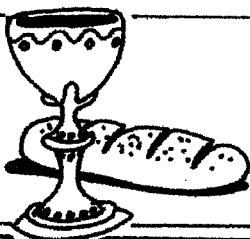


Deane Parish Magazine

March



2007



Parish Diary: March

	9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
Sunday 4th	Holy Communion (CW) Luke 6: 17-26 1 Cor 15: 1-11	Family Parade Jonah 1 & 2	Holy Communion (BCP) Luke 6: 17-26 1 Cor 15: 1-11
Sunday 11th	Holy Communion (BCP) Isaiah 41: 1-20 Luke 13: 1-9	Holy Communion Sunday School Jonah 3 & 4	Service of the Word Isaiah 41: 1-20 Luke 13: 1-9
Sunday 18th	Holy Communion (BCP) Isaiah 41: 21-42:9 Luke 15: 1-3 & 11b-31	Family Worship Ruth 1	Holy Communion Isaiah 41: 21-42:9 Luke 15: 1-3 & 11b-31
Sunday 25th	Holy Communion (BCP) Isaiah 42: 18-25 John 12: 1-8	Service of the Word Sunday School Ruth 2-4	Evening Prayer (BCP) Isaiah 42: 18-25 John 12: 1-8

Mothering Sunday Sunday 18th March

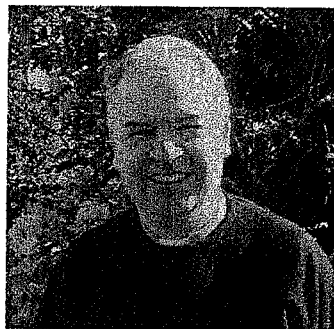
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The Rector Writes

A lesson in witness – from a blind man



Recently I was talking to someone whom I see regularly but who does not come to church. We chatted about work, football (of course), the weather, indeed I suppose that over time we have talked about nearly every subject under the sun, and yet rarely have we talked about Christian things, and I ask myself 'why this is?'

Of course I know I am not the only one. A lot of Christians stay relatively quiet about their faith when in the company of those who don't know Christ. There are probably lots of reasons for this. Sometimes it's because we are just too embarrassed. We don't want to be thought of as religious fanatics (although it would seem to be OK to be a football fanatic!). Maybe we just don't know how to get the conversation started on Christian things (although we don't have much trouble embarking into a conversation about the weather). Maybe its because we don't think that we know enough about Christian things to speak authoritatively about it (but how often have you heard people spout absolute piffle on other subjects – seemingly without any embarrassment). But maybe sometimes we also feel that we are not really good enough to tell other people about Christ. I mean who am I to tell other people about Christ when my life can appear at times to be in such a mess?

*So instead of being a
threat to our witness,
our faults and
shortcomings are the
very things upon
which our witness
hangs. If we were
perfect, we wouldn't
need Jesus.*

Of course when I think about it I realise that this kind of thinking is absurd. It's obvious that no Christian will ever have it all worked out in their life. Indeed, instead of being an excuse not to witness, the fact that we aren't good enough should be the focus of our witness. We tell people about Jesus because we know, better than anyone, how much we need him. When people throw our own inconsistencies in our faces that is just the opportunity to tell our own story of how Christ has forgiven us on the cross and how much we need his salvation every day. So instead of being a threat to our witness, our faults and shortcomings are the very things upon which our witness hangs. If we were perfect, we wouldn't need Jesus.

When I think of the essence of our statement as Christians to those who don't know Christ I always think of the blind man that healed by covering his eyes with mud and telling him to go wash in the pool of Siloam (John 9:1-34) . When the Jewish religious leaders got wind of it they started to question the man extensively – they wanted to know who had healed him, how had it happened, where the man who healed him was now, and even asking his parents to verify whether their son was in fact born blind. When they came to the man and pressed him with questions a second time, accusing Jesus of being a sinner for doing work on the Sabbath, the man replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" (John 9:25).



*I'd love to help dear - but I really must finish this sermon...
...my theme's the '200th Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery!'*

And that's our message isn't it? "I was blind, and now I can see; I was lost, and now I am found; I was guilty, and now I am forgiven; I was alone, and now I have a friend." It doesn't take a perfect life to spread that message – just a saved one.✝

Deane Parish Weekend Away

a mixture of worship, teaching and sharing God's word, fellowship, relaxation and generally getting to know one another.

- When?** from Friday evening 11th May to Sunday lunch (inclusive) 13th May, 2007
- Where?** Beechwood Court, Conwy, North Wales.
- Who?** Anyone of the church family
- How Much?** £81.50 per adult; 12 -17 year olds £64.80; 6-11yrs old £45.00; children under 6 -free.

