

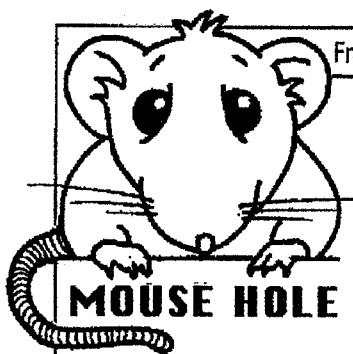
Deane Parish News

March



2004





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

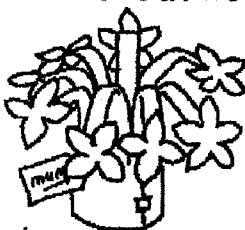
Did you know that Mothering Sunday is 21st March?

21 March

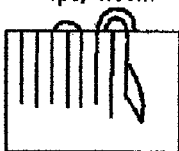
In America, in 1907, a lady called Miss Jarvis thought it would be good to have a day especially for mothers. Everyone that came to church that Sunday should wear a white carnation flower in honour of their mother.



Flower Cards

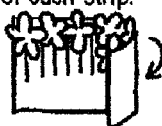


To make a 3D flower card cut strips, 1.5cm wide and about 12cm long, from an A4 size sheet of thin green card or thick paper.



Cut lots of large flowers from coloured paper and stick one onto the end of each strip.

Curl round with the flowers facing inwards and stick. Write a message on a tag and stick to the pot.



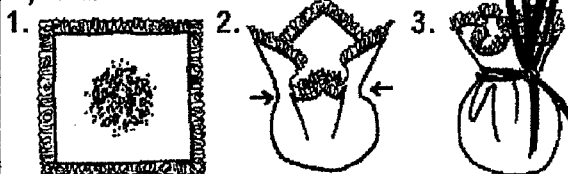
Read all about how God wants us to honour our parents in Ephesians chapter 6 verses 1 - 3

Lovely Lavender

Here's an easy way to make a lovely present for Mum or someone special.

You need:

A bag of dried lavender
A lacy ladies hanky
50 mm of ribbon



1. Lay out the hanky and put 2 to 3 handfuls of lavender in the middle. 2. Gather up the corners around the lavender and secure tightly with the ribbon. 3. Finish off by tying a big bow.



Thank you Jesus that

loves me and
cares for me.
Amen.

The Rector Writes

I suppose if there was a theme to this month's Deane Parish News it would be that of "worship". In the Westminster Confession of Faith the first question that is asked is this, "What is the chief duty of man?" And the answer given is that, "The chief duty of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever." In other words we have been created to worship God. As Christian people we worship God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. That is what we were created and designed to do. And it is what we shall be doing throughout eternity. If you do not believe me read The Book of Revelation.

So our duty and privilege as Christian people is to worship God. That is what we are to be about. And yet it is amazing that probably thousands of people who go to a Sunday service in church would not be able to articulate the purpose of the service they attend. They might have a vague idea as to why they were there, but it would be difficult for them to put their reasons into words.

So let me help you out and suggest to you what our services at Deane are intended to do. Primarily they are intended to be a focus for our worship of God. In our worship we magnify God's name and express our love and commitment to him. In a nutshell worship is "Expressing our love for God for who he is, what he's said, and what he's doing". That love for God that we have can be expressed in many ways - through prayer, singing, thanking, giving, testifying, trusting, obeying His Word, and in many other ways. But however it is expressed God, not ourselves, is always to be the focus and centre of our worship.

Now some people tell me that there is only one way to truly worship God, and that is normally their way! That's why we need to remind ourselves that in fact Jesus gave only two requirements for legitimate worship: "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). Personally I don't think that God is offended by different styles of worship, as long as it is done "in spirit" and "in truth". In fact I'm pretty sure that God enjoys a bit of variety!

Often the style of worship that people prefer, or are more comfortable with, has more to do with their cultural background than it does with their theology. Debates about worship styles are nearly always personality debates - but couched in theological terms. Every church, and every congregation within a church, likes to believe that its worship style is the most biblical. But the truth of the matter is that there isn't a biblical style of worship. Each Sunday believers around the world give glory to Jesus Christ in a rich variety of expressions and styles. But regardless of style true worship employs both our right brain and our left brain. It engages both our emotions and our intellect; it is to move both our heart and our mind. We must worship in spirit and in truth.

