

Deane Parish Magazine

November



2005



November Diary



November 6

3 before Advent

9.00 a.m.

Holy Communion (CW)

10.30 a.m.

Family Parade Service

6.00 p.m.

Holy Communion

November 13

2 before Advent

9.00 a.m.

Holy Communion (1662)

10.30 a.m.

Remembrance Service

6.00 p.m.

Service of the Word

November 20

Christ the King

9.00 a.m.

Holy Communion (1662)

10.30 a.m.

Family Worship with Baptism

6.00 p.m.

Holy Communion

November 27

Advent Sunday

9.00 a.m.

Holy Communion (1662)

10.30 a.m.

Family Communion

6.00 p.m.

Advent Service

9.00 and 6.00 Readings

November 6

3 before Advent

Amos 5:18-24;

Matthew 25:1-13

November 13

2 before Advent

Zephaniah 1:7,12-18;

Matthew 25:14-30

November 20

Christ the King

Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24; Matthew 25:31-46

November 27

Advent Sunday

Is 64:1-9;

1Cor 1:3-9;

Mark 13:24-37

Please note that the deadline for copy for the December magazine is the second Sunday November 13th.

Copies of the Directory containing the names and details of the church officers and other leaders may be found at the back of church.

The Rector Writes

No Ordinary Saint

As some of you might have gathered, I love the Old Testament. I have done ever since I became a Christian. I find that I can relate so clearly to the characters I find there. I relate not only to their strengths, which I would seek to emulate, but even more so to their weaknesses. And then of course in the Old Testament we get that sense of a big God in control of events, even when those events seem to the human eye to be out of control.

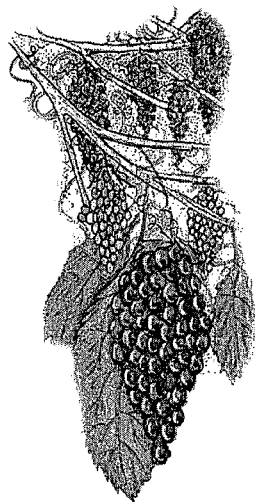
One of the characters I particularly like is Amos. I suppose this is because I had to study the Book of Amos in some depth when I was at theological college. Amos was no "professional" prophet of God. He had been brought up to be a shepherd and an orchard keeper (Amos 1:1). But God had called him and given him the words to speak to the Israelite nation. Because he had been given these words to speak by God he would speak them whatever anyone might say.

For myself I need look to no one else but Amos to see that God uses ordinary people for his purposes. We imagine that he is looking for super-saints with special backgrounds, strengths and gifts. We think that significant things can only be done through them. But what kind of understanding of God lies behind such thoughts? It is the belief that God adds his blessing to the skills of others, putting their cleverness to work for him. But the Bible never teaches that. Both the Old Testament and the new Testament show that God gives gifts to ordinary people to do extraordinary things for him. Amos had no special background and no special gifts, but God empowered him by the Holy Spirit.

Myra Brooks Welch penned a moving poem called 'The Touch of the Masters Hand'. It's the story of an old, dusty violin being sold at auction. The auctioneer thought it hardly worth selling, and opened the bidding at one dollar. He was rather pleased when the bidding rose to three dollars. The bidding appeared to come to an end at that price and the auctioneer had lifted his hammer and was poised to bring it down at that price. But before he could do so a grey haired man walked from the back of the auction room to the front. He picked up the bow, wiped the dust from the violin, tightened the strings, and began to play. And the auction room was filled with pure and sweet music.

When the man had finished playing the auctioneer once more asked, "What am I bid for this old violin?" Immediately a thousand dollars was offered, then two, and finally three. Down fell the hammer, and the people cheered as the old violin was sold for three thousand dollars. But some asked what had changed the worth of the violin. Back came the answer, "the touch of the masters hand."

And the touch of the heavenly Master's hand today is still what gives value and makes a life useful. Sometimes we are written off by others; sometimes we write ourselves off. But God knows how to take mundane and hopeless people like us, touch us with his power, and use us to change his world. As I read my Bible it presses home on me time and time again that it is the ordinary saints that God uses. What God did with a shepherd and orchard keeper like Amos he can do with us.



