

SEPTEMBER 2022 - NOVEMBER 2022

DENHAM PARISH NEWS

OUR NEW TRAINING CURATE
A TIME TO REMEMBER
OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY



CONTENTS

3	From the Editor
4	Message from Azita Jabbari - Training Curate
7	What's Happening at Denham Parish Church
8	Church Kneelers - Remembrance
11	Safeguarding Sunday
12	Spotlight on The Haven
14	Platinum Jubilee Photos
16	Oberammergau
22	Family Register
24	God in the life of Churchwarden Cathy
27	Sunday Services
29	Give & Share for Christmas
30	Bible Detectives: Halloween
35	Parish Directory
36	St Mary's Festival

Cover photo: Tower lit up for the Platinum Jubilee

**PRICE £1.50 PER ISSUE OR SAVE MONEY BY BECOMING A SUBSCRIBER:
£5 PER YEAR FOR 4 ISSUES (INCLUDES FREE LOCAL HAND DELIVERY).**

Please email magazine@denhamparish.church
or call 07599 934173 for more details.

Disclaimer: We are very grateful for the support of our advertisers.
However, as a church we do not endorse their products or services in any way.
Any services they provide for you would be contracted by you – their customers –
and we cannot be party to any difficulties encountered.

FROM THE EDITOR

It is always exciting to receive a letter through the post but even more so when it has a Buckingham Palace franking on the envelope! As the June issue of Denham Parish News was a special Platinum Jubilee edition, I thought the Queen might be interested in also receiving a copy – and she was, kindly sending us a thank you letter, signed by her Lady-in-Waiting, saying:

"The Queen wishes me to thank you very much for your letter, and for the kind message you sent on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of Her Majesty's Accession to the Throne.

The Queen is most grateful to you for enclosing a copy of your Platinum Jubilee special edition. Her Majesty was touched by the reflections of your contributors, and was interested to see something of Denham's itinerary for marking this milestone within the local community. "

Saying thank you is a wonderful gift that we can all give!

I would like to thank all those who made our Jubilee Celebrations so special - see p.14 for reminders of the Beacon Bonanza, Jubilee decorations and tree dedication. Pam explores our 'remembrance' kneelers (p.8) and we hear from Brian about how the village of Oberammergau (p.16) have been saying thank you to God for his grace and mercy for nearly 400 years. Azita Jabbari, our new training curate shares her journey to faith in Christ (p.4) and we have a spotlight on how The Haven, our bereavement drop-in group, is supporting those walking through grief (p.12). Thank you for reading!



Blessings,

Cathy Macqueen

magazine@denhamparish.church



MESSAGE FROM AZITA JABBARI

TRAINING CURATE

Dear Friends

**I grew up in a Muslim family.
My father was in the Army, and
my mother worked as a full-time
hairstylist teacher at college.
My grandfather was the Imam at the
local mosque, therefore I come from
a quite deeply religious household.**

I studied Accounting at university in Iran before moving on to work in a bank. This was at a time when it was difficult from a cultural perspective for a woman to study and work. In 1994, when I was just 18 years old, I met Kamran in his bookstore where we fell in love, and we finally married.



We had Rozhin, our first child, three years later, and she has been nothing short of a joy to us ever since. Our happiness was complete when Roham arrived eight years later.

In 2004 we were forced to leave Iran and our lives changed irrevocably. I fled to England alone as a refugee with my 7-year-old daughter and 6-months pregnant with our son when the government arrested Kamran.

With a young child to look after and expecting another, this was not an easy time for me, especially with having to get used to living in a totally different culture and communicating in a different language to my own. When Kamran joined me in Oxford, we began our own business together in the centre of Oxford. We had our own newsagents and then later also opened up an English Language School. One day I felt desperate. I was tired of fighting the battles. But God had a different plan for me, and he began to reach out to me through my dreams. On September 4th 2012, I had a dream of Jesus and he said to me, "Trust me. Leave all your worries to me." I was sweating when I awoke, but I was full of hope and joy. I had many questions, so I began to search, and the more I learned about him, the more I fell in love with him. At the end I knew I had to give my heart to Jesus. By God's grace, my husband and I were both



baptised in Oxford's Port Meadow River
by our vicar, Bruce Gillingham.

In 2014, I sensed God's call to ordained ministry for the first time. We both felt that we must put our trust in God and offer an empty hand to him, so we made significant family decisions and ultimately sold our two businesses. But the result was not what I was expecting and the selection panel of the Church of England didn't recommend me for ordination.

Kamran started to train as an accountant and ended up working as chartered accountant. I began my career at Specsavers and afterwards worked as a practice manager at David Clulow Opticians. Helping others see better was not too far from my original calling, so I was pleased. However, God had other plans for me, and as

I settled into my new role, I heard a call to ordained ministry once more.

I have always been struck by the image of Simon of Cyrene carrying the cross for Jesus. As I prayed and read the passage and the story of Simon of Cyrene, I realised that he was an outsider with a name from Cyrene in North Africa (he probably was a Jew from the community there).

I felt my calling to be quite similar to that of this pilgrim: I, too, was an outsider and a stranger; I wasn't sure if I was compelled or if I volunteered, but I suppose it doesn't matter since He called me out of the crowd; all I have to do is bear the cross, follow him, and feed his sheep.

My Christian commitment has been shaped by some difficult life experiences but has grown and been strengthened by them. In and through all this I have always sought to respond to God's call to be an active and fruitful partner. My sense of call to ordained ministry is part of that wider call to follow and bear fruit for the One who has loved, protected, strengthened and sustained me and my family in and through difficult times. My call to ordained ministry is also shaped by the desire to serve the church in my witness to a God who wants to graciously relate to people from all cultures and contexts.

I believe passionately that the light and love that has kept me and many others persevering with courage is something to be shared.

MESSAGE FROM AZITA JABBARI - Continued



Christoph, Ferry, Cathy, Edda and Azita after her ordination in Oxford

In July, I was ordained at Christ Church Cathedral, moved into St Mark's House in Denham Green and started my training as a curate.

Azita will tell us more of her faith journey at St Mary's Festival on Sunday, 11 September. For more information, see page 36.

