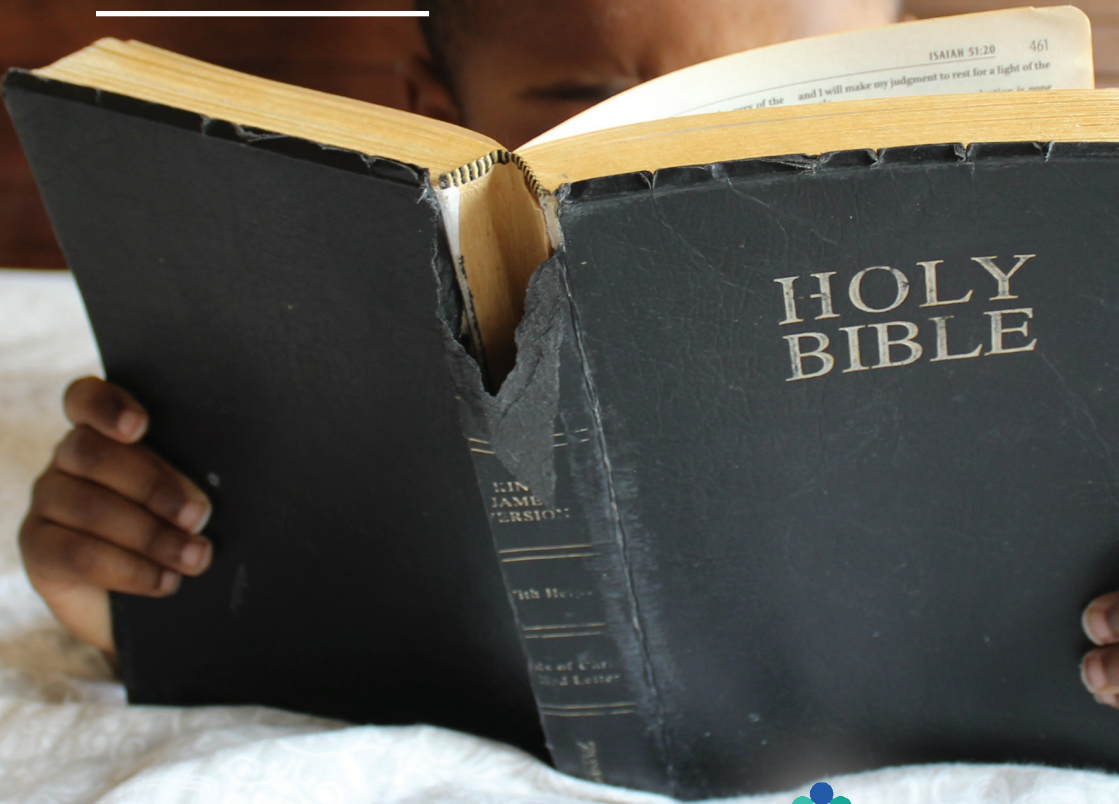


FEBRUARY - APRIL 2021

# DENHAM PARISH NEWS

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## FROM THE EDITOR

*Dear Friends,*

**'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it'**  
(John 1 verse 5)

*As I write this, it is dark, cold and wet outside, we are in national lockdown and many of us are finding life tough. So, I am choosing to think about truths that can't be changed, no matter our circumstances - for I know that as light dispels darkness, so too will spring follow winter. Soon we will see the carpet of yellow and purple crocus across the churchyard grass, the purple haze of bluebells sheltering in woods and the pink buds of the cherry trees unfurling. The birds pecking at my winter feeders will soon be feeding their young and we will feel the warmth of the sun on our faces.*

*This issue of Denham Parish News focuses on the Bible and the truths that we can find there, truths that are unchanging despite our circumstances. Amongst other articles, we discover the inner workings of the Church Office, walk through Denham Village at the turn of the 20th century and hear from our local Thames Hospice support group. May you be encouraged!*



Blessings,

*Cathy Macqueen*

magazine@denhamparish.church

## CONNECTION AND COURAGE AT A TIME OF CRISIS

FROM CHRISTOPH LINDNER, RECTOR



*Dear Friends,*

I am writing this letter to you just a few days after our country has entered a third lockdown. It is my prayer that the situation will be much improved when you read this and that you may even have had your Covid vaccination already. But in early January we seem to be a long way from turning a corner and coming out of this dark tunnel.

“Don’t waste a good crisis.” In the light of all the hardships, trauma and grief of 2020, this advice seems to be quite flippant, and it is so much easier to say this when you are doing well. There is, however, a grain of truth in it: A crisis such as the one we are going through, forces us to re-evaluate what is important in our lives and to make some changes.

### CONNECTION

During the lockdowns of 2020, Edda and I have been more intentional in staying in touch with family, when in the past we might have said, “Oh well, we are going to visit them in a couple of months anyway.” We’ve also been intentional in connecting with God on a daily basis. We do it by reading a passage from Scripture and praying first thing in the morning. Healthy habits such as these ensure that we stay connected with God and people.

Connection has become so important. Please make sure you take steps to connect with others, especially during lockdown. Don’t wait until someone calls you! I am always delighted when I receive a phone call from a church member who wants a chat. And find ways to connect with God. On the middle pages of this magazine you find 40 readings in Mark’s Gospel, with a short thought for each one. Could you set yourself the goal to read through them between now and Easter? If you don’t have a bible at home, biblegateway.com is available online, or you can download the YouVersion Bible app.

