

DECEMBER 2023 - FEBRUARY 2024

# DENHAM PARISH NEWS



**Confirmation and Baptism**

**Martin-Baker Aircraft Company Ltd**

**900th Anniversary Celebrations**

**Make a Christmas Angel**

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Cover photo: Holly Nevitte

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## FROM THE EDITOR

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What is your earliest Christmas memory? Mine is sitting at the top of the stairs in my pyjamas and listening to carol singers at the front door! The joy of Christmas is beautifully captured on our front cover, taken at the Christingle service last year. How special to see that child-wonder at the Christian message of God's love shown to each of us through the birth of His Son, Jesus.

We extend a very warm invitation to come and join the celebrations throughout December - see the centre pages for full details. Why not decorate your own angel (back page) and either hang it on your tree at home or bring it with you to a service at St Mary's and add it to the other angels adorning our tree.

In this Issue, Dom and Vicky share the meaning of Christmas for them as they reflect on celebrating for the first time with two young children (p.8). For some people, Christmas can be a painful time and Sandy sensitively explores how to cope with bereavement at this time of year (p.24).

Brian our roving reporter, gives a fascinating insight to the local Denham company, Martin-Baker, who are famous for their ejection seats (p.14), and Rosemary Doran concludes the series 'Memories of a Denham Girl' (p.12). We look back with thanksgiving on 900 years of Christian worship at St Mary's (p.31) and celebrate the commitment of 12 people today who publicly stated their faith in Christ through Confirmation and Baptism (p.10). If you would like to find out more about the Christian faith, then a great way to do so is through Alpha (p.20).

December is traditionally the time for renewing your annual Subscription to Denham Parish News. This remains at £5 for 4 Issues if you pay in advance, or £1.50 for an individual copy. Current Subscribers, please have your money ready to give to your named Distributor in the next few weeks. If you would like to become a Subscriber, please contact me at [magazine@denhamparish.church](mailto:magazine@denhamparish.church) for more details.

With my love and greetings this Christmas season



Blessings,

*Cathy Macqueen*

[magazine@denhamparish.church](mailto:magazine@denhamparish.church)

## WONDERFUL TREES

### MESSAGE FROM CHRISTOPH LINDNER, RECTOR

---

*Dear friends,*

I have always loved trees. As a little boy I found a maple sapling under the brambles in our garden and replanted it next to the sandpit. It very soon outgrew me. Imagine how excited I was when I returned years later and saw how this tree now towered over the surrounding buildings!

At Forest Church we have learnt so much about trees, how they provide shade and shelter, a perch for birds, roots for burrowing animals. They host mosses and climbers and are a home to countless insects. Trees are a source of food and materials. We never know quite who is going to be blessed by a tree, especially one that lives for hundreds of years and well beyond the lifetime of the planter. Some Bristlecone trees in Eastern California have been dated as being nearly 5,000 years old!

It has been said that trees are a silent witness to history. I've learnt from Martin Davies (vicar in Harefield) that great forests covered what is now the UK 360 million years ago. Trees have witnessed pre-human climate change as well as that which is now being driven by ourselves.



Trees are mentioned in the Bible more than any living thing other than people. In the Bible's account of creation, God puts trees in the garden of Eden. The Middle East, where these accounts were written, is a dry region, where trees are a sign of water, fertility and blessing. The Bible often uses trees to illustrate peace and provision, describing how in times of peace people sit in the shade of their own trees.

Jesus compared his kingdom to a growing tree in which birds find a home. The end of the Bible describes God's coming perfect kingdom like a tree of life that always bears fruit and whose leaves are for the healing of the nations. How fitting that one of the central symbols of Christmas is a tree!

As I write this, I am yearning and praying for this God-given peace and



healing - in people's lives, among families, neighbours, communities and nations. I sense a tension when we celebrate Jesus, the Prince of Peace at Christmas, when we hear the angels' song to shepherds, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests." (Luke 2:14). Because this peace is lacking in so many places.

But with Jesus a new age has begun, so radically different that we still count our years from his birth. This birth didn't happen in a vacuum, out of the blue, but was part of God's plan to bring peace and blessing. There is a lovely tradition of the church, retelling this greatest of all stories in the form of a "Jesse Tree": It represents Jesus' family tree (which includes Jesse, the father of King David). As families decorate their Jesse Tree during Advent, they see how God prepared for Jesus to be born for many generations.

As we wait for Christmas and retell the story of Jesus, we learn that we are part of his ongoing story, that he invites us to bring peace and healing in our generation. And when things seem hopeless, God hasn't given up yet! Jesus died on a tree, made into a cross (page 6), and his friends thought

it was all over. But on the third day, he came back to life to give us hope even in hopeless situations. The light of Christmas can never be extinguished, because Jesus, the Light of the World, is alive today!

There are many ways to tell God's story of hope this Christmas: Complete the prayer angel on the back cover and put it on your Christmas tree or bring it to St Mary's as a decoration for our big tree in church. Buy a special Advent calendar that retells the story (page 21), go for a bracing winter walk and spot signs of new life in the depths of winter, come to our Carol and Christmas services to sing about Jesus, the King in the manger (pages 18-19). Pray that you would know the peace of Jesus, which passes all our human understanding.

