

MARCH 2022-MAY 2022

DENHAM PARISH NEWS

CELEBRATING EASTER
REMEMBERING 1952
LIFE AND FAITH: TWO PORTRAITS
FOREST CHURCH



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Cover photo: An Easter Garden - see page 28 for ideas on how to make your own.

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FROM THE EDITOR

I am sitting at my kitchen table, where I can just see the first few green shoots of snowdrops emerging from the wintry soil. By the time you read this I am hopeful that I will have also enjoyed the sight of crocus, daffodils, tulips and bluebells in the garden! In Sir David Attenborough's 'Green Planet' (BBC) he tracks the life cycle of the red fire orchid in South Africa, which lies dormant, hidden underground for many years. It is only after fire sweeps through the area that the orchid, triggered by the heat of the fire and smoke, quickly springs into life.

In this Issue we celebrate Easter and the message of new life and hope in Jesus. I'd encourage you to use the 'reflective walk' (centre pages) as a guide to lead you through the events of Holy week. Our title photo shows an "Easter Garden". If you are feeling creative, maybe the ideas (p.28) will inspire you to make one of your own (do send us a photo!) Or why not join us at Forest Church (p.24), an excellent way to connect with nature and grow your Christian faith.



We catch a glimpse of God in the life of Marion (p.12) and Carole (p.26). There are also lots of memories shared from 1952 (p.6) and initial details about how we hope to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (p.15).

As part of the Jubilee celebrations, in our next issue of Denham Parish News, we would love to include your memories of the Queen (her coronation or any other standout moments over her 70-year reign). Please send your contributions (maximum 150 words) to magazine@denhamparish.church by Easter Sunday (17 April).

I look forward to hearing from you!



Happy Easter!

Cathy Macqueen

magazine@denhamparish.church

THE MARVELLOUS MAGNET

MESSAGE FROM CHRISTOPH LINDNER, RECTOR

Dear Friends

Do you recognise this object? If you do, you are part of a dwindling minority.*



On page 6 we have asked you to share your memories of 1952. So much has changed in the last 70 years that some of us sometimes feel we truly are from a different century. In the

1980s I bought my first computer. It was a Commodore C64 (anyone remember it?) and I was amazed by its speed and power. Today even the humblest smartphone has many times its power. What would my grandparents have thought if I'd told them that I am using a mouse as I write this, that I have just tweeted something, saved my photos to the cloud and then showed them to my wife on a tablet?

But the changes go so much deeper. How would your grandparents have answered the questions "Who am I?" and "What does a happy life look like?" Chances are they would have found them a bit curious. They simply wanted to get by and provide for their family. Seventy years ago the vast majority in the UK would have understood their life and identity in terms of the Christian faith - they were baptised, confirmed, got married and were buried in church. Their faith in God gave shape and meaning to their lives.

It is no wonder that many of us feel dizzy in the face of fundamental changes - we sometimes feel that we are from another planet! The decline in church membership over the last 50 years shows that many young people do not find church relevant to their lives. While many would describe themselves as spiritual, they prefer to construct their own meaning from the myriad of options available. Some are even asking whether our faith will have any relevance for future generations.

Of course, not all the changes we've lived through are bad - far from it! And if this is God's world and if we are made in his image, then some central answers to the question of who we are and what we long for will never change. In his book *Making Faith Magnetic*, Daniel Strange argues that there are five things which all human beings are searching for, which draw us like magnets:

TOTALITY

(Is there more to life than this? How can I be connected to something bigger?)

NORM

(Is there a right way to live?)

DELIVERANCE

(Is there a way out of the messiness? How do I deal with death?)

DESTINY

(Do I have a destiny? Am I a puppet or free?)

HIGHER POWER

(Is there something / someone sacred beyond this material world? Who is ultimately in control?)

Some have wondered whether our secular and agnostic ages has done away with these magnets. Many don't believe in a higher power. We are sometimes told that we are all right as we are and can live our lives any way we want to, as long as we don't harm anyone. And yet, the same people who protest that they don't need some higher purpose in life, often find meaning in belonging to a group or a cause such as climate change, a football club, their national identity, an LGBTQ rally, raising funds for a chosen charity, an online gaming or social media community.

If we dig a little deeper, we may find that we are all yearning for those magnetic points, even if we protest that we aren't.

On Sunday 17th April we are celebrating Easter – Jesus' victory over the powers of evil and death. Jesus Christ is the one person who has shaped today's world more than anyone else (if you'd like to explore this fact in depth, I recommend Tom Holland's fascinating book *Dominion*). As Christians we believe that Jesus fulfils each of these universal human longings in ways nothing else can:

Jesus gives us an identity that connects us rather than isolating us. He is the only one who can provide a moral norm (his own character) that doesn't descend into moralism. He alone brings a finished, accomplished deliverance rather than one we must perform for ourselves. He is the one thing you can live for that does not enslave but actually liberates you. And he is the Higher Power, the High and Holy One - who became a human being we can know and love personally.

From the Foreword to *"Making Faith Magnetic"* by Timothy Keller

Thomas - one of Jesus' disciples - was a man with doubts and questions. He wasn't going to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead until he put his fingers in his nail marks. He didn't understand what Jesus was saying when he said he was leaving to prepare a place for them. Jesus famously answered:

"I am the way, the truth and the life."

John chapter 14.

We will always have questions, and in a rapidly changing culture even more so. But the Christian faith is not about having the perfect answer for everything, but about a person who has shown us how our deepest longings find their answer in a relationship with him. He is the marvellous magnet. We all have universal itches and they can be doors into faith.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Hebrews chapter 13 verse 8.

*I will share the answer in our next issue.

The first person to email the correct answer to rector@denhamparish.church will win a copy of Tom Holland's book *"Dominion"*. You can also call our church office and leave a message. If there is more than once correct entry, there may be consolation prizes.

