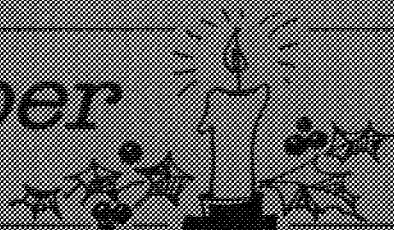


# Deane Parish Magazine

## *December*

2006



# Parish Diary: December

	9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
Sunday 3rd	Holy Communion (CW) 1 Thess 3: 9-13 Luke 21: 25-36	Family Parade (Kings 1:1-13)	Holy Communion (CW) 1 Thess 3: 9-13 Luke 21: 25-36
Sunday 10th	Holy Communion (BCP) Philippians 1: 3-11 Luke 3: 1-6	Service of the Word Mark 13:1-13	Service of the Word Philippians 1: 3-11 Luke 3: 1-6
Sunday 17th	Holy Communion (BCP) Philippians 4: 4-7 Luke 3: 7-18	Nativity Service Luke 1:26-36	Holy Communion (CW) Philippians 4: 4-7 Luke 3: 7-18
Sunday 24th	Holy Communion (BCP) Hebrews 10: 5-10 Luke 1: 39-55	Family Communion (CW) Luke 2:1-21	No 6:00 p.m. Service  <b>11.00 p.m.</b> Holy Communion
Sunday 31st	Holy Communion (BCP) Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2: 41-52	New Year 'Rededication' Luke 2:23-38	No Service

## Monday 25th December Christmas Day Services

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. Family Worship with HC

**St Mary the Virgin**

Junction Road

Deane, Bolton

BL3 4LT

[www.deaneparish.info](http://www.deaneparish.info)

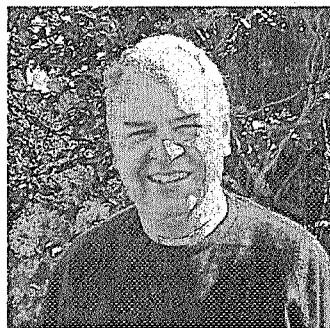
Rector: Ian Mainey  
(01204) 61810

Curate: Dan Howard  
(01204) 855112

Magazine: Angela Howard  
(01204) 855112

# The Rector Writes

## The War on Christmas



Well yesterday the Christmas lights were turned on in Bolton (so if you know when that was you will be able to work out when I wrote this article). I don't suppose the end of November is too bad a time to have the great switch on. I mean some people have had their Christmas lights blazing out of their windows for at least the last three weeks. A bit too early for my liking. Here in the Mainey household we put up our Christmas decorations as late as possible. And no, it is not because we are cheapskates looking for a reduced price Christmas tree on the 24<sup>th</sup> December! It's just that we like it that way. Maybe it's because we feel that when they are up for a brief period of time they mean more to us than if they were up for weeks on end.

However my real gripe is with the shops and department stores. Do I really want to hear "Rudolph the Red Noised Reindeer" in October? No I do not.

But as I write all this I am conscious that I am beginning to sound like one of those Grumpy Old Men that you see on the television. Mind you I think they are hilarious. And I'm also conscious that there's a danger that complaining about Christmas becomes in itself an enduring Christmas tradition. But in truth I suppose its not so much the holiday itself that bothers me, it's the way people celebrate it.

An American broadcaster by the name of John Gibson has written a book called "The War on Christmas". In the book he argues that Christians need to defend Christmas, not so much from those who want to put up their Christmas decorations early, but from those who want to re-brand it and call it something else, like Winterville, or who want to take the heart out of

### Church Christmas Decorations

9th December 9.30 a.m.

All help appreciated  
No previous experience required  
You might even get a free cup of tea!

# Start!

Discovering Christianity  
In 6 small group sessions

*Please contact Ian or Dan for details.*

Christmas by dumping the whole nativity story (notice how some schools have done this).