Over the last years it has become increasingly clear that we are facing a mental health crisis and the Covid pandemic has only aggravated this trend. In February and March we will embark on “**The Wellbeing Journey**” as a church – over the course of seven weeks we will explore the aspects of our lives that will help us stay well – physical, mental, emotional, relational, spiritual, financial and vocational. And of course each aspect of our lives will affect all others. In one of his letters, St Paul uses the image of the body to describe the Christian community and he says, “When one

part of the body suffers, the whole body does.” The Wellbeing Journey takes exactly this holistic approach. Please join us on this Wellbeing Journey. Each Sunday, as part of our online service, we will explore one aspect and then offer you various options how you can apply them to your own life. To sign up for further updates, please go to [www.denhamparish.church/events](http://www.denhamparish.church/events).

### COURAGE

I have been encouraged by so many of you over the course of the last year; how you have faced the hardships, made changes and reached out to others. Together we will come out of this dark tunnel and it is my prayer that the new reality will be better than what we have had to leave behind. Because one thing has become very clear: We won’t get our old lives back exactly as they were in February 2020. And I’m not sure that we should wish for that.

Many of the heroes in the Bible had to leave something behind and struggle through an in-between time to break through to a new and better future, in line with God’s good purposes for them. Think about Joseph and his time as a slave in Egypt. Or St Paul, struck blind after he met the risen Christ. And even Jesus – who fully identified with our human nature – was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days before he began his public ministry.

Can we use this current crisis as such an in-between time (some call it ‘liminal’ or threshold time) to break through to a new and better

tomorrow? That is my prayer for you and for Denham Parish Church.

So what is the one courageous change that you could make over the next weeks? Maybe it is joining **The Wellbeing Journey**, which is starting on Sunday 7 February in our online service at 10.30 ([www.tinyurl.com/youtube-denham](http://www.tinyurl.com/youtube-denham)). All previous services will be available to stream afterwards.

The most significant threshold journey of all times is Easter: Jesus is buried in a borrowed tomb on Good Friday, has to walk across the threshold of Holy Saturday, and then rises to new life on Easter Sunday. As we trust in Jesus, we can experience Easter moments already – many small triumphs of life over death. Easter Sunday, which falls on April 4th this year, will be a glorious reminder of that.

May we all stay safe, connected and hopeful!

*Christoph Lindner*

Rector

## WALKING BACK IN TIME

### PART I: ON THE WAY TO CHURCH FROM THE BLACKBARN COTTAGES, 1901

BY DENHAM COMMUNITY HISTORY PROJECT

Sunday 31st March 1901 was census day in England. Queen Victoria had recently died after more than 63 years on the throne. Britain's economy looked to be in good health and there were hints of a new determination amongst the people to demand a fairer share in the new wealth.

Denham Village was surrounded by farms right up to the back doors of the homes clustered around the gates to Denham Place and from there on the north side of the village up to St. Mary's Church. There was no Baconsmead. The Cedars, that we know now as The White House, stood alone on the south side of the village as far as Jasmine Cottage.

Joseph and Elizabeth Birch lived in a two up, two down end of a terrace of four on "New Road", that we know now as Old Mill Road, at the junction with Ashmead Lane - known then with obvious meaning as Back Lane. No doubt they had been pleased just seven years earlier to be rehoused into the new cottages from the old buildings of Andrews Farm on the other side of the dirt track that runs off towards The Lea. The small garden plot at the side of their property, divided between themselves and their neighbours, the Springles provided the opportunity to grow a few vegetables and fruit. We might suppose that the plot was

carefully looked after by Elizabeth's brother Robert when he had time off from his work as a gardener on the Denham Court estate.

If we assume that Joe, Elizabeth and their sons George and Robert were churchgoers, we may imagine them closing their garden gate opposite the orchard and heading off down towards the village centre. Crossing the track opposite Back Lane, Joe could have seen, behind Constable Payne's cottage at the other end of the row, the big black barn that one day would give their cottages a name.

Their former home with its well outside on Andrews Farm at the corner of Priory Covert was now demolished. We think the Birches must have been grateful for the improvement in their living conditions since the last census ten years earlier. At the end of March spring was in the air, a new growing season was beginning on the farms around the village and the splendid oak tree in the covert was coming into leaf. To their left they would have looked over Hancock's Mead where, it is said, Oliver Cromwell once camped his troops as efforts were being made in Uxbridge to end the English Civil War in 1645.

By the bridge over the Misbourne stood The Priory, a splendid home and no longer the village poor house

for which it was built in 1789 at the expense of Sir William Bowyer - who apparently agreed to finance the construction after he had been well supplied by locals with copious quantities of wine at The Swan.

On the other side of the road stood the disused corn mill, with its mill wheel turned by the Misbourne as it flowed below the old bridge.



*Photo of Denham Old Mill House c.1912 from South Bucks District Council, Denham Conservation Area Character Appraisal September 2008 - [www.southbucks.gov.uk/conservationareas](http://www.southbucks.gov.uk/conservationareas)*

One day the old mill would provide a better name for the road beyond the Birch's cottage up to Denham Road as more and more motor vehicles took over the roads on their way back and forth to London, Wycombe and Oxford.

Continuing the walk to Sunday service and following the road as it turns beyond the bridge meant passing the much larger local farm on the right, the Denham Court Farm with its magnificent great barn, granary and three cottages. There were no buildings on the

opposite side of the road, just the open farmland of Four Acre Mead as far as the Cedars. A few more steps and the Birches would have reached the Cedar Tree Cottages nestling close to the church boundary and its graveyard.



*Cedar Tree Cottages*

The tiny cottages that once stood on Church Road beside the church were long gone, save for the Denham Court Lodge at the corner opposite Cedar Tree.