Christoph Lindner

Rector



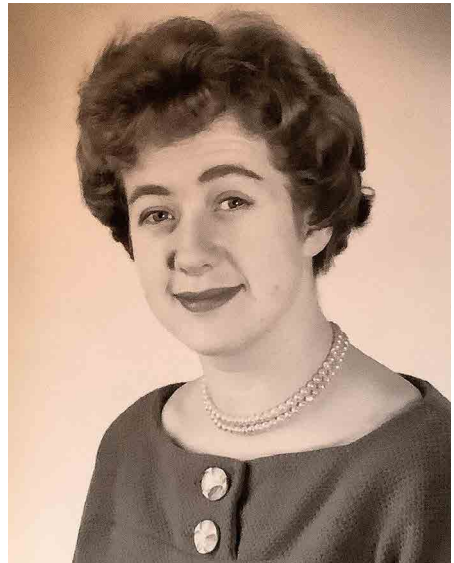
1952 - WHAT A YEAR THAT WAS!



John Hawkins

It was early July 1952, Denham School Sports Day was being held in the recreation ground behind our school in Cheapside Lane. The whole school were gathered for this annual highlight with many parents there as well. I was in the 100 yards final hoping for a medal for my house. I wouldn't get a 1st as Dave Taylor, of Windsor House, our big rivals, who lived up at Marish Farm by the aerodrome, was really speedy and was a foregone shoe-in for first place. We lined up for the start, Mr Taylor was calling us in. 'On your marks,' was his order and we all went down. 'Get set,' came next. Just at the moment before the 'Go,' I felt a sharp pain in a righthand finger. I stood up wringing my hand. I had put it down on a bee or a wasp and it wasn't happy. 'What's the problem Hawkins?' Mr Taylor called across. 'I've been stung

sir' I replied. 'Are you in the race or not?' he demanded. 'No sir, I don't think so.' I was a bit of a wimp at 12! 'Oh alright then, come over here and find Miss Martin,' who was somewhere down by the finish line. 'See if she can sort you out.' So that was my chance gone to try and impress and the medal chance with it. I did manage to get a third in the long jump though.



Ann Collins

In 1952 I left school and started my first job at the Martin-Baker Aircraft Company in Higher Denham as a Junior Clerk in the Buying Office. I cycled there from my home in Cheapside Lane for an 8.30am start, cycled home and back for lunch, finishing at 5.30pm. I remember feeling very fortunate being able to travel to work down a quiet country lane with horses and cows in the adjoining fields while others had to suffer the rush hour on crowded

transport. Possibly due to the fact that I was the youngest employee I was chosen to present a bouquet of flowers to Lady Martin (wife of the founder) at the annual Dinner & Dance held at the Bell Hotel, Beaconsfield. This of course called for a new ball gown! I worked as Secretary to the chief buyer, but left in 1962 to get married. Among so many beautiful and treasured wedding presents, I received a cheque from Sir James Martin for £50 which eventually carpeted the lounge of our newly built house which my husband Bernard designed and built brick by brick on his own at evenings and weekends, which took him two years!



Carole Wadlow

On 6th February 1952 King George died and Princess Elizabeth became Queen. I had just passed my 12th birthday, lived in Pinner and went to school at Haberdashers Askes in Acton as well as belonging to the 7th Pinner Girl Guide group. We met at the Methodist Church every week. Sundays was Church Parade when we would process into Church with the Boy Scouts. ▶

FEBRUARY 1952 ... REFLECTING

*Windsor Castle. Seeing for the first time.
On half term break from college.
There because King George VI had died.*

—

*The mound leading to
St George's chapel and beyond
Covered in wreaths.
Masses of beautiful flowers.
Sent from loyal subjects.*

—

*Queen Elizabeth, young and grieving,
Flown home from her tour in Africa,
With her husband,
Prince Philip at her side.*

—

*Little did I know that I would soon be
leaving my Yorkshire home to make a life in
London. And Windsor would be a place of
interest for my Northern visitors.*

—

*Seventy years on and Queen Elizabeth
Reigns still, though sadly
without her husband.
I resigned years ago
but she remains,
fulfilling her oath.*

—

*She represents the values we hold dear,
My generation being unsure of today's
Popular culture, seemingly without rules.*

—

*Computers, IT and AI
are changing our world.
TV, Facebook, the wide-spread Media.
Daily we are faced with
the earth's catastrophes.*

—

*Little did we know in February 1952,
fortunately, what challenges
we were to face. Like Her Majesty,
by God's grace, we have survived.*

Joyce Hobson

1952 - WHAT A YEAR THAT WAS! - *Continued*

I remember so distinctly our first Girl Guide meeting after Princess Elizabeth became Queen. We all had to practice saluting with our 3 fingers and saying, because we had previously learned to promise the King, "I promise that I will do my best. To do my duty to God and the Queen and to help other people at all times and to obey the Guide law".



Gerald Miller

I was age 7 and in September was transferred from Bourne Primary to Deanesfield. From age 4 I had been taken each Sunday to the local Methodist church by a neighbour who was the superintendent there. My parents decided that as they were nominally CofE it was time I changed and I started to go to the local Parish Church (St Mary's, South Ruislip), attending the 9am Communion service every week until I was married at

St Mary's Denham in 1968. Over the years I persuaded a number of my friends to go with me. No doubt we were a disruptive group of naughty little boys, talking & giggling. I can't remember very much about the services but I do remember that during Communion the hymn 'Just as I Am' was very regularly sung to the tune Saffron Walden.

1952 also marked the start of my weekly piano lessons, which my parents persisted with through two teachers (the first a contemporary & personal friend of Edward Elgar, the second a retired pianist on the Union Castle liners which plied between the UK & South Africa) but with no doubt reducing hope until I was 15.

Pam Montgomery

King George VI died on 6th February 1952. At that time, I was working as secretary to the Tutor for Women Students at University College London. I received a phone call from my mother soon after I had arrived at the College that morning, telling me that the King had died. I then thought I should tell my boss immediately. I knocked on her door, and can remember the exact words I used "I'm sorry to interrupt (she was with a student) but the King is dead" - and all three of us burst into tears. All programmes on the wireless (the then word for a radio and of course there were no TVs or mobile phones!) were cancelled throughout the day and instead, only music was played. And the strangest

thing of all, after singing God save the KING for twenty years, was to sing God save the QUEEN!



