

DEANE CHURCH NEWS

DECEMBER 1992

SUNDAY DIARY

6 SECOND IN ADVENT

Theme: The Word of God

8.00am Communion

10.30am Bible Sunday
Service

6.30pm Family
Communion

12 THIRD IN ADVENT

THEME: THE FORERUNNER

8.00am Communion

10.30am Family
Communion

6.30pm Evensong

20 FOURTH IN ADVENT

THEME: THE ANNUNCIATION

8.00am Communion

10.30am Family Carol and
Parade Service

6.30pm Agape Meal in
Church Lounge

27 FIRST AFTER

CHRISTMAS

THEME: THE INCARNATION

8.00am Communion

10.30am Family
Communion
and Baptism

6.30pm Festival of
Lessons and
Carols



*Nativity Window, St Mary The Virgin, Brixham, by Keith Ellis
(Yseries cover published by Chansitor Publications Ltd, 16 Blyburgate, Beccles,
Suffolk, NR34 9TB; printed in Great Britain by Stott Brothers Ltd, Halifax and Oxford)*

MIDWEEK DIARY

Communion: Wednesdays at 10.00am in the Church Lounge
except on December 9th when it is at
The Rectory

Home Groups Tuesdays December 1st and 15th and
Wednesdays December 2nd and 16th

Parochial Church Council: Thursday December 10th
at 7.45pm

Dinner/Dance Friday, Dec 4th at Deane Golf Club

Christmas: 11.30pm Midnight Communion

8.00am Communion

10.30am Family Communion

WHO'S WHO

Rector: Roger B Jackson
The Rectory
234 Wigan Road (61819)

Vicar: A Robin Hazlehurst
St Andrew's Vicarage
Crescent Avenue (651851)

Curate: Michael W Saunders
281 Deane Church Lane (64313)

Honorary Assistant: Anthony J Woodward
6 Barrisdale Close (654863)

Readers: Ken Allan
159 Newbrook Road (63231)

Alison Saunders
281 Deane Church Lane (64313)

Wardens: Keith Acton
3 Mallowdale Close (842723)

Terry Oakes
14 Salford Road (64362)

Stan Wilson
11 Clough Meadow (492034)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Lay Craig Mochrie
Chairman: 4 Laxford Grove (652324)

Honorary Treasurer: Keith Acton
3 Mallowdale Close

Honorary Secretary: Peter Marron
18 Milverton Close (492643)

CHAIRMEN OF WORKING GROUPS

Mission & Unity: Michael Saunders
Pastoral: Joyce Sutcliffe
Worship: Roger Jackson
Buildings & Fabric: Terry Oakes
Social: Brenda Dixon

OTHER OFFICIALS

Organist: Jim Needham
130 The Pewfist
Westhoughton (0942 812692)

Flowers: Mary Jackson
234 Wigan Road (61819)

Verger: Betty Calderbank
32 Junction Road (655375)

Archivist: Rodney Howard
42 Elswick Avenue (652417)

MEMORIAL HALL

Bookings: Ron Morris
13 St Mary's Avenue (62548)

Caretakers: David and Eunice McCormick
34 Junction Road (654503)

WHAT'S ON

Creche: under 3 years
Scramblers: 3 to 5 years
Climbers: 5 to 7 years
Meet in the Memorial Hall Lounge on
Sundays at 10.30 a.m.
Pauline Ridyard (651157)

Explorers: 7 to 11 years
Meet in Church at 10.30 a.m. before
going to the Memorial Hall.
Eric Downs (653049)

Pathfinders: 11 to 14 years
Worship in Church on Sundays
Club Night in the Memorial Hall on
Fridays from 7.15 to 9.00 p.m.
David Dewhurst (651347)

C.Y.F.A.: 14 to 18 years
Meet on Sundays at 7.45 p.m.
Michael Saunders (64313)

LADIES GROUPS

Meet in the Memorial Hall

Ladies Alternate Tuesdays
Guild: at 7.45 p.m.
Pat Sewell (61278)

