

MARCH 2025 - MAY 2025

DENHAM PARISH NEWS

Easter Craft
Village Fayre
Come and Sing!



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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends

Welcome to Denham Parish News! If you have been reading for many years or just picked up a copy today, it's good to have you with us.

Having been without a fayre for more than 50 years, in 1925 the Village Fayre was restored, ably organised by Lady Victoria Braithwaite. The funds raised that year helped to repair the rafters of St Mary's church. Over the last 100 years, money raised by the Fayre has continued to be used for the upkeep and maintenance of this historic and beautiful building at the heart of our village and the beams in the Tower now need attention!

Find out how money raised last year supported both the church and local communities and the many ways you can be involved to make this a special centenary year (p.6)
Monday 26 May, 10am-4pm.



As well as our Easter egg hunt and special Easter services, on the eve of Palm Sunday, Saturday 12 April, you are invited to 'Come and Sing' John Stainer's oratorio The Crucifixion. For the full experience you can join the choir or maybe you'd prefer to just come to the concert – for more details see the back page.

Also in this edition, Kath shows us how to make origami gift boxes (p.16) – what treats will you hide inside? We introduce Sarah Bennett (p.9) the new Parish Administrator, but sadly have to say goodbye to Azita (p.20) as she moves to take up the position of Vicar of St Francis, Terriers in High Wycombe. Brian continues his 'life and faith' interviews, this time talking with Michele Lee MBE. (p.10). We have a glimpse into the Denham Memory Café (p.14) and the Bible Detective (p.12) returns to explore the question 'Easter, what's the point?'

Whatever you are doing this spring and Easter,
you are always welcome at St Mary's.

Blessings,

Cathy Macqueen

magazine@denhamparish.church



WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE IN? MESSAGE FROM CHRISTOPH LINDNER, RECTOR

Emperor Constantine, with the bishops of the Council of Nicaea (325AD), holding the Nicene Creed

"Then what do you think? What is your philosophy?"

"I just think the whole lot of you are b*****ds," said Leamas savagely.

Fiedler nodded, "That is a viewpoint I understand.

It is creative, negative and very stupid – but it is a viewpoint, it exists. But what about the rest of the Circus?"

"I don't know. How should I know?"

"Have you ever discussed philosophy with them?"

"No. We are not Germans." He hesitated, then added vaguely: "I suppose they don't like communism."

From: John le Carré, The Spy Who Came in from the Cold.



Dear friends,

At the beginning of this year I started to read or re-read all the novels by John le Carré in which the British spymaster George Smiley features. Being a child of the Cold War, I've always been fascinated by stories that probe the motivations and methods of those on both sides of the Iron Curtain, who tried to protect their ideals and way of life. In his novels, John le Carré explores big questions: What do we really believe in? Are there values we all share as a nation? What are the convictions we are willing to fight for? And which methods are legitimate?

For several centuries now, leading thinkers have predicted the death of faith. Science would solve all our problems and we would eventually create heaven on earth. Incidentally, communism was one of those movements which believed that science would ensure the inevitable victory of Marxism-Leninism. But by the end of the 20th century it had failed to bring about the ideal world it had promised and millions of lives had been sacrificed for that elusive goal.

Today, many people believe in “expressive individualism” and

“secular liberalism” – they assume that people will be happy if they are better off than their parents, if technological progress will eventually solve all problems, and if they are able to choose their own identity and values, freed from the shackles of religion and outdated morals.

But something curious is happening. There is increasing evidence that young people in their teens and twenties are significantly more open to faith in God than their parents. Many of them don't believe they will be better off than their parents and they wonder what will be the glue that holds us together as a society if there are fewer and fewer values that we share. They experience polarisation and fake news on social media every day. Some of them yearn for an experience of 'transcendence': What if there is more to life than meets the eye? What if there is a divine being who gives our lives meaning, who loves us irrespective of our achievements?

2000 years ago a revolution started that has shaped our modern world like no other. This new movement of “Christians” insisted that God has shown us what he is like in the person of Jesus, that this Jesus rose again from the dead and is the true ruler of this world - not the Roman Emperor, who also claimed the title of Lord and Supreme Ruler (kurios). They believed (and still believe) that love will eventually conquer hate and that even death cannot extinguish the purposes of this God. Most of the values we hold dear today would not be

thinkable without that revolution. Read Tom Holland's book *Dominion* if you want to explore it in detail.

