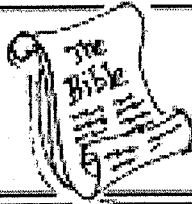


Deane Parish Magazine

October



2006



Parish Diary

October 1

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion—Common Worship

10.30 a.m. Harvest Service

6.00 p.m. Holy Communion

October 8

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

October 15

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion—Book of Common Prayer

10.30 a.m. Family Worship and Baptism

6.00 p.m. Holy Communion

October 22

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion—Book of Common Prayer

10.30 a.m. Family Communion

6.00 p.m. Service of the Word

October 29

9.00 a. m. Holy Communion— Book of Common Prayer

10.30 a.m. Praise Service

6.00 p.m. Holy Communion

Readings for Holy Communion and Evening Service

October 1

James 2:14-26; Mark 9:38-50

October 8

James 3:1-12; Mark 10:2-16

October 15

James 3:13-4:3; Mark 10:17-31

October 22

James 4:4-17; Mark 10:46-52

October 29

James 5:1-12; Mark 10:46-52

The Rector Writes

Empty worship jars?

A Samaritan woman came to the well of Jacob as she always did, with an empty jar. As always, she would draw water, fill her jar full, and carry it on her head back to the village of Sychar. When it was empty, she would return and do it all over again.

But this time would be different. This time she would meet Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, and he would make her a strange offer. He would offer to give her water such that she would never thirst again, because his water would be like a perpetual spring welling up within her unto eternal life.

Sometimes I think we are like that woman, hauling our empty worship jars to church so we can get filled up for another week. We come to church expecting a worship experience that is to our liking. In some cases we have chosen our church for this. We rely on the church to provide the music and the setting that will satisfy our thirsty souls that have become dry and parched from being so long in a godless world.

But it is pointless to go through this futile routine when none of it is necessary. We have, in us, the same perpetual spring Jesus was offering the woman, welling up unto eternal life. We received it by faith when we believed. With it, we can worship God wherever we are, whenever we want. We don't need music in order to worship; we don't need a church service in order to worship; we don't need a worship leader to lead us in worship. We don't have to wait for church in order to worship.

The church has become so good at worship these days; it's easy to think we can't worship without it. Worship has turned into something that we go to. We go to a place where worship happens. We come to rely on certain elements being in place before worship can take place. Doesn't this sound a little like the woman coming to the well to fill up her empty jar?

Somebody once said that we don't go to church to worship, we go to church because we are worshippers. That would mean we were worshipping already. We worship when we bring God pleasure and we can do that at work, at play, in the car, at the beach, doing the chores. We can drink from the well of Christ's presence inside our hearts and bring significance to anything we are doing.

Practice drawing on the well inside you today. Worship God today by focusing on him in the middle of everything else. And when you go to church this week, go as a worshipper, carrying the joy of a satisfied soul right into the presence of God and other believers. And don't wait for worship to happen to you; make it happen. You've got the well inside you. Drink up.

Your Guardian Angel

The teaching of Jesus encourages us to believe that we each have our own guardian angel. He once said, 'See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.' (Matthew 18.10)

The existence of angels was suggested in various Old Testament texts, Jesus mentioned them explicitly, and the early Christians accepted their existence and work (Acts 12.15).

In England, devotion to the angels, both in Anglo-Saxon times and later, was strong. In modern times, the great American evangelist Billy Graham, has written an entire book on the existence and work of angels.

Alcuin described them as intercessors (in the 11th century Leofric Missal); Herbert of Losinga, bishop of Norwich (d 1119) specially praised them, and his contemporary, Reginald of Canterbury, wrote prayers in their honour.

Honorius Augustodunensis (d 1151) clarified the existing belief of the time by asserting that each human soul, when infused into the body, is entrusted to the particular care of a single angel, who protects both body and soul and offers prayers to God.

For many centuries Christendom was satisfied with the feast of St Michael (and all Angels), but the special feast of the Guardian Angels was introduced in Austria, Spain and Portugal in the 15th – 16th centuries. Guardian Angels were there seen as guardians of particular towns or regions, or of each individual. Pope Clement X made the feast day universal in 1607, fixing its date to 2 October.

GLORIOUS FOOD!

This year we will be having our Harvest Festival on Sunday 1st October and we will be learning more about the work Tearfund supports with the indigenous Quecha families living high in the Bolivian Andes. For years these families have eaten nothing else than potatoes and wheat for most meals. The climate is unpredictable and the land isn't yielding what it should. There is no Sainsbury's or Tesco's up in the Andes. Villagers either have to walk for days to market or wait for lorries to bring fruit 'n' veg from the nearest city, Sucre. The lorries take up to a week to reach the villages, bringing food well past its sell-by date.

