

JUNE 2022-AUGUST 2022

DENHAM PARISH NEWS



**CELEBRATING
THE QUEEN'S
PLATINUM JUBILEE
SPECIAL ISSUE**

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Cover photo: Mothering Sunday - Look closely to spot a tree that we planted to mark the Platinum Jubilee. A plaque will be dedicated on Sunday, 5 June after the Celebration Service.

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FROM THE EDITOR

In this issue of Denham Parish News, we celebrate our Queen and her historic Platinum Jubilee [p.18]. We have contributions of fond memories including a dressing up procession for the Coronation and times when people have joined crowds to wave to her [p.7].

Do come and join us at St Mary's on **Thursday 2nd June, 8pm** for an **alternative Beacon Bonanza!** [p.36] This will be an evening to remember with live musical entertainment, Prosecco and puddings. Come and sing-a-long to songs including those from her majesty's favourite musicals. The evening will culminate (**9.45pm**) with the lighting up of the Church Tower as we join with choirs around the world, to sing the specially commissioned 'Song for the Commonwealth'.

Have you spotted the tree in the front cover photo? This cherry tree *Prunus Sargentii* was planted as part of the Queen's Jubilee Green Canopy (www.queensgreencanopy.org). This photo shows our official 'virtual' plaque and we will be dedicating an actual plaque after the 10.30am service, on **Sunday 5th June**, followed by a **bring your own picnic lunch party**, and then the first of this season's **Vestry Teas (3pm-5pm)**. The church will be beautifully decorated with crowns, bunting and a display of our 'kneelers' with a royal theme (p. 14) *Lots to enjoy!*



We have a glimpse into the lives of our Platinum couple Len and Doreen Dane (p. 12) and the remarkable history of Fran's Tea Garden (p.23). We also couldn't let centenaries of Girl Guiding in Denham (p.26) and the Bible Reading Fellowship (p.29) slip by!

I have never met the Queen. However, I work in Windsor and even after five years of commuting I still get a little thrill every time I catch a glimpse of the castle! Over the years I have written to the Queen on several occasions and she has always written back to say thank you. We are very fortunate to have a faithful and faith-filled Queen (p.18).



Best wishes!

Cathy Macqueen

magazine@denhamparish.church

"GOOD EVENING, MR BOND..."

MESSAGE FROM CHRISTOPH LINDNER, RECTOR

Dear Friends

No one saw it coming – except the very few people who were in on it.

The year was 2012. The place: The magnificent opening ceremony of the Olympic Games in London. For many, the highlight was the Queen's surprise appearance in a James Bond spoof sketch alongside Daniel Craig, who is seen arriving at Buckingham Palace and is escorted to Her Majesty, who is sitting writing at her desk. She greets him by saying "Good evening, Mr Bond" and the pair walk through the palace corridors alongside the corgis to a waiting helicopter. They then fly across London to the Olympic Park, where the Queen appears to 'parachute' out of the helicopter onto the ground below. Moments after she walks out into the stadium to take her seat alongside Prince Philip to rapturous applause.

Very few people knew in advance about the part the Queen would play in the opening ceremony - not even some of her family members. In his autobiography, Lord Coe, chairman of the London Olympics organising committee, reveals that when they saw the Queen seemingly leap out of the helicopter, Princes William and Harry both shouted, "Go, Granny!"

The Queen's dressmaker and confidante Angela Kelly revealed in a book that the Queen was keen on a speaking part. She wrote: "There are few occasions on which Her Majesty will agree to break protocol, but in 2011 when film director Danny Boyle approached the Royal Household, he had a request to make that we simply could not refuse. ...Within minutes, I was ...delivering the good news to Danny - I think he almost fell off his chair when I said that the Queen's only stipulation was that she could deliver that iconic line:

'Good evening, Mr Bond...'



What makes this scene so memorable is that it seems so out of character. The Queen's hallmark has been her steady leadership over so many years – special effects and short-lived stunts never were her style. During her long reign she has advised 14 prime ministers. And while Winston Churchill seems to have been her favourite (on his resignation she wrote to him that no subsequent PM could “hold the place of my first prime minister”), they all appreciated her listening ear, impartiality and advice.

The Queen sees public and voluntary service as one of the most important elements of her work. The Queen has links - as Royal Patron or President - with over 600 charities, military associations, professional bodies and public service organisations. In 2018 she still completed 293 public engagements. And when she meets the public she gives her full attention to each of them, just as to the Prime Minister, or “Mr Bond”.

Her dedication to serving her nation and the Commonwealth is one of the deepest sources of the affection of so many people around the world – not the special celebrations (although we will certainly enjoy the long bank holiday weekend in June) – but her steadiness and dedication to the role she took on as a young woman.

Her impact was made over many years and countless acts of joyful duty and service. There is a lesson here for all of us: Our legacy may not be great acts of heroism or buildings that bear our name. But it can be many small acts of love and service, if we allow Jesus, the Servant King, to equip and shape our lives day by day. That is what the Queen has consistently done throughout her reign. Her steady faith in God has been the source of her strength.

In her Christmas speech in 2002 she said: “I know just how much I rely on my own faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God.”

As we celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, we can join in with words from Psalm 100 (which I am sure will resound in many places as the hymn “Old 100th” in many festive services):

*All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Serve him with joy, his praises tell,
come now before him and rejoice!*

P.S. At the Jubilee Bank Holiday events at St Mary's we would like to give you a little book as a gift: “Our Faithful Queen – 70 Years of Faith & Service” is beautifully illustrated and written. Please find the Jubilee programme on the back cover of this magazine.

