holmes: Not so, my dear Watson. You see, most people never question some of their underlying assumptions which cannot be proven. Take for example the article of faith much heralded today that whatever the human mind cannot grasp or scientific experiment cannot replicate cannot be. Why, on that count we should rule out the existence of love altogether!

Watson: Indeed – as a man who has recently entered holy matrimony I would of course have to agree. And yet the bible accounts strike me as quite peculiar.

Holmes: It is a capital mistake to theorise before one has reviewed the data. What are the presenting facts, Watson?

Watson: Firstly, I gather there was no body in the tomb – it was empty. How do we account for this? Secondly we are told that his friends and followers met the same Jesus after his death. It all seems rather mysterious.

Holmes: Not at all, my dear Watson, not at all. Let's take these matters one at a time. The empty tomb – what do you make of that?

Watson: Maybe Jesus didn't die. He simply fainted, then woke up, rolled the stone away and left the tomb.

Holmes: We must consider that the process of crucifixion was thorough and they had ways of checking that someone had died as is indeed recorded in Scripture. Even in the unlikely case that he should have survived, the stone in front of a tomb was exceedingly heavy to deter grave robbers; also, Roman guards had been posted in front of it.

Watson: Could his disciples have stolen the body to pretend that he had risen, just as he said he would?

Holmes: Apart from the many practical issues of this theory, how long would you keep up such a hoax when you are tortured for your belief in the risen Christ as many of his followers later were? ... Precisely! Not likely at all. They would have received a tidy reward from the Jewish and Roman authorities if they had produced Jesus' body. Surely one of them would have cracked under pressure, but none of them did. Let's study his followers, shall we? How do we account for the fact that at least 500 people say that they saw the risen Jesus and all reporting similar things? Might they have been hallucinating?

Watson: I am of course aware of such effects in grieving individuals. But such hallucinations are peculiar to each person and so they would have seen different things. I also read that Jesus allowed them to touch his hands and feet and even ate with them. Hallucinations or even a ghostly appearance – were one to allow for such phenomena – should really be ruled out as explanations.

Holmes: Elementary, my dear Watson. So, let us see, which other aspects of the resurrection accounts are troubling you...

Watson: Well, there is the small matter of the women...

Holmes: Now, Watson, the fair sex is your department.

Watson: The first people to encounter the risen Jesus were women. With all due admiration for recent attempts to improve the

legal standing of ladies, does that not weaken the credibility of these accounts?

Holmes: To the contrary! If, as you suggest, the writers of the gospels made up the reports of Jesus' resurrection, would they have compromised the credibility of their story by Jesus showing himself first to women? Women, whose testimony was not valid at the time, remember? No, when you have eliminated all other theories, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth! And the circumstantial evidence of the Christian faith spreading rapidly in subsequent decades in spite of opposition and persecution, strengthens our case.

Watson: Excellent, Holmes! I believe this satisfying conclusion deserves a little celebration with another glass of port.

(Written by Christoph Lindner, with grateful thanks to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for some of the original quotes and phrases.)

Would you like to explore some of the themes of this article further?

Lee Strobel was an investigative journalist and an atheist, who attempted to disprove the resurrection and in the process came to the conclusion that it is true. His book, *The Case for Christ*, has also been made into a movie, available on DVD and streaming services.

Tom Wright is one of the eminent New Testament scholars of our day. In this 10-minute video, he explores Jesus' resurrection theologically: <https://tinyurl.com/tom-wright-resurrection>

AROUND ST MARY'S CHURCH - THE FONT

BY IAN JENNINGS

Right next to the South door in St. Mary's Church is the 13th century font. It is made of Purbeck Marble and has a Victorian Oak cover. The fact that it is placed near the South Door is significant as the sacrament of baptism is regarded as the gateway into God's family, the Church, so traditionally the font was near the entrance.



It is octagonal in shape which is also significant. The story of Genesis tells how God rested on the 7th day after his works of creation. The 7th day was the sabbath - the day of rest. The eighth day, represented by the eighth

side of the font is for the eternal day - life that blossoms into eternity. It is through receiving baptism followed by the journey of living faith that life becomes eternal. St John's Gospel says, "This is truly life that is eternal, to know you the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." (John chapter 17, verse 3) That journey begins at the font.