Since our arrival, you have showered us with your love, making us feel welcome and at home. We cannot thank you enough for your generosity and love. My hope and prayer is to serve you with humility and a servant's heart.

Grace & Peace

Azita



What's Happening

AT DENHAM PARISH CHURCH?



HARVEST
Thanksgiving

Family Service
Sunday 2 October
10.30am, St Mary's



**REMEMBRANCE
SUNDAY** 10.45am
St Mary's



**Little
Lions**

TODDLER GROUP

Wednesday mornings in term time
St Mark's Church Hall
Contact: Kathy Paine
kathypaine16@gmail.com



**BEREAVEMENT
DROP-IN**

A place of safety,
welcome and
hope renewed.
All welcome.
St Mark's Church Hall
Sep 23, Oct 28, Nov 25, all 4pm
Contact: Ian Jennings
07866 679025



FOREST CHURCH

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

St Mary's Church
25 Sep, 23 Oct, 27 Nov, all 4pm
Contact: Edda Lindner
eddalindner18@gmail.com



Remembering
LOVED ONES

Sunday
20 November
Time TBC

CHURCH KNEELERS: THE SEASON OF REMEMBRANCE

BY PAM MONTGOMERY

Following on from my article in the last edition of Denham Parish News relating to kneelers in St Mary's commemorating Royal occasions, this time of year marks Remembrance - of lives lost in times of war, of those we have loved, and this year it would seem particularly appropriate to include in our thoughts those who died during the pandemic as well.

At St. Mary's I always think our Service of Remembrance held on the Sunday nearest to 11th November each year is rather special, linking together worship in church and worship outside round the War Memorial. Representatives on behalf of the Denham Parish Council, Air Cadets, Brownies (and in years past British Legion and Girl Guides), attend, and the service commences with the standard bearers and their escorts from each group proudly bringing their standards to be received and laid on the altar throughout the service until they are collected by the bearers and the service moves out to the War Memorial in the churchyard. There, the group representatives lay their wreaths of poppies and the Salvation Army band plays the Last Post. The service concludes with a hymn after which Air Cadets and Brownies, standards blowing in the wind, march proudly through the Village. When Sir John Mills was alive and living 'next door' in Hills House, he regularly read the memorable words:



'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them'

from the chancel steps – always a very moving and emotional moment.

Returning to the kneelers worked in remembrance of those lost during active service in different wars, there are many kneelers for individuals, but also many marking the different Services, and within that category, individual regiments. Amongst these remembered are the Denham Light Infantry, and the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers (both regiments in which the Reverend Peter Crick (Rector 1975-88) served) the King's Royal Rifles 1914-18, the Falklands Servicemen 1982, and HMS Sheffield 1982; of VE Day



- dedicated 'To the men of Denham who didn't come back - and VJ Day in Peace and Goodwill' - dedicated 'We will never forget you'. Others are stitched in memory of World Peace, WRVS, British Legion, Women's Section (Denham) Royal British Lifeboats and finally one just dedicated 'Cenotaph 1914-2014' remembering two men killed in action in 1915 and 1916.

There are also many kneelers in church which have been stitched by individuals who simply wish to indicate their own remembrance and love of family and friends and these number more than sixty. The Service for Those We Have Loved or as we now call it Remembering Loved Ones, is held annually in November around the time of All Souls Day. These simple services started in 2002, and since then have shone a light into the darkness for so many families who come together for a period of quiet calm and reflection. During the service, families are invited to light their own candles and place them on a table in the shape of a cross. In addition, a Candle of Hope is lit in the Chancel – its flame symbolising Faith (its spark alive even in the darkness), Hope (shining through fear), and Love (enduring even when we experience helplessness and loss). The lit candles in the shape of the Cross are very powerful and moving and remain burning as the congregation leaves. Last year, it seemed only right that the deaths of loved ones who died from Covid during the pandemic should also be remembered, and yet again, the Miller family – Gerald and his daughters Debbie and Vicki – have plied their needles, this time working

CHURCH KNEELERS: THE SEASON OF REMEMBRANCE

Continued



three cushions dedicated to 'Those residents of Denham who suffered from or succumbed to Covid 19 in 2020'. Beneath the cushions on the Glastonbury 19th century oak chairs is a card which reads as follows: 'These cushions, three in all, were stitched by Gerald, Debbie and Vicki Miller during the Coronavirus pandemic and lockdown of spring and summer 2020. The design named 'Breamore' was selected from a catalogue many months before coronavirus became a part of our lives. It bears an uncanny resemblance to the 'image' of the virus displayed on our televisions daily throughout this period.'

The kits for these cushions and all the other kneelers in St Mary's have been available from Jacksons of Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire – an old 'family' business which ceased to trade in the spring of 2020. So, sadly, until an alternative source can be found, it seems unlikely that kneelers will continue to be stitched and our church will no longer benefit from all the love

and care which has been poured out over so many years into the making and dedication of our wonderful collection of kneelers which are so much admired and which give so much pleasure to all who enter St Mary's church – rich treasures indeed.



SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2022

BY SAMANTHA CARTER, PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

We all want to feel that our children, young people and vulnerable adults are being well looked after.

At Denham Parish Church we have good procedures in place to recruit, train and support our volunteers and staff. Leaders of the wide range of activities that we offer, ranging from Little Lions and Sunday Club to The Haven, our Bereavement drop-in group, are all DBS checked and take their responsibilities to protect those in their care very seriously. If a concern should arise, they are encouraged to talk to the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Samantha Carter, or to contact trained support workers at the Oxford Diocese.

With the help of our church leadership team and the PCC, we annually review

our Safeguarding policy and procedures. If you would like to ask any questions about Safeguarding in our parish, please do get in touch with Samantha by emailing safeguarding@denhamparish.church or ask for a chat after church. There are posters displayed in all our church buildings with helpline numbers if you would like to seek specialist confidential advice.



Along with many other churches, Denham Parish will be taking part in **Safeguarding Sunday on 20 November as part of our 10.30am service.** Please do come along and find out more!

