

Deane Parish News

April



2005



April Diary

April 3	Easter 2
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
10.30 a.m.	Family Service
6.00 p.m.	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
April 10	Easter 3
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion 1662
10.30 a.m.	Service of the Word
6.00 p.m.	Service of the Word
April 17	Easter 4
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion 1662
10.30 a.m.	Family Worship with Baptism
6.00 p.m.	Holy Communion
April 24	Easter 5 Stewardship Sunday
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion 1662
10.30 a.m.	Family Communion
6.00 p.m.	Service of the Word

Communion Readings

April 3	Easter 2
	Acts 2.14a, 22-32; John 20.1-18
April 10	Easter 3
	Acts 2.14a, 36-41; Luke 24.13-35
April 17	Easter 4
	Acts 2.42-47; John 10.1-10
April 24	Easter 5 Stewardship Sunday
	Tbd

Other dates

April 3	Jim's last Sunday as our organist
April 7	PCC meeting
April 10	Housegroup Week
April 14	Special PCC meeting
April 24	George Marsh Memorial Service—2.00 p.m.
	Housegroup Week
April 25	Annual Parochial General Meeting

18th/19th June
 Look out for the
 new look Sermons
 weekend—details
 next month!

The Rector Writes

The Glory of Jesus' Lordship

"Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance." John 20:1

I don't know about you but I love that song,
The angel rolled the stone away,
the angel rolled the stone away.
It was early one Sunday morning;
the angel rolled the stone away.

To me that song seems to encapsulate all that Easter is about - that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.



But why was the stone rolled away? Couldn't Jesus have risen from the dead and the stone been left in place? Of course he could. But the stone was rolled away so that **others** could see God's power and glory in the resurrection.

This is not the first time I have thought about a stone being rolled away. Recently I was preaching on the raising of Lazarus from the dead in John 11. Again a stone was rolled away. On that occasion Jesus told Martha to have the stone of her brother's tomb rolled away. And although hesitant to do so at first she did as Jesus bade her, and God's power was revealed as Jesus brought Lazarus back from the dead.

I wonder, this Easter, what stone is Jesus commanding you to remove so that God's power can be revealed.

- ♦ Would your brother experience the power of God in his life if you removed the stone of rivalry?
- ♦ Would your sister experience the power of God in her life if you removed the stone of jealousy?
- ♦ Would your husband experience the power of God in his life if you removed the stone of a nagging tongue?

- ♦ Would your wife experience the power of God in her life if you removed the stone of unkindness?
- ♦ Would your parent experience the power of God in his or her life if you removed the stone of unforgiveness?
- ♦ Would your child experience the power of God in his or her life if you removed the stone of favouritism?
- ♦ Would your church experience the power of God in its life if you removed the stone of hypocrisy?
- ♦ Would your minister experience the power of God in his life if you removed the stone of a critical spirit?
- ♦ Would your boss experience the power of God in his or her life if you removed the stone of laziness?
- ♦ Would your neighbour experience the power of God in his or her life if you removed the stone of prejudice?
- ♦ Would our nation experience the power of God in its life if we removed the stone of prayerlessness?

♦
The stones are endless aren't they? Piles of stones are heaped over the entrance of our lives and of the lives of those around us. And Jesus says to you and me, "If you want to see me at work in your life and in the lives of others, take away the stone."

The glory of Jesus is revealed through our obedience. Could it be that one of the reasons that we have yet to see the outpouring of God's power and glory in our lives, in our homes, church, neighbourhood, and places of work, is because people like you and me refuse to be obedient? What glory and joy are we missing out on because we refuse to take away the stone? How will we ever experience the power and glory of God in our lives if we only attempt those things which we know we can do?

The Easter season (which goes right up to Pentecost) is a time for reflecting once more upon the glory and power of Jesus. It's a time for us to seek God's power at work in our lives. It's a time of new beginnings. Let's not waste the opportunities that God has brought our way. Let's see God's power and glory at work amongst us.

SERMON NOTEBOOK: 'People Like Us'

Road to Emmaus: Luke 24: 13-35

The story of the two disciples walking the road between Jerusalem and Emmaus on the first Easter day is 'one of the immortal short stories of the world' (W. Barclay). Their encounter with the risen Christ is a model for how we can meet him in our lives.