Christoph Lindner

Rector



INTRODUCING AZITA JABBARI

On Saturday, 2 July, Azita Jabbari will be ordained as a deacon in the Church of England, after completing her theology and ordination training at Wycliffe Hall College, Oxford.

On the following day, Sunday 3 July, we will welcome her in our church as our new training curate. Azita will be with us for at least three years, learning all aspects of being a vicar in the Church of England. Her training will be mostly “hands-on” here in the parish, with some further central training with other training curates in the Diocese of Oxford.

They look forward to settling in Denham and to getting to know us. Please make a note in your diary and join us for one of our services on Sunday, 3 July. And don't worry if you are away that weekend - there will be plenty more opportunities to meet them and a personal introduction by Azita herself in the next issue of Denham Parish News.



Azita is married to Kamran; they have two children, Rozhin and Roham. The family is completed by their dog Chelsea.



Have you seen The Queen?



CORONATION, 1953

Eileen Beadle - All dressed up!



Ian Jennings

I was 5 years old and our entire school walked in a long crocodile to the cinema in our little town to see the coronation on the big screen. It was the first time I had ever been to a cinema. In the afternoon we had games and races on the field. I won a pen knife with a picture of our Queen on it. I was proud and pleased. However, a couple of days later my friend and I played a game with my new pen knife as we sat at our desk. It was a stupid game - fingers spread out on the desk and the point of the knife tapping the space in between with increasing rapidity! I caught my friend's finger with the point of my knife. Blood was shed!! He went crying to the teacher, 'Please Miss, Ian cut me with his knife!' The teacher was horrified. "Where did you get that knife," she demanded.

"Miss, I won it at the Coronation Sports Day." "No you did not! No one would give a knife to a small boy like you." She confiscated it and I never saw it again. My friend was proud to show everyone the plaster on his wounded finger. I was sad that my great possession was gone forever.

SILVER JUBILEE, 1977

Mark Burr

I stood on the Nottingham ring road (aged 11) with many other schoolchildren to wave to the Queen as she drove past in 1977 as part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations. I remember she had a very regal wave – more a gentle twirl of the wrist!

Jane Brown

I went to Primary School in Windsor and have fond memories of the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. It was also a special centenary year for Windsor so we were involved in many pageants, street parties and processions and had school visits from the Royal family– I'm not sure we got much school work done at all that year!

Every year we would also walk from our school to the Long Walk and wave at the Queen, as her carriage took her to the Ascot races. She always had a smile as she passed us children lining the road, and there was so much excitement as we waited for her arrival.



Have you seen The Queen?

For her Jubilee we all lined the Long Walk with torches as she was driven up to the copper horse where there was a massive bonfire and an enormous hog roast! Looking back, I was very lucky as our school had lots of interaction with many of the Royal family and the beautiful St George's Chapel in the castle grounds.

OTHER EVENTS

Cheryl Webb

I saw the Queen when I went to Royal Ascot. She wore a lovely hat and sat next to the late Duke smiling and waving at people as her carriage went down the course which was followed by the other carriages with other members of the Royal Family.

Jill Sands

When I was about 12 years old, I went to Windsor Horse show with a friend. Unbeknown to me a photograph appeared in the Daily Mirror of me through the window of the Queen's car. Apparently, it won an award and was entitled 'The Queen Drives By'.

I also saw her when she came to St George's Hospital which was in Hyde Park Corner at the time. I was doing a casualty experience as part of my nursing training and I remember we had to hide a flea ridden tramp for the duration of the visit. Later we sorted him out!



My third encounter was when my husband Martin was going on an expedition to Australia as part of his work. The Queen came to see the exhibits they were displaying of their plans for a multidisciplinary scientific exploration in The Kimberley. I wasn't supposed to talk to the Queen. But me being me, I said a few words and she was charming and said that it would be "far too hot for me". What a lovely lady who has been my inspiration through life.

Kathryn Sole

When I was four years old, my parents took me on a day trip to London. We saw the Lions in Trafalgar Square, Big Ben and the River Thames. These things were very impressive, but as a four-year-old there was one thing I really wanted to see, The Muffin Man who lives in Drury Lane. So, my parents took me to Drury Lane. When we arrived, there was a huge crowd of people. My mum went up to a policeman and asked what was happening.



The policeman replied nonchalantly
"It's just the Queen arriving for the
Royal Variety Performance."

Unable to see much through the crowd
I was hoisted up on my dad's shoulders
to get a better view. A few minutes later
the Queen arrived wearing a blue sparkly
dress. Although I remember it being very
exciting to see the Queen in the flesh,
I was also a little disappointed that I didn't
see the Muffin Man!

Cynthia Sterry

I was a nurse working at Northwick Park
Hospital, Harrow. At the official opening
I was standing in the middle of a group
of nurses by the doorway as a guard of
honour, when the Queen came straight
up to me and asked 'How do you find your
way around this vast building?', 'With great
difficulty m'am', I replied as I curtsied.
I was surprised at how small the Queen
was. When I told my husband what had
happened, he replied "We'll have to spend
10 bob to talk to you now!"

