

JUNE 2024 - AUGUST 2024

# DENHAM PARISH NEWS



**WELCOME**

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Cover: Tony Drane, Welcome to the Fayre!

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## FROM THE EDITOR

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Please join us for the Denham Village Fayre, Monday 27th May, 10am–4pm. It has been such a joy to work with the new Fayre committee, chaired by Amy Kenworthy, planning and preparing for what we hope will be a wonderful community event, restoring this historical event back into the local calendar. It is never easy restarting something but they have all gone above and beyond, thank you. All profits are used by St Mary's for the upkeep of our historic church building and grounds. Brian (p.6) meets the St Mary's Fabric Team who diligently work to ensure these funds are carefully spent whilst Tim (p.12) explores the invaluable role of churchyards in the local ecosystem, describing what you can see and hear through the seasons. If you have your own patch of earth, maybe you could try out Kath's 'seed bomb' craft (p.24).

Brian also spent time with Sharon Williams who beautifully led the Fayre Committee pre-pandemic, and is now Chair of Denham Parish Council. This year they are celebrating 130 years serving our local community, come and join the celebration! (p.8). Denham is a wonderful, evolving community. We hear about Eleanor Baumann's life as a Denham midwife between 1952-1972 (p.26) and how the dream of Denham Brewing Co became a reality during lockdown (p.18).

For all those who love a good summer holiday read, our youth (and those who are 21 again!) share their favourite books (p.16) whilst the Bible Detective (p.10) grapples with the emerging world of artificial intelligence (AI). Read too about the wonderful story of God in the life of Ian and Susan (p.22) and the fun experience of attending the live Rend Collective concert (p.19).

We hope you enjoy the Village Fayre (p.15) and look forward to seeing you again next year (always the second Bank Holiday in May!) Finally, I would like to give thanks to Victoria Lucas who is stepping down as PCC and Parish Office Secretary. You have been an invaluable help in so many ways and your gentle presence in the Office will be missed – you are a treasure.



Blessings,

*Cathy Macqueen*

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

# 1974 AND ALL THAT

## MESSAGE FROM CHRISTOPH LINDNER RECTOR

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*Dear friends,*

What do the following five things have in common?



**Answer:** They were all launched 50 years ago. With stellar inventions such as Rubik's Cube and the Kinder Surprise egg, we might think that 1974 was a good year. But those who can remember it would probably disagree.

In one of my favourite podcasts, *The Rest Is History*, Dominic Sandbrook and Tom Holland retell the story of life and politics in Britain in 1974. It was marked by IRA terrorism, inflation, crippling strikes, an international oil crisis, political chaos.

Things looked very bleak. But better days were ahead and the terminal decline that some people predicted didn't happen.

Recently, I did this quiz with the air cadets of the Denham 2370 Squadron. After exploring life in 1974 for a while

we turned our eyes to the future – 2074, fifty years from now. I asked them a simple question:

**“Do you think life will be better or worse than today?”**

The majority of cadets thought things would get worse. That surprised me. We tend to think that older people often hark back to the glorious past while young people expect a hopeful future.

How would you answer this question? Are things getting better or worse? Of course, this question is far too simplistic. We have made enormous

strides in some areas, while we face enormous challenges in others. I am not a believer in the relentless forward march of progress, and human nature with all its potential and flaws hasn't changed very much at all throughout history (see the article on Artificial Intelligence on page 12 of this issue). But there are two things that give me hope:

### **We can make a difference**

As human beings we are created with free will and can make things better. Sometimes we may feel we have very little influence, but we can make one little change, which adds up to a lot over time. Many one-degree-shifts can eventually turn a big oil tanker around. This strategy has often helped me when I felt stuck or low: What is the one thing I can do now? The power to change things is multiplied when we come together around a common cause. Recently Edda and I had a coffee in the new Thames Hospice building in Bray. What a wonderful place! Thousands of people are coming together to support the hospice, which is giving dignity to many people in the final stages of life.

The Village Fayre is returning this May – the first time after 2019 – and it has been made possible by many people coming together and working for this common cause. Thank you!

**“We don't know what our future holds... but we know who holds our future.”**

These words are attributed to American civil rights activist and Baptist minister Ralph Abernathy. He mentored Martin Luther King and was with him in his dying moments after being assassinated.

As people of faith, we believe in a loving God who has good purposes for us and for the world. Even in the darkest moments and in the face of death we can have hope because Jesus has overcome death, the final enemy. Corrie ten Boom survived the Nazi concentration camps and was a tireless advocate of forgiveness and reconciliation after the war. She once said that “there is no pit so deep that God's love is not deeper still.”

When the people of Israel were forced into exile in Babylon the future seemed bleak. One of the songs they sang was made famous in the version sung by Boney M: “By the rivers Babylon, there we sat down. Yeah we wept when we remembered Zion [that is Jerusalem]. They carried us away in captivity, required from us a song. Now how shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?” (Read the original in Psalm 137).

