

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2021

DENHAM PARISH NEWS

Welcome



Denham
Parish Church

ST MARY'S FESTIVAL

HYBRID CHURCH

**WALKING BACK
IN TIME: 1939**

**A DAY IN THE LIFE
OF THE RECTORY**

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FROM THE EDITOR

I recently visited RHS Wisley with my Mum. It is an amazing place full of open green spaces, trees, exotic plants and fun planting combinations - lots of ideas for any budding garden enthusiast. In the glasshouse we spotted this cocoa tree, whose fruit at first sight looked rather wrinkled and not that beautiful. However, inside the pod, there are 20-60 beans with great and yummy potential as they are the main ingredient used in the production of chocolate. The generic name *Theobroma cacao* is derived from the Greek words that literally translate to mean 'food of the gods'!



Maybe we feel a bit wrinkled on the outside, but what potential we all have on the inside! Do join us for St Mary's Festival (September 11-12) when we explore the theme of 'lament and laughter', acknowledging what and whom we may have lost over the past year but also a time for looking forward with hope as we come together and see afresh the 'seeds of potential'!

As the seasons change and we move into late summer and harvest, so Denham Parish News is changing. We say goodbye to Sam Eastwood (p.10) who has been our wonderful graphic designer since we relaunched in colour a couple of years ago - thank you Sam! We also enjoy the final instalment of our 'walk through the village' so beautifully reconstructed by the Denham Community History Project and this time set at the start of WW2 (p.12).

Find out more about 'life in the Rectory' (p.26) as well as life in Togo (p.14) and how we as a church are looking forward and planning for the future (p.6). Come and join in!



Blessings,

Cathy Macqueen

magazine@denhamparish.church

THIS TRAIN WILL TERMINATE HERE - ALL CHANGE!

MESSAGE FROM CHRISTOPH LINDNER, RECTOR

Dear Friends

Today (28 July) I travelled on the Tube for the first time since lockdown. And on my return to Uxbridge Underground Station I heard the familiar words: "This train will terminate here. All change".

I went into London for my first face-to-face health check at the Royal Brompton Hospital. Much has changed in the last 18 months and I felt a bit disoriented. Hospitals and the NHS in general have been on the forefront of constantly adapting and innovating throughout this current crisis. It was much better having my bloods taken by a professional, rather than doing it myself with a home test kit. It was good to speak with the doctors and nurses face-to-face. At the same time, I have benefitted from developments in the remote and virtual care for patients. I've also saved quite a bit of time by attending virtual clinics from my home.

"All change" could be the motto for so many areas of life at the moment. We all know that we will not simply go back to what was before March 2020. Some changes will be for the worse, others for the better.



ALL CHANGE!

In our survey this summer (see pages 6-8) we found that many people in our community have embraced the changes that were forced on us when church buildings closed. Coming together although we are apart – through "Zoom" small groups and Bible Book Clubs, YouTube services and Church Coffee Online has been valued. Your feedback about online services was that you enjoyed the fact that you can take part wherever you are, there is no journey or parking and it is more interactive than a typical service in church.

Of course these offerings will not replace coming together in one place! What did you miss most?

Top of the list were being together in the same place, singing together and receiving Holy Communion. Of all the respondents, only 17 percent said that in future they will only take part in 'onsite' services in the church building, while nearly 60 percent expect to take part in both. That's why we are currently trialling "Hybrid Church" - a 10.30am service at St Mary's, which is streamed live on YouTube (but also available afterwards). Have you tried it yet? We'd like your feedback. (You can find our YouTube page by typing tinyurl.com/youtube-denham into your internet browser).

Whether you like change or not depends on many factors - personality, your previous experience of changes and age probably play a part. Whether we are an early or late adopter, we all know that change is inevitable. At Denham Parish we welcome some of the changes we had to make over the last 18 months, which might have taken years if we hadn't been forced to find new ways of being church. At the same time we are painfully aware of the terrible cost of this crisis for so many - the loss of a loved person, the loss of a job, an interrupted education, a much more uncertain outlook on the future.

At our St Mary's Festival (find out more on the back cover) our theme is "Lament and Laughter" - we won't ignore what happened and need to support one another through the recovery; at the same time we can find new hope as we orientate

ourselves in the new reality (find some encouraging stories of hope on page 25). As followers of Jesus we can face the future with confidence because

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday today and forever"
(Hebrews 13.8).

All through history our task has been to express this unchanging hope in ways that connect with a changing world. It's just that the pace of change has sped up even more recently.

All change? Maybe not all, but much will change. But: This train does not terminate here, because God is faithful and will lead us in this new season.