Cliff Thomas

I volunteered for the R.A.F in May 1952. My brother had decided to join the Australian army and I missed doing things with him. I was due for a call up on my eighteenth birthday so I decided to volunteer at 17½. National service was two years but I wanted to continue my career in electrical engineering so decided to serve 4 years. Shortly after joining I remember having a long weekend break to celebrate the Queen's coronation with the usual street parties, very enjoyable. My R.A.F. career allowed me to visit many countries with postings to Malta, Cyprus and two and a half years in Egypt. I guess it made a man of me.

Joan Bell

I was born towards the end of the brief reign of King Edward VIII, whose abdication in December 1936 obliged his younger, and less confident brother, Prince Albert, to ascend the throne as King George VI. The Press was more discrete in those days before television, so the occasional photograph in a newspaper, or a short newsreel at the cinema, were the public's main sources of information about the Royal Family. I am not sure that we youngsters knew that the King was seriously ill, but I do remember the shock, awe and disbelief I felt as a 15 year old when the Headmistress of our Grammar School came into the canteen at lunch-time and announced that the King had died.

At the time the Queen seemed to me to be very grown-up, but I realise now that she was very young at 26 to have taken on the heavy mantle of monarchy. Yet as she vowed when she was 21 years old, her reign - whether long or short - would be dedicated to the service of her people. Through 70 years she has kept that vow, with courage, dignity and grace.

God save our Queen.



LITTLE LIONS IS ROARING ONCE AGAIN!

BY EDDA LINDNER

In June 2021 we re-started Little Lions at St Mark's. Covid has forced us to re-think and do things differently

We are now running two one-hour sessions on Wednesday mornings during term time. We had to introduce a sign-up system, restricting each session to 12 families to allow enough space to keep everyone safe. We run the group for local people and we have grannies, mummies, daddies, carers and aunties come with their little ones.

We put two questions to them and here are their answers – enjoy!

1. Why do you come to Little Lions?
2. What do you like best about Little Lions?

Carolyn
Mother of Samuel

I come to Little Lions with my youngest son who's 3. I've been coming since the group started and all three of my children have loved it, as have I. It's such a friendly

group with everyone pitching in to help each other especially when you have tough times. Lots of different activities and special things to do at Easter and Christmas. I'll be really sad when my son goes to school in September as after 7 years it won't be part of my Wednesdays anymore. I'll miss such a fantastic team, Edda, Kathy and Anna are wonderful.

Kasia & Mark
Parents of Antonia and Nicholas

We come to Little Lions because of the wonderful fun and happy atmosphere, singing and the chance to meet other parents and children. The one thing we love about Little Lions is the lovely people running it. We really appreciate the time and effort that you put in.

Hannah
Mother of Dionne

I come to Little lions because it's a relaxed place to meet new people and for children to engage with others in a safe and happy environment. There's no pressure for the children to take part in every activity and they have the freedom to explore what they like in their own time and in their own way. One thing I like best is the variety of activities available for the children to get stuck into if they wish.

It's great that they change weekly and the children really enjoy them.



Laura
Mother of Tommy

As a single parent new to the challenges of a newborn, Little Lions was such a fantastic place to meet other mums, share experiences and give each other tips and advice. It enabled me to make friends in the local area as I was relatively new to Denham when my son was born. It was also a great place for my son to interact with other babies, explore new toys and environments. The thing I like best is that it is such a warm and welcoming environment which is attributable to Edda, Kathy and Anna.



They are always willing to listen and give you their time so that you get the most out of each session.

Robert & Eliana
Parents of Sienna

We enjoy going to LL because it's an opportunity for our little one to spend a good time socialising with other children and it's a great and positive exposure to our Church family.

The aspect we like the most is the second part of the session when the children participate in an activity with the LL hosts and other children as their attention and senses are fully stimulated while also getting some early exposure to God and Jesus' story.

Lauren
Nanny of Aggie

We come to Little Lions because it's a local playgroup and we have the option to walk to the session. I also think it's great to have a group for my charge to interact and play with other children and form friendships. We like Little Lions as it's a small, friendly group with familiar faces. We especially like the singing at the end of the session.

Aurelia
Mummy of Electra

A chance for Electra to play with different toys in a different environment and to meet other babies. Also, for me to get out, and meet other local mums/dads. I love how cosy and relaxed it is. Some playgroups are too hectic, but LL is just right!

We welcome anyone with a baby or toddler who lives in Denham.

If you are interested, please contact us via the Church Office.

GOD IN THE LIFE OF MARION FRANCIS

AS TOLD TO CATHY MACQUEEN



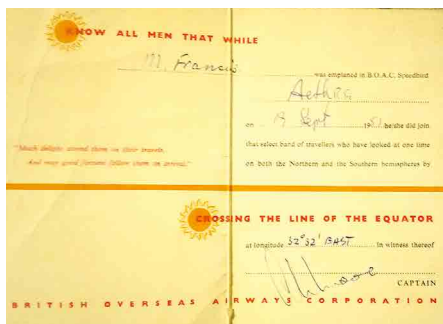
This is the seventh in our series of 'God in the Life of...'

Marion was born in South London, in the home of her maternal grandparents. It was a blistering hot day in July 1932 so her grandmother soaked the net curtains in water and hung them up again wet in the hope that the evaporation would help cool the bedroom down. Her father worked for a trade magazine publisher, whilst her mother was a wages clerk at Cross and Blackwell. She grew up in Barnet, training as a teacher at the Maria Grey College, Twickenham, before going on to teach in a variety of Primary schools.

A keen member of Girl Guides, Marion rose through the ranks from Brownie to Guider and spent a summer helping at a Girl Scouts camp in New York, USA. With a vision to 'go somewhere different', it was this overseas trip that gave her the confidence to apply for a 3-year teaching post at St Andrew's School, Turi, Kenya.

