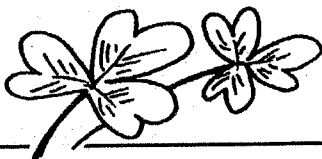
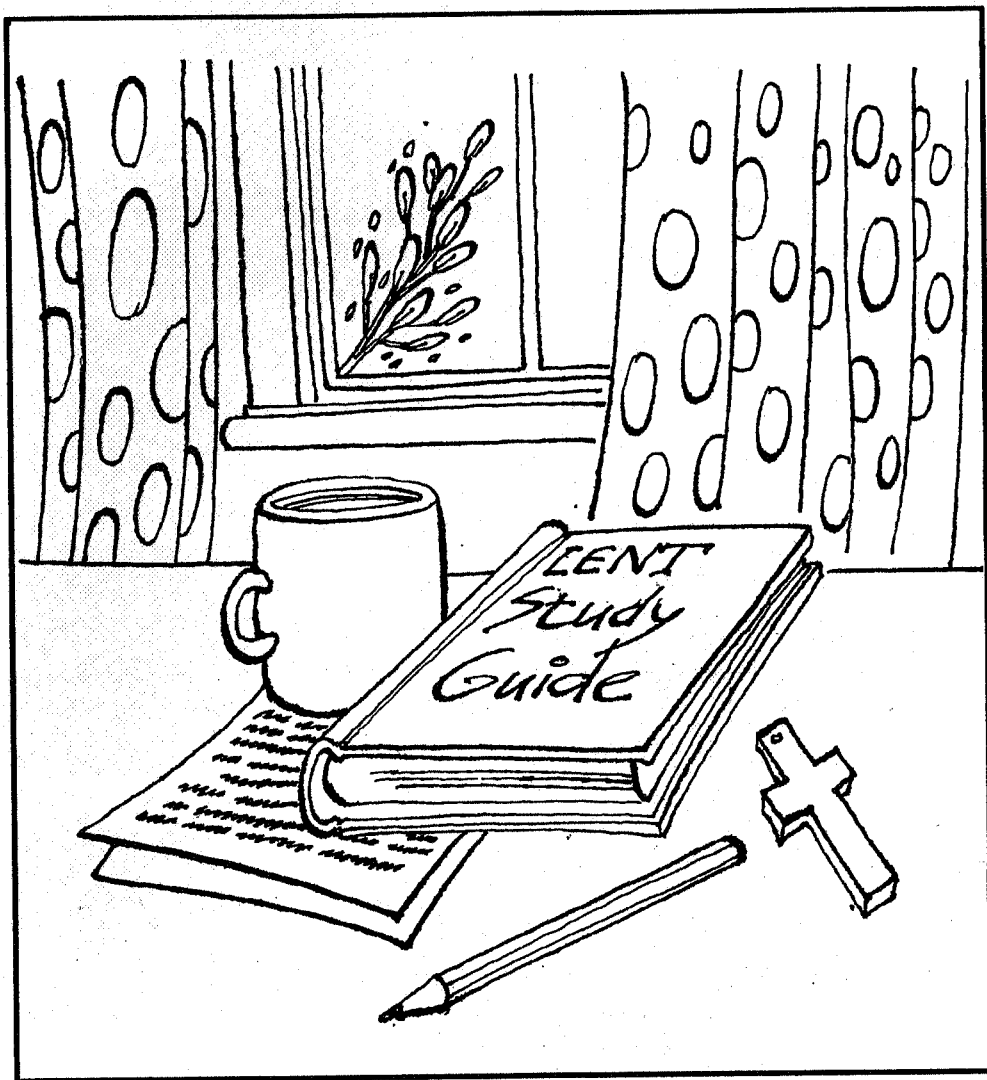


Deane Parish Magazine

March



2006



MARCH DIARY

March 5	Lent 1 (Fairtrade goods for sale in church)
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
10.30 a.m.	Family Parade Service
6.00 p.m.	Holy Communion
March 12	Lent 2
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30 a.m.	Family Communion (note change)
6.00 p.m.	Service of the Word
March 19	Lent 3
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30 a.m.	Family Worship with Baptism
6.00 p.m.	Holy Communion
March 26	Lent 4 Mothering Sunday
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
10.30 a.m.	Mothering Sunday Service
6.00 p.m.	Service of the Word