This year marks 1,700 years since Emperor Constantine gathered Christians from all around his empire in the city of Nicaea to work out what they believed in. They worked out a statement about the true identity of the founder of their faith. In what later became the Nicene Creed, which Christians still recite today, they insisted that Jesus was fully God and fully human. And because of that, we can look to Jesus and there catch a glimpse of God's very own loving face! And only God can make us new and raise us to new life. Because Jesus is fully human, he is with us in our highs and lows and doesn't just look on from a distance. Because he is fully God he gives us a significance and hope that points beyond our earthly life.

Can I invite us to discover the person of Jesus - again or for the first time? Easter is a great time to do that. If you'd like to get some pointers on how you might want to start, please do get in touch.

Christoph



Denham Fayre 2024

How Your Generosity Made a Difference in 2024

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the generosity of our church/village Fayre community. Through your help and giving, we managed to raise **£18,466.54** in 2024 from the re-start of the Denham Village Fayre. This was an amazing amount given the 4-year hiatus due to the Covid pandemic and a completely new committee. These monies have been carefully stewarded to advance our mission and support in our local communities.

Here's how the funds were allocated:

Community Outreach and Charitable Giving (22%)

Santa's Secret Service

Local charity who bring joy to children around Denham and Harefield at Christmas with Santas sleigh and gifts with any monies raised going to assist the local schools.

Dog Lost

Helping our furry friends with this wonderful charity. The monies were used to fund annual subscriptions, cages, blankets, food and much more.

Lighthouse Holiday Club

Run by the church this supported 32 local children during the summer holidays, our donation helped with food, drinks and activities for the week. *This was chosen by the Church.*



Hillingdon Foodbank

Part of the Trussell Trust this foodbank supports over 300 families around the area with an ever-growing need. *This charity was chosen by our sponsors Carter Duthie.*



Denham E-Act Primary Academy

One of our local schools. They were delighted with our donation and will use the funds to update their SEN quiet room with speciality toys.



Trinity Homeless Project

A wonderful project run to help up to 33 homeless people on a short-term basis. They wanted to use our donation to update their Marquee to house recovery groups and have a Christmas dinner/party. *This charity was chosen by our sponsors Lightning Recycling.*



Madelene Paton Lunch club

A wonderful elderly lunch club in Denham Green which gives a lifeline to local residents not only for a delicious lunch but companionship twice a month.



Denham Village School

Another of our local schools. Again, in much need of support, our donation was going toward the update of their library shelving which they hope will encourage and inspire good reading habits for the future.



Harefield Hospital Healing Gardens

This is a wonderfully peaceful and therapeutic space which has been brought back to life for all to enjoy. Our donation has been used in every area; new tools, plants, bulbs, seeds etc for the coming year. *This charity was chosen by our buggy sponsors Smith Garden Centre who have also made it their charity for 2025.*



Church Building Maintenance and Improvements (78%)

At over 900 years old, St Mary's church building often needs some extra tender loving care and the money raised by the Fayre is invaluable in helping with that.

This year the money helped us complete vital work in the 'middle churchyard' area including; removal of basal growth, felling a dead tree, crop and trim of the Yew trees, tidying the graveyard and keeping gravestones clear, regular mowing in season, and clearance of an overgrown area to provide extra space for the burial of ashes.



Thank You for Your Support

Your giving has enabled us to be the hands of Christ, both in our village and surrounding areas. As we move into a new year, we look forward to continuing this vital work together and celebrating the Centenary of the Fayre's re-start after the First World War.

If you are able to assist the Fayre in 2025, either on our committee or as a volunteer on the day, please contact Amy Kenworthy on denhamfayreinfo@gmail.com. All volunteers are essential to continue this amazing Fayre tradition but also to ensure we can continue our important Charitable Giving.

Amy Kenworthy & Kym Grant
Denham Village Fayre Chair & Treasurer

Denham Village Fayre 2025 Monday 26th May, 10am-4pm



For all our Fayre updates please follow us on our Facebook page:

Denham Village Fayre: www.facebook.com/share/1BtFbou1Ez/?mibextid=wwXlfr

We need volunteers to help with car parking, set up/taken down, stewarding, baking cakes and serving refreshments in the Vestry and Village Hall.

To volunteer, please contact: Amy Kenworthy on denhamfayreinfo@gmail.com.

INTRODUCING SARAH BENNETT OUR NEW PARISH ADMINISTRATOR



Why did you apply?

I saw the advert and I thought 'Oh, that's my job and it's just round the corner!' My husband and I moved to Denham 2 years ago after living in High Wycombe for 35 years. For environmental and cost reasons, I'm not that keen on commuting so I'd been looking out for a more local job. I also thought it would be a good way to get to know people locally and integrate into the community. The role is actually very similar to the job I have been doing for a church in High Wycombe for the past 9 years, so it was a bit of a no-brainer to apply!