Christoph Lindner

Rector



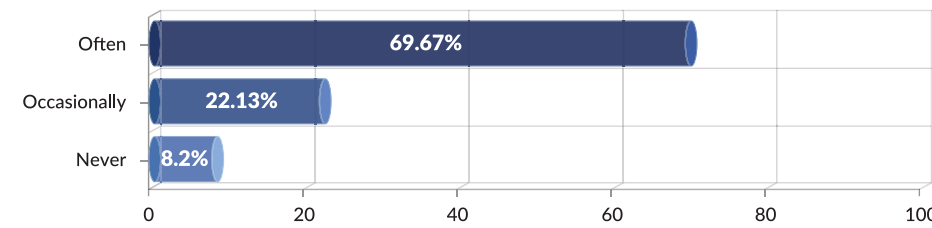
DEVELOPING OUR CHURCH SERVICES IN 2021

THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN

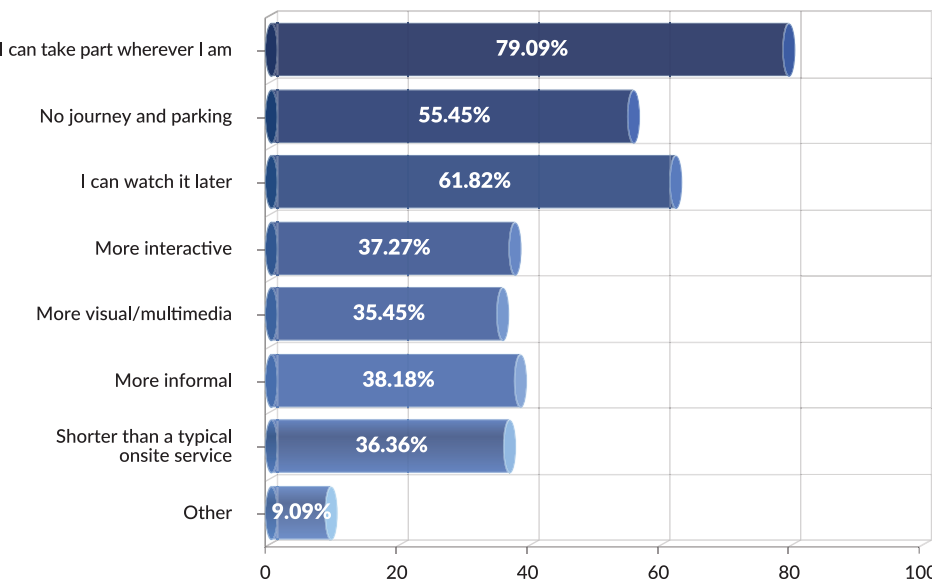
We've learnt so much since churches were forced to close their doors in March 2020. Through online services, telephone calls services, video conferencing, service sheets per posts, we wanted to make sure that we stayed connected. In June we asked you how you experienced church life during the pandemic and what was important to you as we shape our church's life for the future. Here are some of the highlights. Of course the answers reflect only the views of those who completed the survey, but there is much here that is helping us to plan. Our new 'hybrid service' on Sundays at 10.30am is one of the results (see more on page 16).

The word *onsite* refers to services in our church buildings, *online* refers to services on YouTube and FaceBook.

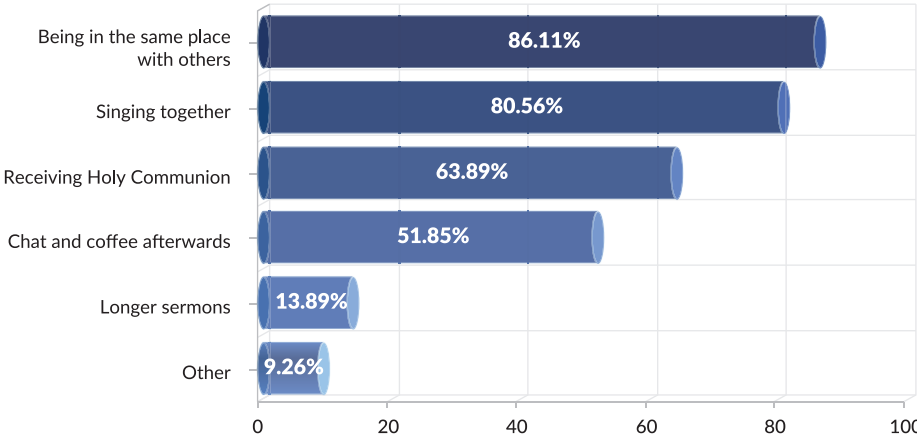
Have you taken part in online services?



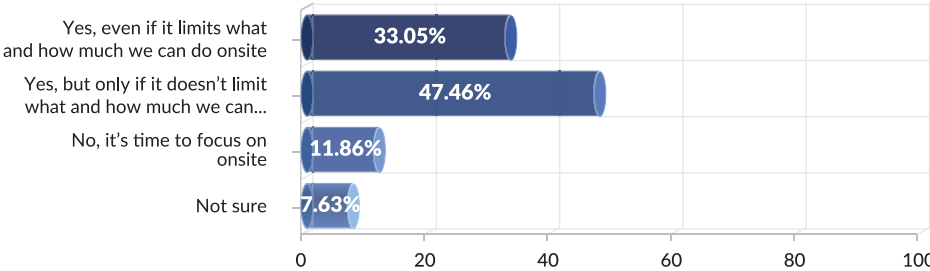
What advantages have you experienced online compared to onsite services?



Which aspects of onsite services have you missed online?



Should online services continue?



“ Because of my husbands frailty it would be difficult to attend a church service.

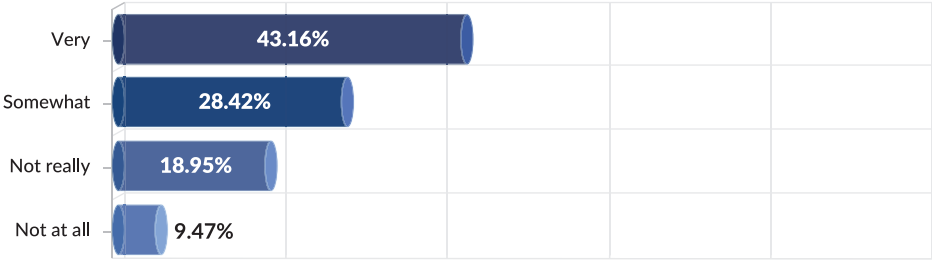
I miss seeing people face to face. I have met others online but may not always recognise them face to face due to hearing and visual impairment.

