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Cover photo: "What I am grateful for" Drawn by Louie (7)

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# FROM THE EDITOR

Many of the articles in this Issue are around the theme of 'gratitude'. Whilst thinking about this a song from long ago popped into my mind:

Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your blessings, see what God has done!

Johnson Oatman (1897)

So, in this Issue, we count the blessing of having Rev Ian Jennings serving as Associate Minister with us over the past four years (p.6) – for his passionate way of sharing the love of God with others through story-telling, anecdotes and gentle humour. We will miss you, Ian, and pray that you continue to be a blessing to those around you in Sheffield.

At a recent Vox Pop in Denham Green, the local community shared what they are grateful for and our Sunday Club children have drawn pictures to express their gratitude (p.9). Did you spot the child peeking out of the top of the tree in Louie's Front Cover drawing?

Lots of people have shared happy memories of time spent with Joyce Tearall (p.24). If you would like an on-going reminder of someone you love, please consider sponsoring one of the beautiful roses in the churchyard (p.20).

Janet Allen picks up the theme, focusing on the physical and emotional benefits of gratitude as well as some perceptive insights from Archbishop Tutu and the Dalai Lama on this topic (p.22).

We are reminded of the blessing that the 'Warm Space' (p.12) provided in the cold, dark months of late winter and I expect many recipients would make a shout out to 'Give and Share' for providing them with food and gifts at Christmas (p.16).

So, I sign off now, with gratitude for the core team (Christoph, Jenny, Peter, Matt) who make Denham Parish News such a fun magazine to create, to all the contributors who so enthusiastically write the content and to our team of Distributors who hand deliver locally, but most of all to you, the reader, who make it all worthwhile.



Blessings,

Cathy Macqueen

magazine@denhamparish.church

### ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE MESSAGE FROM CHRISTOPH LINDNER, RECTOR

Dearfriends,

Three years ago, at the height of the pandemic, the bad news just kept on coming. Every news programme led with the latest figures for hospitalisations and casualties and the realisation that the virus was far more contagious and potent than expected. For many years, Edda and I were setting our radio alarm to wake up to the Today Programme on Radio Four. But as we were struggling emotionally with what was unfolding, we decided to change our morning habit: Instead of waking up to the news, we started the day with classical music, with a reading from the Bible and with prayer. How we start our day can set the compass for all that follows and we wanted to make sure that the headline over each day was gratitude.

There has been much research on the value of gratitude in recent years (see also Janet Allen's article on page 22). The magazine *Psychology Today* writes:

Gratitude is a spontaneous feeling but, increasingly, research demonstrates its value as a practice—that is, making conscious efforts to count one's blessings. Studies show that people can deliberately cultivate gratitude—and there are important social and personal benefits to doing so. Gratitude starts with noticing the goodness in life. A materialistic culture that encourages constant wanting and sees possessions as the source of happiness is not the most fertile ground for gratitude. (www.psychologytoday. com/us/basics/gratitude)

When we say "thank you" we acknowledge that we have received something without working or paying for it or maybe even deserving it. That's why the words gratitude and grace are close relatives. All of us live by the common grace of God, who gives us breath each day, who delights us with the beauty of his creation and the gift of other people in our lives. An important step in developing an attitude of gratitude is to simply open our eyes and notice the many small and big gifts God gives us every single day and then to say "thank you" to him. Jesus encourages us to "consider the lilies of the field" and by doing so to know that the God who clothes every little flower with such splendour also cares for us.

Throughout the history of God's people, gratitude has been at the heart of our worship. In the life of the people of Israel, God's rescue from slavery in Egypt takes a central place in their spiritual life. When Christians celebrate Holy Communion, also known as the Eucharist (which literally means thanksgiving), we give thanks for God's grace in Jesus Christ, who took our failings, mess and rebellion upon himself on the cross and gives us new and indestructible life as his children unmerited grace.