Baptism has always been hugely important in the life of the Christian Church and I love to see the great support that couples receive from family and friends when they bring their child to church for baptism. It is an opportunity to celebrate life and to say thank you to God for the amazing gift of a new life. But it is also a celebration of the gift of new life in Christ. Jesus was cross with his disciples when they took it upon themselves to keep the children away. They were aware of the huge crowds that followed him everywhere. At the forefront of those crowds, quite naturally were the kids. The disciples had a cunning plan! 'At least,' they thought, 'we can make life a little easier for Jesus by keeping the kids away.' They couldn't have been more wrong. Jesus told them off in no uncertain terms and said, 'Do not stop the children from coming to me - the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.' He went further and added, 'Unless you become as little children you will not see the Kingdom of Heaven.' (You can find this account in

Mark, chapter 10, verses 13 to 16). Jesus did not say we need to become childish but childlike. There is a world of difference. We need to be childlike in our simplicity of trust in our loving Heavenly Father.

Many churches have taken their font from the entrance and placed it at the front of church near the chancel, I think that is so that people can see what is happening during the service of baptism. I am glad that the font remains in the traditional place at St. Mary's because it is still saying to everyone 'Here is the place of New Life; here is the beginning of the journey into God and into grace. Here all are welcomed into God's

family.' When Christoph, Nnamdi or I conduct a service of Baptism in St Mary's we invite the children to gather round the font so they can see and we invite the congregation to turn around to face the font so that they don't miss anything either.

As we approach Easter it is a wonderful time for reflecting on the meaning of our own baptismal vows and to remember the gifts of new life through the risen Christ. It is sharing in that life that makes us alive to God.

Are you interested in baptism for yourself or your child? Please contact us – one of our ministers would be delighted to explore this with you!

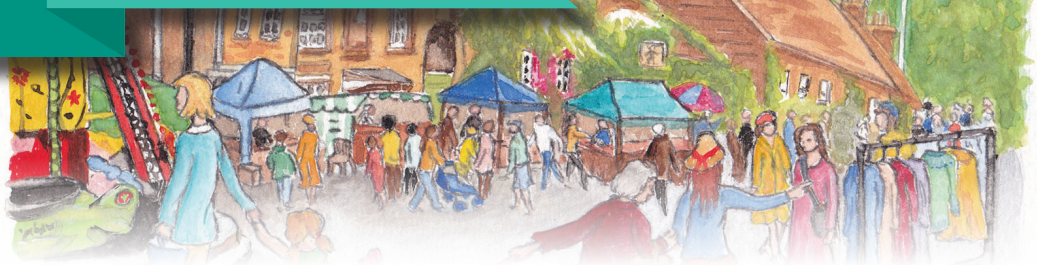


DENHAM VILLAGE FAYRE

Book the Date!

BANK HOLIDAY

MONDAY 25TH MAY 2020 10AM – 4PM



Come and join the fun of the Denham Village Fayre!

Co-ordinated by a team from St Mary's and officially opened by the St Mary's bell ringers, the day is packed full of fun, bargains, concerts, activities, food and a variety of stalls as well as a traditional brass band, Punch & Judy, Morris dancers and a display of beautiful cars from the Uxbridge Classic car club (subject to booking/availability)

St Mary's Church is open throughout the day, with guided tours and concerts, and runs its own stalls - books, bottle tombola, raffle, tombola, craft, children's corner, refreshments. We also organise the car park. There is a lot going on and we could do with your help!

Please can you spare an hour to help on one of the St Mary's stalls or on car park duty?

Yes, I can help! For further information on how to get involved, please contact Sharon Williams on Julian.williams10@btinternet.com

Craft Crew

The Craft Crew meet once a month to have fun and make beautiful handmade gifts which are sold at Denham Village Fayre.

Do come and join us!




St Mark's Hall UB9 5HT 7.30-9.30pm

Tuesday 11 February, Tuesday 10 March, Wednesday 29 April

Contact: craft@denhamparish.church for more information

Calendar (For regular weekly or monthly events, please see page 18.)



February 2020

Sun 2nd	The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany		
8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's	
10.30 am	All-age Family Service (with unsupervised crèche) <i>Healthy Family: "Follow me!"</i>	St Mary's	
3.30 pm	Café Church: God in the Life of Val Dewhurst	St Mark's	

Alpha continues on Mondays.

