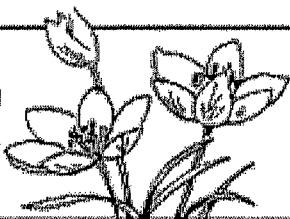


Deane Parish News

February



2004



9.00am Holy Communion & 6.00 Evening Service

- 1 February Epiphany 4** Common Worship / Communion
Ezekiel 43:27 – 44:4 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 2:22-40
- 8 February 3 before Lent** Prayer Book / Service of the Word
Isaiah 6:1-8 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11
- 15 February 2 before Lent** Prayer Book / Communion
Genesis 2;4b-9&15-25 Revelation 4 Luke 8:22-25
- 22 February Next before Lent** Prayer Book / Service of the Word
Exodus 34:29-35 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36
- 29 February Lent 1** Prayer Book / Communion
Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13
- 7 March Lent 2** Common Worship/ Communion
Genesis 15:1-12&17-18 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35

10.30am Morning Service

Faith in action

A series from Acts about faith and life

- 1 February** Family Worship (Parade)
An offer you can't refuse? Acts 9:1-25
- 8 February** Service of the Word
A friend in need? Acts 9:26-31
- 15 February** Family Worship (Baptism)
Forever friends? Acts 15:36-41
- 22 February** Holy Communion
Troubles ahead? Acts 21: 1-16
- 29 February** Praise Service
Plain sailing Acts 27

Weekday Service

- 7 February** Ash Wednesday
7.30 Holy Communion St Andrews

The Rector Writes

Baptism for many families has many joyous connotations. It's a special event in the life of a child. But it's easy just to view baptism in terms of children. If we have been baptised our baptism should continue to have a special significance for us. It should remind us continually that we belong to Christ and that we enjoy new life in Him.

Those who are baptized in Jesus do not need to strive after new life in Christ, they already have been given it. But they do need to nurture that new life so it can grow and mature. That's what church is for. That's what Bible study is for. That's what prayer is for. It's like the Parable of the Sower. Many of those seeds sprouted up, but only a few grew into maturity. The rest withered and died.

A wealthy businessman was horrified to see a fisherman sitting beside his boat, playing with a small child.

"Why aren't you out fishing?" asked the businessman.

"Because I've caught enough fish for one day," replied the fisherman.

"Why don't you catch some more?"

"What would I do with them?"

"You could earn more money," said the businessman. "Then with the extra money, you could buy a bigger boat, go into deeper waters, and catch more fish. Then you would make enough money to buy nylon nets. With the nets, you could catch even more fish and make more money. With that money you could own two boats, maybe three boats. Eventually you could have a whole fleet of boats and be rich like me."

"Then what would I do?" asked the fisherman.

"Then," said the businessman, "you could really enjoy life."

The fisherman looked at the businessman quizzically and asked, "What do you think I am doing now?"

The baptism of Jesus is dying to our self-centred endeavours and being resurrected into a life marked by grace and love. When we live in the baptism of Jesus, we touch the hearts of others and help open them to the Holy Spirit and new life in Christ. Are you living and growing in the new life you have been given?

How to Grow Deane Church:

Be Committed to Prayer

A car only moves forward when the power is applied. It is clear when we read Acts that prayer was the power behind the growth of the early church. There is a strong relationship between prayer and the growth of the church.

Before Pentecost 'they all joined together constantly in prayer' (1:14), and 3000 were added to the church that day (2:41). Subsequently at key moments they prayed and saw significant moves forward for the church e.g. before selecting and appointing leaders (chs. 1,6,13); during persecution and for the progress of the gospel (chs. 4,12), as well as for the sick (ch. 4).

Prayer expresses our dependence on God, for we cannot grow churches in our own strength. We might develop organisations and institutions, but only God can grow His church. To neglect prayer is to neglect the power source behind all church health and growth.

George Barna, in a study of growing churches (User Friendly Churches, Regal, 1991), found that these churches emphasised prayer in four key areas:

- * Church members were consistently taught through sermons and groups about the importance of prayer in the Christian life.
- * Church leadership, beginning with the leader, demonstrated authentic prayer lives, and were prepared to devote significant amounts of time to prayer despite busy schedules.
- * The churches recognised that praise for answered prayer was an integral part of prayer itself, and used every opportunity to share answers to prayer.
- * They encouraged accountability for prayer, regularly emphasising the importance of prayer at all levels of church life.

To what extent are these factors significant in the life of our church? God is committed to a healthy, growing church. Are we prepared to pray for such ourselves?

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple/ Candlemas

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2 February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to "present him to the Lord". At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.