The path through the graveyard up to the main entrance passed underneath the great tree, a perfect place to shelter from the elements and catch up with friends and neighbours. At the church door, Joseph and Elizabeth may have expected to be greeted by Reverend Robert Lathbury, who surely by then had begun research on the great work he published in 1904, cataloguing almost one thousand years of Denham's history.

It's something of a privilege now to be writing about Denham's history 120 years on.

*To be continued*

## WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ST MARY'S CHURCH OFFICE

BY BRIAN O'REGAN



There are the four Great Offices of State – Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Foreign Secretary and Home Secretary. (Trivia quiz: who is the only person to have served in all four positions?). In Anglican churches the Daily Office refers to the daily services of Morning Prayer (Mattins or Matins) and Evening Prayer (Evensong). Further, Church Office can refer to an official position such as Archbishop or Rector.

And then we have our very own Church Office. Nestled between the church and the choir vestry with the kitchen and toilets as very close neighbours, measuring 14 x 6 feet, it could easily be missed. When Christoph became Rector in 2016 the office was in the Rectory. Not ideal, particularly when the Rector was having confidential discussions with parishioners. One of Christoph's first actions was to relocate the office to the clergy vestry. Actually, it was easier said than done – but that's another tale! Now, does a small church really need an office? I visited the Parish Secretary, Victoria Lucas, to find out what she does in the Church Office and what makes it tick.

This pandemic year has been a particularly busy one for the church, with new processes and added administration. Church members will be familiar with the emails Victoria sends out every week inviting registration for services. Events (services) must be created in a software package, "ChurchSuite",

which holds contact details so that NHS Track & Trace can get to work if someone attending a service tests positive for Covid. All these data must be maintained and the church is proud of the due diligence employed to keep everyone safe.

As I learned about the numerous tasks to be undertaken by the church office, and the spade she keeps in her car, Victoria took a call from Christoph. He wanted to run through the arrangements for the upcoming Sunday services including two live carol services. "Yes, I've got the sides-teams for all the services, but I am still looking for a reader for the first carol service." The very smooth way our services run is no matter of chance. They say "the devil is in the detail" but for the church, it is God in the detail! And it is Victoria's serving attitude that oils the vital wheels of the church. This includes managing bookings for St Mark's Hall, financial returns and ... the list is so long.

She loves her job – every day is different and she never knows who might pop in (Covid restrictions permitting). She is uplifted by the joy of discussing wedding arrangements with a couple or a forthcoming baptism. And even funeral arrangements give her the opportunity to be a shoulder to cry on and a sympathetic ear. People may be visiting a grave and stop by to share their thoughts and feelings. Victoria

likes to make a difference to people's lives, even if it means taking some of her work home to complete.

Home is with husband Rob and their two children, Sadie (16) and Freddie (14). She met Rob through her work with an international relocation company and they married at St Mary's in 2001. It was in 2010 that the previous Rector, Adrian, approached her with the idea of working two hours a day for the church. That is now four hours and there are more and more tasks to be squeezed in.

She gets welcome help from parishioners who might drop in for an hour or two to fold and staple service sheets or check that the church is service-ready. If you have an occasional spare hour, do give Victoria a call. You may not be able to fit in the office, but there is always the vestry to spread out in. You may even be able to practice your French and German, as Victoria has an A-level in both, although she claims to have forgotten most of it!



Every silver job has a cloudy lining; not much of one for our parish secretary, but she sounded a bit embarrassed when she confessed that she hates writing the PCC minutes. "They're only on the PCC for three years, but I have a lifetime of minute taking and writing!" As a PCC member, I had to chuckle!

I hope I've given you a flavour of what makes the Parish Secretary tick ... and when Victoria ticks, the church office purrs! But why do you keep a spade in the car I asked: "Ah, I sometimes have to dig a hole for a burial for ashes." Just part of what our church office undertakes (pun intended), although that task wasn't in the job description. We have so much more than a Church Office and a secretary; as one church member put it, "Victoria gives such a calm and kind welcome to everyone, I so appreciate her presence on church site and love popping into the office when she is there."

*"God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them." Hebrews 6:10*

Quiz answer: James Callaghan – Chancellor  
(1964-67), Home Secretary (1967-70),  
Foreign Secretary (1974-76) and Prime  
Minister (1976-79)

### Office Hours:

Monday	10.00am - 12.30pm
Tuesday	10.00am - 12.30pm
Wednesday	10.00am - 12.30pm
Thursday	12.30pm - 3.00pm
Friday	10.00am - 12.30pm

Tel: 01895 832771

# THE BIBLE: A BOOK FOR EVERYONE!

BY CHRISTOPH LINDNER

*"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."  
Jesus in Matthew 24.35*

When I was sixteen our family was about to move to a different part of the country. I had grown roots, had good friends and a sense of purpose. This move represented a big crisis for me. An older Christian friend gave me a Bible (I still have it!), and in it he wrote a verse from Jeremiah:

*Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.*

So often I have been encouraged and guided through words from the Bible! Our world is facing one of the biggest crises in living memory. In the fifth century BC the people of Israel went through the traumatic experience of exile. The Babylonians had destroyed Jerusalem and forced the majority of its inhabitants into exile. Seventy years later, a new regional superpower, the Persians, allowed the exiles to return to rebuild their old lives. Exile was tough, but trying to get back to a new normal amid so much uncertainty was even harder. Does this sound familiar?

But then Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem and rallies the people to rebuild its walls. They work together. They start to feel secure again. And after the rebuilding of the walls is finished, they celebrate by bringing out the Word of God into a public square, reading and explaining it to the people (you can read this account in Nehemiah chapter 8).

Let me draw out three lessons from this account.