But then God sent prophets to remind them that God had not forgotten them and intriguingly, was asking them to make a positive difference in exile. The prophet Jeremiah delivers this message from God (Jeremiah 29):

*“Build houses, plant gardens, have children. Seek the peace and prosperity of the city where you are in exile. If it prospers, you will also prosper.”  
A generation later, the exiles returned home.*

Some of us won't be around in 2074, but we can make a positive difference today, seeking the peace and prosperity of Denham, knowing that ultimately it is God who holds our future.



# ST MARY'S CHURCH FABRIC TEAM

## BY BRIAN O'REGAN

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**What will the magnificent architectural wonders we create today look like in 800 or 900 years? I doubt if the people of 12th century Denham Village had such thoughts about their new church. And yet, here we are still worshipping in their wonderful church 900 years later.**

So, what do you notice when you come to our church on a Sunday? I see a venerable building and sometimes think about the millions of steps folk have taken across the threshold over the centuries. But the building, the "Fabric" is just there and of course, will always be just there – somehow! I wanted to find out the "how", so I recently met with some of the Fabric Team.

The Churchwardens are responsible to the Diocesan Bishop for the care and maintenance of church property including buildings and at St Mary's this is delegated to the Fabric Team who report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC). The church is required to have a Quinquennial Inspection and report (carried out by the church surveyors



Evans & Crawley), which helps direct the team to required works. The last such report was 2021. But the team are continually looking for problem areas and planning strategies for restoration and preservation. Such diligence prompted them to commission a specialist report in 2019 on the significant dampness in the walls and floors.

You may have noticed the work done on the West Door vestibule floor in 2020. This was carried out by the team at low cost. There is a critical balancing act between need, urgency and cost. But The Lord provides and recent generous donations and legacies mean that longer

term "once-in-a-generation" restoration works are being seriously considered. The return of the Denham Village Fayre will also be a welcome source of funds which are specifically used to enable the ongoing upkeep of St Mary's.

The Fabric Team report to the PCC monthly and there has been much to

report! Work completed in the last three years include repairs to the church tower roof in 2021, the restoration of the West and South doors (see before and after pictures of the West door) and installation of a lightning conductor in 2022. In 2023 cracked lead rolls in the south chancel roof were repaired as a temporary measure, but the team were advised that the roof should be replaced within three years. More visible to us ordinary mortals was the rebuild of the brick piers of the north-eastern gateway. Sounds simple? Oxford Diocese stipulates that "Faculty" be applied for and awarded for changes to the fabric of the building - including such minor works as drilling a hole in a wall! This leads to frustrating delays for the team. The Faculty for the brick piers rebuild took 15 months to negotiate and approve.

With all the extraordinary endeavours of our fantastic Fabric Team, I wanted to know if there were any skeletons in the cupboard. Well, yes - although I had to dig deep to discover them! Part of the strategy for remedy of damp in the walls has been to upgrade the rainwater drainage system and the final phase of that work, earlier this year, addressed the north-eastern corner of church and vestry. New gullies, drainage runs and a larger soakaway required excavation of a pit over a metre deep in the churchyard behind the vestry. Remains of very old coffins were found and yes, skeletons! An archaeologist inspected the site and the Diocese approved the relocation of the remains. One could say it's all in a day's work for the Fabric Team, but this was rather exceptional.

The new soakaway should be good for over 50 years, by which time our team will be taking a well-deserved permanent rest, perhaps in the graveyard they have lovingly tended!

There is so much more in the remit of the Fabric Team, which includes the grounds and graveyard, so what drives them? For Robert Ash it's been carrying his professional experience as a surveyor into a voluntary role and working with a "Band of Brothers". A highlight during his many years on the team was reinforcing the boundary wall on Village Road, named Adrian's Wall after the vicar at the time, Adrian Hirst. For Dexter Brown, it's the challenge of maintaining an historic building together with enjoyable company. And his highlight? The Green Man Special Burger after a morning's work!

There is a detailed report of the work of the Fabric Team in the 2023 Annual Report presented at the APCM on 28th April 2024, which is available on our website [www.denhamparish.church/blog/](http://www.denhamparish.church/blog/).

The team: Robert (outgoing chair), Dexter (incoming chair), Clive Ashcroft, Tony Drane, Gerald Miller, Mike Stewart and the most recent member, Mike Laide. They organise ad-hoc working parties with willing volunteers joining the fun. New helping hands will be made very welcome, so if you would like to offer a couple of hours of your time, do contact Dexter on 07903 476535.

*"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain." Psalm 127:1*

# DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## BY BRIAN O'REGAN

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Tuesday 4th December 1894 was a red-letter day for residents of Denham as they voted for the first time for councillors to serve on the newly formed Denham Parish Council (DPC). Parish councils were enabled by The Local Government Act 1894, brought to the statute book by William Gladstone's government. The Act gave women, (even if not married!!) the right to vote and serve on parish councils. It received the Royal Assent on 5th March, three days after Gladstone resigned. So, this year is the 130th anniversary of Denham Parish Council. It is one of 171 town and parish councils and parish meetings in Buckinghamshire, which are the base level of local government enabled by the Act.