I feel that there should be a balance between the two - you're growing two churches online/actual with online reaching a wider community.

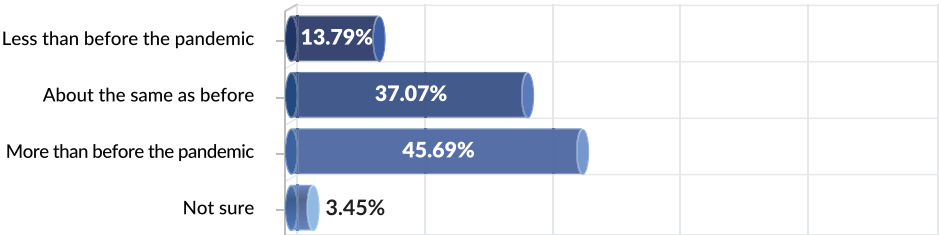
There are older members at Denham Garden Village and the local nursing homes, who will continue to benefit from regular online services.



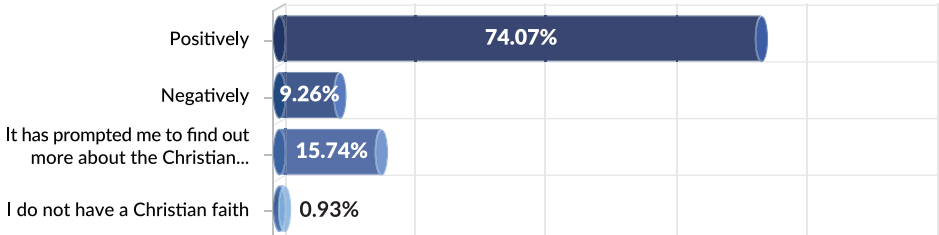
How important has it been to you that the online service is live, rather than pre-recorded?



As this period of lockdown is ending, how much do you feel connected with Denham Parish Church?



How has the Covid crisis affected your faith?



What would you say are your greatest emotional or spiritual needs at the moment?



- Prayer
- Overcoming chronic anxiety
- Stability and normality
- Loneliness
- Reconnecting with people socially face to face
- To be able to welcome people into my home and enjoy a cup of tea and conversation with them
- To sing 'God's Praise' with others
- To know where and how God wants me to serve Him
- Strengthening our relationships with the church family and God
- To be more disciplined with prayer
- Deeper connection
- Thirst to grow and develop in discipleship
- To catch up with members of the congregation, friends and family whom I haven't seen during COVID
- I feel OK spiritually and emotionally but feel diminished physically
- To encourage my partner and family to participate



The Beatitudes and social media

At the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends eight beautiful qualities. But what do the Beatitudes mean for social media and life online?

- > **Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven**
I will remember that my identity comes from being made and loved by God, not from my online profile.
- > **Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted**
This world is full of grief and suffering. I will tread softly and post with gentleness and compassion.
- > **Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth**
I will not boast or brag online, nor will I pull others down.
- > **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled**
There are many wrongs to be righted. I will not be afraid to name them and look for justice in the world.
- > **Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy**
I will not judge others but be generous online. I will be conscious of my own failings.
- > **Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God**
I will be truthful and honest, and I will not pretend to be what I am not.
- > **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God**
I will seek to reconcile those of different views with imagination and good humour.
- > **Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven**
I will not add to the store of hate in the world, but I will try to be courageous in standing up for what is right and true.

GOD IN THE LIFE OF SAM EASTWOOD



When Christoph Lindner interviewed Sam on Saturday 3rd July, it was only three weeks until his wedding to Steph. Sam created the new look for Denham Parish News when we relaunched at Christmas 2018 and – until recently – designed all issues.

You are getting married this month. What has it been like to be engaged and to plan a wedding in lockdown?

Getting engaged was such a joyful experience. When we are feeling a bit down we always look back at that moment of absolute joy for ourselves and our families. The planning of the wedding has been eventful! We thought a July wedding would be a safe bet, but as rules have changed it's been an uncertain time. We are not too anxious because we know God has brought us together, he is in control and he will see us through.

You grew up in a Christian family. Tell us about your faith journey.

When I was young my dad was a Christian minister, so we were very involved in the church. Growing up as a Christian taught me that you are never too young to give your life to Christ. As I went through my teens I was part of the youth group at St James [Gerrards Cross] and had really good friends – we encouraged each other in our faith and talked about big questions. My dad has always encouraged me to be a good witness wherever I go and work. I don't get it right all the time but I try to honour God in everything I do.

How did you end up becoming a graphic designer?

I've always been a visual, creative person. I am dyslexic and I've never enjoyed reading books very much. When I was at university almost everyone on my course had dyslexia – it's more common for creatives. Being creative is how I'm wired. When I was at a Christian festival (Soul Survivor) as a teenager I prayed for God to give me guidance on how to use my skills and I felt clearly that he wanted me to be a creative. When I was 15, I did my first ever work placement with Jon Willcocks [a graphic designer at St James]. He encouraged me to always do a drawing a day.

I've never forgotten that. He was an inspiration for me. Looking back now I can see how God has blessed me with a great career. Drawing and painting is therapeutic for me - I find it quite relaxing.

How does your work and your faith connect in everyday life?

Within the past year I have been thinking about that more. How do people who are not Christians perceive us? Do they see something different in us? My colleagues at work all know that I am a Christian. I try to treat my colleagues with compassion and kindness and live out the gospel of grace and forgiveness. We are quite a close-knit team at work, we're friends on social media and I post quite a lot about what I'm doing. So they know that I am a Christian and go to church. In the days when we worked in the office (!), occasionally someone would swear and then apologise to me! It has opened up discussions – one of my colleagues grew up with Christian values and wanted to know more about the church I'm going to. People say you should not talk about politics or religion at work, but some people are happy to initiate that conversation and it's been good to have these natural conversations. I've seen God's faithfulness in my life through prayers – answered and unanswered! God always reminds me He has a plan and He's always working for my good.

