

JUNE 2025 – AUGUST 2025

# DENHAM PARISH NEWS

LIFE & FAITH  
FAREWELL AZITA  
SUMMER CRAFT



# CONTENTS

---

- 3 From the Editor
- 4 From the Rector
- 6 Farewell to Azita
- 8 Samuel's Visit to the UK
- 10 Life and Faith: The Soles
- 13 Craft Corner – Sultry Summer Tealight Holder
- 16 The Manor of Denham Dur(e)dent
- 19 What's Happening?
- 20 Bible Detective: Do Religion and Politics Mix?
- 23 Film Review: King of Kings
- 24 My Favourite Walk
- 26 Parish Directory
- 31 Family Register
- 32 Lighthouse Holiday Club

Cover: Lighthouse Holiday Club Leaders 2024.

**PRICE £1.50 PER ISSUE OR SAVE MONEY BY BECOMING A SUBSCRIBER:**  
£5 per year for 4 Issues (December, March, June, September), includes free delivery if you are local. Please email: [magazine@denhamparish.church](mailto:magazine@denhamparish.church) or call: 07599 934173 for more details.

Disclaimer: We are very grateful for the support of our advertisers. However, as a church we do not endorse their products or services in any way. Any services they provide for you would be contracted by you – their customers – and we cannot be party to any difficulties encountered.

## FROM THE EDITOR

---

I'm writing this as we start the week of VE Day 80 celebrations. We didn't go into London to see the parade, but were fortunate to see the four typhoons fly over our house after they had completed their flyover down The Mall and Buckingham Palace. I spent the afternoon gardening, planting flowers and reflected on how during the Wars, digging and planting would primarily have been for vegetables, produce that could be eaten. However, I found a delightful quote from the Sutton & Sons (1918) catalogue, extolling the value of also planting flowers *"Undoubtedly all expenditure outside the limits of necessity must be drastically cut down. Yet flower gardening, if intelligently undertaken, need not result in any serious outlay, and flowers have the power of cheering the sad and suffering to a degree obtainable in no other way."* [Suttons.co.uk\\_war](http://Suttons.co.uk_war) time flowers

This Issue includes contributions on the theme of 'my favourite walk' (p.24) describing where bluebells and rhododendrons can be enjoyed in season – I hope you too will be able to enjoy flowers on a walk, in your garden, or some cut flowers in a vase at home this summer. Maybe you could even give some flowers to a friend?

Kath's Craft Corner (p.13) describes how to make a sultry summer tealight holder – perfect when sitting outside on a balmy evening or even light it indoors to add atmosphere to your evening meal! Tim reviews the film *King of Kings* (p.22) and Brian catches up with them both (p.10) to explore how their Christian faith has impacted their lives.

We welcomed Samuel (our Mission Partner with Wycliffe Bible Translators, p.8) on his first visit to the UK, but have sadly said goodbye to Azita (p.6) as she leaves St Mary's to take up her new position as Vicar of St Francis, Terriers in High Wycombe.

Dexter is rapidly becoming a fount of knowledge about our church history, telling the tale (p.16) of the Manor of Denham Dur(e)dent, whilst the Bible Detective is back (p.20), exploring the question 'Do Religion and Politics Mix?'

Finally, it is with much excitement and anticipation that we look forward to the Lighthouse Holiday Club – see the back cover for further details.



Blessings,

*Cathy Macqueen*

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

## KEEP SOWING!

### MESSAGE FROM CHRISTOPH LINDNER, RECTOR

---



Photo: Royal British Legion



*Dear friends,*

A few weeks ago, on 8 May 2025, we marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day, the end of the Second World War in Europe. The war had brought untold suffering. Countless lives were lost on the battlefields, among the civilian populations and in Nazi concentration camps. The end of the war led to an eruption of joy. One of the iconic images shows Winston Churchill giving his famous 'V for Victory' sign to crowds in Whitehall. Addressing the people he said, "God bless you all. This is your victory. In our long history, we have never seen a greater day than this. Everyone, man or woman, has done their best."

For younger generations it is hard to imagine the hardships during the war

and the jubilations on VE Day. Last month, it was heart-warming to hear the stories of those who experienced the end of the war and to see members of the Royal Family talking to some of the veterans during a tea party at Buckingham Palace. And 80 years later, that group is shrinking rapidly.

The military procession was formally started by 101-year-old RAF veteran Alan Kennett. British troops were joined by a group of Ukrainian soldiers, parading the flag of their home country. It was a poignant reminder that 80 years later, armies are fighting on European soil again.

And there was one other poignant reminder as the Royal Family was watching the fly-over and waving to thousands of people: This was the first significant commemoration of VE Day

where there was no member of the Royal Family present who already stood on that balcony in 1945. 80 years on the task of preserving the stories of people who lived through those years becomes ever more urgent. This is what the Prince of Wales said when he and his son, Prince George, spoke with 101-year-old Royal Engineers veteran Alfred Littlefield, who served during D-Day.