Strangely enough however in the past the greatest danger that has threatened Christmas has not come from without but from within. For a surprising number of believers their chief concern wasn't putting Christ back into Christmas, it was taking Christmas out of Christianity. The Puritans in the 17<sup>th</sup> century made celebrating Christmas an offence. The law declared that anyone caught "observing, by abstinence from labour, feasting or any other way any such days as Christmas day, shall pay for each such offence five shillings." Finding no biblical authority for celebrating Jesus birth on December 25<sup>th</sup>, they regarded the holiday as a mere human invention, a remnant of a heathen past. They also disapproved of the rowdy celebrations that went along with it (nothing changes!). A clergyman with the wonderful name of the Revd Increase Mather wrote, "How few there are comparatively that spend those holidays...after an holy manner. But they are consumed in Compotations, in Interludes, in playing at Cards, in excess of Wine, in Mad Mirth." But it wasn't only the Puritans who were not in favour of Christmas. The Quakers too took against it, arguing in the words of the 17<sup>th</sup> century apologist Robert Barclay, "All days are alike holy in the sight of God."

For myself I think that there is a real place for Christmas. But it can only really be Christmas when Christ is at the heart of our celebrations. I use to have a layreader who would tell me constantly at this time of year that "Jesus is the reason for the season." Well it might have got on my nerves slightly when I had heard it for the umpteenth time but he was right. "Jesus is the reason for the season". So whatever you are doing, however you are celebrating, what day it is you decide to put up your Christmas decorations and Christmas cards, is not really all that important. What is important is that you remember that at Christmas we remember that God sent His only Son into this world to be our Saviour. That's what it is really all about. In fact someone got there first with that piece of information, for one of the angels said to the shepherds out in the fields, "Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." That's what it's all about.†

### **Reading and Intercession Rotas**

David Dewhurst will soon be compiling the 2007 rotas for those who read at the 9.00 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. services and those who lead the intercessions at the 10.30 a.m. service. If you would like your name to be added to any of these rotas, please speak to David as soon as possible.

# Work a Miracle on World AIDS Day

Alison Partington

December 1<sup>st</sup> each year is World Aids Day. HIV, the virus that leads to AIDS and death, is running wild through the world's poorest communities. It is undoing decades of development work and creating a generation of orphans. AIDS has claimed more than 20 million lives in the last 25 years.

The spread of HIV can be prevented. Education, access to treatment and information, simple measures to stop mothers passing the virus to their babies – all these things are little miracles. They are cheap and they can stop the spread of HIV.

Tearfund is calling the church across the world to step up and stop HIV. Nearly 200 countries are also aiming to stop HIV, as part of the Millennium Development Goals designed to halve poverty by 2015. Tearfund believe the church has a crucial role to make this vision happen for everyone.

Tearfund's plan to stop the spread of HIV includes helping women get access to medicines and information that will prevent their babies being born with HIV. A few simple precautions can prevent a mother transmitting HIV to her baby, which is why babies in rich countries are hardly ever born with HIV. In the developing world however, one baby is born with HIV every minute of every day. This just is not fair when we can so easily do something to help.

*In the developing world  
one baby is born with  
HIV every minute of  
every day*

Tearfund's vision is to stop and reverse the spread of HIV in the poorest places where they work by 2015. It is a big goal. In order to achieve it they need to raise £60 million pounds over 9 years. They are starting by trying to raise £2 million this year. You can read more about this campaign on the leaflet enclosed in the magazine. Please consider whether you might be able to help them realise their vision and release people from the poverty this disease can cause.†

*more leaflets are available at the back of church*

## News of our OLM Trainee

Elizabeth Plant is now in the second year of training for Ordained Local Ministry. Next term she will be away from Deane on a placement in another parish. Over the last 15 months she has had many assignments to complete, but perhaps the most unusual so far has been to write a hymn on the subject of the Incarnation to a familiar tune. Elizabeth chose the Dambusters' March. She gained top marks for her hymn which is printed below.

Christ is our King and Saviour,  
Our constant hope in peril,  
Prince of Peace and King of Kings  
Born to set us free.  
Word made Flesh through Spirit's breathing,  
God made Man was with us dwelling.  
Christ was born for you and He was born for me.

Holy Spirit breathed on Mary;  
She, pure maiden, bore our Saviour,  
Holy child of virgin birth,  
Full of Grace and Truth.  
Shepherds left their flocks to see him,  
Wise men knelt with gifts before him.  
Christ was born for you and He was born for me.

Christ, the King, now lives in glory,  
High in heav'n, he sits ascended.  
We should have no fear of death,  
He has conquered sin.  
So our hope in Christ is founded,  
For eternal life is granted.  
Christ was born for you and He was born for me.