Safeguarding Sunday 2022

One Church. One Day. One message

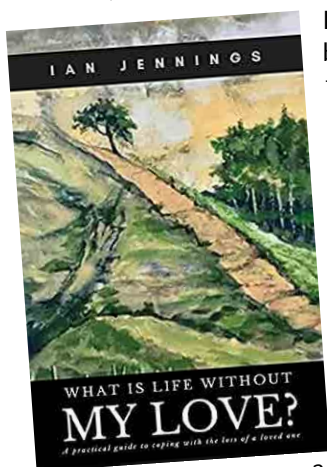
Protecting vulnerable people is at the heart of the Christian message of justice and hope.



The Haven is a monthly support group for people who are living with loss. It has evolved as a drop-in centre for bereaved people where they can feel safe and secure in sharing their heartbreak with people on a similar journey. It takes place monthly and is held in St Mark's Hall, Denham Green.

BY REVD IAN JENNINGS

This group had its beginning as a 12-week course based on my second book, "What is Life Without My Love?"



It proved to be of benefit to those who attended and not just because the content was helpful and appropriate but because this was a group that gelled and developed a remarkable

level of mutual support. It was felt by all the participants that we should move to a monthly format and open it up to others. Bereavement affects so many people and we need one another to come through the most testing and difficult times. People who share the same or similar story can be a great support to one another. We maintain the principle that confidences shared within the group remain within the group and are never repeated outside.

We call it "The Haven" because that suggests a place of safety - a refuge from the buffeting storms.

I never forget the experience of Fay who was devastated by the death of her husband just when they had been looking forward to sharing so much together in retirement. Her recovery took time and was painful. Initially she just wanted to join her dear husband but slowly she began to emerge and her wise vicar saw her potential for helping others in similar circumstances. She was encouraged to join the 'bereavement team.' The fuller story appears in my book, "What is Life Without My Love?"

A moment came when Fay's neighbour opposite experienced the sudden death of her husband. Fay did not really know her except to wave to her so she determined only to put a sympathy card through her letterbox. However, as she stood at the front door, she felt compelled to knock. Fay's neighbour said, "Oh, I am so delighted to see you - you are the only person I know who has lost her husband," and threw her arms

around Fay. It was the beginning of a deeply empathetic friendship which was hugely valued by both of them.

I refer to that story because it illustrates so clearly the value of empathy. Empathy, in many ways, is the quality that brings our Haven group together and keeps them together. They care about each other and have some understanding of each other's heartache. We are also so blessed to have Sandy Wickenden with us - she helps to run the group and is a trained bereavement counsellor and a wise and caring friend. Sandy says: We wanted to create a safe place where people could speak or be silent, share or be quiet with their own thoughts. A place where, whilst grief was normalised, the extent of its massive impact acknowledged and believed. By facilitating sharing together, our hope was to provide a vehicle to promote healing for each person in a way that was empathic and real and as leaders reflected our own experiences of God's unconditional love in our lives.

One of the things that emerged within the group was the desire to get together for social time. We had a wonderful meal together in The Monk - Nepalese Restaurant on Station Parade. It was a lovely evening. Then we went to Da Remo, the Italian restaurant in Denham - another delicious menu and lovely evening. We also all met up for the Alternative Beacon Bonanza at St. Mary's which was part of the Queens 70th Jubilee celebrations.

We are unusual I think, in having a balance of men and women in the

group. We have three Davids which can sometimes lead to complications! But there is room for more!

The dates for the autumn session:

September 23rd 4pm

October 28th 4pm

November 25th 4pm

We will announce the December date later and it may well be a social event.

Please tell those you may know who are living with loss - they will be most welcome to drop into The Haven.

'I found it comforting to be amongst people of similar circumstances and it was good to share our experience and sometimes have a bit of light heartedness to lift the spirit.'

'At the Haven you can download all the complex emotions and feelings that you experience when losing a loved one. The group supports you offering some light at a time when you can't feel, see or understand where is God's love.'

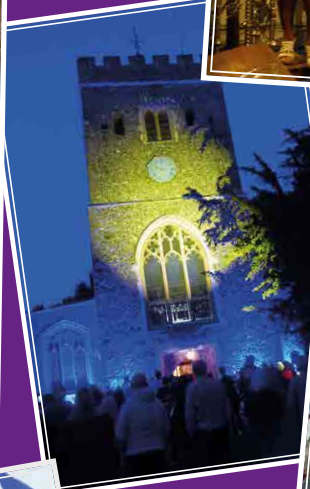
For more information, please contact Revd Ian Jennings: ian.jennings@denhamparish.church or 07866 679025

www.denhamparish.church/haven



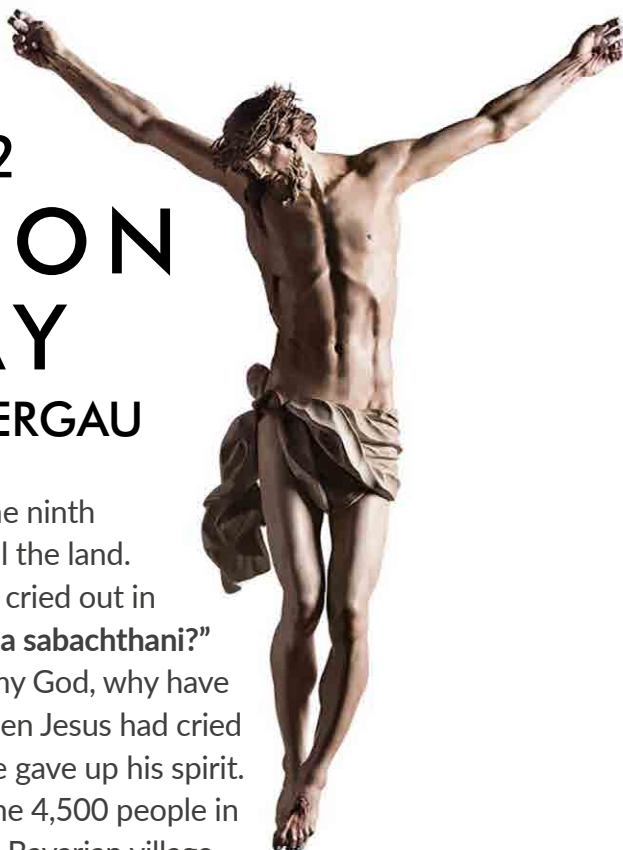
Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

June 2022





2022 PASSION PLAY OBERAMMERGAU



From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “**Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?**” – which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. His agonised cries chilled the 4,500 people in the theatre, set in the small Bavarian village of Oberammergau. Jesus’ Passion was over.