*...cooking a pancake on a primus stove in the
pulpit seemed a good idea at the time...*

SERMON NOTEBOOK:

"Founding Fathers of Our Faith"

Noah: Genesis 6:1-22

The story of Noah and his ark is familiar to many of us from childhood. It's easy simply to see it as an unlikely account that teaches spiritual truths. In Hebrews, Noah is presented as an example of a believer who has much to show us (11:7).

His Times Noah stood out as a righteous and blameless man in a corrupt and violence society, dominated by evil thought patterns. God was provoked to put an end of human kind and start again. Interestingly, Jesus likened the days of Noah with the coming of the Son of Man (Matthew 24:37,38). Like Noah, we are looking to the time when God will put an end to evil and establish his kingdom, when Jesus returns.

* How does our society reflect Noah's one?

His Obedience Noah built the ark, a floating box 450' by 75' by 45', in accordance with God's instructions. It wasn't an easy task, with no visible signs of the coming flood and his contemporaries simply ridiculing him, apart from his family who shared his conviction. Nevertheless, Noah was eager to hear what God was saying and ready to do what he commanded.

* In what ways can we imitate Noah's faith?

His Reward The sign of God's covenant with Noah, in which he promised never again to destroy the earth, was a rainbow. As a sign of God's mercy and grace it points to the new covenant established by the blood of Jesus. Noah's privilege of walking with God is now available to all who put their trust in Christ.

* To what extent do we experience this privilege on a daily basis?

Remember Noah's example of total, unhesitating obedience: 'Noah did everything just as God commanded him' (Genesis 6:22).

Bits and Pieces

Ladies Guild

February 10 Scenes from around the World
February 24 Steam boating on the Mississippi.

News from Embu

Sheila Dewhurst-Taylor has received a nine page newsletter from Deaconess Jessie Nyaga with lots of news about the street children's home in Embu in Kenya. At nine pages, it is too long to fit in Deane Church News!! Sheila has put a number of photocopies at the back of church for you to take and read at home. Please take a copy. If all have gone when you look, ask Sheila and she will have more copies run off.

Don't Panic!

Don't worry and think you are imagining things if Deane Church News seems to be changing its size and format. We are experimenting at the moment with the best way to bring Deane Church News to you. Any constructive comments would be welcome!

Lent groups

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 25th with a service of Holy Communion at St Andrew's at 7.30pm. During Lent there will be a series of house groups which, it is hoped, many will wish to attend. Details will be available in Church.

Flower Rota

There are a number of weeks in the year when no one has at yet volunteered to fund flowers for our church. If you would like to help, perhaps in memory of a loved one, please sign the list in church as soon as possible.

A Prayer of John Wesley - Never be weary of doing good

You are never tired, O Lord, of doing us good; let us never be weary of doing you service. But as you have pleasure in the well-being of your servants, let us take pleasure in the service of our Lord, and abound in your work and in your love and praise evermore.

Fair swop

My cousin Sally was driving home in Northern Arizona when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of the road. As the trip was a long and quiet one, she stopped the car and asked the Navajo woman if she would like a ride. With a word or two of thanks, she got in the car. After resuming the journey and a bit of small talk, the Navajo woman noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Sally. "What's in the bag?" asked the woman. Sally looked down at the brown bag and said, "It's a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband." The Navajo woman was silent for a moment, and then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder said, "Good trade."

Compassion

By Kathleen Gillum

What a lovely thing it is –
A heart that's warm and kind,
One filled with compassion
That soothes the troubled mind.
A heart that's all forgiving
And always understands,
One who goes the second mile
And never makes demands.

Many hearts grow cold and hard
From knocks upon life's way,
And others lack compassion
In the world today.
Always trim your lamp of love
And keep the flame alight –
For the heart filled with compassion
Is precious in God's sight.

February is the month we think of romantic love. But true Love comes in many forms,
some more costly than others.

God's listening for the sound of a thankful heart

by Roy Lessin, Co-founder, Day Spring Cards

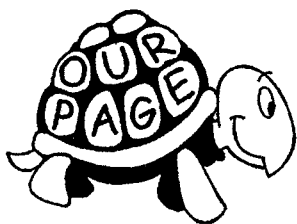
One day, while paying my electric bill, I decided to thank the company for the service they were providing me. "Thanks for my electricity," I said, "It's really quite a bargain for all the benefits I receive." "What!" said the lady behind the counter, in amazement, "That's the first time anyone has ever thanked us. All I ever hear around here are complaints."

It's a challenge to grow up with a thankful heart. From an early age we are exposed to a culture of complainers, grippers, grumblers, and critics. We complain about the weather, traffic, food, work, neighbours, bills, the government, church, and life in general. Worst of all, we are ungrateful toward God. It would be hard to count the number of complaints and criticisms that are daily spoken before him and against him. How can we, who have received so much, be thankful for so little?

