

Deane Parish Magazine

December

2004



December 2004 Diary

December 5 Advent 2

9am Communion CW

10.30am Family Worship and Parade

6pm Service of the Word

December 12 Advent 3

9am Communion 1662

10.30am Service of the Word

6pm Communion

December 19 Advent 4

9am Communion 1662

10.30am Special Family Service

6pm Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve Friday 24

11pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day Saturday 25

8am Communion 1662

10.30am Family Worship followed by a shortened Communion

December 26 Christmas 1

9am Communion 1662 with hymns

NO OTHER SERVICES

Communion Readings for December 2004

December 5 Advent 2

Isaiah 11 v1-10

Romans 15 v4-13

Matthew 3 v1-12

December 12 Advent 3

Isaiah 35 v1-10

James 5 v7-10

Matthew 11 v2-11

December 19 Advent 4

Isaiah 7 v10-16

Romans 1 v1-7

Matthew 1 v18-25

December 25 Christmas Day

Isaiah 9 v2-7

Titus 2 v11-14

Luke 2 v1-20

December 26 Christmas 1

Isaiah 63 v7-9

Hebrews 2 v10-18

Matthew 2 v13-23

The Rector Writes

The Christmas story begins in darkness. There was the darkness of oppression, for God's people were a conquered and defeated people. There was the darkness of persecution, as God's people were heavily taxed and forced to support foreign rule. And there was the darkness of disillusionment, for the people were awaiting a day when God would rule, and yet that day, in the light of the circumstances they found themselves in, seemed far away. There was an ever-increasing number who felt that violence, not faith, was the most effective path. Yes, on that first Christmas, for many in the land of Israel the mood was one of despair and resignation.

We too live in a world of darkness. There are wars and rumours of wars, hunger and unemployment, racism, loneliness, and a sense of emptiness. I'm sure I don't have to tell any of you about the darkness, because in one form or another, at one time or another, it has touched each one of you. You have been acquainted with the night.

But the wonderful truth which we remember at this time is that there is light at the end of the tunnel. The prophet Isaiah wrote, "the people who walk in darkness have seen a great light." John's Gospel records, "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it". And we come together to sing again the words, "Yet, in thy dark street shineth the everlasting light".

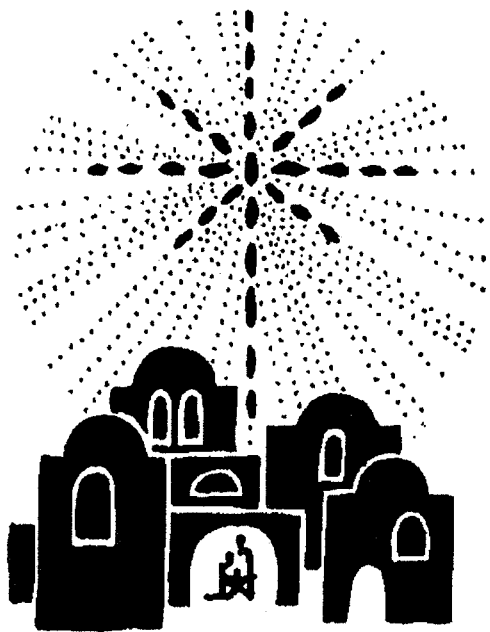
The good news of Christmas is that in the midst of a deep darkness there came a light, and the darkness was not able to overcome that light. It was not just a temporary flicker. It was an eternal flame. We need to remember that. There are times, in the events of the world and in the events of our own personal lives, that we feel that the light will be snuffed out. But the Christmas story affirms that whatever happens, the light still shines.

The ancient Hebrews were afraid of the darkness. They were particularly afraid of a place they called the outer darkness. To them creation began when God said, "Let there be light". To them, where there was only darkness there was only void and emptiness. What great meaning and hope it must have been for them when they heard Jesus refer to himself as the light of the world. We need to hear these words this Christmas as the

families of the Sudan are suffering. We need to hear these words as the families of war torn Israel, both Jewish and Palestinian, are overwhelmed with grief. We need to hear these words as the people of Iraq are suffering. The darkness is real. But because of Christmas, it will never get so dark that you can't see the light.

Into the darkness God sent an eternal light. As you walk outside this evening, notice that the darkness does not intrude upon the light. On the contrary, it is the light that intrudes upon the darkness. Light is always stronger than darkness. And the forces of light are stronger than the forces of darkness.

