

Growing Hearts of Service

**Denham Parish Church
Autumn 2022**



INTRODUCTION

Dear friends,



This booklet, together with the accompanying *Volunteering Catalogue*, is a brilliant resource to help us all be engaged in the life of Denham Parish Church.

It is part of the theme of “Hotel to Home”. To catch up on all the resources including the talks, please go to

www.denhamparish.church/hoteltohome

The Bible describes us as the Body of Christ - Christ's physical presence in this world. A body has many parts and each one is important for the body to be healthy and active. The same is true of the church! It is my prayer that you will increasingly find your place in the body of Christ.

Our vision is to *Pray, Welcome, Share and Dare Like Jesus*.

Everything starts in prayer and this resource can help us to pray in two ways:

1. **Thanksgiving:** Looking through this booklet and the catalogue I see many faces of people who belong to our church and serve God joyfully in a variety of roles. I thank God for you!
2. **Intercession:** As we take in the enormous breadth of ministries, let's bring them to God in prayer. Let's also pray that he will raise up people to fill the vacancies we have so we can fulfil our role to be a city on a hill in our community (Matthew 5.14).

With my best wishes and prayers,



(Christoph Lindner, Rector)

THIS BOOKLET

This booklet has been designed to be used in conjunction with the accompanying sermon series.

Within it, you will be able to read about:

1. Why growing hearts of service is so important – biblically and practically
2. The benefits of volunteering, including some 'real life' examples
3. How we will pledge to support our volunteers at St. Mary's
4. The areas of volunteering that exist across our church
5. Where you might be able to help

It also introduces the St. Mary's volunteering catalogue, where you will be able to read about all of the roles we rely on to run and grow our church.

We are called to serve...

Growing hearts of service within the body of Christ is inherently biblical, but also a practical necessity to sustain our church.



WHY WE MUST GROW SERVANT HEARTS HERE IN DENHAM

IT'S INHERENTLY BIBLICAL

- Jesus: the ultimate example of **servant leadership**.
- *(Read Philippians 2:5-11).*
- The Apostle Paul is clear that:
 - We must seek to “**build up the body of Christ**” *(Ephesians 4:11-13).*
 - We are one body, but all have **different, complementary, God-given gifts** to allow this body to live and breathe *(Romans 12:4-8).*
- Service is central to enable the church to fulfil its mission of **outreach and support of others** in the love of Christ. Without it, we see decline.

IT'S A PRACTICAL NECESSITY

- **Pray, Welcome, Share, Dare:** we have a mission in Denham that cannot be fulfilled without us coming together as a church family. New initiatives can only be launched once a team has been formed.
- We need **15-20 volunteer roles** just to run our church services every Sunday (excluding other areas of ministry).
- A subset of our congregation are “multiple hatting”, **risking the future sustainability** of our ministry:
 - Overload and burnout;
 - Gaps in key roles / succession planning;
 - Low capacity to plan and think ahead.
- A church where many members are actively involved is **resilient at times of change and transition** (e.g. vacancy between rectors).

Therefore, we need to refocus how we best serve each other and our church family in the name of Jesus.

The benefits of volunteering

Volunteering supports the church we serve, but also helps us grow as individuals.



KEY BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING...

BRINGS US CLOSER TO GOD

Taking a next step on your journey of faith, and how you engage with God.

HELPS THE COMMUNITY

Providing a sense of helping those who need it, both in our church family and in the wider parish.

INCREASES SELF CONFIDENCE

Providing the chance to try something new and feel a sense of impact and achievement whilst doing it.

BUILDS SKILLS

Providing an opportunity to learn a practical skill that you didn't use previously, for the benefit of others.

INSTILS A SENSE OF PURPOSE

Helping to feel like you are making an impact in a different way in your daily life.

HELPS OUR BODIES & MINDS

Providing an opportunity to engage in an activity that supplements your physical or mental growth.

...SEEN IN PRACTICE AT OUR CHURCH

Here's what some of our volunteers have had to say...



"Preparing to deliver Sunday prayers has helped me to meditate and reflect on scripture and the need for God's love in the world in a new way..."

Dom, Sunday Prayers



"I love being able to share my passion for the natural world and introduce people to facts about nature which are hiding right beneath their eyes every day, and connecting that to meaningful lessons in life..."

Tim, Forest Church



"Learning to operate the live streaming equipment is challenging, but brings both a sense of achievement in learning new skills and a feeling of deeper connection with the church family..."

Janet, Video Operator



"Being part of the St. Mark's Hall committee gives me the opportunity to work and build our local community, bringing people and our neighbours together around an important church building..."

Michele, St. Mark's Committee Chair



"Flower arranging helps me appreciate the wonderful things God has created and the talents he has given us. It helps me connect with the importance of the Church in my life..."