Some years ago a large

credit card company used the slogan "There are some things money can't buy. For everything else there is [insert the credit card name here]." But the older and wiser we get we realise that the most important things in life cannot be bought. When we asked people on the streets of Denham what they are most grateful for, it wasn't surprising that special people were often mentioned first. Jesus goes even further in his parable of the rich farmer, who amasses riches only to be confronted by God: 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for vourself?' (Luke 12.13-31)

Cultivating an attitude of gratitude is not escapism. We don't close our eyes to the difficulties and hardships. We don't neglect to pray for people in need when we give thanks for the good things. But we make a decision not to dwell on the negative things, not to feed the 'grumpy old man/woman' in us, but instead to trust in the God who graciously provides for us. Here are some ideas to make it practical:

- Say 'thank you' to others more often.
- Keep a journal to record the little joys in life.
- Write down three good things.
- Write thank you notes to others.
- Go for a walk and talk to God about all the good things you see and remember.
- Send little arrow prayers of thanks to God when something good happens.
- Pray a Psalm of gratitude (try Psalm 23, Psalm 52:10-11, Psalm 67:6-8, Psalm 100, 23-26, Psalm 126:5-6, Psalm 136:1-5, Psalm 147:7-11, Psalm 150).

How do you cultivate gratitude? Let us know and send your message to magazine@denhamparish.church



# MY TIME IN DENHAM BY REV IAN JENNINGS

When I told friends in Sheffield that I was moving to Denham as Associate Minister, a couple from my old parish said. "Oh! We know Denham. We had close friends there and we used to go and stay with them," and they mentioned that there are lots of lovely places round about that are worth a visit. When I took up residence in the village, I began posting photos on social media. This couple were so shocked! "We had no idea it was such a beautiful village," they said. I commented, "Well you said you had stayed there with your friends." "We did," they said. "but our friends lived on Oxford Road and they never took us into the village; we thought that was Denham - an urban conurbation with busy roads. We had no idea there was such a beautiful old village so close by."

I can only imagine that their friends had become so familiar with the village that it had lost its charm as in the old saying, "familiarity breeds contempt." For whatever reason they had lost sight of the outstanding beauty on their doorstep and didn't even think to mention it to their visitor friends. I do hope you never lose sight of the amazing gift that you have, not only because Denham is a stunningly beautiful village but also because at



the heart of the village is the Church of St Mary. I don't just mean the glorious 12th century building, but the worshipping community with its ministry and music, its mission and service. I love the people of St Mary's because they just get right on with serving the community and living out their faith with quiet dignity and devotion.

Did you know that there are more than eighty standard roses in our churchyard? They are beautiful and would be a credit to any National Trust property. That represents a lot of hard work and devotion on behalf of our churchyard team and especially John Breese. What about those wonderful vestry teas? That's where I first met David Booker and his lovely wife Doris.



I didn't think that day, that in just a few months, I would be conducting her funeral. David has been a much-loved member of our bereavement group The Haven, since it began. There are many and varied teams that make St. Marv's work so well, all are appreciated for the valuable contribution that they make. On Wednesday, I listened to the bells as the ringers did their weekly practice. The sound enhanced the village with glorious atmosphere and I thought about the generations of faithful bell ringers who have called the community to prayer with those persistent and resounding chimes. I think of the beauty of the church made more glorious by the flower arranging team. What an outstanding job they do.

I think of the choir whose singing lifts our hearts to God in worship every week and I thank God for them. I have particularly enjoyed belonging to a dynamic and devoted Ministry Team these last four years. I also reflect on the work of Give and Share with the inspiration and devotion of Craig and Caroline and all who work with them as they serve the needy, hungry and marginalised in our community.

When my wife, Barbara, died I really needed to be busy again. I was soon very busy, sometimes conducting worship in three different parishes on a Sunday as well as mid-week worship and meetings. However, what I really missed was the experience of belonging to a team with shared vision, purpose and passion. My house for duty appointment to St. Mary's gave me that – and how! That has been a real joy. Christoph's leadership is thoughtful,



thorough and visionary. I have always enjoyed our leadership days and those occasions when the PCC has spent time together. Christoph has an outstanding gift of making those occasions come alive. There is strategy, planning, faith inspiring vision and never a dull moment. May the village of Denham never take for granted the beautiful gift they have at the centre of village life.

And may the church never forget what a lively and lovely faith community they belong to at St. Mary's.

I have come to the end of my ministry in Denham. I am sad to leave. I know it is the right thing to do and the right time to do it but that doesn't stop me from feeling sad. My time here has been an extraordinary gift at this later stage of my ministry.



I would like to say thank you to all who have made it so special.

