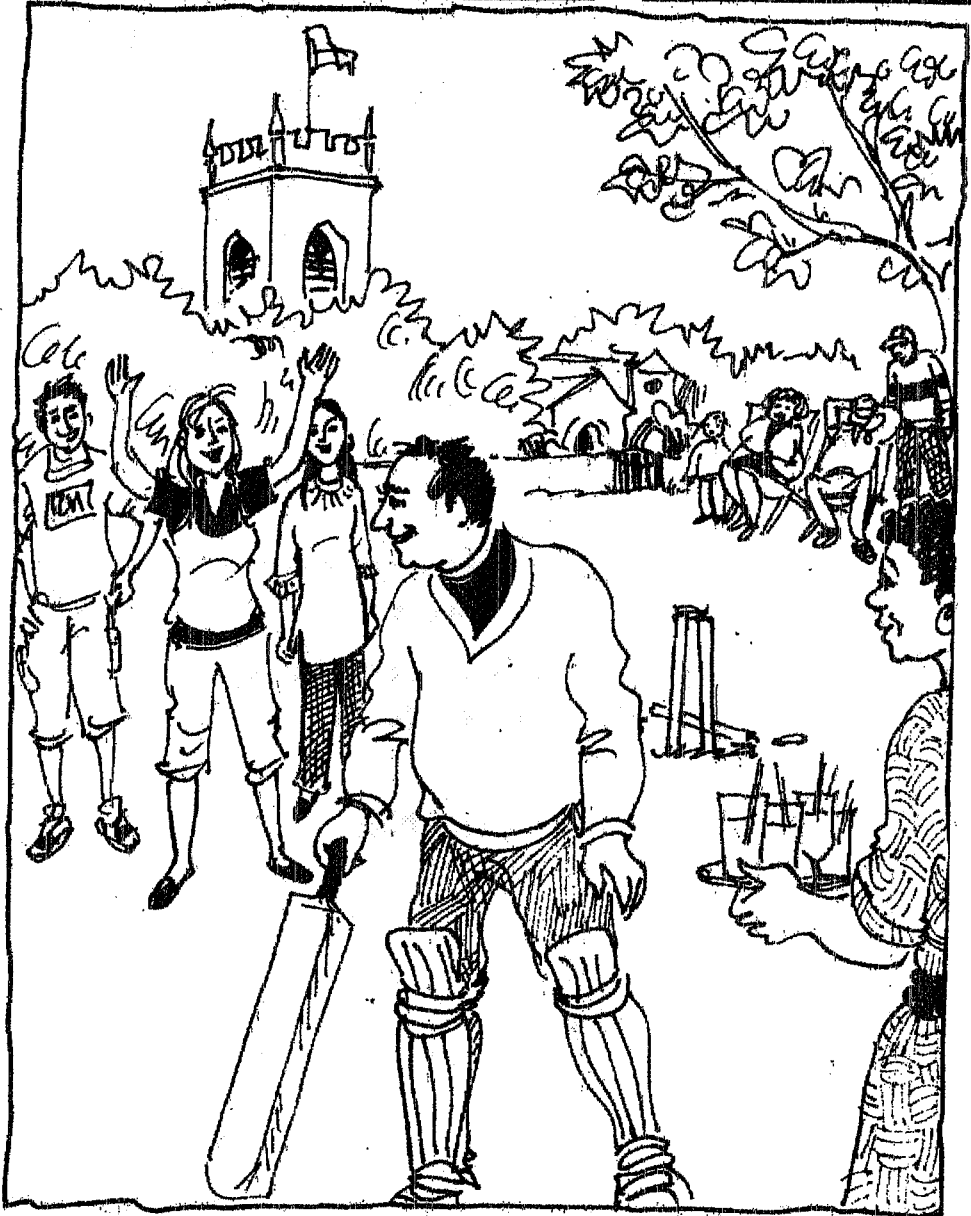


# August



2006



# PARISH DIARY

## August 6th

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion—Common Worship

10.30 a.m. Family Worship

6.00 p.m. Holy Communion

## August 13th

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

## August 20th

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.30 a.m. Family Worship

6.00 p.m. Holy Communion

## August 27th

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion

10.30 a.m. Family Communion

6.00 p.m. Service of the Word

September information not yet available—please watch for an information sheet at the end of August.

There will be a special series of sermons during August, at all three services. Readers will be informed of readings required...