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Lindisfarne Scriptorium
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Why do we need Advent?

'I can understand God, but I can't see where Jesus fits into the picture.'

The theologian Athanasius, Egyptian by birth and Greek by education, answered this question 1600 years ago. He said: **'The only system of thought into which Jesus Christ will fit is the one in which HE is the starting point!'**

Once we try to begin with our own human-based attempt to understand God and the meaning of life - let alone the place that Christ occupies - we'll be like the man who tries to do up his shirt buttons, beginning with the wrong button. He may hope that it will all work out, but the shirt will never fit properly. So, begin with Christ, if you want the picture to make sense. He is right there from the start. All creation finds both its origin and its fulfilment in Him.

It is through Christ alone that we can know the face of God, and his salvation in our lives. Fully God and fully human, Christ is the perfect mediator. By his saving death he has bridged the gulf between heaven and earth. No one else will do. That was the blazing conviction of those first-century Christians. Beside Christ there was no other name. Historically, Christ's name claims supreme recognition in all the areas of life that matter most. It happened in the world of worship - the Druids, witch doctors, Mithras, Serapis, Jupiter and all the other pagan gods were all swept away.

It also happened in the world of suffering. When we put the leaders of history and of thought together, it is quite clear that none of them suffered as Jesus did. In him we see God incarnate, living among us, loving, suffering, dying and reclaiming.

It happened in the world of eternity. Many pre-Christian epitaphs say 'I was not, I was born, I lived, I am not, that is all'. Into that world exploded the message of Christ, raised from death, never to die again. That message alone is enough to change our view of the entire universe. The universe itself only fits because of Christ.

A Memorial in Deane Church

I often addressed school assemblies and sometimes referred to St Mary's. Here is an abridged version of a remembrance address:

Next week begins with Remembrance Sunday. This is one way of recognising those who died in the world wars of this century. There are many other ways and we can see them all around us.

Near the altar in Deane church there is a memorial which has often absorbed my attention. It is like many other memorials. I just happen to have seen it very often. It records that John Young Alexander Line, son of the Vicar of Deane, was wounded on the twelfth of March, 1916, and died on the thirteenth, aged twenty. The memorial ends with familiar words:

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for a friend."

The whole thing is set out in a plain and striking way, making grief more bearable by stressing what the parents knew was generous in their son and what they imagined were the circumstances of his death.

In speaking of heroism and death in battle we often underestimate the grief and helplessness of people left at home. These often become the source of strength, a will to survive, to rebuild and to show that the darkness in men's hearts can be dispelled by a greater light. The rebuilding of Coventry cathedral became a national expression of this will. In Germany every town can tell its story. In Lubeck, for example, St Mary's Church was rebuilt around the bells which still lie shattered where they fell fifty years ago. This is a powerful and poignant image of destruction and renewal.

At a personal level there are different ways of making memorials. We have become familiar with poems written by soldiers, less so with poems written about war by civilians, who find in the resources of the language a means of expressing sorrow and knowing again the people they have lost.

I read this one about a young soldier. He was one of many whose bodies were never found. His wife's memorial to him has the force given by simplicity and her control of the rhymes and rhythms of the language which we speak.

Missing, Presumed Killed.

There is no cross to mark
The place he lies,
And no man shared his dark Gethsemane
Or, witnessing that simple sacrifice,
Brought word to me.

There is no grave for him.
The mourning heart
Knows not the destination of its prayer,
Save that he is anonymous, apart,
Sleeping out there.

But though strict earth may keep
Her secret well,
She cannot claim his immortality.
Safe from that darkness whence he fell,
He comes to me.

We cannot tell, unless we were there, how people might have died. Perhaps Shakespeare's soldier in "Henry V", that most military of plays, is too pessimistic when he says, "Few men die well that die in battle". If they don't die well, he argues, it isn't their fault, because no one has much control over what happens on the battlefield. The difficult role of the bereaved is to keep alive the best parts of the people they have known and loved. Not only does this help us survive, as the writers I have quoted say, but it helps us to rebuild and keep alive the hope of a brighter world.

