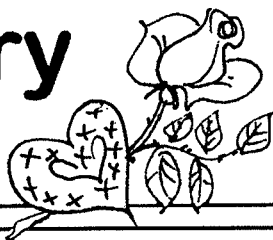


Deane Parish Magazine

February



2005



February 2005 Diary

February 6 Next before Lent

- 9.00 a.m. Communion CW
10.30 a.m. Family and Parade Service
6.00 p.m. Holy Communion

February 9 Ash Wednesday

- 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion at St Andrew's

February 13 Lent 1

- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion 1662
10.30 a.m. Service of the Word
6.00 p.m. Service of the Word

February 20 Lent 2

- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion 1662
10.30 a.m. Family Worship with Baptism
6.00 p.m. Holy Communion

February 27 Lent 3

- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion 1662
10.30 a.m. Family Communion
6.00 p.m. Service of the Word

9.00 and 6.00 readings

February 6 Next before Lent

- 1 Corinthians 3.9b-23 - Become a Fool; Matthew 17.1-9

February 13 Lent 1

- Genesis 3.1-7; Matthew 4.1-11 The Temptation of Jesus

February 20 Lent 2

- Genesis 12.1-4a; John 3.1-17 Encounters with Jesus—Nicodemus

February 27 Lent 3

- Exodus 17.1-7; John 4.5-26 Encounters with Jesus
—Woman at the Well

Please note that the deadline for copy for the magazine is the second Sunday in the month.

In order to make more room for news and articles the Directory (inside back cover) will be printed only occasionally, so please keep a copy. Spare copies will be placed on the table at the back of church.

Faith in the midst of disaster

'How can you believe in a God who permits suffering on this scale?' That's the question which many no doubt will have asked themselves having seen on their televisions the devastating extent of the tsunami disaster which struck many coastal areas in East Asia.

This is of course a question which has been asked on other occasions. In 1755 an earthquake struck Lisbon killing 60,000 people, a huge percentage of the population of that city at the time. That disaster also sent a seismic shudder through the edifice of religious faith. The massive slaughter of World War I was a further assault on people's faith. Indeed it is argued that the gradual decline in church attendance began just after World War I came to an end. And what about the atrocities which were witnessed in World War II? What about Auschwitz, the anniversary of its liberation being shortly commemorated? Many who witnessed what had gone on in that concentration camp concluded that God must have died for no loving God could have allowed such things to happen.

In answer to these hard questions the Christian church has made some response. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, wrote an article in a national paper in which he gave the traditional Christian response. In the article he said in effect that God had created a world governed by its own system of cause and effect and that we cannot expect God to intervene when things go wrong, as though he were some divine puppet master. Well it's a good answer but it isn't really helpful in the face of the intolerable grief and devastation that we have recently witnessed. And what does such an answer say about the effectiveness of prayer?

In response to the religious commentators on the disaster others have argued that religion should not be let off the hook so easily. In The Guardian Martin Kettle mounted his argument along these lines. He wrote that whereas 9/11 could at least be explained by fallen

humanity - the consequences of free will - what had happened in East Asia was undoubtedly an "act of God". He went on to argue, what kind of God would act in that way? People who place their trust in science, he writes, can explain what happened in terms of tectonic plates; but, for those who put their faith in a just God no explanation is possible.

But here we see a sceptic thinking that his argument is more powerful than in reality it is, for in point of fact the logic of this argument points in a different direction. For if terrible events are to constitute evidence that God does not exist then conversely every wonderful event - every cured cancer patient, every child rescued from a fire - has to be evidence that He does.

The truth of the matter is that scepticism in this country is more often than not the product of lazy thinking and apathy, not the conscientious questioning of beliefs. Indeed I would wish to argue that it is not events like the tsunami which undermine our faith, but our reluctance to take seriously the fundamental questions of our very existence.

Of course people remain troubled by the tsunami disaster, and rightly so. That is why it would seem to me that when these things occur our most appropriate reaction is not so much to ask how we might understand, but how we might help. For it is that which may actually strengthen our faith. I find myself once more in agreement with Rabbi Jonathan Sacks who wrote in The Times that the only adequate religious response to the disaster we have just witnessed is to say: "God I do not know why this terrifying disaster has happened, but I do know what you want of us: to help the afflicted and comfort the bereaved."

That is why I am so pleased that our church has responded in such a positive way in raising over £2,000 towards the Tsunami Disaster Appeal.