## How God Meets Your Deepest Need

August 6th - Where to find the hope you need

August 13th - Where to find the peace you need

August 20th - Where to find the power you need

August 27th - Where to find the trust you need

# The Rector Writes

## Learning from a Nigerian brother

It's hard for me to imagine that just over a year ago I was in Nigeria visiting the troubled areas in the north of that country and sharing, praying, and learning with the Nigerian Christians I met. I still look at some of the photographs I took and remember the places and the people I met in that beautiful country. One day, the Lord willing, maybe I will be able to go back and renew the friendships I made there. One of the things that strikes you when you are in Nigeria and travelling by car is the fact that music is always being played. My host drivers nearly always had a tape of Christian music playing in the car. In fact I learned quite a few new songs during my time travelling round. But even if the tape player was off and the radio was on it was surprising how many of the songs played on the radio were Christian songs. When I commented on this to one of our drivers, a Nigerian minister who had been to America, his reply was that in Nigeria most of the popular singing groups are Christian. Commenting on his recent trip to America

**Everything is  
'Me, Me, Me.'**

he said, "That's the problem with America, they have left God out of everything. Everything is 'Me', 'Me', 'Me'. No one has any fear of God. There's no respect for anybody but the almighty 'Me'. I didn't like to tell him at the time that the same was probably true in my country. What he was saying though is very true, and something which we need to take on board. The Book of Proverbs opens with these words, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning on wisdom" (Proverbs 1:7), and that pretty much sums up the entire contents of Proverbs. To fear God is to care about what God thinks about you and what you do, and to know that there are right and wrong attitudes and actions, and

consequences for those who disregard any of this. I guess there might have been a time when more of this kind of attitude was part of everybody's moral framework, but I don't think it's true today. Today we need our African brothers to tell us about the fear of God. Maybe that's why we could do with African missionaries working over here in our country.

That wasn't his only gem however. We got to talking about freedom and his take on that was also interesting. "In America," he said, "freedom means freedom to do whatever you want. That's not freedom."

Again he was spot on. Freedom is not all about doing what we want. That kind of freedom, given our tendency to sin, will actually lead us into slavery. We become enslaved to our lusts and desires if we don't have

**Freedom is not  
all about doing  
what we want.**

help with controlling our sinful nature. That's why Paul taught that the spiritual life grows out of being set free from the bondage of sin and death to serve a new Master and a new way made possible by the Holy Spirit's power in our lives (Romans chapters 6-8).

The bottom line is that we are all servants of something or someone whether we think so or not. Bob Dylan said it very well when he sang about how we have to serve somebody. It might be the devil or it might be the Lord, but either way, each one of us will end up serving someone. We may think that we are free but in point of fact we are not. Only in Christ are we set free. But when we are set free by Christ we are set free to follow him, not to do what we please.

In Nigeria most of the people I met seemed to understand that. In this country very few have that kind of understanding. Maybe that's why I'm right in thinking we need more African missionaries in this country

# July 6th

## The Transfiguration - the day Jesus met Elijah and Moses...

*The story is told in  
Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36).*

It was a time when Jesus' ministry was popular, when people were seeking him out. But on this day, He made time to take Peter, James and John, his closest disciples, up a high mountain. In the fourth century, Cyrillic of Jerusalem identified it as Mount Tabor (and there is a great church up there today), but others believe it more likely to have been one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon, which rises to about 9,000 feet, and overlooks Caesarea Philippi.

High up on the mountain, Jesus was suddenly transfigured before his friends. His face began to shine as the sun, his garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses, of all people, suddenly appeared, and talked with him. A bright cloud overshadowed the disciples.

Peter was staggered, but, enthusiast that he was, immediately suggested building three tabernacles on that holy place, one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. But God's 'tabernacling', God's dwelling with mankind, does not any longer depend upon building a shrine. It depends on the presence of Jesus, instead. And so a cloud covered them, and a voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was his beloved son, whom the disciple should 'hear'. God's dwelling with mankind depends upon our *listening* to Jesus.

Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? *Why Moses and Elijah?* Well, these two men represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they are handing on the baton, if you like: for both the Law and the Prophets found their true and final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah.

*Why on top of a mountain?* In Exodus we read that Moses went up Mount Sinai to receive the sacred covenant from Yahweh in the form of the Ten Commandments. Now Jesus goes up and is told about the 'sealing' of the New Covenant, or New Testament of God with man, which will be accomplished by his coming death in Jerusalem.

# From the new Curate and family...

Hi, my name's Dan Howard and in July I arrived as the new curate in Deane Parish. My wife is called Angela and our children are Abigail (7) and Bethia (4). We're all looking forward to settling into life in Deane and getting to know as many of you as is humanly possible! This article is a chance to tell you a bit about our background... but don't let that stop you coming up and talking to us!

I'm a bit of a Southerner really, as I was born in South London and have lived many years in Surrey and also Cambridge, though I did spend about 5 years living in West Kirby on the Wirral as a child. Then I went way down South... to South America! Specifically, Venezuela, where I lived until I was 10, because my Dad was doing some engineering work there. I have very romantic memories of constant sunshine and swimming after school - in fact school finished at 2:10 because it was so hot! Anyway, this all means I don't really have a home town, but I'm very happy to make my home in Bolton for the next 3 years.

