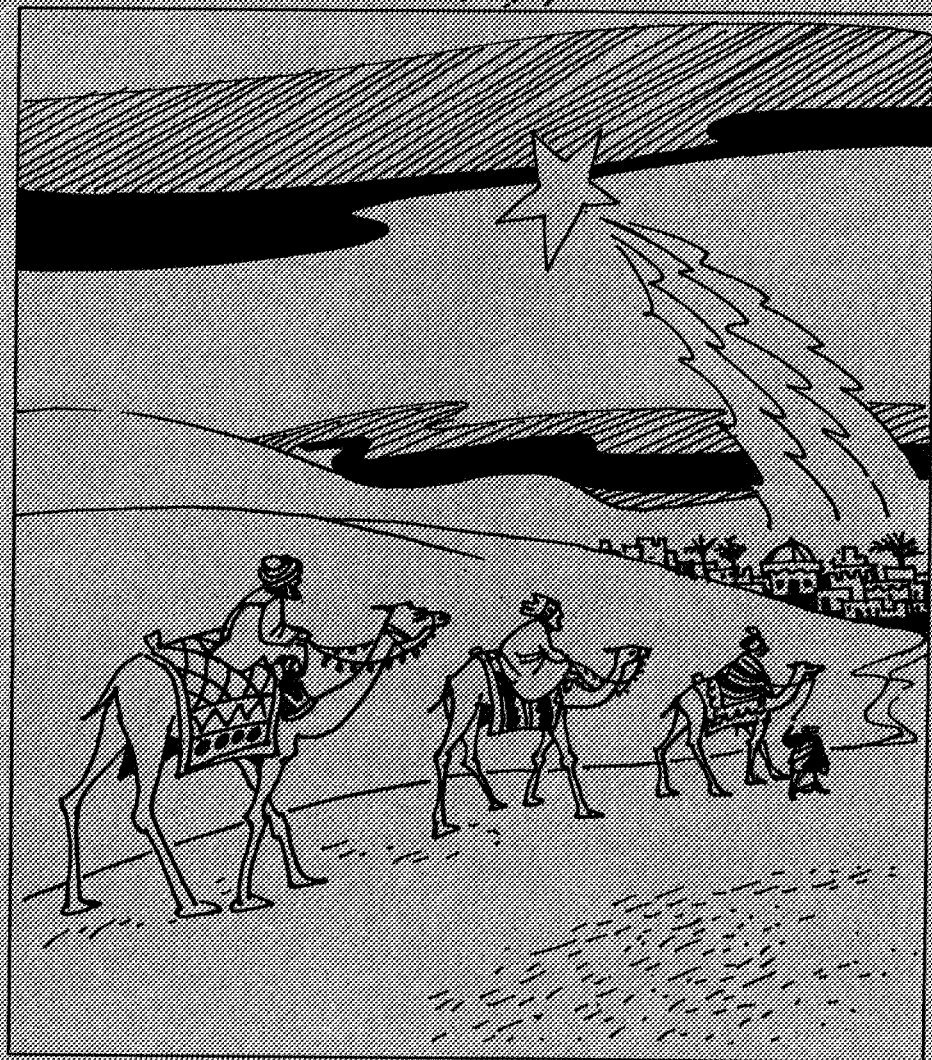


Deane Parish Magazine

January

2007



Parish Diary: January

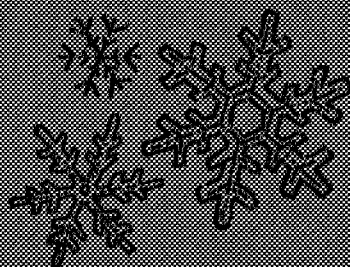
	9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
Sunday 7th	Holy Communion (CW) Acts 8:14-17 Luke 4:1-13	Family Parade 1 Kings 17	Holy Communion Acts 8:14-17 Luke 4:1-13
Sunday 14th	Holy Communion (BCP) 1 Cor 12:1-11 Luke 4:38-44	Holy Communion 1 Kings 18	Service of the Word 1 Cor 12:1-11 Luke 4:38-44
Sunday 21st	Holy Communion (BCP) 1 Cor 12:12-31a Luke 5:1-11	Family Worship 1 Kings 19	Holy Communion 1 Cor 12:12-31a Luke 5:1-11
Sunday 28th	Holy Communion (BCP) 1 Cor 13:1-13 Luke 6:1-11	Service of the Word 1 Kings 21:1-19; 22:29-40	Evening Prayer 1 Cor 13:1-13 Luke 6:1-11

St Mary the Virgin

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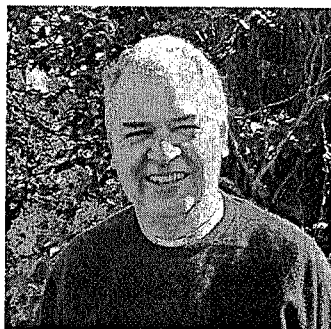
Start!

Discovering Christianity
In 6 small group sessions

*Please contact Ian or Dan for details.
This is ideal for friends/colleagues
with little church background.*

The Rector Writes

The Ultimate Make-Over



Well it's the beginning of a New Year and I suppose I am a little bit older and hopefully a little wiser. The wiser bit I like, the older bit I'm not so keen on. And then there's the whole thing about getting into a rut. Will this year be just like next year? Well of course it won't. But will I have new objectives and new goals? I hope so. It can be very easy to get into a rut, both in what I do and in what I think. I realise that I need to be challenged all the time to think the unthinkable and to have my views questioned so that I can analyse them to make sure that they actually hold up.

I think that it's this fear of just going along in the same old way that leads people to volunteer for these make-over programmes. You know the ones I mean..... where Trinny and Susannah have you stripped down to your bear essentials (literally!). Then they tell you what you should be wearing, which is definitely not what you have been wearing for the last twenty years (what a long time to make a fashion mistake). Personally, on the whole, I like what I wear. Yes, I even feel comfortable with what I wear. I know that my choice of hats and caps is at times an embarrassment to my children, but I like hats and caps, and besides, they keep my head warm. But you know there is one make-over we should all submit ourselves too – Gods make-over.