Just three days before, The Amersham Deanery Pilgrimage assembled at meeting points in Gerrards Cross and Denham. Courtesy of BA cancelling our original very civilised lunch-time flight, we were bumped onto the 06.55 to Munich! Our appointment was at the dentist - Dexter and Jane’s dental practice (we set the alarm for tooth-hurty!). The trip had been announced in late 2017 and originally scheduled for 2020. Superbly organised by Lawrence Tebbboth and spiritually led by Christoph, our 43-strong eclectic group was drawn from Christian churches in the area.

The earlier flight gave us time to stop at Nymphenburg Palace in Munich, the Baroque palace was the main summer residence for the former rulers of Bavaria. It was here that our guide for the trip, Lance, introduced us to King Ludwig II who was born there in 1845. We were to learn a lot about Ludwig II over the coming days on the coach, as Lance meandered through German and Bavarian history at length. Name dropping people he had engaged with - Ted Heath, Niki Lauda were two - we were nevertheless impressed with his knowledge (and memory) and many found the rambling

commentaries a good antidote for sleeplessness!

Our first evening together at our hotel started with introductions, then a joint "Agape Meal" and prayers. Jenny Tebboth, Christoph and Edda had produced a booklet for group morning and evening prayer. It was very unfortunate for Jenny that she had a positive Covid test a few days before our departure and so was unable to make the trip.

The following day we visited Kloster Ettal, a Benedictine abbey founded in 1330. The abbey and gothic church were largely destroyed by fire in 1744, but the rebuilding in Baroque style gave us a magnificent experience of the people's expression of God's glory.



A plaque commemorates Lutheran pastor and anti-Nazi dissident, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who spent some months here during WWII. In 1937 he published his best-known book, *The Cost of Discipleship*. He paid the ultimate price for his discipleship when he was executed by the Nazis on 9th April 1945, just one month before their surrender. A fitting modern-times story for the passion play to come.

Another prominent anti-Nazi was Jesuit priest Rupert Mayer, interned here for several months at the end of the war. He died of a stroke on his feet celebrating morning mass on 1 November 1945 - All Saints' Day - in St. Michael's, Munich.

As we sat in the vast cathedral, surveying the eight splendidly ornate altars and wonderful paintings and frescos, Iain Ledingham led us in singing Tallis' Canon in parts. Originally written by Thomas Tallis in 1567 as "God Grant with Grace" we contributed in some small way our own praise. If only we had been able to get Iain playing the organ! It was not to be, so we consoled ourselves with a tour of the abbey brewery and the mandatory beer and liqueur tasting. The monks' beer drinking had been a necessity in the days of poor-quality water, but now it is a commercial enterprise earning income for the monastery.



Suitably lubricated, we rolled on to nearby Linderhof Palace, the smallest of King Ludwig II's three royal castles, built 1874-1886 at a cost of 8.5 million marks (based on gold content, £142m today). Ludwig II didn't like to be constrained by matters of money when he had such grand visions. He idolised the French "Sun-King", Louis XIV – even though he had died 130 years before Ludwig was born - and Linderhof was inspired by the French King's Palace of Versailles. Ludwig II did live to see his creation completed, unlike his other palaces, and was no doubt very proud of the enchanting Hall of Mirrors. In front of the Hall of Mirrors is a stunning water parterre with the gilt fountain group *Flora and puttos*.

The next day we were at the fairy tale castle, Neuschwanstein, commissioned by the fairy tale king, Ludwig II in 1869. It was planned to be 200 rooms but only 18 were completed before the King's death in 1886. Ludwig II spent less than six months in his retreat, 1000m above sea level. Despite his apparent folly, the castle has received over 75m visitors since opening to the public shortly after his death. It featured in the 1968 film *Chitty-chitty-bang-bang*.



We weren't finished with Ludwig's grand castles, but first there was the highlight of our trip and for some the fulfilment of a lifetime's dream, Oberammergau. Lawrence was on a Crusader Camp when his father led a group to The Passion Play in 1970, and missed out. It had been at the back of his mind ever since so seven years ago he suggested to Christoph getting a tour organised. Yes, well volunteered Lawrence!

The story of Oberammergau is one of tragedy, despair, hope, faith and commitment to a promise made to God. The Bubonic Plague or Black Death, which started in China in 1343, afflicted the world for hundreds of years in several waves, one of which struck Europe in 1633. Oberammergau stayed clear for many months until the plague hit the village of Ettal, three miles away. Oberammergau went into lockdown, allowing no one to enter. As Christmas approached, a newly-wed villager who had been away in search of work, desperately wanted to be reunited with his young bride. He slipped in at night unwittingly bringing the plague with him. In the ensuing months, 84 of the 600 villagers died. The people

prayed, crying out to God for deliverance from their invisible enemy. And God listened. There were no more deaths from the plague in Oberammergau. In gratitude, they vowed to perform a passion play every ten years and the following year they performed the first over the graves of those who had been struck down by the plague.

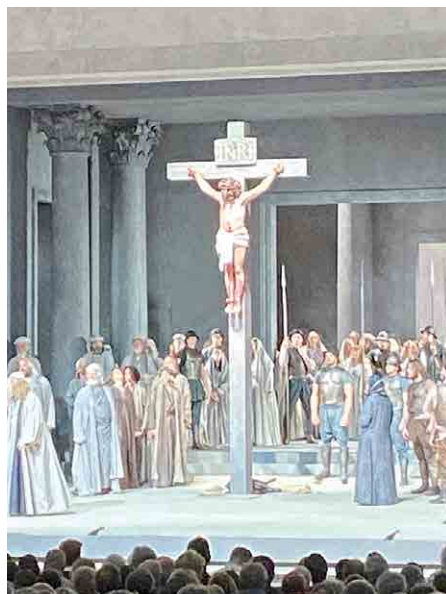
We were all set to travel in 2020, when another global plague caused a two-year postponement. But we were here at last for the 42nd Oberammergauer Passionsspiele. The village of Oberammergau, population 4,300, is the Passion Play. For nearly 400 years, the ten-year cycle has dominated life in the village. Children grow up with aspirations of a leading part. Music, so much a part of the performance, plays a big role in the activities of schools. Today, the village has fewer than 90 boys under-five. How many dream of stepping into Jesus' sandals to be crucified, or playing the role of Judas or Pontius Pilate?