Edda and I are wishing you a happy, peaceful and hopeful Christmas and new year!

*Christoph Lindner*

Rector

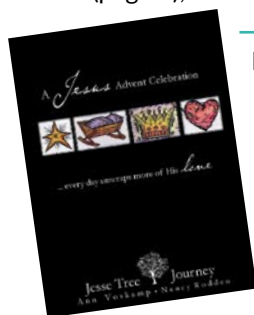


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Find out more about making  
a Jesse Tree here:  
[www.faithward.org/jesse-tree/](http://www.faithward.org/jesse-tree/)

Sign up for our Forest Church Advent Special:  
[www.denhamparish.church/forest-advent](http://www.denhamparish.church/forest-advent)

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# The Three Trees

## *A Folk Tale*

Once upon a mountain top, three trees dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up.

The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: "I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I'll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!"

The second little tree said, "I want to be a mighty ship and carry kings and queens across the oceans. I will travel to the four corners of the world!"

The third little tree looked down into the valley to the village and said, "I don't want to leave the mountain top at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me, they'll raise their eyes to heaven and think of God."

Years passed. One day the woodcutters climbed the mountain.

The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining axe, the first tree fell.

"Now I shall be made into a beautiful chest. I shall hold wonderful treasure!" the first tree said.

The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining axe, the second tree fell.

"Now I shall sail mighty waters!" thought the second tree.  
"I shall be a strong ship for mighty kings!"

The third woodcutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me," he muttered. With a swoop of his axe, the third tree fell. "What will become of my hopes now," said the third tree.

The first tree was cut up and made into a feedbox for animals.

The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold, nor with treasure.  
It was filled with hay for hungry farm animals.

The second tree was taken to a shipyard, but no mighty sailing ship was made that day.  
Instead, the once strong tree was fashioned into a simple fishing boat.

The third tree was cut into strong beams and left in a lumberyard.

Many, many days and night passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams.

But one night, golden starlight poured in through the barn as a young woman placed  
her newborn baby in the feedbox that was made from the first tree.

And suddenly the first tree knew that it was holding the greatest treasure of all time.

Years later, a tired traveller and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat made from the  
second tree. The traveller fell asleep as the boat quietly sailed out into the lake.

Soon a thundering and thrashing storm arose. Some of the men were afraid the boat  
would sink and woke the sleeping man. He stood up, stretched out his hand, and said,  
"Peace, be still." The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun.

And suddenly the second tree knew it was carrying the king of heaven and earth.

One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when its beams were yanked from the  
forgotten woodpile. It was carried through the streets as an angry crowd mocked the  
man who was carrying it. They continued to the top of a hill. The man was nailed to the  
beams, raised up high for all to see and left to die.

But three days later everything changed. Jesus was alive again! Suddenly the tree  
knew that it had now become a great symbol of God's love for all eternity because  
Jesus had been crucified on it.

We do not always know God's plans for our lives. His ways are not always our ways.  
But his plan for our lives is always greater than what we could ever imagine.

*The End*

# CHRISTMAS WITH THE BIRKBYs

## BY VICKY BIRKBY

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*Christmas is coming!  
It's a time of year filled with  
fun, family and faith.*



I have fond memories of my childhood Christmases in Devon. I was always fortunate that we spent Christmas at home, surrounded by our loving family. To this day I have never taken that for granted. I know lots of people have different circumstances at Christmas, and I know I'm very blessed to have had so many years of happy memories.

When my sisters and I were young, we used to put on the Elliott Christmas Show – a homemade version of Britain's Got Talent... well before it's time! Our family were always appreciative of our efforts, and it used to cause great hilarity! Perhaps that's one for families out there to try (young and old!) - what talent can you share this Christmas?

Faith has always been central to our Christmas days, opening our gifts from Santa in the morning and then going to Church. One of my fondest memories was from our Vicar Ian at Kingswear Church (in Devon). He used to do a three-minute sermon, asking the audience for three Christmas words, then spending a minute preaching on each. Although at times a bit of fun (words varied from Jesus to Bread Sauce!), Ian always ensured that we left with an understanding of the true celebration of Christmas – that Jesus had been born and it was a time to rejoice, for God had sent his son to give us love, hope and joy.

As Dom and I started our own family here in Denham, so started our own traditions. We collect Christmas baubles from our travels, experiences and key family moments, allowing us to reminisce each year when we put up our tree.



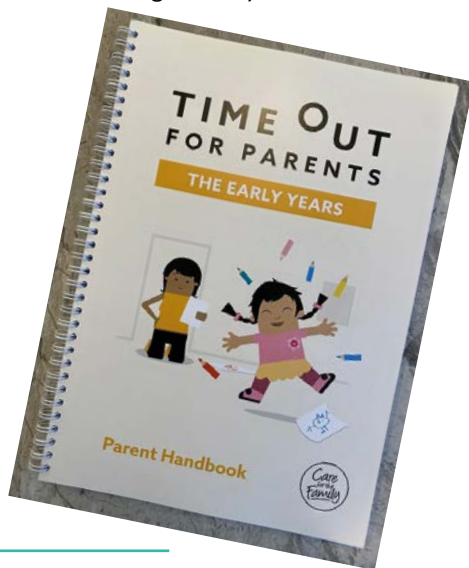
Over the last couple of years, we have been blessed with two lovely daughters, Mary aged 2 and Millie aged 3 months. We have loved attending the Christingle service and Forest Church Christmas Special, it's a lovely way to spend some festive time at Church together as a family.

