



SEPTEMBER 2024 - NOVEMBER 2024

DENHAM PARISH NEWS

ST MARY'S FESTIVAL
REMEMBRANCE
FINDING PURPOSE



Denham
Parish Church

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Cover: Clive, part of the churchyard gardening team.

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FROM THE EDITOR

This Issue of Denham Parish News seems to be full of 'welcome', 'thank you' and 'goodbye'.



Through my work with the NHS, I recently had the privilege of attending the D-Day 80 commemorations in Portsmouth, remembering the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings in 1944. It was sobering to hear the personal stories from naval, air, and land force personnel and the allied efforts on all fronts, both before and after June 1944.

Yubill's Remembrance Day poem (p.17) reminds us to remember and give thanks for those who gave their lives for the freedoms we enjoy today. This is complemented by Tim's Feeling Flanders Fields (p.16) that enriches our understanding of the humble poppy and skylark.

We say goodbye to Nnamdi (p.22) as he leaves us to take up new responsibilities as the Vicar of Waltham St. Lawrence and Shottesbrook. Please join us for his farewell service at St Mary's on 1st September where we will thank and pray for him and the whole Maduka family. We welcome Jane Brown as our new churchwarden, taking over from Samantha Carter who has tirelessly and cheerfully completed her full six years of service (p. 14). Having worked alongside Samantha as her 'second in command' churchwarden for the past two years, I have valued her steadiness in leadership and wealth of knowledge, and am very glad that she is just stepping down, not moving away.

We remember the Denham Village Fayre with a montage of photos (p.20), and we learn about the Denham Bowling Club (p.12) who always love to welcome new members. We sadly say goodbye to several loved ones recorded in the Family Register, but rejoice with those recently married or baptised (p.24). Everyone is welcome at our Remembrance Sunday service 10th November, with a more intimate service for remembering our loved ones on 24th November (p.15).

And finally, we welcome back Christoph and Edda after their well-deserved three-month sabbatical where they had time to catch up with family and friends and 'recharge' their batteries. Thank you for coming back!



Blessings,

Cathy Macqueen

magazine@denhamparish.church

FINDING PURPOSE BY REVD IAN JENNINGS

Dear friends,

Being part of the Denham St Mary's clergy Team was such a bonus at the latter part of my ministry. I soon came to love the village and the church. I also valued the accessibility to so many other places. My son, Paul, was working in central London at the time and it was a joy to meet up with him for lunch regularly. His office overlooked Horse Guard's Parade and down in the bowels of that government building was the original wine cellar of Henry the Eighth which wasn't open to the public. There was a portrait of King Henry hanging on the wall but sadly all the wine was long gone.

Another place I enjoyed visiting was the wonderful little museum that was the cottage of John Milton in Chalfont St Giles.



He was a most remarkable man but he went completely blind by the time he was forty-three, and still his major life work remained to be done. He lamented the loss of sight and thought it might mean he could not fulfil his life's mission of writing the epic poems *Paradise Lost* and *Paradise Regained*. He wrote about that in his *Sonnet on his blindness*.

*When I consider how my light is spent,
Ere half my days, in this dark world and wide,
And that one Talent which is death to hide
Lodged with me useless, though my Soul
more bent*

*To serve wherewith my Maker, and present
My true account, lest He returning chide,
"Doth God exact day Labour, light denied?"...*

He found a way by engaging the help of his family. Though light was denied, every morning he came downstairs ready to dictate to members of his family who simply wrote down the extraordinary fruits of his intellectual and spiritual labours in the night. So, these two works of English literature were created, the impact of which can never be calculated. It could never have been achieved without those loyal and loving members of his family who recorded his spoken words so that they took shape on the page.

Out of the darkness Milton found purpose. Whoever we are and whatever we do to find and fulfil our purpose in life is hugely important and is possible for each of us. The American Declaration of Independence states that all people have the God given right to **'Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.'** The problem is that the pursuit of happiness, for its own sake, is often counterproductive. This is because happiness depends upon what happens and we often have little or no control over circumstances. However, if we find and fulfil our purpose in life we will find happiness as a welcome byproduct. If we pursue happiness for its own sake, it often eludes us but discovering purpose is fulfilling and enriching.

