

Deane Parish Magazine

November

2006



Parish Diary: November

| | 9:00 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. | 6:00 p.m. |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Sunday 5 th | Holy Communion (CW) James 5:13-20 John 11:32-44 | Family Parade Matthew 5:14-16 | Holy Communion (CW) James 5:13-20 John 11:32-44 |
| Sunday 12 th | Holy Communion (BCP) Job 1:1 - 2:10 Mark 12:28-34 | Service of the Word (Remembrance) | Service of the Word Job 1:1 - 2:10 Mark 12:28-34 |
| Sunday 19 th | Holy Communion (BCP) Job 38:1-10 Mark 1:1-8 | Family Service 1 Kings 3 | Holy Communion (CW) Job 38:1-10 Mark 1:1-8 |
| Sunday 26 th | Holy Communion (BCP) Job 42:1-6 John 18:33-37 | Family Communion (CW) 1 Kings 8:1-13 | Service of the Word Job 42:1-6 John 18:33-37 |

St Mary the Virgin

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OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Please bring boxes to
church
by November????

See back page

Start!

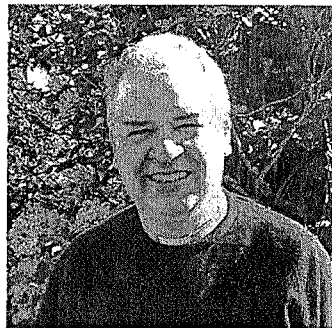
Discovering Christianity
In 6 small group sessions

*Please contact Ian or Dan for details.
A course is being planned
for the near future*

The Rector Writes

If I have no love

As I write this I have just come back from a short holiday in France (very enjoyable!), but boy do I feel like I have hit the road running since I opened the front door of the rectory. We arrived back at 6.30 pm on Monday evening and at 7.00pm we were in church for a presentation by the architect of the outline proposals for the church redevelopment. Since then I have taken a school assembly, had a staff meeting, been hospital visiting, taken a school class round the church, met with council officials about a possible service they would like us to host next year, gone through a foot of correspondence, phoned different people up about forthcoming meetings, attended the Bible study, done some general visiting and other bits and pieces in between.



I suppose I could say that in all this I am seeking to serve my Lord and Master Jesus, and at the same time serve others. And yet on this latter issue I have to do some careful thinking. I mean how am I serving others and out of what motive? Am I serving others out of a sense of obligation or duty, or out of love? For it strikes me that if I am not serving others out of a Christ-like sense of love then all is in vain. I'm reminded of the words John wrote in his first epistle "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death." (1 John 3:14 NIV)

What John is saying here is that the presence of love in my heart for others and the realization of what I can do to serve them is evidence that I have been born again and Christ is in my heart. The absence of any such sensitivity suggests that I may still be the centre of my universe. It may all still be about me.

Maybe the same applies to you as well. Can you look at your life over the last few days and see evidence of the fact that you have cared about someone other than yourself? Can you point to some examples of how you have served a brother or a sister in some way? If you can, take heart. If you can't, it might be a good time for some soul searching.

I have tried this little test on myself, and I must admit I don't always do very well. Even though I spend a good deal of time serving others you could say that I do so because that is my work. This is what I'm expected to do. I do this for a living. I am "on" for these moments of ministry. But I can get very selfish with my "off" time. What I have found is that sometimes we need to step in and serve even when we don't feel like it, when we're tired, when we want some "quality time for ourselves". And once we do we often discover that Christ energizes us and gives us not only the strength to serve others but also the desire to do it again.