Within our own church there are different styles of worship in evidence, and that is how it should be, for it gives people the opportunity to worship in a way they are comfortable

with (although I would say that it is a good thing to occasionally attend another service to see what the rest of the church family are up to). No one service can meet all of the churches need so each service has its own particular emphasis. The 9.00 Holy Communion Service is more traditional; the 10.30 Family Worship is more informal and designed to be more accessible to those who may not attend a church on a regular basis; and the 6.00 Evening Worship has a more meditative style.

Each service has, in some way or another, some constraints upon it. For instance the 10.30 service has two all-age services within it. The reason for this is two-fold. Firstly it seems obvious to have a service which appeals across the age range when there is a congregation that is all age. This is the case at both the Parade Service and the Baptism Service. But there is another factor which affects our 10.30 service. Last September we were having enormous difficulty attracting and retaining our Sunday School teachers. Some felt that it was becoming a burden to prepare lessons every week, bar the Parade Sunday. Also quite a number felt that they had little opportunity to be part of the worshipping congregation. The situation was such that we were in grave danger of the Sunday School closing with all the ramifications that this would have had for the church. And so, after much discussion with the Sunday School teachers, it was decided to bring the children into church on two Sundays in the month instead of just once, and this appears to have been successful. It has also had the added bonus of making the children feel a natural part of the church. We need to remember that our children are **not** the church of tomorrow, they are actually part of the church of **today**, and we need to recognise that.

I am aware that any change can create as many problems as it solves. With regards to the 10.30 service I am conscious that we have lost a Holy Communion service, but I think that looked at in totality the solution that was arrived at was the best solution that was achievable. On most Sundays there are two Holy Communion services available for members of the congregation to attend. I would also like to say that our service pattern in not, and never will be, set in concrete. Services have changed over the years and no doubt they will continue to change.

Someone recently asked me if our worship styles and pattern were as I would like them. I think they were a bit surprised when I answered, "No". But I went to explain that our worship services were not designed for my own personal gratification, nor for anybody else's personal gratification either. They are designed to offer as broad an approach to worship as possible and to offer in some form something for everyone.

In 1 Corinthians 14:19-20 Paul says that if we only think of our own needs in worship we are being childish and immature. What each of us has to do is demonstrate incredible spiritual maturity in our worship so that we are considerate of the needs, fears, and anxieties of others, and particularly those for whom church is a new experience. To such we should be willing to place their needs before our own. May our worship always glorify God and may they be the means of bringing others to faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Bits and Pieces

Ladies Guild

The Ladies Guild continues to meet in Lent. They are following the Lent course.

Baptism

On January 18th the following children were welcomed through Baptism into the church family:

Jessica Appleton, the daughter of Mark and Sarah Appleton

Dylan Duane Nicholson, the son of Duane Marc and Sharon Nicholson

Deepest Sympathy

We send our condolences to the families and friends of Carman Pilkington, Constance Davenport, Tom Stokes and Sid Harris. Sid died after a battle with cancer. For many years he was the Gift Aid Secretary. He carried out this important task quietly and discretely enabling a great deal of extra income to the church from the recovery of tax on donations which were gift aided.

Thank you! Madge Harris writes:

"I would like to thank everyone for their kind words, cards and prayers over the past long months of Sid's illness. Thank you also for your attendance at his funeral. My daughters and I were overwhelmed that so many turned out on such a bad day. May God bless you all."

Summer Time Begins!

Do not forget that Summer Time begins on the night of Saturday/Sunday March 27/28. Remember to put your clocks FORWARD before you go to bed. Otherwise you will be an hour late for church!

