



PARISH PROFILE 2025

Parish

St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Denham
Incorporating
St Mark's Denham Green
St Francis New Denham

Incumbent

Revd Christoph Lindner

Deanery

Amersham

Diocese

Diocese of Oxford

OUR VISION



We Pray Like Jesus

Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come."
Luke 11.2

Jesus taught his disciples to pray to God as 'Father' and was in constant communication with him. As his followers we want all our life to be grounded in our relationship with him.

We Welcome Like Jesus

When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today."
Luke 19.5

We have experienced God's welcome in Jesus and want to be a welcoming community for everyone.

We Share Like Jesus

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1.14

We are called to share life, faith and ministry and to develop a culture of generosity that speaks of our generous God.

Who we are

We are the parish church of Denham in South Bucks, a diverse community with a population of about 7,000. As a church family we are united around the good news of Jesus Christ and our vision to pray, welcome and share like Jesus. After Covid we added a fourth word: *We dare* like Jesus.

St Mary's Church in Denham Village is the historic heart of the community (the oldest part was built around 900 years ago). Over the last 80 years the parish has grown significantly and new 'villages' within the parish boundaries such as Denham Green and Higher Denham have developed. As a result, two 'mission churches' were built: St Mark's in Denham Green and St Francis in New Denham. Currently our ministry team consists of our Rector Christoph Lindner, parish administrator Sarah-Jane Bennett (part-time), Children and Families leader Edda Lindner (volunteer) and organist Stephen Armstrong (part-time). Our two churchwardens Cathy Macqueen and Jane Brown and the PCC are highly engaged with our mission and ministry; a range of groups are led and supported by many of our committed and motivated church members.



St Mary's Church building and community holds the affections of many people and is popular for baptisms, weddings and funerals. We have recently introduced an AV system for media-rich services and events. We have a large churchyard with burial space for many years to come.

St Mark's Church Hall in Denham Green is a multi-purpose building which is ideal for informal events and services, such as our "Little Lions" toddler group and Café Church. Since 2024 it is also the venue for the "Lighthouse" holiday club in August. We have begun the planning process to redevelop the building to create more space and make it a community hub.

Our Rector began his ministry in March 2016. Christoph and his wife Edda brought with them a group of about 25 members of St James in Gerrards Cross and Fulmer, who joined our church to strengthen our ministry and mission, especially to young people and families.

In 2016 and 2017 we restarted our work with children and families through a weekly Sunday Club, a thriving toddler group ("Little Lions"), and regular assemblies in both local primary schools. For a time we ran *Messy Church*, *Who Let The Dads Out* and *Forest Church*.



Since last year we are running a *Lighthouse* holiday club in the summer. Our electoral roll has 135 members; about a quarter of them do not live in the parish. Over the course of an average week our worship services are attended by about 70-100 adults and 4-15 children. (for special services this number of children grows considerably). The worship style of our services is varied and ranges from a Common Worship Holy Communion at 9am to the more informal 10.30am services in an all-age 'blended' style and Café Church. We are exploring how we can offer services and events that are especially suited for families.

While Denham Parish Church has been growing 'younger' over the last years, about two thirds of members are above 60. There is much scope to develop our ministry with families, children and young people. For more information on the local community see page 9.

St Mark's Church Hall in Denham Green is a multi-purpose building, which is hired regularly by local community groups (including Brownies) and the venue for our more informal services and children's groups. St Francis Chapel in New Denham does not host a regular service at present.