So ask God to open your eyes to those around you and to show you ways in which you can serve others in love. That's being obedient to what He asks; its also about finding His power to serve even when you feel you are running on empty. How about this? I'll pray for you right now and you pray for me, that God will awaken us with hearts to serve, the wisdom to see the need, and the power to follow through. †

Pattern of Services

The PCC has agreed changes in the monthly pattern of Sunday services. From January 2007 services will be as follows:

| | | |
|------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 10.30 a.m. | 1 st Sunday | Family Parade Service |
| | 2 nd Sunday | Holy Communion |
| | 3 rd Sunday | Family Worship (with Baptism) |
| | 4 th Sunday | Service of the Word |
| | 5 th Sunday | Holy Communion |
| 6 p.m. | 1 st Sunday | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| | 2 nd Sunday | Service of the Word |
| | 3 rd Sunday | Holy Communion (CW) |
| | 4 th Sunday | Evening Prayer (BCP) |
| | 5 th Sunday | Praise Service |

The purpose of this change is to provide an additional service of Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m. and to provide a slot at 6p.m. (the fifth Sunday) for a praise service or other 'different' service. The 9am service will not change from its current pattern.

10 Stocking fillers for children

1. **Ten Girls Who Changed the World** by Irene Howat - £4.99 from Wesley Owen for 8—11 year olds. One of a series of books.
2. **Ten Boys Who made History** by Irene Howat - £4.99 from Wesley Owen. See series above - written for boys
3. **King of Christmas CD/DVD** by Colin Buchanan & available from his website www.colinbuchanan.com.au. Costs about £12.50 for the CD & £14.50 including p&p from Australia. Biblical Christmas songs for children aged 4-10.
4. **The Beginners Bible** by Catherine Devries & available from Wesley Owen for £11.99. Bible stories for children aged 2-5.
5. **The New International Children's Bible, New Century Version**, available from Wesley Owen for £16.99. A complete Bible written in language suitable for children aged 7-12.
6. **The King, the Snake and the Promise CD** from The Good Book Company (www.thegoodbook.co.uk) for £12.00. An overview of the Bible with songs for children aged 4 - 10.
7. **XTB Notes** published by The Good Book Company (www.thegoodbook.co.uk) for children aged 7 - 11. A year's subscription (quarterly undated) costs £16.00
8. **Discover Notes** published by The Good Book Company for 10—13 year olds (www.thegoodbook.co.uk). Cost is £12.00 for an annual subscription (quarterly).
9. **Treasures of the Snow** by Patricia st John, available from Wesley Owen and costs £5.99. A powerful story of how a girl has to learn to forgive. The truth of the gospel is clearly outlined in the book as it is woven through the story. For all children aged 7 - 12.
10. **A Very Very Very Big God** published by EMU (www.emu.mu) for £13.49 incl p&p. Songs are specific to pre-school children with simple Biblical truths for toddlers to grasp.

Men's Event: Games Evening

Friday 24th November

7:30—10:00 p.m.

***Competitive games (draughts, darts, cards, etc.)
and competitively priced bar***

Deane Conservative Club, Raven Road, off Wigan Road

There will be a short talk on the Christian Faith

For more information, and to order a pie,
contact Dan Howard (01204) 855112

St Mary's – A New Look?

Plans For Changes To The Interior Of Our Church Building

On Monday 16 October church members were invited to attend a presentation by our architect, Brian Foxley, and members of the Church and Hall Development Committee, on the plans which have been approved in principle by the PCC for changes to the interior of our church building.

Opening the meeting, Nola Kilsby, who chairs the development committee, explained that during its long history of almost 500 years the present building had undergone many changes, as successive generations of God's family at Deane sought to adapt it to fulfil different requirements for worship and service to the community. The present plans are based firmly on a vision for the future of our church, and this vision can be summed up as follows - *a church at the heart of the community, a church with a heart for the community*. As part of this vision we plan to make the building accessible to the community, open for part of every day, to make it a place of welcome and service to the community, and most important, a place where people can find God, both in us, and in this building.

Brian Foxley presented the plans, which were illustrated by computer-produced images of what the building will look like if the plans are approved and the work completed.