The **theme** of the weekend is about church growth and the guest speaker is Rev Robin Gamble, an excellent speaker with a very down to earth approach and plenty of humour thrown in.

There will be an opportunity to **explore** the area on the Saturday afternoon and there are plenty of places to visit within a short radius of the centre.

The **cost** includes all meals (which we have been told on good authority are excellent). We are also intending to hire a mini bus to help with transport if the need arises - so please let us know if you would need such help.

Please think about coming on the weekend, and being a part of learning how we can grow as a church and as an individual in God's kingdom. If you would like to come there is a list on one of the tables at the back on church (if you had previously sign up on a list please do so again as the original list has got misplaced in a tidying up session!).

For more information please speak to Nola Kilsby (01204 492351).

My Malagasy Experience

By Joanne Cheetham

'Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.'

Romans 12:2

'Wow, what an incredible place!' That was my first and last impression of Madagascar. Last year I spent a month of my summer vacation as part of a **Tearfund Transform** team in a small town called Mandritsara in the North East region of Madagascar. Prior to departure our team of twelve young people from all over the United Kingdom attended an orientation weekend organised by Tearfund. This was to be our first and only(!) meeting before boarding the plane to take us thousands of miles across the world to start our work. At this orientation we discovered that out of all of the international teams, ours was the one that the staff knew least about as it was the first time that they had ever sent a group to Madagascar. We were told to expect the worst; no electricity, the most basic accommodation with only a mattress to sleep on, no running water and meals consisting of rice three times a day! In reality though, we were treated like kings. We were to be based at a local hospital called 'Hopitaly Vaovao Mahafaly' (translated as 'The hospital that brings good news').

When we arrived in the capital, Antananarivo, at midnight, after a twelve hour flight, we were enthusiastically greeted by the director of the programme, one of the doctors from the hospital, Dr. Francis. We spent our first night in a guesthouse on the hillside, overlooking the capital city. The reality of the journey on which we were about to embark still hadn't quite sunk in and I think we all felt a mixture of emotions, such as anticipation, excitement and fear. The next day we were up early (most Malagasy people rise between 5 and 6 each morning) and went to the local Baptist church in 'Tana. The custom in Madagascar is for visitors to the church to be introduced to the rest of the congregation and to contribute something towards the service. As we were to be visitors to many different churches over the coming weeks, we chose two songs to sing to our hosts to reinforce our message. These were 'Give Thanks' and 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God'. This first day in Madagascar was incredible and provided a taste of what was to come.

The next ay was certainly one of the toughest. We packed our bags and began our 26 hour 'taxi brousse' journey to our home for the next four weeks in Mandritsara. Upon arrival, (very dirty, smelly, tired and hungry) we were warmly greeted by Doctor Francis' wife, Sehen, and their two young daughters, Anjaratiana and Mahasoatiana. After a very substantial meal of ox pizza, rice soup and caramelized bananas with chocolate sauce(!) we were split up and taken to our host houses. I was placed in a house belonging to Francis' brother, Jimmy, his wife Marlis, and their young son, Mario, with three other girls.

The next four weeks were intense and extremely difficult at times but definitely worth all the hard work. Our purpose was to help with the vaccination programme at the hospital.

This meant that our first week was spent in Mandritsara, carrying out various tasks such as making anti-mosquito oil from eucalyptus plants, producing, weighing and bagging flour from corn, and building latrines from scratch. The next couple of weeks were spent traveling to various villages around the region, distributing

this journey was much more than a trip overseas. I feel as though I have matured emotionally and spiritually

the oil and flour, vaccinating and weighing babies. One particular journey sticks in my mind. The village was supposed to take six hours to reach by land rover, however, we managed to get stuck in the middle of a river in the dead of night and then managed to get lost (there are no road signs or street lights in the middle of Madagascar!), and had to pick up the chief of the nearest village to direct us. Subsequently it took us 16 hours to get there. This week was definitely the highlight of my trip. We slept on concrete floors under mosquito nets and had to walk up to the top of a large hill to find water. It was all worth it—to see the smiles and laughter of the children of the village when we played with them, blowing bubbles and teaching them how to skip and throw Frisbees. Upon arrival in each village we visited, before any medical work took place, one of the doctors, Haja, gathered the community together and preached the Gospel. This gave everyone the opportunity to find out more. It was inspiring to see the dedication of the hospital staff and their complete reliance on God. The results are proof of the wonderful work that these people are doing – we attended a baptism of 16 people in a river in the middle of nowhere, in a community that previously knew nothing of Jesus Christ and His promise.

