

Deane Parish Magazine

June

2006



Parish Diary

June 4	Pentecost
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
10.30 a.m.	Family and Parade Service
6.00 p.m.	Holy Communion
June 11	Trinity Sunday
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30 a.m.	Service of the Word
6.00 p.m.	Service of the Word
June 18	Trinity 1 Sermons Sunday
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30 a.m.	Sermons Family Service
6.00 p.m.	Your Top Ten Hymns
June 25	Trinity 2
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCPO)
10.30 a.m.	Family Communion
6.00 p.m.	Service of the Word

Readings for Holy Communion

June 4	Acts 2:1-21;	John 15:26,27; 16:4b-15
June 11	Romans 8:22-27;	John 3:1-17
June 18	2 Corinthians 4:5-12;	Mark 4:26-34
June 25	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1;	Mark 4:35-41



The Rector Writes

What matters most

(Taken from the address I gave at the church annual meeting.)

What does matter most? Well, I would contend that what matters most is love. Because God is love the most important lesson he wants us to learn on earth is how to love. It is in loving that we are most like him, so love is the foundation of every command he has given us. As Jesus said, 'The whole Law can be summed up in this one command: "Love others as you love yourself."'

The level of love within our church reveals the spiritual health of the fellowship. Paul makes this point: "No matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love." Jesus said our love for each other - not our doctrinal beliefs - is our greatest witness to the world. He said, "Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

Love isn't something we must emphasise from time to time, like stewardship or evangelism. We need constantly to make love our top priority. As the Bible says, "Let love be your greatest aim."

With that in mind I just want to make mention of three simple truths:

1. Life without love is really worthless.

Often we act as if relationships are something to be squeezed into our schedule. We talk about making time for our children or for our husband or wife. That gives the impression that relationships are just a part of our lives along with many other tasks. But God says that relationships are what life is really all about.

Jesus summarized what matters most to God in two statements:

- love God
- love people.

Busyness is a great enemy of relationships. People can become preoccupied with making a living, working, paying the bills, and accomplishing goals, as if these tasks are the point of life. They are not. The point of life is learning to love - God and people. Life minus love equals zero.

2. Love will last forever.

Love leaves a legacy. Mother Teresa once said, "It's not what you do, but how much love you put into it that matters." Love is the secret of a lasting heritage.

When I am at the bedside of someone who is standing on the edge of eternity I never hear them say, "Bring me my qualifications, or the diplomas of my achievements, or my sports medals, or the gold watch I was given from work." When life on earth is ending people don't surround themselves with objects. What we want around us are people, people we love and who love us. In our final moments we realize that relationships are what life is all about. Wisdom is all about learning that truth.

3. We will be evaluated on our love.

One of the ways God measures spiritual maturity is by the quality of our relationships. In heaven God won't say to us, "Tell me about your career, your hobbies, your bank balance." Instead he will review how you, how we as a church, treated other people.

When we transfer into eternity we will leave everything behind. All we will be taking with us is our character.

Knowing this, each one of us needs to pray each morning, "God, whether I get anything else done today, I want to make sure that I spend time loving you and loving other people - because that is what life is really all about."

If we all do this as a church what a difference it would make.



PCC Away Day, Saturday 13 May 2006

These are busy times. The Away Day coincided with the Ladies' Guild Coffee Morning and the FA Cup Final as well. We proved it was possible to experience all three and, under brisk leadership, to complete our business. The short distance by car between the Music Centre and the Memorial Hall enabled us to enjoy morning coffee at the thriving sale and then the race was on for three o'clock.

It wasn't really a race at all. We began an hour early; hymns and prayers, celebrating creation and forgiveness, introduced the Rector's brief address. Speaking from Saint Paul's letter to the Romans (Chapter 12, verses 1-12) he asked that we transform our lives and give ourselves to God, resisting the distractions which were as strong in Saint Paul's world as in our own. We all know what the Rector called this "wonderful passage" in which the Church is shown to be one body whose members share many gifts important to its continuing work. Saint Paul speaks to all of us.

Our own work began with group discussion where we considered questions posed by the Deanery. Some were factual and easily dealt with. Others on strengths and weaknesses, fears and threats, hopes and opportunities required more time. The size of the congregation and its leadership emerged as strengths, but we would like more members in the 30-50 age group and more people ready to lead. Soon the Rector will have his new assistant, we have proposed internal alterations to the building and we are considering ways of reaching people beyond the church as well as strengthening the faith of those within it. Through such means, we seek to achieve our main unanimous hope, the spiritual growth described by Saint Paul. The passage influenced our thinking throughout the day.

Finally we looked at the work of the committees set up last year for nurture, service, witness and worship. Action has arisen from discussion and we are clear about steps which can take us in new directions. We ended the day with an affirmation of our commitment and a final hymn.

Pentecost—June 4th

linked up to the power!

Fifty days on from Easter Sunday the Church celebrates Pentecost. It marks the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples and believers who were gathered in an upper room in Jerusalem. The event is recorded in Acts 2 and it tells of the Spirit coming with dramatic signs; a sound like a rushing wind, the appearance of flames of fire and the ability given to the apostles to preach the Good News in languages they had not learned.