The design is intended to make the interior of the church more flexible for worship and events such as orchestral or choral concerts. It is aimed to liberate unused space, so that the building can provide areas for meetings, gathering, refreshments and a crèche, as well

as worship. Above all the design is intended to complement and enhance the beauty of a medieval building.

*a church at the heart
of the community, a
church with a heart
for the community.*

Briefly, the plans are:

- provision of a mezzanine floor at the west end, which will accommodate meeting rooms, office / vestry, bell-ringing

- chamber, and balcony overlooking the nave;
- opening up the base of the tower and re-glazing the west window, and using the space as a crèche or meeting area;
- new toilet and refreshment facilities on the ground floor;
- insertion of a glass and wood screen which separates the meeting /gathering areas from the main body of the church, and provides sound insulation;
- replacement of the pews by movable seating (but keeping any pews of historical significance and re-siting them around the perimeter of the worship area);
- provision of under-floor heating;
- removal of one row of choir pews at each side of the chancel, to provide more space in the chancel itself;
- moving the organ console to the chancel;
- developing the present Hulton Chapel into a heritage / education centre.

What happens next?

It is very important that all church members discuss the proposed changes and make their views known. To help in this, an exhibition of the plans is being mounted in the Hulton Chapel area. You will be able to read about the proposals, look at the plans, and see the impressions of what the church will look like. You may post your written comments in a box, or if you wish to make your comments in person, you can approach any member of the Development Committee: Nola Kilsby, Ian Mainey, Craig Mochrie, Julie Cooper, Terry Oakes and Mike Kirkby. The PCC intends to evaluate all your comments at its meeting on 13 December.

If the congregation supports these proposals, the next step is to approach all the bodies which have an interest in changes to ancient buildings, and discuss our proposals with them. These bodies include English Heritage, the Diocesan Advisory Committee, the Council for the Care of Churches, and the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings.

Most important, please pray that our Heavenly Father will guide all of us at all times as we embark together on this momentous journey for His family at St Mary's, Deane. †

Youth Work at St Mary's

Voltage

Voltage (our Friday youth night for 11-14 year olds) has seen a few changes this term. We have seen plenty of new faces. Older members have brought their friends along, some Year 7s have moved up from Explorers, and some young people that we have made contact with through holiday clubs, April Foolishness, and last years Light Party have come. Voltage enjoy a range of activities; basketball, football, hockey, pool, table tennis and now "Southern" Dodgeball. We've really enjoyed our talk times this term, trying to get to grips with God's love for us and what that could mean in our lives.

Pathfinders
Starting 12th November
10.30 a.m.
years 7, 8 and 9
Meet in church
2nd and 4th Sundays
Ring Angela Howard for
more information on
855112

The Element

Having spent a year examining what it means to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" and to "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Matt 22), we've decided to get on with it. This term we are working through Tearfund resources to help us to consider the complexities of poverty, and to practically engage with doing something about it.

Youth Bible Study

Starts on 12th Nov
7.30 p.m for a social
15—18 year olds
2nd and 4th Sundays

Ring Dan and Angela
855112

We are energetic, playing sports such as football, and basketball, and some less strenuous silly games (the current craze being "Mafia"). The leadership of The Element has changed a little. Sean and Malcolm joined the team in September. Tim will be stepping out of his leadership role in The Element to dedicate more time to developing the youth worship band: Rise.

The Element still consists of the same group

of young people, mainly 16 year olds, with a couple of younger members. They're a fantastic bunch of young people, but we'd love to welcome some new people along too. It would be even more fantastic to welcome a fourth helper onto The Element team, to enable us to have activities running in two rooms simultaneously, and so cater for wider range of young people.

YZ Up Café

Saturday 4th November

7.30 - 9.30

St Andrew's Church

Games

Competitions

Food

Worship (led by "Rise")

Biblical teaching (from Malcolm).

Karen Greenhalgh is the contact for The Element and Voltage
Tel: 07821 304564.