I conclude with the words of St. Paul, "I thank my God for every remembrance of you." (Philippians 1:3) I do so with all my heart.

an











## Azita Jabbari, Michele Lee

In November 2022, with a difficult winter looming and concerns about the increasing cost of fuel, the PCC (Parochial Church Council of Denham Parish Church) were keen that as a church, we should try to reach out in a very practical way to our local community of Denham Green. So, a 'Warm Space' was created at St Mark's Hall, open every Wednesday afternoon, 1pm-5pm for 7 weeks from the 18th January until 1st March, ably led by Azita and Michele. One of the key aspects of creating a warm space is to be intentional about our approach. This means thinking about the needs and interests of the community we serve and designing our space and programming to meet those needs. Another important aspect is to be open and inclusive, striving to create a space where everyone feels welcome, regardless of their background, beliefs, or lifestyle. This means being nonjudgmental and accepting of people where they are, while also sharing the hope and love of Christ in a gentle and respectful way.

Those attending were offered hot soup and bread, tea, coffee and biscuits. There were volunteers readily available to talk and listen, an area for young children to play, board games, books, weekly newspapers, and magazines. In addition, a table tennis was set up in the side room.

Over the 7 weeks, 94 adults attended and 31 children. More people came after the first few weeks, and in several cases, it was because of seeing the flyer, word of mouth, social media and being informed during church services. As we had anticipated, for the first half of each session more locals and elderly attended and that for the second half of each session, more children with parents came. In total we served, 53 cups of coffee, 52 cups of tea, 34 soups and bread rolls. Fresh fruit was also available which proved popular.

There was a unanimous agreement from both those attending and the

volunteers, that the Warm Space was a great success, enjoyed by everyone and that it had provided an important purpose for the community. Those who attended found it beneficial as it provided a welcoming environment to talk to others over a hot drink and soup, somewhere to go, access a safe place and a place to meet others. Parents found that it was a place for their children to play with others and a time for them to play board games with their children.

Some comments we received from those attending:

"I enjoyed meeting new people and talking to them".

"My children love it and there are lots of things for them to do".

"It was lovely to have people serve you".

Some of our volunteers also commented that:

"It was lovely to meet other people in the community and have time to chat to them."

"The children seemed to really enjoy themselves and it was lovely seeing parents and their children playing board games together."

We are very grateful to Buckinghamshire County Council for their funding of this project, to all our volunteers who helped create such a welcoming place and for the kind donations of board games and bread.



# LIFE AND FAITH: MICHAEL CARMODY BY BRIAN O'REGAN

Four days before the start of World War II in 1939, Michael was born in a Stanmore nursing home. For a few days, he was a neighbour of Clement Attlee (then leader of the Labour Party) and his family who lived next to the nursing home. Maybe something infiltrated Michael as he would serve many years in local politics.

The family's home adjoined the recently built RAF Stanmore Park – headquarters of Balloon Command – but they moved to his grandparents' large Wembley house as war intensified. Michael and the family were grateful for the air raid shelter his father had built in the garden. However, whilst walking to school on his own, he heard a doodlebug cut out above him. Midway between the safety of shelters at home and school, he saw the device explode just half a mile from him.

Michael's mother was a regular churchgoer and encouraged him to attend Sunday school and when he was 10, a friend invited him to join a Crusaders Union bible class. Michael's sister was friendly with the daughter of a leader at Edgware Church who was a great influence on him. This was a pivotal period for Michael as he entered adolescence and decided he was not going to succeed without Jesus. He got more involved in church life and became an

altar server. Michael received a scholarship to Haberdashers' Aske's school in Cricklewood. He thought the school's motto "Serve and Obey" was wonderful and it became part of his DNA. A career as a quantity surveyor beckoned, with a degree course in Estate Management at a university college in Kensington.

At 17 he joined the Young Conservatives for the social side and would wash-up after events - a talent he would utilise decades later at St Mark's café church! This was the start of Michael's political career, enjoying campaigning and becoming chair of the local Y.C. During his years at university he lived at home, which gave him time to devote to politics and his Christian life with church and Crusaders. Another passion was stamp collecting. A hobby that started when his uncle gave him his entire collection of British Empire stamps when he was 11, and continues to this day.

In his teens, Michael's parents had insisted that he and his sister learn ballroom dancing. His talent on the dance floor meant he was never short of partners, but he had already decided not to get into a serious relationship until he was established financially.