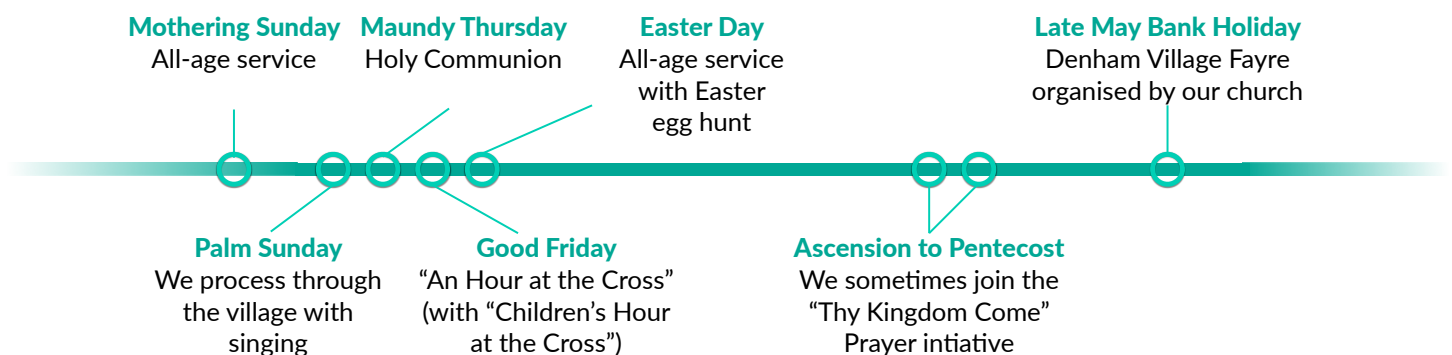
The only other church in our parish is the Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy Name (part of St Joseph's RC Church in Chalfont St Peter). We have very good relationships with other churches in our area.

Over the next years our focus is on growing in three particular ways:

- Growing deep roots in the love of Christ
- Growing missional disciples
- Growing our work with families and young people.

Our church is not offering *Prayers of Love and Faith*.

Events through the year:



Our vision and mission

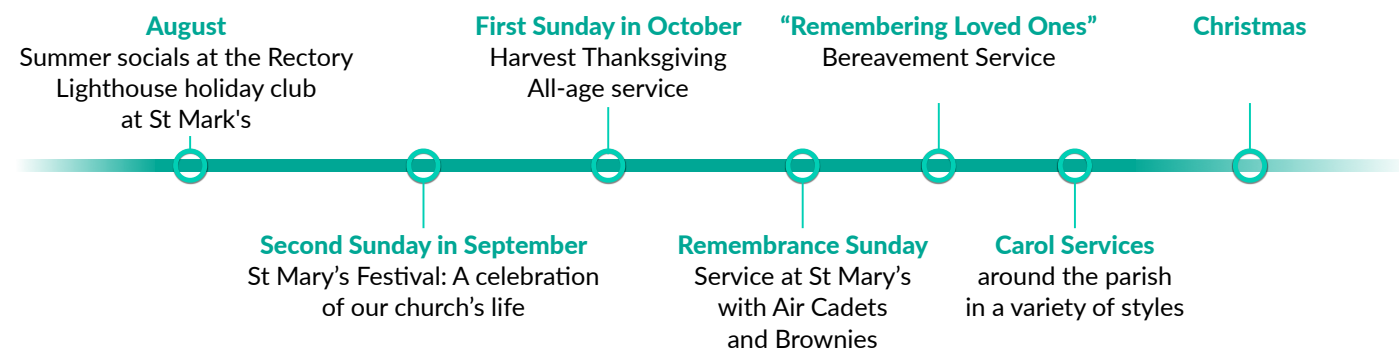
Our church's vision is to *pray, welcome, share and dare* like Jesus. As part of the Body of Christ in Denham it is our desire to become more and more like him and to represent him in this parish and beyond by word and action. The words *pray, welcome, share* and *dare* describe our direction of travel on this journey:

Pray like Jesus

We believe that prayer must be the bedrock of our church's life. Before we do, God is asking us to be connected with him – if we abide in him we will bear much fruit. It is our vision to root our hearts, minds and lives in Christ through prayer, worship and Scripture and to develop rhythms of prayer, Bible reading and worship - together and on our own. We also want to explore creative ways of praying visibly in our community.

Over the last years we have taught about prayer in our services, hold a monthly prayer gathering and joined "Thy Kingdom Come" prayer initiative. We have held special prayer weeks and created a prayer space at St Mary's for a week last year. Beyond that we seek to make prayer a natural part of our everyday lives and of all church activities. We have a long way to go and realise that in a busy church, the priority of prayer can easily get lost.