Soul Survivor

On Monday the 14th August, six excited members of the Element, and four youngish leaders, met on the memorial hall car park. They managed to cram five tents, ten sleeping bags, ten camping mats, ten bags, a few camping stoves, plenty of food, and the all important football and Frisbee.... oh, and ten people into two cars, ready to go down to Shepton Mallet, Somerset to spend six days at the Soul Survivor festival. If you've never been to Soul Survivor, it's quite hard to explain (there are some photo's up at the back of church, which might do a better job!).

Imagine a very big field (Bath and West Showground), complete with a few barns, offices, toilet blocks, marquees, and a very big Big Top. Add about 10,000 young people, some tents to sleep in, and lot of energy, and you're somewhere near a picture of what Soul Survivor is like.

There were two main meetings a day, with lively worship, challenging teaching, times for prayer, seminars, café's, sports tournaments, concerts, a skate park, marketplace, food court, band stand, cinema and disco. It was a great opportunity to get to know each other better, and spend some quality time with God. The Element are already talking about going to a festival again next year. Please speak to Karen if you are interested!

Introducing Malcolm McCue

Helping with our Young People and working with Pais

I was born just over 18 years ago into a strict Catholic family in west London. My mother is Polish and my father Scottish. When I started St. Charles Primary RC Primary School I spoke very little English (at that point it was my 3rd language). Mum spoke Polish and German and Dad spoke German and English, so I spoke mostly Polish and German at home. Growing up I've managed to lose my eastern European accent and now have a southerner's accent.... so no, I don't plan to get a northern twang!

I went to the London Oratory RC School where I sat 12 GCSE's, getting all above C grade. Whilst at this school I was bullied for 5 years. This was also the time I became a Christian. I became a Christian at my mother's baptism in. At that point I was filled with God's presenceand haven't been able to get away since. Although hard at the time I now believe the bullying experience has equipped me to work with young people who might be struggling with similar experiences. I hope to show them that God can be working through any situation for His good.

Since becoming a Christian my life has totally changed. I have had opportunities to preach on a few occasions and I believe that God has a plan for me to work in full time Christian ministry. I am excited to see how God will direct my journey in the future, and I am glad to be starting it here at St. Mary's.—more about Malcolm's work with Pais next issue.

Stones in our Graveyard

By Charles Winder

For many years, under the skilful guidance of Bill Calderbank, I helped to mow the alleys between graves. You cannot follow such a course without reflecting a little on the names, dates and epitaphs which are recorded there. There are many local family names, many Christian names, which seemed old -fashioned when I was young and which are back in fashion today. On the southern side there are graves from the seventeenth century, the earliest I have seen being 1608.

Amongst all these there is one unusual group of about a dozen. It is unusual

because they are all graves of men and they all died on the same day, December 21st 1910. Their names are local and of their time: Enoch Arthur Batea, aged 23,, Thomas Howarth 33, Robert Cope 19; sometimes they are evidently father and son -- William Cowburn 42 and Robert Cowburn 17 -- and there are some family groupings bigger than this. Many local churches, especially in Westhoughton, must commemorate the lives of men who died that day, because on 21st December 1910 there was an explosion at the Pretoria Mine, Westhoughton, which took 344 lives. It is impossible to imagine the impact on a community of such a loss. A history of Westhoughton says, "Almost every family had at least one member who had been killed in the explosion and many had all their menfolk wiped out in a day."