Mothers' Union: Alternate Wednesdays
at 2.00 p.m.
Janetta Makin (658270)

Mums and Toddlers: Thursdays at 1.30 p.m.
Alison Saunders (64313)

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Meet in the Scout/Guide Hut

Brownies: 1 Mondays at 5.45 p.m.
Jean Hanley (654010)
2 Tuesdays at 6.30 p.m.
Lily Jarrett (63511)

Guides: Mondays at 7.15 p.m.
Carol Baxendale (62106)

Rangers: Alternate Wednesdays
at 7.30 p.m.
Judith Ashcroft (657430)

Cubs: A Thursdays at 6.45 p.m.
Wendy Gooding (653277)
B Wednesdays at 6.15 p.m.
Marjorie Oakes (64362)
Pat Boydell (61450)

Beavers: Thursdays at 5.30 p.m.
Susan Ash (62657)

Rainbows: Fridays at 6.30 p.m.
Margaret Latchford (657101)

The Parish Office at the Rectory, 234 Wigan Road (61819) is open on Saturdays from 10.00 to 11.00 a.m. to deal with initial enquiries for Baptism and Banns of Marriage.

The Rector writes

28th November, 1992.

There seems to be a day for almost everything now. During the past month I have been inundated with literature about World Aids Day on November 30th. Aids is of course a terrible illness, and all who contract it, for whatever cause, deserve our deepest sympathy. If having a special day for Aids will increase our awareness of this scourge then there can be something to be said for it. But I'm also aware of other serious medical conditions which do not attract so much attention. I wonder sometimes whether we are in danger of getting things a little out of proportion. For example, each year about 300,000 people in this country suffer a heart attack, 240,000 are diagnosed as having some form of cancer and 100,000 people suffer a stroke. According to the Department of Health figures, there were 1406 new cases of Aids in the last year, admittedly 6% more than in the previous period, but small compared with the heart and cancer figures. Of these new cases of Aids, the vast majority (over 70%) was amongst homosexuals. The next most frequent likely causes were in order of magnitude sex abroad, a blood factor (eg for haemophilia) and injected drugs. In many African countries Aids has reached epidemic proportions and therefore, our Government is right to take seriously the possibility of any future epidemic here.

In addition to the media and poster campaigns and the leaflet distributed to every household some while back it is now compulsory for young people in the 11 - 13 age group to be taught about Aids in the context of the science curriculum. Herein lies a serious problem. If by far the most common means of getting Aids is through homosexual activity or heterosexual activity with "high risk" partners should young people of this tender age be introduced to this kind of detail?

Sex is such a wonderful gift from God that when adults do explain to the next generation the "facts of life" it needs to be done sensitively in the context of moral standards and human love and affection, not as part of a science lesson. Certainly we need to be spared what happens in some Dutch schools where mixed classes of teenagers practice on each other's thumbs the right way to put on condoms.

It's been said before, and it may sound simplistic, but the only way to ensure freedom from Aids is to exercise self discipline in our sexual relationships before marriage and during marriage. Chastity before marriage and faithfulness within marriage may sound 'old hat' to many, but I remain far from unconvinced that the alternatives of our permissive society are any better.

In the aftermath of the historic vote in General Synod on the ordination of women to the priesthood we took a snapshot of opinion by way of a 'straw vote' of those attending Church on a particular Sunday. Because it is one thing to vote in favour of a principle for the Church of England as a whole and another matter when we bring it down to our own parish the question I posed was this "How would you feel about the possibility of one of our present staff being replaced by a woman deacon?" There was a remarkable consistency between our different congregations. The overall figure of those who said they would be open to and welcome the possibility of one of us being succeeded by a woman was 85%

Finally, I wish to express our gratitude to the team of people who help month by month to put this modest production together - to Pat Sewell, Una Mochrie, Mary Jackson, and to Christine Dean of the Deane School Reprographic department. Thank you too to Ron Morris who, without fail produces a monthly contribution even if it is not always published!

Roger B. Jackson.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM.....

Ron Morris who argues that "Christmas is what you have in your heart and not in your pocket".