Denham Parish Church has used the BRF Bible reading notes for many years and we are recommending Lectio365. Over the years we have given away hundreds of gospels to invite people to read the Bible for themselves.



Welcome like Jesus

As a smaller church we have seen the power of a welcoming community. Our vision is that our buildings, services and events are places of welcome for all and especially for those with no previous experience of church.



We are regularly reviewing our existing services to make sure they are welcoming and accessible. We are planning to make our all-age service on the first Sunday of the month even more accessible to families, and are exploring whether we could offer a regular “Bubble Church”. At our first *Lighthouse* holiday club last summer (see picture left) we welcomed many children without a previous connection to our church. Over the last two years we have encouraged and trained a group of church members to lead services and to use their gifts in a variety of ministries.

Our ultimate goal is to develop a lifestyle of welcome and hospitality, wherever we are. We have many

contacts through visitors and occasional offices. We see much untapped potential in developing a thoughtful and loving follow-up.

Our welcome is also expressed by our communication in print and online through our attractive church magazine, website and Facebook page. We see a clear need to improve our communication online and to go beyond social media as “billboard”.

Share like Jesus

We are called to share life, faith and ministry and to develop a culture of generosity that speaks of our generous God. We offer a range of small groups (in the room and on Zoom) to help all ages and stages to grow in faith and friendship. We are running Alpha once a year.



Reaching out to children and families is a priority for us. Some of our initiatives have been more successful than others — our goal is to discover where God is already at work and join in. We have grown strong links with our two local primary schools (*right: school assemblies team*).



We also have many opportunities to share life and faith with seniors in our parish and would like to develop this ministry further.

Currently our Rector holds monthly Communion services at two local residential care homes and a retirement village).

An essential part of sharing life and ministry is team work and helping disciples to disciple others, using their gifts. We are committed to releasing church members into ministry in church and world.

Thanks to the generosity of our church family we have met our financial needs over the last years and paid our parish share. We invite every person who calls our church their spiritual home to take part in planned Christian giving and are committed to giving to God's mission beyond our parish. We have five mission partners (BRF, Care for the Family, Tearfund, Trinity Homeless, Wycliffe Bible Translators), with whom we are building stronger relationships. Five percent of our income as a church is donated to them each year.

Our “Give and Share” ministry supports people in our area who struggle with the cost of living. Every Christmas we give away hundreds of hampers through local schools.

Dare like Jesus

During and after Covid we added this fourth verb to our vision statement. Together with many other Christians we believe that we need to be courageous and reach out with the good news of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit at a time when the church is losing impact in our nation, especially among younger people. We want to be present in our communities and individually be salt and light in our daily lives (‘whole-life discipleship’). We are committed to giving young people a voice, to listen to those who are not part of our congregation (esp. families), engage with our culture and bring a gospel perspective to it. As a church we want to foster a culture of invitation and will hold one another accountable as leaders in how we stay true to our joint vision.



Associate Minister (House for Duty or Self-Supporting)

Person Specification

We seek an associate minister who:

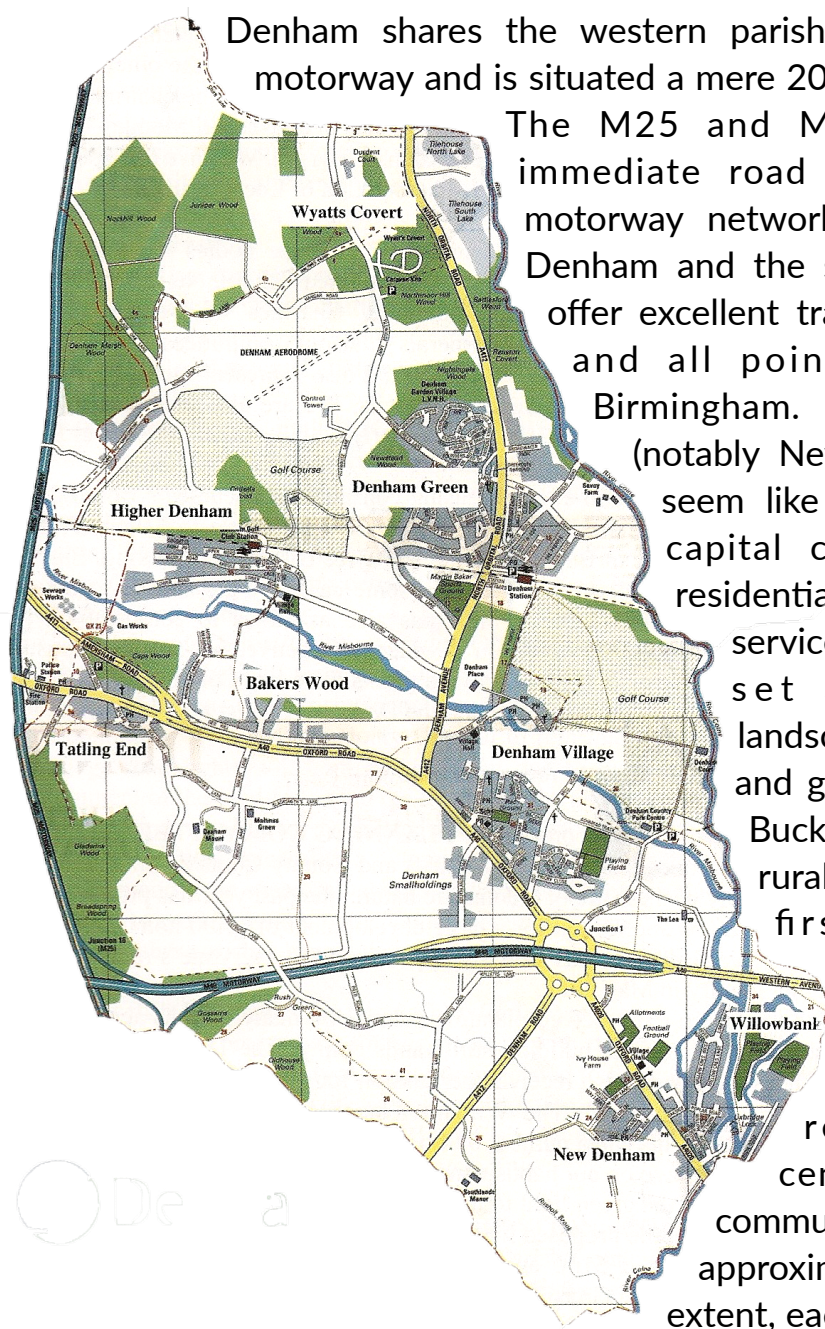
- is creative and innovative in shaping mission and discipleship
- has a passion to reach out to families and young people in our parish
- will take significant responsibility in existing and new ministries focused on families, children and young people, intergenerational worship
- is committed to teaching and preaching from the Bible as the divinely inspired Word of God and supreme authority
- is a team player and has a good track record of leading teams
- will share responsibility for life events with our Rector
- will work for the equivalent of two days a week plus Sundays

We offer:

- an exciting opportunity to help us shape our mission in this new season of our church's life
- a close and collaborative working relationship with our Rector and team of lay leaders
- the flexibility to work to your strengths, and opportunities to develop and nurture your gifts
- a welcoming church family
- House for Duty: provision of a family home located in the parish, with excellent transport links
- Self-supporting: provision of office space in the parish
- Full reimbursement of all expenses of office and mission



Denham Parish: geography and communities



Denham shares the western parish boundary with the M25 motorway and is situated a mere 20 miles from central London.

The M25 and M40 motorways provide immediate road access to the national motorway network; the railway stations of Denham and the smaller Denham Golf Club offer excellent train connections to London and all points north-westward to Birmingham. While parts of Denham (notably New Denham) may therefore seem like a western suburb of our capital city, the overall mix of residential communities, light and service industry businesses, all set amongst green-belt landscapes of fields, woodlands and golf courses, give this south Buckinghamshire parish a semi-rural air that surprises many first-time visitors from surrounding urban areas.

