

THE PARISH OF DEANE

DEANE CHURCH NEWS

SEPTEMBER 1995

SUNDAY DIARY

3. 13th AFTER PENTECOST

Theme:
The Suffering Community

8.00am Communion
10.30am Family Communion
6.00pm Evensong

10. 14th AFTER PENTECOST

Theme:
The Family

8.00am Communion
10.30am Morning Service
6.30pm Family Communion

17. 15th AFTER PENTECOST

Theme:
Those in Authority

8.00am Communion
10.30am Family Communion
6.30pm Evensong

24. 16th AFTER PENTECOST

Theme:
The Neighbour

8.00am Communion
10.30am Family/ Parade Service
with Commissioning of
Leaders
6.30pm Family Communion



*Blackpool illuminations, by Ivan J Belcher
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MIDWEEK DIARY

Communion: Every Wednesday at 10.00am in the Church Lounge

Home Groups: Tuesdays September 5 and 19, Wednesdays 6 and 20

Church Council: Monday September 11 at 7.45pm

Prayer Focus: Wednesday September 27 at 8.00pm

WHO'S WHO**WHAT'S ON**

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

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

Curate: Charles D Moore
281 Deane Church Lane (64313)

Reader: Christine Kilsby
1386 Junction Rd West (492351)

Wardens: Craig Mochrie
4 Laxford Grove (652324)

Pat Boydell
21 New York (61450)

Les Kilsby
1386 Junction Rd West (492351)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Lay Stan Wilson
Chairman: 11 Clough Meadow (492034)

Honorary Keith Acton
Treasurer: 3 Mallowdale Close (842723)

Honorary Les Kilsby
Secretary: 1386 Junction Rd West (492351)

CHAIRMEN OF WORKING GROUPS

Finance: Keith Acton
Pastoral: Stan Wilson
Worship: Philip Gore
Buildings & Fabric: Mike Kirkby
Social: Brenda Dixon

OTHER OFFICIALS

Organist: Jim Needham
130 The Pewfist
Westhoughton (01942 812692)

Flowers: Mary Jackson
234 Wigan Road (61819)

Verger: Betty Calderbank
32 Junction Road (655375)

Archivist: Rodney Howard
42 Elswick Avenue (652417)

Covenant Sid Harris
Secretary: 11 Manningham Road (656355)

MEMORIAL HALL

Bookings: Keith Holden
3 Beaumont Drive (653075)

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

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.
Jane Hampson (848433)

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 8.00 p.m.
Charlie & Sara Moore (64313)

CHURCH CHOIR
Rehearsals on Sundays at 11.45 a.m.
Jim Needham (01942 812692)

MUSIC GROUP

Rehearsals on Thursdays at 7.30 p.m.
Ray Howarth (652602)

LADIES GROUPS

Meet in the Memorial Hall

Ladies Alternate Tuesdays
Guild: at 7.45 p.m.
Pat Boydell (61450)

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

Parents & Thursdays at 1.30 p.m.
Toddlers: Julie Cooper (660946)

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Meet in the Scout/Guide Hut

Brownies: 1 Mondays at 5.45 p.m.
Janet Barnsley (665896)
2 Tuesdays at 6.30 p.m.
Lily Jarrett (63511)

Guides: Mondays at 7.15 p.m.
Carole 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.
Francis Barlow

Beavers: Thursdays at 5.30 p.m.
Jean Aspinall (63948)

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

26th August, 1995

Here are a few frightening statistics:-

Every six seconds a new crime is committed in this country, and a violent attack every two minutes. Every day almost 500 couples are divorced, 170 babies are born to teenage unmarried mothers and 470 babies are aborted.

Every week 1,000 people leave the Church of England with other churches suffering a similar decline. Although there are 30,000 Christian clergy in Britain, there are 80,000 registered fortune tellers and witches.

Here is a question - how can the Christian Church change things for the better?

It will never even begin to do so until we admit that our country no longer has a right to describe itself as "Christian". The Church has to recognise that it has a mission field on its own doorstep which is just as pagan as any other part of the world. How do we reach non-church goers with the Christian message? This is what the **Decade of Evangelism** is all about, and one of the most significant developments over the past couple of years has been the mushroom growth of what is called the **Alpha Course**. This originated in the London West End Church of Holy Trinity, Brompton. Whereas two years ago there were fewer than 10 courses outside Brompton there are now over 1,200 with dozens more registering every month. We have already had our first pioneer course, and the second is planned for the autumn. It is our hope and prayer that in the period immediately after Christmas and finishing in Holy Week next year many church members will have had the experience of being a member of an Alpha group. If 400 people have been on the courses run by the largest congregation in Bolton (St. Peter, Halliwell) surely we should be aiming for half that number by next Easter.