A little bit of background...

I am married to Richard and we have 2 grown up sons and a grandson who is 2½. Richard and I met when we were at college in High Wycombe. I studied for a degree in 3-dimensional design and worked in the art departments at a couple of schools in High Wycombe.

I still enjoy making and designing jewellery in my spare time. As well as being into arts and crafts, I value the countryside and enjoy walking, visiting gardens and holidaying in Wales.

My faith was deepened through attending an Alpha course and Richard and I are members of the Venture Church in Beaconsfield. When our children were younger, I volunteered to help with the children's work, including a Lighthouse Holiday Club.

I enjoy chatting and meeting new people so please do pop in during office hours, I'd love to see you!

Church Office Opening Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
and Friday: 9.30am – 12pm.
Closed on a Wednesday
01895 832771
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LIFE AND FAITH: MICHELE LEE, MBE BY BRIAN O'REGAN

Good friends listen, care and offer wisdom when they are needed most. Michele Lee (née Ganley) found these qualities in the friend she turned to during a challenging time in 2019. The friend advised her to revisit her faith and meet the new vicar of St Mary's. Michele went to see Christoph and Edda and had a particularly deep conversation with Edda. Edda discussed the Alpha course and Michele signed-up, with husband Nick (enthused by Michele) joining after the first session. The course and the warm community at St Mary's made them realise what they had been missing: Michele felt she "had come home".

She grew up in Weybridge, the only child of parents of limited faith. Her Christian grandmother was her spiritual influence, enhanced by the junior school she attended where prayers were said every morning. She attended Notre Dame, a catholic convent secondary school in Cobham where she boarded during the week, returning home at weekends. Michele's achievements were later recognised with the establishment of the Michele Ganley Science Cup, awarded annually.

On leaving school at 18 Michele started training as a physiotherapist at The Royal London Hospital in



Whitechapel, going home at weekends to attend church. Qualifying in 1981, she secured her first placement in Bath, where despite not settling at the local church, she continued praying and always felt God was leading her. With that confidence and conviction, she specialised in paediatrics. It was a decision that shaped her career and with further focusing, including time at the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, led her into very fulfilling work with children with dyspraxia.

After Great Ormond Street, she took a community post in the London Borough of Newham, where she first encountered children who had been diagnosed with dyspraxia. At the time, treatment options were limited, so Michele started researching the subject and in 1990 published her first book, *Dyspraxia: A Handbook for Therapists*, followed by *Co-ordination Difficulties - Practical Ways Forward*. She began to get known in the field, delivering lectures, conference speeches and writing papers for medical journals. Her development of treatment therapies, including the widely recognised Lee Method, significantly improved outcomes for children with dyspraxia.

Michele was a trustee for 25 years of the Dyspraxia Foundation including two stints as chair. This voluntary work included fundraising and increasing awareness in schools and healthcare settings.

Michele met Nick in 1976 at her godparents' house, just opposite Nick's parents! They married in 1986 and settled in Denham in 1994. They have two sons: Tom (b. 1990) lives in Newport, Gwent, with his wife Daniela and their daughter Paloma (20 months). Alex (b. 1994) is in Newbury with his wife Georgie and their children, Skye (3½ yrs) and Mylo (2 months).

It had been a long career road and Michele was taken aback to receive a letter from Buckingham Palace in November 2017. They advised her that she had been awarded an MBE in the new year honours list, 'For services to improving the diagnosis and treatment of children with dyspraxia', and would she like to accept it! When they were allowed to share the news on 1st January, there was great excitement in the Lee household and in the months leading up to the June Investiture. The family drove down The Mall and through those famous familiar gates to their reserved parking place. Now, that's the way to park in central London! Prince Charles made the presentation, taking time to chat to Michele about her work.

On the way home, the boys were hungry, so they dropped into a McDonald's in

their Palace finery – dress, and morning suit and tails for the men!

Nick is a Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon with Hillingdon and Western Eye hospitals and leads the macular and diabetic eye services. He also has a private practice. Since Michele retired, she has supported Nick in his work. Many years ago, Michele had a patient in the British Virgin Islands (BVI) who asked if she would visit to help her son with a neurological condition. This was the start of the couple's love of the BVI and they bought a house on Tortola, the largest of the 36 islands. Nick established a clinical Medical Retina practice and the couple visit four times a year for around a month each time. They use their time and skills for the benefit of the local people and last November they started the first ever Diabetic Retinal Screening on the islands. The free screening was fully booked! They plan to continue this vital work in the coming years.