My parents were seven years old when the end of the war came – when a defeated German nation had to come face-to-face with the horrors of the Nazi years. Many people insisted they had no idea about the atrocities, while others said they had simply obeyed orders. I remember visiting Auschwitz as an 18-year-old and struggling to comprehend the scale of it and the depth of evil perpetrated by seemingly normal people with families of their own.

It has been said that those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it. That's why I was touched by conversations between veterans and young children. The seeds we sow in the lives of young people can bear fruit for the rest of their lives. Every parent knows the importance of passing on their story, their values, their faith to their children.

The legacy of VE Day must never be forgotten and it is rooted in an even more enduring legacy that has shaped our western civilisation for 2000 years: Our values of grace, forgiveness, justice, care for the weak, respect for others and

sacrificial love are ultimately based on the life and message of Jesus Christ. It is crucial that we share it with a generation of children who know less and less about the Christian good news. That's at the heart of our mission as followers of Jesus - here in Denham and around the world.

In the face of overwhelming obstacles, what can we do? Each of us can plant a seed. And together we can do so much more than on our own. During World War II ordinary people were 'digging for victory'. We can do the same thing today. The Bible gives us a list of "fruits of the Spirit": Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control (Galatians 5.22-23). How can we plant a seed of one of those life-giving fruits today? And before we ask whether this is all a bit futile, let's remember Jesus' words: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

It is my prayer that you find inspiration in this issue of Denham Parish News to plant good seeds.

Happy sowing!

*Christoph*





# Thank you Azita!

On Sunday 27 April we said thank you to Azita Jabbari and her husband Kamran. Azita was the 'training curate' (vicar in training) at Denham Parish church for nearly three years. Having finished her training, she has been appointed as vicar of St Francis Terriers in High Wycombe. Her licensing service will be on Wednesday 21 May.

Please note: Azita will not be receiving emails on [azita@denhamparish.church](mailto:azita@denhamparish.church) anymore. If you want to contact her, please send a message to our church office and we will forward it.

Thank you, Azita, for your whole-hearted commitment to the community here in Denham over the last three years.

*We are cheering you on  
in your new parish!*







# Remembering Samuel's Visit to the UK

In February we welcomed Samuel Kpagheri to Denham. Samuel is a consultant for Wycliffe Bible Translators in West Africa and has been a mission partner of our church for many years. He visited supporters of his work, preached in several churches, had planning meetings with Wycliffe UK in Oxford and also did some sightseeing. His time with us went very quickly and our friendship has deepened. Here is what he wrote after his visit:



As swans and other birds swarm in the waters of Thames, so overflows my joy after this visit full of joyful memories in the United Kingdom. I would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of this visit, in particular the Rector of Denham Parish Church who sent many letters for the visa. I'll never forget the welcome supper which was a sign of your love and respect of the ministry of Bible translation. The day I set foot in St Mary's Church, I felt God's presence with the love you showed me. During my stay in England, I felt myself to be part of your family, since I have been given clothes, food and money. I have been invited by families to take coffee and meals, and I have been able to discover many parts of England through people who took me around. I have been received as a prince and went back as a king.

My special thanks go to Christoph and his wife Edda who made me feel like a member of their family in their home with special meals and care.

I also thank Joan Bell, Julie Laughland, Clive, Jane Brown, Paul Davis, Bob and Lesley, Ellen Carter, Ellen, Sole family and all those who contributed to the success of my visit.

May the Lord abundantly bless you.

*Samuel*





# LIFE AND FAITH: TIM & KATH SOLE

BY BRIAN O'REGAN



What a responsibility couples have when they embark on parenthood. Tim and Kath Sole knew this when Zoe was born in December 2012, joined by Zachary in 2016. Whatever the challenges to come, the children would know their parents' commitment to their Christian faith. Their own parents, now proud grandparents, had given them that grounding and by it, they found each other!

They met through an online dating site, where in 2008 Kath (née Harmer) posted her profile making clear that her Christian faith and life was paramount - so take note guys! Well Tim, holidaying in Ireland at the time, did so, and 'winked' at Kath - she 'winked' back and so another Christian family began life. I guess God winked too!

Kath was born in Canterbury but when she was just 6 weeks old, her family moved to Woodbridge, Suffolk, a small port town on the River Deben. The family attended Woodbridge Quay Baptist church where her parents were youth leaders. When she was seven, they moved once more to Hayling Island where they found The Bridge Church would be their Christian home.

Meanwhile, Tim was born in Welwyn Garden City and lived with his family in Hatfield, where keeping the Sabbath, going to church and Christian summer camps were the norm. He left school at 16 and went to college for three years, before taking a gap year. He took a part-time job at Tesco (Wines and Spirits), to save for travels to Australia and New Zealand. It was whilst working there that he realised there was more to life (the Holy Spirit can work anywhere!), and he determined to



explore his faith more. After travelling, he studied at Canterbury Christ Church University, gaining a Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Therapy.

University life was perfect for Tim: he lived with Christians, attended Christian Union and his volleyball team were all Christians. He was baptised in Loch Lomond during summer camp. After graduating in 2003 Tim joined the NHS at Lister Hospital, Stevenage, doing rotations on the ward for five years and later transferred to Enfield.

