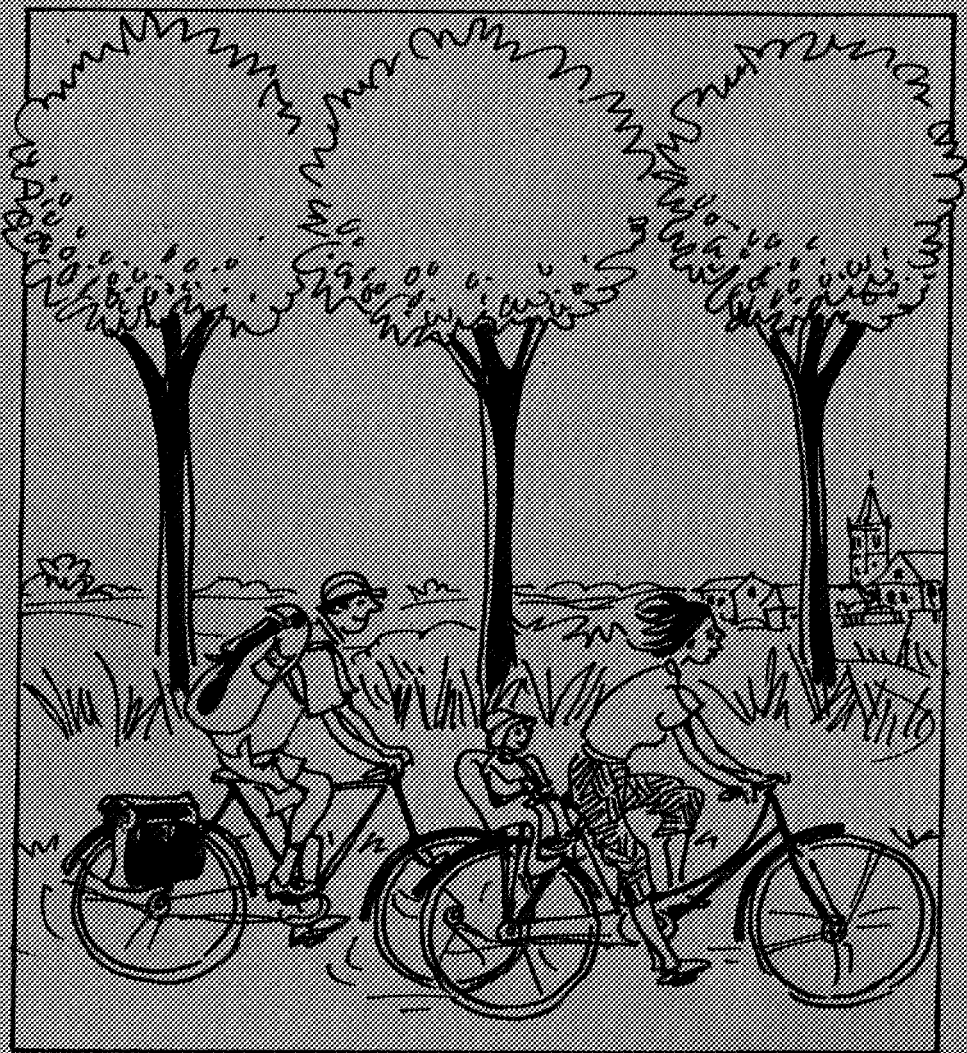


Deane Parish Magazine

July



2007



St Mary's Diary: July

	9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
Sunday 1st	Holy Communion (CW) Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Luke 9: 51-62	Family Parade Isaiah 40:1-11 1 Peter 5:1-11	Holy Communion (BCP) Isaiah 40:1-11
Sunday 8th	Holy Communion (BCP) Galatians 6: 1-10 Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20	Holy Communion Sunday School Mark 8: 27-30	Service of the Word Galatians 6: 1-10 Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20
Sunday 15th	Holy Communion (BCP) Amos 3: 1-15 Luke 10: 25-37	Family Worship (Baptism) Mark 9: 2-13	Holy Communion (CW) Amos 3: 1-15 Luke 10: 25-37
Sunday 22nd	Holy Communion (BCP) Amos 5: 1-15 Luke 10: 38-42	Service of the Word Sunday School Mark 14: 27-31, 66-72	Evening Prayer (BCP) Amos 5: 1-15 Luke 10: 38-42
Sunday 29th	Holy Communion (BCP) Amos 9: 1-15 Luke 11: 1-13	Holiday Club Service	Praise Service

St Mary the Virgin
Junction Road
Deane, Bolton
BL3 4LT

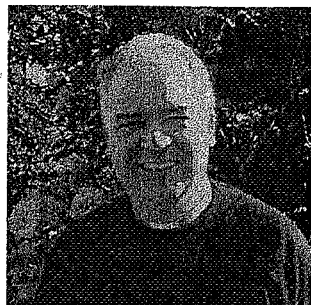
(for contacts,
please see back page)

Sermon

A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon. "How do you know what to say?" he asked. "Why, God tells me," replied his father, hoping to teach the boy about listening faith. "Oh. Then why do you keep crossing things out?"