For our performance, Jesus was 25-year-old Rochus Rückel, the second youngest actor to play Jesus in the play's history. As the story unfolded, the 64-voice choir was backed by a 55-piece orchestra. The music is largely based on compositions of Rochus Dedler, born in Oberammergau in 1779. This year there will be five performances a week from 14th May until 2nd October, totalling 103. The play spans eight hours with a three-hour dinner break. With such an enormous commitment, it is unsurprising that roles are doubled up to share the load. Nearly half of the population of the village take part, and can do so only if they were born in Oberammergau, married to a local for more than 10 years or lived there for at least 20 years.

The play is interspersed with 11 static Old Testament presentations by actors, accompanied by the choir and orchestra. These scenes included "The Golden Calf" and "Moses before Pharaoh", appropriately positioned in the gospel

timeline. The first action of the play is Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It was pleasing to see the strong biblical base to the play. Dialogue between the characters such as that between Pilate and chief priest Caiaphas, was realistic and sympathetic to the story line.

We knew the story inside out; there were no surprises; God didn't send his angels to pull out the heavy blood-stained nails pinning Jesus through his hands and feet to the formidable wooden cross. Jesus didn't float down majestically from the cross to prove to the world that he was the son of God and King of The Jews, to take his place upon his throne. No, he cried out "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?", and gave up his spirit.



Two days later at our morning prayer meeting, Frankie surprised me by reading a song, then playing a recording of it that her sister had given her.

Her sister lives in the same village as my younger brother, Kevin, and he was inspired to write the song after seeing The Passion Play in 2010. It's called "I wanted to be Jesus", a moving account of a young boy growing up in Oberammergau with just one ambition. The lyrics are below.

After trips to Salzburg and St Wolfgang (where I had first heard about Oberammergau in 1970), we were into our last day, and a visit to Ludwig II's third extravagance, Herrenchiemsee Castle, built majestically on an island on Lake Chiemsee. It was intended to be a replica of Versailles but was not completed despite consuming 16,579,674 Marks (£277m) by the time construction ceased on Ludwig II's death. The Hall of Mirrors is breath-taking, seemingly reaching in both directions to infinity. The ceiling is painted with 25 frescoes showing Louis XIV at his best.

On our journey to Munich airport, we made a detour for a brief coach tour of the city. We had been blessed with glorious weather but as we approached Munich we were greeted with rain. Alex, who had driven us with courtesy and care throughout, said "Even the clouds are sad to see you leave, they are crying."

Lance pointed out the Valentin-Karlstadt Musäum, "A museum for German humour." Cue raucous laughter, with one wag saying, "It must be a small building!" We know that Christoph and Edda do have a sense of humour – they had to to have led this group so well for a week!

Back at Heathrow and we boarded the coach, as Lawrence made one final count. Oh no, one of the flock was missing! The good shepherd left us all, to search for the missing one and there was great rejoicing when she was found.

Our pilgrimage for the Passion of Christ was over but the vivid scenes and moving crucifixion will long stay with us and bring greater understanding to Easters to come. Thank you, Oberammergau, for your faith in 1633 and fulfilling your promise to God ever since.

*"For God so loved the world that
he gave his one and only
Son, that whoever
believes in him shall
not perish but
have eternal life."*

John 3:16

**Article written by
Brian O'Regan**



I wanted to be Jesus

Verse 1

At three my sister held my hand as we shouted in the street,
For the man who rode upon an ass with sandals on his feet.

At thirteen I was trusted to lead a goat away,
When he cleared the traders from the temple so everyone could pray.
At twenty-three with sword and shield a soldier I was made,
And I held him in Gethsemane when a traitor's kiss betrayed.

Chorus

*I wanted to be Jesus and take the centre stage;
At thirty-three the time was right and I had come of age.
And what I got was a walk-on part with not a word to say,
And I waved a palm for the chosen one as he passed on his way.*

Middle 8

And in these fields of plenty there is no joy at all;
I lift each day these bales of hay for cattle in the stall.
A lifetime in the shadows I watch the light decay;
Show to me your purpose so these gifts I can repay.

Chorus

Verse 2

At the last rehearsal we reached the final scene.
The Director said, "I'm not quite sure how the play should end."
Then after some discussion he turned to me and said,
"You have the smallest part and never say a word.
But patience will be honoured and silence be engaged,
So lift the bowl of burning light and place it centre stage."

Chorus

*I wanted to be Jesus and take the centre stage;
At thirty-three the time was right and I had come of age.
And what I got was a walk-on part with not a word to say,
But I brought the light from the chosen one when he
passed on his way.*

FAMILY REGISTER OF DENHAM PARISH CHURCH

BAPTISMS

29.05.22	Mary Elizabeth Elliott Birkby, Denham
11.06.22	Chester Albert Russell Smith, Denham
19.06.22	Finn George John Carobene, Denham
19.06.22	Thomas William John Carobene, Denham
19.06.22	Patrick Alfie John Carobene, Denham
03.07.22	Ottilie Enid Harriet Cranstoun, Denham
16.07.22	Nola Tan, Denham
17.07.22	Paige Alana Palmer, Denham



Mary Elizabeth Elliott Birkby



The Carobene Boys

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



BURIALS

14.04.22

George William John Wakeman (92), Denham

24.05.22

Michael William Dymott (89), Denham

09.08.22

Tony Smith (73), Denham



George Wakeman



Michael Dymott



Tony Smith

CREMATIONS

08.05.22

Daisy Rogers (90), Denham



Daisy Rogers

GOD IN THE LIFE OF CATHY MACQUEEN

EDITOR OF DENHAM PARISH NEWS AND NEWBIE CHURCHWARDEN

My earliest memory is when I was aged 2 years 4 months, standing with my big sister Ruth on the lawn outside the Haslemere (Surrey) maternity unit and waving to Mummy who was holding our little sister Jo at the window.