In 1931, Ma and Pa Lavers started teaching a couple of local children in their home. This gradually developed so that by the time Marion arrived in 1957 to teach the 6-year-olds, it had become a thriving Prep boarding school, mainly catering for children of missionaries and government officials who worked in isolated areas in East Africa. Today, 'Turi' continues to have a strong emphasis on Christian love and care and has grown into one of the leading international schools in the region catering to over 600 students.

A postcard Marion wrote on her flight out to Kenya reports 'We arrived at Benghazi (Libya) in the dark and so did not see the place. Khartoum (Sudan) is very hot and already at 6.30 their time it is 90° but we are surviving. The call has just come for the plane - next stop Entebbe (Uganda)'. It was a long journey in a B.O.A.C Speedbird and included 'Crossing the Line' of the equator - celebrated by the captain signing a card for each passenger.



She was finally met at Nairobi airport and driven the 120 miles up through the African Rift Valley.



Gradually climbing to an altitude of 2,500 metres above sea level, where St Andrew's is situated in a 'very

pleasant spot' with 'no extremes of weather - just like a good English summer'.

Learning to drive in Kenya opened up endless opportunities to travel. Holidays were usually spent at the coast, wonderful bathing! Or on safari, travelling through game reserves where amongst other wildlife you could expect to see lions, giraffes and herds of elephants; in a similar way to if in England you would travel to the Lake District and look out for deer.



Leading the Guide company at St Andrew's opened up an opportunity to join an expedition to climb Mount Kenya during the 1958 Christmas holidays. Each team member carried their own personal belongings with mules used to carry the tents and supplies of food and water. Preparation included building leg muscles by doing 'steps' each day for a couple of weeks and investing in some 'warm clothing'.



The group trekked to the third highest peak (Point Lenana, 4895m), camping en route. After Africa, Marion returned to teach in North London where her parents and younger brother Martin, were now living.

It wasn't until her father passed away in the 1970s that Marion and her mother moved to Denham Green. She quickly became involved at St Mary's with her friend, Shirley Kingsmill and served as a churchwarden during Revs Peter Crick and Adrian Hirst's time. However, she continued to have a heart for Africa. Her friend Sheila Crundon, working for Wycliffe Bible Translators in West Africa, was supported by a local team that included Samuel Kpagheri. It was Marion who was instrumental in encouraging St Mark's to start supporting Samuel financially and that legacy continues today, with Samuel one of our Mission Partners.

With quiet assurance that God has always been there and understanding how much Jesus has done for her, Marion has lived her life trusting Jesus, 'how could I turn Him down'?

If you would like to find out more:
St Andrew's School Turi, Kenya:
www.standrewsturi.com
Wycliffe Bible Translators:
www.wycliffe.org.uk

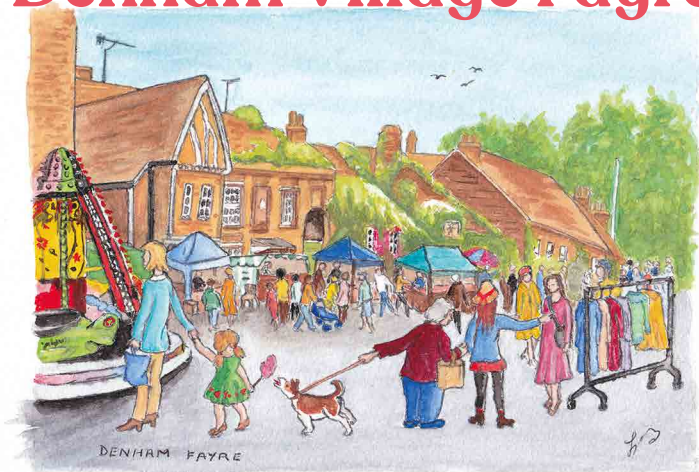


Photo caption competition

What title would you give this photo?

Please send your caption to magazine@denhamparish.church
or by hand to the Church Office by Easter Sunday (17 April).

Denham Village Fayre



The late May bank holiday will be moved this year to become part of the Queen's Jubilee.
We will therefore **NOT** have the Fayre this year. Please join us again in 2023!



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022



From **Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th** the nation and Commonwealth will celebrate 70 years of our Queen's reign. Are you planning a street party?
Find out more: www.platinumjubilee.gov.uk

At Denham Parish Church we are making plans to mark this milestone.

- A celebration service at St Mary's on Sunday 5th at 10.30am
- A beautiful gift book "Our Faithful Queen"
- Vestry teas
- And more...

Find out more: www.denhamparish.church/jubilee

Memories!

In this Jubilee Year, we would love to hear your special memories about the Queen, from any point in her reign - maybe some of you have even met her!

We will include these in the next Issue of Denham Parish News.

Please send to magazine@denhamparish.church or by hand to the Church Office by **Easter Sunday (17 April)**.

LENT AND EASTER at St Mary's Church



Wednesday 2 March: Ash Wednesday

10am Ash Wednesday Holy Communion



Sunday 27 March: Mothering Sunday

10.30am Mothering Sunday Family Service



Sunday 10 April: Palm Sunday

10.00am Palm Sunday Procession with Joey the Donkey

10.30am Sunday Service with Sunday Club for children



Thursday 14 April: Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Holy Communion Service