When Jesus had earlier spoken to his disciples about the coming of the Spirit, he emphasised spiritual power. "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you" (Acts 1:8). And that promise was marvellously fulfilled. When the Spirit came on that Pentecost morning, the apostles began to witness boldly. They preached salvation in the name of the risen and ascended Lord Jesus (Acts 2:37-42). On that day some three thousand men and women believed in Jesus as Lord and Messiah and were baptised (v.41).

Later it is recorded that the apostles gave testimony to Christ's resurrection 'with great power' (Acts 4:33). All through the book of Acts we see the Christian church preaching and witnessing, suffering and serving with great spiritual power. Even their enemies spoke of them as 'turning the world upside down' (Acts 17:6).

At this Pentecost season we need to recapture the power of the Spirit. Perhaps our lack of power is because something has gone wrong with our spiritual connections. Maybe we are not 'linked up' to the Spirit as those early Christians were. I recall an event of many years ago that illustrates the importance of being 'linked up.' I had returned home from college during the summer holidays to the farm in Northern Ireland where I had grown up. Some months earlier electrical power had come to that part of the country for the first time.

One evening in late August, I visited one of our neighbours. His farm lay next to ours and I was talking with him in one of his fields.

Across his farm and ours there had been installed a line of wooden poles. These poles supported the electric cables. We were standing near one of these poles and it carried a notice stamped into an aluminium plate. It warned that some 33,000 volts of electric power were running through the wires. An hour later I was in my neighbour's home - and it was lit with oil lamps! He had 33,000 volts of electric power passing over his farm but he had none in his house. He was not 'linked up' to the supply.

Often in the church we are like that. We have the services, the programmes, the plans, the personnel - but not the power of the Spirit that convicts sinners and brings them to faith in Jesus. This Pentecost celebration is a time to get 'linked up' to the Holy Spirit.

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Pause for thought

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve.
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for health, that I might do greater things.
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.

I asked for riches, that I might be happy.
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.

I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men.
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need for God.

I asked for things that I might enjoy life.
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I asked for
but everything I had hoped for.

Almost despite myself,
my unspoken prayers were answered.

I am among all men, most richly blessed.

(Anonymous Confederate soldier of American Civil War)

TRINITY SUNDAY—JUNE 11TH

expressing the inexpressible

The doctrine of the Trinity is not emphatically stated in the scriptures. Yet, by implication, it is stated many times. The early Christians discovered that they could not speak of God without speaking of the three ways in which he had revealed himself to them. This does not mean that there are three Gods. It means that there is one God who has shown himself in three ways: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The word "trinity" is a term used to denote the Christian doctrine that God exists as a unity of three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each of the persons is distinct from the other, yet related in essence. Each is divine in nature, but each is not the totality of the Godhead. Each has a will, loves, and says "I", and "You" when speaking. The Father is not the same person as the Son who is not the same person as the Holy Spirit who is not the same person as the Father. Each is divine, yet there are not three gods, but one God. Included in the doctrine of the Trinity is a strict monotheism which is the teaching that there exists in all the universe a single being known as God who is self-existent and unchangeable (Isaiah 43:10; 44:6,8).

Clearly this teaching is absurd from the point of human logic! All of the clever illustrations (clover leaf, the sun as heat, light and energy etc.) which we have heard since Sunday School, all fall short of explaining how logically God can be three and yet one. If we are honest it is something which is more clearly explained in terms of that great Christian word, mystery. It is a mystery of our faith. We know why we use the term because it expresses our experience of a God who can be present in Jesus, whilst at the same time, the voice of God is heard to speak from heaven and the Spirit descend as a dove. But nevertheless it is a mystery.

The Trinity does not actually attempt to explain God. It only explains what we know about God. Christians affirm the Trinity, not as an explanation of God, but simply as a way of describing what we currently know about God.

"Deane Lunch & Leisure" News Update

This is now our 4th year with thirty five members plus a waiting list of people wanting to come and join us, so we must be doing something right.

We don't serve lunch until 12.30p.m. but by noon the place is buzzing with chatter and laughter which is a pleasure to hear echoing around the old walls of our Parish Hall. Many friendships have developed through the Lunch Club and some members now regularly attend church social events and meetings at the Ladies Guild.

A two course meal is served, followed by tea or coffee. After the prize raffle our members then do their afternoon exercise - a quick dash to the other side of the hall to get their seats in readiness for the mental exercise of the afternoon - a few games of bingo - an excellent way to keep the mind active and great fun too!

We have the occasional trips out which usually has some kind of incident or other but again everyone has an enjoyable time. Our last outing was to The Grosvenor Restaurant Training College in Bolton and the young people who served us were superb and a credit to the College. On Wednesday 14th June we have another trip organised to The Lowry Outlet, where we will watch a screening of "West Side Story" followed by a buffet lunch and a Tea Dance with the Greg Francis Band. There are also many shops to browse within the mall and the Imperial War Museum is only a few minutes walk away.