The middle of three daughters, I grew up in a secure and stable family where I knew I was loved. We faithfully went to Church every Sunday but my parents still felt as if something was missing, so after encouragement from an uncle, we attended a Post Green Christian family camp, led by Jean Darnell. It was at this camp when I was 5 years old, that I first remember personally experiencing an encounter with God. At the end of the children's meeting, we were asked if we would like to invite Jesus into our lives and I said 'yes'. Someone prayed with me and as I left, I remember an overwhelming sense of joy and a burst of sunlight and again I knew I was loved, this time by my heavenly father.

Over the years there have been many other times when I have had the choice to do my own thing or to trust in God and 'step out in faith' and believe that His way will be better than mine. After I miscarried at 9 weeks, my wise mother-in-law gently encouraged me to imagine holding the baby in my arms and offering them back to God. That was a tough ask in the early days of grief but it was also an important step

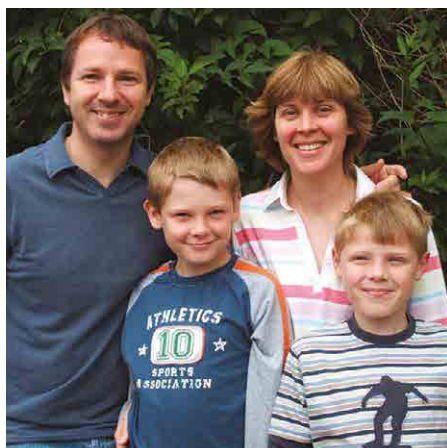
in healing – I could either hold onto the pain or I could choose to take up that suggestion.

In time, during a church service I just quietly spoke out my thanks to God for the gift of children and then imagined passing our unborn child back, for God to hold in His arms. It stretched my faith but it also provided a deep sense of reassurance and helped my belief in a loving God to grow.

My husband Chris and I have been blessed with two sons, Jonathan and Timothy and we enjoyed a busy early childhood with them. I worked part time as a dietitian at Hammersmith Hospital and later also at Hillingdon Hospital, alongside running the home and co-leading 'First Steps' toddler group at Hayes Baptist Church where we were members. However, the long hours that Chris worked for BT started to take its toll so when an old school friend of his suggested moving overseas to South-East Asia to work for him, Chris leapt at the idea. I didn't leap so fast! Chris' parents had been missionaries in Indonesia, so moving back to SE Asia was a familiar and happy place for Chris, whereas I was very rooted in England with limited exposure to overseas travel or expat living. In fact, when Chris asked me



where I might like to go on honeymoon I replied "anywhere as long as they speak English" (we went to Scotland!). It took quite a long time of worry and fear before I was once again ready to submit my will to God's and say 'Father, help me to be willing to go' and then when I was anxious, I had the reassurance that as God had shown himself to have been faithful in the past, I could trust Him for this next step.



We set out on Good Friday 2007 for an 18-month stint in Kota Kinabalu, Borneo working for The Leprosy Mission... which extended to nearly 4 years, followed by 6 years working for World Vision in Cambodia! I often marvel at God's graciousness – there was no way when we first left, that I would have been able to cope with the idea of moving overseas for 10 years, but God knew that and gently stretched the time commitments to smaller blocks of time that I could handle.

Borneo was a wonderful experience for us all and the Leprosy Mission were top class in their support of overseas staff.

We were welcomed into a local mainly Chinese Malay English speaking church and the boys settled into a small international English school (KIS) where I ended up chair of the PTA.



PTA beach party!

One thing that I have observed over the years is that given half a chance, God never wastes things we have gone through or learnt, and so it was that when I raised parent concerns about the pre-school to the Head Master he turned around and asked if I could do something about it, gave me a classroom space, a budget and before I knew it, I was running 'First Steps @ KIS', using the 10-year experience of running a toddler group in the UK!

The transition to Cambodia was tough. Gone were the roads where people drove on the 'correct side' and I could gaze on Mount Kinabalu on the daily school run or we could drive and within 30 minutes be in rainforest or snorkelling off a local island.

Phnom Penh (PP) was hot and noisy, the nearest sea or large green space was a 4-hour dusty drive where 'the shortest route' rules, even if that means driving on the pavement and squeezing into impossibly small spaces.

GOD IN THE LIFE OF CATHY MACQUEEN

Continued



I didn't really want to leave the safety of our home with our guard and 9' walls with barbed wire on top. But gradually, as I took little steps, cried a lot and got involved in the life of the boy's Christian school 'HOPE International' a new pattern to life emerged. Even after 6 years my grasp of the Khmer language never really developed beyond basic shopping and directions but I was able to support other expat ladies, hosting Bible Study groups and Downton Abbey evenings! Again, previous experience was not wasted and I ended up chairing the HOPE PTA and using my dietetic skills in the Nutrition team at World Vision and supporting various other NGOs writing reports for USAid and helping to develop the first breast cancer register in Cambodia.

That all seems a lifetime away now and it is easy to get sucked back into the self-reliance of life in the UK. I continue to use my dietetic training, working as a community dietitian

in East Berkshire four days a week. Thank you all for asking me to be a churchwarden and whilst I again can see God not wasting previous training ground, I pray that I will always endeavour to serve you in His strength, not my own, that I will be as ready to listen to His voice as well as yours, so that together we can grow in depth of understanding and joy at how wide and deep is his love and faithfulness to us all.



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

We provide care and companionship in:
Uxbridge, Hillingdon, Denham, Ickenham, Harefield,
Hayes, Harlington and surrounding areas

- Companionship
- Meal preparation
- Personal care
- End of life care
- Light housekeeping
- Medication reminders
- Outings & appointments
- Holiday & respite cover
- Specialist dementia care



Call our friendly team for more information: **01895 549800/01/02**

hillington@rightathome.co.uk www.rightathome.co.uk/hillingdon-and-uxbridge

Slough
273 Farnham Road
Tel: 01753 535556

Gerrards Cross
38 Oak End Way
Tel: 01753 891892

High Wycombe
891 London Road
Tel: 01494 472572



Marlow
21-23 Little Marlow Road
Tel: 01628 898866

Beaconsfield
32 Gregories Road
Tel: 01494 685000

ARNOLD FUNERAL SERVICE
INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

6 Generations of Service in the Community

Traditional, Alternative & Green Funerals ~ Pre-Payment Plans ~ Stonemasonry ~ Floristry
24 Hour Service

Doggy Daycare

In Denham Village

Home environment with very large secure garden.