In leaving behind a grief-stricken memorial to their son, second lieutenant in the North Staffordshire Regiment, buried at Merville in France, the Reverend John Russell Line, Vicar of Deane, and Emily, his wife, were doing just this.

Charles Winder



Hot off the Press: 2003/4 statistics

Licensed Ministry

The number of people licensed to minister in the Church on a voluntary basis continues to increase. There are now 1,855 non-stipendiary, 545 locally ordained ministers and 8,426 licensed readers ministering across C of E parishes. The number of stipendiary clergy has decreased by 6% since 2000 to 8,897 in 2004. Ordination numbers fluctuate but are around 500 overall each year. This is split between stipendiary ministry (60%), non-stipendiary ministry (30%) and locally ordained ministry (10%).

Church attendance

Adult attendance at worship was 1 million over a typical week, an increase of 2% in 2003. Eight dioceses saw increases in their attendance levels for children and young people, around 430,000 over a typical month in 2003, reflecting a small rise of 1%. Similar numbers of children and young people attend activities other than worship connected with the local church. Churches and parishes reported 375,000 children and young people less than 16 years of age attending such activities over a typical month in 2002/3. This involved the support of around 100,000 adult volunteers.

Christmas and Easter

Attendance at festival services in 2003 on Christmas Day and Easter Sunday show an increase of 2% to 2.65 million and 1.5 million respectively. 27 dioceses saw an increase in attendance at Christmas and 30 saw an increase in attendance at Easter.

Church 'membership'

In 2003 parish electoral rolls stood at 1.2 million having experienced a small increase of 2% following the major revision in 2002. Church weddings increased by 2%, church funerals by 3%, while the number of baptisms and confirmations fell by 5%. Blessings in churches and cathedrals following civil marriage fell by 700 or 12 %.



**Thank God for the
body of Christ,
the church. Pray
for its unity and
its mission.**

November 27th is Advent Sunday

With Advent, the Church's year begins anew as we wait for the birth of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Here is a Celtic prayer for this season from Poems of the Western Highlanders.

Jesu MacMary, at dawn-tide, the flowing,
Jesu MacMary, at ebb-tide, the going:
When our first breath awakes,
Life's day when darkness takes,
Merciful God of all, mercy bestowing,
With us and for us be,
Merciful Deity,
Amen, eternally.



Let's come to God in prayer and welcome him into our hearts afresh, recognising that 'The universe itself only fits because of Christ.'

Churchyard Administrator

The PCC wishes to appoint a Churchyard Administrator to replace Julie Cooper, who is leaving the post. Duties will include making arrangements for burials in the graveyard, and acting as vergers for funeral services. The person appointed will receive payment from the administrative fees payable for funerals and burials.

A detailed job description is available from one of the Wardens. Anyone interested in finding out more about the job is invited to talk to one of the Wardens or to Julie.

Letters of application must be submitted to the Wardens not later than Sunday 13 November 2005.

Where is your life journey taking you?

As we approach Advent and consider the second coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, let's take time to consider where we stand in relation to thoughts of life after death.

Can you imagine boarding a plane for your dream holiday and the pilot's voice says: 'Welcome on board. After take-off, we'll be serving you a meal and we'll do all we can to make your flight enjoyable. However, I need to tell you - we have no final destination. So we are just going to keep flying until we run out of fuel and drop into the ocean.'

No matter how wonderful the journey is, what's the point, if there's no destination? And yet many people live their lives like this. They concentrate only on having the best 'journey' that they can, on travelling first class all the way. But they never stop to consider where the journey is taking them - what their inevitable end will be.

Death is the end of our journey here on earth, but it need not be the end of our journey. God does not want us to end our life in death. He wants it to be the threshold of an eternity of peace and love in his presence. Jesus is the way to this truth and life, and he holds out that 'ticket' to us. A journey with a destination in mind is better than a journey that will simply...end... one day.

**St Paul knew where he was going. In fact, he couldn't wait to
"depart and be with Christ, which is better by
far...." (Philippians 1:23)**

Look to the Lord

Look backward; see Christ dying for you.