I am always reminded that we can trust Him if we are willing to surrender.

Here at Denham Parish Church we have been blessed by you 'tithing' your time – giving us some of your time for free to design Denham Parish News - thank you!

It's been a pleasure! I've been very happy to help you.

Finally, a dangerous question because by the time we read this article we will know the result: How far will the English football team go in the UEFA Euro 2020?

When we won on Tuesday [against Germany] – very sorry, but not sorry for the result, Christoph! – I was thinking “It's coming home!”. So my prediction is an England-Italy final with England winning on penalties.

Very close, Sam! Sadly it went the other way...

Thank you, Sam, for the conversation and your creative input in designing Denham Parish News. We wish you every blessing for your married life.

WALKING BACK IN TIME: 1939

FROM THE DENHAM COMMUNITY HISTORY PROJECT

3rd September 1939. Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's efforts to appease Adolf Hitler have failed and his bluff has been called. He has been forced to fulfil his promise to guarantee Poland's independence against the invasion by Hitler's armies which had begun just two days earlier. The country is at war with Germany. The situation has been tense for some time and some preparations have been made but they are far from complete.

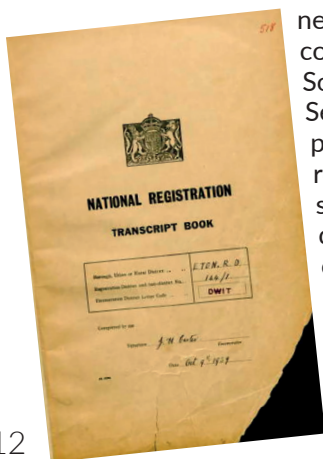
There was an immediate scramble to implement a plan to document the entire civilian population of England and Wales - some 41 million people. The resulting register was to be used to issue identity cards, administer conscription and the direction of labour and to monitor the movement of people following mobilisation and mass evacuations. The regular census taken at 10 year intervals was dated from 1931 and did not satisfy the

needs of a country at war. So on 29th September the people were required to submit the data which created the 1939 register. It was to

survive regularly updated until 1991, and used after 1948 as the Central Register for the National Health Service.

In Denham, the Birches, whose stroll through the village we have chronicled in past editions of the Parish News, had sadly passed away. 1 Blackburn Cottages where the Birch family had lived was home to Henry and Rose Wilkins in 1939. So it was Henry and Rose who took their walk around the village that Friday in September.

Henry was a cowman on one of the village farms. Rose held that office which the 1939 Register euphemistically described as "unpaid domestic duties". It had been a long, hard day for both of them. Both he and Rose had lived through the first war and now in 1939 they had another uncertain future. In the first war the fighting had been on the European mainland, but this time with so many bomber aircraft and the threat of invasion, no-one knew how bad it would be nor how long it would last. In the three weeks since war was declared nothing had happened. Henry and Rose must have hoped it would stay that way. Their four daughters had all married and they had grandchildren in Northwood. They were no doubt worried for their safety.



Their village had become famous. On its outskirts just a mile away from the Blackburn Cottages, in 1932 that



Hungarian gentleman Mr. Korda had established what he said would be England's Hollywood, the London Film Studios. There were so many famous faces to be seen amongst the village farmworkers and gardeners in those days – and lots of people in strange costumes, “extras” they called them, queuing outside The Falcon to collect their days' earnings. Mr. Korda himself could often be seen striding through the village from his home at Hills House. He had celebrated his marriage to the actress, Merle Oberon just a few days before Henry's 61st birthday in June.

Rose and Henry's stroll through the village that September would have taken them past Misbourne Cottage and the allotment gardens behind, along the Misbourne Brook to the junction of Cheapside Lane that many villagers would insist should just be

called Cheapside. At the turning into Cheapside stood The Elms, the home of the Gosletts the bathroom specialists, and at the roadside its Lodge on the corner opposite the old Village Hall before its restoration.

By The Elms was the Telephone Exchange and past it beyond the turn into Ashmead Lane could be seen the old Methodist Church and beyond that the school building that had been there since 1832. Close by on Cheapside Lane was the home where Henry and Rose had lived before their move onto Old Mill Road and where they raised their daughters. Let us suppose that they passed by Ashmead Lane that they had once known as Back Lane or the dark and silent Lovers Lane and instead chose to work their way home to Old Mill Road across the Way and Tillard Recreation Ground. Passing by the schoolyard on their right, on the left they would have an unspoiled view across the allotments that would see much use during the war years all the way over to the rear view of The White House. Passing Ashmead along the path through the Orchards, they would then at last have found their way back home to the Priory Covert and the Blackburn Cottages.



SAMUEL KPAGHERIOUR – MISSION PARTNER IN TOGO

JOAN BELL

When I moved to Denham in 2012 I learnt that Wycliffe Bible Translators was one of 20 or more Christian organisations and other charities supported by St Mary's Parish Church. A year or so later a closer relationship was developed between Wycliffe and the small congregation that met monthly at St Mark's Church Hall, as the result of a visit by Sheila Crunden, a friend of Marion Francis.