Well, the purchase of a brand-new Triumph Vitesse sports saloon broadcast to the world that he was now in business, the marriage business! He proposed to a lovely dance partner and... she turned him down (gently)! However, she did give him a tip that another former dance partner was still holding a torch for him. Michael telephoned Mary's mother, who he knew well from the church, and asked if he could take Marv to the cinema. Although she wanted to stay in to wash her hair for Sunday service in the morning, her mother persuaded her to accept. Twinkletoes wasted no time and proposed within the month! Michael had been elected to Harrow Borough Council a couple of years earlier and with his forthcoming marriage, had to drop most of his sporting activities - Cross Country running, Tennis, Judo and Hockey.

They married in 1966 and watched England's World Cup triumph whilst on honeymoon in the Balearics. They bought a house in Harrow Weald and were blessed with two children, Christina in 1969 and Phillip in 1971.

Michael's strong Christian values led to him losing his job and being out of work for ten months in 1998. But he felt God working at this time as he was able to complete his Lay Reader Leadership training he had started some years before, and manage his father's estate on his death. During his working life, he would not accept contract clauses requiring him to work on Sundays.

His faith infused all areas of his life and God was his guide through his many vears of public service as councillor and in 1987-88, as Mayor of Harrow. Faith was critical following Mary's stroke in 2009. Michael became her carer and they moved to Denham Garden Village in 2011. Mary died in 2018. Again. God had prepared him: he had trained to be a bereavement visitor whilst doing his Lay Reader training, so had a good idea of what to expect in his own grief. He had also been used to looking after normal household chores during Mary's illness. Michael said "Praise the lord, he has been so good in so many ways".

Michael has been a member of Deanery and Area Synods – Harrow, Willesden, London and now Amersham – for many years. He has certainly kept that old Haberdashers' motto close to his heart and well-polished: "Serve and Obey".

"If they obey and serve him, they will spend the rest of their days in prosperity and their years in contentment." Job 36:11

# GIVE AND SHARE

The core team of this charity are Craig Alexander and Caroline Goodwin. They work tirelessly to provide a safety net for those in need in our community, working with God in their hearts and the ministry of Jesus as their example.

Craig and Caroline are supported by a team of dedicated helpers, Dexter and Jane Brown, Lee and Suzanne Hearnden-Smith and family, Caroline and Clive Ashcroft, our wonderful Treasurer, Mike Stewart and at peak times, a rota of deeply caring members of the congregation.



As you may know, a lot has been achieved over the last twelve months. We have delivered 250 Christmas parcels to local schools for families suffering hardship during this challenging period.

December also saw Craig and Caroline take 30 children to a Christmas party. This was provided by Hasbro, specifically and very generously for





Give and Share. The fun included face painting, a disco, Santa Claus and a fully cooked meal. Every child had a gift to take home, too! We are so grateful to Hasbro for their unbounded generosity.



We also had one "mystery" benefactor who wished to provide a great Christmas to a family in need. With God's guiding hand, a family who had just lost their father was brought to our notice and a visit from Santa was duly arranged. Santa provided a full Christmas lunch, a week's shopping,

presents (all pre-selected by the children), a present for Mum and money for the electricity meter!

We have also provided Easter gift cards (redeemable for foodstuffs only) to 30 families and continue to provide help to families who are referred to us as being in need of emergency or temporary support.

We have received some incredible donations from various sources including Hasbro, Martin Baker and some who wish to remain anonymous. The total amount being £8,000.

The Give and Share team mission is to provide aid wherever and whenever it is needed and we will continue our work following the example of and in the name of Christ.

# The Give and Share team

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# MORNING PRAYERS



Dear Father God, Help me to hear you today. To hear your joy in the bird's songs. To hear your heart in the chattery voices To hear your voice in the quiet Help me to hear you today. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

# DURING THE DAY



At Mealtimes:

God is great, God is good, Thank you, Lord, for all our food.

This is the day that the Lord has made Thank you, God, for toast and marmalade.

Our Father God, in whom we live, Accept the thanks your children give, Our needs are by your bounty met, May we the giver never forget.

We have food while others are starving We have companions while others are alone May the goodness we receive strengthen our resolve to share your blessings with all your children.



# **EVENING PRAYERS**



Hi, it's me, just come to pray And thank you for a fun filled day! You've been with me, So I know you've seen All the great exciting things. But also when I'm sad or cross I know you love me, no matter what! So help me rest and go to sleep And feel the peace of your love for me. Amen.

# Jesus, You know me. You understand my thoughts. You protect me when I'm scared. You encourage me when I'm nervous You comfort me when I'm hurt. You jump with me when I'm excited. You smile with me when I'm happy. You watch over me as I sleep. Thank you. Amen.