Note: The OED defines dyspraxia as "difficulty in performing coordinated movements, often associated with a neurodevelopmental condition in children (developmental coordination disorder)." Around 5% of children in UK primary schools are affected. Adults may also be diagnosed with the condition. If you are concerned about yourself or your child, speak to your GP or the child's teacher.

"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



Bible Detectives

EASTER

What's the Point?



Many people believe that Jesus rose from the dead, even some who don't go to church. It is historical fact; it wasn't done in secret. It was news. If the BBC had been there, they would have broadcast it live. There are at least 15 historical references to Jesus meeting people, touching people, and talking with people after he had been crucified. One time he talked to about 500 people after he had risen from the dead.

But what's the point of the resurrection?

1 My past can be forgiven

That's good news. Have you ever been halfway through a project and wished you could start again? A lot of times people feel that way about life. We all have regrets.

A vicar received this letter:

I'm 31 years old and divorced, though I fought the divorce bitterly. I feel bad. I have no hope for my future. Often I go home and cry, but there's no one holding me when I cry. Nobody cares. Nothing changes, and I continue to fail.

There are many people like that, for different reasons. They can't get on with the present and the future

because they're stuck in the past. The message of Jesus' resurrection is explained in Colossians 2.14: "He has forgiven all our sins and cancelled every debt we owe. Christ has done away with it by nailing it to the cross."

This is God's pardon programme. Jesus nailed it all to the cross, so I can quit nailing myself to the cross. He wants to forgive your past. He wants to cancel every debt you owe - emotional debts, relational debts, sins.

2 My present problems can be managed

One of the most common complaints of people is this: "My life is out of control."

It comes in a range of flavours:

- I feel powerless to change the situation...
- I feel powerless to break a bad habit...
- I feel powerless to save a relationship...
- I feel powerless to get out of debt...
- I feel powerless to manage my schedule.

What we need is a power greater than ourselves. We were never meant to live this life in our own power. And here's the good news of Easter: Ephesians 1.19-20 says: "How incredibly great is God's power to help those who believe him, the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead."

The same power that enabled Jesus to rise from death will help you rise above your problems. We don't know what the future holds. But even though it's out of our control, it's not out of God's. He will give us the power to face it. No problem is too big for God. No situation is hopeless if you'll turn it over to him.

3 My future can be secure

You may know the proverb that only two things are certain in life: taxes and death. Let's face it—everybody dies. The death rate still stands at exactly 100 percent. But sometimes we get so busy in the here and now that we don't stop to think about what's going to come. People don't like to talk about death. If you don't believe me, invite your friends for a cuppa and say, "Let's talk about death." See what happens.

There are a lot of misconceptions about heaven. What is it really going to be like? Let's check it out with the source. Here is what the Bible says: Heaven is a perfect place. Total love, total peace, total joy, total perfection. No sin, no mistakes, no evil, no bad, no errors. And in order for us to go there, we have to be perfect, because only perfection can exist in heaven.



You say, "Well, thanks a lot. That leaves me out." Yeah, it leaves me out too. Maybe your reaction is, "I'll never make it if I have to be perfect." And that is the point. None of us will, because none of us is perfect; we've all messed up. So is there any hope beyond death? Yes! Because God's plan is this: He invites us to trust Jesus Christ when he says, "I am the way, the truth and the life." Jesus was the only perfect person who ever lived, because he was God. He came so we could know what God is like. And by trusting and establishing a relationship with him, we receive a hope and future beyond death! John 17.3 says: "This is the way to have eternal life: by knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ, the one he sent to earth."

Jesus' resurrection redeems our past, empowers our present and secures our future. That is truly good news!

Based on an article by Rick Warren

Denham Memory Café

As told by Julia Walsh and Christine Walters to Cathy Macqueen over a cup of tea....

Denham Memory Café is funded and overseen by the Parish Council, opening its doors to the first residents in August 2021. Set up with a remit to support people with dementia and their unpaid carers, the Memory Café is a lifeline for those in the local community, attracting residents from the Ivers and Denham and also open to residents in Gerrards Cross and the Chalfonts. Regularly attracting 28 people, the Memory Café is held at St Mark's Hall Denham Green, on the first Friday of the month. Starting at 11am through to 2pm, the café is a 'haven' offering a warm welcome and an opportunity for coffee, chats and a spot of lunch. Hosted by Julia and Christine and their team of five dedicated volunteers, they have seen friendships develop between carers who continue to support one another even after the café closes.