Kath was in prison when Tim 'winked' her, but before any rumours can take hold, I should add she was *employed* at a Category A Women's prison. It was far from the career she had anticipated when her passion for art led her to study Art & Design at college before earning a Bachelor's Degree in Surface and Textile Design at Northbrook College, Worthing. She spent a few years utilising her talents in retail before undertaking Teacher Training at Greenwich College. It was here, whilst at a Ladies Conference, that lying in bed she dedicated her life to God. She applied for teaching jobs, but what came up took her aback. Teaching art in prison was not on her bucket list! She heard whilst on holiday that the job was hers. "Oh no, God hasn't made me the right person for this" and she planned to turn down the offer. That night God told her in a dream that she was the right person. Who was she to argue with that message and so she embarked

on her career in prison service, initially living on a house boat.

Kath has loved her work, particularly the interactions with prisoners, who shocked her at how 'normal' they were. Most of the inmates had themselves been victims of crime before offending. One day a woman arrived who recognised Kath: she had been at the same Hayling Island school, and had a talent for art. She had got involved with the drugs trade and was serving an IPP (Imprisonment for Public Protection) sentence. This was an indeterminate sentence designed to detain offenders who pose a significant risk of serious harm to the public. Despite being abolished in 2012 those given this sentence mainly continue to be confined indefinitely. Kath finds this approach to fellow human beings tragic and depressing. Some years later this woman died from a heart attack in another prison. These are the personal pains that are part of everyday life for Kath and others working in our prisons. It helps that there is a chapel at the prison where Kath joined a weekly staff prayer group and around 100 inmates attended a weekly service.

Tim and Kath married in 2009 at St Mary's Church in Hampton and found a flat in Denham Green – midway between Enfield and Ashford – which they rented for two years. Then they bought a flat in the same area, where they stayed before moving to their present house in Denham in 2017. ►

Wanting to work locally, Tim moved to Hillingdon Hospital in 2012 where he specialised in occupational therapy memory services. He is now the lead Occupational Therapist. His work with dementia patients is very rewarding, supporting people to live independently.

*One of the highlights for him are the weekly cognitive stimulation therapy sessions at Uxbridge Library.*

Tim's faith has inspired his desire to support other people who need his professional skills to help manage their condition as they cope with dementia. He stresses that the families of patients also need help; he encourages them to understand that one can still live well with dementia. He tries to provide what patients need to continue living in their own familiar homes.

Kath left prison in 2018, feeling a calling from God into ministry. She works for Prison Fellowship, a Christian organisation. One of their initiatives, Sycamore Tree, is a volunteer-led programme that teaches the principles of restorative justice. They deliver the six-week programme in around 60 prisons throughout the UK.

My conversation with Tim and Kath was interrupted by the Tesco grocery delivery. Tim, with able assistant Zoe, took the trays of provisions to the kitchen to unpack and store. Fifteen minutes later the Tesco man returned –

he had given them one wrong tray. Cue Kath to sort it out! Family life – sharing the work and the responsibilities.

Tim and Kath were in the party from St James' who came to St Mary's with Christoph and Edda in 2016. Kath was pregnant and Zachary was born in June that year. Kath is a member of the PCC, a role which Tim also served before family and work commitments forced him to stand down. Zachary belongs to the Boys' Brigade in Uxbridge and Zoe is part of the Destiny youth group at church. The Christian upbringing that Tim and Kath received from their parents is being passed on faithfully to another generation.

Tim's parents, Geoff and Jean, live in Hatfield and continue to run summer camps. Kath's parents, Dennis and Sandy, still live in Hayling Island. Both sets of grandparents are very active Christians in their local churches. They are closely involved with their grandchildren, seeing them at least twice a month. Geoff takes his grandchildren on a monthly nature walk, when he teaches them about God's wonderful creation. Family foundations are continuing to be built on rock for the present and the future.

*"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*



# Sultry Summer Evening Tealight Holder

by Kath Sole

## You will need

- PVA glue
- A glass jar
- Tissue paper
- Old brushes
- Wire (optional)
- Embellishments for the wire (optional)



## Step 1



Mix 50% PVA glue with 50% water and mix well.

## Step 2



Tear up some coloured tissue paper into rough square shapes. You could use scissors for a more uniform look.

## Step 3



Brush the PVA and water mixture onto the surface of the glass jar.

## Step 4



Stick the tissue paper pieces onto the surface of the glass jar.

## Step 5



Repeat until the whole outside surface is covered, overlapping the pieces as you go.

## Step 6



Brush on more PVA mixture over the top of the tissue paper, be gentle because the tissue paper becomes very fragile at this point.

## Step 7



Leave to dry for 12hrs.

## Step 8



Get a 50cm length of wire and wind it around the neck of the jar. Twist the excess of the wire together, making sure the wire is tight around the neck of the jar.

## Step 9



Make a handle for the jar by forming an arch over the jar and secure it by twisting it around the wire on the other side of the jar neck. Use pliers to push in any sharp bits of wire that may stick out.