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Samantha Carter

I was devastated to lose my best friend,
Fiona, at the age of 41 in 2003. Following
her death, I would think of her every time
I saw a butterfly. In 2015 I was invited to
attend a *Buckingham Palace Garden Party*
with my Dad who had been a Grenadier
Guard. We were very excited as we lined
up outside the palace gates on a warm



June afternoon. Once we were in the
garden we sat down and listened to the
band playing. As I looked around, I thought
of Fiona and how much she would have
enjoyed it. How lovely it would be to see
a butterfly. Unfortunately, there were no
butterflies anywhere - not on the lawn, by
the lake or by the tea tent.

At 4pm on the dot the Queen and the
Duke of Edinburgh came down the steps
into the garden. I had been asked to stand
in line to meet the Duke and as they both
came towards me I glanced at the Queen's
dress. It was white with pretty pink,
blue and green flowers and ...lots of
butterflies! A lovely moment in a
very memorable afternoon.

GIRLGUIDING "TO SERVE THE QUEEN AND MY COMMUNITY' BY CAROLE WADLOW

**Written by Carole Wadlow and
based on the work of Jane Graham
'Girlguiding in Denham: Celebrating
a Centenary 1920-2020'.**

In 1907 Robert Baden-Powell founded the Boy Scout Association. Within a short time, there were groups of girls asking for "Something for the girls". So, Robert's sister Agnes formed the Girl Guide Association in 1910. The first Handbook was printed in 1912. This had a section on home life, but more pages on outdoor skills, signalling, tracking, camping, saving lives and hospital duties. Guides were then able to show their usefulness during the First World War when so many men were called up to fight.

After the war, many more Guide Companies were formed as well as Brownie Packs which had been started by Baden-Powell in 1914. Guiding came to Denham in 1919 (officially registered in 1920) with the opening of the 1st Denham Guide Company led by Miss Marion Gilbey. About 30 girls applied to join the first Company with weekly meetings in the Bowyer Room (between Hills House and the Church), where at the time all village meetings took place.

Guides were aged 11-16 but when they reached 16, they didn't want to leave, so in 1923 Marion Gilbey created a small Ranger Patrol which was officially recognised in the County records of 1925. She then went on to create a larger Ranger Company in 1928. However, as the number of Guides was

growing, they needed their own meeting place, so many forms of fundraising were planned for that purpose. In 1924, 1st Denham Guides put on two plays entitled 'Fairy Fey' and 'Maid Marion and Robin Hood', which was reported as an excellent evening's entertainment. Their hard work to raise money paid off and on 9th October 1926 the new Guide Hut was opened on land made available by Mrs May Coles in Old Mill Road.

Over the years, all the Guides and Brownies were fortunate to have Miss Marion Gilbey as captain, guiding, helping and infusing enthusiasm. She remained the matriarch of Denham Guiding for over forty years and until her death on 16th July 1992, aged 92.

In 1932 Miss Madelene Bacon appears in the records as Brown Owl working hard to train the Brownies. She then appears again in 1935 when the Brownies assisted in her wedding to Dr Ian Paton at St Mary's Church.

Denham Guides have always been enthusiastic about going camping. The records show so many places that they have visited and the memories that they retain of such happy days with living in tents and learning basic skills. In the years 1935 to 1939 Denham Guides and Brownies regularly attended Church Parades marching from the Village Hall to St. Mary's Church with Scouts and Cubs. When King George V died in 1936, they paraded with draped standards. In May 1939 at the conclusion of National

Guide Week, Marion Gilbey organised a District Service at St. Mary's. Marching behind the District Banner, she led Guides from Denham, Stoke Poges, Iver Heath and Fulmer, from the Village Hall to the church. The preacher spoke 'of the wonderful movement to which the Guides belonged, and how in serving their fellows they were learning the greatest lesson of life'.



On 23rd January 2020, another special service was held at St Mary's, with both current members of 4th Denham Guides, Brownies and Rainbows joining with former members of Denham Guiding to celebrate the centenary of Guiding in Denham.

In 1937 Princess Elizabeth was registered as a Girl Guide along with Princess Margaret who became a Brownie in the 1st Buckingham Palace Guide Company. This Company consisted of 20 Guides and 14 Brownies all from the children of the royal household and friends. A summerhouse in the Palace gardens was fitted up to be their meeting place. There they all learnt pitching tents, cooking on

campfires, learning first aid and earning themselves challenge badges just as our Denham Guides do.

When the Second World War broke out the 1st Buckingham Palace Guide Company was moved to Windsor Castle in 1942. The Queen has always supported Guiding and I am sure that she, like us, has such happy memories of her Company. We know that her time learning as a Girl Guide helped her during the war years. Her commitment today continues as Patron of the Girl Guide Association. Since it was founded 100 years ago, the Guide and Brownie promise has changed 12 times. With each promise it has remained true to the same principles:

"I promise that I will do my best, to be true to myself and develop my beliefs, to serve the Queen and my community, to help other people and to keep the (Brownie) Guide law."

Girlguiding in Denham today:

Guiding in Denham is still thriving with a very busy Rainbow (girls 5-7 years) and Brownie (girls 7-10 years) Pack. Contact Samantha Dreelan: denhambrownwl@hotmail.com

Until more leaders are recruited, the Guide unit has joined with 1st Gerrards Cross.