Looking after someone with dementia is often a 24/7 role and can be quite lonely, so for carers, just knowing that they are not alone and having others in similar situations who they can turn to, is invaluable. Some carers even continue to attend for a while after their loved one has passed away, finding comfort in being able to talk about their loved ones with those who knew them. Christine, a dementia advisor with over 20 years' experience is a wealth of advice,

providing a listening ear, reassurance and is there at the end of the phone when needed.

Set up to be a happy, safe place, activities at the Memory Café are carefully chosen to help evoke the memories of those with dementia and their carer's. Music is a core activity, with regular input from local groups including John from the 'Styles' group and Sarah with her Sunshine Singers who use music to 'promote social connection, emotional well-being, and cognitive and motor skills.'



Sarah and the Sunshine Singers leading Christmas dancing

There is always a chance to dance and sing along together and an Elvis tribute has even come to entertain! Julia and Christine shared a beautiful story of a gentleman who was usually in a wheelchair but on one occasion, stood up to dance with his wife, bringing a tear to many eyes. For those unable to stand to dance, hand-jiving is encouraged! Promoting movement and gentle exercise, Sophie from Chalfont Leisure Centre leads the group in seated chair



exercises, encouraging improved mobility and helping to reduce the risk of falls. Other activities include quizzes, games and crafts. The crafts are often linked to a theme, such as the beautiful poppy collages made last Remembrance season. Many of the carers were surprised at how those with dementia engaged with this, not just creating unique pictures but sharing memories from living through the war years.

The Chiltern Open Air Museum is a favourite excursion, with the volunteers from COAM pulling out all the stops to make the visit as engaging as possible. Seeing the prefab (Universal House Mark 3 design), in particular the green colour of the walls and soft furnishings and the Anderson air raid shelter in the garden, resonated with many, jogging memories and prompting animated conversations about life during and after WW2.

The Rah Rah theatre company visited in the New Year, cleverly including and engaging the audience in their re-telling of Little Red Riding Hood. Other special activities coming soon include an opportunity to see and hold

a range of small animals and insects and then the Memory Café fete in the summer. This will include favourite music and singing, as well as offering a fun time for those with dementia as they play traditional fayre games such as hook-a-duck or bowling, and enjoy the bubble machine and eating candy floss and ice cream together.

Who can attend?

Local people with dementia, attending with their unpaid carer.

Often referred by Social Prescribers, GPs, or self-referrals.

For further information, please contact:
Christine Walters: 07788 773411
or Julia Walsh at
info@denhambucks-pc.gov.uk

Denham Memory Café

11am-2pm

St Mark's Hall, Denham Green

Friday 7th March

Friday 4th April

Friday 2nd May

(held at Chiltern Open Air Museum)

Friday 6th June

Visit www.denhambucks-pc.gov.uk for information about other activities the Parish Council organise as part of their community services, including Sunday Afternoon Social and Bingo at New Denham Community Hall, and the Music on the Green events.

Origami Gift Box

By Kath Sole



You will need

2 sheets of A4 card or thick paper, scissors, a pencil and a 30cm long ruler.



Step 1

Using the ruler to measure, cut one sheet of paper to 21cm by 21cm and the other 20cm by 20cm. You will have two squares one slightly larger than the other. The larger one will be the top of the box and the smaller one the bottom.



Step 2

Take one of the squares, place the ruler diagonally across the square, corner to corner and make a line in the middle of the square. Do the same for the other two corners, so you have a cross marking the centre of the square.



Step 3

Fold all the corners into the middle point.



These little giftboxes are easy to create and can make a special gift even more special. They are perfect for Easter mini egg or a few chocolates for Mother's Day. The colours you use can be adapted to suit any season or occasion. You can use plain or patterned thick paper or card.

Step 4

Fold the points of the corners back to the edge. Make sure you make your folds nice and crisp, you can use the edge of the ruler if you like.



Step 5

Fold one edge in towards the middle point. Do the same with the other side.



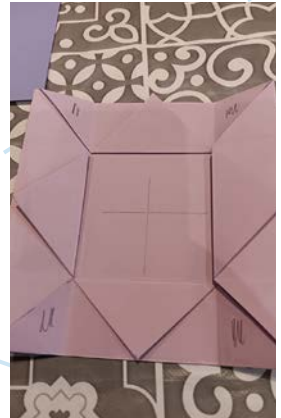
Step 6

Fold out again and fold the other two sides in and out again.



Step 7

You should see some triangle shapes at the corners. Mark two triangles either side of each other like the image and do the same on the other side.



Origami Gift Box

Step 8

Cut out the whole of the triangles that you have marked.