Hearts Opened

The disciples displayed 'downcast' faces, as their hearts were preoccupied with grief. They felt let down by God, as well as bewildered by all they had heard. No doubt their emotions prevented them from recognising Jesus walking with them, even though their hearts burned within them. Despite our feelings, Jesus is with us in situations of loss or desolation, as well as when we feel let down by God or other people.

♦ *In such circumstances, how have we known Jesus' presence?*

Minds Opened

Although this pair knew the Scriptures, they didn't understand what they said about the Christ. Therefore, Jesus opened their minds to make sense of the events they were experiencing. The Holy Spirit also brings God's word alive for us, as He challenges our preconceptions about Jesus.

♦ *In what ways has this been your experience of reading the Bible?*

Eyes Opened

The couple only recognised Jesus when He broke the bread as they ate together. The turning point came when they invited Jesus into their home, and allowed him to take charge. If we are to recognise Jesus' presence with us, we need to open our lives to him.

♦ *Is there some new way in which we need to have our eyes opened?*



Mouths Opened

Open eyes, minds and hearts lead to open mouths. Having discovered Jesus, the disciples can't keep the news to themselves. The Christian message is never truly ours until we have opened our mouths and shared it with others!

♦ *How do we feel about this?*

It's time for the Annual Parochial General Meeting...

Throughout the Church of England this is the time of year for the Annual General Meeting. At Deane it takes place on Monday 25th April.

Now come on, don't turn to the next article, stay with this one for a moment!

The Annual General Meeting may not be the most exciting event, but it's an important one. People rarely turn up in big numbers for the meeting - in fact, probably clergy worry when people do turn up in big numbers.



But important things are done at the AGM!

It's when the churchwardens are elected for the year. They are the Bishop's agents in the parish and represent all parishioners.

The accounts are presented at the AGM. You can discover how much it costs to run the parish (you'll probably be surprised how much) and what savings the church has (you'll probably be surprised how little).

The Rector will give a report, saying what has gone on in the past 12 months, and what the plans are for the future. His report should give you a good idea of what the life of the parish is like.

Reports will also probably be given on the condition of the buildings, so you can learn whether the church is about to fall around your ears next time you attend.



Then there are elections for those standing for the Parochial Church Council, which is the body, along with the Rector, which organises church life in the parish.

So if you want to learn what our church does, what its ministry is all about, and what the various church officers do, come to our AGM in the Memorial Hall on Monday 25th April. You'll probably be surprised to learn how much goes on.

...and our organist is retiring

Jim Needham is retiring from his post as organist and choir master at Deane Church, his last day being Sunday 3 April. Jim's main reason for leaving is so that he can worship at the same church as his wife, Dorothy, a Church Army officer, who is soon to leave her post at Radcliffe for another position in the Manchester diocese.

Jim came to Deane in July 1988. Before then he had been organist at St Stephen's Lever Bridge for 11 years, followed by a spell at Westhoughton Parish Church. In his younger days Jim was a chorister at Christ Church Heaton. He actually started to play the organ while he was a Sunday school teacher at Somerset Road church - after Sunday school he would sneak into the church to play, thinking that no-one knew what he was doing! Twice since 1995, Jim has served as President of the Bolton Organists' Association.

During Jim's time at Deane, the type of music used in worship developed to include more modern songs alongside the traditional hymns and psalms. Jim therefore played a central role in developing the music group as well as directing the choir.

I myself first joined the choir as a result of an appeal by Jim for extra choristers to sing in the Christmas festival of lessons and carols. I don't know whether Jim realised that I (along with some others) couldn't read a single note of music and didn't know a breve from a semi-quaver. However, by good teaching, good humour, endless patience and sheer hard work, Jim got us to sing the right notes in mostly the right order, to paraphrase Eric Morecambe! I think this sums up how Jim is - he loves choral and organ music used in worship, and he loves to share this and help others participate.



Jim's dedication shows itself in the amount of time he practices (often in a freezing cold church!). Sometimes when I have to come to the church during the day or early before a service, Jim has been playing and it was wonderful just to be still and listen.