Finding purpose is not just reserved for the mega talented, it is possible for all. And it is often discovered in connection with others. I came to visit Denham on the Bank Holiday of Denham Fayre. When I walked down the lane from the train, I was amazed to see how the whole village was buzzing with life and colour. I must confess to wondering whether the Fayre would ever get off the ground again after all the problems arising out of Covid. I was at the last one in 2019 before the corona virus changed our world. I wondered if this year would be a pale reflection of that. However, the Fayre this year was brilliantly successful. When I asked how it had been achieved, I learned that the whole parish had pulled together, determined to make it a success. People had stepped forward and there was a great and energetic sense of shared enterprise and working together. It was so heart-warming to witness.



I recently watched a documentary about San Quentin called *'The 1000 mile Club'*. It was the story of a man called Frank Ruano who volunteered his services to the prison to encourage the men to discover purpose through long distance running. Frank was a marathon and ultra marathon runner himself and in an interview for the documentary he said, 'I am my brothers' keeper.' He explained how men whose lives had been ruined by criminality discovered a whole new focus through committing themselves to long distance running. There are biweekly workouts and monthly races for the men who join the club and they have discovered a whole sense of camaraderie and shared vision. Through that process so many have found themselves and found their way into a crime free future.

Where and how do we find our purpose? Jesus said that he came, 'Not to be served but to serve.' That's the perfect example and a great place to start - not self-serving but finding purpose in serving others and serving God.

AN INTERVIEW WITH DOMINIC GRIEVE: GOD AT WORK IN UK POLITICS. BY DOM BIRKBY



Dominic Grieve, former Attorney General and Shadow Home Secretary, served as the MP for our Beaconsfield constituency for 22 years before having the Conservative whip removed in 2019 for his opposition to the prospect of a “no deal” Brexit.

A practising Anglican, he returned to Denham before this summer’s general election to talk to Dom Birkby about his faith, career and God at Work in the world of politics.

It was with a cheery willingness that Dominic Grieve responded to my request to speak to him about how God has shaped his life and path in politics. Having returned to a legal career since leaving Parliament in December 2019, he recounts fond memories of his time as an MP in this area, which lasted for more than two decades. Having travelled over from his base in Hammersmith to our home in Denham Film Studios, on arriving it quickly becomes clear he’s visited a vast number of the churches in the constituency, reeling many off as I prepare us coffee and cookies – civic services at St. Peter’s in Iver, Remembrance Sundays at St. Mary & All Saints, Beaconsfield, a funeral for a former colleague at St. Mary’s, Hedgerley, and of course numerous visits to St. Mary’s, Denham (“I hope the Fayre went well for you last weekend”).

So where did his life of faith begin? He was brought up in an “Anglican household”, even though his parents were not regular churchgoers. His father, eventually an MP himself for Solihull (1964 – 1983), had found a degree of faith whilst at university in the 1930s, partly shaped by being a posthumous child: his father had been killed on the battlefields of the First World War before he was born. His Anglo-French mother was confirmed in Paris, but whilst they had a faith, “neither saw organised religion as very much for them” and “there was no atmosphere of Sunday churchgoing” in his household growing up.

It was not until his time at Westminster School, where he began to develop a more concerted faith of his own during his teenage years. The proximity to Westminster Abbey particularly

captured his imagination: "I rather fell in love with the place, I liked it very much... I got confirmed there", and it was this, coupled with his sister falling seriously ill, which saw him develop a relationship with God in a closer and much more deliberate way. He became one of about half a dozen boys who would regularly attend Complin (Night Prayers) before returning to his boarding house, "I found the service very comforting, it was a nice way to end the evening...", and found this time was helpful in supporting him and giving peace during what was a difficult time at school and at home.

On going on to study Modern History at Magdalen College, Oxford, he found that at university he was "too busy enjoying himself" to regularly attend services, but his years at Westminster had ensured his faith had been rooted. It was more than a decade later when on returning from honeymoon his new wife, Caroline, suggested they should begin attending their local church in Fulham. More than 30 years later they continue to serve here as active members; Dominic in the choir, and his wife as churchwarden. The congregation has grown "more than double in the last 10 years", largely driven through a broadening of diversity across all age groups and the West Indian, African and European communities who now attend, which we both reflect, presents hope in the context of declining church numbers on the national scale.