The first meeting of the newly elected council was held on 4th January 1895. The council now meet monthly, on the second Monday of the month, at the Parish Council Offices and meetings are open to the public. I recently met with the chair, Sharon Williams, to discover the council's responsibilities and her life of community service.

Sharon was elected to the council in 1996 and apart from a three-year break in 2001 when her third child was born, has served ever since. She became chair in 2021. There are 11 councillors who serve the community and are unpaid. The parish clerk, deputy clerk and part-time finance assistant are the only paid roles.



*In 2022, as Chair of DPC, Sharon had the privilege to read the Royal Proclamation on the Village Green, announcing the death of Queen Elizabeth II and the Ascension of King Charles III – long live the King!*

Some council responsibilities may surprise you. They provide dog bins (there are 25 across the parish) but don't empty them (that's Buckinghamshire Council (BC)); they cut the grass verges and hedges and maintain street lighting in 30 mph roads; they install and maintain bus shelters and play areas. Some of these services are delegated from BC who pay Denham what their cost to provide would be.

The council must set a budget every year, the process starting in October and completed in January. In the 2023/24 fiscal year the budgeted gross expenditure was £448,950 and after deducting income of £34,600 and drawing £22,787 from reserves, left a requirement (precept) of £391,563. Once approved at county level, this is the amount paid by residents through their council tax. For the current year, DPC were able to avoid any increase in the precept.

The council have worked hard to provide and maintain play areas in five parish settlements. The Glebe Play Area in Higher Denham is privately owned and maintained by residents



with a contribution from DPC. DPC are trustees of the Village Green and received a donation from the Matilda film production company which used the green and village for location shoots in 2021.

Sharon talked with pride of the work of the council, including the events they run or sponsor. The Denham Memory Café for dementia patients and their carers is held on the first Friday of the month at St Mark's Hall. An afternoon social with bingo is a monthly Sunday event at New Denham Community Hall. Music on the Village Green is also monthly on Sundays through the summer. Up-to-date information on these and much more, including how you could become a councillor, can be found on the council website [www.denhambucks-pc.gov.uk/](http://www.denhambucks-pc.gov.uk/).

It is a big commitment serving on the council, but also very rewarding. Sharon drops into the office most days and estimates she spends 20 hours a week on council work. Fortunately, her part-time role for her husband Julian's company is flexible, enabling her to work around her DPC responsibilities. Her chief goals? "Ensure that Denham is on the map" and "make things better for residents". If you think that she and her council are doing that, drop them an email or a comment on social media. A thank-you or "well-done" is very uplifting.

Sharon does voluntary work for Thames Hospice in Maidenhead which has specialist end-of-life care for up to 28 residents. She does whatever is required here and says "I love this role; it gives me so much enjoyment." But there's more: - she is chair of the Executive Committee of 1st Iver Heath Scout Group and also of the Civilian Committee of Denham ATC where her eldest son, David 26, is a non-commissioned sergeant. There is a family history in the forces; her father was a Coldstream Guard and she was christened at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst where her parents were married. Her youngest child Harry, 22, is doing a masters at Nottingham University. Louise, 24, is spending time travelling.

I asked Sharon, who is a member of St Mary's, how her Christian faith influences her in her roles. She says "I like helping people and when chairing meetings I try to always be fair and ensure all have opportunities to have their say."

For more on DPC, see the excellent article by the Denham Community History Project at [www.denhamhistory.online/post/of-the-parish-by-the-parish-for-the-parish](http://www.denhamhistory.online/post/of-the-parish-by-the-parish-for-the-parish).

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10*



**130 years of Denham Parish Council.** This year Denham Parish Council celebrates its 130<sup>th</sup> birthday! To recognise this milestone, we are organising a family event with a small fairground, music and entertainment on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September on Martinsfield, Tilehouse Lane UB9 5DA. Please look out for further information.



# *Bible Detectives: What about Artificial Intelligence?*

*by Christoph Lindner*



## *What is artificial intelligence (AI) actually?*

In 1955, John McCarthy, a US professor, coined the phrase “Artificial Intelligence.” He defined it as “the science and engineering of making intelligent machines.” AI was developed to help humans deal with large amounts of data. It helps to apply “algorithms” that analyse the data. Then it uses this information to make decisions.

## *That's good, isn't it?*

It can be very good - already AI can detect first signs of cancer on a scan much more quickly than the human eye. At the other end of the spectrum are photos and videos that are AI generated but look so real that lies can be dressed up as truth. In the end, it is humans who decide what to do with this powerful technology. As such, AI reflects all the good, the bad and the ugly that we are capable of.