Please see page 18 for details and other regular events during the week!




Sun 9th	The Third Sunday before Lent		
8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's	
10.30 am	Sung Communion (with Sunday Club for children) <i>Healthy Family: "Where are we going?"</i>	St Mary's	

Wed 12th

8.00 pm Baptism Preparation Evening

The Rectory



Sun 16th	The Second Sunday before Lent		
8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's	
10.30 am	Morning Worship (with Sunday Club for children) <i>Healthy Family: "This is going to hurt!"</i>	St Mary's	

Mon 17th



10.30 am Holy Communion

Denham

Garden Village

NO ALPHA THIS WEEK (Half Term)



Sun 23th	The Sunday Next Before Lent		
8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's	
10.30 am	Sung Communion (with Sunday Club for children & 'Destiny' for older children) <i>Healthy Family: "What we need is a miracle!"</i>	St Mary's	

Wed 26th

Ash Wednesday

10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

St Mary's

(No Holy Communion on Thur 27th)



Holy Communion



Sunday Club for children












Alpha





Baptism



March 2020




Sun 1st	The First Sunday of Lent		
8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's	
10.30 am	All-age Family Service (with unsupervised crèche)	St Mary's	
3.30 pm	Café Church: TBC, or Sun 8th (see page 25)	St Mark's	
Sat 7th	Alpha Day (9.15 am-2.30 pm)	TBC	

Sun 8th	The Second Sunday of Lent		
8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's	
10.30 am	Sung Communion (with Sunday Club for children) <i>Guest Speaker: Samuel Kpagheri (TBC, see p. 25)</i>	St Mary's	  
3.30 pm	Café Church <i>with Samuel Kpagheri</i> <i>(TBC, see p. 25)</i>	St Mark's	

Sun 15th	The Third Sunday of Lent		
8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's	
10.30 am	Morning Worship (with Sunday Club for children)	St Mary's	

Mon 16th
10.30 am Holy Communion Denham Garden Village

Sun 22nd	Mothering Sunday (The Fourth Sunday of Lent)		
8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's	
10.30 am	Mothering Sunday Family Service	St Mary's	

Sun 29th	The Fifth Sunday of Lent		
8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's	
10.30 am	Sung Communion (with Sunday Club for children)	St Mary's	 



April 2020

Sun 5th	Palm Sunday		
8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's	
10.00 am	Procession with Joey the Donkey. Meet at Denham Village Memorial Hall	Village Hall to St Mary's	 
10.30 am	All-age Family Service (with unsupervised crèche)	St Mary's	 
3.30 pm	Café Church	St Mark's	
Thur 9th	Maundy Thursday		
7.30 pm	Holy Communion	St Mary's	
Fri 10th	Good Friday		
10.30 am	An Hour at the Cross (with Children's Hour at the Cross)	St Mary's	 
Sun 12th	Easter Day		
8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's	 
10.30 am	All-age Family Service. <i>After the service: Easter egg hunt around the church and a short service of Holy Communion in church.</i>	St Mary's	  
Sun 19th	The Second Sunday of Easter		
8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's	
10.30 am	Morning Worship (with Sunday Club for children)	St Mary's	
Mon 20th			
10.30 am	Holy Communion	Denham Garden Village	
Sun 26th	The Third Sunday of Easter		
8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's	
10.30 am	Morning Worship (with Sunday Club for children)	St Mary's	
11.45 am	ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING	St Mary's	



Regular Events

(For more details, contact the Church office on 01895 832771)

MONTHLY

Café Church

First Sunday of the month
3.30–5.00 pm, St Mark's
Favourite hymns and
prayers, faith stories,
coffee & cake



Service & Discussion Group

First Tuesday of the month
10.00 am, St Francis
Informal service with
discussion. Tea and
biscuits afterwards.



WEEKLY

Little Lions

Wednesday, 10–11.30 am
Term-time only, St Mark's
Pre-school toddler group
Playtime, songs & stories



Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday, 10.00 am
St Mary's Church Vestry
A warm, welcoming
community. Tea & biscuits
afterwards



Lifegroups

Lifegroups

Mon 10am, Mon 7.30pm
Wed 8.00pm,
Fri afternoon 2.30pm
Small groups to deepen our
faith and friendship.