It quickly becomes clear that living out his faith wasn't limited to a Sunday when he was in Parliament: "Christianity is rooted in the DNA of Parliament, a part of daily life...". The House Speaker has a dedicated chaplain, and as well as regular services for MPs at nearby St. Margaret's, daily prayers are held in the Commons chamber. Attendance is partly encouraged by the incentive of MPs being able to use a 'prayer card' to secure favourable seating in the chamber for the day's business, meaning prayers are particularly busy on Wednesdays ahead of Prime Minister's Questions!

As for many political candidates, the road to the Commons was winding, bumpy, and initially unsuccessful. A failed 1987 election contest, followed by fruitless attempts at constituency selection, meant that by the time 1997 arrived, Dominic was considering his political future. Things were to change at pace however, when enroute to a family holiday in the Lake District, the family heard on the radio that his predecessor, Tim Smith, would stand down through his entanglement with the 'Cash for Questions' scandal. Dominic then received a call 24 hours later to inform him he was the chosen candidate, and much to his family's dismay, the holiday was cut short and 3 weeks intensive campaigning in Beaconsfield followed before election day. On May Day the Conservatives suffered a landslide defeat and their lowest share of the vote since 1832,

however at 40 years old Dominic was elected as the new MP for Beaconsfield with a majority of nearly 14,000.



So what was the most challenging aspect of that early period? “Undoubtedly, the family disruption... weekends taken up with constituency matters, and evenings spent at the House of Commons, often until 10pm – and that was even before I got on the front bench (in 2010, as attorney general)”. We move on to talk about the subsequently devastating levels of MP marriage break ups – some unapologetically pored over publicly – which I later read stands at 40% for married MPs who entered Parliament after 2010.

In amongst these unforgiving demands, I ask if Sunday could ever truly be a day of rest for a Christian MP: “the church going on a Sunday was absolutely maintained...it was an anchor to our

lives which we came to value more and more”. Dominic then speaks about how he valued how the church family crosses every conceivable social group – the elderly, those in poverty, those from the military, young families – all coming together in unity over an hour of faithful worship, as well of course, “the sacred right of coffee”.

Away from the peace and sanctity of the Sunday service, we return to the Commons, which I argue is increasingly portrayed as a political circus where one-upmanship, exploiting weakness and self-posturing are amplified at the cost of serious policy discussion around our society’s most pressing issues. How did he act differently in this environment as a Christian? Whilst the “rough and tumble” of politics couldn’t be escaped – which he argues is part and parcel of a Parliamentary democracy – outside of the chamber, “quiet support” networks existed, alongside a “more benevolent” atmosphere than is ever presented publicly. Christians from both the Lords and Commons met regularly, shared communion every month, and congregated for breakfast in the Speaker’s House. Despite the ‘bear pit’ media portrayals, acts of kindness, often personal, were experienced. This triggers an interesting conversation on the gap between perception and reality, and what behaviours are valued more than others by our mainstream media. But it was being able to disagree without being disagreeable that formed a cornerstone to Dominic’s

work in Parliament, where opening up debate in a courteous, respectful way often resulted in a rational conversation that had a much better chance of making progress.

So in an environment where just 14% of British people trust the government 'most of the time' or 'always', why should we bother to vote as Christians? "Christians should certainly vote! As should everybody! We have a participatory democracy, and if people do not participate, then we lose a system which offers the opportunity for change without violence". As for who they vote for, Dominic argues that it is a matter for the individual and it absolutely isn't the case that any party is any more Christian than another. People should make up their own mind in the context of their principles, engage in what each party has to offer, and assess who appears to be most capable of forming the next government.

I probe whether Dominic's Christian faith had ever been persecuted, which was never felt in a political environment, but he does reflect how Christian fundamentals that have underpinned our society for many generations now feel increasingly under attack. As a liberal conservative, he admits his own views on theological issues have evolved but was worried throughout his time in Parliament how society was becoming more intolerant, "often in the name of diversity, but curiously this is just as intolerant...".



So how did he navigate the numerous related issues that emerged for debate during his time in Parliament, such as same sex marriage or abortion? Interestingly, these were perceived as moral issues where MPs were granted a 'free vote', meaning they were not whipped to support a particular party line. Dominic found much greater complexity was attached to issues emerging through the austerity years of the early 2010s, such as how to best look after the poor, vulnerable, or disadvantaged in society, or whether to support armed conflict in Libya or Syria. For these, there was often no clear-cut answer, and deducing whether a proposed course of action was moral or immoral felt much more difficult to distinguish.