Step 9

Pull out the two sides of which you cut the triangles out. Fold up the triangles on the other side and pull the side out and over the top to form the box. Some people like to stick the flaps down in the middle, but this is up to you.



Step 10

Be as creative as you like. You may want to tie a simple ribbon around it or go to town with glitter and glue.



Step 11 Repeat the steps on the second square of card and slot one over the other to form a box with a lid.

FAMILY REGISTER OF DENHAM PARISH CHURCH

WEDDINGS

14.12.24 Ben Taylor and Zoe Nye
20.12.24 Ryan Walker and Rachel West



BURIALS

13.11.24 Violet Slade (100)
18.11.24 Rosita Rahaman (82)
29.11.24 Kevin Anthony Curran (93)

CREMATIONS

04.12.24 Jeffrey Dunbarton
25.11.24 Joan Evans

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 Sarah will be able to tell you which roses are available, the name of the rose, the colour and the location.



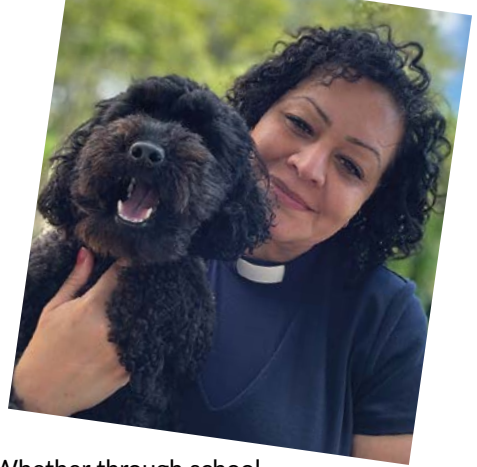
Dear Friends,

From the very first day I joined this wonderful community, you welcomed me with open arms and open hearts. As I reflect on my time as your curate, I am filled with gratitude for the countless ways you have blessed my life. Serving alongside you, sharing in your joys and challenges, and witnessing God's work in our midst has been an honour and a joy beyond words.

From the moment I arrived at St Mary's, you made me feel not just like your curate, but truly part of your family. Your smiles on Sunday mornings, our meaningful conversations over tea, and the countless ways you shared your lives with me have made this place feel like home. Every moment we've shared—whether in worship, fellowship, or service—has been a precious gift that I will treasure always.

One of my greatest joys has been working with our young people. Leading Destiny, our youth group, has been a source of inspiration and hope. Watching their faith grow, hearing their thoughtful questions, and sharing in their laughter and discoveries has been an absolute delight. Their energy and love for God have reminded me time and again of the boundless joy and hope we find in Christ.

Connecting with our wider community has also been a privilege I will never forget.



Whether through school assemblies, Christmas services, the Haven bereavement group, or Holy Communion at our care homes, I have been deeply moved by the way St Mary's embodies Christ's love in action. These experiences have taught me the profound beauty and importance of reaching out with compassion and grace.

The fellowship we have shared in home groups, especially through the 'Joining the Family' course, has been a particular blessing. Walking alongside those exploring or new to the Christian faith has been a reminder of the transformative power of God's love. These moments of praying, learning, and growing together have strengthened my own faith and filled me with hope for the future of this church.

I will never forget our time together with the choir. Sunday mornings would not have been the same without our cheerful "good mornings" and the moments of prayer that grounded us before each service. The joy of creating beautiful music together, filled with laughter and shared commitment, brought a special warmth to worship that I will always cherish. Thank you for the harmonies,

the encouragement, and the friendship - it was truly a blessing to be part of this special group.

This season has not been without its challenges, but through every trial and uncertainty, your faith, kindness, and prayers have shone brightly. You have been a living testament to God's faithfulness and the strength of this church family. I have learned so much from your steadfastness and grace, and these lessons will stay with me as I step into the next chapter of my ministry.

Saying goodbye is never easy, but I leave St Mary's with a heart full of hope and trust in God's plans for this wonderful church. I know that the future here is bright and filled with possibilities, and I will be cheering you on and holding you in my prayers as you continue to grow and flourish under God's guidance.

Thank you for the incredible privilege of being your curate. Thank you for your love, encouragement, and support. And thank you for allowing me to be part of your lives. As we part ways, let us hold fast to the promise of Philippians 1:6: *"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*

With all my
love and blessings,
Azita

Azita will be leaving St Mary's on 27 April to take up the position of Vicar of St Francis, Terriers in High Wycombe. It's been a privilege to have her as our training curate since the summer of 2022 and we will miss her! **Christoph**

Thank you Azita for all your stories, sense of fun and innovative ways you have shared your Christian faith. **Cathy**

Azita has such infectious energy and joy for the Lord and she's a great encourager. Her enthusiasm to serve and help the Denham community with such love and grace is palpable - Lighthouse, and its success, was her idea. From the bottom of my heart, I want to Thank You for being you. **Jane**

It has been a joy and a privilege to see Azita's ministry flourish and grow in her time with us. Azita has not only touched the lives of those she has walked along side, she has been a valued member of our church family and leadership team.