## Step 10



Put a tealight inside and light it! For a dramatic effect you may want to create lots of different shape jars. You could use different shapes of tissue paper such as flowers or circles.



# THE MANOR OF DENHAM DUR(E)DENT BY DEXTER BROWN

---

On the floor in front of the Altar at St Mary's Church in Denham is a magnificent brass depicting a fine man dressed as a knight of the realm, with a lady on either side of him and their twenty-six children! The inscription reads: 'Here lies Walter Durdent Esq., who died on November 27th 1494 and Agnes and Margaret his wives'. This brass is the earliest physical connection in St Mary's to the Manor of Denham Durdent. This manor is not the same as the Manor of Denham known for its 'Lords of the manor' through the families of the Peckhams, Bowyers, Hills and Ways. It is, however, in Denham but to trace its origin we must go back in time, long before Walter was interred at St Mary's.



A charter dated 1066 records that Denham was given by Ulstan (a noble and probably a relative of Edward the Confessor; one of the last of our Anglo-Saxon Kings) to St Peter's Church in Westminster, better known today as Westminster Abbey. The Domesday Book of William I in 1086 records Denham as having 10 hides (about 1200 acres). It in effect

states that 7 hides were rented out and 3 were held by the Abbot of Westminster Abbey. This split is the birth of the two manors of Denham and Denham Durdent.

Nothing is known of who initially held these 3 hides, but in 1166 the red Book



of the Exchequer of Henry III, records that Angodus Duredent rented the 3 hides for 'half a knights service'. In 1380 Denham Durdent Manor was being used to fund the Chapel of the Savoy in Westminster. About this time, of the Peasants' Revolt (1381) and following the black death, which started in 1348, it appears that Edward Duredent had financial problems. Reverend Lathbury, a Victorian rector of St Mary's and keen antiquarian, wrote 'whether it was that Philip Durdent, his father, had left him penniless, or whether it was that he had been riotous and spendthrift before coming into possession of the estate it is impossible to say, but the millstone of debt seems to be ever about Edward Durdent's neck'. That said the manor remained in their family.

Returning to Walter Durdent, whose brass we started with, there is record of a dispute that he had with the Rector of the church, John Selly. The nature of the dispute is unknown but after arbitration the Parties agreed:

1. "to be of good behaviour to one another and neither side nor their servants to do bodily injury to one another"
2. "Walter Duredent also, to deliver up to John Selly, Rector, a staff belonging to James Wyllson, which was at the church door, and which Walter Durdent had taken away"!

Lathbury conjectures on the origin of the name Durdent. He correlates Duredent to 'Dent-de-fer' or 'Iron Toothed'. Dur also means 'hard' in French. Whatever the meaning, maybe Walter and his descendants could bite viciously! Maybe the Rector had a lucky escape!

In 1512 disaster struck the Durdent family. On 19th April 1512 Thomas Durdent (son of our Walter) and his son Thomas murdered Geoffry Simeon. At the coroner's inquest into the death Thomas senior and junior failed to appear and the Durdents' goods and chattels were seized. ►



Thomas Durdent senior, having presumably fled Denham, sought by legal instruments to pass Denham Durdent to 'friends' in an attempt not to lose the manor of Denham Durdent as well as his possessions. Eventually in 1515, Denham Durdent was sold to the executors of the estate of Henry VII. The Durdent's association with Denham that had stretched back at least 360 years came to an end. Interestingly a year or two later Henry VIII pardoned Thomas Duredent of any crimes he may have committed!

In 1505 Henry VII founded the Hospital of the Savoy. The area of the Savoy being so named as it was once the palace of the count of Savoy. After Henry VII's death his executors collected assets to fund the Hospital. Denham Duredent was one of those. The only surviving building from that era is the Kings Chapel of the Savoy.

In 1553 Denham Duredent was surrendered to the crown (Edward VI) and he gave it for the use of St Thomas' Hospital, Southwark. From this time until 1874 the Durdent Manor was leased to families including Peckhams, Bowyers, Gaylers and Mortens (from 1737). (Thus, the Peckhams and Bowyers did at one time presumably hold both the Denham Manors).



In 1874 it was sold into private ownership by St Thomas' Hospital to Lt General Gerald Goodlake VC and in 1904 it was in the possession of his widow. It was notoriously also owned by Sir Oswald Mosely and is currently still privately owned and called Savay Farm. The name and that of surrounding roads linking it to its past connection to the chapel and then Hospital of the Savoy.

#### References

- Denham  
Lathbury 1904 - History of Denham Hazel Harries 1998 - One Thousand Years in a village church
- Savay Farm  
[https://bucksgardenstrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Savay\\_Farm\\_Denham.pdf](https://bucksgardenstrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Savay_Farm_Denham.pdf)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Savay\\_Farm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Savay_Farm)
- Savoy Hospital  
<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/london/vol1/pp546-549>  
<https://www.royalchapelsavoy.org/history/>

# 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)

### CAFÉ CHURCH

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

St Mark's Church Hall  
3.30pm-5pm  
1 June, 6 July but NOT 3 August  
Contact: Christoph Lindner  
[rector@denhamparish.church](mailto:rector@denhamparish.church)

Save the date

## St Mary's Festival

Sunday 14 September 2025



### Do you like gardening?

Would you like to help keep the churchyard looking beautiful?