If you can help, please contact Alison Leah: girlguidinggxde@yahoo.co.uk or 01753 883703



GOD IN THE LIFE OF LEN AND DOREEN DANE

AS TOLD TO IAN JENNINGS

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

It is always a joy to visit Len and Doreen, they are such a glowing example of loving longevity in marriage. They celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary this year and were married in St Mary's Church, Ely. Forty years later they were on a coach trip to Ely and it just happened to be their 40th wedding anniversary. When the coach arrived all the people made a bee-line for the Cathedral. Doreen and Len, however, went straight to the Church of St Mary where they were married. It was a Thursday and the Vicar had just completed the mid-week Eucharist. They introduced themselves and explained how special this day was to them. The Vicar kindly offered to bless the day with a renewal of vows, so on the very spot where they were married, they repeated those sacred vows. "It was all out of the blue," said Doreen. Len added that they had felt God's presence and God's blessing and that the whole experience was a 'God-incidence' rather than a coincidence.

They had wanted to marry when they were eighteen, however their parents wouldn't give their consent and said that they were too young. Doreen's Mum had been eighteen when she was married but nevertheless believed that eighteen was too young for her daughter. They were secretly engaged from eighteen to twenty-one. Len added, "We had a proper ring though, and our granddaughter has that ring now."

It is a very romantic story and though they are now seriously elderly there is still that warm and wonderful spark of romance between them.

A beautiful hymn of trust and confidence in God which they sang at their wedding:



***"Thine forever God of love,
Hear us from thy throne above;
Thine forever may we be
Here and in eternity."***

They honeymooned in Yarmouth during a bitterly cold March. Doreen remembers having a beautiful photograph on the beach. She took her coat off, posed for the photo and then put her coat straight

back on. The morning after their arrival in the hotel they came down to breakfast and to their embarrassment realised that they had left a trail of confetti all the way to the dining room.

After a couple of years of marriage Pauline was born and then Audrey. The family was complete and family life was very happy. Both Pauline and Audrey are wonderfully supportive daughters to Doreen and Len in their senior years. They also have four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Len worked hard to improve his lot and to provide for his family. He embarked upon night classes and continued that for 20 years at Hendon Technical College. He worked as a design engineer, eventually starting his own company along with two trusted colleagues.

Doreen was a very busy person. She did vital community work with the Red Cross medical equipment loan scheme for fifteen years, as well as being a mum and homemaker. The Red Cross kept her supplied with wheelchairs, crutches, commodes and other essential equipment which she then delivered to people who needed them. It was a busy job sometimes with three or four calls per day, but very satisfying work.

Living at Ashcroft Drive was a joy and there was a big garden to look after. They divided it into sections. They were responsible for a section each. That worked well as Len grew vegetables and Doreen grew flowers. They also loved walking and owned a mobile home in Derbyshire in the Peak District for around forty years, often enjoying a walking holiday with friends.

Since they lived at Ashcroft Drive, they were close to St Mark's and were involved there from the days of the wooden church building. They remember with fondness the monthly morning and evening service and the many activities that took place at St Mark's. Len was the treasurer and they played a significant part in the Christian life and witness of that community.

They moved into Landmark Place about five years ago. The garden had become too big to manage so downsizing

became a priority. "We never regretted the move for a moment," said Len, "We love it

here." That is one of the qualities that I love about Len and Doreen - they have resilience, hopefulness and confidence that seems to carry them both. They told me that faith in God has been the backbone of their lives. On the wall of their home are two beautiful water colours of St Mary's Church where they have been faithful and committed members for many years, worshipping there during the incumbency of six Rectors.

Len and Doreen are a wonderful example of a faith-centred life and at St Mary's, we hold them in our prayers and thank God for them.



CHURCH KNEELERS: A ROYAL THEME

BY PAM MONTGOMERY

I have heard it said that a church full of hand-worked colourful kneelers must be a much-loved church – if that is so, then St Mary's must surely rank somewhere near the top of such a list!

Kneelers have been worked, donated and dedicated by the Rector before being used in St. Mary's since the early seventies and mark a wide range of occasions covering both personal and community anniversaries/events, as well as marking royal and military ones too. Recently, between 2013 and 2016, the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts (NADFAS) undertook a project at St Mary's recording the Church Furnishings. Included in Volume 2 is a section on Textiles incorporating Kneelers: 165 hand stitched pew kneelers are listed with, in many cases, details of whom they are dedicated to and the name of the donor. Some 108 photographs are shown.

Gerald Miller, former PCC Treasurer, has given much time over the years to



making up the stitched canvases into the finished kneelers. The kneelers in the church as a whole are mainly ones designed by a firm in Yorkshire,

Jackson of Hebden Bridge - although there are a few individually designed ones too.

Together with his late wife, Beverley, and his daughters Debbie and Vicki, Gerald has himself worked on many canvases donated on behalf of St. Mary's Church to remember individual members of the congregation and others who have made considerable contributions to the life of our Church.

However, there is one story celebrating the Millennium concerning a more recent church embroidery project – that of Kneeler 2000 - which may be of interest and for which the details are still freshly recalled! It greatly exercised the minds and thoughts of 15 members of the congregation of St. Mary's in 1998 after the Rector had asked the PCC "What shall we do to celebrate the Millenium?" The idea of flooding the church with kneelers was put forward and from that emerged a plan to replace the then communion kneeler which was long overdue for replacement. After careful thought and enquiries, Deborah Sanders – an ecclesiastical designer - was invited to lead us and help with the design. She spent many hours in the church – considering several ideas before she finally focused her design on the beautiful hymn 'Great is Thy Faithfulness', being particularly drawn to the words 'Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon and stars in their courses above...' since sun, moon and stars are all depicted somewhere in the



windows of St. Mary's. There were to be five cushions with a linked repeat design to allow for cushions to be interchanged to avoid wear, and the cry went out for experienced cross-stitchers with good eyesight!