Music by E Coates and arranged by John Barnard ☩

(We will be singing this hymn in during the 10.30 a.m. service on the 10th.)

## **South American Mission Society**

### **Elizabeth Plant**

What is SAMS, a mission the people of Deane have supported for many years? Who founded it? Why? What work does it do?

People sometimes wonder why South America needs a protestant mission society. Surely all South Americans are Roman Catholics? While it is certainly true that the Spanish and Portuguese who colonised central and south America introduced Roman Catholicism, the good news of Jesus Christ has not everywhere entered the hearts and minds of the people. Although the RC church is doing excellent work in many areas, in other places it is seen to be part of a corrupt establishment and to have little interest in the poor and disadvantaged. There are also other religious issues which date back to the time when many African slaves were brought to South America bringing their own practices of magic and witchcraft. In some areas this continues to be practised by people who also practise Catholicism.

Allen Gardiner (1794-1861) was the first to realise that many in South America needed to hear unambiguously the good news of Jesus Christ. He travelled widely across the continent, teaching and preaching wherever he went. But in his own lifetime he saw no success at all. He and his six companions died of starvation and cold, with no hope of rescue on South America's southernmost point. When eventually his body was found, in his hand he was

*You can find out more  
about SAMS by  
visiting its website on  
[www.samsgb.org](http://www.samsgb.org)*

grasping a note which said, 'Let not this mission fail'. SAMS continues to work to ensure that the mission started by Allen Gardiner does not fail. One of its successes has been to translate the Bible into native Indian languages. Bob Lunt who was Deane's link missionary for many years helped translate the New Testament into Wichí, the language of the Chaco people of northern Argentina.

In the shanty towns across South America SAMS works on projects not only to tell people about Christ, but also to help them set up workshops to enable them to work their way out of poverty. †

Address: Allen Gardiner Cottage, Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3QU

# Deanery Pastoral Committee

Adapted from an article by Rev. Roger Cooper (Area Dean)

For several months now, a group of people from all the Parishes in our Deanery has been meeting together on a regular basis as the Deanery Pastoral Committee. They have been given the task of planning no less than a Deanery Strategy for the next 10 to 15 years.

Our Diocese of Manchester is divided into 22 Deaneries, and we belong to the Deanery of Deane. Back in March this year each Parochial Church Council was asked to elect one person to be their Parish Representative on the Deanery Pastoral Committee. Some Parishes elected a clergy representative, others a lay person.

*In 2005 there  
were 11 stipendiary  
priests in the  
Deanery; in 2007  
there will be 9.*

Now it is crystal clear that as a Diocese we shall not be able to support the current number of stipendiary (full time) clergy for very much longer. The task, therefore, of the Deanery Pastoral Committee has been to look at how parishes can best be encouraged to grow whilst at the same time manage with fewer clergy. Not an easy one that, you might say. Spot on!

Each PCC in the Diocese has already had to identify where the strengths and weaknesses lie for each Congregation and Parish. In some parts of the Diocese some congregations and buildings may well have already been identified as being non-sustainable in the future. The respective Deanery Pastoral Committees will thus have to make difficult and painful recommendations.

In this Deanery there have not been any parishes or buildings identified as being non-sustainable. Nevertheless, the Pastoral Committee have had to seriously look at how and where changes must be made to safeguard the future of the Church's mission in that area. Similarly, there have been some very useful and creative discussions



on how the declining numbers of clergy ought to be best deployed. Those recommendations will go into a Deanery Report to be shared with all PCC's in November, before being presented to the Diocesan authorities for their final decision early in 2007.

In 2005 there were 11 stipendiary priests in the Deanery; in 2007 there will be 9. Looking ahead five years, this may have to go down to 7 - or even less. The current suggestion, which forms part of the proposed Deanery Report, will be to consider forming 3 'clusters' or 'groupings' of parishes, which may eventually lead to new or developed teams particular in geographic areas within the Deanery. Doug Robinson from St Andrew's Church is representing Deane Parish on the Deanery Pastoral Committee.