Friday 15 April: Good Friday

10.30am An Hour at the Cross with Sunday Club



Sunday 17 April: Easter Sunday

9am Holy Communion

10.30am Family Service with Easter Egg Hunt



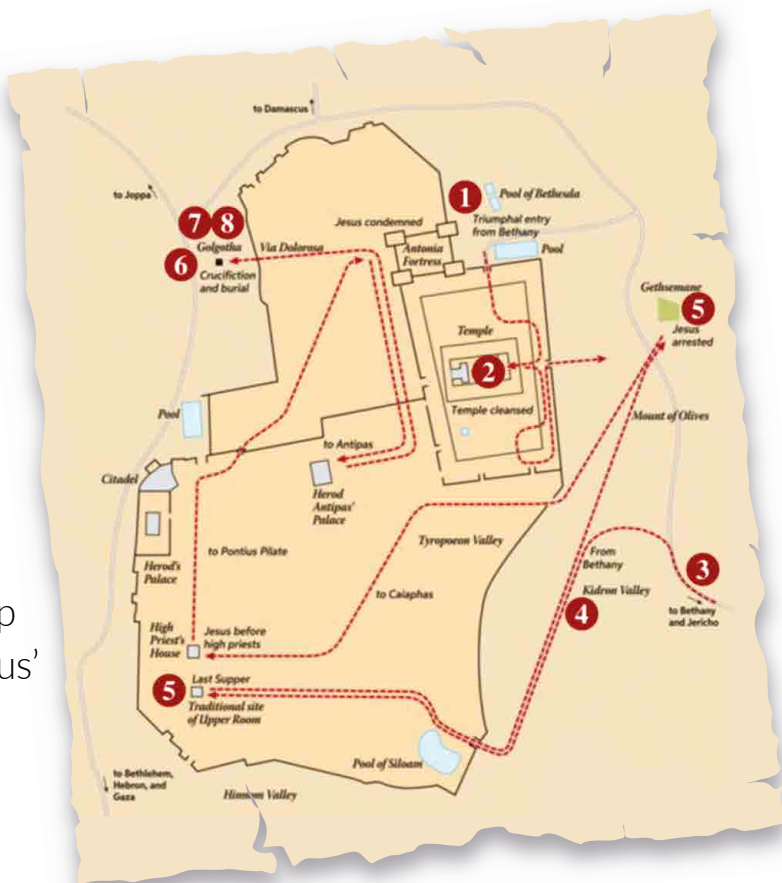
More details about our regular pattern of Sunday services on page 23.

www.denhamparish.church/events

THE WEEK THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

A REFLECTIVE WALK THROUGH HOLY WEEK

Use the map to trace Jesus' movements during Holy Week.



1 Palm Sunday

Jesus rides into Jerusalem

READ Mark 11.1-11

Jesus starts out from Bethany and Bethpage (see no. 3 on the map) and arrives in Jerusalem. The rest of his ministry takes place within the confines of the city. Can you remember a significant turning point in your life? This is a vital turning point in Jesus' life: The crowd welcomes him with shouts of Hosanna!

while the authorities begin to plot Jesus' death. Riding on a lowly donkey, Jesus is a humble servant king, whose kingdom is not of this world. How can you serve others in the name of Jesus, the servant king, today?

PRAY "True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. Amen."

2 Holy Monday

Jesus cleanses the temple

READ Mark 11.15-19

Jesus and his twelve disciples have spent the night in Bethany (about two miles from Jerusalem), in the home of Lazarus, Mary and Martha. They are close friends and Jesus usually stays with them when he comes to Jerusalem. The next morning they return to Jerusalem and Jesus enters the temple. For the convenience of pilgrims, the cattlemen and the moneychangers had set up business in the outer court. Exorbitant prices were often charged. Money is a powerful theme - both for those who are wealthy and those who are struggling to pay the bills. It is an outward sign of our inward priorities. Take some time to reflect on how your spending reflects what is important to you. Do you want to make any changes? Pray to God about it.

PRAY "O God, overturn the tables of our false values, of our unfair trade, our unjust systems. Enlist us in your company of freedom, recruit us to the cause of justice, unfreeze our fear, undo our indifference, unlock our compassion, enable our hands to work and act and move for you. Amen."

3 Holy Tuesday

Anointed for burial

READ Mark 14.1-11

Jesus is back in Bethany. This time not in the home of Lazarus, Mary and Martha, but the home of Simon the Leper, who probably had been healed by Jesus - his

name was a reminder of the terrible disease he had suffered. Mark does not identify the woman in this account but we know from John 12.3 that she was Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha. She shows her devotion to Jesus in an extravagant way. Some bystanders scold her for wasting so much money that could have been given to the poor. In John 12.4 it is Judas who complains about the waste, but it is not his concern for the poor but his greed that motivates him. How can you show your love of Jesus this week, maybe more extravagantly than usual? In the stillness speak to God. Extravagant gratitude to God is one of the best medicines against cynicism, small-mindedness and greed. You could pray Psalm 100.

PRAY "Loving God, open our hearts to your gift of unconditional love. Soften our hearts and anoint us with your Spirit, that your love may overflow in us and through us. Amen."

4 Holy Wednesday

Fig trees and mountains

READ Matthew 21.18-22

Jesus returns from Bethany and on his journey down to Jerusalem he finds a fig tree without fruits. Fig trees are meant to be fruitful. We are meant to be fruitful. But often our choices have led us to live in unfruitful ways, in unsustainable consumption. We are called to be good stewards of God's creation, but we have damaged our planet with our insatiable hunger for more. In the stillness, ask God how you could make little changes. How could you do without something for one day a week?

PRAY "Creator God, you breathe life into all life, you hold the fragile balance of nature, you call us to be good stewards of creation, to honour you in the way we care for our world; but we have abused your trust, we have taken what we want, without heed of the consequences, we have wasted and discarded, without thought for the future. Open our hearts and minds to the signs of our times, to the groaning of creation, so that we turn, from being bad tenants to being good stewards of your world, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

5 Maundy Thursday

The Last Supper and Gethsemane

READ Mark 14.22-26 and Mark 14.32-37

The "Upper Room" of the Last Supper could be the same upper room as the one of Acts 1.13, where the disciples met on the day of Pentecost. It is quite possibly the home of John Mark, who fled when Jesus was arrested (read Mark 14.51-52). The Garden of Gethsemane was an olive grove. The present trees are extremely ancient. Maybe some of them were saplings when Jesus prayed there. One of the constants in Jesus' life was that he continuously prayed to his Father - in times of joy and of great need. Take some time to bring your hopes and fears to God in the stillness.