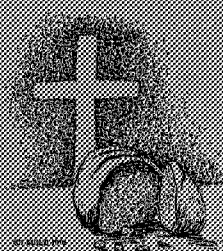
Communion Readings

March 5	Genesis 9:8-17	Mark 1:9-15
March 12	Genesis 17:1-7,15,16	Mark 8:31-38
March 19	Exodus 20:1-17	John 2:13-22
March 26	Numbers 21:4-9	John 3:14-21

ASH WEDNESDAY (March 1st) HOLY COMMUNION

Ash Wednesday is our opportunity to share fellowship around the Lord's Table with the folk of

St Andrew's. The service is at 7.30 p.m. at St Andrew's. Paul Ellis (Vicar of St Andrew's) leads the service and Ian Mainey preaches. Please consider taking this opportunity of meeting with our wider parish fellowship.



The Rector Writes

What are we sleep walking into?

Now you all know me. Well many of you do. Those of you who do know me will be aware that I am not normally the type to get involved in political debate. You know, it's the thing about "where angels fear to tread". I can state one thing and because there is not the forum to develop the theme fully, or discuss opposing ideas, the statement can appear rather simplistic. However the problem from the other end is that if one takes this to its limits one will never engage with anything of substance at all. And we all know that sometimes that's what ministers in the Church of England are accused of, never saying anything of any consequence. So, bearing all this in mind, here you have my thoughts on a political issue which I believe affects us all. And my chosen subject - our freedom and liberty.

I am becoming increasingly worried that little by little our liberties are being taken from us. Of course good reasons are given for this but I feel that my liberty and your liberty is more important than are the dangers the politicians are trying to save us from.

Let me give you an example of our liberties being taken from us - in the area of free speech. In December a peace campaigner by the name of Maya Evans was seized by 14 police officers, arrested, taken before the Bow Street magistrates and given a £100 fine and a criminal record. For what offence? For reading aloud the names of the British troops killed in Iraq while standing alone near the Cenotaph in Whitehall. She was the first person to be convicted under a new law that forbids unauthorised protests within 1 km of Parliament Square - 1 km from the Parliament which is supposed to uphold our freedom of speech.

That same week the author Lynette Burrows argued on a live radio broadcast that gay men should not be able to adopt. The next day she was telephoned by a policewoman, following a complaint, and was informed that she had made a "homophobic" comment on air. She was

told that although she had not committed a crime it was policy for the police to record details of such complaints, so presumably Mrs Burrows is now on a register of people with unacceptable views.

Then there is the case of the Christian couple who faced an eighty minute police interrogation because they complained about gay rights to their local council. Wyre Borough Council in Lancashire sent the police round to see Joe and Helen Roberts to 'educate' them that their beliefs were wrong. Although the couple had broken no laws they were given the impression that repeating such complaints could result in them being charged with an offence. (The couple have since received legal advice and have been told that the actions of the police and the council appear to be in breach of Article 9 (freedom of religion) and Article 10 (freedom of speech) of the European Convention on Human Rights. Mr and Mrs Roberts are now seeking an apology from both the police and the council).

Then there was the case of the protester, a Labour Party protester, being thrown out of the Labour Party Conference for having the temerity to make known his displeasure at Labour Party policy on Iraq. Then there was the Religious Hatred Bill, which thankfully got defeated, for that would have been yet another nail in the coffin of religious liberty and freedom of speech. There is also the case of the thousands of people having their DNA profile stored and recorded even though they have never been charged with a crime, merely because they were taken to eliminate them from further police investigation. And now we have had a law passed which is going to make it compulsory for us to have identity cards. Of course the argument given is that it is not compulsory, well not unless you want a passport! How many of us go through life not needing a passport, either for leisure holidays abroad or because our work calls us to travel abroad.

