

# THE PARISH OF DEANE

# DEANE CHURCH NEWS

DECEMBER 2003

## SUNDAY DIARY

### 7. ADVENT 2

9.00am Communion CW

10.30am Parade Service

Ian Mainey

6.00pm Communion

### 14. ADVENT 3

9.00am Communion 1662

10.30am Service of the Word

Anne Roberts

6.00pm Service of the Word

### 21. ADVENT 4

9.00am Communion 1662

10.30am Family Worship  
with Nativity

6.00pm Carol Service  
by Candlelight

### 28. CHRISTMAS 1

9.00am Communion 1662

10.30am Communion

Joyce Mitson

6.00pm NO SERVICE



*Trafalgar Square's decorated tree and the church of St Martin-in-the-Field are popular for very different reasons at Christmas (Photo: © John Beldom)*

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## MIDWEEK DIARY

Christmas Eve (Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>) 11.00pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day (Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>)

8.00am Communion

10.30am Family Service followed by a short Communion Service

Communion: Every Thursday at 10.00am at St Andrew's

Parochial Church Council Meeting on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

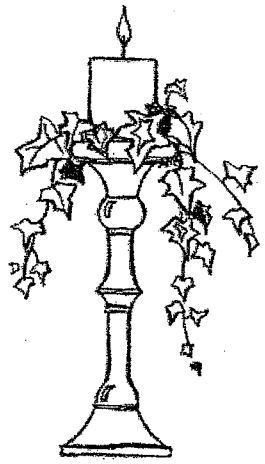
House Groups Alternate Wednesdays

WHO'S WHO	WHAT'S ON
<p><b>Rector:</b> Ian Mainey Deane Rectory 234 Wigan Road (61819)</p> <p><b>Vicar:</b> Paul Ellis St Andrew's Vicarage Crescent Avenue (651851)</p> <p><b>Readers:</b> David Dewhurst 11 Braemar Gardens (651347)</p> <p>Nola Kilsby 1386 Junction Road West (492351)</p> <p><b>Wardens:</b> Les Kilsby 1386 Junction Road West (492351) Bryan Shephard 57 Molyneux Road (01942 817288) Eric Morgan 41 St John's Road (01942 814735)</p>	<p><b>Creche:</b> under 3 years Rachel Bickerstaffe (657161)</p> <p><b>Scramblers:</b> 3 to 5 years</p> <p><b>Climbers:</b> 5 to 7 years Lynda Smith (62093)</p> <p><b>Explorers:</b> 7 to 11 years Elaine Cockerham (650347)</p> <p>All meet in the Memorial Hall on Sundays at 10.30am</p> <p><b>Pathfinders:</b> 11 to 14 years Ian Gardiner (660460) The Memorial Hall Fridays 7.15 - 9.00pm</p> <p><b>CYFA:</b> 14 to 18 years Fortnightly on Sundays at 8.00pm</p>
<p><b>PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL</b></p> <p><b>Lay</b> Stan Wilson</p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> 11 Clough Meadow (492034)</p> <p><b>Honorary</b> Keith Acton</p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> 3 Mallowdale Close (842723)</p> <p><b>Honorary</b> Les Kilsby</p> <p><b>Secretary:</b> 1386 Junction Road West (492351)</p>	<p><b>BELL RINGERS</b> Practice Night Wednesdays at 7.30pm Kenneth Higson &amp; Anthea Morris (63754)</p> <p><b>CHURCH CHOIR</b> Rehearsals on Sundays at 11.45am Jim Needham (0161 7235860)</p>
<p><b>CHAIRMEN OF WORKING GROUPS</b></p> <p><b>Buildings &amp; Fabrics:</b> Mike Kirkby</p> <p><b>Worship:</b> Elizabeth Plant</p> <p><b>Social:</b> Chris Dewhurst-Taylor</p> <p><b>Mission &amp; Pastoral:</b> Philip Gore</p>	<p><b>MUSIC GROUP</b> Rehearsals on Thursdays at 7.30pm Ray Howarth (652602)</p>
<p><b>OTHER OFFICIALS</b></p> <p><b>Organist:</b> Jim Needham 6 Poolfield Close Radcliffe (0161 7235860)</p> <p><b>Flowers:</b> Josie Crompton (655964)</p> <p><b>Verger:</b> Betty Calderbank 32 Junction Road (655375)</p> <p><b>Archivist:</b> Rodney Howard 42 Elswick Avenue (652417)</p> <p><b>Gift Aid</b> Sid Harris</p> <p><b>Secretary:</b> 11 Manningham Road (656355)</p> <p><b>Deane</b> Elizabeth Plant</p> <p><b>Church News:</b> 25 Kintyre Drive (63730)</p>	<p><b>LADIES GROUPS</b> Meet in the Memorial Hall</p> <p><b>Ladies Guild:</b> Alternate Tuesdays at 7.45pm Pat Sewell (61278)</p> <p><b>Mothers Union:</b> Second Wednesdays at 2.00pm Janetta Makin (658270)</p>
<p><b>MEMORIAL HALL</b></p> <p><b>Bookings:</b> Julie Cooper 16 Clunton Avenue (660946)</p> <p><b>Caretaker:</b> Ian Cooper 16 Clunton Avenue (660946)</p>	<p><b>Parents &amp; Toddlers</b> Thursdays at 1.30pm</p> <p><b>UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS</b> Meet in the Scout/Guide Hut</p> <p><b>Brownies:</b> 1. Tuesdays at 6.45pm Clare Miles (413977) 2. Wednesdays at 6.30pm Janet Barnsley (01772 322247)</p> <p><b>Guides:</b> Mondays at 7.15pm Carole Baxendale (419167)</p> <p><b>Cubs:</b> Thursdays at 6.45pm Wendy Gooding (653277)</p> <p><b>Beavers:</b> Monday at 5.45pm Liz Yarwood (855163)</p> <p><b>Rainbows:</b> Fridays at 6.30pm Margaret Latchford (657101)</p>