You see God worked his way into your life by faith; and now he wants to work his way out through your life by shaping you into the person he had in mind for you to be all along – a person who can be used for God and his purposes in the world. You don't fully know who that person is, except that he or she is like you and like Christ – a Christ-like version of you.

God has a claim on your life. He wants to make you like Christ. Not a clone of Christ, but a person with all your capabilities and personality traits, with Christ's character coming through you. It's a lengthy make-

God has a claim on your life. He wants to make you like Christ.

over (it takes a lifetime) but it's worth it, because it is a life filled with purpose and it prepares you for an eternity filled with the same.

There seems to be a version of Christianity out today that places little emphasis on how you live your life; it's all about being saved, or going to church, or worshipping properly. Yes, we are saved, but saved to what? To keep living our lives like we always did the only difference being we go to Heaven when we die? Saved to keep sinning? I don't think so.

Paul addresses this very thing in Romans when he writes: "What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?" (Romans 6:1-2). Now this doesn't mean we don't sin anymore? No, it means we don't live to sin.

Sin was what once gave our lives meaning. We lived to sin. Now Christ gives our life meaning and we live every day for him. We want to know what he wants to accomplish in our lives and that is what we live for.

Is sin something you fall into and regret, or is it what you live for or worse live with? The mark of a new life is set in a new desire to do the right thing. Paul goes on to say in his letter, "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:4)

So there it is: a new life. You are, or you should be, in the process of a total make-over – letting this new life in Christ dictate more and more of what you do and what you choose.

How about it? Are you living your old life or your new one? †



...I wonder if I could have a quick word with the flower arrangers at the end of this service...?