## *Is it safer, then, not to use it, if it's so dangerous?*

Some experts do indeed recommend that we need to shut AI down before it becomes too powerful. Often new technologies develop much faster than our ability to control them. Robert J Oppenheimer helped to develop the nuclear bomb to help win the war against Hitler. But when Nazi Germany capitulated in May 1945, he had misgivings about dropping the bomb on Japan. What followed over the next decades was a nuclear arms race. Some would say that AI poses similar dangers.

Having said that, AI already makes a positive contribution in so many areas: medicine, education, car safety and many others. We shouldn't just reject a new technology just because it is new and unfamiliar. The Bible could only spread so rapidly because of the invention of book printing in the 15th century.

## *The Bible was written long before AI. So how can it help us here?*

Well, human nature hasn't changed! From the beginning, people have had the urge to "be like God" and AI can give us enormous control over others. In the story of the Tower of Babel humans make a plan to build a tower so tall that it reaches the heavens to make a name for themselves (Genesis 11). In response God confuses their language and thwarts their plan.

The trickiest question is: What good purposes do we want to use AI for? And can we all come together to establish rules and controls to avoid the bad and the ugly? Governments are well behind on this but catching up on the need for regulation. A simple example would be the requirement for AI-generated photos and videos to be clearly labelled as such.

### *That's just tinkering around the edges, though, isn't it?*

You are right. AI raises big ethical questions for which we don't have very good answers yet. Let me give you just three examples:

#### **(1) Work is important for human flourishing**

Recently Prime Minister Rishi Sunak interviewed the US tech entrepreneur Elon Musk, who predicted that AI would soon get rid of most human jobs. But we know that we need work to flourish. Right at the beginning of the Bible God places human beings in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it (Genesis 2.15). Recently Hollywood script writers went on strike because AI puts their work at risk.

#### **(2) We need to know what is true and what isn't**

In John 8.31-32 Jesus says to his followers, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." It's not enough to say that there are many truths out there and you can believe whatever you like. We know so much in our day, and yet intelligent people often believe ludicrous conspiracy theories, spread by "bot farms" on social media. Others blackmail people with seemingly real, but AI-generated photos. That's a real danger to democracy and to healthy communities where we can trust one another.

#### **(3) Human connection is essential**

As Christians we believe that Jesus shows us the best way to live as humans. The Gospel of John says that "The Word [Jesus, the Son of God] became flesh and dwelt among us." In Jesus, God became a real human being, made of flesh and bones. In the 2013 Movie "Her", a man develops a romantic relationship with an AI virtual assistant, only to find out that 'she' has similar romantic relationships with thousands of other users. Some people say that care robots are the answer to the shortage of care staff. But as humans we are made for real connection, touch and empathy. This is something that we learnt very quickly during the Covid lockdowns!

*Thank you - a lot to think about!  
Oh, by the way, I love your Robot  
Sherlock Holmes at the top!  
Who created that image?*

I did that in seconds with an AI image generator.

# GOD'S GARDENS: CREATION CARE – THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCHYARDS IN THE ECOSYSTEM BY TIMOTHY MACQUEEN

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The churchyard is as definitive an icon of the British countryside as the drystone wall, the rolling green fields and a good old country pub. Tens of thousands of them are spread across the nation and have remained mostly unchanged for hundreds of years. These oases are not only a place of quiet reflection and remembrance of loved ones but also are bursting with wildlife. To hundreds of species, churchyards across the country act as a safe home, bountiful foraging grounds or even a place to raise a family. In Greater London alone approximately 1% of the total land area is covered by churchyards and graveyards. These sites are far less polluted than other areas of green and so are of great value to a huge variety of species.



Many churchyards are remnants of ancient meadows that were once used for hay or pasture, long before the church itself was built. This habitat has been preserved while many other

old wildflower meadows have been cultivated, improved or developed since the Second World War. In fact, only ~ 3% of the pre 1960s area of ancient grassland habitat survives today and, in some parishes, the only remaining area of 'unimproved', species-rich grassland is primarily in churchyards. This unique and scarce habitat supports not only a wide array of plant species which are struggling elsewhere in the country but also supports many animal species. Graveyards in particular are vital habitats for several species of lichen, moss, insects, reptiles and birds with this being particularly important in more urban areas such as Greater London.



At St Mary's we are blessed with a wonderful churchyard and attached graveyard which is maintained by a dedicated team of volunteers. The church benefits greatly from being surrounded by areas of woodland, meadows and chalk streams and with a patient eye and keen ear you can hear and see many different visitors from these habitats enjoying the calm of the grounds. On entering the churchyard your attention is drawn to the two huge yew trees flanking the church building.



This hardy evergreen species is so deeply connected to churchyards that it's far more common to see them there than in the wild. Whenever a new church was built it was tradition to plant a yew tree alongside it, with many of the trees outlasting the building itself, such as the Ankerwycke Yew in Runnymede, which was at least 600 years old when it witnessed the signing of the Magna Carta in the small nunnery which is now in ruins.