Angela, on the other hand, did grow up on a farm in Bolton - it was Leadbeater's Farm in Over Hulton, off Back Lane. Angela's father, Stan Woods, was in dairy farming and they only moved away to Cumbria because of the compulsory purchase of the land, for coal mining in 1983... which you may have noticed is only just being carried out, 23 years later! Angela went to St Andrew's church (and school) with her family and she particularly remembers the era of Stephen and Stella Brook - during her formative years the church really helped her grow spiritually. And she was baptised and confirmed at St Mary's. So it's very exciting to be back in this parish.

In fact, we recently lived in Bolton as a family. After meeting and marrying in Cambridge, we felt God was calling us to move away and eventually we realised Bolton was the place to come to. It's a long story really. But the end result was, in autumn 2000 we moved to Sharples and lived just off the Blackburn Road, and worshipped at St Luke's, Halliwell. I was working at Blackburn with Darwen

council, in Human Resources. We had some very happy times, and it really came out of the blue that we heard God's call to uproot again and train for ordained ministry. That's another long story!! In August 2004 we moved down to London and I trained at Oak Hill College. We have had a wonderful time there, though in some ways college life is not the 'real world', and it's great to be starting again in the day-to-day church life with normal people!

I'd love to share with you how I became a Christian. In fact, it's a bit hard to say, because in a sense I can't really remember a time when I didn't believe in God, in some way, which is a great credit to my parents. I know that I asked to pray with my parents when I was 6, because I wanted Jesus to be my special friend and saviour... and then 2 weeks later I asked to do it again because I realised I'd been so rotten that it must not have worked! In some ways, my 'conversion' is more a series of situations in which God has used circumstances to test my faith - a major one was leaving school and going to college, far away from home. As a teenager, I'd wondered from time to time, whether I really had a true faith, or was just following my parents. At college I realised the lifelong commitment we must each make, to stick to our faith through thick and thin, and not just pick up faith from time to time when it suits us. And I've had to learn how to put my faith into practice in the business world, which is very challenging at times. But praise God for His faithfulness and His forgiveness in Christ!

Some of you may be wondering, what is a curacy? ...and why do we need a curate in Deane?? Well, I'm not sure I can answer the 2<sup>nd</sup> of those questions, though there is plenty to do. But I do know, I need a curacy! This is an integral part of my training and, God willing, I hope to be a vicar somewhere, when we move on from here. So there's a lot to learn, and I know that I have masses to learn from Ian. But it's also about learning from all the people in the congregations - from everyday conversations as well as more pastoral situations, and from your feedback on things that I lead from the front (if you want a laugh at my expense, just ask what happened in my first service at 9a.m. on 16<sup>th</sup> July!).

# Thinking about... growing in faith

## **New Methodist President calls for renewal**

The Revd Graham Carter, new President of the Methodist Conference, has called on the Church to take up the challenge of discipleship. Graham told the recent Methodist Conference: "the kingdom needs wholehearted disciples. Nothing must be allowed to get in the way."

Graham said that too often the church has equated discipleship with holding office or doing some work. "This is nonsense!" he told the packed hall at the Edinburgh Conference Centre. "Christ calls all his people to serve him with the whole of their lives." This discipleship is about how you live at work, at home and in the community.

Graham said this is a tough challenge, and the role of the Church should be to provide practical support for people's discipleship in a

## **Home Groups**

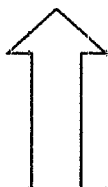
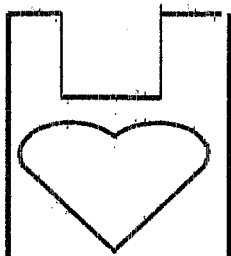
**A member of the Nurture Committee writes...**

Last year I was unable to attend every session of the home group I joined. All the same I was made very welcome whenever I was there and it is anyway perfectly possible to visit another group discussing the same material on a different evening. Hospitality and flexibility make membership easy. You can then begin to address the serious questions that the short courses raise. These are questions which are presented to every generation by the gospels and the Letters of St Paul. We discussed amongst other things quarrels and mediation, suffering and bereavement, fairness and injustice, sin, grace and Jesus Christ's gifts to us. Everyone is familiar with these topics particularly because they are presented to us in an engaging way in sermons at church. At a home group you can extend your understanding by listening to other people and having your own say. In the autumn there will be new courses. Watch the notice sheet!



# **...growing as a church**

**(which may well require growth in faith!)**



## **Marks of a Healthy Church**

(from [www.rejesus.com](http://www.rejesus.com))



1. Energized by faith
2. Outward looking focus.
3. Seeks to find what God wants.
4. Faces the cost of change and growth.
5. Operates as a community.
6. Makes room for all.
7. Does a few things and does them well.