March 2004 9am Communion Readings

March 7 Lent 2

Genesis 15 v1-12 & 17-18

Philippians 3 v17 to 4 v1

Luke 13 v31-35

March 14 Lent 3

Isaiah 55 v1-9

1 Corinthians 10 v1-13

Luke 13 v1-9

March 21 Mothering Sunday

Joshua 5 v9-12

2 Corinthians 5 v16-21 Luke 15 v1-3 & 11b-32

March 28 Lent 5

Isaiah 43 v16-21

Philippians 3 v4b-14

John 12 v1-8

April 4 Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50 v4-9a

Philippians 2 v5-11

Luke 23 v1-49

Focus on the members of Deane Church Family

Working for Reach Out - part of Urban Outreach Bolton

Sheila Dewhurst-Taylor works for the Christian charity Urban Outreach Bolton. Her particular project is called Reach Out. Reach out is a life line to vulnerable women who are being sexually exploited. It offers practical, emotional and spiritual support to enable these women and girls to make changes in their lives and leave prostitution.

Sheila and others go into the red light streets of Bolton at least twice a week, making contact with the prostitutes. They always cover themselves in prayer for protection beforehand as the streets can be a dark, intimidating and dangerous place.

Almost all the women have a problem with substance abuse and they work to feed their habit. Some are also feeding a partner's habit.

Reach Out will have a new office ready in a few months time. This is to be on Salop St in the centre of the red light district. There self defence and life skills classes will be run and other group projects. It is a place where women will be offered hope after a past of despair.

Sheila left a secure job which she loved to take up this post which has no long term security, but she did it because she felt God tell her to "get out of the boat and trust Him."

Please pray for Sheila, the Reach Out project, the preparations for the new office and the women they are seeking to help.

Tom J Stokes 1913-2004

Tom Stokes, who died on February 4th, gave a life time of Christian service to his country, his adopted town of Bolton and to the parish of Deane.

Tom was born and brought up in Herefordshire, but he has lived in Bolton since 1947. He had a distinguished war career, rising to the rank of captain. He saw service at Dunkirk and took part in the liberation of Europe in 1944 to 1945. He was one of the first people to enter Belsen concentration camp after it was liberated.

After the war Tom completed his training in Optometry and opened TJStokes Opticians in Knowsley Street in 1947. (His shop still bears the name Stokes, although he retired in the 1970s) He and Marjorie moved to Deane in 1951. Since then he has been a most active member of St Mary's and for over twenty years was a Church Warden. Even after he retired to live in Heaton in 1976 and until his health began to fail in the last year, Tom still kept a close eye on all that went on in Deane Church and the churchyard!

Tom and Marjorie married in January 1942 in Plumtree near Nottingham. This was where Tom was stationed and where Marjorie delivered the soldiers' post. They celebrated their Diamond Wedding in 2002, receiving a telegram from the Queen.

In 1994 Tom published his autobiography, *A Life's Journey*.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Marjorie, his sister Ada, his children Michael, Ann, Valerie, Mary and Andrew and to his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Lent *By Robert Herrick*

Is this a Fast, to keep
The larder lean?
And clean
From fat of veals and sheep?

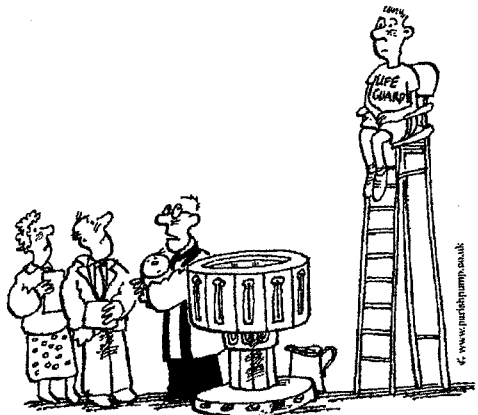
Is it to quit the dish
Of flesh, yet still
To fill
The platter high with fish?

Is it to fast an hour,
Or ragg'd go,
Or show
A down-cast look and sour?

No: 'tis a Fast to dole
Thy sheaf of wheat
And meat
Unto the hungry soul.

It is to fast from strife
And old debate,
And hate;
To circumcise thy life.

To show a heart grief-rent;
To starve thy sin,
Not bin;
And that's to keep thy Lent.



...he's one of the results of our
'Risk Assessment Survey'!

How to Grow Deane Church *Engaging with God*

One of the eight characteristics of healthy, growing churches listed in Christian Schwarz's book *Natural Church Development* is 'inspiring worship'. Such worship should be engaging with God. As he says: 'Whenever the Holy Spirit is truly at work, He will have a concrete effect upon the way a worship service is conducted, including the atmosphere of a gathering.'