Amongst the breathtaking mountain scenery and colourful culture, the invisible threat of malnutrition takes peoples lives too soon. More than a quarter of children under five suffer from stunted growth in Bolivia and 20% die before their first birthday. However at Harvest we will be learning how the work of Yanapanakuna, supported by Tearfund, is making a massive difference to the lives of these people by helping them to build greenhouses that enable them to grow a whole new range of crops.

Instead of a traditional harvest gift, or as well as, please consider giving a financial gift that will go towards helping this life saving work. A gift of just £5.70 is enough to stock up a greenhouse for one year with a variety of fruit and vegetable seeds. £18 is enough to kit out a greenhouse with all the tools and equipment needed to cultivate the crops forever and £29 buys new sheeting for a greenhouse roof. Envelopes for your gifts will be available in church during October, and don't forget to gift aid if you are a taxpayer!

Smile

While leading a tour of very young students through our hospital, I overheard a conversation between one little girl and an x-ray technician. "Have you ever broken a bone?" he asked. "Yes," the girl replied. "Did it hurt?" "No." "Really? Which bone did you break?" "My sister's arm."

When I say... "I am a Christian"

When I say... "I am a Christian", I'm not shouting "I'm clean livin'." I'm whispering "I was lost, now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say... "I am a Christian", I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say... "I am a Christian" I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I'm weak and need his strength to carry on.

When I say... "I am a Christian" I'm not bragging of success. I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say... "I am a Christian" I'm not claiming to be perfect, My flaws are far too visible. But, God believes I am worth it.

When I say... "I am a Christian" I still feel the sting of pain. I have my share of heartaches so I call upon his name.

When I say... "I am a Christian", I'm not holier than thou, I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace, somehow!

MAKE IT A FAIR TRADE CHRISTMAS

Why not consider giving some fair trade gifts this Christmas? As well as giving someone a beautiful gift you will know that you are also giving a fair wage to some in the developing world and helping them to climb out of poverty. There are number of Traidcraft catalogues at the back of church so have a look through one whilst having a cup of (fair trade) tea or coffee after a service. If you want to take one home for a longer look please do so, but please bring the catalogue back the next week! If you want to order items then please give all the details to Alison Partington by Sunday 5th November at the latest.

Man's way leads to a hopeless end – God's way leads to an endless hope.

Better than counting your years is making your years count.

Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.

One of the greatest dangers in the spiritual life is to live on your own activities. In other words, the activity is not in its right place as something which you do, but has become something that keeps you going.

D Martyn Lloyd-Jones

One trouble with being an atheist is that you have nobody to talk to when you are alone.

Kirsty Balfour – swimmer with a Christian faith

2006 has been a year of real progress for City of Edinburgh breast-stroke swimmer, Kirsty Balfour. After graduating in sports science at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh last summer, Kirsty has been a full-time swimmer.

She has been a good swimmer for several years. She first became noticed when she broke a Scottish Junior record in 2000. She reached two Commonwealth Games finals in Manchester 2002 and swam in a relay final in the 2004 Olympics. Then the 2005 world championships proved to be a real disappointment. She was expecting to reach the final but went out in the heats – falling short of the semi-final, let alone the final.

Then in the 2006 Commonwealth Games, she exceeded expectations. At the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne she had picked up bronze in the 100 and silver in the 200 metres breaststroke. The 200 was a memorable race with Leisel Jones of Australia breaking the world record. Kirsty's 2:24.04 beat her own personal best by 3 seconds and was only one hundredth of a second from the European record.

Then in the 2006 European championships she took silver in the 100 and gold in the 200 breaststroke. The gold was Britain's first in the event since Anita Lonsborough in 1964 – sadly your correspondent is old enough to remember it! Kirsty said of the 200 final, "It hurt so much at the end. With every breath I kept saying 'come on, come on, pull'. I'm thankful to be able to use the talent God's given me."



She followed the two individual medals in the European championships by being part of the British 4 X 100 metres medley relay team that took gold. Kirsty's was an epic swim pulling the team from 1.78 seconds down to 0.77 ahead in her leg.

Brought up to attend church every Sunday, Kirsty became a Christian at an early age. "I think I was about seven when I gave my life to Jesus". However, it wasn't until just a few years ago that she started to think more seriously about what she believed. "I came to a point where I had to think through everything I believed again, and I have now made a firm commitment to follow Jesus Christ. In the past few years my relationship with Jesus has grown a lot stronger and I feel closer to God."

"I pray before competitions and when I am in the water. One of my favourite verses in the bible has to be Philippians 4:13, 'I can do everything through him who strengthens me'. It is a very simple verse, but when I am training or competing, feeling like I am just about to die, I know God is there in the water with me, and he will see me through."