Stitching started in earnest in November 1998 - we worked from charts which Deborah had crafted, and on canvases placed on 75cm slate frames which had been specially made for us. We were working to Deborah's design featuring Creation - "Summer and winter and springtime and harvest" - looking through the windows (resembling the shape of the East window in church) to Eternity. The figures '2000' and the initials of the 15 who worked on the kneelers appear round the sides of the cushions. Stitching was completed by the end of July 2000, by which time a total of 2,575 hours had been spent producing this heirloom. The stretching and upholstering of the cushions was expertly undertaken by the firm Albert E Chapman Ltd in the City of London who had done much

of the restoration work after the fire at Windsor Castle. The kneelers were dedicated by the Rector, the Reverend Adrian Hirst, at a special service in St. Mary's on Sunday 19th November 2000.

Then, in 2001, we started all over again - more cushions - this time to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002. Using exactly the same colours and design, a seat cushion and small kneeler were stitched for the Bishop's chair in the Sanctuary together with 3 cushions for the alcove - each piece having on its shortest side the year 2002 embroidered in the centre and a crown on either side. Thus, a set of matching kneelers and cushions in the Sanctuary together with the alter kneelers had been lovingly crafted and completed. All these are also listed in the NADFAS record referred to earlier which is available for inspection via the Parish Office.

Other embroideries of note within St. Mary's will be reviewed in future issues of Denham Parish News.



CHURCH KNEELERS: A ROYAL THEME - *Continued*

BY PAM MONTGOMERY

A selection of kneelers dedicated to HM The Queen and other members of the royal family will be on show in the Chancel and Sanctuary during the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend in June.

Including ones that will be celebrating her Silver, Diamond and Golden Jubilees. Also included will be one which marks the late Queen Mother's 80th birthday on 4th August 1980 and another, Prince William's birth on 21st June 1982.



What's Happening

AT DENHAM PARISH CHURCH?



TODDLER GROUP

Wednesday mornings in term time
St Mark's Church Hall
Contact: Edda Lindner
eddalindner18@gmail.com

DESTINY



For young people
aged 10 and older
St Mark's Church Hall
12 June, 4pm and 10 July, 4pm

Contact: Edda Lindner
eddalindner18@gmail.com

FOREST CHURCH

Mixed age outdoor service:
Learn more about God's
beautiful world

St Mary's Church
26 June, 4pm
Contact: Edda Lindner
eddalindner18@gmail.com



BEREAVEMENT DROP-IN

THE
HAWK
EYE

A place of safety,
welcome and
hope renewed.
All welcome.
St Mark's Church Hall
24 June, 4pm
Contact: Ian Jennings
07866 679025



CAFÉ CHURCH

Time to chat | Food for thought | Coffee and cake
Favourite hymns and prayers

St Mark's Church Hall Sunday, 3 July, 3.30pm
Contact: Christoph Lindner
rector@denhamparish.church



Our Faithful Queen 70 Years of Faith & Service

BY CHRISTOPH LINDNER

On 6 February 1952, Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor became Queen. Arrangements began almost immediately for her Coronation.

To help her prepare for her new role, the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher, wrote *A Little Book of Private Devotions* - short, daily meditations with Bible readings and prayers. Fewer than a dozen copies were printed. The first words the Archbishop gave the Queen to consider in the Devotions were a prayer from the Bible: 'Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.' By accepting her role, the Queen sacrificed her personal preferences and private life to adopt a life of duty and service in obedience to God's call, trusting him to lead her.

"Pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve him and you, all the days of my life."
(From her Majesty's first Christmas broadcast as Queen in 1952)

Looking ahead to the moment when she would kneel in private prayer in front of Westminster Abbey's altar as the ceremony began, the Devotions invited



her to use 'the simplest words of trust in God and of trusting oneself to God' - words from the Bible:

'In quietness and trust is your strength...'
(Isaiah 30 verse 15)

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.'
(Jesus in John 14 verse 1)

The Coronation Oath required the Queen to promise to cause Law and Justice, in Mercy, to be executed in all your judgments.' In preparation, she prayed this prayer from the Devotions: 'Lord, give us grace never to betray thy truth and never to deny thy love, but by thy guidance in every dealing with thy neighbours to speak and do the truth in love to the restraint of evil and the reconciling of men to thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.'



This prayer has been put to the test many times during her long reign. In June 2012, in an extraordinary gesture, she visited Northern Ireland and

shook hands with Martin McGuinness, who had been a commander of the Provisional IRA until 1975, just four years before the Queen's second cousin Lord Louis Mountbatten was blown up by an IRA bomb.

"For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role-model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing."

(The Queen's Christmas broadcast in 2014)

Regular Bible reading and weekly church attendance has been a lifelong pattern for the Queen who is said to keep a well-read Bible by her bedside. In the Devotions Archbishop Fisher reminded the Queen of Jesus' words in Luke's Gospel: 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' He then invited her to pray: 'Almighty God... grant that the light of thy Gospel may shine forth bright and clear to all mankind, and may bring all men to a true faith in thee; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.' In her address to the General Synod of the Church of England in 2010 she said: "What matters is holding firmly to the need to communicate the gospel



with joy and conviction in our society." Although normal family life has hardly been possible for the Queen, she places a high value on family as the core of a thriving community. At Christmas 2007, the year she and Prince Philip celebrated their Diamond Wedding, she said:

"In my experience, the positive value of a happy family is one of the factors of human existence that has not changed. The immediate family... is still the core of a thriving community." In 2021 the nation was moved by the picture of the Queen sitting alone at the funeral of her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, whom she described as her 'strength and stay'.