One of the great indicators of true spirituality is not measured by how many times we go to church, how big our Bibles are, or how long we pray, but it is measured by the level of gratitude that is in our hearts. When we are ungrateful, the heart of God is saddened, the Holy Spirit is grieved, and the joy of the Lord is quenched within us.

Being thankful sweetens you, grumbling sours you; being thankful brings sunshine to your countenance, being ungrateful casts a shadow; being thankful brings a melody to your words, criticism makes you sound like a clanging cymbal; being thankful keeps your feet on the pathway of celebration, complaint takes you down the road of despair.

When our hearts are filled with gratefulness we may feel like our thanksgiving is inadequate, but we can be certain that our thanksgiving is always appropriate. It will gladden the heart of God to hear your heartfelt thanks being freely offered to him.



COUGHS & SNEEZES

February seems to be the coldest time of the year - and most of us get a cold, complete with runny nose and sore throat.

Well, 3rd February is the right day to have a sore throat because it is St Blaise's Day. Legend says that St Blaise was on his way to be killed when he saw a young child choking with a fishbone stuck in his throat. The saint touched the child and the bone was dislodged. This led to a custom of Blessing the Throats on St Blaise's Day which continues today in one London church.

Another way to celebrate the day was with big bonfires (before the Bonfire Night we keep in November was thought of) and that is probably why we say that bonfires blaze.

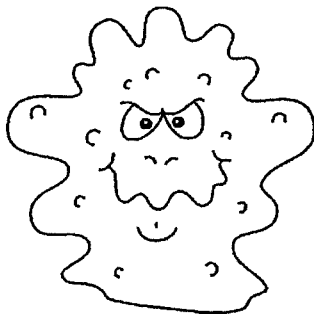
So you can sit in front of a blazing fire, sniffing into a tissue and think about the patron saint of sore throats.

A COLD PUZZLE

All the words hidden in this word-search are to do with winter sniffles. Can you find them all?

S	N	I	F	F	L	E	S	T	E
L	H	W	L	E	F	F	T	I	L
I	A	I	U	L	V	K	A	S	A
N	N	C	V	E	I	E	O	S	Z
C	K	O	O	E	R	P	R	U	N
T	I	E	O	L	R	U	H	E	E
U	E	S	L	D	D	S	T	S	U
S	W	O	T	E	L	B	A	T	F
W	I	N	T	E	R	H	G	I	N
A	E	N	I	C	I	D	E	M	I

cold cough fever flu hankie
influenza linctus medicine nose
pill shivers sneeze sniffles
tablet throat tissues winter



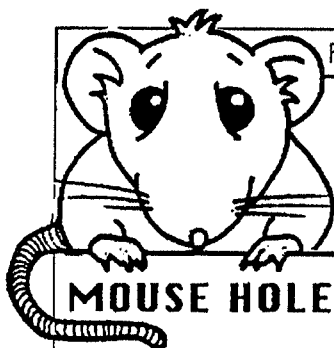
What happens if your nose runs
and your feet smell?

You're built upside down!

What sort of transport gives
people colds?

A-choo-choo-trains.





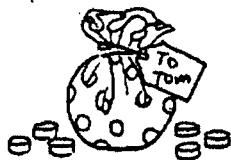
MINT CREAMS

These are fun to make
for your friends.

• Sift 250 g [9 oz] of
icing sugar into a bowl.
Add 2 tablespoons of
milk and a few drops of
peppermint essence
and mix together to
make into a paste, like
toothpaste !

[add a little milk if the
mixture is too stiff or
more icing sugar if too
runny.]

Roll out, cut out sweet
shapes and leave to dry.



• Cut a large square of
wrapping paper, put
some of the mints in
the centre and gather
together with ribbon.

From my home in the church I learn about all sorts of things...

Do you have friends at school or at
church ? Do you have a best friend ?

One of Jesus' best friends was Lazarus.
Once, while Jesus was away, Lazarus
became very sick. When Jesus returned
from his journey he found that
Lazarus had died
and had
already been
buried in a tomb.



But Jesus did
something very special...he went to the
tomb and bought Lazarus back to life !



Read all about it...
in John chapter 11

He's my best friend,
although I've never seen him.

I talk to him night and day,
I know he understands.

I know a lot about him;
the things he said,
the things he did,

Who is my
special friend ?
He's Jesus !



Thank you
Jesus for my friend

Thank you
Jesus for all
my friends,
and thank you
for being my
special friend.
Amen.