As a young family based in Denham, but with our extended families living in Devon and Sheffield, we often spend a lot of time travelling. It gives us ample time to (badly!) sing along to Christmas songs and carols. Perhaps the one song that stands out for me is Band Aid's Do They Know It's Christmas. The words and sentiment of giving to those less fortunate than ourselves are very humbling and remind us of the blessed life we lead. The Church's Give and Share appeal is a great way to help us give a donation to those in need.

For me, the role of faith at Christmas has changed over the years. I remember Vicar Ian saying to me that faith is a journey. For some people, their faith grows immediately on a quick commute into London, for others it's more like a slow overnight sleeper train, but at some point, the sun will rise and faith will grow strong. For me it's been the latter. But with faith now core to my daily living, the role of the Church, God and the poignancy of Jesus' birth at Christmas has grown in its importance for me. The tradition of having Church focal to my Christmas day as a child, is most certainly one we wish to carry on with Mary and Millie.

Christmas this year will be extra special for us as we celebrate for the first time as a family of four. It will be Millie's first Christmas and the first year that Mary is old enough to write a letter to Santa and be part of her nursery Christmas show!

We have recently completed a Parenting course run expertly by Kathy and Edda (I thoroughly recommend joining the next one if you have a young family!). The course helped to build our parenting 'toolkit' and made us think about how we can best support our children to learn, love, grow and have fun. Our top tips for young families this Christmas are to try and be prepared (starting preparations early!), but most importantly to enjoy the wonder of the festive period. Being flexible and knowing that everything doesn't need to be perfect, in fact sometimes the best memories are those made unplanned. The most important thing is spending time together, enjoying making new traditions and encompassing lots of fun and faith along the way.



# BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION SERVICE WITH BISHOP TIMOTHY WAMBUNYA

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On Sunday 1st October 2023, twelve people stood to confirm the promises that were made when they were baptised and publicly showed their commitment to a life following the teaching of Jesus Christ. Bishop Timothy Wambunya led the service and prayed that God would confirm the presence of God's Holy Spirit in each person's life. It was a joy to be there, promising to support and pray for them all.

Tim was baptised by full immersion on the Saturday and Liam by sprinkling on the Sunday, prior to them joining with the other candidates to make their confirmation promises.



## Confirmation Candidates

Marselle Randall Campbell, George Carobene, Michele Lee, Nicholas Lee, Timothy Macqueen, Xander Morgan-Timms (Chalfont St Peter), Kathryn Sole, Gillian Verrall, Peter Wager, Liam Warner, Derek Watts, Robert Williams





To find out more about Baptism or Confirmation, please contact the Church Office or see [www.denhamparish.church/baptisms-marriages/](http://www.denhamparish.church/baptisms-marriages/)

# MEMORIES OF A DENHAM GIRL

## BY ROSEMARY DORAN

### PART 3: SCHOOLING

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**My earliest memory of schooling was standing outside the Old Police Station at the top of Old Mill Road. This was the infants' school and fortunately it was not very long before I was sent to Denham Village Hall under the care of Mr Higgs who made early approaches to education very bearable and fun.**

In those days – the late 1940s – there were no facilities for lunchtime catering at the Village Hall and we had to walk up Cheapside Lane to what was then the Junior and Senior Schools. The Canteen was one long room similar to a prefabricated Nissen Hut. Inside the tables were set out across the room with an aisle down the middle – boys on one side, girls on the other. Each of the infants' tables had a senior school pupil whose job it was to look after us.

In time I moved to the Junior School and then Senior School in Cheapside Lane. A good solid building, the inside of which was T-shaped. At the centre of the 'T' was a clock which faced along the length of the corridor. We soon found out that this was an area of punishment. If you misbehaved you had to stand under the clock for all to see. The minutes ticked by as you listened to your fellow students make disparaging comments as they passed. It was a good punishment and made

you behave. Somehow though I never could behave in Mrs Dickenson's music class, too much inclined to the giggles!

At last came the great news that the promised new school to accommodate seniors was ready and we would be attending school in Old Mill Road. This was a Secondary Modern named Alderbourne, with a School Hall, Library, Woodwork Room, Domestic Science Room and large comfortable classrooms. The Hall could be used for gymnastics and we even had changing rooms with showers.

My favourite 'O' level subjects were Art and French. We had an excellent art teacher from Durham, a Miss Roberts, who taught us well and helped us on our way to being budding artists. Lessons took place in the afternoon, and on one evening each week. We were even allowed to go round Denham on a Saturday, painting our lovely Village. I still paint for pleasure, but over the years I have had commissions and occasionally sold paintings direct from my easel.

Our Music Teacher, Mrs Entwistle, taught us how to appreciate fine classical music and, as a choir, we

often sang a selection of the old favourites such as 'Summer is a Coming in' and 'All in an April Evening'. My best experience of music was going into the Music Room one day whilst Bizet's L'Arlésienne was playing. I was transfixed and have loved Classical music ever since.