For me, this journey was much more than a trip overseas. I feel as though I have matured emotionally and spiritually. I have a much better understanding of what is meant by evangelism and the concept of poverty has now really hit home. I will be forever grateful to every single person I came into contact with in Madagascar, for showing me what it really means to be gracious, have total trust and most importantly, live life by faith. I would also like to thank all those who supported me through this venture, by way of money, gifts or prayer. I couldn't have done it without your help. †

The miracle is working

In the December magazine was an article and leaflet about the Tearfund vision to stop the spread of HIV by 2015, in more than 40 of the poorest countries where they work. They asked us to start a miracle. To start this work they wanted to raise £2m by the end of 2007. Over £1.38m was raised in the first 12 weeks of the appeal! Tearfund have already been able to fund 10 new HIV programmes, set up by partner churches in Africa. 185,000 mothers will now be able to receive help in the next 10 years. Mothers like Shewaye Hailu in Ethiopia. She discovered she had HIV when she was 9 months pregnant. Through "Work a Miracle" she was given medication by a Tearfund partner project. Her daughter Lydia has not been infected with HIV. "I am very happy - I have a healthy child."

This story shows renewed hope that the "Work a Miracle" programme is able to bring to poor communities. Every day however 1,600 babies are born with HIV. The AIDS pandemic seems out of control. Tearfund's vision to stop the spread of HIV in some of the poorest places on earth appears very bold. Their bid to raise £60m by 2015 might seem impossible. But it is both realistic and possible - it costs £7 to protect an unborn baby from catching HIV from its mother.

If you want to know more about Tearfund work or support it financially you can pick up a leaflet from the back of church or go to their website: www.tearfund.org/miracle.

Freedom Day - March 25th 2007

By Alison Partington

Freedom Day on 25 March, the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade, marks an incredible victory for Christian campaigners, who mobilised a nation to overturn the most offensive injustice of their day.

By the eighteenth century the slave trade had become the bedrock of the world economy. But this 'wicked trade' was brutal and inhumane, and as the abolition campaign developed, the public became increasingly aware of its horrors. In one notorious incident the captain of the slave ship *Zong* threw 130 slaves overboard in order to claim insurance for their deaths.

Many Christians were slave-owners too, justifying their actions from the Bible. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel labeled slaves their property by using red-hot irons to brand the word 'Society' across their chests.

Yet other Christians were waking up to the power they had to change history. The kind of Christian activism that set millions free from slavery was born in part from the widespread revival in the 18th century. As people came closer to God, they grew more concerned about the injustice of slavery and their brothers and sisters who were suffering. Together, Christians from different denominations gathered to change public opinion and change the law.



Christians living in the age of transatlantic slavery believed that the appalling conditions in which slaves were captured, transported and treated were offensive to humanity and to God. Inspired and impassioned during the recent Christian revival, they saw it as part of their worship to destroy the structures that kept people in chains. They persevered, even though their task appeared impossible. William Wilberforce, who spearheaded the campaign in parliament, first tried to pass the Abolition Bill in 1789. He tried again 11 times and 11 times it was rejected.

But in 1807, the Bill was finally agreed in parliament – to a spontaneous eruption of three cheers. The Abolition Bill banned the slave trade in Britain, but it was another thirty years – three days before Wilberforce died – before slaves were set free throughout the British Empire. There were approximately 4 million slaves living when the Abolition Bill was passed on 25 March 1807.

We may think slavery is a thing of the past but today more than 12 million people live in forms of modern-day slavery, including forced labour on farms,

domestic service – even drug trafficking or sex work. People trafficking is a serious problem, third only to arms and drugs in the list of the lucrative incomes. It is an international money making business. Men, women and children are trafficked within their own countries and across international borders. Trafficking affects every continent and most countries.

Sergey is 27 years old and from Perm in Russia. In 2001 he saw an advert in a local newspaper for a job agency recruiting construction workers to work in Spain. The salary offered was US\$1,200 per month.- much more than his monthly salary of just \$200 and more than he could ever hope to earn in Perm. He applied to the agency who booked his plane ticket to Madrid on the condition that he would pay back the money when he started work.

On arrival in Spain, Sergey was picked up by a person from the "agency" who took his passport. He was taken to Portugal and forced to work on a construction site without pay for several months. The site was surrounded by barbed wire. Without his passport he was afraid that the Portuguese authorities would arrest him. One day Sergey managed to escape and begged his way to Germany. Because he did not have a passport the German authorities arrested him. He stated the police beat him and took away what little money he had before deporting him to Russia. Now back home, Sergey is traumatised by his experience. He suffered psychological problems and for several months was unable to work. He received no counseling or support to help him overcome his ordeal. Meanwhile his traffickers remain unpunished.