[www.deaneparish.info](http://www.deaneparish.info)

*Initial enquiries for Baptism and Banns of Marriage should be directed to the Rector*

# *The Rector Writes*



## **What's the point of Christmas?**

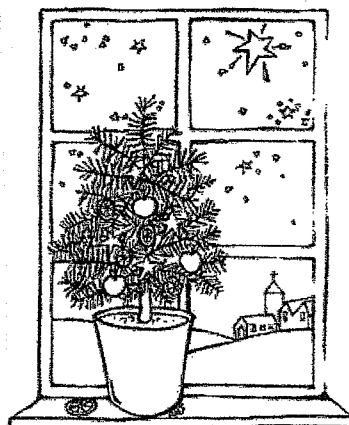
Bert kicked out at a divot in frustration as we strolled to the 7<sup>th</sup> tee. 'It's mid-November and I'm fed up with Christmas. Sorry to sound like Scrooge, but what's the point of it all?' I thought for a moment. 'If you had to choose an object which best sums up Christmas for you Bert, what would you go for?'

'An object?' he said as he settled over the tee. 'Oh I don't know. Probably a potato – given how much time I spend sitting in front of the box. Then again perhaps the good old Christmas tree gets to the heart of it. Trees, cards, Father Christmas – its just a rag bag of 19<sup>th</sup> century traditions. If it wasn't for Victoria marrying that Albert chap I wouldn't be picking up pine-needles out of my feet every year. If it was up to me I'd take a 3-iron to Christmas' – there was a swish as Bert swung through the ball – 'and drive it into the blue yonder.' He winced as the white dot drifted over towards the rough. 'How about you? What would be your object?'

'Well, I can relate to what you're saying. The reason for the season does seem to have got lost in the rough. It's become a bit like playing golf on a course with no greens and no holes. Lots of activity but no ultimate point to it all. But if I had to choose one object to sum up what Christmas means to me, I'd go for.... a fire-engine.' Bert looked at me as if I'd lost the plot. 'No, really,' I insisted as I pushed my tee into the turf. 'If I had my way we'd scrap Christmas trees and have a decorated model of a fire-engine in the front room – because Christmas is all about rescue. At the first one an angel shouted out, "Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Christmas is all about the birth of the rescuer – Jesus – the one God sent to save us from the fire – the judgement.'

Bert looked at me, smiled and wandered off up the fairway talking to himself. 'A model fire-engine. You know I kind of like that idea. Ladder extended. Fairy on the top. Lights flashing... and best of all – no more needles.'

Ian Mainey



# WORLD WATCH *Prayer Link*

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## Asia

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**PAKISTAN** Tearfund partner Centre for Legal Aid, Assistance and Settlement are campaigning to make Christians and other religious minorities exempt from Islamic sharia law. As they lobby for Christian and non-Muslim court cases to be tried under Pakistan's penal code, pray for them and for those facing harsh sentences.

**SRI LANKA** Organised attacks against Christians by Buddhist extremists are becoming more widespread. Pray for protection and discernment for Tearfund partner the National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka, and for those in Christian ministry whose lives, homes and churches are vulnerable at present.