Our worship experience is determined by different factors i.e. tradition, age of the congregation, or style e.g. traditional, informal, all-age or seeker-sensitive. There is no one correct style, as different worship experiences will reach different groups of people. However, Jesus says 'God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth' (John 4:24).

Isaiah's experience in Isaiah 6:1-8 is instructive! He begins with an overwhelming sense of God's presence. Having recognised who God is, Isaiah then becomes aware of who he is, 'a man of unclean lips'. Praise and adoration lead to confession and the assurance of God's cleansing and forgiveness: 'your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for'. Then comes the word: 'Who will go for us?' and the response of obedience: 'Here am I. Send me!'

Our Sunday worship should be relevant to those outside the church. However, this will not be achieved simply by changing the style of worship. The key thing is that we approach all we do with confidence, enthusiasm and expectancy.

Why not ask the following questions:

- What traditions of worship should be maintained, and why?
- What elements could helpfully be included i.e. people telling their stories, silence, a balance of different musical styles?
- What's in it for the single mother, teenager or first-time visitor?
- How might we include the congregation more significantly?

St David's Day

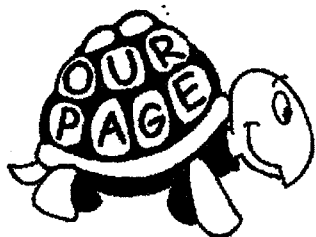
March 1st is St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks. Shakespeare called this custom 'an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request' - but nobody knows the reason. Why should anyone have ever 'requested' that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It's a mystery!

We do know that David - or Dafydd - of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others - living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.

H.E.L.P. (Holiday Endeavour for Lone Parents)

H.E.L.P. is a self-funding and non-profit making charity which helps lone parents and their families to have a holiday. Lone parents care for an estimated 3,000,000 children in Britain today. More than half of one parent families live below the poverty line. H.E.L.P. has its own caravans in Filey, Maplethorpe and Flamingoland Theme Park. It also has contacts with holiday companies to enable families to participate in bus trips abroad. If you would like further information or wish to make a donation or are a lone or single access parent interested in arranging a holiday, contact: H.E.L.P. 57 Owston Road, Carcroft, Doncaster, DN6 8DN, Tel:01302 728791 or email: janice@help.fslife.co.uk



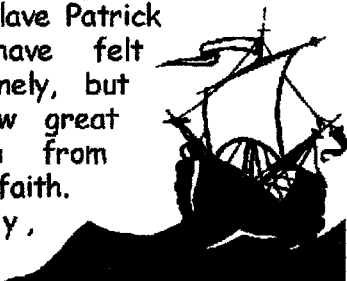
ST PATRICK

17th March is St Patrick's Day. Patrick was the grandson of a priest in the north of England. When he was 16 he was carried off by raiders and sold as a slave in Ireland. From a comfortable life, he suddenly became a slave in a pagan society.

For the six years that he was a slave Patrick must have felt very lonely, but he drew great strength from his faith.

Finally, when he was 22, he managed to escape by hiding on a ship sailing to France.

The one place that Patrick must have never wanted to see again was Ireland where he had been so lonely and unhappy. But, in a dream, God called him to return and preach the good news of Christ to the pagan Irish. After training as a priest he went back as a missionary, spending the rest of his life there, ministering to those who had made him a slave.



BIBLE LETTER QUIZ

The answers to these questions begin with the letter P...

1. There were 10 of these before the Israelites escaped from Egypt.
2. He escaped from Damascus in a basket.
3. The island where St John had his visions.
4. A fisherman who denied Jesus 3 times.
5. She and her husband, Aquila, helped Paul.
6. A Roman who washed his hands after sentencing Jesus.
7. Paul was in prison here when an earthquake set him free.
8. Another name for the songs of King David.



What do Paddington Bear and Winnie the Pooh take on holiday?

Only the bear essentials!

Whose parrot sits on his shoulder shouting 'pieces of four'?

Short John Silver!



Answers:
1. plagues 2. Paul 3. Patmos
4. Peter 5. Priscilla 6. Pontius
Pilatus 7. Phillip 8. Psalms