**Starting in spring**, the long dormant wisteria bursts into flower joining the daffodils, crocuses and snowdrops.



As the weather warms up, listen out for the many song birds which sing from the large line of trees standing between the church and the golf club. The goldfinches, blue tits, great tits and robins can be found all year round but in spring keep an ear-out for chiffchaffs, black caps and whitethroats, which can be heard at all heights in the trees and scrub after their long migration back to the UK from Africa. This is the time when many of the wildflowers in the grassland begin to emerge after a long winter hiding underneath the undergrowth. To take advantage of this the first butterflies of the year can be seen basking in patches of sun, the large species like the peacock and red admiral hibernate over winter and so can be seen earlier in the year. The first truly new butterflies grown from a caterpillar are often the orange tip and brimstone. On this topic the church building acts as a refuge for groups of ladybirds which gather together and hibernate over the winter where it's warm and sheltered.



**On summer days** watch for woodpeckers - both greater spotted and green - and in the evenings you may even spot a few of the many species of bat which live in the UK. Come to the church around dusk and look up at areas of the sky where the bats will be silhouetted, alternatively you can use any street lights as bats will fly along roads, rivers and hedgerows hunting for insects. Bats roost in a variety of places including trees, under roof tiles and in between gaps in the brickwork of buildings. You can thank them for keeping the number of mosquitoes and other pesky insects in check.

**In autumn** the fungi spring up showing just how many of them there are under the surface, quietly helping the entire ecosystem function. The many mushrooms and puffballs which grow around the churchyard act as the fruit of the fungi with their main body being hidden below. Fungi not only recycle the leaves and wood that fall year-round, but also make up the invisible web of connected plants allowing them to communicate, warn each other of

danger and share resources to trees and plants which are struggling. Some parent plants have been found to support their offspring using this network by sending them food and water when they are just starting out as saplings. This network takes a long time to establish which is why the churchyards history of remaining unchanged and protecting our site is vital for its health.

**Finally, when winter comes back** round again, many of our summer birds move out and we get an entire new group of winter birds move in. Look out for fieldfares, redwings and other thrushes, which love to sit in fruiting hawthorn, ivy and blackthorn bushes. In the neighbouring golf club tufted ducks, shoveler ducks and sometimes even oystercatchers relax on the larger ponds. In nature, winter is a time of rest and hibernation, maybe we can learn from this and also take time to rest and recover. Find time to wrap up warm, slow down maybe with some friends or family and enjoy each other's company and the warmth of fellowship. After all, there's little better in the world than a warm drink in a comfy place when it's absolutely freezing outside.



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# DENHAM VILLAGE FAYRE

Monday 27th May, 10am - 4pm

10am - Fayre opens with a peel of the St Mary's church bells

Have a Go at Chiming – St Mary's 11am and 1pm

Brass Band on the Green – 11.15am, 12.45pm, 1.30pm, 3.30pm

Uxbridge Accordion Group – 12 noon in St Mary's

Punch & Judy on the Green – 12 noon, 1.30pm, 3pm

Tours of St Mary's – 12.30pm, 2.30pm

Dave Dunbar in the Swan – 1-3pm

Local children's artwork competition display – in St Mary's all day

Also look out for a wonderful array of Independent Stalls, Classic Cars, Vespas, Street Food Vendors, Fairground Rides, Children's Corner, Tombola's, Vestry Teas, Refreshments in the Village Hall, Drinks served by the Village Pubs, Grand Raffle (top prize £500)... and so much more.

Thank you to everyone on the Fayre Committee who have helped to bring the Fayre back.

Generously supported by our two main sponsors: Carter Duthie and Lightning Recycling

All proceeds from the Fayre help fund the upkeep of St Mary's Church (see p.6)

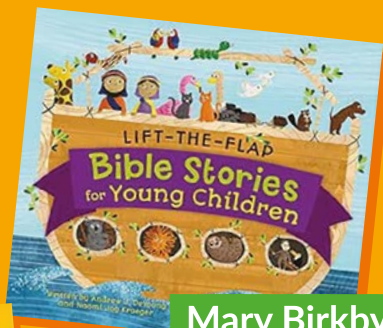
## COME JOIN THE FUN!

# My Favourite

Recommended by our pre-school  
and primary schoolers



Lizzie Holden



Mary Birkby



Zachary Sole



Zoe Sole



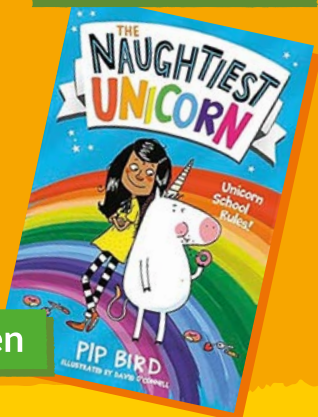
Addiena Davies



Gwilym Davies



Katie Holden



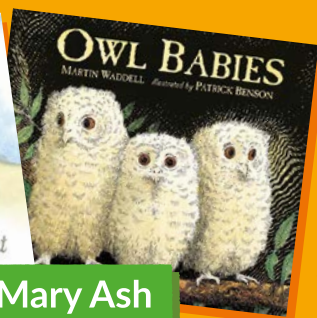


# children's books...

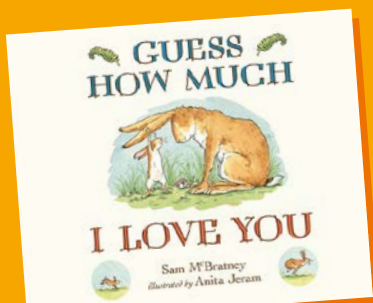
Childhood memories from those over 21!