Fast forwarding to 2019 and the ultimate end to his political career, I ask whether, 5 years on, he looks back on this period with any regret, or a need to forgive those who presided over his downfall. "It wasn't an easy period, and was very painful...", less driven by the differences that emerged with his colleagues in Parliament, where "relationships of

courtesy were maintained”, but much more so at local level, where in March 2019 an Association emergency general meeting failed to give him a motion of confidence. Amongst visceral attacks in the right-wing press, accusations of treason, and even death threats driven by his stance on a ‘no deal’ Brexit, “the single most difficult thing” was a breakdown of personal friendships that had been built up over the previous two decades. In these troubled days, he notes how he received letters from a number of vicars and churchgoers in the constituency, not always saying they agreed with him, but appreciating he was following his conscience and that they were praying for him – an insight into how we can best support our local representatives as Christians.

So is this the end of the political road? An immediate rebuttal: “You can take

the politician out of politics, but not the politics out of the politician!” And it becomes incredibly clear that Dominic’s political passions now play out in a variety of other ways – Chair of a cross-party review into Parliamentary Ethics and Standards, a columnist in national newspapers, Trustee at Westminster Abbey, Chair of the British Irish Association, and Vice President of the European Movement.

Whilst chances of a return to the political arena now look unlikely, the 90 minutes I spent with Dominic at our home prove to me that despite what we see in the mainstream media, there has been and will continue to be humble, generous, caring, well-reasoned and respectful Christian representatives in Parliament. We pray for courage, wisdom and resilience for all of them over this next government term.

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MY DOG AND I

BY REVD AZITA JABBARI

Serving as a curate at St. Mary's has been an incredibly fulfilling journey, especially with my loyal companion, Chelsea, by my side. In my third year of curacy, I've come to appreciate how seamlessly our daily routines and ministries intertwine. Each morning walk with Chelsea becomes a unique opportunity for ministry, where casual encounters can blossom into meaningful exchanges. Chelsea's friendly demeanour, combined with our shared curly hair and similar haircuts, makes us approachable and relatable.

Chelsea's impact extends far beyond our walks. At our monthly youth group, Destiny, she is a beloved member. The kids adore playing with her, and she brings a special kind of joy and connection that enriches our gatherings. Her presence breaks down barriers, making the youth group a warm and inviting space. The children look forward to her company, and she has become an integral part of our sessions, helping to create a sense of belonging and excitement. Chelsea's playful energy and gentle nature encourage even the shyest of our youth to open up, participate, and feel included.

Our bond deepens during our quiet moments of worship and prayer. Every morning, as I engage in my prayers, Chelsea sits faithfully by my side. Her calm presence during these



spiritual times is a comforting reminder of the companionship and peace that God brings. Remarkably, she even joins in as I sing worship songs, creating a harmonious start to our day. Her steady companionship during these personal and spiritual times enhances my own connection to my faith and provides a living example of the peace and joy it can bring.

Reflecting on this, I realise that Chelsea is more than just a dog; she is a ministry partner and a source of joy and connection. Our shared journey highlights the beauty of companionship in ministry and the unexpected ways it can touch lives. Chelsea's intuitive understanding of people's emotions and her ability to offer comfort and joy in simple, yet profound, ways have taught me invaluable lessons about empathy and unconditional love. She has shown me that ministry is not only about grand gestures but also about the everyday acts of kindness and presence that can make a significant difference in people's lives.

DENHAM BOWLS CLUB

BY BRIAN O'REGAN AND STEVE MENZIES

Denham Bowls Club was founded in 1922 when Lt-Col Benjamin Irby Way DSO gifted four acres of land off Cheapside Lane. A generous gift of £300 by Captain Arthur Tillard's widow, Emily, in memory of her late husband, enabled the land to be prepared and a pavilion built. Lt-Col Way officially opened the green on 10th May 1924 and proceeded to play four ends with the club captain, Fred Powell.

The Way family have long been an important part of our church family, from when Benjamin Way inherited the patronage of the living of St Mary's in 1757, right up to the present day with patron John Way. There are many plaques commemorating the family in the church, one of which is for Lt-Col Way's parents, Benjamin and Isabel Way, located on the north side of the chancel.