Of course all these things on their own might not amount to much, but taken together I find it all very worrying. It seems to me that Britain is in danger of becoming a country where our hard fought for traditions of law and liberty are being increasingly held in contempt.

As a Christian I do not always agree with the views I hear aired. Neither do I believe that people should deliberately offend others just for the sake of doing so. That is why I believe the publishing of the cartoons which have offended many Muslims has been puerile. That is why I am unhappy with the production of "Gerry Springer the Opera". Freedom and liberty of speech need to be exercised with great care and caution. We do not have the right to belittle others or to preach hatred of others in our society. But that said, if I fear anything I fear even more the loss of liberty and freedom.

Bishop comes to Deane

The Bishop of Bolton, David Gillett is to visit Deane on the evening of Wednesday 29th March. Bishop David is to be the chief guest at a Deane forum to which voluntary and charitable groups, representatives of other churches and faiths, and local schools are being invited.

Invitations have already been issued for the forum which is to be held in the Memorial Hall. The forum is the result of the parish survey carried out by Elizabeth Plant and her OLM support group. One aspect of their findings was that the people of Deane no longer meet one another in the course of daily life, as they used to, at the shops, at work, when travelling or at leisure. It is hoped that those coming to the forum will network with one another and thus bring just some of the people of Deane closer together.

Please pray that there will be a good response to the invitations, that the evening will run smoothly and that those who come will gain from the experience.

If you, or someone you know, should have received an invitation, but has not yet done so, please let Elizabeth Plant have full details so that you or they can be invited.



Make Poverty History An Update

The Make Poverty History campaign was launched in January 2005, to capitalise on the UK's unique international role as Chair of the G8 and President of the EU. Its aims were to secure changes to key policies in 2005, to increase the UK public's awareness of poverty and to ensure continuing pressure beyond 2005. Instead of asking for money, the campaign called for justice for the world's poorest people. It challenged the UK government to change its own policies and to take a lead internationally - in the EU, at the G8, the UN World Summit and the World Trade Organisation. It focused on 3 critical and linked areas: injustice in global trade, the burden of un-payable and unjust debt and insufficient and ineffective aid.

There were some extraordinary moments. 25,000 people attended an all-night vigil in Westminster in April; nearly 250,000 marched in Edinburgh ahead of the G8; and 31 million people from 84 countries united in the Global Call to Action against Poverty. But what was the impact and what is still left to do?

Rich countries have promised to give more aid. 15 members of the EU have said that they will reach the UN target of spending 0.7% of their income on aid by 2015. Other members of the G8 have also promised increases, which means that by 2010 there will be \$48 billion more aid each year than there is now. However, this is still not enough money to halve poverty and more measures to improve aid need to be taken.

Rich countries have also agreed that, in principle, all the debt owed by the poorest countries should be cancelled. They agreed a deal at the G8 which should be worth up to \$1 billion per year for the 18 countries that qualify. This compares to the minimum of \$10 billion debt cancellation per year needed to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The UK government accepted that poor nations should not be forced to open up their markets and that agricultural subsidies in

rich nations are very damaging. Yet little progress has been made on trade so far. At the meeting of the World Trade Organisation in Hong Kong in December, developing countries gained little from the small concessions made by the developed nations.

A clear success for the campaign was the G8's commitment to improve HIV treatment. In a significant policy shift, the G8 committed to 'as close as possible to universal access to treatment for all who need it by 2010'. The target was endorsed at the UN World Summit and became an international commitment. Now it needs to be properly funded to ensure that it becomes a reality.

The Make Poverty History campaign has raised awareness of these life and death issues of economic justice. It has motivated an unprecedented number of people to speak up for the world's poorest people in the name of our God of compassion and justice. Without this passionate commitment, the political decisions of 2005 would not have been taken.

The year of the Make Poverty History Campaign may have come to an end but around the world millions of ordinary citizens are still campaigning to build on the successes of 2005. Let's thank God for all that it achieved and pray that the on going campaigning on these issues will ensure that they remain high on the political agenda. Pray too that politicians will honour the promises they made so that those living in poverty are able to see improvements in their lives.