# FAMILY REGISTER OF DENHAM PARISH CHURCH

#### **BURIALS**

20.01.2023 01.02.2023 Pamela Rosalie Dymott (86) Denham Joyce Rita Tearall (90) Iver Heath



Pamela Dymott



Joyce Tearall

#### **CREMATIONS**

#### 30.03.2023 Cheryl Malvermi (52) Denham Green

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

Sponsor a Rose

Our beautiful standard roses are a fitting way to remember loved ones. The cost to sponsor is £100 for the life of the rose. This includes maintenance of the rose and a named rose tag.

If you would like to sponsor a rose, please call the church office and Victoria will be able to tell you which roses are available, the name of the rose, the colour and the location.



# What's Happening

# AT DENHAM PARISH CHURCH?



# **TODDLER GROUP**

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

# **CAFÉ** CHURCH

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

St Mark's Church Hall Sunday 4 June, 2 July (no Café Church in August) Contact: Christoph Lindner rector@denhamparish.church



# DESTINY

For young people aged 10 and older St Mark's Church Hall 28 May, 25 June, 10.15-11.45am

Contact: Azita Jabbari azita@denhamparish.church

# Sign up for Email Updates

from Denham Parish Church:



# St Mary's Festival

A celebration of community Save the date!

Saturday 9th to Sunday 10th September 2023

# 'THOUGHTS FROM 'ATLAS OF THE HEART' PART 3: GRATITUDE BY JANET ALLEN

There is overwhelming evidence that gratitude is good for us physically, emotionally, and mentally. Research shows that gratitude is correlated with better sleep, increased creativity, decreased entitlement, decreased hostility and aggression,



increased decision-making skills, decreased blood pressure – the list goes on. The research is persuasive, but it can still sometimes be difficult to understand exactly why it helps so much. This description by Robert Emmons, Professor of Psychology at University of California, helps our understanding.

Research on emotion shows that positive emotions wear off auickly. Our emotional systems like newness. They like novelty. They like change. We adapt to positive life circumstances so that before too long, the new car, the new spouse, the new house



There are many definitions of gratitude. Here is what emerged from Brené Brown's research;

Gratitude is an emotion that reflects our deep appreciation for what we value, what brings meaning into our lives and what makes us feel connected to ourselves and others.

While gratitude is an emotion, if we want to experience its full power, we must also make it a practice. An attitude is a way of thinking; a practice is a way of doing, trying, failing, and trying again.

- they don't feel so new and exciting anymore. But gratitude makes us appreciate the value of something, and when we appreciate the value of something, we extract more benefits from it; we're less likely to take it for granted. In effect, gratitude allows us to participate more in life. We notice the positives more and that magnifies the pleasure we get from life. Instead of adapting to goodness, we celebrate goodness.<sup>1</sup>

There are a variety of ways to embed the practice of gratitude into your life, such as daily gratitude prayers or meditations, creating gratitude art, using gratitude check-ins with your team at work, even stopping during a stressful busy day to actually say the words out loud, "I am grateful for.....". A family practice of going round the dinner table and taking it in turns to share one gratitude. It's small, but if done thoughtfully it's also big, giving a window into the lives of the people you love the most. It's celebrating goodness.

Interestingly, in conversations between Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama<sup>2</sup> gratitude is one of their Eight Pillars of Joy. They split these eight pillars into two categories - mind and heart (similar to Brené Browns categories of 'thinking' and 'practice').

Pillars of Joy that are a state of 'mind': Perspective, Humility, Humour, Acceptance.

Pillars of Joy that you can practice ('heart'): Forgiveness, Gratitude, Compassion, Generosity.

The two leaders give some very practical advice on incorporating a practice of gratitude into daily life. They recommend doing this at either the beginning or end of the day, whichever works best for you. It can also be done with a partner or friend but will always benefit from doing it with God.

• Close your eyes and recall three things from your day for which you are grateful. They can be anything from the kindness and generosity of a friend to the bounty of a meal, to the warmth of the sun, to the beauty of a night sky. Try to be as specific as you can be in recalling what you are grateful for.  Write these three things down in a journal. While you can do this exercise in your head, keeping a list of what you are grateful for has been shown to have many physical and emotional benefits over time. Each time you journal, try to write down three different things. Variation is the key to effective gratitude journaling.