Daily walks, playtimes.

Fully insured. Also holiday care available.

Please phone Sandra

01895 833712 or 07935 221466

**carter
DUTHIE**
sales • lettings • management

*“Denham’s Independent,
Family Run Estate Agency”*

Thinking of selling or letting your home?

Call us for a **FREE, no obligation** valuation from
your local property experts in Denham.

34 Station Parade, Denham, UB9 5ET www.carterduthie.com 01895 832155

GIVE & SHARE

This Christmas, our Give and Share Christmas Boxes may be in even greater demand than previously. Here is how you can help:



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



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

**If you would like to help please contact Craig:
Give_and_Share@denhamparish.church or 07748 973527**

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



www.denhamparish.church/giveandshare



What about Halloween?

About thirty years ago, a woman walked into a toyshop in Amersham and talked to the owner about his window display. It was October and the window was full of Halloween paraphernalia. She suggested to the owner, Gary Grant, that he should not be selling such material. She was a Christian and explained why. The owner brushed this off, but when he became a Christian a little while later, he decided to discard his Halloween stock and has never sold Halloween paraphernalia since. Today that business, The Entertainer, is the UK's largest independent toy retailer with more than 170 stores.

Halloween seems to be getting bigger each year...

Indeed. It is now the UK's third highest spending festival and could be worth as much as £400 million to retailers. We are still some way behind our American cousins who spend \$350 million on costumes alone... for their pets! (These figures are from 2015.)

What's the history of Halloween?

The origins of it draw on a number of sources. The Celtic feast of Samhain (pronounced sow-in) celebrated the

end of harvest and the beginning of the dark period of winter. The boundary between this world and the world of the dead was thought to dissolve and the dead returned to earth and created havoc by playing tricks on people and damaging crops. For the Celts there would have been feasting around bonfires designed to ward off the spirits.

The Romans added a feast of their own, Feralia, which commemorated the dead. Enter the Christian church, who introduced the Feast of All Saints on November 1st in an attempt to move interest away from the emphasis on pagan festivals and the celebration of the dead. It was originally the Feast of All Hallows (Hallows=Saints) and the 31st of October All Hallows Eve, later contracted to Halloween. The Christian All Saints' Day was and is a celebration of life, remembering both heroes of the faith from the past and Jesus himself, who brought light into the world to defeat fears, darkness and death.

What is Halloween about today?

In some ways it is replacing the 5th of November as the autumn event to celebrate. Much of the popularity is due to the influence of American media and an increasing commercialisation.

Most families think of Halloween as just a bit of fun: Dressing up and going around the neighbourhood asking for treats, which is traditional in British folk culture – for example when carol singing at Christmas.

But trick-or-treating can become rowdy or frightening for older people and those living alone, so it's important that adults help children keep it safe, light-hearted and fun – no nasty practical jokes, no demanding money with threats, saying 'thank you' when they've received their treat.

Is there a darker side to it?

Some Christians are concerned that the dark symbolism of Halloween (ghosts, witches, vampires, devils, etc.) can either invite people to explore occult practices (accessing spiritual powers that are not from God and therefore damaging to our wellbeing) or trivialise evil as just a bit of fun. When Halloween becomes a celebration of evil over good, it can cause children to develop fears of the dark, nightmares, and a sense of their vulnerability in a dangerous and dark world.

What does the Bible say?

The Bible is clear that the power of evil is real, but it is equally clear that God is stronger than any force of evil. That's why Christians pray in the Lord's Prayer, "Deliver us from evil". In John's Gospel (chapter 8 verse 12) Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Jesus brings light into darkness, clarity to the confused, and right where there is wrong. As followers of Jesus we can

share that light with others and bring light to the dark things of life.

Are there other ways to celebrate Halloween?

Absolutely! Remember, the origin of the word is about celebrating Christian heroes from the past and Jesus, the light of the world. Many churches are putting on light parties, bright parties or lantern trails with fun activities, songs, treats and ... yes, of course children can dress up!

**WE ARE PLANNING A LIGHT
PARTY FOR MONDAY
31 OCTOBER. CHECK OUT
OUR WEBSITE NEARER
THE TIME!**





St. Helen's College

Parkway, Hillingdon, Middlesex, UB10 9UX
Independent School for boys and girls aged 2 - 11



A Centre of Excellence

AN OUTSTANDING SCHOOL

Please telephone **01895 234371** to make an appointment
Parkway, Hillingdon, Middlesex, UB10 9UX - www.sthelenscollege.com

Hair by Debbie

Unisex salon, all aspects of hairdressing
Seniors days Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
01895 234971

COPPERMILL CARE CENTRE

Lovely modern purpose built home
on the outskirts of Harefield

Residential Care, Dementia Care,
Short Stay, Respite Care

www.coppermillcare.co.uk

Tel: 01895 820130

Dee S Clark HCPC CH17351

B.Sc (Hons) MChs Dip. pod. med.
Member of The Society of Chiropodist and Podiatrist



Surgery and Visiting Practice

By appointment
Including evenings and Saturdays

CHIROPODIST PODIATRIST

Verrucae, Nail Surgery

Newburn, Grange Wood, Wexham SL3 6LP

Tel: 01753 552725

www.sloughchiropodyandpodiatry.co.uk

Stephen Miles Plumbing & Heating

ALL PLUMBING & CENTRAL HEATING

GAS SAFE APPROVED INSTALLER

Call 01895 824177 Monday to Friday 0800-1700

or

07563 552140 Anytime

COMPUTER I.T HELP

Setup - Trouble Shooting - All aspects
Servicing all local areas for many years
Honest and Reliable Ickenham Based
Computer For Sale