JUSTICIA BOLTON

Once again, Justicia had its best Christmas ever. 7 March 2006 is exactly 21 years since the opening of the Christian Traidshop which has been trading under

the name Justicia since 1998. Fairtrade fortnight is 6—19 March. There will be a **FAIR WORLD MARKET** at St George's Centre, St George's Road from 11 to 3.30 on Saturday 11th March. (If you don't know it, Justicia is on Knowsley Street beneath St George's centre—worth a visit.)

WHERE

are all the young people?

Looking around Deane Church in a Sunday service, you might begin to think that young people are a bit of a rarity in the church family. BUT...

"VOLTAGE"

Every Friday night, around 30 young people meet in the Memorial Hall for "VOLTAGE". VOLTAGE is a place where 11-14 year olds can meet up, join in with sports and games, have a good chat with mates, and consume ridiculous amounts of sugar from the tuck shop.

Every week the young people who come get to hear about God's love for them, the hope we have in Jesus, the bible's teaching, and the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. For some this is a chance to explore a faith they have been familiar with for years; to others it seems new and weird, but it is our hope that every young person gets the opportunity to think about the Christian faith and make their own decision about what they believe.

On a Thursday night, you can see a further 15 or so young people meeting in the Memorial Hall: 14-18 year olds who have chosen for themselves to be associated with the church.

"THE ELEMENT"

"THE ELEMENT" join in with sports and games, before settling down with their refreshments for what has become known as "talk-time". During this time, we encourage the young people to explore the bible for themselves, to inform their decisions about their beliefs and their lifestyles.

YZ UP CAFÉ

In addition to these youth nights, members of local churches work together to put on a worship event - **YZ UP CAFÉ**. Two such events took place last term. Nights have involved games, quizzes, dramas, craft, food, evangelistic talks, live worship band and opportunities for response and prayer. These have been encouraging events, seeing many young people responding to the gospel, receiving prayer, and engaging in worship for the first time.

Sounds exciting doesn't it?

Want to get involved?

New helpers are always welcome, and are necessary if we're going to keep this work going. Have a chat with Karen: 07821304564.

New members are welcome, just turn up on the night.

Pray:

- for safety on the youth nights
- for energy, patience, and wisdom for the leaders
- that the young people will be receptive to the Christian message
- that the young people who have made a commitment to follow Jesus will continue to grow in faith
- that as a church we will become ready to welcome young people into our life and worship together, and the young people will become ready to join us.



Thank you

After years of dedication, Chris Dewhurst-Taylor has decided to take a break from helping with the youth due to other demands on his time. We would like to thank Chris for all the hard work he has put in over the years.

March 2nd is St Chad's Day

Do you remember the USA presidential election in 2000 when it took several weeks to decide the winner? Much had depended on the hanging chads on voting papers. The Americans suddenly became interested in St Chad who lived and died in the seventh century. In some ways he we be a good saint for an undecided electorate!

Chad should be the patron saint of any modern bishop whose consecration is questioned by another bishop. Chad was consecrated a bishop, then deposed - and then re-consecrated!

It all began when Oswiu, king of Northumbria, made him bishop of the Northumbrian see. But due to a scarcity of appropriate bishops, two dubious bishops did the job of consecrating him. This led to Theodore, Archbishop of Canterbury, deciding to depose him about three years later.

Chad took his dismissal with good heart, and peacefully retired. Then Theodore had second thoughts: Chad was of excellent character: humble, devout, and zealous. Theodore re-consecrated him - to be the first bishop of the Mercians. Second time around, Chad was a great success - again.

When Chad died in about 672 he was quickly venerated as a saint. People took a great fancy to his bones, believing that they would bring healing. Even today, four large bones, dating from the 7th century, and believed to be Chad's, are in the R.C. cathedral in Birmingham.

Bishops today may still argue about consecration, but they are unlikely to have their bones disturbed!