The greatest need in our mixed up and confused world this day is to let people know that there is hope. That life is worth living no matter what. We



should not be discouraged to the point of despair. In Jesus Christ we shall cling to the hope the life overcomes death, that love conquers hate, and that truth will prevail over falsehood. We are the people of light and we must share that light in a dark and a dreary land.

Why do you think that God chose to use a star to guide the wise men to Bethlehem? I am convinced that it was not by accident. It was an eternal reminder to them, and to us, that in a sea of darkness, it is the light that keeps us going

forward. It is the light of hope and the light of Christ that leads the way and dispels the gloom.

It is my prayer that the light of Christmas will shine and enlighten the dark corners of your life and that you, too, will discover the pathway to Bethlehem.

Signs & Symbols: *the Advent Wreath*

Churches will often have an Advent Wreath, a tradition which goes back to the ninth century. There are always four candles. On the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, one of the candles is lit with a prayer; additional ones are lit on each Sunday. Often there is a single candle in the middle that is then lit on Christmas Day itself. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolises the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead. The candles may be in different colours to give a visual clue to their meaning for each particular Sunday. Each of the four Sundays reminds us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ. The first three are purple or blue to symbolise penitence; Advent being a time of getting ready, getting prepared, of cleaning up.

Advent 1 is for 'The Patriarchs' such as Abraham and David and that day the prayers focus on Hope. Advent 2 is for 'The Prophets' such as Isaiah and all who foretold of the Messiah's coming. Prayers that day are focussed on Peace. Advent 3 is for John the Baptist and the prayers are for Joy. On the last Sunday, Advent 4, we concentrate on Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and so the candle's colour is rose and the prayers are of Love. Some churches also have a central candle lit on Christmas Day which is either white or gold to symbolise purity, perfection and kingship.

The whole Wreath is usually decorated with evergreens all of which have traditional meanings signifying victory over persecution and suffering, immortality, strength and healing. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ.

How to Grow Deane Church:

A Heart for the Lost

What does the word 'evangelism' bring to mind? Probably more guilt than excitement!! While most Christians would agree that it's something we should be doing, they would also admit that we don't do it very well.

In describing the early church, alongside worship, discipleship, community and service, Luke says, 'And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved' (Acts 2: 42-47).

Evangelism was a natural outflow of their life together: 'If the church exists to live and proclaim the kingdom of God and the lordship of Christ, then everything the church can have an evangelistic dimension' (Graham Tomlin, *The Provocative Church*).

The success of the Alpha Course over recent years bears this out! Today people become Christians primarily by first belonging to a Christian group or community and then believing in God, rather than the other way round. Therefore, the whole Christian community has a part to play in sharing the good news, as well as those gifted in evangelism.

If we want to be intentional as a church about sharing a heart for the lost, think about the following questions:

Does our church have a place for searchers to explore and ask questions, using Alpha or something similar?

In what ways do we help people to share their faith with others?

Having made contact with seekers, how do attract them to join a nurture course?

Does our current course start far enough back, in terms of the questions that people are asking?

To what extent are people comfortable in inviting friends to Sunday worship?

What is our strategy to enable new Christians to become part of the church and grow spiritually?

Report from the Church Development& New Hall Committee

It must be at least six years ago, that the PCC received a report saying that the life of the Memorial Hall was limited. After much discussion it was agreed to build a new hall. Since then various options have been considered, all of which in the end were felt not to be the way forward. Over the last 12 months the present committee came to the decision that rather than just concentrate on the building of a new hall we should also take into consideration the alterations that we would like to do in church. This will at least include the reordering of the front of church, a new lighting scheme, redecoration, the installation of toilet facilities suitable for the disabled (which we are required to do by law) and better and safer access to the bell tower. We also felt that we would like to make better use of the back of church. The aim is to make better use of the church and to make it more accessible throughout the week. The decisions which will be made regarding the re-ordering of the church will, in turn, influence what facilities will be required in our new church hall.

We are now at the stage of having just appointed Brian Foxley as the architect for the project. Brian is an independent architect who specialises in church buildings and church/community halls. We are looking forward to working with him on some plans which we envisage will meet both the needs of the church and the needs of the community.

We are obviously at a very early stage in the planning process, but we will keep you up to date on developments as and when appropriate.

If you have any questions or concerns on the project so far, please approach a member of the committee, Ian Mainey, Pat Boydell, Julie Cooper, Craig Mochrie, Terry Oakes or Nola Kilsby who is the chairwoman.

Nola Kilsby

A Big Thank you from Julie Cooper

Earlier this year I appealed for any knitters in our congregation at Deane and St Andrew's to pick up their needles to knit hats for operation Christmas Child.