Sheila had worked for Wycliffe Bible Translators in Togo for many years and had recently retired from her post as Bible Translation Consultant. She had recommended Samuel for training as a Bible Consultant, and he was then studying for a second MA at university in Nairobi, Kenya. Two decades earlier, while he was studying for his first degree in Linguistics at the University of Lomé in Togo, the New Testament was being translated into Ncham, his mother tongue; the complete text was published and dedicated in 1992. Samuel completed his first MA in 1996, which qualified him for well-paid employment, but he felt that God wanted him to join the small team that was starting to translate the Old Testament into Ncham. He joined the team in 1997 and continued faithfully until the task was completed and the full text sent for proof reading and printing.

The whole Bible was published in Ncham in 2014 then dedicated and presented to the people in 2015.



Sheila returned to Togo to share that joyful celebration, which was recorded on film. Christoph Lindner, our Rector, found a clip of the event on the internet and showed it during our on-line Sunday service earlier this year, during which he also interviewed Samuel via Zoom.

In his new role as Bible Translation Consultant, Samuel now works with other Bible translation teams in Togo and several neighbouring countries of West Africa, mostly using French as their common language. The Covid 19 pandemic has prevented Samuel from travelling as much as before, so a great deal of his consultancy work has been conducted via the internet during the past 18 months.

Our relationship with Samuel developed after Christoph became Rector of Denham in 2016.

The PCC and congregation agreed to support five core Christian organisations, one of which was to be Wycliffe Bible Translators, with a view to making a more generous financial contribution to the work, developing a more meaningful relationship with our mission partners, and praying with more understanding of the problems and opportunities faced by people on the front line.

It has been the policy of Wycliffe UK since its inception in the mid-20th century that the translators should develop a support team to finance their expenses while working overseas. That was easier for expatriate staff with a home base in Europe, but more difficult for indigenous translators in Africa, for example, who now do much of the translation work. Samuel, his wife Leontine and family (they have three children at school or college) have lived by faith for many years, trusting God to supply their needs. Some people in other areas share with Denham the privilege of contributing to that support.

Denham Parish Church makes an annual gift from church funds. This year we also had an Easter appeal, which raised £1224 to provide Ncham Bibles for those who cannot afford the full price. The money will also help to fund literacy classes for those who cannot read their own language. Literacy classes are provided especially for women, who are the agents of change for the next generation in a



broader sense. Having access to the Word of God in their mother tongue will strengthen the local people in their faith and commitment. It is Wycliffe's ambition to make the Bible available in every language on earth, in response to Christ's commission to 'go into all the world and make disciples of all nations.'

Thank you for your prayers, your gifts and your concern for Samuel and his family.

You can find the Youtube video here: <https://bit.ly/bible-in-ncham> or scan the QR code with your smartphone.



Join us for our Sunday Service



10.30am at St Mary's Church and Online

"Hybrid Church" means you can join us for our service in the church building or on YouTube wherever you are.

We are streaming the service with a video camera live from St Mary's. Online you can participate by posting in the chat. A moderator will respond to your messages and be in touch with the service leader at St Mary's for an interactive experience.

Whether you are travelling, on holiday, housebound or unwell – you can still be part of our St Mary's community on a Sunday.

Find our YouTube channel at tinyurl.com/youtube-denham



What is life without my love?

Learning to grow through the pain of bereavement

From Friday, 15 October, 4pm

St Mark's Church Hall, Denham Green

Find out more and sign up:

www.denhamparish.church/bereavement

Or call our church office on 01895 832771

An encouragement to praise



Verses for each day of the month

1 I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness;
I will sing the praises of the name of the Lord Most High.
Psalm 7:17
He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Revelation 19:16

2 Sing the praises of the Lord, enthroned in Zion; proclaim among
the nations what he has done.
Psalm 9:11
He is the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the
Beginning and the End. Revelation 22:13

3 I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me.
Psalm 13:6
He is the Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

4 The Lord lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God my Saviour!
Psalm 18:46
He is the great I am. Exodus 3:14

5 You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob,
honour him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!
Psalm 22:23
He heals the broken hearted. Psalm 147:3

6 Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry for mercy.
Psalm 28:6
He sets the captives free. Luke 4:18

7 The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and
he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.
Psalm 28:7
He is your healer. Isaiah 53:5

8

Praise be to the Lord, for he showed me the wonders of his love when I was in a city under siege.

Psalm 31:21

He delivers us from our distresses. Psalm 107:6,19

9

I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.

Psalm 34:1

He sets you high upon a rock. Psalm 27:5

10

He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him.

Psalm 40:3

He comforts you in all your troubles. 12 Corinthians 1:4

11

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen.

Psalm 41:13

He is so worthy, if we do not praise him,
the rocks will cry out. Luke 19:40

12

Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God.

Psalm 42:5

He is the bread of life. John 6:35

13

For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

Psalm 47:7

He hides you in the shadow of His wings. Psalm 91:4

14

Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain.

Psalm 48:1

He delivers you from evil. Psalm 91

14

Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

Psalm 51:15

He is the light of the world. John 8:12

16 For what you have done I will always praise you in the presence of your faithful people. And I will hope in your name, for your name is good.

Psalm 52:9

He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek him.
Hebrews 11:6

17 In God, whose word I praise - in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?

Psalm 56:4

He is the name above all names. Philippians 2:9

18 Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!

Psalm 66:20

He is your defender. Proverbs 22:23

19 Sing to God, sing in praise of his name, extol him who rides on the clouds; rejoice before him - his name is the Lord.