French being my other favourite subject, was rather unloved by my fellow students. I was the only entry for the examinations so had one to one lessons, often walking around the playground with my Teacher, conversing in French.

With all this going on I was appointed a Prefect and after a year I was appointed Head Girl which made me feel my schooling had been very worthwhile. Our Headmaster, Mr Entwistle, set his standards for life and behaviour at Alderbourne and as for learning English grammar, woe betide you if you were inept at this subject. He also instructed us to play hockey on the Recreation Ground, which always seemed to be the coldest place in Denham - no warm clothes, just thin blouses and short shorts! It certainly made you chase the ball around to keep warm!

It became time to leave this idyllic life and I decided on a two-year course in science at High Wycombe College which was being run to increase one's GCSE 'O' and 'A' levels. My daily commute was on a *steam train*, from Denham Golf Club Station. In due course, diesel trains replaced

the steam trains which were not nearly so much fun. However, my father was very pleased with this development, as, by this time we had moved to Higher Denham and our garden backed onto the railway line with the embankment frequently being engulfed in flame from fires set off by the steam trains!

After High Wycombe College I worked for British Aluminium in metallurgy for two years followed by a stint at Glaxo Laboratories, firstly in the Virus Department working on Polio Vaccines and then I moved to their Plant Pathology Department. In 1966 Robin and I got married in St Mary's Church and we continued living in Denham until 1968, when we moved to Egham in Surrey. I applied for a job in the Zoology Department of the Royal Holloway College where I worked for 28 years in Parasitology (the study of parasites) until I had to retire due to ill health.



# MARTIN-BAKER AIRCRAFT COMPANY LTD

## BY BRIAN O'REGAN

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### Tuesday 10th October 2023 10.20 Nîmes-Garons Airport, the South of France:

A pilot under training took off with his instructor in an Aermacchi MB-339C fighter jet. A problem occurred during take-off leading the instructor to pull the handle on the twin Martin-Baker Mk IT10LK ejection seats and the pilots were propelled clear of the aircraft which crashed at the end of the runway. Just two seconds after pulling the ejection seat handle, their parachutes were automatically deployed and they returned safely to earth. The Mk10 seat is fitted to over 5,500 aircraft and has saved over 800 lives.



Pre-Mk1 Ejection Seat

May 1949 by Jo Lancaster. Jo was flying an Armstrong Whitworth AW52 aircraft and was forced to eject in a pre-Mk1 ejection seat (see picture) over Southam, Warwickshire. The time to

parachute deployment in this seat was a lengthy 20-30 seconds. The Martin-Baker (M-B) seat added seventy years to his life, for Jo died six months after his 100th birthday in 2019.

An M-B ejection seat is only activated once – it has to work! Rockets firing for less than a second propel the seat and pilot clear of the aircraft. After an ejection, nothing of the seat is reusable or even recoverable. By design and exceptional engineering, the occupant is recoverable and returns to flying. More lives saved by Martin-Baker – that's 7,704 and counting. The aircraft may explode in a fireball but there is a proud glow over the Martin-Baker Aircraft Company factory in Denham. The 1050 employees at the Denham works and a further 160 at Chalgrove Airfield and Langford Lodge Northern Ireland, have all contributed to saving that life. The latest Mk18 seat costs up to £300,000, but the cost of training an RAF fast jet pilot is nearly £6m. However, the aircrews' lives and their families matter most to the company.

***It's part of what drives this incredible company, or should it be family!***

Sir James Martin was born in Killinchy Woods, Crossgar, Northern Ireland in September 1893. He found he had a talent for fixing vehicles and equipment on the farm and would make innovations to improve their operation. He emigrated to England and in 1929 founded Martin's Aircraft Works on the





Sir James Martin statue in reception

present site at Denham to design and build a small aircraft – the MB 1. Sir James formed a strong friendship with Captain Valentine Baker who had founded a flying school based at Heston

Aerodrome. Valentine's notable pupils included Edward Prince of Wales, soon to be King Edward VIII and Amy Johnson – the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia.

Valentine left Heston in 1934 to join Sir James in founding Martin-Baker Aircraft Company Ltd. Valentine was the test pilot as together they continued developing an aircraft for military use. Tragically, in September 1942 during the early days of testing the MB 3 fighter, the engine failed soon after take off and the aircraft crash landed, killing Valentine.

Devastated by the loss of his friend, Sir James set his innovative mind to work on aircrew safety. In 1944 he was invited to the Ministry of Aircraft Production to investigate providing fighter aircraft with a means of assisted escape. A year later his first seat was tested live by employee Bernard Lynch from a test tower. Seat development continued and it

was Bernard who made the first mid-flight test ejection on 24th July 1946.

Sir James died in 1981, but his company is in the safe hands of his twin sons, James and John, joint managing directors. As you read this, they will be celebrating their 81st birthday, but worry not, their sons are also in the management team. Incidentally, the Northern Bank (of Northern Ireland), as part of its Inventors Series, issued a £100 note in 2005 featuring Sir James.