## **Eight Changes to Makes Churches grow**

(taken from the Church of England Newspaper)

1. Planting new congregations - including sending out church plants to new areas and laying on additional services.
2. Less formal, more relaxed worship.
3. Better provision for children and young people.
4. Better welcome at the front door.
5. Better small groups and pastoral care.
6. Lay on evangelism courses like Alpha and Emmaus.
7. More lay involvement in leadership.
8. Improvements to church buildings.

# Pause for Thought

## ***Prayer from the liturgy for St Oswald's day (August 5th), written by the Northumbria Community:***

"I place into your hands, Lord,  
the choices that I face.  
Guard me from choosing  
the way perilous  
of which the end is heart-pain  
and the secret tear.

May I feel your presence  
at the heart of my desire,  
and so know it is for Your desire for me.

Thus shall I prosper,  
thus see that my purpose is from You,  
thus have power to do the good  
which endures."

*(Copyright Northumbria Community Trust,  
1996)*

**God  
often  
visits  
us,  
but  
most  
of  
the  
time  
we  
are  
not  
at  
home.**

French proverb

## **You are loved by God**

One of the most beautiful passages in Scripture is found in Isaiah 43: '...you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned...For I am the Lord, your God,.. you are precious and honoured in my sight, and ...I love you...(Isa 43: 1- 4) Write down that last phrase on a card: 'You are precious and honoured in my sight...I love you.' It is tremendous – and astonishing. YOU are loved by GOD. Who else do you need to impress? What other ladder do you need to climb? What are you going to add to your CV to top that? When you are tempted to despair, when you are afraid, anxious, alone, remember: God loves you. He said so himself.

# LOOKING AHEAD

## HARVEST 2006

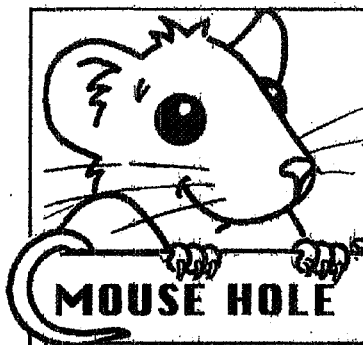
**WILL TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR ON October 1st. Help will be needed in these ways:**

- From 9.30 on Saturday September 30th to decorate the church. No expertise required. There's masses to do and all hand can be used!
- Monday October 2nd from 9.30 to dismantle the displays etc. and sort into individual gifts
- Monday from 10.30 cars and drivers needed to distribute the gifts around the parish.

## Parish weekend 11 to 13 May 2006

### Speaker: Robin Gamble

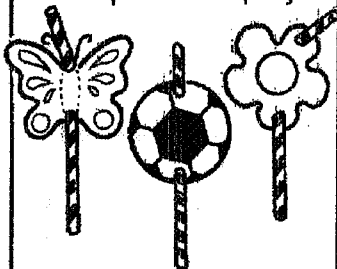
- A programme of worship, study sessions and other time together.
- Tennis, table tennis, putting, carpet bowls available and extensive grounds with views of the estuary and Great Orme.
- Conwy, Bodnant Gardens, Llandudno and Snowdonia all nearby.
- Full board £80pp with reductions for children.



## MOUSE HOLE

### Super Straws

Have fun making these drinking straw decorations for a picnic or a party.



Cut large shapes from coloured card or craft-foam. Punch a hole in the top and bottom then push through a drinking straw.

### Fruit Whizzzz



Put 100g (4oz) of strawberries and a cut up banana into a liquidizer with 2 tablespoons of natural yogurt and 100ml (3½ floz) milk and whizzzz

together for 1 minute. Pour in a glass and drink!



Have you been on a picnic with your family or friends or with your church?

In his Gospel, John tells of how Jesus provided food for over 5000 people all from a little boy's picnic of five small barley loaves and two small fish.

Everyone ate all they wanted and there were still 12 baskets of bread left over!



Do you think it was the biggest picnic ever?



Read about how Jesus fed the 5000 in John chapter 6:1-13

### Picnic Puzzle

All these things have been unpacked from the picnic basket, can you find them on the rug?

PICNIC  
MILK  
SANDWICH  
SAUSAGE  
JARS  
PIE  
CRISPS  
CAKE  
SALAD  
HAM  
CUP  
EGG  
TEA  
DRINK

S	A	U	S	A	G	E	H
T	E	P	A	W	P	S	A
E	M	I	L	K	I	G	M
A	J	C	A	K	E	G	G
S	A	N	D	W	I	C	H
D	R	I	N	K	C	U	G
S	C	R	I	S	P	S	