Thank you Azita for bringing your faith, friendship and laughter into our lives. **Samantha**

DENHAM WIVES - HAPPY MEMORIES

BY ANN COLLINS

With very mixed feelings our group has now sadly closed.

Originating from the Mothers Union, Denham Young Wives was its younger branch but probably due to the geographical distance between Denham Green and the village, the Wives didn't move on to the afternoon Mothers Union meetings due to picking up children from school etc and working mothers.

However, the ties with the church were not lost and during Lent we provided lunches once a week at St Mark's Hall giving all profits to Christian Aid and later our yearly effort with Vestry teas was also given to this cause.

We have had some delightful speakers at our monthly meetings and a yearly outing to various National Trust properties were always enjoyable. Likewise, our annual January party proved to be hilarious with our famous parcel game and scrumptious food.

I would like to thank all members for their friendship and support over the years and happy memories of those ladies no longer with us.

Our final meet up was lunch at Denham Garden Village restaurant (18 members attended) and it was generally agreed that we do the same in the summer and keep our friendship alive - what a good idea!



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM) ST MARY'S CHURCH DENHAM MEMBERSHIP ELECTORAL ROLL 2025

Every six years a new electoral roll is prepared and those on the previous roll are informed so that they can re-apply.

Enrolment is open to anyone residing in the parish that has been baptised and is aged 16 or over. Those residing outside the parish must also have habitually attended worship in the parish over the preceding six months before enrolment.

Application Forms will be sent via St Mary's internal post to members listed on the current roll for completion. Anyone not currently on the Electoral Roll can obtain an application form from the Church.

Further details can be obtained from Maurice Litchmore, Electoral Roll Officer, via the Church Office. **Closing date: 23 March 2025**

What's Happening

AT DENHAM PARISH CHURCH?



TODDLER GROUP

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kathypaine16@gmail.com

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Contact: Christoph Lindner
rector@denhamparish.church

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For young people
aged 10 and older

St Mark's Church Hall
Second Sunday, 5pm-7pm
9 March, 13 April, 11 May & 8 June

Contact: Tim or Charlotte
destiny@denhamparish.church

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday 20 April, 10am
At St Mary's



Sunday Services

At St Mary's: 9am and 10.30am

Online: www.tinyurl.com/youtube-denham

Small 'Lifegroups' available during the week

Please contact the Office for details of days/times



UPDATE ON ST MARK'S HALL, DENHAM GREEN BY MIKE STEWART, PCC TREASURER



St Mark's Hall in Denham Green replaced the existing wooden chapel on that site just over sixty years ago and has given Denham Green and the parish as a whole great service but the Parochial Church Council (PCC) believes that the time has come to give it a major refurbishment to make it fit and ready for the next sixty.

This dream has been considered by the St Mark's Hall Committee and by the PCC for several years now but the cost of such a scheme was always more than we could afford without taking unacceptable financial risks.

However, this roadblock has recently changed and due to some extraordinarily generous donations we now have most of the funds to not only turn this ambition into a reality but also to set aside cash for some urgently required repairs to St Mary's Church and the surrounding churchyard.

We have not yet reached the financial targets we need but we are confident

that they can be obtained from applications to specialist grant giving bodies and from the support of the wider Parish community.

To enable this the PCC is setting up a Grant Application Team and anyone who would like to join this team should please contact either the Parish Administrator or the PCC Treasurer Mike Stewart.

Last year the PCC set up a St Mark's Hall Development Team who have been working with Evans Crawley, the Parish's Chartered Surveyors, to develop a plan for the Hall that can take the project forward within the agreed budget.

Over the autumn of 2024 a number of ideas were considered and discussed in detail. Some ideas fell by the wayside as being impractical, too expensive or perhaps just not what we needed but steadily a consensus emerged that would see St Mark's Hall refurbished and enlarged so that it became a more flexible and substantial site.

At a meeting of the Project Team early in December the outlines of a proposed scheme were agreed and Evans Crawley were asked, yet again, to change the drawings to reflect this consensus. This was done and earlier this year a Preliminary Application (Pre App) was sent to the Buckinghamshire Council Planning department for their initial



comments. As we go to press this feedback has not been received but since our proposals appear to be fully compatible with their stated plans for the area, we are not expecting any push backs and we will welcome any positive suggestions they might have that enables us to take this project forward without delay.