The churchyard is looked after by a group of volunteers who meet regularly throughout the year and welcome anyone who would like to join in. Please bring your own gardening gloves and tools (attendance is at your own risk). Tea and Coffee provided.

Contact Dexter at [Dexterbrown125@gmail.com](mailto:Dexterbrown125@gmail.com) for more information.



## Sunday Services

At St Mary's: 9am and 10.30am

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

Small 'Lifegroups' available during the week

Please contact the Office for details of days/times





# Do religion and politics mix?

It was Tony Blair's press secretary Alastair Campbell who famously said 'We don't do God.' But after stepping down as Prime Minister, Mr Blair said already in 2009 at a National Prayer Breakfast in Washington DC, 'I believe restoring religious faith to its rightful place, as the guide to our world and its future, is itself of the essence.'

Many politicians around the world 'do God' - not just in the Islamic world, but also increasingly in the democratic West. Some politicians such as Hungary's prime minister Viktor Orbán frequently emphasise the importance of Christianity and are accused of 'Christian nationalism' by their opponents. After a failed assassination attempt on Donald Trump, he declared that God saved him so he could save America. Some politicians further left on the political spectrum are quite open about their religious views: Former deputy first minister of Scotland Kate Forbes was very clear about her Christian faith when she stood for the leadership of the SNP (she lost that election to Humza Yousaf, coming a close second). Tim Farron, the former leader of the Liberal Democrats, chairs



Christians in Parliament and hosts the podcast A Mucky Business, which explores the intersection of faith and politics. So, do religion and politics mix?

It is not hard to understand why some people would have reservations about such a mix. History is littered with infamous examples of politics and religion making a toxic combination, from the Crusades, through the excesses of the politically powerful mediaeval popes to the Troubles of Northern Ireland and many other areas of conflict today. Some would argue that the church compromised its message when Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire in 380n AD. When the Christian faith is allied to political power, with all that power's



potential to corrupt, the outcome can be destructive.

While the New Atheism of Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens and others seems to be losing ground in our day, there are still frequent calls in the media, especially from those of a secular humanist persuasion, to keep religion out of politics. MPs, we are told, should stick to representing the views of their party and their constituents and not take their cue from their personal faith. Again, we hear that there is no longer any justification for the Church of England to be in the privileged position of having its senior bishops sit in the House of Lords. If religion cannot be eradicated altogether then at least it should be relegated to the private sphere.

So, what can we say in response to all of this? Firstly, it is becoming quite clear, much to the consternation of some, that religious faith is not simply going to die out in the Twenty-first Century. In its various forms, it stubbornly continues to be a vibrant part of our national life, including our political life.

Secondly, the nature of religious faith, or certainly of Christian faith, is such that it simply cannot be reduced to the private sphere. Jesus wasn't party-political and avoided being trapped by a particular party (read for example Matthew 22.15-22), but his teaching on how we should live and what our values should be were highly political.

When Christians pray for God's kingdom to come, and for his will to be done on earth as it is in heaven, they are praying not just for change in themselves, but change in the public sphere, in the world 'out there'. That is why Christian participation has been so strong in campaigns such as Jubilee 2000 and Drop the Debt, that focus on justice for the poor and oppressed. The Theos think tank writes on its website, "Many of our most pressing issues – immigration, mental health, diversity, climate change, meaningful work, human rights and more – have an inherent religious element... We believe that faith, and Christianity in particular, is a force for good in society."

Thirdly, for all the terrible examples of politics and religion mixing badly, there are other instances of them mixing well. Those campaigns just mentioned make good examples, as do politicians like William Wilberforce, whose faith was a key component in his drive to get the slave trade abolished.

So, how should Christians engage with government and the world of politics? The Bible is full of individuals being called to positions of leadership (e.g. Moses, Joseph, Daniel, King David) and it gives a range of answers, reflecting the range of political situations in which the people of God have existed – as oppressed slaves in a foreign country, as an independent and powerful nation state, in exile, as part of a pagan Empire, at times tolerated and at times persecuted. Paul in Romans 13, at a time when Christians are not ►

yet being persecuted by the state, writes that 'Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established' (Romans 13:1). John, however, writing under different circumstances decades later in Revelation 13, symbolises the Roman government as a blaspheming beast from the sea, an object of horror.

This ambivalence is reflected in the way Christians have historically engaged with government and politics. Sometimes they have operated from the inside, as with Wilberforce, but at other times they have worked outside, or even against governments and political systems, as for example the Confessing Church in Hitler's Germany or Christians in the countries of the former communist bloc.