## 1 The Bible is for everyone

After the trauma of exile and exhaustion of rebuilding, the people were spiritually hungry. In our recent community survey on the impact of COVID, 54 percent said that faith and spirituality have become more important. We need foundations that are deeper and stronger than just our own private, individual world: What will get us through this crisis and give us hope?

It is fascinating that this meeting doesn't take place in the rebuilt temple, where only Jewish males could enter. Instead, they assemble in a public square! Our services are out there on the internet, our lifegroups and bible book clubs are open for new members, in December St Mary's Churchyard offered a Christmas trail to explore the biblical story. Let's pray for imagination and resolve so that the good news is proclaimed in the public square!

## 2 The Bible is a larger story that gives hope

Hearing Scripture read to them was an emotional experience for the returned exiles – they were reminded of the exodus from Egypt, the giving of the law at Mount Sinai, God's faithfulness in the wilderness. This wasn't dry history, it was their story! As the coronavirus exposes our fragilities, the Bible reminds us that we are part of a larger story, stretching back to creation and forward to a new creation. We may experience some chaos in the middle but the great author has an overarching plan that will not fail.

As they were reading Scripture, Levites went out among the crowds

and explained the sense of what was read. It is so important that we read the Bible together, that we make sense of it. As you read the Bible you will have questions. Write them down, discuss them with others, ask them in one of our church small groups or contact me!

## 3 The Bible helps us cultivate true community

After Ezra the priest finishes reading, the Israelites start to weep!

Reading and understanding God's Word is like the lifting of a lid! All the trauma, grief and hope comes

pouring out. As we come to terms with what has happened over the last twelve months we are dealing with strong emotions. In our community survey the most common emotional response is anxiety. In the context of community, the Bible can help us express our emotions as part of a process of healing and renewal.

But then, the leaders say to the people, "This is a day of renewal, of celebration. Go home and have a party. And share your food with those who haven't enough."

A crisis can lead to new and deeper joy and confidence and to a commitment to care for others.

**Vulnerability and generosity** are the keys to authentic community, whether in the room or on Zoom.

Six years ago, Edda had a cardiac arrest and by God's grace survived. There were many tears and anguished cries to God. On the evening of that traumatic day - it was a Saturday - I sat by her bedside and we read the psalm for the day: "Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days." That verse reminded us of God's greater story, it sustained us that night and into Sunday, resurrection day. And the love and care we received from our church family over the following weeks showed us again that the Bible and its message creates a community of hope like no other.

# GOD IN THE LIFE OF TIM MACQUEEN

BY TIM MACQUEEN

I was born in Hillingdon hospital in 1998 and grew up in Uxbridge for the first 8 years of my life. My family has always been Christian, my dad worked for BT and my mum was a dietitian whilst also caring for me and my older brother Jonathan. Our life in England was wonderful and I was always surrounded by loving and fun family and friends. However, my first big lesson in life was coming up, which was 'very few things in life are permanent', as one day my parents asked us "how would we feel about moving to Borneo?"

My dad had heard a calling to move to South East Asia to work for The Leprosy Mission, which meant a move to Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Sabah, Borneo. This is where I would learn the second big lesson of my life: 'not all big changes are bad.' I have always been interested in animals, particularly birds and dinosaurs. As long as I can remember I have watched David Attenborough documentaries, I would lie on the sofa with the "Life of birds" or "The private life of plants" box set sitting on the table, a line of apple cores growing next to me and I would just watch each series over and over again until I could quote each line and had each species and environment fully memorised. Now suddenly birds, animals and places which had been in an almost fantasy land of my T.V. were within easy

reach. Borneo was the birthplace of my ecological career and the first nail in the coffin of my "normal" upbringing.

Four years passed and I was getting ready to entertain the idea of moving back "home" to England. Then one day the family was called into dad's study and he asked "How would you feel about moving to Cambodia?" It was to be a two-year posting and as he helpfully pointed out on the globe, we now knew where Cambodia was. It was a not too far jump north west over the South China Sea to Indochina. In trusting ignorance, Jonathan and I said yes, me admittedly with mixed feelings but Jonathan with his normal adventurous gusto. And so that was that. We had a summer to meet up with friends and family back in the UK and then, before we knew it, we were off to Cambodia.

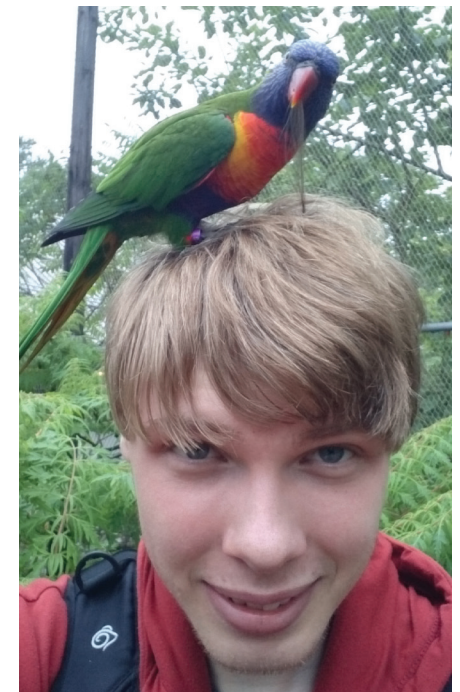
I had assumed that Cambodia was going to be very similar to Borneo, after all it was still right above Malaysia on the map and it was still southeast Asia so how different could it be? Well, as I stepped out of the airport into a humid hug of air I knew, this was nothing like Borneo. We stepped out right to the edge of a motorway, clambered into a tuktuk and sped off into the hot, noisy city. At this point my faith was just a family activity I did every Sunday - I

had no real connection to God and didn't even see the point of Christian community as it was always a bunch of adults who asked lots of questions and slowed down getting lunch or seeing friends. This was about to change. I went to Hope International School (HOPE) which was a school for missionary kids and I got a welcome there which, in my opinion, was unique to HOPE. Everyone knew everyone and everyone wanted to know you and be friends with you and help you and eat with you. Suddenly I was surrounded by living, breathing Christians who I could relate to and who were unabashedly passionate about God and living a Christian life. I quickly learnt that I could have fun and I could ask questions and casually chat about big faith issues and it was fine, even encouraged.