How to Grow Deane Church

The Church at Prayer

When you consider our own church, what are the important things we do together? Prayer was a clearly a priority for the early church, and we shouldn't be surprised that it grew significantly!! Also when prayer becomes a priority in our churches, it will become more important in the lives of Christians.

We read about the Jerusalem church praying together in Acts 4:24ff. Following their release from prison, Peter and John went straight back to the fellowship and they prayed. But what can we learn from their prayer?

- * it arose naturally from their circumstances (23)
- * they were united in prayer (24)
- * they didn't come to God with a list of needs, but focussed on him and his sovereignty (24)
- * it was informed by Scripture, as they sought to pray according to God's will (25-28)
- * in coming before God, they were not looking for a way out of their situation, but asked for 2 specific things:
 - o 'Lord, look' - on the threats they faced from the authorities.
 - o 'Lord, grant' - boldness to face their circumstances without fear (29-30).

We go on to read 'they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and spoke the word of God boldly' (31). Prayer is the gateway to spiritual power for witness and healing. A survey several years ago revealed that the average Christian prayed for one minute a day, while the average minister for two minutes! Therefore, turning the tide of apathy and scepticism in our generation will not happen without fervent prayer. When they prayed, 'the place where they were meeting was shaken' (31). to what extent do we need to be shaken out of our complacency today?

NOTICE BOARD

Ladies Guild

February 8

Slides

Kath Hughes

Sadly Missed

Kathleen Leyland who died suddenly on December 29th will be sadly missed by all at the Lunch Club. Kathleen served meals to members who in many cases were considerably younger than herself. Her contribution was greatly appreciated by everyone. She has left behind many great memories.

A Big Thank You:

Mary Jackson Writes

"I was most encouraged and helped by your many prayers, messages and lovely cards when you heard I was undergoing surgery. Thank you very much. It really is a blessing to have such support. I am glad to be able to report that I am making steady progress with increasing mobility. Because of the present unsettled and often unpleasant weather, I am a bit like a 'caged lion' being stuck indoors so much. As you can imagine, I would prefer to be able to get out and get on!!"

Unwanted Christmas Presents

If you have any unwanted gifts which would be suitable raffle prizes, please pass them to Julie Cooper.

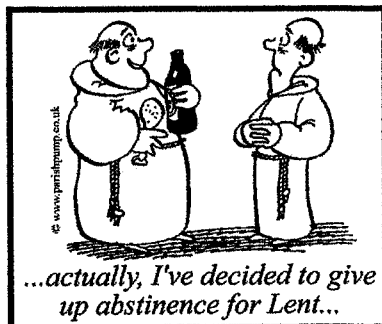
Grant News

We recently received £1000 towards the purchase of new chairs and coffee tables to replace the existing broken/damaged ones in the Memorial Hall. We wish to thank the Manchester Guardian Society Charitable Trust for this grant.

The Lunch Club recently received a grant from CVS of £1212 which will benefit those who use the small hall. The money will pay to replace a broken sink unit with a commercial stainless steel sink and also pay for a stainless steel clearing trolley and new crockery. An application for £500 towards the Lunch Club Christmas party was also successful. A great time was had by all including the Chairman, the Rector, who not only learned how to play bingo, but also won!

Deane Church Carers Group?

Do you know someone who is looking after a family member or friend and who needs "time out" for themselves? Julie Cooper and others are looking into the possibility of setting up a club which would meet in the Memorial Hall for lunch, initially every three months. It would give carers the chance to have a break and to meet with others in a similar position. If you, or anyone known to you, would be interested in this venture, please speak to Julie Cooper.



New Projects for 2005

A Craft Group has been set up which will meet every Monday afternoon in the small hall of the Memorial Hall, starting later in February. If you are interested in cross-stitch, making cards, knitting or want to learn a new skill, ask Julie Cooper for more details. One of the first projects will be making church kneelers. Julie has been reliably informed that these are easy to do! The aim will be to make a kneeler for weddings and new altar kneelers.

Thank you

Volunteers and members of the Lunch Club would like to thank the Wednesday evening Brownies for their lovely gifts. Everyone at the Lunch Club Christmas party received a beautifully decorated pot plant. They were thrilled that the children had put in so much effort into making each one of them a Christmas present. Thank you, Brownies, for all your kindness.

EASTER EGG BINGO

Saturday 26th February 6.30 p.m.