The last prayer in the Devotions is a prayer for each of us, for all our lives:

'God be in my head, and in my understanding. God be in mine eyes, and in my looking. God be in my mouth, and in my speaking. God be in my heart, and in my thinking. God be at my end, and my departing.'

(This is an extract from a beautifully illustrated book by Catherine Butcher. We would like to give it to you as a gift during the Jubilee Celebrations at St Mary's Church.)

AGING FAITHFULLY: THE HOLY INVITATION OF GROWING OLDER (NAVPRESS, 2021) ALICE FRYLING

We can see our bodies getting older, but what happens in our soul as we age? Does our relationship with God, and with other people, change in our senior years?

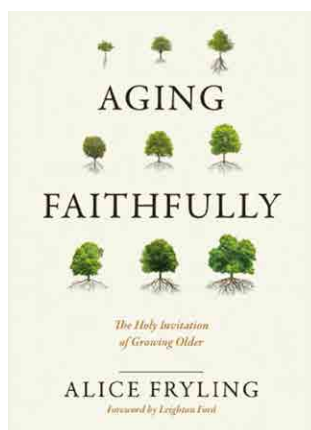
These are questions that Alice Fryling (an American author, hence the alternative spelling in the title!) has been pondering as she has grown older. She shares her thoughts in this helpful little book, and includes questions for reflection at the end of each chapter, inviting us to consider our own attitudes to ageing.

How do we deal with the changes that we face moving into later life? Ageing is often associated with loss, and this must be accepted. But what do we gain, as older people? The author suggests ways in which our inner lives can be richer as we move from being 'outwardly productive', to being 'inwardly fruitful'. This is where a Christian faith makes such a difference. We may have less energy, and be more dependent on others physically, but God can continue to change and renew us through His Holy Spirit. As the Bible says: "Though our bodies are dying, our inner strength in the Lord is growing every day." (2 Cor 4:16, GNB). Friendships and family relationships can be nurtured as we enrich others' lives with the time, wisdom and focussed attention that older people offer. God invites us all to "be still and know that I am God" (Ps 46:10, NIV) - older people have an advantage here, because sitting quietly is becoming

more normal! We may also increasingly experience God's love in our senior years through other people's care for us. We are reminded of the truth that we are precious to God at every age and in every season of life.

We will all experience retirement and ageing in our own way; the author acknowledges this by including comments from her husband's and friends' perspectives. We hear from older parents, from adult children with ageing parents, and from people who are ageing on their own.

This book does not shy away from difficult questions about grief, loss, and the fears we all experience, but the author's faith in God and the peace that can be found through trusting Him as we grow older, makes this a hopeful and uplifting read.



Reviewed by Julie Laughland
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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.

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The service at the top (mobile device) or on the
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FAMILY REGISTER OF DENHAM PARISH CHURCH

WEDDINGS

20.04.2022 Tanzin Ahmed to Chloe Emily Charles, Denham

BAPTISM

06.03.2022 Charles James Cowell, Uxbridge

03.04.2022 Ella Louise Elizabeth Wilkerson, New Denham



Charles James Cowell



Ella Louise Elizabeth Wilkerson

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Marion Francis will be celebrating her **90th birthday** on Saturday 9 July, 2 to 4.30pm and you are invited!
Please sign-up via the church office or on the list in church.





Rosalind Evans



Sam Goodwin



Dorothy Hone

BURIALS

09.03.2022	Sandra Jane Webster (65) Denham
15.03.2022	Rosalind Evans (94) Denham Green
31.03.2022	Norma Gordon (80) Denham
11.04.2022	Sam Goodwin (28) Denham

CREMATIONS

26.01.2022	Dorothy Bertha Hone (92) Denham Green
15.02.2022	John Joseph Ullman (81) Denham Garden Village



John Ullman

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Sue Fletcher will be held on Wednesday, 6th July, at 2pm. All welcome.

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



Fran's Tea Garden

BY BRIAN O'REGAN

The Grand Union Canal is part of the British canal system managed by the Canal & River Trust (formerly British Waterways). Its main line starts in Birmingham and ends in London, a distance of 137 miles and has 166 locks. However, it is not quite that simple as several canals have been merged with it to form a system measuring 286 miles, making it the longest in the UK.

As you set off in your narrowboat from Bordesley Junction heading south, you will be looking forward to traversing the industrial heartlands of England and reminiscing on the role the Grand Union played in moving goods and products to factories along its length. Bulk materials such as coal, gravel and grains made up most of the canal traffic, but now it is primarily pleasure use and resident narrowboaters. Plan your breaks and count the locks but do make sure that you have a longer stop at lock number 87 (which confusingly will be the 151st lock as numbering starts at number 1 in Braunston and increases going both north and south).

You will be at Denham Deep Lock, which at 11 feet is the deepest on the canal. You won't be greeted by the lockkeeper – Denham hasn't had one since around the First World War. But you will get a warm welcome at Fran's Tea Garden, at the former lockkeeper's cottage.

Roger, Fran and son Peter moved into the derelict Deep Lock Cottage on Fran's

birthday, Christmas Day 1989, initially renting it. They had to bring all their furniture by boat, but people in the village rallied around to help with unloading. They bought the cottage in 1992 and opened the Tea Garden, which is now run by their daughter-in-law Jo.