To find out more contact
our church office.



We are running ALPHA this term, and it's not too late to join. Please contact the Church office on 01895 832771 or go to www.denhamparish.church/alpha

**Monday evenings: 7.30-9.30pm,
Rectory or St Mark's**

(Venue to be decided depending on group size, please contact our church office)

20 Jan • 27 Jan

3 Feb • 10 Feb

17 Feb: NO ALPHA (half-term)

24 Feb • 2 March

ALPHA DAY: Sat, 7 March,

9.15am-2.30pm

9 March • 16 March • 23 March





FAMILY REGISTER OF DENHAM PARISH CHURCH

BAPTISMS

- 06.10.19** Evalynne Kathryn Rose McGuinness, Denham
- 19.10.19** Alfie Daniel James Long, Denham
- 20.10.19** Olly Edward Graves, New Denham
- 20.10.19** George Anthony Wadlow, Hazlemere
- 20.10.19** Tabitha Elizabeth Wadlow, Hazelmere

MARRIAGES

- 10.08.19** Bradley Wayne Barrell to Anna-Marie Ivana Witney

CREMATIONS

- 27.11.19** Ronald Charles Cullen (85) Denham Garden Village

BURIALS

- 19.09.19** Tom Pasmore (84) Denham
- 25.10.19** Edwin Joseph Mills (88) Gerrards Cross
- 24.10.19** Jean Elizabeth Ayres (88) Gerrards Cross



Photo: Christopher Carter

PAM AND MIKE DYMOTT ON 60 YEARS OF MARRIED LIFE

AS TOLD TO JANET ALLEN

It has to be a very special occasion for the Queen to send you a letter. Recently Pam and Mike Dymott received their letter to mark 60 years of marriage together.

There is a complementary harmony about Pam and Mike. Pam doesn't seek the limelight, is very organised, engaged and makes things happen. Mike has always been hard-working and has a lovely laid-back, uncomplaining nature. Over the years, Denham Parish Church has benefited hugely from their dynamic partnership, in all areas of church life. They in turn have treasured the fellowship and joy of being at the heart of a church family.

Pam grew up in Newport, South Wales, while Mike grew up in Southampton, where they met at a Guildhall dance in 1957. They started dating soon afterwards and got married in 1959. Mike took evening classes to qualify as a management accountant, while Pam worked as a cartographical draftsman with Ordnance Survey. Their first child,

Malcolm, was born in 1961 and in 1968 they moved to Denham where their second child Debbie was born in 1971. Their tips for a successful marriage are to be good friends, have different hobbies (Pam piano and music, Mike bird-watching and table tennis), and lots of patience. Mike gallantly maintains he was just very lucky in choosing the right girl.

Mike has always been a Christian. Pam went to Sunday school like everyone else and her faith came alive when, as a teenager, she went to a Baptist church with a friend. Faith for both of them has waxed and waned, throughout their life. Both agree, though, that it has flourished during their time in Denham, giving them a firm moral compass, friendship and a peace to get through some very tough times. Initially, Pam was helping with the Brownies and started going to the family service at St Mary's. Later on, both were on the PCC, they were active in the monthly St Mark's service with Mike leading the service and Pam playing the piano and doing the rota. When

their own children were younger, Mike helped with the Sunday School at New Denham. Their faith also found a practical expression by being involved in the St Mary's committee for the Children's Society. They remember lots of fun fundraisers; a pancake race through Denham Village with celebrity Debbie McGee taking part and many Vestry Teas. For about



twelve years, Pam edited Denham Parish News (this very magazine!), together with Janet Drane, and Mike would sometimes provide a last-minute article when they needed to fill another page!

Pam always found a close connection to God through music and thoroughly enjoyed being part of the music group at St Mark's, which was started by the curate's wife, Faith Holdsworth. Together they brought many new hymns to the services. Her favourite hymns are still, "How Great Thou Art" and "Guide Me Oh Thou Great Redeemer".

Mike has always had a love of the Bible and led the weekly "Journey through the Bible" meeting where they travelled together through the books of the Bible – Genesis to Revelation. Still today he tries to read the Bible every day preferring the New Testament to the Old, although his favourite Bible verses are from Ecclesiastes 3 (shortened here):

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity
under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to
uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to
build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to
dance,
... a time for war and a time for
peace.