Look inward; see Christ living in you.

Look upward; see Christ praying for you.

Look forward; see Christ coming for you.

Anon

WELCOME PACK

It would be much appreciated if the information still outstanding for the above could be sent to Anne Roberts as soon as possible so that the pack can be produced and new- and not so newcomers can be informed about what goes on in the church family. If you are responsible for an activity at Deane church and I have not given you a letter and form, please accept my apologies and contact me so that you can let me have the information.

Tel: 01204 849468

Email:

anne@doffcocker.freeserve.co.uk .

Notice Board

Ladies' Guild

corrected programme

1st November Christmas Crafts

15th November Stress Buster

29th November Christmas Meal

6th December Carols and readings

Coffee Morning

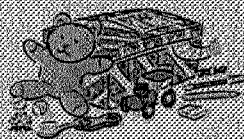
Deane Handicraft Group

Saturday 19th November

10.00 to 12 noon in church

Operation Christmas Child

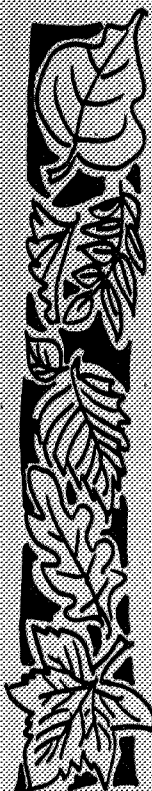
- 'meeting critical needs of victims of war, poverty, famine, disease and natural disaster while sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.' The boxes may be brought to church for Shoebox Sunday, November 20th. Please pick up a leaflet at the back of church.

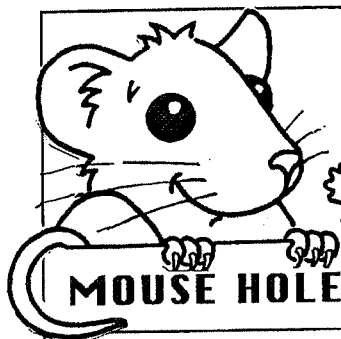


Thank you

David Dewhurst and family wish to express their thanks to members of the church family for prayer, cards of condolence, words of comfort and beautiful floral tributes received in their recent loss. We also want to thank all those who attended the service. The love and support we have received have been totally overwhelming and we will always be grateful to you all.

God bless you!

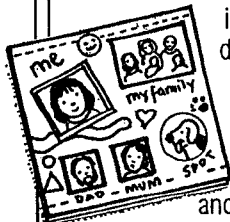




MOUSE HOLE

Make your own
scrapbook of
memories

Collect together photos
from a special event like a
birthday or day out. Stick
onto a sheet of card in an
interesting design.

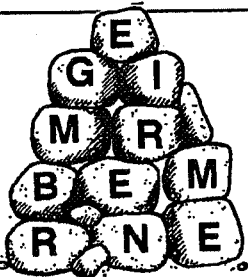


Add decoration
and lettering
and write on:

WHO is in the photo,
WHAT is happening,
WHERE and **WHEN** it was.

You can buy 12"x12"
'Scrapbook' albums and
card from craft shops.

Try making an album for
your family for Christmas.



Rearrange the letters to make
a word, then see how many
other words you can make.

In Bible times, God's people
never forgot the many things
that God had done for them.

In remembrance of these
times they held special
festivals and celebrations of
thanks and praise.

Read Exodus 12:1-14



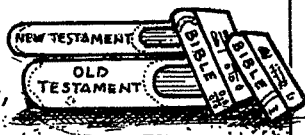
Sometimes large piles of
stones were built as
monuments to remember
what God had done...

Read Joshua 4:1-9



...and for over 2,000 years
God's people recorded
what had happened to
them and what they had
learnt about God.

All these books have
now been put into
one book, **The Bible**,
so that we can read
them too.



We also build
monuments to help
us remember and
buildings where we
can meet to
worship God.



Today we
hold festivals like
HARVEST and
celebrations like
**REMEMBRANCE
SUNDAY**.

We keep
records too using
books, computers,
DVD'S, CD's,
photographs and
videos.