Penny Heyns (double Olympic champion on breaststroke for South Africa in Atlanta 1996) and also a Christian is a hero of Kirsty's. "Penny used to say she liked to use her talent as an act of worship to God, to try to give everything back to him because he gave it. I try to swim with the same attitude in races and in training".

Signs & Symbols: Parapets

When you get closer to one of our older parish churches, there are aspects of the building, particularly some of the decorative features, that make you wonder why they were added.

Have a look at the top of the tower or the top of the wall where it joins the roof. Often you can't see the join because they've put a decorative wall of a couple of feet tall there (0.6 m). So why is it there?

There's lots of these walls - parapets - in London on ordinary houses dating from early 1700s. They were introduced because the Building Act of 1707 banned projecting wooden eaves in the cities of Westminster and London. They were considered a fire risk. Instead an 18-inch brick parapet was required, with the roof set behind.

But churches much older than this have them and they can help to date the building. In the fourteenth century they were plain, while towards the end of the fourteenth and then into the fifteenth they were crenellated - in other words they look like castle battlements. (The rising parts are called merlons or cops and the separating spaces are called crenels, embrasures or loops.) From the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries they were often pierced with carving or of a balustrade form.

But the question, as you can imagine, is why? Why were they built like they are? Some experts suggest that their primary purpose was to hide ugly flat roofs. But many of them are not with a flat roof, so that can't always be right. Others suggest that they are there to give the building a pleasing design for the eye. That makes sense. But why are so many crenellated?

'Location, Location, Location'

Babylon: Daniel 1: 1-21

The book of Daniel presents us with the experience of the Jews in exile in Babylon. It can help us to cope in similar 'exile' situations, as we face loss of security and difficult circumstances in our lives. As with Daniel, these are not circumstances that we would willingly choose, but God is still with us.

God's Purpose

Daniel was one of the ruling elite who were taken into exile by Nebuchadnezzar in 605 BC. Although everything seemed to have gone wrong for Judah, we read 'The Lord gave Jehoiakim into his hand' (2). In fact the exile was God's idea as he intended to deepen and purify the Jews' faith. Similarly, God will use situations of alienation in our lives to strengthen our faith.

How have you seen this happen in your experience?

Daniel's Response

Daniel and his friends were co-opted into the Babylonian civil service, with all its privileges ie good food, accommodation and education (3-5). He was prepared to be fully involved in the Babylonian culture, rather than opting out. However, he was also ready to draw the line at not eating the king's food (8), in order to make an appropriate stand for God. *In what ways are we called to make a stand for God in our everyday lives?*

God's Blessing

God blessed Daniel's action (15-16), as well as giving him knowledge and understanding and the gift of interpreting dreams (17-18). Daniel had proved that he could act with integrity and consistency, thus enabling God to use him to make an impact on the society in which he lived.

How does God want to use us to make a difference to others?

As we stand for God, let's not forget what he says: 'those who honour me I will honour' (1 Samuel 2:30).

Welcome to Malcolm

Last month we welcomed Malcolm McCue to our church. Malcolm has been assigned to us by PAIS, an international Christian organisation working in schools and churches.

The aims of PAIS ARE :-

- To bring the gospel into schools in exciting and relevant ways
- To develop relationships with young people in schools
- To intergrate young people from schools to churches
- To help church youth groups reach and keep young people.

Fulfil thy Will

O Lord, fulfil thy Will - Be the days few or many, good or ill:
Prolong them, to suffice
For offering up ourselves thy sacrifice;
Shorten them if thou wilt, To make in righteousness an end of guilt,
Yea, they will not be long
To souls who learn to sing a patient song:
Yea, short they will not be - To souls on tiptoe to flee home to thee.
O Lord, fulfil thy Will:
Make thy Will ours, and keep us patient still
Be the days few or many, good or ill.
Christina Rossetti

Sharing worship with our global neighbour

"And who is my neighbour?" asked the lawyer in the gospel. He was looking for a definition. Instead, Jesus told him a parable that took him way beyond his own community and his own immediate responsibilities. Not just to the Samaritans, but to all who were different, alien, unknown, perhaps even feared.

And if our neighbourhood is to be the whole world of God's people and God's creation, then we too are going to need some help to extend our vision. One method used by industrial missionaries is called 'three-gear mission'. Everything we do has significance at a personal, corporate and global level.

If I buy a packet of coffee in the supermarket, that is an individual transaction between me and the assistant on the till. But it also represents corporate organisations, packaging and transport, logistics and warehousing. At a global level it involves trade agreements, pricing policies that may support people overseas or cripple them financially.