## Africa

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**ERITREA** All evangelical churches have been closed. Members can no longer meet openly, yet the government encourages their relief and development work, including that of Tearfund partners, because of their proven experience. Pray for prejudice and fear to be broken down to bring both material and spiritual renewal.

**NIGERIA** Give thanks that this year's elections have brought some stability. Pray against violence between Christians and Muslims in the north that has claimed many lives, and for Tearfund partners FCS and Rurcon.

**D R CONGO** More UN peacemakers are being deployed in the Ituri province after 65 people were killed by ethnic militias in Kachele last month. Pray that greater security in all areas can cement the peace process, and for Tearfund partners and teams working to bring relief and reconciliation in some of the most needy places.

**SUDAN** Peace talks between the government and rebels made positive progress last month; once wealth and power-sharing issues are resolved, a final settlement may come soon. Pray that a just agreement brings lasting hope.

## Latin America

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**HONDURAS** In 1998, 600,000 Hondurans were evacuated after Hurricane Mitch; its impact was increased by poverty, and western practices of over-exploitation. As Tearfund launches its *Whose Earth?* campaign, pray for the wealthy to influence governments, and choose lifestyles that benefit all people and the planet.

**BRAZIL** Corruption in high places affects the poorest communities – many are without basic health services, such as access to fresh water and free health care. Pray for Tearfund partners including Acao Evangelica, who face fresh threats of violence after a private clinic owner tried to halt their use of a free eye testing service.

## Central Asia/Middle East

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**TURKMENISTAN** This increasingly isolated country in Central Asia is effectively a one-party state with no independent media. Christians and other minorities face threats, harassment and persecution. Pray for those working discreetly for change and hope.

**ISRAEL/PALESTINE** After the suicide bombing in Haifa which killed 20 people, the Israeli military ordered the expulsion of 15 Palestinian detainees from the West Bank. Pray for justice to be upheld, and for violence and retaliation to end.

### Common Worship Bible Readings

December 7/Advent 2	Malachi 3 v1-4
December 14/Advent 3	Zephaniah 3 v14-20
December 21/Advent 4	Micah 5 v2-5a
December 25/Christmas Day	Isaiah 52 v7-10
December 28/Christmas 1	1 Samuel 2 v18-20&26
January 4/Christmas 2	Jeremiah 31 v7-14

Philippians 1 v3-11
Philippians 4 v4-7
Hebrews 10 v5-10
Hebrews 1 v1-4
Colossians 3 v12-17
Ephesians 1 v3-14

Luke 3 v1-6
Luke 3 v7-18
Luke 1 v39-55
John 1 v1-14
Luke 2 v41-52
John 1 v1-18

# Bits and Pieces



## *Congratulations*

Congratulations to Sandra Scruton who has been awarded a diploma from the University of Kent and is now a Fellow of the Association of British Dispensing Opticians (FBDO). Sandra, who has been studying part-time, received her award at a ceremony in Canterbury in October.

## *Sincere Condolences*

We extend our deepest sympathy to Hilda Freestone and her family on the death of her husband Phil, and also to Christine Maddon whose mother died recently.

## *Decorating the Church for Christmas! A Message from Bob Benyon*

In preparation for the Christmas services we will be decorating the church on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am. If you are able to spare an hour, your help would be much appreciated.

## *Men's Night Out*

The annual 'Men's Night Out' will take place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December. As usual it begins at 8pm in the King's Head on Junction Road and is followed by a Fish and Chip supper. All gentlemen of the congregation are invited to come along to what is always a very enjoyable occasion.

## *Carol Singing*

A party from Deane Church is going Carol Singing at some of the Old People's Homes in the parish on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. You are warmly invited to join the group. Please meet at the Rectory at 7pm.

## *Ladies Guild*

December 2<sup>nd</sup>

Carols/Readings/Mince Pies

# *Please, Please Help!*

At this time of year when we, as individuals, are looking for gifts to give to friends and family, the Parochial Church Council, on your behalf, has for many years been sending donations to a number of Missions and Charities. This year, because of unexpected expenditure on the fabric of the church tower (repairs cost £12,000) and because of a reduction in the amount given week by week, the PCC finds that the money available for Missions and Charities is very much lower than they would wish it to be. The PCC wants to be able to send donations on a level comparable to last year. The Missions and Charities rely heavily on gifts from people like us. Can you help?

The PCC proposes having a Gift Day when everyone could give whatever they wish and can afford to help maintain our yearly donations at a reasonable level. Orange envelopes will be available in church for you to return the following week and by Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December at the latest. If you pay income tax, please complete your details on the back of the envelope, so that an extra 28p, for each pound you give, can be claimed by the charity. It does not cost you a penny more!