There will be a presentation to Jim during the 10.30 am service on 3 April, and his final appearance will be at the 6pm service that day. Let's hope that many people attend so that we can give him a rousing send-off.

Jim will be greatly missed. All their friends at Deane wish him and Dorothy all the very best for the future.

Les Kilsby

Keeping Giving Going

Over the coming months we shall be looking at the subject of Christian giving. This month we'll look at some of the basic facts of giving to and in our church in Deane.

The whole area concerning money and the church can cause great anxiety and agitation, largely due to misunderstanding. This is the opposite of what God's word wants us to experience in this matter. The Bible speaks of thank offerings and the Apostle Paul said that 'God loves a cheerful giver.' The original meaning of the word translated 'giver' is more like 'hilarious'.



So what are those basic facts we need to keep in mind?

- ♦ Our church has been given a mission by God - to make disciples of those who are at present 'outside'. That mission needs to be resourced with vision, people, buildings - and money.
- ♦ Mission costs money, because mission takes place within the real world where money is the normal means of exchange.
- ♦ This mission is God's work and we believe God's work is to be resourced (i.e. paid for) by God's people (i.e. those within the committed fellowship).
- ♦ We are talking at the moment primarily about the day to day work of the local church, not works like restoring buildings.
- ♦ The Christian giving we are talking about is not 'fundraising'. It is giving by God's people in a proportionate way, i.e. releasing a meaningful and proportionate part of what we have, to be used by God's people for God's work in Deane.
- ♦ God has already given all the 'money' necessary to resource his mission in this place. There will be no miraculous crock of gold which will descend into our midst because of our present or

future programme. What we pray will happen is that God's Spirit will move many to take a realistic look at their level of giving. At present, over the country as a whole, the level of giving by many Christian people is no more than a token gift out of the 'leftovers'.

- ♦ At the heart of the Gospel is the generosity of God. Is our generosity in any way a reflection of his?

We want to make every effort to become more effective as a church in bringing God's love in Christ to the people of our parish, so perhaps it would be appropriate to ask ourselves a few questions and address them to our hearts as well as our heads.

How does our giving to resource God's work compare with the cost of a few beers, a bottle of red wine, a visit to a concert or Alton Towers, a meal out, even fish and chips?

How committed are we to the work of bringing the good news of the Gospel to our parish?

Are we prepared to have that concern translated into giving?

Some dates to note:

- April 10 ♦ Giving packs available in church
- ♦ In this week housegroups begin in which we'll look together at the whole matter of the stewardship of God's gifts to us.
- April 24 ♦ Stewardship Sunday—the Rector will speak at each service on this subject
- April 25 ♦ Annual Parochial General Meeting—come and hear a report and ask questions about the church's financial needs

**April 24th will be
Stewardship Sunday.**

The Rector will speak on the subject
at each service.

Housegroups April to June 2005

The theme of stewardship will be picked up in a series of housegroup study discussions. There will be six sessions in the weeks beginning: 10 April, 24 April, 8 May, 22 May, 5 June, 19 June. Stewardship isn't only about money, so if you've never tried a housegroup, why not take this opportunity of looking together with other Christians at our response to God's goodness to us in the Gospel? Please sign up on the board at the back of church.

Later in April you will see a wreath on the George Marsh Memorial (the stone cross you pass on your way into church). A memorial service to George Marsh is held annually in Deane Church. Newcomers to Deane may not know that George Marsh, born in Bolton, was martyred for his faith in the reign of Mary Tudor. The Altar frontal portrays his martyrdom in Chester by burning at the stake.

Ladies' Guild Information

April meetings:

7th David Tomlinson

The Bread the Staff of Life

19th Peter Ward

Music Hall Memories

May 7th Ladies' Guild Coffee Morning

The new leader of the Ladies' Guild is Brenda

Dixon—tel: 653333

Notice Board

Parish Website

Have you looked at the Parish website recently? If not, go to

www.deaneparish.info

Please be patient with us as we update it, which is ongoing.