Prjua, aged 9 and her brother **Ajay**, a boy aged 7, lived on Thane train station in Mumbai, India with their parents who were both alcoholics. Prjua and Ajay were regular attendees of the Asha Deep Day Centre, run by Oasis India, where they learnt to read and write and were given the opportunity to play. After attending daily for 3-months they disappeared. The project staff went to look for them. Prjua and Ajay's father told how a man had offered money for them and that he had sold them for the equivalent of \$30. That was the last the father and the staff of Asha Deep Day Centre heard of them. In that area of Mumbai every 2-3 months children disappeared, kidnapped or sold into prostitution, forced labour, adoption or child sacrifice.

STOP THE TRAFFIK, is a global coalition of organisations working together to fight against people trafficking. The initiative will climax on March 25th 2007 'Freedom Day', with local events worldwide. The day will celebrate the anniversary of the end of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade; yet more importantly it will highlight the challenge for the future and the need to work towards

freedom from travesties such as people trafficking.

March 25th 2007 will be Freedom Day – not just as a celebration of history, but a moment to be inspired by the champions of history of the past to help fight for freedom from the bondage of slavery through people trafficking. ✦

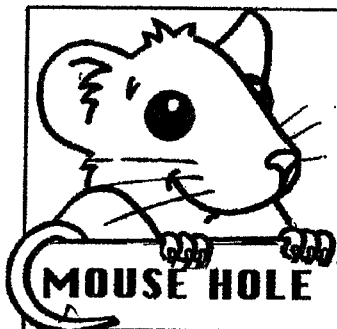
Update from Blackrod

By Elizabeth Plant

Elizabeth Plant continues to enjoy her time at St Katharine's, Blackrod, where she is on a four-month placement as part of her training for OLM (Ordained Local Ministry). She takes part in many of the services there. As reported in the February magazine, St Katharine's is a much 'higher' church than St Mary's. All their services are Eucharists (communion). The clergy wear vestments rather than cassock and surplice. They have a crucifer and acolytes. Everything is done with a great deal of ceremony. Elizabeth has acted as deacon on every Sunday in February. The central task of being the deacon is to read the gospel. The gospel is carried in at the start of the service. Then during the gradual hymn there is a procession led by the crucifer and acolytes to a point half way down the aisle where the gospel is read. The deacon also prepares the altar before the Eucharistic prayer and clears away after everyone has taken communion. Being the deacon also involves leading parts of the service such as the invitation to say the prayer of confession, asking everyone to offer a sign of peace at the Peace and giving the words of dismissal at the end.

St Katherine's Church building too is unlike Deane. It was completely reordered six years ago. The altar was moved forward to the chancel steps. The back of the church was refurbished to provide offices and an upper and lower meeting room. The church is therefore open for a great deal of each day. The rooms are not only used by the church, but also by the wider Blackrod community. The village of Blackrod is a lively place with three primary schools and lots of shops. There is close cooperation with the Methodist and Roman Catholic churches.

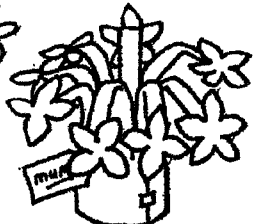
Elizabeth is looking forward to seeing us all in May, but in the meantime she knows that she is learning a great deal about another part of the Church of England. ✦



THANK YOU MUM
 Thank you Mum
 for all you do,
 For all your
 love and care,
 For helping me
 to tie my shoes,
 And brush and comb
 my hair.



Flower Cards



To make a 3D flower card, cut strips 1.5cm wide and about 12cm long, from an A4 size sheet of thin green card or thick paper.



Cut lots of large flowers from coloured

paper and stick one onto the end of each strip. Curl round with the flowers facing inwards and stick. Write a message on a tag and stick to the pot.



For cuddles when
 I'm frightened,
 For hugs when
 I am sad,
 For loving me
 when I am good,
 And *still* loving me
 when I am bad!



For teaching me
 about Jesus,
 Of how he loves
 me too,
 Thank you Mum
 for loving me,
 I LOVE YOU!

Look up the Bible verses on the tags to find out which flowers are for which mother.

To _____
 love **Samuel**
 1 Samuel 1:20



To _____
 love **Isaac**
 Genesis 17:19

To _____
 love **Joseph**
 Genesis 30:24