PRAY "Servant King, you kneel at our feet: show us how to serve. Gracious Host, you break and bless the bread: show us how to share. Suffering Friend, you pour out your heart: show us how to wait with you. Quieten our hearts and minds, as we open ourselves to you. Amen."

6 Good Friday

Crucifixion

READ Luke 23.44-47

After his arrest, Jesus appears before the high priest, then Herod in his Palace and finally walks the "Via Dolorosa" carrying the cross to a hill outside the city walls. Golgotha (or Calvary) means 'the place of the skull'. The Romans chose crucifixion for slaves and violent criminals, and especially for those involved in rebellion. It was a slow and agonising death and victims would eventually die of suffocation, unable to pull themselves up sufficiently to breathe.

Find a quiet place to read the Bible passage. In the stillness marvel at the love of God who suffered the death of a criminal to reach out to us in love.

PRAY "When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen."

7 Holy Saturday

Silence

READ Psalm 62.5-8

Nothing seems to happen on Holy Saturday. The disciples huddle in fear of the authorities. Only in retrospect do we know that all of creation is waiting with bated breath for the resurrection of the Son of God. We tend to fast forward from Good Friday to Easter, yet in the present as we live resurrection hope, we also carry

fears and struggles and grief, just as the disciples did. Psalm 62 is a Holy Saturday prayer: Pour out your heart to God, trusting in his love, hope and promises.

PRAY *"Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken. Amen." Psalm 62:1-2*

Below: Detail of a memorial for Maria Magdalena Langhans by Johann August Nahl the Elder. Maria died in childbirth on Holy Saturday. Her tomb is bursting open, revealing her and her newborn baby, expressing Easter hope in the midst of lament.



8 Easter Sunday

Resurrection

READ Matthew 28:1-7

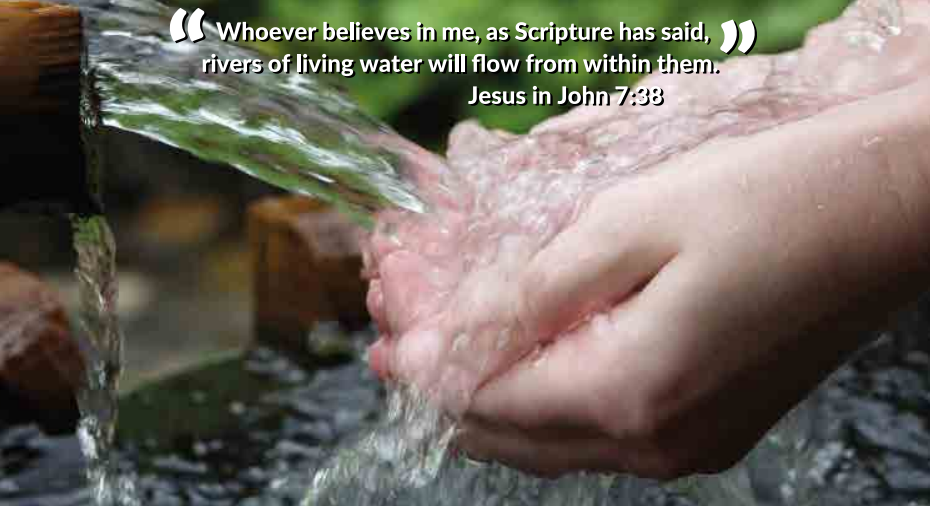
The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem is the most likely historic location of Jesus' tomb. Millions of people have visited it because of what (who) isn't there!

Early on Sunday, the two Marys set out for the tomb, probably from Bethany. The dramatic description of the events on Easter Sunday never actually describe the moment when Jesus rose again to new life. As far as we can tell, the tomb was opened not so much to let Jesus out as to let others in – to see that it was empty. It is the great event on which the rest of the New Testament depends, yet it remains deeply mysterious. What we do know is that only the physical resurrection of Jesus explains satisfactorily what happened in the days, months and years afterwards. Without the resurrection of Jesus we would not celebrate Easter in Denham this year!

Think of the long line of believers who handed down the faith to you. Whom can you remember? Who has encouraged you in your faith journey? Thank God for them. Who needs resurrection hope today? Pray for them.

PRAY *"God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen."*





“ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, ”
rivers of living water will flow from within them.
Jesus in John 7:38

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The Bells of St Mary's!

We learnt about the bells in the December 2021 edition of Denham Parish News. Now we are pleased to announce that the Universities Association of Change Ringers will be visiting St Mary's to ring our bells on **Saturday 9 April at 10am** as part of their spring outing to ring at various churches. Do come along and listen!

The Universities Association of Change Ringers was founded in 1943 to bring together past and present ringers from different universities. Our Spring Day visit of St Mary's Denham is our first step in the water after the lockdowns. Perhaps of interest is that the Spring Day's organiser's first Quarter Peal was rung at Denham in 1968.

DENHAM VILLAGE SCHOOL AND GIVE AND SHARE



During December the children and parents of Denham Village School were proud to support the local Give and Share charity with its food boxes for families in need.

Miss Nawaz the head teacher commented: "We are all so proud of all the children at Denham Village School who surprised us all with their overwhelming generosity - this would of course not have been possible without our incredibly supportive parents, a huge thank you to them. This was a real opportunity for pupils to develop a deeper understanding of our school value of kindness, through which we encourage our pupils to put themselves in other people's shoes and show care and concern for others. The Give and Share initiative has been a fantastic way for our village school to give back to our local community".

Following the donation drive the school held an assembly to hand over the collection to Craig Alexander. The children had the opportunity to ask Craig questions about his work and he was 'blown away' by the maturity of their questions and responses. Sophie Cranstoun from Birch class said 'the Give and Share boxes are important as they mean we can help other families who don't have as much as we do.'

Denham Village School would like to say a huge thank you to Craig and all at Give and Share for all their hard work delivering 220 Christmas hampers!