What are the distinctively attractive features of an Alpha Course?

- ♦ It presents on video a simple course in basic Christianity which is attractive both to non-churchgoers and to those for whom their Christianity has little meaning and relevance to everyday life.
- ♦ People are allowed, indeed encouraged, to ask whatever questions they wish in a small group. Nothing is treated as too trivial, threatening or illogical. Questions are to be answered honestly, courteously and thoughtfully. It allows the doubters to express their doubts and the seekers to find the truth. It provides an enjoyable and supportive atmosphere in which to tackle the great questions of life.
- ♦ No one is "pestered" if they choose to leave because they have had enough. People are not pushed or forced into making decisions which they are not ready to take.
- ♦ There is a social element in the course when members can relax over meals and go away for a day together.
- ♦ It is friendship based. There is little advertising and publicity. People who have been helped on an Alpha course encourage their friends and relatives to come. At the end of the day this is far more effective than when I exhort you in the notices to join up. Friends bring friends.

I have noticed a change in the lives and in the depth of commitment of some of those who were members of our first Alpha Course. I pray that will be repeated and snowball on subsequent courses for this could arrest the decline in our congregations and also enable us as a Church to have an impact for good in the community in which God has placed us as His representatives in Deane.

Roger B. Jackson.



THERE IS HOPE

Deane Church is one of those Bolton Churches which has participated in the earlier phases of "There is Hope". Remember Michael and Alison Saunders persuading many of us to display "There is Hope" stickers in our cars? Up till now the emphasis has been upon individual Churches doing their own thing in relation to reaching out with the Christian message in ways which have been most appropriate to them. In our case, for instance, we took part in the Children's Mission led by Helen Franklin of Scripture Union. In addition we invited a team from Holy Trinity Church Platt in South Manchester to join us for a week of mission in the autumn of 1993. In the Children's Mission we were seeking primarily, though by no means exclusively, to convey the Christian message to the children and their families of our St. Mary's Primary School, very few of whom have contact with any Church. In the Adult Mission we were aiming to engage more of the considerable fringe membership of our Church who are content to remain on the touchline, somewhat detached from the life and witness of the congregation.

The next phase of "There is Hope" is being planned for 1996. Then the emphasis will shift from individual Churches working separately to them participating together, cooperating on a town wide basis. There will be two main events.

1. Canon Michael Green, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Advisor in Evangelism, will be bringing a large team of Christian students during Lent from Sunday March 24th to Sunday March 31st. The team members will be shared around the participating Churches encouraging us to reach out with the Christian message. There will be a chance to meet Michael Green and his wife, Rosemary, who are coming to Bolton on Thursday September 7th. They will be speaking at a specially convened meeting to be held in St. Peter's Church, Church Road Halliwell in the evening at 7.30 pm. The Church Council and members of the Mission and Pastoral Committee are especially encouraged to attend, but it is an open meeting and all are welcome.
2. In the autumn from October 4th-13th there will be a series of evening meetings held in the Victoria Hall, Knowsley Street. It is hoped that Christians who have made a name for themselves in sport or entertainment will be invited to appear and take part in the evening programme.

At its meeting on Monday September 11th the Church Council will have to decide whether or not we should commit our Church to participating in this next phase of "There is Hope".



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**PRAYER FOCUS
WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 27th at 8.00 pm**

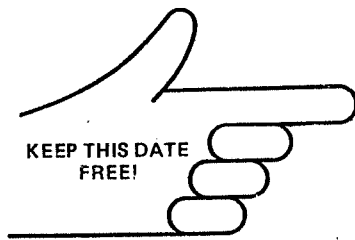


At this month's central gathering for prayer we shall focus our thoughts and prayers upon this year's Tear Fund Harvest Appeal. Using a "punchy" 20 minute video we shall see how two Churches in Egypt's capital city of Cairo are reaching out to the needy with encouraging results. There are lessons to be learnt from the experience of Christians in Egypt who work with the needy rubbish collectors and drug addicts. Harvest Thanksgiving is on October 8th and our celebrations will feature a strong theme of recycling.