Pam has found it difficult to reconcile some of the teaching of the Apostle Paul on women* with the actions of

Jesus, who was radical for the times in his support of women.

Lots of things have changed in society over the past 60 years. Early on in their marriage it was easier to get a mortgage and buy a house. On the other hand, some of the mod cons such as washing machines and dishwashers make life easier now. One thing, though, that they are both grateful for through the ups and downs of a full life, is to know the God who loves them.

*Editor's note: Or at least how some have interpreted or taken out of context St Paul's teaching. Watch out for a future Bible Detectives article on this topic in Denham Parish News!



MYSTERIOUS MISBOURNE

BY TIMOTHY MACQUEEN



Rivers are incredible forces of nature with the ability to shape the very earth they run across and create some of nature's most spectacular sights such as the Grand Canyon. Most countries or continents have a famous or interesting river – Brazil has the Amazon, North Africa the Nile and Indochina has the Mekong. And Denham? It's got the River Misbourne running through the village.

The Misbourne, whilst not setting any world records, is a fascinating river both from an ecological and human perspective. The Misbourne is a chalk river which runs 17 miles from Mobwell Pond in Great Missenden until it joins with the River Colne just south of Denham Country Park. Chalk rivers are a globally rare habitat, only being found in England and North West Europe, and the Misbourne is one of only 200 chalk rivers in the world. They are formed from upwellings of water through chalk rock and so their water is incredibly pure and filled with minerals. This pure, nutrient-rich water supports a huge variety of aquatic plant species which in turn attract a large diversity of wildlife.

The Misbourne is one of the few water sources in the area to support a population of white-clawed crayfish, a species which has suffered massive population reductions due to the introduction of signal

crayfish and crayfish plague. This makes the Misbourne an extremely important refuge for these crustaceans which are a species of national conservation concern. Due to the porous nature of chalk rock, chalk rivers are always wide and shallow which makes them very attractive to many UK fish species but especially brown trout and other salmonid (salmon-like) fish species. Chalk rock often forms with small angular flint pebbles within its structure and so as the chalk dissolves in the water of the river the flint is left behind. Thanks to this, chalk rivers almost always have a gravel base which is sought out by salmonid fish in order to lay eggs in.

The river is also loved by many different bird species and if you were to walk along the riverbank you would be likely to see grey heron, grey wagtail and maybe even kingfisher. All these birds are attracted to the clear water and high insect numbers of the chalk river. A series of lakes are formed from the Misbourne as it winds through Abbey Park and onto Deep Mill in Great Missenden, and these lakes attract little grebes and little egrets, so keep an eye out on walks for these fantastic and often elusive birds.

The wide and shallow nature of the Misbourne has attracted human

interest for generations with it being especially popular for fly fishing and watercress farming. The “gin clear” water and wide shallow bed is perfect for wading and accurately casting your line into a shoal of fish. However human interest in the river unfortunately led to some quite serious damage to the water level and biodiversity of the river with the pumping of the pure water out of the river for human use. This led to severe water level drops between 1987 and 1993, which in turn led to the loss of almost all the brown trout populations in the river. However, a low flow alleviation scheme implemented in 1998, along with the Fisheries department implementing a river habitat restoration project around the same time, reduced taking from the river by 50% and this has helped increase water flow in the vulnerable upper sections of the river.

Right now, the Misbourne is in a much better state than it was 30 years ago and so this rare and beautiful river has become a beacon for freshwater life once more.

For further information check the Chilterns Chalk Stream Project at www.chilternsaonb.org or contact the Chilterns Conservation Board. You can download a brochure with a detailed map from our website: www.denhamparish.church/misbourne

(Information sourced from Chilterns Chalk Stream Project, The Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trusts and Bucks Free Press.)



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MISSION PARTNERS: WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS

BY JOAN BELL

At Denham Parish Church we are supporting a range of charitable causes over the course of a year. In 2017 we chose five Christian charities with whom we are building a strong relationship. One of them is Wycliffe Bible Translators, working to bring the message of the Bible to many groups of people who do not have any portion of the scriptures in their own language. As a parish church we support specifically Samuel Kpagheri, a translation consultant in Togo, who works with less experienced translators, to help them produce the Word of God in their own regional languages. This work often involves lengthy periods away from his wife and extended family. Wycliffe translators are not paid by the Society but each gathers a group of supporters to finance their work, and trusts God to provide for their needs.