HOPE taught me that living the Christian life and living it with other people, could be fun and secure, but I was still having difficulty grappling with what God wanted with me and my personal belief in him. Then one Sunday I was playing on the top floor of our church and I ran through a glass door and was very badly hurt. I survived through what is most likely divine intervention as despite needing over 60 stitches the glass missed my internal organs, face and the major injury that I did get (partially severed artery) was quickly stemmed by a quick thinking dentist who used his belt as a temporary tourniquet and I was taken to a hospital in time to be treated. I could

have very easily died that day but I hadn't and I hadn't in spectacular fashion. This realisation, alongside the indescribable outpouring of love, support and kindness from my friends, finally pushed my stubborn butt from dubious to definite believer. Cambodia was a noisy, hot, dusty, dirty and dangerous place to live but it taught me the value of treating others like your family no matter who they are or where they come from.

These two amazing countries helped prepare me for UK university where I expanded my knowledge and love of nature through a BSc in zoology and an MSc in species identification. I am currently working as a seasonal conservation consultant with Jacobs.



## WE ARE CONNECTED! CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AT DENHAM PARISH CHURCH BY EDDA LINDNER



You might want to ask, how are we going to stay in touch as we are beginning to emerge from this pandemic?

### We are connected anytime....

We have a number of WhatsApp groups: Tiny Tots, Sunday Club, Destiny.

Do get in touch and we would love to get you linked up with any of these groups.

### We are connected weekly and twice monthly Online...

Each Online Sunday Service ([tinyurl.com/youtube-denham](https://tinyurl.com/youtube-denham)) is designed for all ages – there is usually something for every age and stage and we offer a downloadable activity sheet. Destiny Online for any children aged 10 and older are meeting twice a month. Forty minutes of chat, games and food for thought to help us stay connected and grow together. On Zoom – contact us for more details.

### SundayClub@ home bags

We are offering families monthly @ home goody bags. If you would like to register your child/children for these, please get in touch.

Things can change very quickly at the moment, so please check out the latest updates at [www.denhamparish.church/blog](http://www.denhamparish.church/blog) and on our FaceBook page ([facebook.com/denhamparish.church](https://facebook.com/denhamparish.church))

### Top Tip:

As a parent you are perfectly positioned to nurture your child for faith. We want you to feel confident, equipped and resourced, and help you discover what it looks like to help your children and teens be connected to God in their everyday life. The 'Parenting for Faith' website by BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship) offers some key tools and a weekly 20 minute podcast – all available for free at [parentingforfaith.org](http://parentingforfaith.org)



# DESTINY

## MARK'S GOSPEL IN 40 READINGS

Use these pages as a handy guide to read through the Gospel of Mark, and reflect on what you read. You could read it every day or a few times a week.

### Mark 1:1-13

Mark is sometimes called the urgent Gospel. Reflect on the dynamic action of the opening verses and the urgent imperative for us to live this Gospel.

### Mark. 1:14-20

Here are three dominant themes of the Christian faith - Good News - Repent - Believe. How much have they impacted our lives?

### Mark 1:21 - 2:12

"They were astonished at the way he taught." There are other completely astonishing things about Jesus in this passage. Reflect on them and ask yourself "how can we convey that sense of astonishment at Jesus in our world?"

### Mark 2 :13-17

Matthew's response to the call of Jesus was immediate. He was ready to act when Jesus spoke. Are we?

### Mark 2:18 - 3:6

Jesus shows us simple points and pathways to God - new patch on old garments - new wine in old wine skins. How can we remain 'new' in our faith - young in mind and heart?

### Mark 3:7 - 19

In the midst of his busy ministry Jesus chose the twelve - to "be with him." That was the first priority - to be with him. We must learn to be with him before we can serve him. Are we learning?

### Mark 3:20-35

Jesus speaks of a sin that cannot be forgiven - insulting the Holy Spirit. Someone has wisely said, "If you are worried about having committed this sin, it is a clear sign that you haven't!" The Holy Spirit enables us to recognise and receive God's truth. Has God convicted you of a sin in the past? Did you listen and obey?

### Mark 4: 1- 34

Reflect on the seed and the sower. Are our hearts good soil from which good fruit will spring?

### Mark 4: 35-41

Galilee was notorious for its storms but Jesus had said, "let us cross to the other side." If he has said it, we can rely upon it no matter what storms we may face. Can we open our hearts to his word so that faith grows?

### Mark 5:1-20

Here is a vivid, gripping story - a man released and restored yet people urge Jesus to leave. Isn't that like saying, "don't disturb me, don't take us out of my comfort zone." Are we ready for God to take us out of ours?

### Mark 5:21 - 43

A man pleading for his daughter and a woman seeing her last hope of help - and Jesus is there. He is always there. Do we recognise his availability in our needy world?

### Mark 6:1-6

Just the carpenter's son - that's all they saw. They missed the glory because they focused on the ordinary. In the ordinary circumstances of our lives can we open our eyes to the glory of God?

### Mark 6:7-13

Jesus sent them out in twos - never alone. Is there someone alongside you? Is there someone you can partner with in prayer and service?