Denham Parish does not have one central parish residential/commercial centre but eight separate communities dotted around the approximate 2.2 by 3.1 mile overall extent, each with its own identity and

particular role/aspects. **Denham Village** exhibits a picturesque arrangement of traditional English village elements: red brick buildings dating back to the 16–17th centuries; St Mary's church, the Victorian primary school building (Denham Village School), the green, pubs and private residential dwellings. Even though the village is located off the main A 412 road that runs north-south through the parish, its quaint and historic nature has established it as a regional attraction with visitors throughout the year, especially those heading to the pubs and restaurant.



Denham Green is the main commercial centre of the village, with its retail outlets, professional services, restaurants and petrol station, straddling the A 412, Watford to Slough main road. This is the largest populated area in our parish, including mostly post-war housing, Denham Green Academy (primary school), and a doctor's and two dentists' surgeries. Recent modern residential redevelopments include Denham Garden



Village (a retirement village on the site of the old Licensed Victuallers National Home), Landmark Place (retirement apartments) and a recent development of the old Denham Film Studios. We have several care homes for the elderly in the parish with close associations to St Mary's Church.

New Denham and **Willowbank** are those residential parish outposts adjacent to the boundary with the London Borough of Hillingdon and the town of Uxbridge, the nearest largest town to Denham and the interchange for the local bus transport service. Uxbridge is also the western terminus for the Metropolitan and Piccadilly Underground lines from/to London.

Baker's Wood and **Tatling End** are hamlets accessed from the A40 Oxford Road, the latter including a roadside inn, restaurant and convenience store, together with the local fire station.

By contrast, **Higher Denham** is somewhat isolated from the rest of the parish, comprising private residencies (arranged up the hillside away from the River Misbourne) and the headquarters of the internationally renowned aircraft ejector seat manufacturer, Martin-Baker Aircraft Company, the major employer in the parish.

Other sources of employment in the parish are Bosch in Denham Green, Smith's Garden Centre in New Denham and other smaller family-run garden nurseries.



Wyatts Covert is a mobile homes park of more than 100 privately owned residencies for the over 55 age group. This is located at the northern end of the parish alongside **Denham Aerodrome**, licensed for private small aircraft use.

Around our communities and golf courses, the greater proportion of the parish extent is farmland and wooded areas. Working the land has been a fundamental part of Denham since the time of the Domesday Book and is reflected today by dotted farmsteads and garden nurseries. Green landscapes of a more relaxed nature are our two private members' golf courses: Denham Golf Club and the Buckinghamshire Golf Club that hosts major tournaments. Also within the parish boundaries lies Denham Country Park with a visitors' centre and excellent walks along the Grand Union Canal.



Other leisure and social pastimes are centred on the facilities offered by the communities themselves; the Village Memorial Hall, Higher Denham Community Hall, New Denham Community Centre (with St Francis Chapel). Together with St Mark's Church Hall in Denham Green they host a variety of social activities that serve those communities directly and attract participants from across the parish and beyond.



Pattern of Worship

Sundays

9.00am Holy Communion (weekly, 10-20 adults)

Venue: St Mary's Church. A reflective Common Worship service of Holy Communion with a short homily and a final hymn.

10.30am Morning Worship or Holy Communion (weekly, 70-100 adults, 4-15 children)

Venue: St Mary's Church and YouTube livestream. Our main Sunday service with Holy Communion, led by our choir, on the second and fourth Sunday; An informal Sunday service in a 'blended' style (sometimes with baptisms) on the other Sundays; with Sunday Club for children each week (except special all-age family services). Once a month: "Destiny" for older children and younger teenagers at St Mark's Hall.

3.30pm Café Church (first Sunday, 25-40 adults)

Venue: St Mark's Church Hall. An informal service with traditional hymns and prayers and opportunities to talk around tables. Homemade cakes and drinks are served.

5.00pm "Destiny" for young people aged 10 and older
(Second Sunday, 4-10 young people)

Venue: St Mark's Church Hall. Led by two young adults and supported by one of our churchwardens.



Mondays

10.30am Holy Communion (third Monday, 6-15 adults)

Venue: Denham Garden Village. An informal service of Holy Communion for residents (BCP).