The game of bowls has been played in England since the 13th century and the oldest surviving green in the world is Southampton Old Bowling Green, established in 1299. Sir Francis Drake was a player and was enjoying a game at Plymouth Hoe in 1588 as The Spanish Armada sailed up the English Channel. Legend has it that he insisted on finishing the game before leaving to beat the Spanish. Perhaps the England football team should have played bowls before taking on Spain in the Euros Cup Final!



King Henry VIII (1491-1547) was a lawn bowler but he banned the sport for common people because "Bowyers, Fletchers, Stringers and Arrowhead makers" were spending more time on such pastimes rather than practicing their trade. The ban was eventually relaxed but not repealed until 1845.

No doubt since then Denham people played the game informally prior to the club being founded. One hundred years on the objectives of the club continue to be to provide facilities for, and promote participation in, the amateur sport of outdoor flat green bowls. The club is a community amateur sports club, affiliated to Bowls England, Buckinghamshire Bowls Association, and other local bowls associations, and is run for the benefit of the local community and not for profit.

However, it is much more than just a sporting venue - it is a warm and welcoming place for individuals of all ages, who share a passion for the game. Whether you are a seasoned bowler or a complete novice, the club is open for you. They provide free tuition by an experienced qualified coach for

newcomers to the game and maintain a friendly atmosphere in which everyone can enjoy the game of bowls. They are proud of the meticulously maintained six-rink bowling green, which is one of the best in the county. This is evidenced by regular inter-county games and county competitions, which are played on the green. Other facilities include a clubhouse, complete with a large, well-stocked bar offering draughtbeers, wine and spirits at very competitive prices, a 5-star hygiene-rated kitchen, changing rooms, and free Wi-Fi. The large on-site car park offers complimentary parking for all members and visitors.

The outdoor bowling season runs from April to September and features a great program of weekly roll-ups (just turn up!) in teams playing against other club members, friendly matches against other bowls clubs, competitive league matches and club competitions. Members have exclusive access to the bowling green and the clubhouse facilities every day after 10 a.m. Roll-ups take place on Tuesday and Friday evenings. Friendly matches against other clubs are organised on Saturdays and Sundays most weekends and midweek participation in local and county leagues adds to the excitement. During the winter months, play moves indoors for weekly, friendly short mat bowls sessions on Wednesday evenings.

A wide variety of social events in the clubhouse are organised throughout the year, including weekly 'pub at the club' nights and regular entertainment evenings, to build a convivial community spirit and develop friendships beyond the bowling green.

Denham Bowls Club is managed by a Management Committee, which members elect annually. The assets of the club are legally held and protected for future generations by a board of three Trustees.

The club are committed to ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for all adults and children who use the facilities, regardless of whether they are members, visiting players, family or spectators. Just as we have at the church, Denham Bowls Club have a Safeguarding Officer.

Denham History Online have an excellent article on bowls and the club – search for "Jack of the Green".

If you have always wanted to try lawn bowls but never quite got round to it, now is your opportunity. The Club welcomes full members, junior members and social members.

Contact details:

Denham Way, Denham, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB9 5AX. Tel: 01895 83234 www.denhambowlsclub.co.uk

Chairman: Steve Menzies 07801 049697
Secretary: Jennifer Johns 01895 833 845

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17



CHURCHWARDENS Contact details in the Parish Directory (p.26)

The office of Churchwarden has legal duties and responsibilities prescribed by Statute and Canon law, as well as a spiritual dimension. The vital elements are loyalty to the bishop, incumbent and parishioners. Churchwardens are chosen by parishioners and annually attend a 'Visitation' service with the Archdeacon where they promise to faithfully and diligently perform their duties of office. Cathy and Jane made these promises on 26th June 2024. A churchwarden may serve for six consecutive years and then steps down for a rest!

Thank you to our outgoing churchwarden - Samantha Carter

"It has been an honour and a privilege to be your churchwarden and serve at St. Mary's for the last 6 years, journeying through all the seasons of the church year with you. It has been such an enriching experience to work with Christoph and Carlene for 4 years and then Christoph & Cathy the last 2 years. We always met regularly to review, plan and pray for the parish and its parishioners. This was so important. Thank you to all of you, my church family, for being the best part of this experience and being there for me with prayers, words and actions."