The Committee members, as well as your PCC, certainly need your prayers at this time. And please pray that God will continue to send workers into His harvest field.✠

### **A personal testimony from Rodney and Margaret Howard**

2006 has not been an easy year for us; our lives seem to have been taken over by Rodney's illness. We have, however, been fortunate in that we have received so much love, care and support from the family of Deane Church. Your prayers have sustained us and, together with the invaluable skills of the doctors and nurses of the hospitals that Rodney attends and of Bolton Hospice, we can report that Rodney is now deemed well enough to travel abroad so that we can go on holiday. We know that he will have to continue to be monitored, but things do not seem to be as bleak as they did ten months ago.

We extend our love and thanks to you all and hope that we as a church family will continue to pray for those, who for one reason or another, are facing difficult and troubling situations.

November 2006✠

# **Book Review: Girl Talk**

**By Carolyn Mahaney and Nicole Whitacre**

£8.54 (£1.99 p&p)– available from [www.christianbits.co.uk](http://www.christianbits.co.uk)

## **Summary of the Book**

Mother-daughter team Carolyn Mahaney and Nicole Whitacre wrote this book on the importance of passing on a language of biblical womanhood to a younger generation of women. Blending biblical wisdom with their own mother-daughter experiences, they discuss the responsibilities and roles that God expects mothers and daughters to fulfil in this critical relationship. They show how mothers can cultivate biblical qualities in their daughters and how daughters should respond to their mothers in obedience and love. This book will help mothers and daughters improve communication, find healing where necessary, and, most importantly, speak to each other in a language of biblical womanhood--all for the purpose of commending the gospel. Chapters are organized for study into four one-week sections, with study questions sure to spark discussion.

## **Reviews**

"The Mahaney women's chatty and comfortable approach is deeply biblical and straightforward, connecting with all sorts of relationships, including single mums, stepmums, adoptive families, and those in either healthy or challenging relationships."

*Noël Piper, author of *Treasuring God in Our Traditions**

"Although this book has been written for mums to read with their daughters, it is well worth investing in the book even when your daughters are much younger. The book helps to identify key priorities in the mother/daughter relationship, and will offer advice to mums to think through how they can cultivate a strong bond with their daughters (even at a young age), that will then hopefully encourage better communication as they grow up. A word of warning! This book is strongly influenced by the American culture, and it is therefore important that mums and daughters recognise where there are cultural anomalies. However, neither mums nor daughters should allow that to be an excuse not to reflect on the many excellent ideas that weave through the pages."

*Angela Howard, mother of two daughters Abigail (7) and Bethia (5)*

### Pattern of Services

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

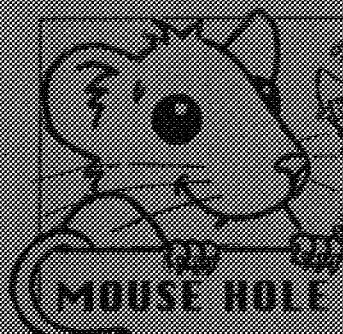
10.30 a.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Family Parade Service
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Family Worship (with Baptism)
	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Service of the Word
	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion
6 p.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Holy Communion (BCP)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday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

### Apologies from the Magazine Editor

In the November magazine the last line of Charles Winder's contribution titled 'Stones in our Graveyard' was not printed. The final paragraph should have read:

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 conscious of a different kind of life which now we hope they share.†



## MOUSE HOLE

### Christmas Windows

Make stained glass decorations for your windows:

Pour P. V. A. white glue into a pot and colour with a few drops of food colouring.

Make several pots of different colour glue. On a sheet of acetate or a clear plastic pocket file use your glue paint to paint a Christmas picture like an angel or a star.

(A simple design can be copied by putting it underneath the acetate or in the pocket file.)

When completely dry cover the design with a thick layer of plain P.V.A.

To add sparkles sprinkle over with a little glitter then leave overnight.

When dry, your design can be peeled from the plastic sheet and will stick to the window.



God had a message for Mary—she was going to have a very special baby!

God had a message for Joseph—God's angel spoke to him in a dream.

God had a message for the shepherds—

Jesus our Saviour is born!

Look up the verses on the cards above to find out what God's message was for Mary, for Joseph and for the shepherds.

### Christmas Angels



1. Wind wool or raffia 30 times around a small book.

2. Tie the top loops together side off, cut at the bottom.

3. Cut shorter 10 strands on each side then tie to make arms.



4. Tie again at the waist. Glue on paper wings and a golden halo.