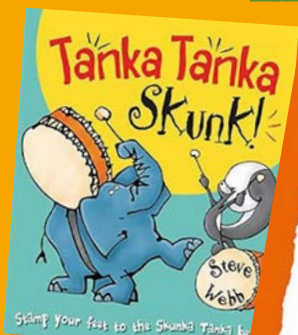
Mary Ash



Lynn Peters



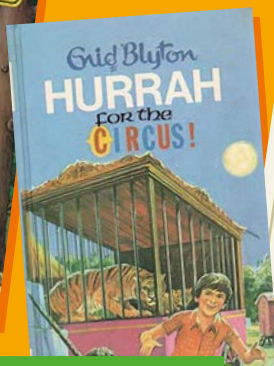
Jane Brown



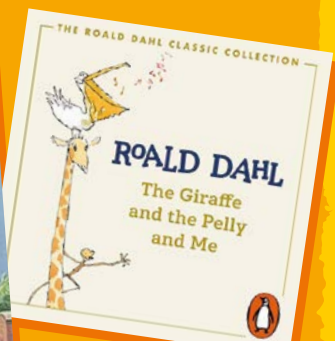
Sonja Clements



Kath Sole



Ann Collins



Jon Holden

# The story behind Denham Brewing Co

by James Kenworthy

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Back in 2020 and during 'lockdown', I decided it was an ideal time to try to bring to life an idea I had been thinking about for a number of years, which was to create my own beer business, with the aim to make beers which I and others would (hopefully!) enjoy. As a village, we have amazing pubs but no brewery, so I thought it would be fun to make an interesting and different lager under the banner of 'Denham Brewing Co'.

I had no previous brewing experience, but this did not deter me from trying to create something unique, so my initial idea was to create a lager that appealed to both lager and ale fans. Being a fan of both India Pale Lagers (a lager hopped like an ale) and New England IPAs (a characteristically hazy beer in appearance, heavily hopped with American hops that give the beer a tropical fruit aroma and taste), I wanted to make a unique hybrid of these two styles, which to my knowledge, no-one in the US or UK was making.

After much research, talking to many different brewers and breweries about this mad idea, and of course sampling lots of different beer varieties, I settled on the style of beer and hops I wanted to use, and after finding the right brewery to work with and develop the recipe for my new lager, the end result was 'Hazy New England India Pale Lager' - a straw-coloured, juicy and well-hopped lager.

Feedback since the first batch was brewed in late 2020 has been very positive (including much appreciated support from Christoph and Edda Lindner!) and I think this experiment has successfully achieved my goal of it appealing to both lager and ale drinkers. In April 2024, I was delighted to find out it won a Bronze Award at the 2024 London Beer Competition. It has been an immensely satisfying and enjoyable process making something which people enjoy, and the plan for the future is to grow the business and expand the range of beers, based on the input and feedback from Denham drinkers and pubs to make beers that people really want.

Thank you for everyone's support to date and cheers to the future!

[www.denhambrewingco.com](http://www.denhambrewingco.com) (message James to discuss free local delivery)



*Editor's Note: Come and meet James at the Denham Village Fayre!*

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# Rend Collective Campfire Tour

My Lighthouse, my Lighthouse, Shining in the darkness I will follow you.

You might have heard of the above lyrics from the song, My Lighthouse, by Rend Collective.

On Saturday 17th February 2024 Rend Collective played at the O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire. A group of us from St. Mary's took the opportunity to experience one of the foremost contemporary Christians bands of our time and the evening did not disappoint.

Originally from Northern Ireland, Rend Collective have found global fame with a big following in the US. Being a collective, they have had many band members over the years and this concert was to celebrate 10 years since the release of their Campfire album. On stage was a mock stone campfire with orange glow and smoke to symbolise a campfire.

As well as writing their own worship songs they have rejigged some old favourites like Be Thou My Vision, which was both uplifting and energetic. Although we were sitting high up and could not see the words on the screen, it did not matter as we knew most of the songs and were able to sing and jig to the music anyway.

It was very refreshing gathering together with Christians from various places, to have a fun-filled evening of praise and worship. The family sitting next to us came from Brighton. It felt especially poignant singing Build Your



Kingdom Here, together and declaring "we are your Church!"