### Mark 6:14-29

The end of John the Baptist is sad, but I love the Collect for his special day on June 24th - "Almighty God, by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour by the preaching of repentance: lead us to repent according to his preaching and according to his example, constantly to speak the truth..." Let's make it our prayer.

### Mark 6:30-44

"Come to a lonely place and rest a while." We all need space to recharge our batteries and step into quietness for our spiritual renewal. Is that on your schedule?

### Mark 6:45-56

The crowds came with their insistent demands. We can always bring our needs to Jesus but instead of always coming to get, we need also to come to give - our time, our worship, our service and our love. Can we cultivate that practice?

### Mark 7:1-23

The Pharisees were always obsessed with rules and regulations. Legalism had taken the place of Life. The Lord of Life calls us to freedom but we lose that when we reduce our faith to petty restrictions. Are we choosing freedom and living fully in Christ?

### Mark 7:24 - 8:10

Here is persistent faith that does not quit. Can we learn a lesson from this faithful Mother? Never give up!

### Mark 8:11-30

The people were always looking for a sign - something spectacular - but failed to see that God was with them in Jesus. "Earth's crammed with heaven and every common bush afire with God, but only he who sees, takes off his shoes; the rest sit round and pluck blackberries." (Elizabeth Barrett Browning) Do we see the wonder of God in each new day?

### Mark 8:31 - 9:1

There is a cross at the heart of our discipleship. Are we ready to pick it up and carry it?

### Mark 9:2-13

Have you had moments of 'transfiguration' when the glory of

Jesus was revealed to you? Thank God for those times. And now, let's 'come down from that mountain' and trust God for his provision in the often ordinary, present.

### Mark 9:14-29

"This kind can come out only by prayer." Are we faithful in praying for God's intervention in the lives of others? Make a commitment today.

### Mark 9:30-37

In Jesus' upside-down kingdom the first will be last. Godly humility isn't the same as low self-esteem. Jesus knew he was God's Son and yet he took a towel and washed the feet of his friends. How can we cultivate this godly humility?

### Mark 9:38-10:16

Jesus holds us to God's radical standards. Today, let's pray with King David (Psalm 51.10): "Create in me a clean heart, o God, and put a new and right spirit within me."

### Mark 10:17-45

The young man's true god was his wealth. Is there something that is holding us back from following Jesus without compromise?

### Mark 10:46-52

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus is asking us the same question. How will we answer?

### Mark 11:1-11

Jesus doesn't enter Jerusalem as a warrior king, but on a humble donkey (read Zechariah 9.9). Do we

have status symbols that give us an unhelpful sense of identity? Can we 'choose the donkey' instead?

### Mark 11:12-25

Jesus became angry, but he did not sin. We are right to be upset about injustice, but sometimes we get angry about personal insults and petty irritations. Are we angry about the right things?

### Mark 11:27-12:17

As Christians we have 'dual citizenship' - in our own nation and in the Kingdom of Heaven. Are we giving to Caesar what belongs to him and to God what only he can demand?

### Mark 12:18-27

When we rise to new life, our union with Christ will outshine all other relationships. Thank God for loved ones who have gone before us. And then renew your trust in Jesus, the Lord of the living and the dead.

### Mark 12:28-34

When we are uncertain about what to do, let's ask ourselves which course of action best demonstrates love for God and love for others. Apply this to a decision you are wrestling with.

### Mark 12:35-44

Review your giving: Are you giving from the 'left-overs' or of your 'first-fruits'? Can you increase your giving in one area of your life (money, time, skills) and trust God that you will still have enough?

### Mark 13.1-37

"Be alert!" If Jesus came back tomorrow, what changes would we make today? Make that change!

### Mark 14.1-11

The beautiful sacrifice of the unnamed woman is still remembered today. Rejoice that your acts of love and service will never be forgotten in God's economy.

### Mark 14.12-25

When we celebrate Holy Communion, we remember that Jesus has dealt with all our failures, mistakes and sins on the cross. Thank God that you are a beloved child of God because of Jesus. Listen to this song: [tiny.cc/hereisbread](http://tiny.cc/hereisbread)

### Mark 14.26-72

"Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" "I am," said Jesus. Just two words but a heaven-and-earth-shattering truth! "Jesus, you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is in charge of the universe. I bow before you. I trust in you."

### Mark 15.1-15

Pilate wanted to satisfy the crowd. Where are we in danger of compromising our convictions to satisfy others or bow to the pressure of public opinion?

### Mark 15.16-39

The temple curtain separated a holy God from sinful people. Now the curtain is ripped open (from the top!) Thank God for the gift of a relationship with God through Jesus.

You may want to listen to this song:

[tiny.cc/footofthecross](http://tiny.cc/footofthecross)

### Mark 15.40-47

Joseph was waiting for the kingdom of God, so he boldly went to Pilate to ask for Jesus' body. Jesus' death empowered him to be identified as his follower. How can we be bold in showing that we are followers of Jesus?

### Mark 16.1-20

Jesus' resurrection changes everything. Let his new life transform your life daily. Continue to read God's Word and to pray to him. You may want to watch this: [tiny.cc/hallelujahchorus](http://tiny.cc/hallelujahchorus)



## FAMILY REGISTER

### CREMATIONS

- 26.10.20** Robin Marshall (87) Higher Denham  
**01.11.20** Sylvia Ethel McBride (95) Denham Green  
**18.11.20** Audrey Helen Cestria Brooks (97) Denham Garden Village  
**08.12.20** Harrison Harvey Cail (99) Denham



Audrey Helen  
Cestria Brooks



Sylvia Ethel McBride



Harrison Harvey Cail

### BURIALS

- 28.09.20** David John Nicholson (82) Hildenborough  
**19.10.20** Myra Louisa Withecombe (87) London

### BAPTISM

- 18.10.20** David Samsonov, Denham Green

If you would like to include a photo of a loved one on this page please contact the Editor.