Adults £1.50 Children £1 (inc refreshments)

Tickets available from Julie Cooper 01204 660946

Bingo tickets to be purchased separately on the night

Purchase your tickets in advance.

Admission will be by ticket only.

Make Poverty History

Some years pass by; others make history. 1994, for example, marked the end of apartheid in South Africa; but it was also the year remembered with anguish and shame for the death of 800,000 Rwandans in the space of 100 days as a result of genocide. A decade earlier, in 1984, the Ethiopian famine suddenly became known to people worldwide through pictures and broadcasts that shocked and appalled everyone. The following year, 1985, was the year when Bob Geldof's Live Aid stirred millions of people around the world to give generously as never before.

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

Twenty years on from Live Aid, 2005 holds immense opportunities for people in the UK to make a difference for those living in poverty throughout the developing world. In April, the UK government-initiated "Africa Commission" will report. In July, the UK government will host the G8 summit of the world's richest nations, with the intention of making it a 'presidency for development'. From July to December it will take over the revolving presidency of the European Union, with the EU summit being held in the UK in December.



Such a combination of events is unprecedented in the UK: the government *could* help bring about real progress on the issues underlying global poverty. In addition, in September 2005, the UN will host its MDG+5

summit (Millennium Development Goals) to assess the progress (or lack thereof) in achieving these goals - targets set by the UN in 2000 to reduce global poverty substantially by 2015.

In response to this unparalleled mix of events, development agencies and networks are planning to mobilise, on an exceptional scale, around a common campaign called *Make Poverty History*,

calling on the government to deliver concrete policy reforms on trade, aid and international debt, three of the major underlying causes of global poverty. They want our leaders to lead by example and push other G8 and EU leaders to deliver trade justice, more and better aid and to drop the debt. These leaders have the power to make a difference - the campaign seeks to make sure they use it

Those of you who saw the Vicar of Dibley on New Year's Day will already be aware of the campaign and its symbol of the white band. For this campaign to succeed however, individuals need to get involved. There are many ways you can help. The Vicar of Dibley was encouraging her parishioners to write to the Prime Minister to show their concern. You too can do this and if you do not know where to start a letter to the Prime Minister, do not worry, you can add your voice to the campaign by simply signing and posting the **postcard** enclosed in this copy of the magazine. It will only take a few minutes of your time but it could have lasting benefits for people living in poverty across the world.



You can get and wear a **white band** to show you support the campaign. These are available at Oxfam shops and from websites such as Tearfund



(www.tearfund.org.uk). We also hope to have some at the back of church soon. We can pray too for our leaders and the leaders of the other G8 and EU countries that they will grasp the chance to make a difference.

2005 is an exceptional opportunity. Lets ensure that it is a year that makes history - for all the right reasons.

(You can find out more about the Make Poverty History campaign by going to the website: www.makepovertyhistory.com)

February 2 is Candlemas

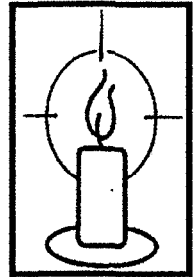
The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, February 2nd. 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.

Sovereign Lord,
as you have promised,
you now dismiss your servant in peace.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of all people,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.

Luke 2.29-32

WHO'S WHO

Rector: Ian Mainey
(Telephone 01204 61619)

Vicar: Paul Ellis
(01204 651851)

Readers: David Dewhurst
(01204 651347)
Nola Kilsby
(01204 492351)

Wardens: Les Kilsby
(01204 492351)
Bryan Shephard
(01942 817288)
Craig Mochrie
(01204 652324)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Lay Chair: Jane Hampson
(01204 848433)

Honorary Treasurer: Alan Cheetham
(01204 405829)

Honorary Secretary: Les Kilsby
(01204 492351)

CHAIRMEN OF WORKING GROUPS

Buildings & Fabric: Mike Kirkby
Worship: Elizabeth Plant
Social: Chris Dewhurst-Taylor

OTHER OFFICIALS

Organist: Jim Needham
(0161 723 5860)
Flowers: Josie Crompton (01204 655964)
Archivist: Rodney Howard
(01024 652417)
Gift Aid Secretary: Les Kilsby
(01204 492351)
Deane Elizabeth Plant
Church News: (01204 63730)

MEMORIAL HALL

Bookings: Julie Cooper
(01024 660946)
Caretaker: Ian Cooper
(01024 660946)