I was very excited to visit the company on their 22-acre site in Lower Road recently, where my guide was Tony Gaunt, Business Development Executive. I'm grateful to Tony for his generosity of time and knowledge to gather material for this piece. Tony was a weapons technician with the RAF and served with the Harrier squadron in the Falklands war of 1982. He has been with the company for 22 years.

One may imagine factories being only automated production lines, but at M-B there is so much individual attention to quality and component testing, that the human factor is still



Martin-Baker museum

very much to the fore. I am sure this is key to employee satisfaction and cheer that was very evident on my walk-through. The company though, has embraced new technologies and has made considerable investment in state-of-the-art machines. They have, for example, a bank of four large CNC (Computer Numerical Control) milling machines which produce components from solid blocks of aluminium alloys.

With thousands of different components and numerous seat variations, batch sizes are often 5 to 15 parts. Short production runs require extremely quick machine change over time for different parts. These costly machines earn their keep as they operate 24/7, with skilled operatives scheduling long-running safe parts for the unmanned night shifts.

I spoke with Fitter Inspector Ernie Barter from Amersham, who joined the company in 1992. He says M-B are a great company to work for with a wonderful product. He takes pride in playing his part and gets a real buzz when “ejectees” are taken around the factory and thank him. Ernie said “I’m just doing my job and if you don’t like what you do, you’re not in the right job”. Ernie may feel he has a small part in this success story but it is an essential part and he adds to the genial good atmosphere that permeates right through the workforce.

Innovation, quality and a great workforce have served this still family-owned business well. Turnover has grown from £31m in 1981 to £330m last year. Martin-Baker has a world leading position in the ejection seat

market with a 55% market-share. As you may expect, sales to North America dominate, and account for 43% of the company’s business.

With such a mission-critical product, there is a rigorous testing programme at the design and prototype stage. Before in-flight testing, prototype seats are tested on a 6,200 ft rocket-sled test track at Langford Lodge, formerly RAF Langford. Located on the banks of Lough Neagh and just 35 miles from Sir James’ birthplace, this state-of-the-art facility allows a range of speed tests using highly sensitive, high-tech test mannequins. All of the cockpits that are fired down the test sled are handmade by Martin-Baker employees.

The company has a manufacturing and testing facility at Chalgrove Airfield, Oxfordshire where seats are ejected from two refurbished Gloster Meteor aircraft. It is here that the pyrotechnics that go into a Martin-Baker ejection seat are manufactured. They don’t have to seek volunteers like Bernard Lynch from the workforce, as today they use mannequins for all tests.

When you see an RAF jet passing above, take a moment to reflect that the pilot is sitting in an ejection seat made less than 1½ miles from our church. Behind the church you will find the resting place of Sir James Martin (died 1981), a life of service, a job so very well done, an enduring legacy.

**“As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.” 1 Corinthians 12:12**



# 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](mailto:kathypaine16@gmail.com)

### BEREAVEMENT DROP-IN

A place of safety, welcome  
and hope renewed.  
All welcome.  
St Mark's House  
(next to St Mark's Hall)  
13 December, 4pm  
For more information contact  
our church office.

### CAFÉ CHURCH

Time to chat | Food for thought  
Coffee and cake  
Favourite hymns and prayers  
St Mark's Church Hall  
Sunday 3 December,  
4 February, 3 March  
(no Café Church in January)  
Contact: Christoph Lindner  
[rector@denhamparish.church](mailto:rector@denhamparish.church)

### DESTINY

For young people  
aged 10 and older  
St Mark's Church Hall  
21 January, 18 February  
10.15-11.45am

Contact: Azita Jabbari  
[azita@denhamparish.church](mailto:azita@denhamparish.church)

## Services in December

No 10.30am service on 17 and 24 December.

No 9am service on 31 December.

*Find all carol services on page 18-19.*





# Christmas in Denham 2023

• **Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Dec, 6.00 pm** •  
**Denham Village Green**



Carols on  
the Green

Join our local community to sing  
carols around the Christmas tree

• **Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec, 4.00 pm** •  
**St Mary's Church**



Forest Church  
Advent Special

Fun for all ages • Make an Advent  
candle • Sign up: Call St Mary's or  
[denhamparish.church/christmas](http://denhamparish.church/christmas)

• **Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec, 3.30 pm** •  
**St Mark's Church Hall**



Carols at  
Café Church

Favourite carols  
Christmas treats  
Time to chat

• **Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2.00 pm** •  
**Denham Garden Village**



Carols and  
Readings for  
Christmas

A reflective start to the  
Christmas season

• **Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Dec, 4.00 pm** •  
**St Mary's Church**



Christingle  
Service

Celebrate Christmas with that  
famous orange! A child-  
friendly service for all ages



• **Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Dec, 4.00 pm** •  
**St Mary's Church**



Carols for  
All Ages by  
Candlelight

Readings, carols, anthems  
and songs, with contributions  
from all ages



• **Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Dec, 6.30 pm** •  
**St Mary's Church**



Nine Lessons  
and Carols by  
Candlelight

Reflective service  
with readings, carols  
and choir anthems



• **Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec, 4.00 pm** •  
**St Mary's Church**



Crib  
Service

For all ages. Children are  
invited to bring a new toy for  
ages 3-11 as a gift for RNIB Sun-  
shine House School (Northwood)