Fran was born in Neasden, London in 1932. Her paternal grandfather was from the Black Forest and grandmother from Bavaria. They met on a ship emigrating to England in the late 1880's and married and settled in London. Fran's father Fridolin Sigward was born in 1906. Fran's parents settled in Neasden and after her younger sister was born, they moved to Mill Hill. Following the start of WWII, life was difficult for the young Fran with German heritage. But in 1941 she and her sister were part of the mass evacuation from cities across Britain to places of safety in rural areas. They went to their aunt and uncle in Wolverton, where everything was more relaxed. She has fond memories of her time there and had her first taste of canal life. The Grand Union cuts through the northern part of Wolverton and Fran's folks would sometimes take the girls to the Barley Mow pub adjacent to the canal just a little to the north-west.

Roger and Fran married in 1963 and setup home in a Hendon flat, before moving to Mill Hill six years later. After Peter was born in 1971, the family took a canal holiday on the Grand Union in a narrow boat, "Hesperus". They were



hooked and Roger decided he would one day own one. Fran was keen and suggested he build one as he had many practical skills. In the 1970's Roger bought a sunken hull and had it towed to Braunston dry dock, where he spent many weekends rebuilding it before chugging to Aylesbury Basin to finish The Ash. The family had many happy holidays on board and The Ash is still working today in Peter's business. During this period Fran worked for a large schools' caterer in the grounds of Copthall School, Mill Hill. And so, the foundations were laid for her own catering business.

After buying the lockkeeper's cottage, Roger started a business supplying and delivering boat users with Calor Gas, diesel, coal and logs. He also serviced

narrowboats and barges, utilising his experience of working on cars. Now Fran was not a lady to idle her time away watching the canal traffic go by. So, Fran's Tea Garden was born. To accompany a tea or coffee, Fran had an extensive range of homemade cakes, sandwiches and rolls and light meals. Roger played his part making pickles and jams. Lunches were popular with the canal users and many would use the garden as a rendezvous – friends travelling the canal from the north and the south would meet at Denham.

Customers would return time and time again and were welcomed as friends. Often, they would bring ingredients that Fran needed and even would do personal shopping for her! The tea garden was a magnet for walkers and local people and more than a few famous names dropped by. Sir John Mills at one time was a weekly visitor, walking his dog Hamish from his home in Denham Village. Fran was tickled remembering that he would often arrive in his slippers! Another actor, Patrick Mower (Special Branch, Emmerdale), also



The Ash

lived in the village and was a customer. Incidentally, Patrick manned the bottle stall at the Denham Village Fayre. In name-dropping mode, did I hear Fran mention yet another actor, David Suchet, who frequented the tea garden? Or was it Hercule Poirot taking refreshment whilst he solved another dastardly murder?

But Fran's Tea Garden flourished because she gave a warm welcome to all. Now, children of old customers visit, to bring back memories of their childhoods being treated to cakes and ice-creams and learning about how a canal lock works.

For nearly twenty years Roger and Fran put on an annual Jazz Evening in the tea garden with all proceeds going to Cancer Research. Although they couldn't continue the event, they still raise money for the same cause by selling books donated by customers and friends. Fran said that some books are sold time and time again, as customers often buy one, read it and donate it back! Despite reduced mobility – Roger is in a wheelchair having had a leg amputated in early 2021 following a foot infection and Fran will be 90 next Christmas – they still continue to cheerfully serve others.

It is always a delight to Roger and Fran to see their old friends return and the great tradition of Fran's Tea Garden is continued by Jo today. If you haven't visited recently, maybe because of Covid lockdowns, now is a good time to reacquaint yourself.

If you have never been, the best way to get there is walking from Denham Village. Going in a south-easterly direction, 100 metres past Denham Court Farm and just on the bend of Village Road, there

is a signposted footpath which will take you across the golf course. Continue past Denham Country Park on your right, cross Denham Court Drive (which leads to Buckinghamshire Golf Club) and walk 350 metres before turning left onto the footbridge which crosses the River Colne. This takes you to the canal towpath where you turn left for the 80-metre stroll to the lock and tea garden. The flat walk from Village Road is one kilometre and is suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. Alternatively, you could park at Denham Country Park but beware charges start at £3.80 for three hours, unless you have an Annual Permit (which also covers Black Park and Langley Park).

Summer opening times:

**Wednesday – Sunday 10.30 to 17.30
but may close earlier in bad weather.**

There is an excellent article on canal life and more on Fran's Tea Garden in the Denham Community History Project online:
www.denhamhistory.online/post/tea-garden-tales-of-life-on-the-canal

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10





Photo caption competition

'He shall feed His flock like a shepherd' Isaiah 40:11

or *'Where's the grub?!'* The winning caption was sent in by Jill Sands
Congratulations!

Picture quiz

In the last issue we asked whether anyone recognised this object (pictured right). As you can see on the right, it is a plastic insert for vinyl singles, which had much larger holes than vinyl albums. To play them on a regular turntable, an adapter was needed.

John Hawkins was the first one to send in the correct answer and has won a copy of Tom Holland's book *Dominion*. Congratulations!





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"This year BRF is celebrating its centenary and for 34 of those years I have been part of the staff team, having joined straight out of university (originally as a kind of gap year

before theological college!). I know that Denham Parish Church has had an even longer-standing connection with BRF – I recall celebrating with you the 40th and 50th anniversaries of your BRF group back in 1997 and 2007. I'm so thankful for the connection we have had over so many years and for our shared passion to see people engage with the Bible and grow in faith and discipleship."