One word of warning on expectations around gratitude. As essential as it is in giving us a positive outlook, it's important to recognise that, gratitude is not a "cure" for depression, trauma or anxiety. Indeed, we need to be wary of any **single** practice or approach that claims to fix or cure complex mental health issues. Gratitude is definitely a practice that can enrich our lives in meaningful ways, but in the world of mental illness, the term "cure" is never simple.

As always with human emotions, God gives us wise council through the Bible:

**Thessalonians 5: 18** – 'Give thanks in all circumstances'

**Psalm 118: 24** – 'This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it'.

- 1 Why Gratitude is Good. Greater Good Magazine, 2010.
- 2 The Book of Joy. Lasting happiness in a changing world. His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu with Douglas Abrams, 2016.

# Memories of Joyce Tearall

We have received many comments on our Facebook page. They all remark what a lovely lady Joyce was. Several people are thankful for the funerals Joyce conducted for their parents or supporting them in times of grief. Someone remembered her from Pathfinders (youth group) and as lunchtime supervisor at Tilehouse School (now Denham Green Academy).

Proposing Joyce to be a Reader was one of my best actions as Rector of Denham. She was naturally gracious. generous, and caring. Notwithstanding quite a few hard knocks, I never once heard her being bitter, however hurt she might be. One particular moment does stand out - her enjoyment of getting stuck in to serious Theology. On one of our catching-up sessions she expressed surprise, and some disappointment, at some of her fellow trainees who had objected to the teaching about eg the Synoptic Gospels and their mutual relationships; asserting such theories undermined their faith. She thought such fears were shallow; "You taught us about this and other things frequently in your sermons. I have always found it helpful, revealing so much about the different relationships and understanding among those early believers. It also informs the different way many modern Christians have different understandings of the Faith."

Rev Peter Crick, Rector of Denham Parish Church, 1975 to 1988.



My first real memory of Joyce leading a Sunday service was on the day Princess Diana died. Although a member of St Mary's, I did not attend church regularly in those days but my husband David and I both said we had to go to church as a way of dealing with our grief. So, we turned up at the morning service at St Francis' and Joyce said all the right things. She just seemed to feel the same as us about this dreadful loss. It is only many years later when I think about Joyce's role that morning that I realise the enormity of her task she had to bin whatever else she had originally planned for that morning then hurriedly prepare new material in just a few hours. We simply turned up in our grief and expected so much! My other memory is Joyce and Bill's friendship with my parents, Sheila and Jim Rendle. My Dad's friendship, particularly with Bill, really deepened following my Mum's death in 1999. One of the highlights was their weekly Tuesday trip to Langley swimming pool. My Dad liked the company but never managed to swim more than one width.

As Bill became older the swimming trip was as likely not to happen at all but Dad still turned up at their home and Joyce always cooked a wonderful lunch regardless.

#### **Gillian Verrall**

My favourite memories of Joyce are when we used to enjoy long parish weekends on the south coast. On one occasion we ladies abandoned the men and went onto the beach for a paddle in the sea. It was bliss and brought back lovely childhood memories for all of us!

#### Janet Drane

I met Joyce when I joined St Mary's 20 years ago. Joyce was a passionate Christian and she was the leader of the Alpha course I attended and was extremely knowledgeable. Joyce was special; she cared so much about people, always there in troubled times, a great comforter to so many.

#### Jenny Ashe

Newly married, I was asked to join the Denham Children's Society Committee as Treasurer. Within a short time I was welcomed into a tight knit group of people who put an enormous amount of time and effort in planning and running fundraising events throughout the year. I marvelled at the resourcefulness and enthusiasm of this team. At the heart of the team was Joyce. Whether it was hosting weekly suppers in August, organising Quiz nights, baking umpteen cakes for a Cake Sale in St Mark's car park. preparing 200 Christingle oranges, collecting boxes, or running a meeting, nothing was too much trouble for Joyce! Other team members included Carole Wadlow, Hilary Richins, Pam Dymott, Janet Drane & Debbie Smith, to name a few. They were fabulous times and Joyce always had a smile on her face, a friendly word for everyone and a cake at the ready!

#### Samantha Carter

The best memories come from helping Joyce with the meals that she cooked, for all and sundry. Also: when she stayed with me on visiting Denham from Weymouth; enjoying a lovely coach holiday together to see the tulip fields in Holland, staying with Bill and Joyce at Weymouth and meeting her friends there and acting as waitresses for Bea Cakebread's parties at Savay Farm.