Psalm 68:4

He is your provider. Genesis 22:14

20 Praise be to the Lord, to God our Saviour, who daily bears our burdens.

Psalm 68:19

He is mercy. Deuteronomy 4:31

21 You, God, are awesome in your sanctuary; the God of Israel gives power and strength to his people. Praise be to God!

Psalm 68:35

He is a God of justice. Isaiah 30:18

22 From my birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother's womb. I will ever praise you.

Psalm 71:6

He never changes. Hebrews 13:8

23 As for me, I shall always have hope; I will praise you more and more.

Psalm 71:14

He makes all things new. Revelation 21:5

24 For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.
[Psalm 96:4](#)

He calls you friend. John 15:15

25 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.
[Psalm 100:4](#)

He is your Saviour. John 3:16

26 I will sing of your love and justice; to you, Lord, I will sing praise.
[Psalm 101:1](#)

He is the perfecter of your faith. Hebrews 12:2

27 Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits -
[Psalm 103:2](#)

He gives you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4

28 Praise the Lord, my soul. Lord my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendour and majesty.
[Psalm 104:1](#)

He wants to give you exceeding, abundantly above all you could hope or imagine. Ephesians 3:20

29 For great is his love towards us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever. Praise the Lord.
[Psalm 117:2](#)

He is the way, the truth and the life. John 14:6

30 I will bow down towards your holy temple and will praise your name for your unfailing love and your faithfulness, for you have so exalted your solemn decree that it surpasses your fame.
[Psalm 138:2](#)

His joy is your strength. Nehemiah 8:10

31 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
[Psalm 139:14](#)

He is love. 1 John 4:8

GIVE & SHARE

Christmas is rapidly approaching – there is still time to help with our Give and Share Christmas Boxes:



Make a donation in the form of supermarket vouchers, cash donations or simply shopping for a few items on our list. You can drop the items off at *Bite Sandwich Bar* (New Denham), *Iver Flowerland*, and *Smith's Garden Centre*



Help in a practical way by delivering the completed hampers to local schools or by helping to pack the hampers at our local venue.

If you would like to help please contact Craig
(Give_and_Share@denhamparish.church or 07748973527).

Give and Share is a ministry of Denham Parish Church, responding to local needs by supporting families who are struggling with the day-to-day cost of living and expressing kindness and care through the response of the local church. Over the last years we have packed hundreds of Christmas Boxes, which are distributed through local schools and other charities.



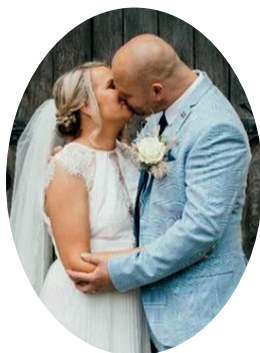
www.denhamparish.church/giveandshare

FAMILY REGISTER OF DENHAM PARISH CHURCH

WEDDINGS

28.05.2021 Tony Curtis O'Leary to Jodie Claire Thomas
- Chalfont St Peter

29.05.2021 James Conor Lockwood Burnley to Hannah Lucy McGarty
- Higher Denham



Tony & Jodie



James & Hannah

12.06.2021 Daniel Victor Leonard Quinton to Bethany Rose Hanson
- Denham

19.06.2021 Jake Mark Sheppy to Rebecca Erica Ann Delnevo
- Ruislip

03.07.2021 Brian Alan Saunders to Denise Marie Glover
- Denham



Dan & Beth



Brian & Denise

- 30.07.2021** Chay Aron Mott, West Drayton to
Christina Maria Smith
- Denham
- 30.07.2021** Jason Franklin Bridgen to Helen Banner
Higher Denham
- 31.07.2021** Nigel Keith Hone to Anneliese Elizabeth Alice Vladar
- Stokenchurch



Jason & Helen



Nigel & Anneliese

BAPTISMS

- 30.05.2021** Jack Andrew English - Stoke Poges
- 30.05.2021** Oliver Henry English - Stoke Poges
- 20.06.2021** Angus Robert Campbell - Ickenham
- 18.07.2021** Adelyn Genevieve Nevitte - Denham
- 01.08.2021** Udochukwu Chinzuruoke Maduka - New Denham



Adelyn Nevitte



Udochukwu Maduka

FAMILY REGISTER CONTINUED



CREMATIONS

05.05.2021 Jean Fuller (84) Denham Garden Village

14.04.2021 Peter Frederick Jones (87) Denham



Jean Fuller



Kenneth Sydenham
28.3.1933 - 15.1.2021



Peter Jones

BURIALS

13.05.2021 Clifford Stanley Williams (78) Denham Green



Clifford Williams

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



REFLECTIONS ON FORGIVENESS AND HOPE

Often when we are wronged or slighted, isn't our first thought "How dare they? I'll show them!" I experienced this a long time ago. I was angry and hurting and spat out unkind and thoughtless words. Did I regret it then? No, I'm afraid not but some years later, I came to know the person I had wronged, they came beside me, forgave me and we became deep and lasting friends. Jesus knowingly made the ultimate sacrifice; he gave his life in the most agonisingly painful way to take our sins onto his shoulders, for all of us, so that we can be forgiven, and to be given the power to forgive. I would like to think that we can all move forward and come out of this pandemic better people. People who remember that at no cost to ourselves, we hold the greatest gift of all, the power to forgive.