In December 2019, Samuel wrote to his supporters:

*Dear Partners in the work of Bible translation,
A full year of twelve months is coming to end. During this year, we have been able to check translated texts, train translators and attend various workshops. We have been able to eat, drink and be clothed and send our children to school because of your regular support. Be assured that all your support in various ways means a lot to us. Victoria, Josiah, Jehoshaphat, Leontine and I want to thank you with all our hearts for supporting us throughout this year. Thank you, thank you!*

May the blessing of knowing Christ enrich your life in the year 2020. We pray that your spirit be light with hope, your heart be filled with joy and your holiday be blessed with the Glory of God. May his love bring you peace at Christmas and always!



Supporters from several churches in southern England, including Denham, have invited Samuel to visit us in March 2020. This plan depends on his getting a UK visa to enter the country, but he will not know whether his application is successful until January, after the magazine has gone to press. If successful, further information will be made available through Denham Parish Church.

A copy of Samuel's December newsletter can be obtained from Joan Bell.

Watch a short clip of Samuel and hear him speak about a translation workshop he attended in Nairobi, Kenya (starting at 1min50sec):
https://youtu.be/PRjzUZ9_pCo

AN EASTER TRADITION - DECORATING EGGS FOR PACE-EGGING

BY CATHY MACQUEEN



The tradition of egg rolling in the UK goes back hundreds of years and is also known as “pace-egging”, from the Old English Pasch meaning Pesach or Passover, the Jewish festival during which the Easter events took place (that’s why the Easter candle in churches is called Paschal Candle). Egg rolling usually uses hard boiled, decorated eggs. There are lots of ways to decorate an egg but here is a simple method, suitable for all ages.

How to decorate an egg ...

Equipment:

Hard boiled eggs
PVA glue
Tissue paper

Step 1: Dilute the PVA glue in a bowl



Step 2: Shred the tissue paper



Step 3: Using your finger or a paint brush, apply glue to the egg and layer the tissue paper, adding more glue to stick the paper to the egg



Step 4: Decorating options:
completely cover the egg with tissue paper or make a family of egg-people by just adding tissue paper to their bottom half and then drawing on a face



Step 5: Find a gentle slope (we went to Old Hunstanton beach in Norfolk) and roll the eggs down the hill!

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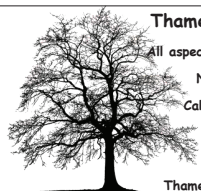
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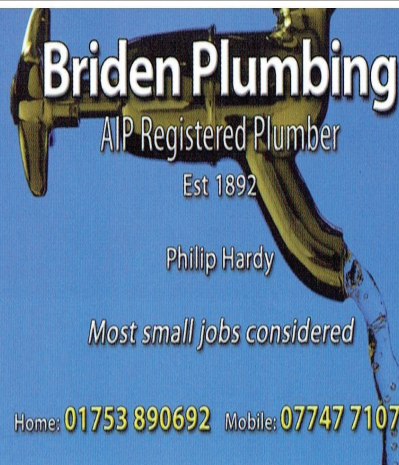
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BIBLE READINGS ON WATER AND BAPTISM

In this issue we reflect on water, our church font and the Easter accounts. Easter is traditionally the time when new believers are being baptised. In baptism the candidates (or their godparents when an infant is baptised) promise to turn to Christ, to repent of sins, to renounce evil, and they confess their faith in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Here are ten readings on the significance of water and baptism.

Psalm 42

John 1.35-42

Mark 1.4-11

Matthew 4.17-22

John 4.7-15

Mark 10.35-45

John 19.16-30

Acts 2.1-4, 37-47

Hebrews 10.19-25

Revelation 22.16-21

Thirsty for God's presence

Jesus, the lamb of God

Jesus is baptised by John.

Jesus calls the first disciples to follow him.

Jesus talks to the woman at the well about living water.

Who is the greatest?

The last moments of Jesus' life

The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost.

Walk in this new life!

Water of life as a gift

Prayer

Almighty God, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence. Give us new hearts and constant wills that we may learn of your love and come to worship you in spirit and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Are you interested in baptism for yourself or your child? Please contact us – one of our ministers would be delighted to explore this with you!



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