Some of the Christmas festivities and antics bear little resemblance to Christmas. Others try to share the spirit of Christmas by organising food and shelter for the homeless and/or the lonely for whom this becomes the meaning of Christmas.

It is understandable that the Child in the Manger prods our awareness of the homeless, the rejected and the marginalised (to use a modern expression), where such awareness has begun to fall off. The Christ whom we celebrate cries out on their behalf, not just to the Church but to society in general. In the manger at Bethlehem He takes his place with the poorest of the poor, in order that none may feel excluded - but excluded from what? The danger is that we may smother the Child under endless appeals to "give, give, give..." to charities and individuals and even Churches. Christmas is a time of giving, but above all it is the time of God giving to us. If we miss that, then we have missed the whole point, and from this gift none is excluded unless they choose not to accept it.

Therefore, let us remember and proclaim afresh the wonder of the Christmas message that it is for all mankind in all sorts and conditions and without monetary or any other restriction.



One way in which we can proclaim the Christmas message is by joining a Carol singing party visiting the wards in Hulton Hospital and the Old Peoples Homes in our parish. Details will be given in the notices in Church.

Rowland Goodwin, the Industrial Missioner, who asks the pertinent question "Have you passed your 'sell-by' date"?

If you are a judge you can go on working well past 70; even until you drop dead! The popular expectation is that Chairmen of companies (and at the other end of the scale, cleaners) are over 50. A recent survey of Personnel Directors thought that receptionists should be under 35. Watching international money-maketeers at work on TV one realises that most of them must be burnt out by then; could you stand the racket, being shouted at and speaking into half-a-dozen telephones at once?

Many redundant 45 and 50 year-olds feel others have already marked them as past their sell-by date. They often feel at their peak in experience and wisdom.

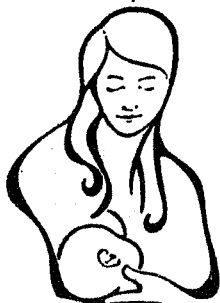
I think ageism is as bad as sexism and racism. There should be a law against it. I'm not sure I agree, either with having a retirement age. Too many valuable skills are thrown away at 60 and 65. Perhaps it's because I'm approaching my sell-by date that I enjoy TV's "One Foot in the grave" and "Waiting for God" so much. How lively, unpredictable, incisive and incredibly funny the main characters are; streets ahead of younger, dull, conformist creatures! Thank goodness there is no ageism in the Bible; God choosing young and inexperienced people to take on great responsibilities, and movingly and creatively working through the elderly. Most of what we know about Abraham happened late in his life. Perhaps, as Browning said, "The best is yet to be; the last of life for which the first was made".



IN THE NEWS

ATTENDANCE AWARDS were given to the following children in -
Climbers to Francesca Hesketh for 25 attendances
 Elizabeth Cox and Adam Smith for 50 attendances

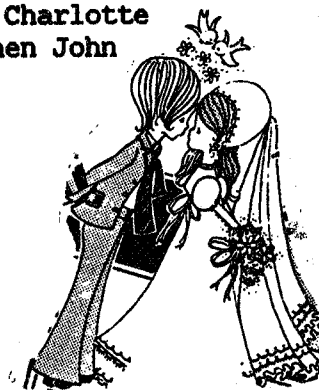
Explorers for 80 attendances : Jonathan Bickerton, Yvonne Biney
 Emma Crook, Alexander Hilton,
 Jamie Parker
 120 attendances : Craig Foster, Andrew Beesley
 160 attendances : Karen Greenhalgh, Matthew Kilsby
 Richard Marron, Laura Parker.



THANKSGIVING We gave thanks to God with
 these parents for the birth of their children :
 Mike and Elaine Kirkby for Ruth Charlotte
 John and Megan Roebuck for Stephen John

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE

We offer our congratulations to David McCann
 and Janet Scofield who are to be married on
 Sunday December 20th. After completing her
 studies at the Universities of Durham and York
 Janet is now teaching modern languages at Bury
 Church High School. David is a Management
 Accountant and they plan to live in Ramsbottom.