Dag Hammarskjöld (1905 - 1961)

Older members of the church family will remember Dag Hammarskjöld who served as Secretary-General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash. Many were surprised to learn that his private papers contained some notes entitled "negotiations with myself - and with God". His prayers have a naked honesty which is deeply moving.

1957

In thy wind - in thy light -
How insignificant is everything else, how small are we - and how happy
in that which alone is great.

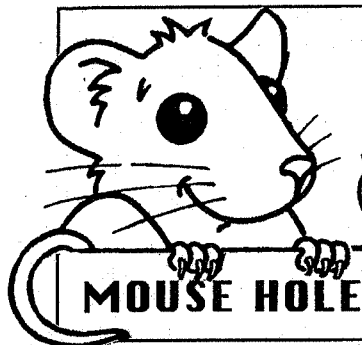
1958

So shall the world be created each morning anew, forgiven - in thee,
by thee.
Didst thou give me this inescapable loneliness so that it would be easier
for me to give thee all?

1961

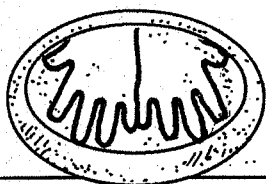
Have mercy upon us.
Have mercy upon our efforts,
That we before thee,
In love and in faith, righteousness and humility,
May follow thee, with self-denial, steadfastness and courage,
And meet thee in the silence.
Give us a pure heart that we may see thee,
A humble heart that we may hear thee,
A heart of love that we may serve thee,
A heart of faith that we may love thee,
Thou whom I do not know
But whose I am,
Thou whom I do not comprehend
But who hast dedicated me
To my fate.

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT STARTS MARCH 5TH—the day
we have our Fairtrade stall in church. Watch the press**

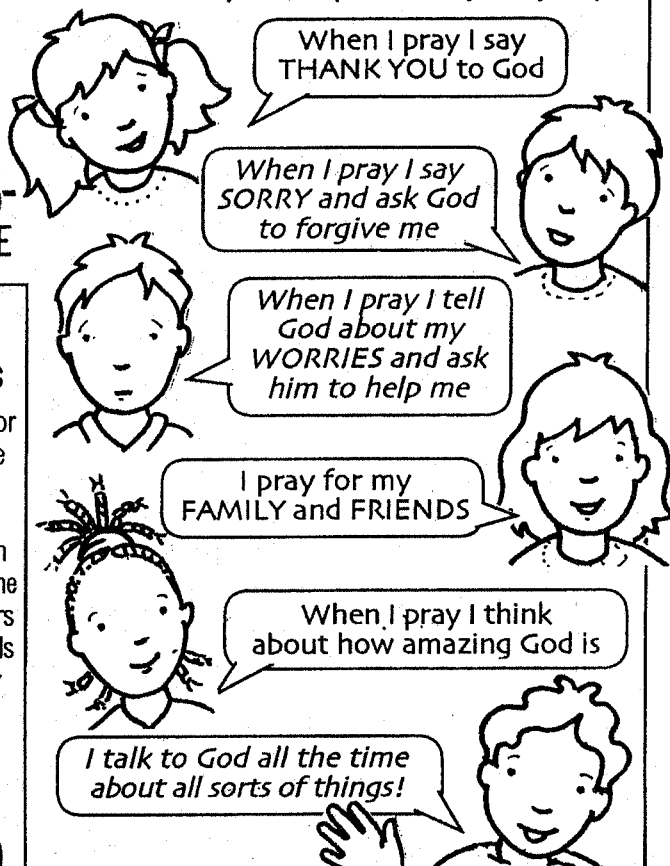


All in God's Hands

- Make a bowl from clay or papier-mache. Inside the bowl paint two hands together.
- Write your prayers on paper, fold, then put in the bowl. Putting your prayers in the prayer bowl reminds you that when you pray you put your prayers in the hands of God.



What do you say when you pray?



What do you pray to God about?

P **PATER NOSTER**
A is Latin for
T 'Our Father'
E What words can
R you make with
N the letters from
O **PATER NOSTER**
S ?
T Here are two to
E start you off...
R

