

THE PARISH OF DEANE

DEANE CHURCH NEWS

JANUARY 1997

SUNDAY DIARY

5. 2nd AFTER CHRISTMAS

Theme:
The Holy family

8.00am Communion
10.30am Family Communion
6.30pm Evensong

12. 1st AFTER EPIPHANY

Theme:
The Baptism of Jesus

8.00am Communion
10.30am Morning Service
6.30pm Family Communion

19. 2nd AFTER EPIPHANY

Theme:
The First Disciples

8.00am Communion
10.30am Family Communion
6.30pm Praise & Prayer Service

26. 3rd BEFORE LENT

Theme:
Christ the Teacher

8.00am Communion
10.30am Family Service
6.30pm Family Communion



'After the snow' by I Belcher

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MIDWEEK DIARY

Communion: Every Wednesday at 10.00am in the Church Lounge
except on New Year's Day

Prayer Focus: Wednesday January 15th at 8.00pm in the Church Lounge

Home Groups: Tuesdays January 7th & 14th and Wednesdays
January 8th & 15th

Parochial Church Council: Thursday January 30th at 7.45pm

"Young at Heart" New Year Party Saturday January 11th 12.00 noon

WHO'S WHO

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

Vicar: Paul Ellis
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

Pastoral + Mission: Craig Mochrie

Worship: Philip Gore

Buildings & Fabric: Mike Kirkby

Social: Bryan Shephard

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)

Caretaker: David McCormick
34 Junction Road (654503)

WHAT'S ON

Creche: under 3 years
Elizabeth Gardiner (660460)

Scramblers: 3 to 5 years

Climbers: 5 to 7 years
Denise Cox (653326)

Explorers: 7 to 11 years
Jane Hampson (848433)

All meet in the Memorial Hall on Sundays at 10.30 a.m.

Pathfinders: 11 to 14 years
Chris Kilsby (492351)

The Memorial Hall, Fridays 7.15 - 9.00 p.m.

C.Y.F.A.: 14 to 18 years
Charlie Moore (64313)

Dorothy Cox (62889)

The Memorial Hall, Sundays 8.00 - 9.30 p.m.

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
at 7.45 p.m.
Brenda Dixon (653333)

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

Union: Thursdays at 1.30 p.m.

Parents & Toddlers: Julie Cooper (660946)

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Meet in the Scout/Guide Hut

Brownies: 1 Tuesdays at 6.30 p.m.
Lily Jarrett (63511)

2 Wednesdays at 6.30 p.m.
Janet Barnsley (665896)

Guides: Mondays at 7.15 p.m.
Carole Baxendale (419167)

Cubs: Thursdays at 6.45 p.m.
Wendy Gooding (653277)

Beavers: Mondays at 5.45 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

28th December 1996.

I am a member of a small group who have been asked to plan a midweek programme for the period of Lent and for the home groups during the rest of the year. When we met recently we considered various options. What particularly impressed us was the fact that several of the nationally produced courses for lent were all focusing on the subject of prayer. This could be a mere coincidence, but we prefer to see it otherwise - perhaps providential. Certainly it is our belief that prayer needs to be given a much higher priority this coming year in the life of our church, and it would appear that we are not alone in our thinking.

Praying together ought to be a natural thing to do when Christians meet with one another, but in point of fact many of us find it extremely difficult, even embarrassing. We find it relatively easy to converse with one another, but when it comes to conversing with God (because that's what prayer is) we become strangely tongue-tied. The course we have selected for the middle five weeks of Lent is called "Saints at Prayer", and one of its aims is to teach us how to pray naturally in groups with confidence. As Lent is very early this year it is important that our planning is more or less completed by the end of January. The existing home groups will use this material and in addition a group will meet on Tuesday evenings in the Church Lounge for those who feel more comfortable there than meeting in someone else's home. Because we need to know how much material to prepare it will be most helpful from an administrative point of view if people do not delay in signing on for this Lent course.

Running at the same time as the Lent groups but starting earlier on Wednesday January 15th is our next Alpha Course. This could be described as a "Beginners Guide to Christianity". Though it was pioneered at the "well heeled" parish of Holy Trinity, Brompton in London's fashionable West End it has spread far and wide over the past three years. It is estimated to have reached 380,000 people in 55 countries.