BITS & PIECES

CHURCH CLEANING

The response to recent appeals for reliable volunteers to join the Church cleaning teams which have become depleted has been very poor. In fact only two new people have come forward. In order to keep the size of teams at a reasonable level we have reduced the number of teams from five to four, and to ensure that people are not being asked to do their duty more frequently than at present we are proposing to leave the Church uncleaned once every six weeks. Inevitably there will be those who will complain that the pews are dusty or the carpets are dirty. There is one very simple answer to such criticism, and one very simple solution to this problem. If ten complainers and/or others become reliable volunteers then we can increase the number of teams to five once again.



SATURDAY OCTOBER 14th 8.00-11.30pm.

Harvest Hoe Down with the Haywain Band. Roland Higson will be the caller and teacher. Come and enjoy an evening of square dancing. Non-slip shoes will help you keep your feet on the ground. If you don't dance yourself, then come along and have a good laugh at and with those who do..

Venue: The Memorial Hall

Tickets: £3.50 which includes a supper, but bring your own drinks.

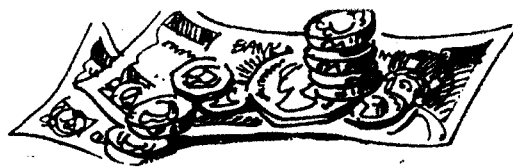
CONGRATULATIONS to Charlie and Sara Moore on the birth of their first child, Joseph Thomas, who weighed in at 7lb 13ozs on August 10th. In what Charlie claimed was a totally objective and unbiased viewpoint he excitedly reported the news to the congregation the following Sunday saying that "Joseph Thomas is quite the most beautiful baby I have ever seen" We shall be giving thanks for his birth at the Family Service on August 27th.



THE LADIES GUILD have invited Alan Probine to present an "Ideal Homes Road Show" on Tuesday September 12th. On September 26th they have their annual Harvest Supper to which they have invited a magician. It is not clear whether he is going to produce the food out of a hat or make it disappear before it is consumed! Just come along and see for yourself.

THE MOTHERS' UNION hold their Branch meetings on Wednesday afternoons, September 13th and 25th at 2.00pm.

MONEY MATTERS



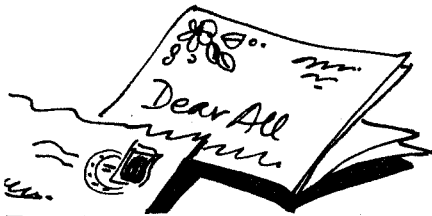
Thank you to all who through their regular giving have contributed to God's work through our Church

		<u>Planned Giving</u>	<u>Loose</u>	
		<u>Envelopes</u>	<u>Collections</u>	<u>Totals</u>
July	2	£ 519.88	£75.54	£ 595.42
	9	491.37	144.64	636.01
	16	540.10	114.14	654.24
	23	498.29	128.31	626.60
	30	483.55	130.50	614.05
Standing Orders		133.75	—	133.75
Weekdays		—	215.63	215.63
		<u>£2,666.94</u>	<u>£808.76</u>	<u>£3,475.70</u>

In the corresponding period last year the amount given was £3,670.

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THANK YOU!



Nola Worsfold, who joined our Church Family last autumn on moving into our parish, had the sad experience of being burgled recently. In addition to items of personal and sentimental value, she lost about £40 in cash and it then cost an additional £50 to have the locks changed. Four members of the Church Family who wish to remain anonymous have donated £90 to Nola via the Rector. Here is Nola's response:

"I wish to take this opportunity to say thank you to those who have helped me with their gifts at this difficult time. It would seem that it was Roger's talk in the series "Going Places" followed by his prayer that prompted several of you to follow the example of the Church in Antioch who supported their fellow believers in Jerusalem who too were in trouble. They couldn't bear to live in relative affluence whilst their Christian brothers and sisters were living in poverty. Two thoughts come to my mind - one is that of the love and support I have received from the fellowship, and the other is of the encouragement I felt, and I hope you will feel too, that there are members of Deane Church who will respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, for which I thank you and I thank God".

Sheila Dewhurst-Taylor also wishes to share with us a most encouraging response which she has received from a former member of our Church Family who on reading her article, "Update on the Embu Street Children Project in Kenya" has sent a donation of £250.