Working with Pais

By Malcolm McCue

I've been here nearly 4 months now, so I figure you should probably know how I'm getting on with the pais work. Well firstly, I should let you know who is on my team. I'm on a team of 6 with the team leader being Nick Samuel the assistant team leader is Jonny Foster, and the team members are: Me, Donlan Page (from California, USA), Aaron Foster, and Karina Stagailo (from Latvia). I have truly been blessed with being on a wonderful hard working team.

When we first started we spent a few weeks really struggling to kick off and get into schools, but then we had the break through at about the end of September. All of a sudden we were in 8 schools at various points in the week. Initially we were seeing about 500 children a week, which we thought was awesome and we that were doing really well. However, as usual God had different plans, so for the last 2 months we have regularly been ministering to over 1000 children PER WEEK!!! This is incredible!

We have seen about 100 young people make a response of faith in Jesus Christ. I ask for your prayers that more and more come to trust in Christ. I hope to have passed on my passion for seeing people saved to some of you, so please, please keep praying for the furthering of God's kingdom in schools. As Christmas looms our team is preparing to do five assemblies on the Christmas theme, let's pray that children start believing in Jesus who does exist rather than Santa who doesn't.

As a team we cover everything from Assemblies in primary and secondary schools, taking RS (religious studies) lessons in secondary schools and sports clubs including dance, football and basketball, in secondary and primary schools. The schools I am working in with Pais, which link to Deane parish, include Ladybridge primary, St. Mary's primary and hopefully soon Ladybridge High. It has been difficult to build links with Ladybridge High. Please keep praying for further access to this school as well as other schools across the whole Bolton and Bury area. †

Question: "What sort of New Year's Resolution should a Christian make?"

Answer: The practice of making a New Year's Resolution goes back over 3000 years to the ancient Babylonians. There is just something about the start of a New Year that gives us the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning. In reality, there is no difference between December 31st and January 1st. Nothing mystical occurs at midnight on December 31st. The Bible does not speak for or against the concept of a New Year's Resolution. However, if a Christian determines to make a New Year's Resolution, what kind of resolution should he or she make?

Common New Year's Resolutions are: to quit smoking, to quit drinking, to manage money better, and spend more time with family. By far the most common New Year's Resolution is to lose weight, in conjunction with exercising more and eating healthier. These are all good goals to set. However, 1 Timothy 4:8 instructs us to keep exercise in perspective: **"For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come."** The vast majority of New Year's Resolutions, even among Christians, are in relation to physical things. This should not be.

Many Christians make New Year's Resolutions to pray more, to read the Bible every day, to attend church more regularly, etc., etc. These are fantastic goals! However, these New Year's Resolutions fail just as often as the non-spiritual resolutions. Why? Because there is no power in a New Year's Resolution. Resolving to start or stop doing a certain activity has no value unless you have the proper motivation for stopping or starting that activity. For

example, why do you want to read the Bible every day? Is it to honour God and grow spiritually or is it because you have just heard that it is a good thing to do? Why do you want to lose weight? Is it to honour God with your body, or is it for vanity, to honour yourself?

***The Bible does
not speak for or
against the
concept of a New
Year's Resolution.***

Philippians 4:13 tells us, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." John 15:5 declares, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." If God is the centre of your New Year's Resolution, it has chance for success - depending on your commitment to it. If it is God's will for something to be fulfilled, He will enable you to fulfil it. If a resolution is not God honouring and/or is not in agreement in God's Word - we will not receive God's help in fulfilling the resolution.

So, what sort of New Year's Resolution should a Christian make? I cannot answer that question for you. My advice to you is this: (1) Pray to the Lord for wisdom (James 1:5) in regards to what resolutions, if any, He would have you make; (2) Pray for wisdom as to how to fulfil the goals God gives you; (3) Rely on God's strength to help you; (4) Find an accountability partner who will help you and encourage you; (5) Don't become discouraged with occasional failures, instead allow them to motivate you further; (6) Don't become proud or vain, but give God the glory. Psalm 37:5-6, "Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday."