Clive Ashcroft

Every time we turn on the news, we are confronted by atrocities that make no sense at all. We live in a tension between good and evil. A beautiful scene can be destroyed in a moment by a terrorist attack. A bomb shatters lives and leaves in its wake great human pain and suffering for those who survive its effects. However traumatised we are, unless we learn to trust God we lose hope. Resting in His everlasting arms we can find comfort. For each and every one of us He gives us that opportunity to be cradled in His arms and to trust in Him. We may not understand but there alone is our future. 'The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms'

Deuteronomy Ch.33v27. *Jill Sands*

Chipstead Jigsaw Library has a 68-page catalogue with photos of over 900 jigsaws along with details of their size and number of pieces. The puzzles are all wooden - some quite old, individually handmade, collector's items. Often the pieces are irregular and therefore do not interlock in the same way, making the picture unclear and the finished puzzle fragile, not holding together fully. Perhaps over the past year our lives have been a bit like doing a jigsaw puzzle - it has been hard and there may have been moments when we felt like giving up. When a piece of wooden jigsaw is broken, it is not thrown away but the craftsman will take the surrounding pieces of jigsaw and use them to help him repair the broken piece. As we move out of lockdown, let's remember and give thanks for, and to, those 'puzzle pieces' around us - our neighbours, friends, family, key workers, vaccine developers and so many others who have helped us. Without them we could not have managed and without them, Jesus, our Master Craftsman (a carpenter!) could not have continued his work towards creating the perfect puzzle - God's kingdom on earth.

Reproduced from Tidings, Spring 2021, Banstead URC

LIFE IN THE RECTORY

BRIAN O'REGAN

In July 2000 Christoph and Edda felt God's calling to go to England from Germany and they agreed to embark on a dream adventure for three years. They had set up home in Hamburg six years earlier, following their marriage in Neuenburg, and felt there was a place for them in Kingdom work. They met in 1986 at their local church, Evangelische Kirchengemeinde Neuenburg & Zienken, whose minister was Pfarrer (Pastor) Hansjörg Lindner. Christoph's father confirmed Edda when she was 13. Did he realise that she was to become his son's beautiful bride?

Christoph was appointed worship leader at St James Church, Gerrards Cross and Fulmer, and Edda led the children's ministry, Promiseland. They began to feel at home and fulfilled, serving God together, and the years rolled by. They both studied theology at St Mellitus College, Edda as an independent student, whilst Christoph trained for ordination and then began his curacy at St James. All was very well in the Lindner camp, until...

....a literally heart stopping moment in October 2014 shook Christoph and Edda. Edda had a cardiac arrest whilst helping at a large event at St James. A first-aider found her within seconds of her collapse and delivered life saving CPR, together with Christoph. They both needed to recover from this setback but it was not long before they were on the move to Denham Parish, where Christoph started as Rector in March 2016.

I arrived at the Rectory to conduct my interview for this article and received the customary warm greeting and hospitality (Fanciful Thins and tea, in case you were wondering). I wanted to find out how the Rectory functioned as a workplace for God and as a home. I was disappointed



to hear that Christoph didn't carry Edda over the threshold when they moved into their first rectory! With the help of parishioners, they soon made it a place of welcome whilst maintaining their private sanctuary upstairs. It is there that they retreat to their "snug" lounge to relax. You might say it's Upstairs Downstairs. Back downstairs, in pre-covid times, Life Groups and Alpha groups would meet using the study and the living room. The numbers were sometimes a challenge – we hadn't heard of social distancing in those halcyon days – but no one was turned away.

The couple love to make the Rectory a welcoming home and noted that it was not theirs, just theirs to use for Kingdom work.

The preparation of the Sunday sermon is spread over several days; Christoph immerses himself in the bible text, letting it “stew in me”. A long walk helps to stir the stew, then it’s back to the study for formal preparation and researching background material. Edda is not involved so hears it for the first time at the Sunday service. They love Sundays, an opportunity to be in the company of the church family, whether that is in church or online.

I quoted from a 17th century book I had come across during my research. Edda identified the author as George Herbert. He was Rector of St Andrew’s church in Bemerton near Salisbury and wrote *The Country Parson his Character and Rule of Holy Life* in 1633 as a guide to rectors. It is still influential today. He noted that “The Countrey Parson preacheth constantly, the pulpit is his joy...” For Christoph, the joy is preaching the word of God so that the congregation would see Jesus. “The joy of Sunday” he said, carried through the rest of the week.

Despite not being part of sermon preparation, Edda sees theirs as a shared ministry; one that they are keen to have everyone share. Their aspirational legacy is not for what they have done, but that people see them as a couple who love Jesus and a church that is not vicar-centric. Christoph is conscious that his job is under the authority of Jesus, the Bible, the Church of England and the local church. How he stewards

that authority helps to define his rectorship. We all know what they have done during their time in Denham, but they deflect that to the team they joined and the many who have walked with them. And haven’t we just enjoyed the walk!

I was interested to hear the couple’s thoughts on materialism and how they manage it. Christoph said “We are creature beings – we need stuff.” Edda continued the thought “yes, food, clothes, a roof and security.” They caution against finding their deepest contentment in material things; instead, they look for it in following Jesus and try to fill their hearts that way. They encourage giving from the first fruits (giving back to God) before satisfying self.

There is so much more to say about the Rectory and those that abide there, but space is short. But “one picture is worth a thousand words” so take a look at the photo of the sign hanging in the Rectory kitchen!

The three-year adventure which began in 2000 continues, God only knows where it will lead and that is exactly how Christoph and Edda would have it.



“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.” Acts 20:28

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*A laugh is a smile that bursts
...loosely based around holidays*

Stressed is desserts spelled backwards

*'There's nothing to match curling up with a good book when
there's a repair job to be done around the house' (Joe Ryan)*

*'If you think you're too small to make a difference, you've obviously
never been in bed with a mosquito' (Michelle Walker)*

*'Don't think there are no crocodiles because the water is calm'
(Malayan proverb)*

If you're going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country

'The best remedy for a short temper is a long walk' (Jacqueline Schiff)

Faith is the bird who sings while it is still dark

*The quickest way for a parent to get a child's attention
is to sit down and look comfortable*

And finally... 'if you want breakfast in bed, sleep in the kitchen!'