Brenda, Flower Arranging

Supporting our volunteers



We are seeking to nurture a culture around volunteering that equips, encourages and supports those who serve in our church – where we can all feel we are working to help a bigger purpose. We will...

BE TRANSPARENT



A volunteer role is not for life! We will always be clear about what the role is, the time commitment involved, and set a target point for review to enable you to continue, try something new, or step back from the role.

EQUIP



We will ensure volunteers are **prepared and able to fulfil their role** through providing the appropriate training, learning of new skills, shadowing and support.

ENGAGE



We will **listen to feedback** from those in volunteer roles, and use these to help continuously improve how we deliver our ministry at St. Mary's.

VALUE



Nothing is taken for granted! We will recognise those who support the church in a variety of ways (e.g. thank you's on a Sunday, at the APCM, within the ministry team, etc.).

SUPPORT



We will work together: nobody will be left on their own to carry out a role, unless they are comfortable doing so. There will always be a point of contact to ask questions or raise any concerns.

SIMPLIFY



Volunteering shouldn't be made difficult: **we will minimise bureaucracy** and admin wherever possible.

Our volunteering “themes”

Volunteering at St. Mary’s runs across a number of different themes, all of which require support to allow us to run and grow. In total, there are around 70 different volunteer roles that exist.*



SUNDAY SERVICE

- Welcome team
- Organist & Choir
- Bell and chime ringers
- Service leader
- Coffee team
- Bible readers and intercessors
- Holy Communion servers
- Online moderators
- Camera and sound operators
- Sunday Club leaders and helpers
- Destiny leaders and helpers ...

DISCIPLESHIP

- Life groups
- Bible book clubs
- Discipleship Mentoring

EVANGELISM & COMMUNITY ACTION

- Give and Share
- Alpha & Youth Alpha Courses
- Denham Parish News
- Church Events
- Vestry Teas

FAMILY MINISTRY

- Little Lions
- Forest Church
- Youth Band
- Post Baptism Engagement
- Parenting Courses
- School Assemblies

OPERATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

- Church office absence cover
- Service sheet folding
- Christmas preparation
- Church bookstall
- Communications
- Website
- Social Media Management

FINANCE

- Treasurer
- Book-keeping
- Gift Aid co-ordination
- Fundraising support

ESTATE

- Fabric team
- Church Houses
- St. Mark’s Committee
- St. Mark’s Keyholder
- St. Mark’s Grounds
- St. Francis Verger
- Building Risk Assessments
- Flower Arranging
- Churchyard Roses

PASTORAL

- Pastoral Care
- Prayer Ministry
- Marriage Support
- Bereavement Support (The Haven)
- Parish Safeguarding
- Safeguarding Administration

*Note: please see the accompanying St. Mary’s volunteering catalogue for a full overview of the roles that exist across these themes.

So, how can I help?



HOW CAN I HELP?

1.

Read through our volunteering catalogue to gain an understanding of:

- All the volunteer roles required across St. Mary's
- Where there are volunteer vacancies, or where additional support is required

2.

Prayerfully consider the theme of growing hearts of service in Denham

- Are there any volunteer roles that particularly leap out as something you might be able to help with?
- If you currently volunteer, are there any changes you feel God is calling you towards?

3.

Get in touch with the listed ministry leader, our churchwardens or Christoph if you want to discuss any further, or feel you can step into any of the roles we need. Many ministries offer a “first serve” to get a taster, and you can trial your involvement for most roles on an informal basis.

Priority roles to fill

We have categorised all of our volunteering roles into one of three categories, to help us prioritise where we need the most support.



1. CURRENT ROLE VACANCIES

- There are currently no volunteers occupying the role.
- Clergy may drive a minimal element of support for the role.
- Without a forthcoming volunteer, we will be unable to sustain the ministry, to (re-)start this activity or to grow it.

Examples:

- Café Church Hospitality Lead and Team
- Vestry Tea Co-ordinator and hosts
- Family Ministry Administrator
- Prayer Ministry Lead and Team
- Church Houses Manager
- Fundraising support
- St Mark's Committee secretary

2. ADDITIONAL SUPPORT REQUIRED

- There is a small number of volunteers occupying the role.
- The amount of work required for the role stretches the capacity of the volunteers currently assigned.
- Additional support to the existing volunteers is required to make the ministry or service sustainable.

Examples:

- Sunday Club leaders & helpers
- Forest Church team members
- Welcomers
- Coffee team
- Magazine distributors
- Camera and sound operators
- Pastoral care assistants
- Bookkeeper & Gift Aid Co-ordinator
- Magazine distributors
- Service moderators (online)

3. WELL RESOURCED FOR NOW

- There are enough volunteers assigned to the role to perform the ministry or service in a sustainable way.
- No additional volunteers are required at this time. However, please express an interest if you would still like to help - there is a space for you!

Examples:

- Readers
- Fabric team
- Intercessors
- Flower arrangers