We are very pleased that Samantha will continue as our Safeguarding Officer.

Welcome to our new churchwarden - Jane Brown

"I am delighted to have been elected as churchwarden and having just retired as a dentist I'm looking forward to spending time, alongside Cathy, helping with the logistics of St Mary's church and also getting to know and support more parishioners. I have a heart to share God's love with others, and grow in faith together and enjoy spending time with people. I'm working on my computer skills as there are many behind the scene admin jobs as a CW! I am married to Dexter and we have three grown up children, and two dogs - we all enjoy walking and Crossfit."



Continuing churchwarden - Cathy Macqueen

"This is my third year as churchwarden. We try our best and are here to serve and support but it is also a joy to see others blossom and grow in confidence as they step out in faith and try something new. Thank you to everyone who has 'stepped up' during the sabbatical, in particular those who have had a go at leading a service, well done! I also enjoy editing Denham Parish News, working as a community dietitian and being a wife and mum!"



What's Happening

AT DENHAM PARISH CHURCH?

BEREAVEMENT DROP-IN

A place of safety, welcome
and hope renewed.
All welcome.
St Mark's Church Hall
For more information
and future dates, contact
our church office

THE
HARVEST

CAFÉ CHURCH

Time to chat | Food for thought
Coffee and cake
Favourite hymns and prayers
St Mark's Church Hall
Sunday 1 September, 6 October
and 3 November

Contact: Christoph Lindner
rector@denhamparish.church

HARVEST *Thanksgiving*

Sunday 6 October

LIGHT Party

Thursday 31 October
5-7pm, St Mary's

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

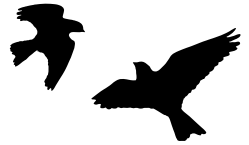
10.45am
St Mary's

Sunday 10 November

Remembering LOVED ONES

Sunday
24 November
2.30pm

Feeling Flanders Fields



By Tim Macqueen

It's one of the most recognisable symbols ever produced, a powerful reminder of the sacrifices so many made to protect the future of their family, friends and country. France; at the end of World War One, after over 4 years of constant bombardment by artillery, rain and all the forces of war. The landscape is blasted and it seems nothing can grow out of this devastation. Then like a miracle the whole landscape erupts with colour, red Flanders poppies grow as far as the eye can see, bringing a powerful message of hope, hope that out of such destruction beauty and a new beginning can be found. It's no wonder that the poppy has remained the symbol of remembrance, a legacy of over 100 years.

The poppies are called Flanders poppies after John McCrae's famous poem *In Flanders Fields* where he remembers the poppies blowing amongst the crosses of fallen soldiers, a symbol of their will in life, and a call to remember them. The fourth line of *In Flanders Fields* tells of the skylark which can barely be heard above the sound of the guns. Like the poppy, the devastated landscape of war was

perfect for the skylark which prefers to nest on open, exposed ground. So, I challenge you to look up a picture of a poppy field or find some poppies and quietly listen to the song of the skylark*. Imagine that in one of the rare quiet moments between battles and the fear you and the soldiers around you feel, you can take this moment to be peaceful and remember those already resting in Flanders Fields where poppies blow,

*Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders Fields.*



*Listen to the skylark song here: www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/skylark



Remembrance Day

by Yubill Kang

Requiem the perpetual print of war dead
echoes the time timelessly;
Of the multitude of the bravest shield
from every corner of the earth relay

They came far-reaching to the strange land
fought the foremost to free the world;
By embracing their noble sacrifices
Till the bugle cried out ending the sufferings

No greatest love than laying down life for others
of that Jesus taught and declared;
That fulfilled by these unsung innocent bloods
Foregone but forever in their youths sealed

Lest we forget, time and again
and we carry on, get there in no vain;
While the resonance of Last Post
that engraves in every heart in trust

On master of the triple 11th
We solemnly uphold their honour pledge
No amount of words can suffice, in depth
"May rest in eternal peace"

GIVE & SHARE

PART OF
DENHAM PARISH CHURCH



Give and Share is a registered charity and operates under the umbrella of St Mary's Church in Denham. It is run by a small team, headed up by Craig Alexander and Caroline Goodwin. Its purpose is to help those in need in our local community, especially when they may be under particular periods of hardship in their lives. There are many families who struggle with the day-to-day cost of living. This work is ongoing throughout the year.