Give & Share is part of Denham Parish Church. It aims to help the local community in the form of giving at Christmas and also throughout the year.

To find out more, please join their Facebook group
www.facebook.com/groups/1956873931043536

Or see updates on our church website: www.denhamparish.church/giveandshare/

Join us on Sundays



9.00am Holy Communion at St Mary's Church

A shorter service (about 45-55 minutes), reflective and quiet in style. Always with Holy Communion. This service is not streamed online.

10.30am at St Mary's Church and Online

ONSITE: A service for everyone – with prayers, hymns and songs, Bible readings and a talk. The service lasts about an hour or a few minutes longer when it includes Holy Communion (second and fourth Sunday of the month). Sometimes we have a baptism in the service or a guest speaker. Refreshments are served at the end and there are activities for children during the service.

ONLINE: 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. To post chat messages you need to be logged in. If you have a Google account already, you can use that one, or you can register with YouTube.

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 www.youtube.com/denhamparishchurch. Then scroll down to the section "Online services". The service at the top (mobile device) or on the left (computer) is the one that will be streamed.



Would you like to receive email updates from Denham Parish Church? Sign up at www.denhamparish.church/new

FOREST CHURCH

BY TIMOTHY MACQUEEN



As an ecologist and someone who has always been interested in wildlife and the natural world, learning about how it all is connected and functions has been a big part of my life.

I believe that caring for this beautiful and complex world can be an act of worship and can deepen the admiration and wonder we have for God. Jesus didn't just become a human but he also lived and interacted with our planet, directly referencing many plants and animals and weaving their unique traits into his teachings. God clearly loves his creation *"So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good."* Genesis 1:21. The Israelites loved nature as well, with animals and plants playing significant parts in many bible stories as well as in the traditions of the people who lived through those.

In Forest Church we choose different aspects of nature as our focus and look at both its significance in scripture as well as the amazing details of how that topic functions in nature.

So far, we have discussed trees, roots and leaves and have found out amazing ways in which we can not only learn about the Christian faith but also how people can use nature to discover incredible things.

Such as: did you know that scientists called dendrochronologists (say that 5 times fast) can actually learn about the climate conditions a tree lived in hundreds of years ago by looking at the rings in the tree's wood?

When exploring trees, we discussed how the seasonal cycle of trees losing and regrowing their leaves can be compared to the cycles of good and bad or plenty and little in our lives. In Autumn and Winter when a tree may look dead, the act of losing their leaves actually protects the tree - if it held on to the leaves too long, then the branches would be damaged as the water in their leaves freezes and the ice spreads inside the branch. In a similar way, sometimes it can be helpful to let go of things that may be causing us harm.

Viewing nature in this way helped us look at the "seasons" in our lives, how they each have their own specific purpose and the importance of trusting God, no matter the situation.

I've really enjoyed not only using my expertise to help people understand the significance of the nature they see all around them each day, but also to combine and explore that information with Christoph and Edda who bring their biblical knowledge and passion to Forest Church.



Each Forest Church session is suitable for all ages and has information and lessons which can be understood at any level, but we also go more in depth and enjoy detailed discussion on the topics we explore. We encourage a casual and interactive atmosphere with games and activities for everyone to get involved with around the core message for that week. I'm also prone to getting a little too in depth with my nature facts, so you might just accidentally learn about the exact chemical formula involved in photosynthesis – sorry about that!

We have lots more topics still to explore, including mushrooms, nuts, seeds and bark.

If anything I've described has been of interest to you and you want to learn a bit more about Forest Church then please get in touch with either me (Timothy) or Edda.

Upcoming Dates

20th March

3rd April

1st May

22nd May

26th June

Sundays 4-5pm

Where?

We meet behind St Mary's Vestry, please wear comfortable clothes and shoes (chairs provided).

If you have any further questions, please contact the church office or find more details on the church website.

LIFE AND FAITH: CAROLE WADLOW

BY BRIAN O'REGAN

Carole has always felt that God was with her, particularly at the low points in her life.

She had been depressed with her life and one September day in 1979 she was feeling very, very low. She pleaded with her husband, Tony, for help, but he turned her away, calling her mad and storming out. Carole was distraught and, in her desperation and hopelessness, she fell to the floor crying to God for help. But how would God answer?

Carole was born on 3rd February 1940, five months after the start of World War 2, and grew up in Pinner. Her father served in the RAF Air Sea Rescue in North Africa but was home for her birth.

At eight she went to Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls in Acton ("Habs Girls"), taking the Piccadilly Line from Eastcote to Ealing Common by herself. Carole was one of the girls selected to line the processional route for the Queen's Coronation in 1953. In 1956 she left and attended Harrow Technical College for a year. Her parents were not religious but Carole joined a Methodist Sunday School with the Guides. Even as a young teen she was searching, trying out churches but never finding the right home.

Carole married Tony in October 1962 and they bought a bungalow in Asheridge, Chesham. Tony travelled frequently for his job with British European Airways, organising sports' teams travel. They met



many of the personalities of the day, including Bobby Moore, Harold Abrahams, Roger Bannister and Harold Wilson. Tony received tickets for top sporting events and he and Carole attended 1966 World Cup matches at Wembley. At one match she sat next to actor Tony Booth who was starring as Alf Garnett's son-in-law in *Till Death Us Do Part*. He would become the father-in-law of Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Despite the distractions of these high-profile events and now with two sons, Simon and Mark, Carole was lonely, feeling isolated away from friends and family. In 1970 Tony got a three-year posting to Iceland in an attempt to change things. But Iceland was even more isolating for Carole and she returned home with the boys after

two years. Then in 1973 another three-year posting, to Basel, where Paul was born. Basel was a happier experience and on their return they settled in Denham. Shortly after moving in, Carole had a visit from a neighbour with a familiar face. It was Valerie, who had been in the year above at Habs Girls. Valerie is the wife of Peter Crick who was then the Rector of St Mary's. The Lord was working on a plan!

The three boys kept Carole busy but the old marriage problems returned, leading to that September day and her heart-felt plea to God.