#### **Carole Wadlow**

## MEMORIES OF A DENHAM GIRL BY ROSEMARY DORAN PART 1: MY FAMILY



Life started for me in Rectory Lodge in Rectory Lane, Denham. My parents came from Buckinghamshire and Berkshire.

My father Jack's birth was registered in Uxbridge in 1904, His parents, Henry and Rosina Wilkins lived in Denham. I know nothing about his early life until his appearance as a gardener and chicken breeder for Mrs Parker on Red Hill. From there he went to work for Miss Selby at The Old Rectory as a gardener. My mother Florence's birth is registered in Iver in 1903. Her parents, George and Louisa Bradbury, were married in 1891 in Ibstone, near Stokenchurch. In 1896 George cycled from lbstone to New Denham on his penny-farthing bicycle to find work. He was a sawver and found work with Messrs Fellows. Morton and Clayton, boat builders of Uxbridge, whereupon he cycled back to lbstone to fetch his wife and set up home in Rambler Cottage, New Denham.

Florence, one of eight children, was initially put into service in London, then worked for Major Way before finding a job with Miss Selby at the School for Young Ladies, The Old Rectory, Rectory Lane, Denham, teaching young ladies how to become domesticated and conduct themselves in Society. meet at The Old Rectory, but Jack the gardener! There is a lovely story how they used to ride Jack's tandem, circling round and round the centre flowerbed in The Old Rectory drive. How many times, or how frequently, they circled the flowerbed, is not recorded but eventually they fell off in the middle of the flowers. Miss Selby must have thought well of them both because they remained in her employment.

In the autumn of 1933 both Jack and Florence disappeared: they had eloped to the Wirral and were married at the Parish Church of New Ferry in the County of Chester by special licence. It appears that Florence's father George, being a strict Salvation Army member, did not approve of the marriage, hence the elopement. After the marriage Florence was cut off from her family for a number of years. The pair returned to Denham and Miss Selby offered them the tenancy of Rectory Lodge in Rectory Lane opposite The Old Rectory where for a short while, they continued to work.



In 1933 my father's parents were living at 1 Blackbarn Cottages Old Mill Road. I was born in early 1943 and when I was old enough to cycle on a proper bicycle my father and I would visit his parents at weekends. We cycled along Rectory Lane, across the North Orbital Road and down Village Road following the wall of the Vansittart's estate and across the little bridge over the Misbourne stream. At Walt Baker's Garage on the right after the bridge. we often stopped for a chat with Walt, whom my father knew well. We then continued our cycle ride through the Village to Old Mill Road, and my Grandparent's cottage.



The cottage where Henry and Rosina lived was basic, but light and airy. It had a lovely garden and two prolific apple trees from which, in the summer, it was a treat to go home with a bag full of apples. My father in exchange, kept his parents well supplied with vegetables from our garden. It was such fun to sit in the garden with a cup of Gran's tea or lemonade and delicious home baked cake or biscuits. I think my Grandmother, who was very strait-laced and rather fearsome, wondered what to make of me, as in those days I was a tomboy in trousers, jumpers and wellington boots, not the dainty little thing she wanted to see!

Although I visited my Wilkins grandparents out of duty, my real enjoyment came from my mother's side of the family – the Bradburys, with visits to and from cousins, aunts and uncles. My grandfather George Bradbury was a very stern man - if he was expected to visit on a Sunday, a look out would be set so that when he was sighted coming down the road, all work of any description was stopped and hidden as Sunday was a day of prayer and nothing else!



In April 1936 my father joined the **Buckinghamshire Special Constabulary** based in Denham and remained a Special Constable serving the community, until he retired in July 1971. During the War his duties were largely as a despatch motorbike rider between Denham and Aylesbury with the added unpleasant duty of patrolling the Grand Union Canal to remove suicides. A more pleasant duty before the A40 at Denham was widened to a dual carriageway, was directing traffic at the bottom of Red Hill, with friends and acquaintances often slowing down for a word or a wave as they passed by.



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# **ST PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS: THE MOUNT EVEREST OF THE BIBLE** CHRISTOPH LINDNER

Are vou a keen mountain climber? Do you have happy or scary memories? Or both? When I was 16 I joined a vouth camp in the German Alps during the holidays and one day we were going to tackle the Sonntagshorn. At 1961m it is not in the premier league of Alpine summits, although it is considerably higher than any mountain in the UK. I had no proper experience of hiking, although I've always loved climbing trees. On the way up we had to navigate a few hairy ridges and in one place we discovered a plaque remembering someone who had lost their life in that spot. That gave us a sense of perspective. The final approach was not unlike Striding Edge on the ascent to Helvellyn. But when we finally got to the top, it was exhilarating - as was the descent with my first experience of gliding down on a scree. I'm sure our vouth leaders didn't have to do a risk assessment in those days!