Another possible role is the prophetic, speaking God's truth to those in authority, a role which various churches and parachurch organisations sometimes fulfil in our society today, with mixed responses and results. Nick Spencer, senior fellow at the Theos think tank, argues that flexibility is the key. Christians can act alongside the political authorities of the day when those authorities are pursuing policies and a concept of the public good which is in line with the gospel. However, in the Book of Acts, the Jewish leaders command Peter and apostles not to speak about Jesus anymore and they respond, "We must obey God rather than any human authority" (Acts 5.29). The guiding principles are to always

choose Jesus' kingdom principles over national or political party agendas. That doesn't settle the debate, but it does point a helpful way forward.

Religion and politics can, and do, mix. But it is a mix that needs to be done with care and prayer. At the very least we should be engaged in the decision making in our nation, cast our vote for candidates that represent best our Christian convictions, pray for our political leaders, and support campaigns that reflect gospel values. Last year, Dominic Grieve, the former MP for Beaconsfield, said in an interview with Denham Parish News, "Christianity is rooted in the DNA of Parliament." His story is a good example of a Christian who was and is engaged in the political life. Follow the link below to read the whole article.

For Further Reading:

<https://www.christiansinparliament.org.uk/>

<http://www.theosthinktank.co.uk> –  
Theos think tank

<https://renew.org/christians-and-politics/>

<https://www.premier.plus/a-mucky-business-with-tim-farron>

<http://denhamparish.church/grieve>  
(Interview with Dominic Grieve)

**This article was originally written by James Leach and recently updated by Christoph Lindner.**

# KING OF KINGS

## FILM REVIEW BY TIM SOLE

---

Film trailers can be powerful as within moments we decide if we want to watch the whole film. Earlier this year during a Sunday church service at St Mary's, the film trailer for *King of Kings* was shown. The trailer really appealed to me as it is an animated film covering a Charles Dickens story that he wrote for his children about the life of Jesus, and it included many well-known voice actors'. From this film trailer, my mind was made up, I wanted to see *King of Kings* at the cinema.

Due to be released in time for Easter, from early April I kept checking to see if *King of Kings* would be shown at the Odeon cinema in Uxbridge and was very pleased when I saw it was available locally, as I really wanted to see a Christian film with my two children Zoe and Zachary.

So, I booked 3 tickets for *King of Kings* at 9am on Thursday 11th April. With drinks and snacks, we were ready for the film. As a father myself I liked the aspect of the film when Charles



Dickens was thinking about how to tell the story of Jesus' life to his young son Walter. Walter was very keen on the story of King Arthur and so to get his son's interest, Charles Dickens said to his son I will tell you the story of the *King of Kings*.

What came across in the film was that as Walter learned more about Jesus, the more

he wanted to hear from his father. Charles Dickens tells the story of the birth of Jesus, the life of Jesus, the miracles performed, and his death and resurrection. What I most liked about the film was how the film captured the whole life of Jesus. As a Christian I had grown up with these stories and I feel this film helped pull together the Bible stories that Zoe and Zachary learn about in Sunday club.

Having been baptised and also having had the opportunity to visit the River Jordan in Israel where many of the stories are set, I would highly recommend this film. Maybe in the future we could have a showing of *King of Kings* at St Mary's.

# My Favourite Walk...

We love having walks in parks, it's been one of our favourite things to do as they are a moment of disconnection from everyday life and a moment to reconnect with nature, family and friends, an opportunity to focus on what matters the most.

We have quite a few favourites on our list, each one with their own wonders and charm: Richmond Park, Kew Gardens, Cliveden Park, Rickmansworth, Cassiobury Park, Blenheim Palace, Waddesdon Manor, Hanwell Zoo, Denham Park, Ruislip Lido, Black Park but the one closest to our heart is Langley Park.

## Langley Park - Billet Lane, Iver SLO OLS

We like Langley Park because it's simply beautiful in every season. We love all the different areas of this large park, each one giving a completely different view and experience. We have had many walks in the area called The Temple, where you can see in spring the most amazing display of colours from this garden of rhododendrons. The lake area where the luxury hotel The Langley is located is also beautiful, we have had a few picnics there.

The Arboretum is a beautiful space with huge trees, a Chinese bridge and various camelias, beautiful in spring and autumn. The park has very good parking and a café serving tasty ice creams during the summers, a well-deserved treat after a long walk (or even a short one). Nearby is a very nice and not so crowded playground that our children love.

*Robert Melis and family*





## Hodgemoor Woods

[www.hodgemoor.org.uk](http://www.hodgemoor.org.uk)

This 250-acre woodland in South Bucks, located between Amersham, Chalfont St. Giles and Seer Green is a firm family favourite and a designated "Site of Special Scientific Interest". Frequented by walkers, cyclists and horse riders but it never feels too busy or crowded. We particularly enjoy it when the woods are carpeted in bluebells (April) but the wide variety of trees, birds and woodland trails makes it fun to explore all year round.

It has a decent car park and a picnic area to enjoy your own refreshments (no toilets or café).

*Cathy Macqueen*



---

## Denham Village Walking Guides

If you'd like to explore around Denham Village, then the Denham Community History Project have produced three very informative booklets: Village Walk, Churchyard Walk, Pub Walk.

Purchase from The Swan, The Green Man or St Mary's Church.