What impressed me about the evening was the broad range of instruments that the band played, including a Jingling Johnny, which is like a staff with bells attached, which can be shaken or stomped to get different sounds. Other highlights were our children waving glowsticks to the music and singing at the top of their voices. During one song the whole audience had their mobile phone torches on, and a confetti cannon went off at the end.

During the tour, Rend Collective partnered with World Vision to highlight the plight of child marriage across the world and encouraged audience members to support them by sponsoring a child living at risk of child marriage.

To find out more visit:  
[www.worldvision.org.uk](http://www.worldvision.org.uk).

Tim and Kath Sole

# FAMILY REGISTER OF DENHAM PARISH CHURCH

## CREMATATIONS

11.01.24	Pamela Ethel Gough (86), Farnham Royal
06.03.24	Phyllis (Joy) Evans (92), Denham
27.02.24	Stella Sherer (80), Denham Garden Village

## BURIALS

14.01.24	Berenice Mary Cakebread (90), Denham
11.01.24	Patricia June White (91), Denham Green



Phyllis Evans



Pat-White

## 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.





## BAPTISMS

04.02.24	John Junior Christopher, Denham
18.02.24	Everly Sonia Fipkin, Hazlemere
03.03.24	Louis Atkinson, Denham
07.04.24	Noah Peter James Wakeham, Denham
07.04.24	Luke Elvis Memphis Taylor, Denham



John Christopher



Louis Atkinson



Noah & Luke



Everly Fipkin



## GOD IN THE LIFE OF IAN AND SUSAN BICKERSTAFFE AS SHARED AT CAFÉ CHURCH, FEBRUARY 2024

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**Susan:** My parents moved out from London when my twin sister Jan and I were 18 months old and I lived in Denham until I got married. At the age of 10, I became aware of my own mortality and worried about what would happen when I died. As a Girl Guide, I tried to keep the promise to 'do our duty to God' by praying, reading the Bible and going to church but it didn't really mean anything to me. A few years later I was going through a rough patch and my sister encouraged me to go with her to a church youth group in Uxbridge. In 1973 (when I was 18), the group travelled to London for Spree 73, a big rally where Cliff Richard shared how he became a Christian and Billy Graham preached on Revelation 3:20

*Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.*

Billy asked if anyone wanted to accept Jesus into their life, to stand up. I really wanted this, so stood up. It was amazing. The next day I had a hunger to read the Bible and a peace and joy that I had never had before.

After my parents' marriage broke down, a friend encouraged my Mum to talk to someone at St Mary's in Denham. They very gently shared with her how Jesus had also been let down, betrayed and rejected and showed her how Jesus could identify with what she was going through.

**Ian:** I grew up in the Methodist church and joined the RAF as an electronics apprentice when I was 16 years old. Part of our routine was to march every 4 weeks, to attend the RAF station church parade. That's where I met Ken and Margaret Crummack. Ken was a sergeant and an instructor at the electronics school. There was something about their life that really caught my attention, they weren't just church attendees. They were real, genuine people who weren't ashamed to talk about Jesus and to be known as Christians. I had a great deal of respect for Ken and used to go to their house where they shared with me what it meant to be a Christian. They explained the reason Jesus died on the cross was so that all my failures and the things I had done wrong could be placed on him, the punishment for my sin would not fall on me but would fall on Jesus. So, when it came to judgement day, there would be no sin left. Wow – to me, that was life changing, I was so relieved.

No longer did I have to worry about being good enough, though that didn't mean I could do whatever I wanted!



This verse in the Bible helped me:

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.* (Ephesians 2: 8-9)

I was posted to RAF West Drayton and attended Waterloo Road Free Church where one day, when I was talking with my friend Dean, a very rude young woman interrupted us and started talking to Dean, totally ignoring me. I looked up to see who it was and thought 'you can interrupt my conversation any time you like!' We were married 14th April, 1979.



**Susan:** We were very happy and bought a house but despite fertility treatment, we were unable to have a family. I found it really upsetting when other people were getting pregnant and I was angry with God. I had read the story of Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 17) and felt that God had given me a promise that we too would have a big family. So why hadn't God answered my prayer? I saw a poster with these words '*Father, I do not always understand you but I trust you.*' And knew that's what I had to do.



**Ian:** We sponsored a little girl in Nepal called Pemba Llamu, and in 2006 I was able to visit and then we also started to sponsor her friend Alina. We visited again in 2008 and without us asking, these little girls called us 'mother' and 'father'. We have visited several times over the years and are now involved with supporting the school, home and local church in Kathmandu. I really never expected God to answer our prayer for a family in that way.

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.* Romans 8:28

**Ian:** Over the years I have been subject to depression, anxiety, panic attacks and on one occasion, a serious breakdown. But no matter what I have gone through, I know that nothing can ever separate me from the love of God.

**Susan:** When I left teaching I worked as a civil servant at our local RAF station and had such a hard time with one of my bosses, that I asked for a transfer. I was offered a post back at the site where I had worked previously. I knew that just as Jesus has forgiven me, He wanted me to forgive her. That was hard. But love and forgiveness often start as an act of the will, and then the feelings follow.