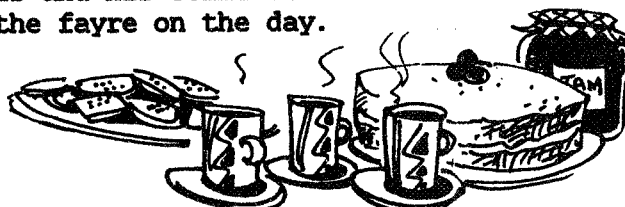
If you would like to be responsible for providing
 flowers for the main communion table on any weekend
 next year, please sign the list on the Church
 Notice Board. Many people like to do this on an
 anniversary of a birthday, wedding day or in memory
 of a friend or relative.

BITS & PIECES

67th BOLTON (ST MARY'S DEANE) BROWNIE PACK are holding a Coffee Evening on
 Tuesday 1st December 1992 in Deane Scout and Guide H Q's Junction Road from
 6.45pm to 8.00pm. Bring and Buy Stall, Raffle and Singing by the Brownies.
 Admission is 30p and proceeds are in aid of Blue Peter Appeal.

Christmas is party time for our Ladies Organisations -
 The **Mothers Union** are going to Cafe Vienna for their Christmas Meal on
 Wednesday December 2nd and they plan to sing carols on December 16th.
 The **Ladies Guild** are holding their meal at Deane Golf Club on Tuesday 1st
 December and will sing carols and munch mince pies on December 8th.

This year's **Autumn Fayre** raised £2650.00. Though this is less than last year's
 record total, it needs to be remembered that we have had a series of fund
 raising efforts in connection with the Church Roof Appeal. This is,
 therefore, a creditable figure and Ron Morris and his committee wish to thank
 all those who ran the stalls and supported the fayre on the day.



MONEY MATTERS

Thank you to all who contribute to God's work through our Church by their Regular Weekly Giving

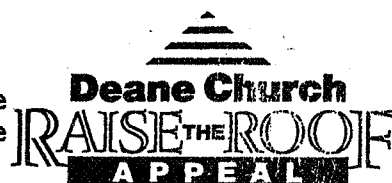
	<u>Planned Giving Envelopes</u>	<u>Loose Collections</u>	<u>Totals</u>
October 4	617.25	£ 83.78	£ 701.03
11	523.85	161.40	685.25
18	435.75	109.63	545.38
25	539.92	111.54	651.46
Weekdays		127.13	127.13
	£2116.67	£593.48	£2710.25

In the corresponding period last year the amount given was £2843. Since a number of people are now giving through a banker's standing order we will begin including this figure so that the above feature gives a more accurate record of regular giving.



This year's HARVEST APPEAL raised a total of £391.20. Though this is less than last year it ought to be borne in mind that if followed closed on the heels of the special appeal for the victims of famine in Somalia which realized £475.

This has now passed the £60,000 work. Amongst recent donations received there was £144 from our Guides Sponsored Silence ("an evening of absolute bliss" says their Captain Carole Baxendale). We are grateful to the Ladybridge Patients Support Group who have sent a cheque for £100, being part of the proceeds of their recent Brass Band Concert in Church.



.. and finally a Note from our Treasurer Keith Acton
The contributions made through the Regular Giving Scheme will enable me to meet all the financial commitments of our church for the current financial year. In addition, subject to any unforeseen circumstances, I expect to be able to meet the bills for the replacement of the church roof out of the funds generated by the Raise the Roof Campaign.

Unfortunately, one must never be complacent and I foresee unavoidable increases in expenditure next year particularly with regard to our Parish Share to the Diocese (which this year stands at £46,500), church insurances (at present £3906) and repairs following the architects recent quinquennial inspection of the church building. All this means that our income will need to rise by more than the present rate of inflation.

As by far the greater part of our regular income comes through the envelope scheme, I wish to encourage -

1. those who are not yet in the scheme to join it
2. everyone to review their giving, and if at all possible in these difficult economic times to increase their regular contribution to help meet the increased costs which are outside the control of