• **Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec, 8.30 pm** •  
**Most Holy Name**



Carols

Followed by  
Christmas Mass  
at 9.00 pm

•Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec, 11.00pm•

**St Mary's Church**



Midnight  
Holy Communion



•Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Dec, 9.00am•

**St Mary's Church**



Christmas Day  
Holy Communion

•Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Dec, 9.30 am•

**Most Holy Name**



Feast of the  
Nativity Mass

•Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Dec, 10.30am•

**St Mary's Church**



A short service for all ages,  
celebrating Jesus' birth



**Church of the Most Holy Name (RC)**

Old Mill Road, Denham, UB9 5AR

[www.stjosephs.org](http://www.stjosephs.org) | 01753 886581

**St Mark's Church Hall, Denham Green (CofE)**

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**St Mary's Church, Denham (CofE)**

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**Continue the Christmas Journey...**

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith.

Alpha starts in Denham in January.

Find out more: [www.denhamparish.church/alpha](http://www.denhamparish.church/alpha)

Alpha

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.





Alpha

# Stay Curious

— Try Alpha —

Starts in Denham in January.  
Find out more:

[www.denhamparish.church/alpha](http://www.denhamparish.church/alpha)



# A SPECIAL ADVENT CALENDAR TO TELL A VERY SPECIAL STORY!



# FAMILY REGISTER OF DENHAM PARISH CHURCH

## BAPTISMS

18.06.23	Blossom Valerie Stone, Denham
22.07.23	Leonardo Alan Lovelock, Denham
30.07.23	Rose Victoria Hagger, Harefield
12.08.23	Nancy May Bryne, Harefield
12.08.23	Betty Bryne, Harefield
12.08.23	Bertie Bryne, Harefield
20.08.23	Lawrence John Hooper, Southampton
03.09.23	Kacie Lea Allen, New Denham
15.10.23	Tommy John Kopp, Denham



Rose Hagger



Lawrence Hooper



Kacie Allen



Tommy Kopp





## CREMATIONS

05.05.23	Terrence Skelton, Denham
11.05.23	Olive Blanche Young, Iver
12.06.23	Brian Frederick Pegg, Denham
18.07.23	Andrew Gerald George Everley, Hayes
05.09.23	Betty Pauline Mace, New Denham



Terrence Skelton



Betty Mace



# “Come for Christmas?”

How to survive the festive season after a bereavement.

By Sandy Wickenden

**The Christmas lights are up, turkey bought, presents wrapped and the last thing you want is to be there!**

“After losing my wife Christmas has never been the same but I don’t want to let the family down. What can I do?” The words of my dear friend echo the feelings of many after the death of someone who is loved. Special events, perhaps a birthday, anniversary or indeed Christmas can cause us to struggle to cope with renewed intense feelings of sadness, anger or even guilt and self-blame. The “If onlys” that are so often part of grieving can leap into action at a Christmas song in Tesco’s or festive advert on TV that reminds us of times past, and that now our special person will not be there to share it with us.

So how about making a survival plan? Grieving has its own pathway, but we can feel a positivity about exerting some control and identifying in advance ways that will help us negotiate what can feel like an unpredictable and formidable landscape.

To begin, be kind to yourself. It really is OK to step away from the usual traditions and rituals if that is what you want to do. If you are worried about hurting the feelings of others if you don’t say “Yes” and choose to go then, if you can, schedule in some quiet

time beforehand to prepare yourself, and build into the event a “time out” strategy. Maybe setting aside a few minutes for yourself with a cup of tea during the festivities, explaining that you might have to leave early or taking the dog out for a walk after Christmas lunch for some “me” time.

For some people setting aside a particular time for remembering can help. One family I know has a particular time after Christmas lunch when a candle is lit, and memories shared. Another visits the grave of their loved one with close family, sit quietly and share in a McDonalds breakfast!

However you spend your time this Christmas season try to remember that it is OK not to be OK. Grasp the seasonal grief nettle and don’t forget to allow yourself to laugh and have fun too, it doesn’t mean that you have forgotten them!

Sandy is a therapist and jointly runs “The Haven” bereavement support group at St. Mary’s Church.



# CHRISTMAS

Expectation – ancient prophets have foretold  
Love enfleshed, a virgin womb where life unfolds  
Maker and sustaining Word, come to show the way  
Casting off his crown to go down for the rescue of a people in decay

Incarnation – shadow herdsmen feel the draw  
Flock towards the one whose bedding is of straw  
Shepherd's truest form is born with frailest breath  
Calling to the lost in the darkness of the valley of the shadow of death

Proclamation – herald angels usher dawn  
Bright illumination, son of splendour born  
Radiance eternal sparkles in his eyes  
Kindling the hope for a saviour in the embers of a faith reprised

Adoration – wise men bow to heaven's king  
Gold, myrrh and frankincense their offering  
Mighty God lies lowly, laid in manger crease  
Wonderful, counsellor, everlasting father and our prince of peace

Celebration – Spirit dove in him proclaims  
Poverty renamed, captivity unchained  
Blindness graced with sight, oppression now shod  
Sharing wide the joy of the Christmastime favour of the Lord our God

# NEW DEFIBRILLATOR IN DENHAM GREEN AND FREE EMERGENCY FIRST AID TRAINING



Denham Parish Church are delighted to report that there is a new Automated Emergency Defibrillator (AED) on the outside wall of St Mark's House, Green Tiles Lane, Denham Green which is next to St Mark's Hall. The defibrillator, along with training, has been purchased as a joint venture with the charity AEDdonate, The Community Board of Denham, Gerrards Cross and the Chalfonts (Buckinghamshire Council) and Denham Parish Church.