In less than four years the First World War began and took many of those who had lived through the day of the explosion. One of the graves marks the death of William Middlehurst, aged 48, in the Pretoria Mine and the death of his son , William 23, in the Battle of Arras in 1917. I have often wondered whether the poet of the Great War, Wilfred Owen, was thinking of the Pretoria Pit, when he wrote "Miners". In this poem he compares soldiers in the trenches to men digging for coal. He goes on to speak of

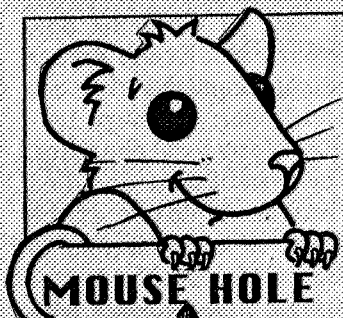
**..... they are all graves of men
and they all died on the same
day, December 21st 1910**

people who will live
because of what the
soldiers have done and
again he makes the
comparison. It is as though

peace is a warm fire, built from the efforts of those who lost their lives. He ends by saying bitterly that "They will not dream of us poor lads/Lost in the ground".

We do remember the soldiers in church and the miners in other ways as well. Some years ago the past was vividly recalled when a worker, repairing a road in Westhoughton, discovered beneath the footpath a lot of pipes and tins containing tobacco and matches. This was the path which many miners used to reach the pit. There were some safety regulations and they were not allowed to take matches down the mine. It was by this footpath that every day they left their pipes and matches and there they lay for scores of years waiting for their owners to return.

Such are the traces of those whose lives and work made our lives possible. The graves in our churchyard commemorate a thousand eventful histories but none which ended more terribly than those of William, Robert, Thomas, Enoch and 340 others. We can never repair such things but, when I think of the tranquil setting in which the miners lie, it makes me



A Gift of Hope

Share a little of what God has given you and help other children in the world who are in great need, by sending them a shoe box filled gifts.

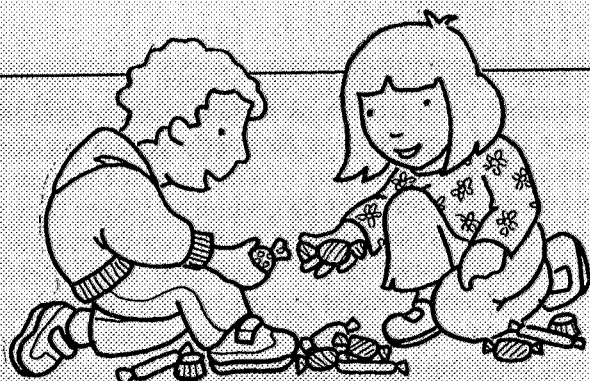
The Christian charity Samaritan's Purse organise 'Operation Christmas Child'.

They collect gift filled shoe boxes and send them to children in need all over the world.

They collect the boxes in November, so to find out more call their information line on 0870 011 2002 or look on

www.samaritanspurse.uk.com to find out what to put in and where to send the boxes.

Watch a video about their work look on www.samaritanspurse.org click on *Our Work* then on *Operation Christmas Child*

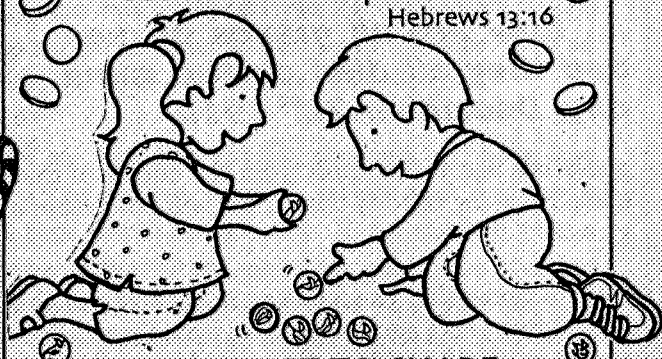


"God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause."

2 Corinthians 9:8

"Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifice God is pleased"

Hebrews 13:16



A GIFT TO SHARE

Draw around a small plate onto thin card to make a circle. Cut out and cut in half. Using one of the halves, roll around to make a cone shape and stick.

Fill with sweets and cover with wrapping paper.

Gather the paper at the top of the cone with ribbon and give as gifts to your friends... they make great Christmas presents!

