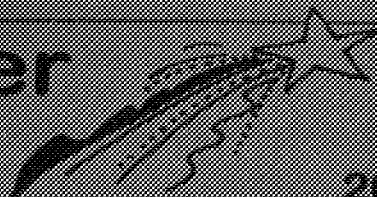


# Deane Parish Magazine

## December



2005



## December Diary



**December 4     Advent 2**  
 9.00 a.m.     Holy Communion (CW)  
 10.30 a.m.     Family and Parade Service  
 6.00 p.m.     Advent Service

**December 11     Advent 3**  
 9.00 a.m.     Holy Communion (1662)  
 10.30 a.m.     Service of the Word  
 6.00 p.m.     Service of the Word

**December 18     Advent 4**  
 9.00 a.m.     Holy Communion (1662)  
 10.30 a.m.     Family Carols Service  
 6.00 p.m.     Carols by Candlelight

**December 24     Christmas Eve**  
 11.00 p.m.     Holy Communion

**December 25     Christmas Day**  
 8.00 a.m.     Holy Communion  
 10.30 a.m.     Family Service

### 9.00 and 6.00 Readings

<b>December 4</b>	<b>9.00 and 6.00</b>	
	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
<b>December 11</b>	<b>9.00 and 6.00</b>	
	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8; 19:28
<b>December 18</b>	<b>9.00</b>	
	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
<b>December 24</b>	<b>11.00 p.m.</b>	
	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:1-20
<b>December 25</b>	<b>8.00</b>	
	Hebrews 1:1-4	John 1:1-14

Please note that the deadline for copy for the January magazine is December 11th. 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

## The Mission is You

Included in the month's magazine is an article by a good friend of mine, Audrey Selkeld. It was the last article that Audrey wrote for her church magazine having spent many years fighting a long term illness. I found it moving, I hope you do too. But more than moving I also found it challenging, and I guess that is the effect Audrey wanted it to have on us.

I had known Audrey for a few months having just arrived at St James' Carlisle as the curate. One Sunday, in my talk at the family service, I happened to joke that I was in really hot water at home because Jean had told me the night before to get the Sunday joint out of the freezer. Well you've guessed it, I forgot to do so. This was in the days when we didn't have the luxury of a microwave to defrost the joint quickly for us.

Anyway after the service Audrey invited us all round to her house for Sunday lunch. She said that it wouldn't be much, as at the time there was only Audrey and her son, her husband having passed away in his early forties, but we were welcome to share what they had. Well the five members of the Mainey household arrived and like the widow's cruse of oil the lunch prepared for two did for seven! I can't remember much about the lunch itself but indelibly written in my mind was Audrey's act of kindness. She always remained for me a good friend, and I thank God for her life and testimony.

It's strange how one act of kindness can make such a difference. Maybe that is the lesson each one of us needs to learn. It's often the small act of kindness which is the most remembered.

Audrey lived her life with a deep sense that God had put her on this earth for a mission. And that mission was to carry Christ with her wherever she may be, and whatever she may be doing. Her mission was to let Christ shine through her. And is that not the mission of

every Christian, or should it not be the mission of every Christian?

In the Bible we are called many things. We are the fragrance of Christ wherever we go (2 Corinthians 2:17); a letter known and read by everyone (2 Corinthians 3:1-2); a vessel carrying around a treasure (2 Corinthians 4:6-7). And all of us together form the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12). All this is to say that we are God's greatest statement. It is why God made us.

But 'Wait a minute,' you say "Doesn't that put a lot of pressure on me? How can I possibly be the equivalent of Christ walking around on earth? How can I do justice to the task?"

Well here's the encouraging bit. You aren't Christ all by yourself. We together form the body of Christ. All of us. Each one with a gift; each one needing the other to show the full character of Jesus.

Of course none of us is perfect, and that's OK. But each of us should be in a process. Our slip-ups and failures and sins don't wipe out the presence of Christ in our lives. They show instead why we have Him, why we need Him. And in spite of all our failings Christ is still perfectly capable of working through us.