The AED will serve as a **vital device for the local community** and allow a rapid response to anyone nearby who has a sudden cardiac arrest. The device is also registered with our local Ambulance Trust for use in an emergency.

**Free training** on how to use the AED defibrillator and also in CPR and other emergency first aid will be held at St Mark's Hall, Tile House Lane, Denham Green UB9 5HT.

- Would you know how to recognise if someone's heart has stopped?
- Do you want to learn CPR and how to use a defibrillator to help them?
- Learn how to deal with someone choking, adults, children and babies
- How to recognise strokes using FAST test
- How do you support a person having a diabetic emergency?
- Supporting an unconscious person.

Come and join a training day:

**Saturday 6th January 10am-1pm**

**Saturday 20th January 2pm-5pm**

**Friday 9th February 10am-1pm**



**To book your free training place, please contact the Church Office: 01895 832771 or go to [www.denhamparish.church/aed](http://www.denhamparish.church/aed)**



# How to protect yourself from fraud and scams

Use the guidance below and see the Age UK website:  
[www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/scams-fraud/](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/scams-fraud/)

## PHONE SCAMS

A cold call is a phone call out of the blue from a company or person you've never dealt with before, usually trying to sell you something. They aren't always scams, but they can be irritating.

### Say no!

**Report any scams:** Forward unwanted texts to 7726 for free so your mobile phone provider can flag potential scams.

**Check the line:** Be aware that scammers can keep your phone line open even after you've hung up. Use a different phone, call someone you know first to check the line is free, or wait at least 10 to 15 minutes between calls to make sure that any scammers have hung up.

**Cut the cold calls:** Join the free Telephone Preference Service (TPS). This should cut the number of cold calls you receive, though it won't necessarily block all scammers. TPS has a service to stop cold calls to mobile phones too. Go to their website or text 'TPS' and your email address to 85095 to register.

**Call the company:** If you get a phone call from an organisation asking you for personal information, contact the company directly using a known email or phone number to check the call is legitimate.

## DOOR STEP SCAMS

**Stop:** Are you expecting anyone?

**Lock:** If not, lock any other outer doors before answering the front door, as some scammers work together.

**Chain:** Put the door chain on – but remember to take it off again if people with a key, such as a carer or cleaner, need to be able to get in. Look through the peep hole to see who's there.

**Check:** Ask for an identity card and examine it carefully. If you're still unsure, shut the door and phone the company the person says they're from. Get the number from a bill or your phone book. Don't worry about leaving someone waiting, if they're who they say they are, they won't mind. If you're being pressured or feel unsafe, contact friends, family or the police.



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# PARISH DIRECTORY

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**Church Office**

01895 832771

[office@denhamparish.church](mailto:office@denhamparish.church)

**Mon, Tue, Wed, Friday:**

**10am-12.30pm**

**Thursday: 12.30pm-3pm**

Sunday Services on Youtube:

[www.tinyurl.com/youtube-denham](http://www.tinyurl.com/youtube-denham)

Find us on Facebook:

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01895 834733

[rector@denhamparish.church](mailto:rector@denhamparish.church)

**Associate Minister**

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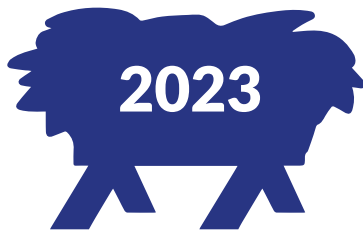
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# Denham Church Christmas Appeal



As we celebrate Jesus Christ, the greatest gift of all, will you help us to bless people who are struggling this Christmas? We will divide our gifts equally between two charities we have partnered with for many years:

---



Trinity provides housing in and around Uxbridge to people suffering the effects of homelessness. In previous years they have housed more than 250 people and helped them to move from a life of dependency to achieve their full potential. Trinity also helps homeless people in Slough through its partner SHOC (Slough Homeless Our Concern).

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Tearfund is a Christian charity that partners with churches in more than 50 of the world's poorest countries. They tackle poverty through sustainable development, responding to disasters, and challenging injustice. Tearfund believes an end to extreme poverty is possible. Their life-changing community training empowers people with skills and knowledge to become self-sufficient, so there's no going back to extreme poverty. 9 out of 10 trained communities went on to build or improve vital facilities like water points, schools and health clinics. £211 of value can be created from every £1 invested in Tearfund's life-changing training, alongside community contributions.

---

## How to give

You can make a donation at one of our carol and Christmas services or give online by scanning the QR code below.  
Thank you for helping to make a difference this Christmas!