St Paul's Letter to the Romans can be equally exhilarating and daunting. It has been described as the Mount Everest of the Bible and has a prominent place in the history of the church.

"Paul's Letter to the Romans is the high peak of Scripture... All roads in the Bible lead to Romans, and all views afforded by the Bible are seen most clearly from Romans." J. I. Packer

When he wrote the letter, St Paul hadn't met the church in Rome, although he was planning to visit them on his way to Spain. The city was at the heart of the empire, with a diverse population. He tells the Christians in Rome that God can save anyone and that he is putting right everything. And when we put our trust in God, nothing can ever separate us from his love again:

"No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:39

The letter has transformed many lives - among them St Augustine, Martin Luther, John Calvin and Karl Barth. David Suchet (of Hercule Poirot fame) became a Christian while reading Romans. When he was a young monk, Martin Luther was plagued by the question how a perfect and holy God could show him favour. Although he engaged in all the recommended practices of the church - confession, penance, good works etc. - they gave him no real comfort. When would his eternal ledger move out of the red and into the black? His theological breakthrough - justification sola fide, sola gratia (by faith alone, by grace alone) came through his deep study of Romans. He later saw the letter as "the purest gospel" [gospel simply means good news],

"I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes the Jew first and also the Gentile." Romans 1:16

In his recent book Romans: A Letter That Makes Sense of Life, Andrew Ollerton describes our journey through the letter as a mountain hike, although you will be pleased to hear that muddy boots and blisters are optional if you are not an outdoor person:

(From: Andrew Ollerton, Romans: A Letter That Makes Sense of Life. Hodder 3 & Stoughton, 1 2023) drops on both sides. It leads us out onto the summit of hope (6) with breath-taking views of God's eternal purposes. But as we prepare for the descent we will encounter the cloud of mystery (7), where it is easy to get lost. As we head down we get thoroughly practical during the descent of devotion (8), which calls us to a life of radical love, and the return to community (9), which shows us how to make a difference in society. Finally the onward mission (10) will equip us to become good news people wherever we are.

"On all my travels, if I had the Gospels, Paul's letter to the Romans and Andrew Ollerton's book I would need nothing else!" 8 David Suchet.

As we set out reading Romans, we survey the whole scenery and admire the mountain view from below (1). Then we must descend into the valley of sin (2), from which we need rescuing. The crux of salvation (3) reveals how Jesus has secured a way out, by faith, which brings us to a place of peace (4), where we can rest and bask in God's love. As we press on we will navigate the ridge of freedom (5), with steep In the summer term we are tackling Romans together on Sundays. Get updates on our website or sign up to receive email news from Denham Parish Church: www.denhamparish.church/new

Would you like to study the Letter to the Romans with a group? Send an email to office@denhamparish. church to express your interest.

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# A FOOD GUIZ

# With thanks to Ann Collins

- 1. Son of Noah
- 2. It stuck in Adam's throat
- 3. Organ of the body
- 4. Locality
- 5. Humanity's immortal part
- 6. Hen's resting place
- 7. Trade term
- 8. Woman's weapon
- 9. What a grumbler does
- 10. Footballer's fear
- 11. Sugared loaf
- 12. News Carrier

- 13. Cricket Failure
- 14. Woman's crowning glory
- 15. Bad if found in a ship
- 16. Policeman's round
- 17. Father cuts hair
- 18. Pudding often found in 10 Downing Street
- 19. Of little importance
- 20. I cry for help
- 21. Two of a kind
- 22. Dec 6th and 25th
- 23. A straight line to the ground

18. Cabinet, 19. Trifle, 20. Ice Cream, 21. Pear, 22. Dates, 23. Plum.

1. Ham, 2. Apple, 3. Kidney, 4. Plaice, 5. Sole, 6. Perch, 7. C O D, 8. Tongue, 9. Grouse, 10. Fowl, 11. Sweetbread, 12. Pigeon, 13. Duck, 14. Hare, 15. Leek, 16. Beetroot, 17. Parsnip,

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