The Alpha course is controversial and it is not without its critics. I personally have certain reservations. However, it would be nothing short of blind prejudice on my part if I did not recognise that within our own congregation there are some members whose whole lives have been profoundly influenced by what they have learnt and experienced on previous Alpha courses. Some of these people are now beginning to take on leadership roles in different aspects of our Church Family life. I find this tremendously encouraging. It is not without significance that though they wouldn't necessarily endorse everything on the Alpha course nevertheless both the Archbishop of Canterbury and Cardinal Hume, the leader of the Roman Catholic Church in this country, have approved the course and are happy to commend it. That is precisely what I wish to do to those of you who reading this letter have not been on one of our earlier courses. Application forms giving details can be obtained from Charlie Moore or myself.

At a recent meeting of the Church Council it was decided that because our income from direct weekly giving in 1996 had not even kept abreast of the present level of inflation the only way we are able to meet our commitments will be to dip into our reserves. This is not a wise and healthy thing to do and the Church Council asked me to alert the Church membership to this serious state of affairs. Quite apart from the need for everyone of us to review what we give to God's work through our Church there are two things which could lead to a marked improvement in our income. The first is when the many who still do not use the Christian Giving Envelopes begin to do so. When the envelopes are used as they are intended then spasmodic giving becomes regular giving. The second is when the significant number of income tax payers who already use the envelope "covenant" their giving. This considerably enhances the value of your donation without any extra cost to yourself. As I do not have access to who does and who does not take envelopes and covenant their giving I cannot be accused of getting at you personally, but "if the cap fits then please wear it".

Mary joins me as do my colleagues and their wives in thanking you for your Christmas greetings. We send you our prayerful good wishes for this coming year.

Roger B. Jackson.

BITS & PIECES

LORD, TEACH ME TO PRAY

I cannot pray.....

OUR, if my faith has no room for others and their need

FATHER, if I do not demonstrate this relationship to God in my daily living.

WHO ART IN HEAVEN, if all my interests and pursuits are in earthly things.

HALLOWED BY THY NAME, if I am not striving with God's help to be holy.

THY KINGDOM COME, if I am unwilling or resentful of having it in my life.

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN, unless I am truly ready to give myself to God's service here and now.

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD, without expending honest effort for it, or if I would withhold from my neighbour the bread that I receive.

FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US, if I continue to harbour a grudge against anyone.

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, if I deliberately choose to remain in a situation where I am likely to be tempted.

DELIVER US FROM EVIL, if I am not prepared to fight evil with my life and my prayer.

THINE IS THE KINGDOM if I am unwilling to obey the King.

THINE IS THE POWER AND THE GLORY, if I am seeking power for myself and my own glory first.

FOREVER AND EVER, if I am too anxious about each day's affairs.

AMEN, unless I honestly say, "Cost what it may, this is my prayer".

WHAT EXACTLY IS HAPPENING IN CENTRAL AFRICA?

Quite frankly it's all very confusing! What we do know is that following the mass genocide in Rwanda 2 years ago over 1 million refugees fled to neighbouring Zaire to the west and many thousands to neighbouring Tanzania in the east. Since then they have been living in makeshift camps where, despite the conditions, they have been reasonably well cared for by the international and local communities.

In November an estimated 600,000 refugees were forcefully repatriated to Rwanda. There was an international debate as to what had happened to the rest and just as an emergency force was being assembled it was then assumed that all the refugees had returned. But no one knew for certain. However, Tear Fund's Richard Allen has now returned with photographic evidence (which he passed on to the BBC and they described as "exclusive pictures") to confirm what the aid agencies had been claiming for weeks, that up to 500,000 people are displaced and on the move in this area of dense jungle, caught between the rebel forces of Rwanda and the Zaire government troops.

The concern is that these people are in a physically and politically vulnerable situation. Disaster cannot be far away. Richard Allan's visit to the area was to assess the situation, not only to guide Tear Fund as to how they might best help on the ground, but also to provide the evidence for the international community to take appropriate action.

We need to pray not only for the refugees but also for those responsible for making decisions which could affect both the immediate and long term future of so many people.

Mary Jackson writes....

People often comment on

The beautiful floral decorations in our Church at weddings and especially at Christmas. For this we wish to thank Sheila Acton, Nola Worsfold and Pamela Scammell who recently arranged three magnificent displays. We should be no less grateful to the team of hard working people who provided the background decorations - Irene Ashley, Brenda and Bill Lord, Tom Stokes, Freda Powner, Madge Keating, Elsie Pierpont, Betty Calderbank and Julie Cooper.

Throughout the year there is a small group of these ladies who give of their time to arrange fresh flowers on the Communion Table and we are most grateful to them, and to those who provide the money for these flowers. There are still a few vacant spaces for this coming year, and if you would like to contribute on one of these weekends please get in touch with me.