Our target was over 700 and I must admit there were a few who doubted that we would get that many. However the appeal was a great success and it really caught people's imagination. Very soon friends, neighbours and families were all knitting and those who could not knit joined in by donating wool. Distance was not a problem. Hats have come in from all over Bolton, Stockport, Lancaster and as far away as Budleigh Salterton in Devon.

The advert placed in the Crux magazine brought even more knitters from individuals and churches throughout the diocese.

We reached the target easily and have to date over 1100 woolly hats. Well done everyone! It is fantastic that so many were motivated and rose to the challenge. These lovely colourful hats will brighten up a child's Christmas this year. The children will know that someone in the UK cares for them.

Sunday 7th November was Shoebox Sunday. We had a fun-filled service which gave all the different age groups in the congregation the opportunity to unite in bringing our gift-filled shoeboxes to church - and send them all off together on their long journey east! This year our two churches collected 190 boxes. A big thank you to everyone for your kindness. Your tremendous enthusiasm is much appreciated.

God bless you all.

Julie Cooper

St Mary's School Carol Service

This years service will be held in church on Tuesday 21st December at 10.00am. All our welcome to come and join in this service in which the children will be singing.

December 6th - St Nicholas alias Santa Claus

Father Christmas is as old as Europe. Once he was Woden, lashing his rein-deer through the darkness of northern midwinter. Then he encountered the Church, and She transformed him into a saint, the much-loved Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (in south-west Turkey) in the fourth century. St Nicholas became the patron saint of children, and was given 6 December as his day.

Since the 6th century St Nicholas has been venerated in both East and West, though virtually nothing is known of his life. Some believe he may have been one of the fathers at the Council of Nicea (325), imprisoned during the Emperor Diocletian's persecution.

According to legend, Nicholas was an extremely generous man. He revived three schoolboys murdered by an innkeeper in a tub of pickles. He rescued three young women from prostitution by giving their poverty-stricken father three bags of gold. (Hence the use of three gold balls as the pawnbroker's signs.)

Over the centuries many, including children, sailors, unmarried girls, pawnbrokers and moneylenders have claimed him as their patron. (Moneylenders? Still true today - just think what will be on your Visa or Mastercard by Christmas!)

Perhaps it was on account of St Nicholas' generosity that that in recent centuries children began to write little notes sometime before 6 December, to tell him about the toys they specially wanted. These notes were then left on the windowsill at night - or else on a ledge in the chimney.

But St Nicholas Day chanced to lie in the magnetic field of a much more potent festival.... and after awhile his activities were moved towards Christmas. Then in Bavaria the children still left their notes on the window sill, but they addressed them to Liebes Christkind - Krishkinkle as they knew him - and the saint's part in the matter was simply to deliver the letters in heaven.

Moonless Darkness

Moonless darkness stands between.
Past, the Past, no more be seen!
But the Bethlehem-star may lead me
To the sight of him who freed me
From the self that I have been.
Make me pure, Lord: thou art holy;
Make me meek, Lord: thou were lowly;
Now beginning, and always:
Now begin, on Christmas day.

Gerard Manley Hopkins

Father Christmas

Of course, I had expected that by the age of seven it was inevitable for my son to begin to have serious thoughts about Father Christmas. Sure enough, one day he said, "Mum, I know something about Father Christmas, the Easter Bunny, and the Tooth Fairy." Taking a deep breath, I asked him, "And what is that?" He replied, "They're all nocturnal."

SUMMARY OF INCOME FOR MONTHS OF OCTOBER 2004 VS OCTOBER 2003

	OCTOBER 2004	OCTOBER 2003
LOOSE COLLECTION	742.87	594.00
PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES	2,866.19	2,487.81
STANDING ORDERS	1,013.50	760.50
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>4,622.56</u>	<u>3,842.31</u>
ACTUAL INCREASE/(DECREASE)	+£780.25	
% INCREASE/(DECREASE)	+20.3%	

Above figures provided by AC using data from accounts books for periods concerned and bank statements provided.