More information available at:  
[www.denhamhistory.online](http://www.denhamhistory.online)  
or Denham Village Walking Guides.



---

If you would like to share your favourite walk for a future edition of Denham Parish News, please send to [magazine@denhamparish.church](mailto:magazine@denhamparish.church). Please include walk location, why you enjoy it and any useful information! Maximum 200 words and up to 3 photos. Thank you! Enjoy exploring during the Summer!

---

# PARISH DIRECTORY

---

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

**Church Office:** 01895 832771  
[office@denhamparish.church](mailto:office@denhamparish.church)

## Office times

Mon: 9.30 - 12pm

Tue: 9.30 - 12pm

Wed: Office closed

Thurs: 12.30 - 3pm

Fri: 12.30 - 3pm

Sunday Services on Youtube:

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

Find us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/denhamparish.church](http://www.facebook.com/denhamparish.church)

## The Rector

*Revd Christoph Lindner*

01895 834733

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

## Churchwardens

*Jane Brown* - 07891 261941

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

*Cathy Macqueen* - 07599 934173

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

## Parish Office Secretary

*Sarah Bennett* - 01895 832771

## PCC Treasurer

*Mike Stewart* - 07590 849116

## Parish Safeguarding Officer

*Samantha Carter*

07836 779999

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

## Children and Families

*Edda Lindner* - 07944 557814

## Bell Tower Captain

*Andrew Simpson* - 01895 255594

## Organist

*Stephen Armstrong* - 07808 005752

[stephenarmstrong445@gmail.com](mailto:stephenarmstrong445@gmail.com)

## St. Mark's Hall Booking

*Church Office*

01895 832771

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

## Magazine Editor & Advertisements

*Cathy Macqueen*

07599 934173

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

## Graphic Designer

*Peter Wager - Pen & Ink Graphics*

01895 831111

[peter@penink.co.uk](mailto:peter@penink.co.uk)

## Printer

*South Bucks Business Products*

[matt@southbucks.co.uk](mailto:matt@southbucks.co.uk)



Address: **Denham Parish Church**, Village Road, Denham, Bucks UB9 5BH



# St. Helen's College

Parkway, Hillingdon, Middlesex, UB10 9JX  
Independent School for boys and girls aged 2 - 11



*A Centre of Excellence*

## AN OUTSTANDING SCHOOL

Please telephone **01895 234371** to make an appointment  
Parkway, Hillingdon, Middlesex, UB10 9JX - [www.sthelenscollege.com](http://www.sthelenscollege.com)



ARIA CARE

## Care from the Heart

AT DENHAM MANOR

Providing bespoke residential, nursing and dementia care on a permanent and short stay basis.

01895 834470 | [ariacare.co.uk](http://ariacare.co.uk)  
[manager.denham@ariacare.co.uk](mailto:manager.denham@ariacare.co.uk)  
Holings Lane, Denham, Buckinghamshire UB9 5DQ

## Dale and Sons Independent Funeral Directors

Your local family owned funeral directors serving you from the moment you contact us to beyond the funeral day

24 hour service

Repariations

01895 832220

[www.dale-sons.co.uk](http://www.dale-sons.co.uk)

Monumental masons

Pre-payment funeral plans

[dalefuneralservice@gmail.com](mailto:dalefuneralservice@gmail.com)


22 Penn Drive, Denham UB9 5JP

Christopher  
THE LOCKSMITH

## ARE YOUR LOCKS BEHAVING BADLY?


We Value Old Fashioned Customer Service  
A Local Trusted Family Business Since 1989

 Specialist in UPVC & Wooden Doors

 No Call Out Charge

 No Fix No Fee

 All Work Fully Guaranteed

 10% Senior Citizen Discount



For More Advice & Help Call Christopher:

**07772 111 222**

[www.christopherthelocksmith.co.uk](http://www.christopherthelocksmith.co.uk)

## Hair by Debbie

Unisex salon, all aspects of hairdressing  
Seniors days Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
**01895 234971**

**Dee S Clark** HCPC CH17351

B.Sc (Hons) MChs Dip. pod. med.

Member of The Society of Chiropodist and Podiatrist



***Surgery and Visiting Practice***

*By appointment  
Including evenings and Saturdays*

**CHIROPODIST  
PODIATRIST**

*Verrucae, Nail Surgery*

Newburn, Grange Wood, Wexham SL3 6LP

**Tel: 01753 552725**

[www.sloughchiropodyandpodiatry.co.uk](http://www.sloughchiropodyandpodiatry.co.uk)

**SHAUN LEIGH  
ELECTRICAL and PLUMBING**

EXTRA POINTS TO FULL REWIRES.  
TAP WASHERS TO FULL BATHROOMS  
(SUPPLIED AND FITTED).  
SHOWERS FULLY INSTALLED

**PHONE 01895 832091**

**ST MARK'S HALL DENHAM GREEN**

**Available for Hire**

**Large Kitchen. Suitable for meetings of  
40-50 people & childrens parties**

*For more Information ring  
the Parish Office 01895 832771  
[bookings@denhamparish.church](mailto:bookings@denhamparish.church)*



*Beauty by Sarah  
Itec Qualified*

*In the comfort of your home  
Manicures, Pedicures, facials,  
Massage and waxing  
Competitive prices*

*Contact Sarah:  
07885 243020*



**carter  
DUTHIE**  
sales • lettings • management

*“Denham’s Independent,  
Family Run Estate Agency”*

***Thinking of selling or letting your home?***

Call us for a **FREE, no obligation** valuation from  
your local property experts in Denham.