## HEALTHY HABITS: READING THE BIBLE

Establishing a healthy habit or reading the Bible on a regular basis will feed us in our daily lives, but the Bible isn't always straightforward to understand. Two tools that we recommend are BRF Bible notes ([www.brfonline.org.uk/pages/bible-reading-notes-at-a-glance](http://www.brfonline.org.uk/pages/bible-reading-notes-at-a-glance)) and the Lectio365 app (free download in the app store). Here are some reflections from church members.

*"I find using my Bible Reading Notes a sound contribution to my daily life. They serve at the very least to ensure that I read a bible verse each day. I try and read my BRN first thing in the morning, but when not possible, the notes/apps are so easy to carry around; I often pop them in my handbag, it allows me then to catch up during the day when time permits."*  
(Carlene Litchmore)

*"Leading a busy life, I find daily bible devotional time a real spiritual challenge. However, I find Lectio 365 the most enriching and fulfilling start to my day. It's always poignant and relevant and helps me tune into God for the day. It's easily accessible on a phone or computer and is only 10 minutes so should be manageable for all of us."* Jane Brown

*"I have read through F LaGard Smith's Daily Bible five times now and each time I get more from it. It is arranged in chronological order and divided into 365 days, with insightful overviews and explanations."* Heather O'Regan

*"I use both New Daylight and Lectio 365 to P.R.A.Y. Lectio365 is my 'P' - Preparation or Priming the Pump. It helps to get me in the 'God zone'. Then I read (R) the daily portion in 'New Daylight': a few verses of scripture with a short commentary. I have found it helpful to read the Bible passage aloud, and also the prayers in Lectio 365. I follow with prayer (A=Ask) and end with Y=Yield."* Joan Bell

*"Lectio 365 is a great aid to a focussed understanding of the bible and to developing a daily prayer habit as we grow closer to God."* Clive Ashcroft

*"I particularly appreciate the audio version of Lectio365 as it helps me slow down and listen at a more measured pace. It is also helpful to have the Bible reading at the start and end of the session as it means I remember it better."* Cathy Macqueen

### New Daylight

Sustaining your daily journey with the Bible







# tearfund

Tearfund is one of the five mission partners of Denham Parish Church.

### How are Tearfund responding to coronavirus?

Tearfund continues to work in over 50 countries, including the world's largest refugee camp, Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh. Through their local in-country partners (often churches), they are supporting and helping to prevent the spread of coronavirus amongst the most vulnerable communities. They have:

-  Installed 1,632 hand washing stations
-  Delivered 82,980 vital hygiene supply kits (e.g. soap and hand sanitizer)
-  Provided emergency food packages
-  Distributed 253,980 personal hygiene messages, including how to stop the spread of the virus

### How can we help?

#### Pray

- For governments and in-country partners, that Tearfund may be able to continue to reach out to support communities in the greatest need

#### Give

- £25 helps provide PPE for 1 frontline worker for 1 month
- £82 provides health training and food support to five families for three months

#### To find out more:

[www.tearfund.org/latest/coronavirus\\_response/](http://www.tearfund.org/latest/coronavirus_response/)

Listen to Christoph's interview with Tearfund worker Lisa Adjei: [tiny.cc/tearfundinterview](http://tiny.cc/tearfundinterview) (8 minutes)

Data sourced from Tearfund website, September 2020

**Tearfund: passionate about ending poverty**

## BOOK REVIEW

### THE BIBLE: A STORY THAT MAKES SENSE OF LIFE, BY ANDREW OLLERTON

REVIEWED BY DEXTER BROWN



Written during the current global pandemic, this book helps you to navigate the top selling publication of all time, which as the author states 'purports to explain nothing less than human life on planet earth' – the Bible! The book starts with a brief overview of the structure of the Bible. The Bible has forty or more authors who wrote over more than a thousand years using not only narrative but different writing styles like poetry or letters. To be understood, it must be read in the context of the times it was written in.

On the face of it, with this number of people having their collected writings compiled into one book, you might expect a random collection of stories. Indeed, at first glance Andrew Ollerton agrees that this might be the impression, but he explains that the Bible has a coherent plot line from start to finish. It is difficult to discern as it is complex but it does have a mysterious harmony. The aim of the book is to enable the reader of the Bible to understand the coherence and harmony of the story that it tells.

The Bible is essentially a human story, in the text you will find examples that demonstrate every

human emotion you know or have experienced. That is not difficult to prove on reading any of the books in the Bible. The claim that it is divine is less easy to prove but there is, Ollerton says, 'a power that cannot be rationally explained'. Many find that something mysterious happens when they engage with the Bible and they discover a living message that defies its ancient origins. The only way to test this is to read it!

The book has six main parts that are used to help the reader obtain an overview of the entire Bible. A small flavour of the sort of themes you can expect in each section is also given.

#### 1. Origins – our human desire for meaning

Why are we here? Do we have a purpose?  
Are science and religion reconcilable?

#### 2. Exodus – our human quest for freedom

The biblical story of exodus is one of deliverance

What do we want deliverance from today – anxiety, injustice, anger ...?

#### 3. Exile – our human cry for peace Why should we need God?

What is a life without God like?

#### 4. Messiah – our human desire for love

If there is a God what are his characteristics?

The story of Jesus, the servant king: -"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son." (John 3.16)

#### 5. Spirit- our human thirst for community

Why being alone is not what we are designed for

#### 6. Hope – our human longing for home

What does home mean? When I die what then?