Charities and Missions which we support on a regular basis include:

**Church Missionary Society** which works with churches throughout the world.

**Cross Links**, an international mission society working mainly in the Anglican worldwide communion.

**South American Mission Society**. SAMS spreads the gospel in South America. Our link missionary, Bob Lunt, recently completed translating the Bible into Wichi for the Chaco people of Argentina.

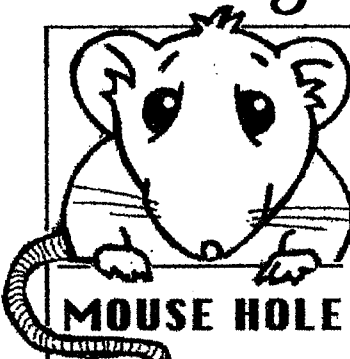
**The Bible Society** which believes passionately that everyone should be able to have and study a Bible.

**Derian House**, the children's hospice.

**Winter Watch** which provides food and temporary accommodation for the homeless during the coldest months.

Thank you in advance for your help and generosity.

# Children's Page



**MOUSE HOLE**

## What's on the Christmas tree?

★ The Christmas Tree ★

Why do we decorate a fir tree at Christmas?

The story of the Christmas tree is said to have started in Germany when Saint Boniface replaced the oak tree which was sacred to the pagans with a fir tree decorated with candles in honour of Jesus, the light of the world.

A Star shows the way to Jesus  
See Matthew 2:1-12

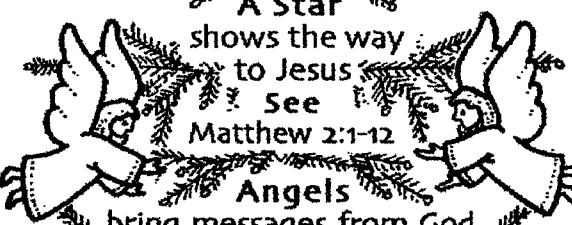
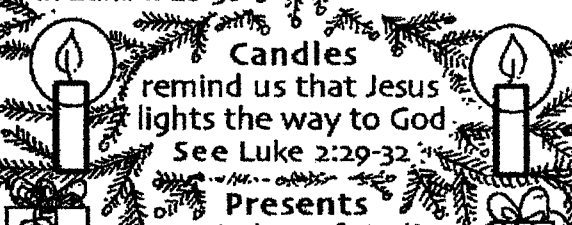
Angels bring messages from God.

Read about Gabriel's message in Luke 1: 26-38

Read the shepherd's story in Luke 2:1-20

Candles remind us that Jesus lights the way to God  
See Luke 2:29-32

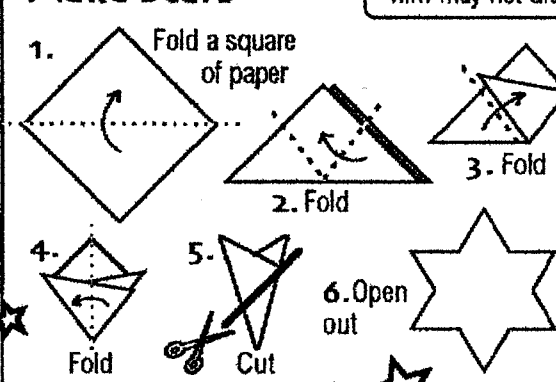
Presents remind us of God's special gift to us... Jesus!

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." John 3:16

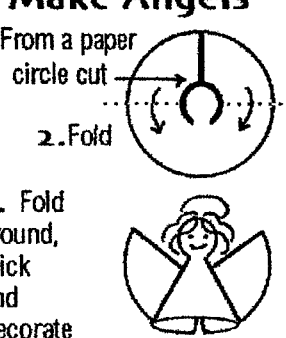
**Make Stars**

1. Fold a square of paper
2. Fold
3. Fold
4. Fold
5. Cut
6. Open out



**Make Angels**

1. From a paper circle cut
2. Fold
3. Fold around, stick and decorate



## Money Matters

Thank you to all who have contributed to God's work through our church.

	Loose Collections	Planned Giving Envelopes	Totals
October 5	£174.59	£668.88	£843.47
October 12	£127.82	£555.27	£683.09
October 19	£218.68	£490.85	£709.53
October 26	£175.66	£862.81	£1038.47
Standing Orders		£800.50	£800.50
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£696.75</b>	<b>£3378.31</b>	<b>£4075.06</b>

The Treasurer also acknowledges with gratitude donations to the total of £87.