A few days later, Paul came home from school and asked his mum would she go to the school's harvest festival. Peter Crick gave the talk and afterwards invited her to church. Peter introduced her to a companion and they would go to Thursday communion. She made friends at St Mary's, including Val Dewhurst, and joined the Mothers' Union. Val and Peter provided valuable counselling and Val helped get her a job as dental nurse with Guy Hearn, who provided great support and "was totally on my side". One member of the church family she got to know well was the late Frank Fletcher (see tribute in this edition). He was "down to earth and reassuring". God had placed good people in her life and Carole knows that He had answered her prayer in her time of most need.

Despite counselling, the marriage did not survive. After divorce in 1989, Carole moved to Chalfont St Peter, where she stayed until moving to Denham Garden Village in 2021.

Aside from the stress of divorce, these were much happier years for Carole, immersed in her sons' lives, work and a caring church family. She knows that "God is here with

me all the time". Her eldest son, Simon, had no partner and therefore more time than his brothers to provide practical help for his mum. They were there for each other and would go on holidays. Simon said that when the time came, he would move in with Carole so he could take care of her. Tragically, it was not to be as Simon died in 2019. Still grieving, Carole was diagnosed with cancer the following year in the midst of the Covid pandemic. An overloaded NHS meant delayed operations. It was a lonely time that Christmas waiting for an operation and Carole admits to being angry with God. "You've left me," she cried.



But all in God's time, a cancellation freed a slot in early 2021 and Carole sat in the hospital waiting room to be called. After an interminable wait, her favourite consultant, Mr Fleming ("he was so dishy"), called her in saying he had returned especially for her and the operation was a success. As Carole says, "God does things for me every day".

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Matthew 6:34

Creating an Easter Garden

BY CATHY MACQUEEN

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

Luke 24:1-4

Creating an Easter Garden is a visual reminder of that very first Easter Sunday morning - when we celebrate Jesus, risen from the dead. They can be very simple or elaborate but usually include at least one cross and a tomb.

Method:

Fill your base with a filling and then add the vegetation and decorations.

Here are
some ideas



Suggestions for equipment:

Base

e.g. Plant pot saucer, plant pot or any other container with sides

Filling

Soil, sand or wood chips

Vegetation

Flowers (fresh, dried or artificial), greenery, moss, plants or seeds

Decorations

Pebbles, shells, mirror (or cover a lid with foil), candles

Cross

Make out of twigs and then glue together or hold in place with Blu Tack/ribbon/thread

Tomb

e.g. Egg cup/yoghurt pot placed on its side - use something round to open/close the entrance.





Woodland garden

This garden uses a plant pot saucer covered in wood chips. As this is a 'dry' base, the backdrop uses a picture from a magazine (laminated or cover with Sellotape) with a mirror in the foreground. The tomb is a shell with a tea light closing the entrance until Easter Sunday when the candle is turned over and lit. One large cross, made from twigs.

Mustard seed garden

This base originally held a delicious pudding! It is now filled with damp soil that has been sprinkled with mustard seeds, with a path of stones leading to a tomb made from an egg cup. The 'stone' across the entrance is a lid, covered in foil. There are fresh flowers nestled in a small water-filled jam-jar. When soil is kept moist, the mustard seeds will germinate and grow within 9-16 days - if you time it right you could have a crop on Easter day!

Jesus said, *"... the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed"* Mark 4: 3-32



Easter wreath

Maybe you made an Advent wreath for Christmas? This Easter wreath includes 3 crosses and a pillar candle. The wet foam oasis base is filled with greenery and pure white fresh flowers that contrast with the red rose (a symbol of love) at the foot of the central cross. The tomb is represented by the circular wreath, with the lit candle in the centre, reminding us that Jesus is alive.

FAMILY REGISTER OF DENHAM PARISH CHURCH

WEDDINGS

06.11.2021 Andrew John Hagger to Zara Catherine Sellars, Harefield



Andrew & Zara

BURIALS

18.10.2021 Gerald Maurice Parfitt (89) Denham Green
19.11.2021 Sylvia Kathleen Gammond (83) Tatling End
22.11.2021 Ennette Lou Ellen Reid (69) Denham Green

CREMATIONS

01.12.2021 Gillian Margaret Walker Gordon (79) Heronsgate
20.12.2021 Frank Marchant (86) Denham



Gerald Parfitt



Sylvia Gammond



Frank Marchant

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

REMEMBERING FRANK FLETCHER

A few weeks ago we learnt that Church Army Captain Frank Fletcher has died. In the late 1970s and 80s he was a member of our church's ministry team as Church Army Evangelist, working alongside Peter Crick, who was Rector then.

Janet Drane writes: "Frank was a lovely, mild man and was much loved by the New Denham community. He lived at St Francis House with his wife Leila and two daughters, and would often be seen in the community visiting local people in the surrounding area. We lived on Willowbank at the time and he would appear at our back door with a big smile on his face and I knew without him saying anything that he wanted me to do something at St Francis! He baptised our daughter Emily a little while ago - she is now the mother of two daughters! He was much loved by everyone whether they were churchgoers or not. After he left Denham he went back to North Yorkshire and became a prison chaplain. Ian Jennings, one of our associate ministers, met up with him when they were both at prison chaplain meetings, and said that Frank was much respected there.

My lasting memory of him is when he started the service at St Francis with God's invitation from James 4.8: "Come close to me and I will come close to you."

Joyce Tearall remembers: "Frank's face shone! He always had a smile for everyone and you were always welcome in Frank and Leila's home. Their daughters are Susan and Catherine.



Catherine was in the same year as my daughter Sarah and they went to school together. Sarah liked Frank very much. He did a lot with the young people and ran the Pathfinders youth group."



Church Army strive to help those most in need. Through partnership and collaboration, they aspire to empower lives and nurture a sense of belonging in communities across the UK and Ireland. Church Army is one of Denham Parish Church's five mission partners.

Find out more: www.churcharmy.org



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