THIS YEAR'S DATES



You may find it helpful to make a note of at least some of these dates in your 1997 diary now.

February	16th	Annual revision of Electoral Roll begins.
	18/19th	Lent Course entitled "Saints at Prayer" begins and continues for the next five Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
March	3rd	Final meeting of the present Church Council
	8th	An Evening of Traditional African Music and Dance
	24th	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
	27th	Maundy Thursday Agape
	31st-April 6	Spring Harvest at Minehead
April	9th	Prayer Focus
	16th	All day visitation from the Bishop of Manchester
May	8th	Ascension Day Communion at 7.30 pm.
	9-11th	Parish Weekend Houseparty at Grange-over-Sands
	12-17th	Christian Aid Week
	13th	Archdeacon of Bolton's Visitation Service at Holy Trinity, Horwich.
	17th	Diocesan Jubilee Service in the Cathedral: The Bishop of Manchester.
June	28-29th	Deane Sermons/Celebration Weekend.
September	28th	Annual Commissioning of teachers and leaders of our Church's ministry to children and young people.
October	12th	Harvest Thanksgiving
	26th	Diocesan Jubilee Service in the Cathedral: The Archbishop of Canterbury

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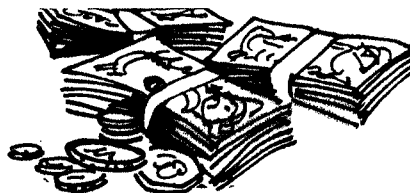
The Social Committee have booked Nat Biney's band for an evening of traditional African music and dance on Saturday March 8th. Tickets which includes a buffet meal are £6.00 for adults and £3.00 for children over 5 years. They will be on sale from January 19th from members of the Social Committee. The list for booking a place on the Parish Weekend Houseparty May 9-11th at Grange-over-Sands will be available this month in Church. You are advised to book early to avoid disappointment because the number of places is limited.

The Ladies Guild hold their annual general meeting on Tuesday January 14th and once again this will be combined with a "White Elephant"!

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL
OUR READERS**



MONEY MATTERS



		<u>Planned Giving</u>	<u>Loose</u>	
		<u>Envelopes</u>	<u>Collections</u>	<u>Totals</u>
November	3	£ 734.69	£ 81.98	£816.67
	10	438.85	92.97	531.82
	17	633.55	112.91	746.46
	24	563.80	124.83	688.63
Standing Orders		133.75		133.75
Weekdays			40.52	40.52
		<u>£2,504.64</u>	<u>£453.21</u>	<u>£2,957.85</u>

In the corresponding period last year the amount given was £3,016

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Snapshots from Thankyou letters received from some of the Missions and Charities we support through our Christian Giving Programme.

From the Church Mission Society (CMS)

"Sudan, the largest country in Africa, has been in a state of civil war for the past 40 years. However, the Christian Church is growing and there is a great thirst for Christian education. We are supporting Theological Education by Extension (TEE) for this enables people to study without having to travel far in what is a volatile and dangerous area. One of our Mission Partners, Paul Savage, is involved in TEE in Yambis (whose bishop is Daniel Zindo a former EFAC bursar who stayed in our parish over Christmas 1979). Paul writes "What does the future hold for this country when all its young people are denied education and the chance to learn skills which can benefit their communities? Not only denied education but sent off to fight and maybe not return. People are disorientated and shocked. They feel impotent and powerless to question what is being done. Even the Church is muted in its response. We will have to rethink our institutions and what we are doing and how we go forward from here - if indeed we are able!"

From the Church Army

"We are concerned to...

- * help those who have lost their faith to regain it
- * care for those who are homeless or facing old age
- * assist young people and women, who have often been abused, to make a fresh start in life.

Your donation of £185 will enable us to continue our commitment to those who are less fortunate than ourselves"

From the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship

It is a great compliment to the Christian Union at Manchester University that the Student Union handed over to them the full responsibility for welcoming students coming to this country from overseas. Elsewhere Christian Unions are often the only student group showing significant concern to international students to settle in.

From the Missions to Seamen

"It is only with the support of parishes like yours that our work amongst seafarers In the ports of the world can continue. Life at sea can be lonely and dangerous, and we provide a home from home for those who have left their family behind on the other side of the world. We are an Anglican missionary society caring for the practical and spiritual welfare of seafarers in 300 ports around the world. Working through a network of chaplains and staff we welcome an average of 700,000 seafarers to our centres, visit 56,000 ships, see some 3,000 in hospital and help more than 1,000 justice and welfare cases each year".