**Record enquiries
about Jesus Christ**

Thousands of people, who have little or no contact with church, want to know about Jesus and the Christian faith because of a British web site and postcards. Around 1000 people a day visited the evangelistic website www.rejesus.co.uk in 2004 and it's estimated that at least 200 of these were 'enquirers' who are seeking to explore and discover Christian faith for themselves.

CYFA now Thursdays 8-9.30. Contact Karen Greenhalgh (01204 64340).

A Little Spiritual Spring Cleaning perhaps

Are you obsessed?

Do you remember the 'Beanie Babies' that came out a few years ago - cuddly animal toys with that 'aaah' factor? Some little girls got carried away - at least one child's bedroom was taken over by nearly 100 furry faces, and still she and her mother scoured the Internet and local shops for new arrivals. Other crazes have since replaced Beanie Babies, and so it goes on.



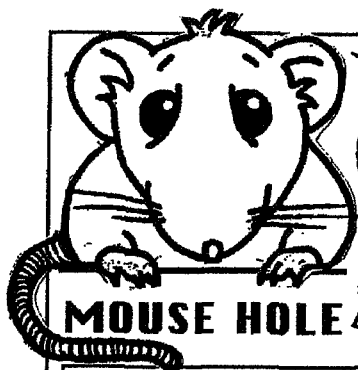
How easily we can become addicted and obsessed with material things and hobbies; also attitudes and actions. Whether it's golf, football, browsing the Internet, or watching TV, being house-proud or a compulsive shopper, it isn't healthy for body, mind or spirit when all thoughts, words and actions are geared to only one thing.

Obsessions tend to be selfish: the 'must have', 'must watch', 'must do' way of life excludes others and puts only our only desires first.

Bernard of Clairvaux, writing in the 12th century, observed: "Theirs is an endless road, a hopeless maze, who seek for goods before they seek for God."

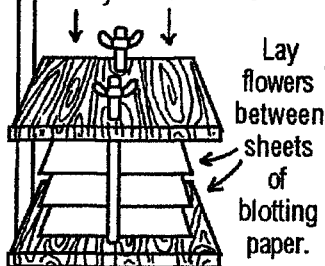
One modern day Christian has observed: "A small coin held up to the eye can obliterate the sun from sight. In the same way, we can allow insignificant preoccupations to cut us off from the light of God."

Jesus said: "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

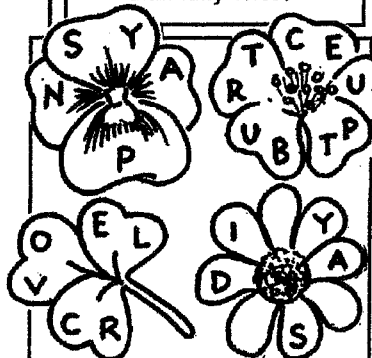


MOUSE HOLE

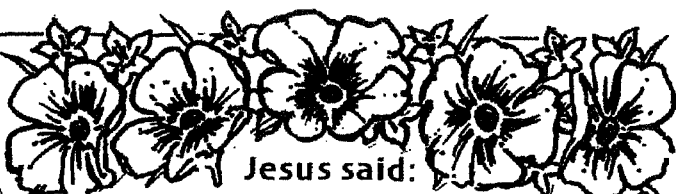
Preserve flowers and leaves by drying them in a flower press. Here is a simple one you can make



Press together between two plywood squares screwed together with wing nuts and bolts. Leave for several weeks until fully dried.



Re-arrange the letters and find the names of the flowers



Jesus said:

"Look how the wild flowers grow: they do not work or make clothes for themselves.

But I tell you that not even King Solomon with all his wealth had clothes as beautiful as one of these flowers.

It is God who clothes the wild grass...

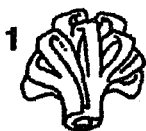
Won't he be all the more sure to clothe you?"

If God takes so much care with a flower how much more does he care for his people?

"Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you."

1 Peter 5:7

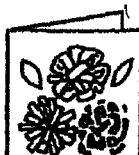
Make paper flowers using rectangles of tissue or thin paper, here are two different flowers to try:



Cut down along the folded edge about 1cm apart. Roll up and stick.



Cut up along the edge 5mm apart. Roll up and stick.



Glue the flower heads onto a card or attach to thin straws or sticks to make a posy.