Tuesdays

2.00pm Holy Communion (last Tuesday, 10-20 adults)

Venue: White Plains Residential Care Home. An informal service of Holy Communion for residents (Common Worship).

Wednesdays

9.30am Little Lions Toddler Group (weekly in term time, 12-20 families)

Venue: St Mark's Church Hall. Each session includes Bible stories, prayers and songs.

Thursdays

2.30pm Holy Communion (monthly, 4-10 adults)

Venue: Denham Manor Care Home. An informal service of Holy Communion for residents (Common Worship).



Left: Some members of our children's team at the annual "Denham Village Vayre" on the late May Bank Holiday.



Diocese of Oxford

The Diocese of Oxford serves the mission of the Church in Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. The Diocese comprises more than 600 parishes, with over 800 churches, serving a diverse population of more than 2 million people located in all types of settings.

Due to the size and complexity of the Diocese, we have three Area Bishops who exercise considerable strategic and pastoral oversight for their Areas. The Bishop of Buckingham, the Rt Rev'd Dave Bull was consecrated during Lent 2025. The Archdeacon of Buckingham is Ven Guy Elsmore who has been in post since 2016. In September 2020, Revd Canon Chris Bull was appointed Associate Archdeacon of Buckingham.

Through prayer, listening and discernment a [common vision has emerged for the Diocese of Oxford](#). The vision is based on the qualities described in The Beatitudes and addresses what kind of church we are called to be:

**a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world:
contemplative, compassionate, courageous.**

Our Common Vision continues to emerge as we identify together areas of our common life where we believe God is calling to focus. The [diocesan focal areas](#) are not a description of everything we do, but these priorities are being supported centrally by resources, training, conferences, workshops, and much more. The diocese is inviting benefices and their clergy to share a vision rather than demanding a response, motivated by hope not driven by anxiety, and thereby to flourish in their ministry. It is hoped that clergy appointed into the Archdeaconry of Buckingham will want to commit to this vision and encourage their benefice to share in becoming a more Christ-like church for the sake of God's world.

The Diocese is committed to a high level of support and training for our clergy. Successful candidates who are taking up posts of first responsibility will be expected to participate in Pastoral Supervision Groups, further details can be found [HERE](#).



Amersham Deanery

Oxford Diocese is one of the largest in England, made up by the counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. If Bucks alone were snipped off and made into its own diocese, it would still be the 5th biggest in the country! It has great tracts of agricultural countryside, but the metropolitan area of Milton Keynes also lies within the county and Slough, which was historically part of Bucks, is just across the county boundary in Berkshire.

Besides this, the Chilterns, being on the Metropolitan and Chiltern tube and rail lines, are a favourite area of residence for those working in the City financial community. Property prices are correspondingly high.

Deaneries of varying sizes provide the context for the day to day working of the Church of England parishes locally. Amersham Deanery, of which Denham Parish is a part, is one of the largest and almost certainly the wealthiest in the Diocese. However, while many households could be described as 'comfortable' there are patches of significantly less prosperous housing. Denham Parish itself is socio-economically very diverse.

There is an excellent spirit of cooperation between all parishes in the Deanery, and the clergy chapter is strong. Our area dean Peggy Ludlow aims to provide pastoral care and supervision for incumbents, and can be relied on to provide a listening ear, help and advice whenever needed.



(Left: Christingle Crib Service at St Mary's)



Further Information

Websites

Our website: www.denhamparish.church

Website of the Diocese of Oxford: <https://www.oxford.anglican.org>

Website of Amersham Deanery: <http://www.amershamdeanery.org.uk>

Denham Parish Council website: <http://www.denhambucks-pc.gov.uk>

Our **Annual Report for 2024** contains our financial information, details on our ministry team, PCC and committees, as well as reports from all our ministry areas. You can download it from our website:

<https://www.denhamparish.church/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Annual-Report-2024-ONLINE.pdf>

We appreciate that there may be **further questions** that you would like to ask before making an application. Our Rector, Christoph Lindner, would be pleased to have an initial, informal conversation (01895 834733 or rector@denhamparish.church).

Enhanced DBS disclosure is required



“ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ”

John 15:5