Contact Meetesh on 07725 130 059

meeteshp@hotmail.com



FPA
FUNERAL
PLANNING
AUTHORITY
REGISTERED

Walding
& SON 1906

Funeral Directors &
Memorial Stonemasons

63 High Street

UXBRIDGE

(01895) 233018

www.waldingandson.co.uk

- 24 Hour Service
7 days a week
- Private Chapel of Rest
- Pre-Paid Funeral Plans



THE **BIG GREEN**
PLANT
CENTRE

PLANT NURSERY

- Shrubs
- Trees
- Climbers
- Perennials
- Topiary
- Shade plants
- Grasses
- Hedging
- Compost
- Pots

Complete plant sourcing service

01895 834834

Oxford Road, Denham, Bucks, UB9 4DF
(next to Tendercare and Springbridge)

www.thebiggreenplantcentre.co.uk
enquiries@thebiggreenplantcentre.co.uk

Friendly private family dental practice

Belmont Dental Practice

Dedicated to providing a high standard of dental and preventive care in a relaxed and homely environment

JANE BROWN (Nee WEBB) (BDS)

Belmont · 125 Packhorse Road · Gerrards Cross · Bucks SL9 8JD · Ample parking available
info@belmontdentalgx.co.uk · 01753 882126 · www.belmontdentalgx.co.uk

HEARNDEN-SMITH & DAUGHTERS

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

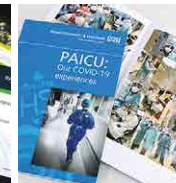
*Our family caring for your family,
when you need it most...*

Hatch End: 020 8421 2202

Harefield 01895 822979

Denham 01895 717488





pen&ink
graphics



Design, Print, Large Format, Web, Display and Marketing.
www.penink.co.uk 01895 831111

ST MARK'S HALL DENHAM GREEN

Available for Hire

Large Kitchen. Suitable for meetings of
40-50 people & childrens' parties

For more Information ring
the Parish Office 01895 832771

SHAUN LEIGH ELECTRICAL and PLUMBING

EXTRA POINTS TO FULL REWIRES.
TAP WASHERS TO FULL BATHROOMS
(SUPPLIED AND FITTED).
SHOWERS FULLY INSTALLED

PHONE 01895 832091



Denham Aerodrome



Experience the magic of flying with an
introductory flight over the Chilterns
from your local aerodrome

Tel: 01895 833838

www.egld.com

Dale and Sons Independent Funeral Directors

Your local family owned funeral directors serving you from the
moment you contact us to beyond the funeral day

24 hour service
Repatriations
01895 832220

www.dale-sons.co.uk

Monumental masons
Pre-payment funeral plans
dalefuneralservice@gmail.com
22 Penn Drive, Denham UB9 5JP

Briden Plumbing

AIP Registered Plumber

Est 1892

Philip Hardy

Most small jobs considered

Home: 01753 890692 Mobile: 07747 710786

Retired gentleman available -

Chauffeur, shopping
hospital visits, day trips
theatre, cinema
house sitting

07821 71 01 44

PARISH DIRECTORY

www.denhamparish.church

Church Office

01895 832771

office@denhamparish.church

Mon, Tue, Wed, Friday:

10am-12.30pm

Thursday: 12.30pm-3pm

Sunday Services on Youtube:

www.tinyurl.com/youtube-denham



The Rector

Revd Christoph Lindner

01895 834733

rector@denhamparish.church

Associate Ministers

Revd Ian Jennings

07866 679025

ian.jennings@denhamparish.church

Revd Nnamdi Maduka

07951 485370

nnamdi.maduka@denhamparish.church

Training Curate

Revd Azita Jabbari

azita@denhamparish.church

07837 232542

Churchwardens

Samantha Carter - 07836 779999

samantha@denhamparish.church

Cathy Macqueen - 07599 934173

cathy@denhamparish.church

PCC and Parish Office Secretary

Victoria Lucas - 01895 832771

PCC Treasurer

Mike Stewart - 07590 849116

Organist

Vacant

Bell Tower Captain

Andrew Simpson - 01895 255594

Graveyard Records

Janet Drane - 01895 470717

Magazine Editor & Advertisements

Cathy Macqueen

07599 934173

magazine@denhamparish.church

St. Mark's Hall Booking

Church Office

01895 832771

bookings@denhamparish.church

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Samantha Carter

07836 779999

safeguarding@denhamparish.church

Graphic Designer

Peter Wager - Pen & Ink Graphics

01895 831111

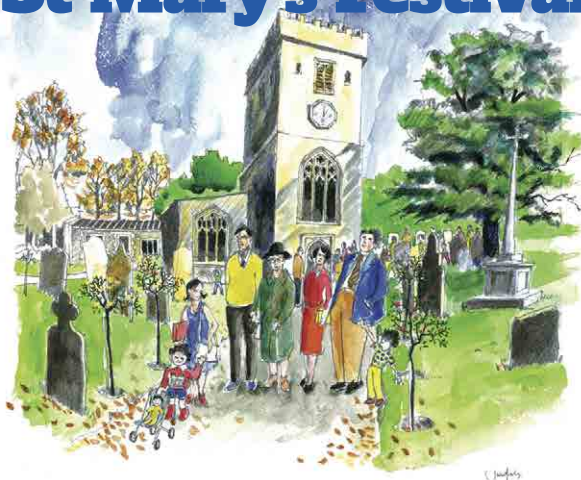
peter@penink.co.uk

Printer

South Bucks Business Products

matt@southbucks.co.uk

St Mary's Festival



Join us for a
community
celebration for
all ages in and
around
St Mary's
Church
Denham.

Please check
our website for
the latest
updates.

Sunday 11 September 2022



10.30am

Celebration Service
St Mary's

With our training curate
Azita Jabbari on her
life and faith journey



12-2pm

Barbecue
St Mary's

Burgers, sausages
and drinks
Children's Activities



2-4.45pm

Open Garden
The White House

Cakes and hot
drinks will be
on offer



2-4.45pm

Vestry Teas
St Mary's Vestry

Home-made cakes
and hot drinks



5pm

Concert
St Mary's

Featuring the **Churches
Together Choir** with
Richard Cottle

All proceeds will help us maintain St Mary's Church Building and Churchyard.

www.denhamparish.church/festival