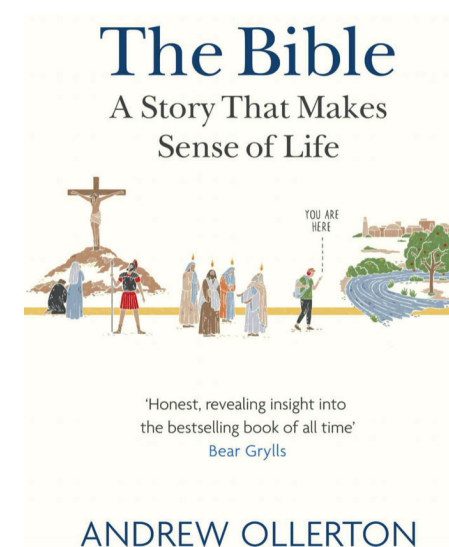
Each section includes personal stories of the author and of our collective more recent human history as a way of relating to the same ancient themes of the Bible. Reference is made to sections of the Bible for you to read and then to reflect on. These reflections ask a question of the reader and then invite you to read a Bible passage or conduct another piece of research like listening to a song. The style of reflection is one that assumes fairly quickly a willingness to engage with God and with prayer.

The book ends with a series of discussion questions grouped along the 6 major themes. These provide opportunity for more personal reflection. The book could also be used to facilitate group discussion as the six major sections are broken down into many smaller bite-sized subsections.

Another way to engage with the story of the Bible with others could be through The Bible Course. This has been developed by Andrew Ollerton in his work with the Bible Society and is an eight session guide designed for small groups. Denham Parish Church ran this course in 2018 and we are planning to run it again in the near future.

#### Like to find out more?

'The Bible, A Story that Makes Sense of Life' is available from: [www.eden.co.uk](http://www.eden.co.uk)



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## THAMES HOSPICE - DENHAM SUPPORT GROUP

BY PHILIP COURTENAY-LUCK

CHAIRMAN - THAMES HOSPICE DENHAM SUPPORT GROUP.

Back in 1986 a lovely man named Ken McKay resided at The Old Cottage in the centre of Denham Village. He was retired but had abundant energy and heard that a proposed residential hospice was endeavouring to raise funds for its build in Windsor. He therefore thought it would be a good idea to form a Denham Support Group whose members would pay an annual subscription and in return could gather socially at Old Cottage twice a year for drinks and canapes whilst being updated on the development of the new hospice. This system continues today.

In the early days this contributed c£1000 to £2000pa whilst also giving reason for local people to gather for a chat and thus improve the community spirit.

Irene and I joined at the second gathering in June 1987 just after we moved into The White House

and we never forgot how useful as new residents it was to be able to meet our neighbours. Eventually the gatherings grew to an extent that The Old Cottage no longer had the space for the membership that now reached some 50 people. Ken therefore approached Irene and myself to hold future gatherings at The White House, to which we readily agreed.

I eventually became chairman of the support group and immediately formed a fund-raising team. Grand fund-raising balls ensued, London to Brighton Cycle Ride, annual walk which now has over 100 people attending, not particularly for the walk but for Irene's now famous Desperate Dan sized Sausage Pies! Garden events in conjunction with The Yellow Book Garden Scheme and The Denham Gardening Club, support from the ladies' bridge club and many other enjoyable events. The word enjoyable is key to our team as if we

believe something would not be so, we will not do it.

Over the years our support for the wonderful nurses, doctors and team at Thames Hospice has grown substantially as has the annual income raised. With the new fabulous 28 individual bedroom hospice at Bray Lake just being



completed, funding is even more vital. We now have 150 members who attend the twice per year gatherings. Our annual income is usually in c£35,000 and thanks to the hard work of my team and some special one-off donations we raised £118,000 in 2019. Our best year ever.

Raising funds for the hospice is important but so is our local community. Our gatherings and events bring the community closer together and any new resident we hear about that has moved into the village receives an invite to one of the gatherings so that they can meet their neighbours. Many, many Denham friendships have been formed as a result.



For a minimum £60pa donation per household anyone that resides in the

Denham area would be welcomed as members. The ongoing support for second-to-none end-of-life care and for the considerate support of patients' loved ones is our mission. The hospice is a special place and as I often mention to friends, pain management is exemplary. If a patient wants a massage at 11am and a whisky at 2pm they can have it. It is this quality of end-of-life care that is regrettably not available within our excellent NHS and which the hospice excels at.

Thames Hospice cares for anyone who is over 18, with a life-limiting illness, living within the catchment area (normally within 15 miles of the Hospice, located by Bray Lake, Windsor Road, Maidenhead). Services are free of charge and with only 20% of funding coming from the NHS, they rely heavily on charitable donations and fundraising. Thames Hospice includes a Community Team who visit patients in their own homes and an inpatient unit that provides care for people at the end of their lives, symptom control for people struggling with pain or vomiting and respite care for people with a life limiting condition. Referrals to any of their care services can be made by the patient, a family member or a health or social care professional

For more information about Thames Hospice, visit [www.thameshospice.org.uk](http://www.thameshospice.org.uk)

For information about the Denham Support Group, please contact Philip Courtenay-Luck 01895 832264

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# GIVE & SHARE

BY CRAIG ALEXANDER

2020 was Give and Share's first year as a registered charity under the umbrella of Denham Parish Church. We had a wonderful team of volunteers that made up 192 Christmas hampers of food and treats that were given to families in our community and we were also able to donate numerous toys to the RNIB Sunshine House in Northwood. We would like to give a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed, it really was a remarkable year.



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Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome were on their way to the tomb. (...) As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him." (*From the Gospel of Mark, chapter 16*)