**34 Station Parade, Denham, UB9 5ET [www.carterduthie.com](http://www.carterduthie.com) 01895 832155**



## COMPUTER I.T HELP

Setup - Trouble Shooting - All aspects  
Servicing all local areas for many years  
Honest and Reliable Ickenham Based  
Computer For Sale



Contact Meetesh on 07725 130 059

[meeteshp@hotmail.com](mailto:meeteshp@hotmail.com)

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS & MEMORIAL STONEMASONS

7 days a week 24 hour service • Private Chapel of Rest

**UXBRIDGE:** 63 High Street

01895 233018 [www.waldingandson.co.uk](http://www.waldingandson.co.uk)



ASK ABOUT OUR  
PRE-PAYMENT  
FUNERAL PLANS

**Walding**  
& SON 1904

High Wycombe  
891 London Road  
Tel: 01494 472372

Beaconsfield  
32 Gregories Road  
Tel: 01494 685000

Head Office  
Flickwell Heath  
24 White Pitt Lane  
Tel: 01494 952288



Marlow  
21-23 Little Marlow  
Road  
Tel: 01628 898866

Gerrards Cross  
38 Oak End Way  
Tel: 01753 891892

Slough  
273 Farnham Road  
Tel: 01753 535556

**ARNOLD FUNERAL SERVICE**  
INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

*6 Generations of Service in the Community*

Local Direct Cremation Available

Traditional, Alternative & Green Funerals - Pre-Payment Plans - Stonemasonry - Floristry

24 Hour Service

[www.arnold-funerals.co.uk](http://www.arnold-funerals.co.uk)



THE **BIG** GREEN  
PLANT  
CENTRE

## PLANT NURSERY

- Shrubs
- Trees
- Climbers
- Perennials
- Topiary
- Shade plants
- Grasses
- Hedging
- Compost
- Pots

Complete plant sourcing service

01895 834834

Oxford Road, Denham, Bucks, UB9 4DF  
(next to Tendercare and Springbridge)

[www.thebiggreenplantcentre.co.uk](http://www.thebiggreenplantcentre.co.uk)  
[enquiries@thebiggreenplantcentre.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@thebiggreenplantcentre.co.uk)

## Doggy Daycare

In Denham Village

Home environment with very large secure garden.  
Daily walks, playtimes.

Fully insured. Also holiday care available.

Please phone Sandra  
01895 833712

# HEARNDEN-SMITH & DAUGHTERS

INDEPENDENT  
FAMILY OWNED  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

PROUD MEMBERS OF  
ST MARY'S CHURCH,  
DENHAM

SPEAK TO SUZANNE  
OR CHARLOTTE:  
01895 822 979



*Our family caring for your family, when you need it most...*



**pen&ink**  
graphics



Design, Print, Large Format, Web, Display and Marketing.  
[www.penink.co.uk](http://www.penink.co.uk) 01895 831111

## Poppins Day Hub

Activities for adults in Denham

01895 832199



[www.poppinsdayhub.co.uk](http://www.poppinsdayhub.co.uk)

[enquiries@poppinsdayhub.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@poppinsdayhub.co.uk)

## Pilates

Denham Village  
Memorial Hall  
**Monday 7 - 8 pm**



First class **FREE**  
0779 261 7272  
[www.TriFit.uk](http://www.TriFit.uk)



### Denham Aerodrome



Experience the magic of flying with an  
introductory flight over the Chilterns  
from your local aerodrome

Tel: 01895 833838

[www.egld.com](http://www.egld.com)

### Stephen Miles Plumbing & Heating

**ALL PLUMBING & CENTRAL HEATING**

**GAS SAFE APPROVED INSTALLER**

Call 01895 824177 Monday to Friday 0800-1700  
or  
07563 552140 Anytime

# FAMILY REGISTER OF DENHAM PARISH CHURCH

## BURIALS

05.03.25	Valerie Evans (86)
11.03.25	Elizabeth Lee (97)
07.04.25	Jane Moody (95)
28.04.25	Geoffrey Seagrove (92)

---

## WEDDINGS

29.03.25	Naveen Singh Bisht (Watford) and Sophie Jean Lewis (New Denham)
----------	--



## 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.







**COME AND  
JOIN THE FUN!  
Holiday Club**

**Make  
SPACE  
for  
JESUS**

for ages 5 to 11 (Reception to Year 6)

St Mark's Church Hall, Denham Green

**Tue 5th Aug - Thurs 7th Aug, 2025**

**10.00 to 14.00**

Find out more and sign up:

**[www.denhamparish.church/lighthouse](http://www.denhamparish.church/lighthouse)**