This process of letting Christ work through us is the story we have to tell. Our life makes up the pages on which the story of Christ's redemption is told. It's a story in process. If we were complete and perfect, we wouldn't have much of a story to tell and no one would be able to relate to us. As it is we can tell new parts of the story every day as those around us witness to the story unfolding within our lives.

All this means that you are the evidence of the reality of Christ to the world, because God has a mission, and the mission is you.

God had a mission for Audrey. She wonderfully fulfilled that mission in spite of ill health and family misfortune. Her light shone bright. May ours similarly do so.



## **Christmas Services 2005**

**Sunday December 18th**

**10.30 a.m. Family Carol Service**

**6.00 p.m. Carols by Candlelight**

**Saturday December 24th**

**11.00 p.m. Holy Communion**

**Christmas Day**

**8.00 a.m. Holy Communion**

**10.30 a.m. Family Service  
followed by shortened  
form of Holy Communion**

**In him we see the God who can't be seen;  
in him all things that will be or have been  
have roots and take their meaning.**

**The universe and all its millions teeming,  
seen and unseen, in him find their meaning,  
their reason and their value.**

**(from Colossians 1)**

**O come let us adore Him!**

# Sharing Point

- from the magazine of St James' Carlisle.

It was an amazing sight watching (on TV) thousands of people lining up for the Great North run. It was even more amazing listening to the interviews and hearing the reasons people had for taking part. Stories of overcoming illness and tragedy; of the illnesses overcome by loved ones and the poignancy of the stories where loved ones did not recover. Yet these participants weren't prepared to let things go or give up. No, there are still too many people facing illness and death for them to give up.

I'm not talking about the elite runners here - they are marvelous - but the ordinary Joe Bloggs for whom the effort involved means real sacrifice and commitment. They are not prepared to do nothing, but make every effort to make things better. The commitment involved is quite something. Sometimes we say or intend to commit to something, but circumstances and other things get in the way. I'm thinking particularly of Christian commitment. What follows may not be comfortable - but often it is our comfort - or lack of it - that is responsible!

There used to be "checkups" printed in magazines for all kinds of things. I remember a time when "Spiritual Check ups" were in vogue. So here goes - and I include myself in the following.

Do you remember when you first became a Christian? How keen and eager you were to talk to anyone who would listen about the miracle that had occurred and changed your life? Remember how eager you were to attend Bible studies, midweek meetings for prayer, and how you looked forward to Sunday services and the chance to connect with newcomers - or even people you had seen but didn't know? How you looked around for someone who was alone in a pew and went and introduced yourself? How you invited new folk - and other members around for lunch or coffee or offered a lift or to baby sit for a mid week meeting?

...I hear of Christians who will not - for any good reason - either

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speak to a stranger in church, or even extend a greeting or a nod, and then complain that they "don't know half of the strangers in church". What has happened? Where is the excitement - "the joy I knew when first I knew the Lord"? Where is the love for the Lord that I once had? God has not changed: "Yesterday, today, forever, Jesus is the same". Is your Christian life boring, dull, uninteresting? Are the programmes churned out on TV more exciting than listening to the Living Word from our Living God? "Jesus wept" is said to be the shortest verse in the bible. How the heart of God must be wounded when He sees the cold heartedness of those He sacrificed His only Son for.

Well what has all that to do with The Great North Run? It seems to me that there is more commitment from good people for transitory things (and I am not deriding the efforts of thousands in trying to prevent suffering) than from Christians who know that what they stand for is preventing suffering in an eternity separated from God. We are all going to die, and it is good to try to prevent suffering in this life, but the call of Christ, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel" is a more urgent message.

Christian, where are you today? Are you comfortable in your own pew, with your own friends, giving lip service and a smile, but nursing a cold heart with no desire to please God, or be part of the living body? If these words seem harsh or offensive - ask yourself 'Why?'. I don't have enough time left to pussyfoot around, and as my time gets shorter, I become more aware of the need for the Word to be spread to those who are perishing without the word of God. In his mercy He has, and is, giving me opportunities to share Jesus with so many people. How about you? Don't wake up one morning and find it is too late. Ask God to warm your heart and give you back the love and commitment you once had.