Richard Fisher, Chief Executive, BRF

The BRF centenary rose is the gorgeous floribunda Cream Abundance, representing God's abundant provision for BRF over 100 years. Available to purchase from BRF: www.brfonline.org.uk/products/rose



The BRF centenary service was held on 24th April 2022 - a joyous and uplifting occasion celebrating the work of the past 100 years, from their first Bible reading notes to the ministries they champion today: Anna Chaplaincy, Living Faith, Messy Church and Parenting for Faith. If you would like to watch that service, go to:

www.youtube.com/c/BRFcharity

St Mary's has been associated with BRF since 1957 and we supply their reading notes, the most popular series being New Daylight, with other titles including those specifically written for women or older people. Whichever series you choose, it will introduce you over time to the whole sweep of scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, allowing you to absorb its wisdom, develop your understanding and encounter daily inspiration, encouragement and challenge. Please contact the Church Office if you would like to subscribe to BRF Bible reading notes.

The BRF centenary prayer

Gracious God,

We rejoice in this centenary year that you have grown BRF from a local network of Bible readers into a worldwide family of ministries. Thank you for your faithfulness in nurturing small beginnings into surprising blessings.

We rejoice that, from the youngest to the oldest, so many have encountered your word and grown as disciples of Christ. Keep us humble in your service, ambitious for your glory and open to new opportunities. For your name's sake Amen

To learn more about BRF ministries go to: www.brf.org.uk





Bible Detectives



"Congratulations and jubilations, la la la la..."

I'm glad you're in a celebratory mood - whose birthday is it?

Not a birthday, a jubilee. And I'm trying to work out what the word actually means. So far, all I've come up with is an old song by *Cliff Richard*.

That's a good start, actually. The Oxford English Dictionary defines a jubilee as "a special anniversary of an event, especially one celebrating twenty-five or fifty years of a reign or activity."

Ah, that makes sense. I remember the Queen's Golden Jubilee 20 years ago. And I guess 70 years is an even bigger reason for a celebration. The other song that I've just remembered was sometimes sung in school assemblies: "Jubilate everybody, serve the Lord in all your ways..." When I reminisced about it with an old school friend recently he said that these days he prefers a Café Latte to a 'Jubi Latte'...

Very funny.

"Jubilate" sounds Latin to me, is that right?

Absolutely. If we go back to the Oxford Dictionary it tells us that the root of 'jubilee'

is late Latin 'jubilaeus annus', which means a year of jubilee, based on the Hebrew word 'yōḇēl'...

That would explain why "Jubilate everybody" sounds a bit like a Hebrew folk song. I like 'yōḇēl', it sounds a bit like 'yodel', although your face tells me that it's got nothing to do with that...

Erm, no.

Can you tell me more about 'yōḇēl' then?

I'm glad you asked. 'Yōḇēl' was originally a trumpet made out of a ram's horn...

A bit like a shofar?

That's right. And it was used to proclaim a jubilee in Israel.

And we are back on topic! Did they celebrate special anniversaries of kings in Israel, too?

They might have, but in the Bible, a jubilee is a different kind of celebration. It was to be a year of freedom and rest for everyone. Even the land was to rest and people were to eat only what the field itself produced.

For a farming community that was a bit like a one-year holiday - nice!

That's right. But there is more: God told the people of Israel that all property (land or houses) that people had been forced to sell because of poverty was to be returned to the

original owners or their lawful heirs without payment. And slaves and their children, who had lost their liberty because of poverty, were to be freed.

That's a proper party for the poor - amazing. It's like a massive reset button! The only thing is... you seem a bit cagey in the way you describe it: "were to be... was to be..." Is there something you are not telling me?

As you say - it was designed as a proper party to remind God's people that he had freed them from slavery in Egypt and that they were to be subject only to him now. God's children weren't to be oppressed anymore but know his grace and favour. The only problem is that we don't know whether it was ever celebrated, so many scholars think that it was just an ideal, but never practised.

That's depressing. So the rich and powerful win again and the poor get nothing?

Well, some of the prophets announce that one day this special year of God's favour will happen. And when Jesus gives his first public speech in the synagogue in Nazareth he quotes from the prophet Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." (You can read this in Luke 4:18-19). And then comes the bombshell. Jesus sits down and says: "The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!"

So Jesus says that he has come to finally bring the jubilee?

That's right. Jesus says he has come to bring freedom and hope to all, and especially the poor, the imprisoned, the sick, the oppressed.

And he does it not with military force but as a humble servant. He says to his followers, "The Son of Man came to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." A ransom is paid to win someone's freedom! Christians believe that Jesus did this with his life on the cross, so we can freely live as God's children - now and forever.

That's... ground-breaking! Coming back to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee after this white-knuckle ride, is there a connection at all?

I can think of a few. Whenever the Queen arrives at an important occasion, fanfares are sounded. But, more importantly, she has always understood herself as God's servant and the servant of her people. The Coronation service (which goes back to AD973!) clearly explains that her authority ultimately comes from God and that she should seek the priorities of her heavenly King, whom she serves. In her 21st birthday address in 1947, shortly after becoming Queen, she said, "I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service... God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it."

That is truly a cause for celebration - to have had her steady leadership and service for 70 years! Which reminds me of one more song: "This is our God, the Servant King. He calls us now to follow him." It seems to me that our Queen has always modelled her life on Jesus, the Servant King.

I couldn't have said it better. Jubilate, everybody!





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