# Wheels of Time

## Celebrating 900 Years at St Mary's

The St Mary's Festival 2023 was an extra special celebration as we marked the earliest historical record for St Mary's Church, dating back to 1123. From a litter pick to a fabulous concert with aLUMNI4, BBQ and Vestry Teas, chiming the St Mary's bells and learning about the history of Denham, a special celebration service with Ian Jennings and a time to relax by the White House chalk stream. Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped raise £3,711 for our Fabric Fund.



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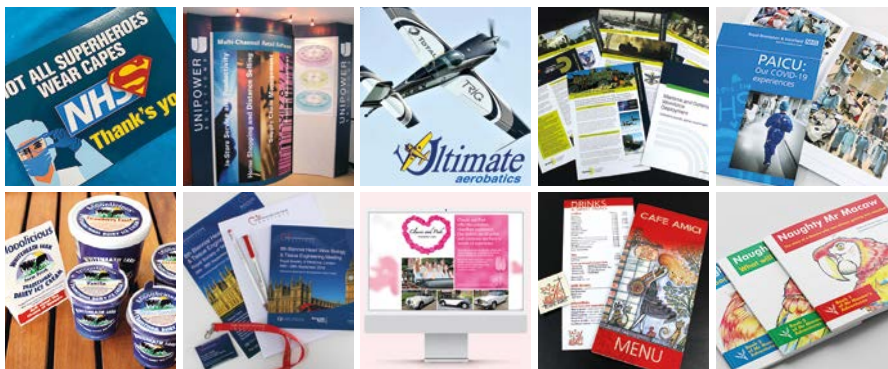
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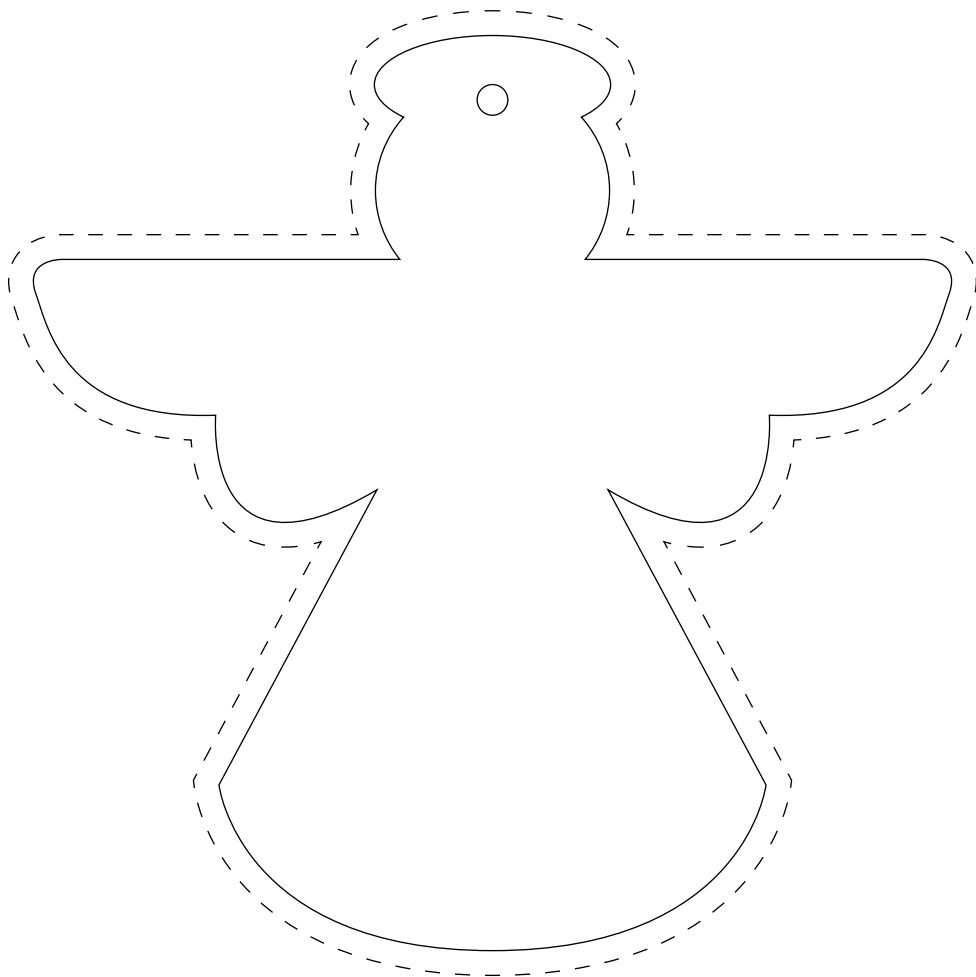
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**Decorate your angel, adding your own prayer or picture.**

**Cut it out, punch a hole near the top and use ribbon or string to hang it up at home or at school. Or take it to St Mary's Church to make it part of the Christmas tree decoration!**



**You are very welcome at a church in Denham this Advent and Christmas. Find all details on the centre pages of this magazine.**

If you don't live in or near Denham, find details of special services and events near you plus an online Advent calendar for children and families at: [cofe.io/JoinTheSong](https://cofe.io/JoinTheSong)



Turn over to decorate the angel!



When Jesus was born, angels  
told shepherds the good news.

Where is the good news in your  
life? Say thank you to God for it.

The angels also brought a  
message of peace from God.

Say a prayer for everyone in  
need of peace this Christmas.