It is hard work and a big commitment but as I said earlier it is also a pleasure and I would like to thank the six faithful helpers who give their time freely every week to serve the members of our community in this fantastic way - without them we would not have the successful thriving club we have today. So THANK YOU for your time, energy and friendship.

If you would like to know more about Deane Lunch & Leisure and perhaps have a couple of hours free (even if it's only once a month) we would love to hear from you as we are always looking for more helpers to become a part of our team.

God bless you all. Julie

Notice Board

Ladies Guild—June

June 3rd Day Trip
June 6th Namibia Margaret Fairclough
June 20th Mum's war Dorothy Hindle

COACH TRIP - THE LOWRY OUTLET

Wednesday 14th June
Tea & biscuits on arrival
Screening of "West Side Story"
Buffet Lunch
Afternoon Tea Dance
Shopping

The coach will leave from Deane
Parish Church at 9.45 a.m.
and return from

The Lowry Outlet at 5.00 p.m.
Cost £14.00 including all above

See Julie Cooper to book a place
or telephone 01204 - 660946

A BIG thank you to Voltage and Element for the fifth Sunday morning service – it was encouraging to see so many of you leading the worship. A special thank you to our visiting musicians – Rise! The message of 'Living Life to the Max' was never intended to be just for the young of each generation – as Karen so ably reminded us. Jesus said, "I have come that you should have life, life in all its fullness." Why does this often not seem true?

I feel it is so important to make our youth feel welcome and a part of our church family and if that means sharing the kind of service and music that they enjoy then let's go for it! Who knows, maybe they might feel more encouraged to come and share in a more 'traditional' service?

Thank you Karen and well done to you all for an excellent service!
Margaret Rutter

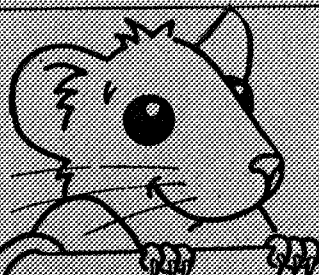
Heartfelt Thanks

Elizabeth Plant and her sisters, Lynda and Catherine, thank wholeheartedly all members of the church family for their prayers, cards, messages, expressions of sympathy and donations to the South American Mission Society after Olive's death on Easter Monday and also for all the support given while Olive was in hospital following her major stroke on March 20th. Thank you as well to everyone who was present at the funeral service. May God bless you richly for all your kindness!

Ladies' Guild Coffee Morning

The above event raised £470. This will go a long way towards our annual charity giving. The morning proved hard work for the ladies (remember, we are getting older!) but worthwhile to see so many people enjoying themselves over tea, coffee, toast and scones. We thank you for your wonderful support, generous gifts for our stall, tombola and raffles. The cakes and jam were delicious.

See you all again next year!

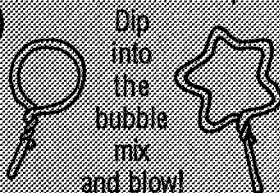


MOUSE HOLE

Blowing Bubbles

Make your own bubble mix:
Add 1 tablespoon
of washing-up liquid
and 1 tablespoon of
glycerin to
1 litre of water.

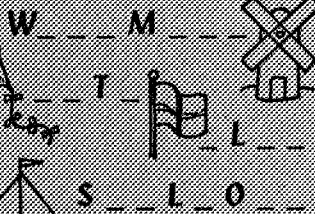
Make a 'blower' by bending
wire round into a loop.



Dip
into the
bubble
mix
and blow!

What happens when you
make different shaped loops?

What needs the
WIND
to make it work?

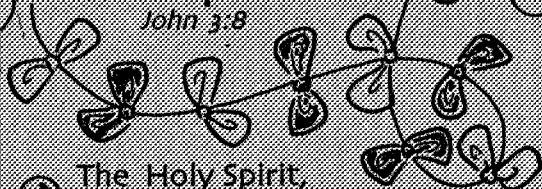


Can you think of
any more?

"The wind blows
wherever it wishes; you
hear the sound it makes,
but you do not know
where it comes from
or where it is going.

It is like that with
anyone who is born
of the Spirit."

John 3:8

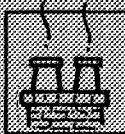


The Holy Spirit,
like the wind,
moves wherever He
wishes giving people
God's new life.

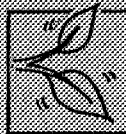
We can't tell Him
what to do or where
to go, but we can
see where He has
been by the changes
He has made in
someone's life.

At
PENTECOST
the
HOLY SPIRIT
came like the
sound of a
violent wind.
Read
Acts 2: 1-41

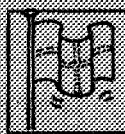
The strength
of wind is
measured
using the
**Beaufort
Scale**



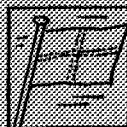
Force 0
calm



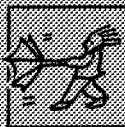
Force 1-3
light
breeze



Force 4-5
moderate
wind



Force 6-7
strong
wind



Force 8-9
gale



Force 10-11
storm



Force 12
hurricane