In 2018 Craig had the idea of helping struggling families at Christmas. What if a hamper of food, basic necessities and some Christmas treats could be provided? This might ease the tension between putting food on the table and the desire to give presents to children or loved ones. Identifying families that needed this support was conducted through local primary schools. Local schools know the family backgrounds of their children and who could benefit the most from support. Although the charity is church based and its mission reflects Christian principals of service and giving, recipients are identified on need alone. Give and Share has no direct contact with them.

Last Christmas, 250 hampers were provided for local families. Donations of items were supplemented by over £8000 of expenditure on supermarket goods. A small army of willing volunteers collected, packaged and distributed to various local schools. Co-ordinated from the St Mark's Hall it's always a very intense week

of activity before the schools break up for Christmas.

Monetary and food donations have been key to sustaining this community outreach. We are truly grateful to those who have supported us and we pray you will be able to do so in the years to come.

Christmas 2024 will be another time of need for families in our community and Give and Share will again be gearing up to provide some welcome support. If you can donate to this work or volunteer to help package or distribute hampers please do contact us.

Contact: Craig 07748 973527
for more information.

Please donate via:

Account:

Denham PCC - Business Account.

Please use reference: 'Give&Share'

Sort Code: 20 89 16

Account Number: 30305553



**Time out
for Parents**

Handling Anger in the Family Parenting Course

A course for parents and carers with children age 5-16 helping to deal with everyday anger that all families experience.

Brought to you by Denham Parish Church in association with Care for the Family.

Wednesday evenings (7.30pm – 10.00pm) starting on 25th September 2024

Session Dates: 25th Sep, 2nd Oct, 9th Oct and 16th Oct 2024

Venue: St Marks Hall, Green Tiles Lane, Denham Green, Uxbridge UB9 5HT

Cost: £20 (Includes course materials and refreshments)

To book a place visit: www.denhamparish.church/handling-anger

Why come on the course?

- Learn strategies and discover practical tools to help respond to those challenging situations.
 - Understand why and how both we and our children get angry.
 - Discuss evidence based theory and strategies, delivered by trained and licensed facilitators.
- Learn in small interactive groups in a relaxed setting.

*'Handling Anger in the Family Course – Thank you!
Clear and simple techniques to help loved ones'*

'This course is very well run and tackles a difficult subject in a very good way, imparting useful tools and strategies to help diffuse difficult situations'



Established in 1988, the charity, 'Care for the Family' has an excellent reputation in both the design & delivery of courses aimed at supporting families across the UK. Registered charity England & Wales: 1066905; Scotland: SC038497

If you require further information, please call: 01895 236498

Denham Village Fayre 2024

Thank you to everyone who came and helped to make the return of the Fayre such a success – possibly the biggest turnout ever! A massive **£18,466** was raised for the upkeep of St Mary's Church and to support local good causes. A special thank you to the Fayre Committee, led by Amy Kenworthy, for all their hard work on the day and in the months of planning – absolute stars!





Save the date!
Denham Village Fayre
Monday 26th May 2025

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM REVD NNAMDI MADUKA



Thankyou Denham Parish and the entire community.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

As I thought about what to write, I realised that the Bible is full of people saying goodbye. You might remember Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Elisha, Paul, and even the Lord Jesus, saying goodbye. Now, each one of those is a far greater and more faithful man than I have ever been. As I reflect upon my time here as the Associate Minister these five and half years, I cannot help but be overwhelmed by the countless blessings and graces that God has bestowed upon me. Each day, I have witnessed the power of faith and the transformative love of our Lord working through the lives of each one of you.

Your unwavering commitment to your faith has been an inspiration to me, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to have served alongside you. Your faith and love have always been such a deep encouragement to me; and I have rejoiced to see how the Holy Spirit has been constantly at work amongst you, drawing people to Christ, and building people up in faith and love.

Like many of you, I have benefited immensely from the faithful ministerial team here ably led by Revd Christoph Lindner and the opportunities to grow in knowledge and love of God.