The choices we make, the things to which we assign worth and value (which is what worship is about) may affect the life and livelihood of our neighbours far away, sustaining or destroying whole communities that we may never see or visit. Whatever gear predominates at the moment, individual, corporate or global, the other two will

always be there.

For in bringing together references from Deuteronomy 6: 5 and Leviticus 19: 18 about loving God, neighbour and oneself, the lawyer in Luke 10: 29, with the evident approval of Jesus, set the pattern for the future. And especially for our time when worship, if it is serious, has to encompass a universe that extends from the confines of a private world to the immediacy of a global village.

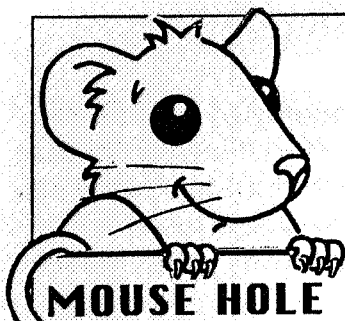
The easiest gear to get into may well be the individual. But which is the hardest to change?

Why are you facing such a temptation?

'Happy is the man who doesn't give in and do wrong when he is tempted, for afterwards he will get ...his reward.' James 1:12 Are you facing a temptation of some sort? It is easy to think of it as a bad thing. But it can become a stepping stone rather than a stumbling block. Just think: it is as much an opportunity to do the right thing, as the wrong thing. Temptation just gives you the choice! God develops the fruit of the Spirit in us by allowing circumstances into our lives in which we are tempted – in order that we might express the exact opposite quality! For instance: he teaches us to love to allowing unlovely people into our lives. It takes no character to love people who are lovely. God teaches you joy in the midst of sorrow by urging us to turn to him for comfort and strength when all other support is gone. God grows peace in us by helping us learn to trust in him in situations where we're tempted to worry or be afraid. Likewise, patience grows through having to wait... You can't claim to be good if you've never been tempted to be bad; or to be faithful if you have never had the chance to be unfaithful. Integrity grows through defeating dishonesty; humility grows as you refuse to give place to pride. Endurance develops when you reject the temptation to give up.

ChristianSat Guide helps explain Digital Satellite TV & Radio

Would you like to receive Christian TV & Radio? Satellite offers 13 Christian TV & 10 Christian Radio channels that are all free. There's a helpful new website that gives a clear step guide. It can be found at www.ChristianSat.org.uk. If you have no internet access, then send a stamped A4 size SAE with two extra unused stamps to help cover costs, to ChristianSat, 40 Rickford Hill, GUILDFORD, GU3 3PG.



MOUSE HOLE

Seed Heads

• Cut a leg from an old pair of ladies tights.

• Stuff to the middle two large handfuls of sawdust.

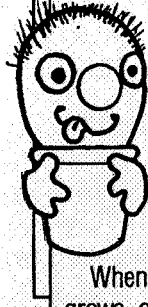
• Tie the two ends together to make a ball.

• Leave the ends about 10cm long and cut off the rest. • Pinch out a ball of sawdust and tie with thread to make a nose.

• Sew or glue on eyes, mouth and ears.

• Paint the top of the head with P.V.A glue then sprinkle with grass seed. When the glue is dry, water the head and put on a pot filled with water. Make sure the ends of the tights are in the water and top up every day.

When the grass hair grows, give him a haircut!



The Sower and the Seed

Once there was a man who went out to sow corn. As he scattered the seed in the field

some of it

fell along

the path

where it was stepped on and eaten by the birds.



Some of it fell on rocky ground, when the plants sprouted, they dried up because the soil was dry.

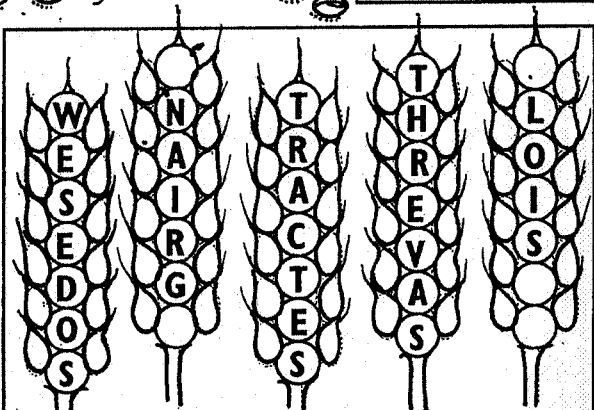


Some of the seed fell among thorns, which grew up with the plants and choked them.



And some seed fell in good soil; the plants grew and produced corn, a hundred grains each!

Read the rest of the story and find out what it means in Luke 8: 4-15



Unscramble the letters in the corn and find:
SCATTER • HARVEST • GRAIN
SOIL • SOW • SEED