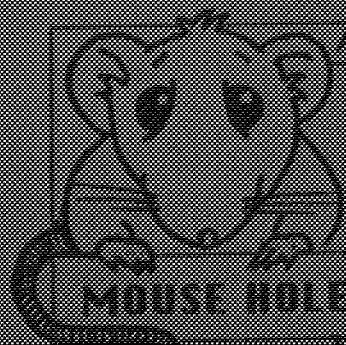
Alan Cheetham,

Treasurer, St Mary's Parish Church, Deane 15 November 2004

WHO'S WHO		WHAT'S ON
Rector	Ian Morley (01204 41819)	Scramblers - 3 to 5 years Clackers - 5 to 7 years Lyns & Goss (01204 42234)
Wor	Paul Ellis (01204 41103)	Explosion - 7 to 11 years Bones Cackles (01204 42234)
Readers	David Dawhurst (01204 45134) Neil Pacey (01204 45235)	All meet in the Memorial Hall on Sundays at 10.30am
Worship	Lee Kelly (01204 45235) Bryan Shepherd (01204 45235) Craig Mackay (01204 45235)	Partfinders - 11 to 14 years CYPA - 14 to 18 years Art Machine (01204 45235) The Memorial Hall Postage - 15 - 18 years
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL		BELL RINGERS Prayers: Night Thursdays at 7.30pm Norman Dixon & Andrea Morris (01204 41754)
Lay Chair	John Harrison (01204 41542)	CHURCH CHORUS Rehearsals on Sundays at 12 noon (except 3rd Sunday - see Music Group below) John Harrison (01204 41542)
Honorary Treasurer	Alan Cheetham (01204 40042)	MUSIC GROUP Rehearsals on each 3rd Sunday at 12 noon Benny Foster (01204 41542)
Honorary Secretary	Lee Kelly (01204 45235)	LADIES GROUP Meet in the Memorial Hall Ladies Guild - Afternoon: Tuesdays at 7.45am Pat Goss (01204 41754) Parents & Teachers: Thursdays at 1.30pm John Morley (01204 41819)
CHAIRMAN OF INCORPORATED GROUPS		DRINK LUNCH & LEISURE Wednesdays 12 noon to 2.30pm Julie Goss (01204 40042)
Parish & Pulpit: Miss Kelly		UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS Meet in the Scout Guide Hall
Worship: Elizabeth Price		Scouters: 1. Tuesdays at 6.45pm Ann Caddick (01204 41754) 2. Wednesdays at 5.30pm Jared Darnley (01773 322147)
Social: Chris Davidson-Taylor		Guides: Meetings at 7.15pm Carol Davidson (419107)
OTHER OFFICIALS		Cubs: Thursdays at 5.45pm Mike Ann (01204 41754)
Organist	Jon Northam (01204 41754)	Beavers: Monday at 5.45pm Liz Howard (01204 41754)
Flowers	Joan Campbell (01204 45235)	Pathfinders: Fridays at 5.45pm Margaret Caddick (01204 41754)
Archivist	Frederick Howard (01204 45235)	
Old Age	Lee Kelly	
Secretary	(01204 45235)	
Deane	Elizabeth Price	
Church House	(01204 41754)	
MEMORIAL HALL		
Bookings	Julie Goss (01204 41754)	
Caravan	Jon Cooper (01204 41754)	

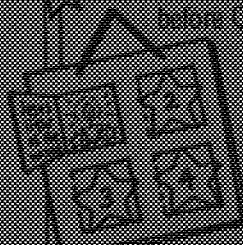
www.drincostal.info

Initial enquiries for Baptism and Remembrance of Marriages should be directed to the Rector



MOUSE HOLE

Make an ADVENT calendar to count down the four Sundays before Christmas.



Get an adult to cut windows in the front of a folded card. Number them, write a bible verse on the back and decorate on the front and behind each window.

'ADVENT' comes from the Latin 'AD VENTO' and means 'ARRIVAL'.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

from all over the world

- ★ GOD JUL (Swedish)
- ★ JOYEUX NOEL (French)
- ★ FELIZ NAVIDAD (Spanish)
- ★ BOUN NATALE (Italian)

A Happy Christmas to all!

Eastern Star,
White and bright,
In deep darkness,
Shining light,
Points to Jesus,
God's precious Son,
Lord and King,
Our Saviour has come.



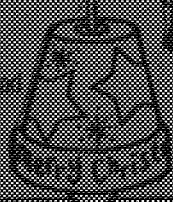
Angels sing
And shepherds hear;
"Come see Jesus,
Do not fear,
Peace on earth,
Goodwill to all."
Come to Jesus,
Saviour of all.

"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

JINGLE BELLS



Decorate a small flower pot and thread with large beads on thin ribbon.



Make Christmas stars from lengths of twig, lolly sticks, or wooden skewers. Glue or tie together and decorate with glitter and sparkly Christmas shapes.

