

PAM AND MIKE DYMOTT ON 60 YEARS OF MARRIED LIFE

AS TOLD TO JANET ALLEN

It has to be a very special occasion for the Queen to send you a letter. Recently Pam and Mike Dymott received their letter to mark 60 years of marriage together.

There is a complementary harmony about Pam and Mike. Pam doesn't seek the limelight, is very organised, engaged and makes things happen. Mike has always been hard-working and has a lovely laid-back, uncomplaining nature. Over the years, Denham Parish Church has benefited hugely from their dynamic partnership, in all areas of church life. They in turn have treasured the fellowship and joy of being at the heart of a church family.

Pam grew up in Newport, South Wales, while Mike grew up in Southampton, where they met at a Guildhall dance in 1957. They started dating soon afterwards and got married in 1959. Mike took evening classes to qualify as a management accountant, while Pam worked as a cartographical draftsman with Ordnance Survey. Their first child,

Malcolm, was born in 1961 and in 1968 they moved to Denham where their second child Debbie was born in 1971. Their tips for a successful marriage are to be good friends, have different hobbies (Pam piano and music, Mike bird-watching and table tennis), and lots of patience. Mike gallantly maintains he was just very lucky in choosing the right girl.

Mike has always been a Christian. Pam went to Sunday school like everyone else and her faith came alive when, as a teenager, she went to a Baptist church with a friend. Faith for both of them has waxed and waned, throughout their life. Both agree, though, that it has flourished during their time in Denham, giving them a firm moral compass, friendship and a peace to get through some very tough times. Initially, Pam was helping with the Brownies and started going to the family service at St Mary's. Later on, both were on the PCC, they were active in the monthly St Mark's service with Mike leading the service and Pam playing the piano and doing the rota. When

their own children were younger, Mike helped with the Sunday School at New Denham. Their faith also found a practical expression by being involved in the St Mary's committee for the Children's Society. They remember lots of fun fundraisers; a pancake race through Denham Village with celebrity Debbie McGee taking part and many Vestry Teas. For about



twelve years, Pam edited Denham Parish News (this very magazine!), together with Janet Drane, and Mike would sometimes provide a last-minute article when they needed to fill another page!

Pam always found a close connection to God through music and thoroughly enjoyed being part of the music group at St Mark's, which was started by the curate's wife, Faith Holdsworth. Together they brought many new hymns to the services. Her favourite hymns are still, "How Great Thou Art" and "Guide Me Oh Thou Great Redeemer".

Mike has always had a love of the Bible and led the weekly "Journey through the Bible" meeting where they travelled together through the books of the Bible - Genesis to Revelation. Still today he tries to read the Bible every day preferring the New Testament to the Old, although his favourite Bible verses are from Ecclesiastes 3 (shortened here):

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity
under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to
uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to
build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to
dance,
... a time for war and a time for
peace.

Pam has found it difficult to reconcile some of the teaching of the Apostle Paul on women* with the actions of

Jesus, who was radical for the times in his support of women.

Lots of things have changed in society over the past 60 years. Early on in their marriage it was easier to get a mortgage and buy a house. On the other hand, some of the mod cons such as washing machines and dishwashers make life easier now. One thing, though, that they are both grateful for through the ups and downs of a full life, is to know the God who loves them.

*Editor's note: Or at least how some have interpreted or taken out of context St Paul's teaching. Watch out for a future Bible Detectives article on this topic in Denham Parish News!