Bible Reading Notes

by Angela Howard

At the start of a New Year, it is good to review our personal Bible reading and how to include study and prayer into hectic life patterns. There are a variety of adult Bible reading notes available. Some are dated and it is intended that these are used over a period of months/years as the notes take you through the Bible. Others are not dated and thereby give more flexibility to study. A few notes are now available to use daily on-line and other notes even print the Bible passage in full (especially useful if commuting on the train/bus, to use in a lunch break or just in the comfort of an armchair at home). The following are a few examples – they can be bought on-line, telephone order or through good christian book shops.

Available from BRF

(www.biblereadingnotes.org.uk 01865 -319700)

New Daylight is ideal for those looking for a devotional approach to reading and understanding the Bible. Each daily reading includes the Bible passages (printed out in full), a comment from the contributor and a prayer or reflection.

Guidelines is designed for people wanting more serious and challenging study. It contains continuous commentary on passages from the Bible, with introductions and background information, arranged in weekly units.

Day by Day with God offers daily Bible readings, comments and prayers from a regular team of women writers.

Available from the Good Book Company

(www.thegoodbook.co.uk 0845 225 0880)

Explore is written by people with a passion for getting the Bible into people's lives. Each issue contains 3 months of daily readings with ideas for prayer and application, to help you understand clearly the message & challenge of God's word.

The Daily Reading Bible

The all-in-one, take-anywhere package to help you feed regularly from

God's word. Time to get back into regular Bible reading? The Daily Reading Bible has everything you need to get started, and in one compact, portable package. Each volume contains 60 readings and each reading is designed to take around 15-20 minutes, containing: the full text of the Bible passage for that reading; some questions to get you thinking; some 'points to ponder'; and some ideas to get you started in prayer.

Available from Scripture Union

(www.scriptureunion.org.uk 01908-856006)

Daily Bread helps people explore, understand, and enjoy the Bible – and work it out in everyday life. The online version of *Daily Bread* gives you a Bible reading for each day, and easy-to understand and practical comments relating to the passage. There is also a discussion forum where you can communicate with other users of *Daily Bread* around the world.

Closer to God is for anyone who longs to hear God's voice in today's noisy world. The online site gives you the current week's Bible reading notes, with a chance to interact with other *Closer to God* users, meet the team of writers, and take in feature articles.

Encounter with God provides you with a systematic, thought-provoking approach to Bible reading, enabling you to explore Scripture's relevance to us and our society with the help of an international team of scholars and writers. †

Young people and communion

At St Mary's we welcome young people who have faith in Christ to join the whole church family in receiving communion, even if they have not yet been confirmed. This is open to those of secondary school age. In order to participate, anyone interested must attend a short course, which will be running in the New Year (joint with St Andrews).

Please contact Dan Howard 01204 855112 as soon as possible.

Let the games begin!

Report on a recent evangelistic event

by Dan Howard

On Friday 24th November we held a new event – a “Men’s Games Evening” – hopefully the first of many! As a church we have started holding events that are based around a simple formula: a fun and entertaining event plus a short talk about the Gospel. The idea is to lay on events which many church members would be glad to attend and, importantly, would be glad to invite a non-Christian friend to, so they can hear about the great message of life in Christ, perhaps for the first time. We have a ‘Witness Group’ who are responsible for organising these events.

The games evening went very well; we had 9 people which meant we could run our planned knockout competition on five different games: draughts, dice, dominoes, cribbage and darts. The idea was that everyone accumulated points, according to how far they got in the knockout, so there would be an overall winner... but we were chatting so much we didn’t get finished... maybe next time.

We held the event at the Deane Conservative Club which was an excellent venue – cheap drinks, we were made very welcome (and some of the regulars showed an interest!) and we could arrange the room just as we liked it. The whole evening was very sociable and, with the competitive element, good fun as well. I gave the Gospel talk, so I can’t really comment... other than to say it was absolutely brilliant!!