Most of all, I have been built up by being part of a church which is focused on the gospel – the grace of God to us in the death of Christ. I take this opportunity to express my unalloyed thanks and sincere gratitude to St Mary's Denham Parish for giving me the opportunity to bear witness to Jesus and to exercise my Priesthood. As I prepare to embark on a new chapter in this journey of priesthood, me and my family are honoured to have this opportunity to express our appreciation and love for all the love and support we have received from you all. Throughout my time here, your prayers have been a source of immense strength and support. The knowledge that I was lifted in prayers by this community has sustained me through both the joys and challenges of my ministry. Your prayers have been a reminder that we are all interconnected, united in our faith, through Jesus Christ. We shared sacred moments that have deepened my own faith and have enriched my faith in the profound love that God has for each of us.

As I prepare to take on new responsibilities as the Vicar of Waltham St. Lawrence and Shottesbrooke, I carry with me the memories and experiences I have shared with all of you. You have left an indelible mark on my heart, and I will forever cherish the relationships we have formed and the moments we have shared. The growth I have experienced in this community has been a positive enforcement to my vocation. You are a very dear people to me and my family. You are part of my history.

Let us continue to support and pray for one another, even as our paths diverge. I have no doubt that this community will continue to grow in faith, love, and service, guided by the Holy Spirit. As I move forward, please know that you will remain in my prayers, and I humbly ask for your prayers as well, that God may grant me the strength and wisdom to shepherd the new flock entrusted to my care. And finally, I urge you to remember the great commission our Lord Jesus gave as he said his own goodbye. We all can do this by being true to God in our words and actions and by so doing spread the fragrance of Christ wherever we go.

Now, I entrust you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up, and give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now, and forever. Amen.

Nnamdi's last service at St Mary's will be on 1st September, please join us as we say our goodbyes. On behalf of Denham Parish Church, we thank Nnamdi and his family for the many ways they have been a blessing to us, from leading prayers, singing and dancing, working the AV system, friendships in Destiny and Sunday Club, Life groups, preaching and visiting. May you know the peace of God as you move to serve Him in the Parish of Waltham St. Lawrence and Shottesbrooke,

Cathy Macqueen, Churchwarden.

FAMILY REGISTER OF DENHAM PARISH CHURCH

CREMATIONS

- 12.03.24 Ronald Arbon (98), Denham
25.03.24 Daryl Reeves (83), Prestwood
14.05.24 Judith Gay, Denham
-

BURIALS

- 07.04.24 Cynthia Williams (82), Denham
08.05.24 Ann Stewart (69), Denham

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

- 21.06.24 Doreen Dane (96), Denham

IN MEMORY

- 05.03.24 In memory of Margaret Marks, Denham



Ann Stewart



Doreen Dane



Margaret Marks



BAPTISMS

- 04.05.24 Benjamin Catton, Oxfordshire
29.06.24 Nancy, Danny and Rudi Rogerson, Denham
07.07.24 Raihan Williamson, Denham



Benjamin Catton



**Nancy, Danny and
Rudi Rogerson**



Raihan Williamson

WEDDINGS

- 11.05.24 Michael Easter and Elizabeth Purcell

40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

- 14.04.24 Clive and Caroline Ashcroft
Renewal of wedding vows



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: 12.30 - 3pm

Fri: 12.30 - 3pm

Sunday Services on Youtube:

www.tinyurl.com/youtube-denham

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/denhamparish.church



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Revd Christoph Lindner

01895 834733

rector@denhamparish.church

Training Curate

Revd Azita Jabbari

azita@denhamparish.church

07837 232542

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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 for more information.



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



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St Mary's Festival



Join us for our annual community celebration of St Mary's Church Denham. All welcome!

Please check our website for all details.

Sunday 8 September 2024



10.30am

Celebration Service
for all ages



12 - 2pm

Barbecue
St Mary's



12.30 - 4pm

Children's Activities
Around St Mary's



1.30pm

Chime St Mary's Bells
St Mary's Bell Tower



2 - 4.15pm

Vestry Teas
St Mary's Vestry



4.30pm

Concert with aLUMNI
Wind Quintet - St Mary's

All proceeds will help us maintain St Mary's Church Building and Churchyard.

www.denhamparish.church/festival



aLUMNI concert

Wind Quintet of Cambridge
St Mary's Church Denham
Sunday, 8 Sep 2024, 4.30pm

Programme includes:

Harmony Music No.5 by Elgar

Gabriel's Oboe by Morricone

The Swan from Carnival of the Animals
by Saint-Saëns

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