WHAT'S ON

Scramblers: 3 to 5 years
Climbers: 5 to 7 years
Lynda Smith (01024 62093)

Explorers: 7 to 11 years
Elaine Cockerham (01204 650347)

All meet in the Memorial Hall on Sundays at 10.30am

Pathfinders: 11 to 14 years
CYFA: 14 to 18 years
Ian Gardiner (01204 660460)
The Memorial Hall Fridays 7.15 - 9.00pm

BELL RINGERS

Practice Night Wednesdays at 7.30pm
Kenneth Higson & Anthea Morris (01024 63754)

CHURCH CHOIR

Rehearsals on Sundays at 12 noon (except third Sunday - see Music Group below)
Jim Needham (0161 723 5860)

MUSIC GROUP

Rehearsals on each third Sunday at 12 noon
Beccy Rutter (01942 814946)

LADIES GROUPS

Meet in the Memorial Hall
Ladies Guild: Alternate Tuesdays at 7.45pm
Pat Sewell (01204 61278)
Parents & Toddlers: Thursdays at 1.30pm
Jean Mainey (01204 61619)

DEANE LUNCH & LEISURE

Wednesdays 12 noon to 2.30pm
Julie Cooper (01204 660946)

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Meet in the Scout/Guide Hut

Brownies: 1. Tuesdays at 6.45pm
Ann Calderbank (399206)
2. Wednesdays at 6.30pm
Janet Barnsley (01772 322247)

Guides: Mondays at 7.15pm
Carole Baxendale (419167)

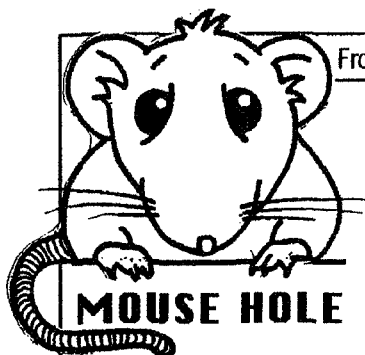
Cubs: Thursdays at 6.45pm
Mike Ash (436036)

Beavers: Monday at 5.45pm
Liz Yarwood (855163)

Rainbows: Fridays at 6.30pm
Margaret Latchford (657101)

www.deaneparish.info

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



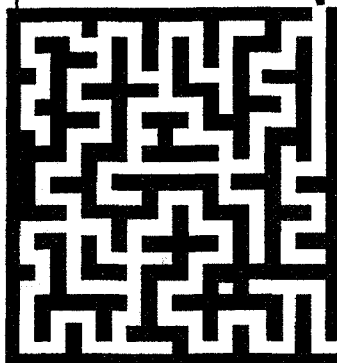
MOUSE HOLE

LOCUST LUNCH

John was Jesus' cousin, he lived in the desert and ate locusts and wild honey. Eating locusts may sound horrible to us but in some countries people love them. When they land they are collected then roasted or boiled. Some are dried, beaten to a powder and used like flour to make cakes!



Can you find your way through the crooked ways to the straight path? ↓



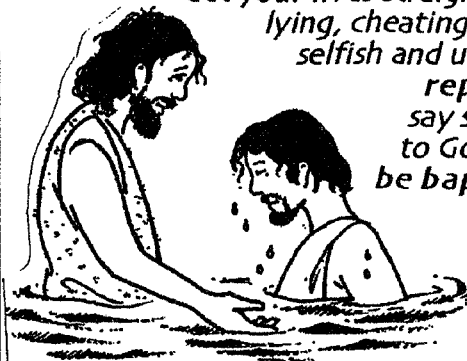
From my home in the church I learn about all sorts of things...

GET READY! GET READY!

The Prophet John had a message from God for everyone who wanted to listen.

"Get ready, the Messiah, our Saviour is coming...."

*Get your lives straight, stop lying, cheating, being selfish and unkind...
repent,
say sorry
to God and
be baptised".*



Many people changed their ways and came to John to be baptised

Read John's story in Matthew chapter 3

The 40 days before Easter is known as **LENT**. It's a time to think and pray 'and learn more about God.

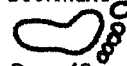
The first day of Lent is called **ASH**

WEDNESDAY.

It is a day for saying 'sorry' to God for any wrong things you have said or thought or done.



Make a Lent calendar bookmark.



Draw 40 footprints, plus 7 extra for 'Holy Week'. Colour in a footprint each day.