We will definitely hold this event again – and we’re on the lookout for ideas for other kinds of event: some mixed and some just for men or women. (The women already held a ‘pampering evening’ earlier in the term). What would be good is, next time, for the church men to start inviting some friends, colleagues and neighbours. It’s easy enough to ask them and the worst they can say is, ‘no thanks’! So please look out for the next date. ✚

Re-ordering of Deane Church

A brief update

Thank you to each of the 57 people who completed a feed-back form recently. The responses have been collated and discussed by the Committee and the PCC. The supportive comments outnumbered the criticisms or reservations. Nevertheless, several constructive criticisms deserve careful reflection and we will spend more time on these points in order to give you a full and considered response, which will hopefully be very soon. In the mean time, please note what we said on the back of the feed-back form: "No decision has yet been taken as to whether work on the church will come before work on the Hall." ✚

Update on CYFA and Pathfinders

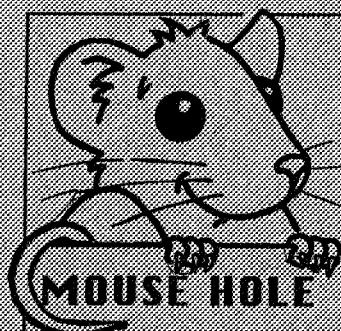
Pathfinders and CYFA met for the first time on Sunday 12th November (meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays). You will be delighted to know that both groups have started well.

Pathfinders meets during the 10.30 a.m. service in the choir vestry at the back of church. It is cosy (at the last meeting we had nine young people and three leaders!). We are studying the '10 Commandments' and are getting to grips with how we can apply God's word in our lives.

CYFA meets at 10 Salterton Drive at 7.45 p.m. on Sunday evenings. About 5/6 teenagers (year 10+) get together with their leaders to study God's word, eat cake and chat. Next term we plan to study one of Paul's letters.

All church family young people (and their friends) are welcome to attend these groups. Please speak to Dan or Angela Howard (01204 855112) for more information.

Both groups re-start on Sunday 14th January 2007.



Edible Snowmen

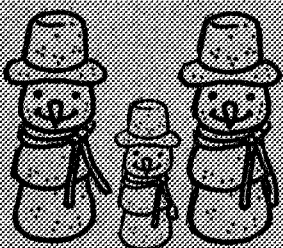
Make edible snowmen with large white marshmallows.



Stack three on top of each other holding them together through the centre with a cocktail stick. *(Be careful, the sticks are sharp, you may need an adult to help you)*

Cut a circle from edible rice paper to make a hat brim, thread onto the stick and finish with another marshmallow.

Make a scarf by plaiting together different coloured sweetie bootlaces.



Make tiny snowmen from mini marshmallows!

'Praise the Lord!

It is good to sing praise to our God, it is pleasant and right to praise him...

...He gives a command to the earth, and what he says is quickly done.

He spreads snow like a blanket and scatters frost like dust.

He sends hail like gravel, no one can endure the cold he sends.

Then he gives a command and the ice melts, he sends the wind and the water flows.'

-from Psalm 147

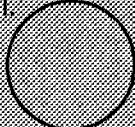


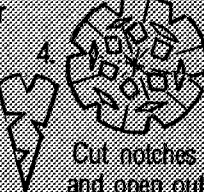
Snowflakes are six sided ice crystals

25cm

snow is about the same as 3cm rain

No two snowflakes are the same

CUT A SNOWFLAKE

1.  Cut a circle from paper
2.  Fold in half fold into 3.
3.  Fold in half again
4.  Cut notches and open out

CATCHING SNOWFLAKES
Put a sheet of dark paper in a freezer to chill. Take it outside as the snow falls and look at the snowflakes through a magnifying glass as they fall onto the paper.