# SEED BOMBS

## You will need



by Kath Sole

- A plastic bottle, quarter filled with water
- Cut off thin tights or a knee-high sock
- 12 sheets of toilet roll (makes 2 seed bombs)
- Seeds - Choose seeds that can be planted at the time of making)
- Food colouring
- Plastic tray or bowl
- Small silicon moulds.



## Step 1

Tear up the toilet roll into small pieces roughly about 2cm x 2cm. Stuff the pieces into the bottle.



## Step 2



Put the lid on the bottle and shake several times until the tissue has broken up and it looks like mush.



## Step 3

Add the seeds and food colouring, to the desired shade. Put the lid on and shake again.



## Step 4



Take off the lid and place the knee-high sock over the neck of the bottle. Over the bowl or tray, tip the bottle upside down until the contents collect in the sock. Remove the sock and squeeze out the water.



## Step 5



You should have what looks like a ball of clay in the toe of the sock, remove it and put some in the silicon mould. Press down with a sponge to remove more moisture.



## Step 6

Leave to dry for at least 24 hours and pop out of the mould.



## ELEANOR ELSIE BAUMANN DISTRICT NURSE IN DENHAM FROM 1952 TO 1972

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Eleanor Elsie Baumann who spent 20 years as the District Nurse in Denham from 1952 until her retirement in 1972, resided at "Nurses Cottage," as it was then known, at 'Coronach' Old Mill Road, Denham.

She was a lady small in stature but big in heart and, prior to moving to Denham in 1952, her life had begun on the 27th January 1912 in Norwich. She was the second child of the Reverend Herbert William Baumann and Winifred Mary Wharton who had married, in Norwich in 1908. Her Father Herbert William was a graduate from Corpus Christi College at Cambridge University and her mother, Winifred Mary, was from the Wharton family of 'landed gentry' in East Harling, Norfolk. From the very early days of her life, as her father was a Rector (Minister), she was brought up with a background

of religion, which Eleanor kept up all her life.



In 1913 her parents moved from Norfolk, because her father became the minister in Oldham, Lancashire and then in 1923 again moved on to Walmesley, near Bury also in Lancashire, as again her father became the minister there. Eleanor was educated at Hulme Grammar School in Oldham and then later at the Bury Grammar School where she completed her education. Eleanor always wished to be a nurse and in her formative years studied and gained qualifications in midwifery, general nursing and health visiting. She then went on to study at the Hulme Day Nursery in Manchester and began her medical career at Booth Hall Children's Hospital also in Manchester, after which she moved back down to London, leaving her family up north, and went on to train in nursing at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, followed by working at St. Mary Abbots Hospital in Kensington.

At the outbreak of World War 2 Eleanor joined the RAF Nursing Service, based in Uxbridge and was sent to the Gold Coast (Ghana) and to Pretoria, South Africa, looking after the war wounded and sick. Following the War Eleanor trained in maternity medicine and fully qualified as a midwife/ District Nurse.



On qualifying she moved back up north for a year to work at the Liverpool Maternity Hospital.

Her first posting as District Nurse was at Leighton Buzzard in Bedfordshire in 1950 and two years later, in 1952, Eleanor moved to Denham to work there based at 'Coronach' Old Mill Road. The rest they say is history, some Denham residents may just recall the famous 'Mini' cars that Eleanor buzzed or travelled around in when making her many medical calls not only in Denham but in Gerards Cross and other local villages when staff holidays necessitated her attention or other reasons. I believe that over 300 babies were brought into the world assisted at birth and tended to by Eleanor, not to mention the many callouts, day or night, and holidays for every medical problem as well as births.

When Eleanor retired in 1972, she enthusiastically set about involving herself in local community activities with great commitment and energy, such as weighing of babies, general fund raising and helping in various ways at Denham Church, which was dear to her! She loved nature, gardening, which was reflected in her very favourite hymn "Morning has Broken".

She loved animals, particularly cats. She also loved touring when



holidaying both in the U.K. and worldwide and made a bee line for any religious establishment, such as cathedrals, all churches, temples etc. She told me that one of the highlights in her life occurred in 1979 when she visited the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, Utah, where our family have relatives. Eleanor loved London and everything to do with it and she even made a trip to Russia as well as many European countries.

Eleanor spent her twilight years at Alexander Korda House, Denham, in sheltered accommodation, which after a period was closed and she, regrettably in her eyes, had to leave Denham to live at Kiln Court, Beaconsfield. But by this time her mobility and health were deteriorating rapidly and after stays at Amersham & High Wycombe Hospitals the family had her placed at 'Denham Manor' Nursing Home where after only 3 days Eleanor passed away on the 15th February 2008.

Her well attended funeral took place at Denham Parish Church on Tuesday 26 February 2008.

**Charles Baumann (Nephew)**



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