The Project Plans were presented to the PCC at a meeting in February when they were received with enthusiasm and a number of suggestions were made that were exciting and helpful and will be incorporated into the final plans.

It is worth pointing out that the County planners are more concerned about exterior elevations, road use and parking concerns but in many ways we the users are more concerned about the inside of the new building, and as we progress through the formal Planning Approval process the PCC and the Project Team will be holding consultations with existing users and the local community.

As I write this, I can hear you politely laugh as the concept of “consultations” does not have a good name, but I hope you will see this as the exception to the rule. So far almost everyone who has considered what we are doing has made helpful observations and there is no reason to think that this will not continue to be the case. So, when the time comes, please do come to the Consultation Meetings and share your thoughts.

So, what are we proposing to do?

In brief the existing hall will become a more flexible space aimed primarily at becoming a social meeting space, suitable for all ages. The kitchen will be refurbished.

A new main hall of 120 square metres, about twice the size of the existing hall, will be constructed alongside the existing hall. The outside area both parking and the green space will be replanned in line with County requirements.

The Project Team are determined that the new building will meet and where possible exceed all current Building Regulations with particular attention to optimum insulation and energy efficiency, so that we can all look on this refurbished hall with pride for many years to come.

St Mark's Hall is regularly hired at present by a variety of groups, including the Denham Memory Café (see article p.14), Café Church, Little Lions, Rainbows, Brownies, and the Madelene Paton Lunch Club.

**If you would like to hire St Mark's please contact:
Church Office: 01895 832771 or bookings@denhamparish.church**

PARISH DIRECTORY

www.denhamparish.church

Church Office: 01895 832771
office@denhamparish.church

Office times

Mon: 9.30 - 12pm
Tue: 9.30 - 12pm
Wed: Office closed
Thurs: 9.30 - 12pm
Fri: 9.30 - 12pm

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01895 834733
rector@denhamparish.church

Training Curate

Revd Azita Jabbari

azita@denhamparish.church
07837 232542

Children and Families

Edda Lindner - 07944 557814

Churchwardens

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LENT AND EASTER at St Mary's Church



Wednesday 5 March: Ash Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)



Sunday 30 March: Mothering Sunday

CLOCKS GO FORWARD!

10.30am Mothering Sunday Family Service



Saturday 12 April: Concert

3.00pm John Stainer's oratorio "The Crucifixion"
Book your tickets: www.denhamparish.church/stainer



Sunday 13 April: Palm Sunday

10.00am Palm Sunday Procession

10.30am Sunday Service with Sunday Club



Thursday 17 April: Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Holy Communion Service



Friday 18 April: Good Friday

10.30am An Hour at the Cross with Sunday Club



Sunday 20 April: Easter Sunday

9am Holy Communion

10am Easter Egg Hunt

10.30am Family Service



www.denhamparish.church/events



Come and Sing in John Stainer's

CRUCIFIXION

St Mary's Denham, Saturday 12 April

This event will be led by our choir master Stephen Armstrong who is an experienced conductor and has been musical director of a range of choirs, including aLUMNI in Cambridge.

John Stainer's oratorio *The Crucifixion* was composed in 1887 and has been performed annually at Marylebone Church since then. It includes well known pieces such as *All for Jesus* and *God so Loved the World*.

Howard E. Smither describes the piece as "the most important English work on the Passion". He observes that structurally the work owes much to J.S. Bach's repertoire of Passions, and also notes its popularity for Passiontide church performances throughout the English-speaking world.

Join the Choir!

The day will start with **registration at 9.30am**. After a morning rehearsal, there will be a lunch break, then the dress rehearsal and the **performance at 3pm**. We will be joined by excellent musicians (organist and soloists) to make this an unforgettable experience.

Please note that lunch will NOT be provided but you are welcome to stay at St Mary's to eat your packed lunch (hot drinks will be provided through the day).

A ticket for the whole experience is **£10**.
and you can also hire the music for **£1** if you need it.

Please sign up here: www.denhamparish.church/come-and-sing-2025

Would you like to come to the concert, rather than sing in the oratorio?

Come to the Concert!

Doors will open at 2.45pm and the performance will start at 3pm and last for about 45 minutes. Concert tickets are **£8** (to be paid on arrival).

Sign up here: www.denhamparish.church/stainer

This will be a special concert on the eve of Palm Sunday. Please spread the word!