(Audrey Jean Salkeld whose funeral took place at St James on October 21<sup>st</sup>.)



# Where does Santa Claus/Father Christmas come from?

Father Christmas is as old as Europe. Once he was Woden, lashing his reindeer through the darkness of northern midwinter. Then he encountered the Church, and was transformed 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.

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. Over the centuries many, including children, sailors, unmarried girls, pawnbrokers and moneylenders have claimed him as their patron.

Perhaps it was on account of St Nicholas' generosity 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.

The most popular result of the cult of St Nicholas has been the institution of Santa Claus. He is based on Nicholas' patronage of children and the custom in the Low Countries of giving presents on his feast.





## WHAT REALLY MATTERS ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

Some years ago, when a Bishop's doubts about the virgin birth of Jesus hit the headlines, a clergyman was interviewed on the BBC's 'Breakfast Time' programme about what it all meant. The interviewer, a well known TV personality with very little time for Christianity, had one great objection to what the Bishop was saying. He put it in the form of a question to the clergyman: "If Jesus wasn't born to the virgin Mary does that mean we'll have to stop sending Christmas cards and giving presents?"

It might sound a stupid question, but it actually highlights an important issue. For this BBC presenter, as for many others in Britain today, what really matters about Christmas is the cards and the presents. If Jesus wasn't really born as the Bible says, that would be a nuisance - but only because it would take away the justification for the ways in which we celebrate his birth! It might even mean one or two bank holidays less.

In fact if Jesus hadn't been born as the Bible says the implications would be much more serious. It would mean that God has not come into this world to put right what we have spoilt. It would mean that we have no way of getting to know God. It would mean that we have no chance of anything but judgment and condemnation when we die.

Christmas is worth celebrating, not as an excuse for cards or presents or holidays, but because Christmas assures us that God hasn't written us off - that he loves us and has a plan for us. At Good Friday and Easter we see that Jesus has dealt with our twin problems of sin and death. At Pentecost we find that the new life achieved by Jesus can be ours as well.

Is Christmas important to you? If so, why? Just for the trappings of cards, presents and holidays, or for what it really means? May this Christmas be a time when you receive the gift that matters: God's Son as your Saviour.



## Results of OLM Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who completed questionnaire for the research which Elizabeth Plant and her support group are undertaking on the daily life of those who live in the parish of Deane, as part of the first module of Elizabeth's training for Ordained Local Ministry.

116 replies were received, a response of over 77%, well above the usual rate for replying to questionnaires. Of those replying, 52 live in Ladybridge, 26 in or around Deane village itself, 10 in Hunger Hill and 29 elsewhere. Of the 58 people who answered the section on work/school 10 work or study in the parish and the rest elsewhere. Only one out of 116 does their main food shopping in Deane village, 55 in the Middlebrook, 48 in Bolton centre, and the rest somewhere else. There are 91 car owners and most people travel by car for work, leisure and shopping.

The group concluded that the people of Deane do not naturally come into contact with one another in the normal course of daily life. They do not meet at the shops, when travelling or at work. This is very different than it was not so many years ago when people met in the shops of Deane village, travelled by bus and often worked together. The group are now looking at ways in which at least some of the people of Deane, possibly some of the voluntary and charitable organisations, could meet together to network, get to know one another and exchange ideas.

**2007 sees the 200th anniversary of the bill to abolish slavery .** In 1807 there were 4 million known slaves in the world. Today there are 20 million! Various initiatives are to be taken to bring public attention to this fact and to encourage action. CMS will be staging a play entitled 'African Snow', playing especially in cities associated with the slave trade like Liverpool, Bristol, London. The play illuminates the current injustices and highlights the hope for change that the Gospel brings and will be preformed by Riding Lights, a Christian theatre company. Funds are needed for this project. If you want to show concern by giving to this, the address is Church Mission Society FREEPOST Partnership House 157 Waterloo Road LONDON SE1 3BR or go to [www.africansnow.com](http://www.africansnow.com) . Look our for other initiatives and consider getting involved. .