Source: From a Bundle of Laughs, J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books.

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LIFE IN NO.3 NURSERY COTTAGES, NEW DENHAM, 1929-1939 PART 2: PLOUGHING AND HARVESTING

EDITED FROM CHILDHOOD MEMORIES WRITTEN BY JESSIE SIMS

Fred Powell lived at May Tree Cottage in Newtown Road, New Denham which backed onto the Waggon and Horses (now the site of McDonald's). He had a small engineering works there and employed three men; Tom Peart (blacksmith), Billy Watkins (fitter engineer), and Bert Bowler (jack of all trades). Fred had lathes and drills and a grinding machine that was driven by a large gas engine. My brother Jim often went there with my dad and was fascinated by the gravity rollers moving the crates full of bottles of beer. Most



of Fred Powell's work was maintaining the flour mills around Uxbridge, and Harman's Brewery. When Fred acquired Lea Farm, Denham, he supplied Harman's with hay and straw for their horses.

Ploughing

In order to plough a single acre in a 9-inch furrow, a ploughman had to walk 11 miles. A good ploughman could plough one and a half acres in a day, thus walking 16 miles. This was not straightforward walking but staggering along uneven ground, steering the plough and controlling the pair of horses. Dad used to work in all weathers in inadequate clothing. Sacking was the order of the day,



one around the shoulders and one around the waist, and always a cap, or 'snooted bunnet', as he would say and hobnail 'tacketty' boots. One day, when dad had cycled over to Mansfield Farm to go rabbiting with our ferrets, he found a rusty old plough lying in the stinging nettles - he said it was the one he used to plough with, when he worked there in 1921. It was a Ransomes long board match plough. When dad told Fred Powell about the plough, Fred promptly went over and bought it and had it done up. Tom Peart made the coulter to dad's specification (a coulter is a blade on the front of the plough that makes a preliminary cut through the soil).

In 1934, Fred entered dad into the 97th South Bucks ploughing match, held at Round Coppice Farm at Iver Heath. Dad won First Prize in Class 1, Section 2 and was rewarded with two pounds.

In 1935 the 98th Ploughing match was held at Colnbrook. Dad stayed overnight as he would have had to walk both ways leading the horses. It was a very good year for him and we were so proud as he won His Majesty's Prize for the Best Ploughman in the field. He won five guineas, and one guinea was given by Ransomes, Sims and Jeffries for the best work done using one of their ploughs. He also won twenty shillings for properly attending to his duties as Stockman.

Harvesting

When it was harvest time and dad was driving the Binder around, he used to tie his shot gun on it, ready for rabbits. The other men working on the farm were doing the shocking-up of the corn stooks and there were also loads of hangers-on, hoping to catch the rabbits that were sent out of the corn as it was cut. They hoped they would be given one or two at the end of the day - a good field would sometimes yield as many as thirty rabbits.

After the corn shocks had stood in the field for few days and according to it being fine weather, the carting began, taking the corn to the Rickyard to be built into ricks. Dad then used to thatch them to keep them dry until the threshing tackle arrived. We loved to watch the threshing for hours on end. Only the Feeder and

the Driver were employed full time by the Contractor, the rest of the crew were mainly tramps who travelled around with the machine. Dad and the farm men bagged up and weighed the corn and took it to the granary, they also threw the sheaves from the rick to the Feeder, who cut the bonds and fed the corn into the machine. The old tramps cleared away the cavings, this was the broken straw that came out under the machine. They also cleared away the weed seeds and flyers off the oats, and awns off the barley. The husks of wheat were saved to be mixed with molasses for animal feed and the good straw was built into ricks.

The two contractors that were used in the area were Messrs. Cleare of Burnham and Ward of Egham. One Saturday they had finished threshing at dinner-time, so they drove the engine up to the end of the yard, to be away from the ricks, as the engine still had the fire going in it and was still in steam. Nobody was about so my brother Jim (about 8 years old), climbed on to the engine, pulled out the pins that secured the lever that moved the gears, lined up the gears and put the pins back. He only wanted to drive the fly wheel but he had got the train of gears in line for road travel, so he pulled on the fly wheel to get it off dead centre, hit the steam regulator a couple of times with the palm of his hand and away went the engine! He had the presence of mind to switch off the steam, but, too late, the engine was in the ditch!

Look out for more of brother Jim's antics in future editions!

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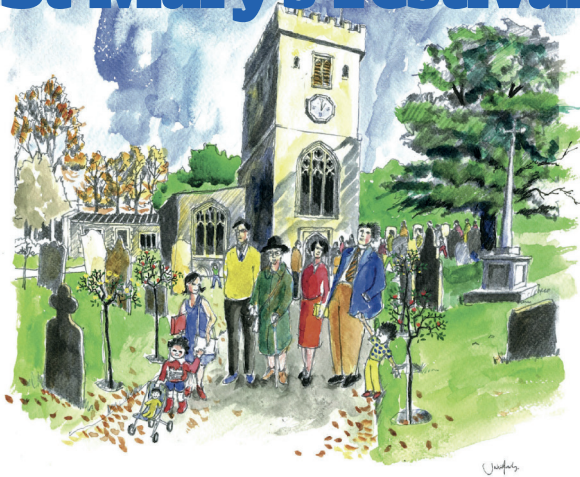
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10 am

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2pm–5pm

Vestry Teas

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2pm–5pm

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2pm–5pm

Light a Candle

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2pm–5pm

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