# Notice Board

**LADIES GUILD**  
**DECEMBER 6th**  
Carols and Readings

## Tear Fund Appeal

You might like to know that we raised £ 572.00 from direct giving in the envelopes and £100.00 from the 'Harvest Lunch with a Difference'. Some of this amount was Gift Aided, so the overall total will be even more.

**Released worldwide December 8th!**

**NEW NARNIA FILM**

**'The Chronicles of Narnia—**

**The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe'**

The classic C S Lewis story has a powerful spiritual theme. Why not think of giving vouchers for tickets as Christmas presents? Looking for an idea for a birthday party? A good way of introducing friends and your children's friends to spiritual matters.

## BUY A BIBLE FOR CHURCH

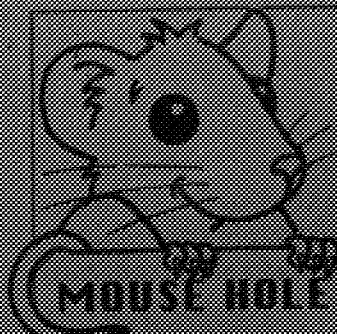
The PCC has agreed to buy new bibles to replace the existing Good News Bibles which have been used in Church for many years, but which are now becoming dilapidated and in some cases unusable.

The new bibles will be the New International Version (NIV), now the most widely-used modern translation in English-speaking churches. 200 bibles are needed for the pews, in addition to a new lectern bible. The pew bibles will cost £10 each, whilst the lectern bible may cost up to £150.

On Sunday 4 December the PCC will be launching an appeal to invite church members or others to donate the cost of a pew bible or to make a contribution towards the purchase of the lectern bible. The donation may be in memory of a loved one, and if so a book-plate will be placed inside the front cover of the bible, with the inscription *'Given in memory of ...'*

Examples of the bibles we are buying will be on display in church on the day of the appeal.

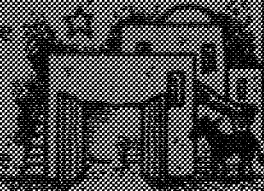
If you wish to make a donation please fill in one of the forms which you will find at the back of church.



## What does a new baby need?

A baby needs somewhere to be born, like at home or in a hospital.

Where were you born?  
Jesus was born in a stable.

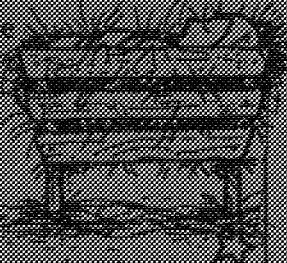


A baby needs clothes to keep warm like fleecy pyjamas or a warm vest and nappy.

What were you dressed in?  
Jesus was wrapped in strips of linen cloth.

A baby needs somewhere to sleep like a cot with a cuddly blanket.

What did you sleep in?  
Jesus slept in an animals manger with hay to keep him warm.



At Christmas we remember Jesus, God's Son and our Saviour, coming to Earth as a baby, and we look forward to the time when Jesus will come again, not as a baby but as a mighty King!

Make an Advent mobile.

Add a new cord with a Christmas picture on each Sunday in Advent.

Add a fifth cord on Christmas Day with a large sparkling star on to help you remember that one day Jesus will come again!

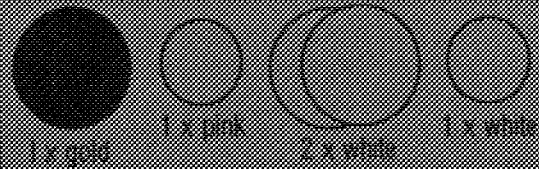


TAMARY  
IBINNUO  
MANGERY  
EBJESUS  
AYCLOTH

Look in the manger for these words:  
JESUS MARY JOY  
INN BABY MANGER  
TIME ANGEL CLOTH

### Little Baby Jesus

• Cut from thin card



• Then glue together.