The Rector Writes

Welcome to the Adventure



By the time you read this Dan will have been priested in the cathedral. If you don't know what this means basically it is that when Dan was ordained last July, he could do everything a Church of England minister can do, except marry people and consecrate the bread and wine at a service of Holy Communion, oh and say the blessing (there are probably other things he can't do but I can't recall them at the moment). But now that Dan has served his probationary year, and in spite of my report about him to the bishop (only joking), he is to be ordained priest. So from the beginning of July he will be able to marry couples and consecrate the elements at the communion service and give the blessing.

It just so happens that Dan's priesting also coincides with me celebrating my twenty years in the ministry. Was it really twenty years ago since my ordination service in Carlisle cathedral? To me it doesn't seem all that long ago. And yet I can remember Jean sitting near the front row in the cathedral with the children, the two eldest but toddlers, and Hannah still a baby in arms. Yep, it is that long ago.

I've had many privileges in my ministry and I suppose one of them has been to take an ordinands' retreat and then preach in the cathedral at their ordination service. I remember that my text on that occasion was from the end of John's Gospel, when Jesus tells Peter to "feed my sheep." I think though that if I was asked to preach again at an ordination service I might choose the text from 2 Corinthians

*...how do you
know if you are
working in
God's power?*

3:5 "Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God." Why? Because I find that text mightily assuring, and I hope you do so also. Because you see

those words found in Paul's letter are not just for so-called full time professionals like Dan and I, but they are for all Christians.

This, I believe, should come as welcome news to all those who have exhausted themselves trying to do good things, even good things for God. You see even these can wear us out if we do them trusting in our own strength. What we do relying on our own resources and our own ingenuity sometimes seems good because we are doing it for God, but unless it is *of* God and *from* God, it will not be ultimately successful. All great Christian endeavours fall into this trap at some time. We want to control the outcome.

How do you know when you are working under your own power even if you are working for God? You get tired, you burn out, or the opposite – you become very successful and start taking pride in your success. You begin repeating what works over and over again, because you found a formula that will work regardless. This is what the Bible calls “walking in the flesh,” and in spite of how good it looks, it will burn up in the end like a big pile of dry wood, hay, or straw. (1 Corinthians 3:11-15)

And how do you know if you are working in God's power? Well often you find yourself at risk; you find yourself way over your head; you're not completely sure of what you are doing; you're acutely aware of your own weaknesses; you realise that you have ventured into a place where, if God doesn't show up, you know that you are a dead duck. And yet, believe it or not, this is what the Bible calls “walking in the Spirit.”

Paul wrote that God “... is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20,21). I take this to mean that if we go out in our own strength seeking to do what we want to do we will fall a long way short of what God would want to do through us. But if we step out in faith and believe in Someone other than ourselves and what we can control, we can discover a whole new resource of power available to us from God.

I guess that is what I would want to say to all those being priested at Manchester Cathedral, because that's what I constantly need to tell myself. And I expect that is what you need to hear to. So, my message is, “Step out in faith, and welcome to the adventure!”✠



Deane Church Holiday Bible Club
Junior Heroes
Reception - Year 6

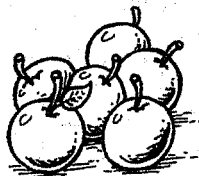
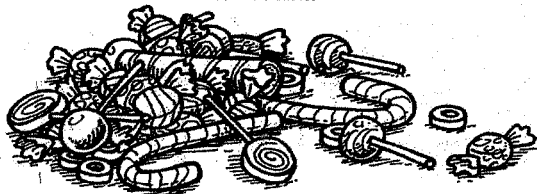
Monday 23 - Friday 27 July 10.00-11.55 a.m.
Deane Church Memorial Hall, Junction Road

Places are limited, so book early (by 13th July)
Contact Dan or Angela Howard (01204 855112)
for a registration form

We invite all Junior Heroes and their families to the
10.30 a.m. Service on Sunday 29 July at St Mary's Church

REGISTER NOW!

DRAMA, CRAFTS, TALKS,
STORIES FROM THE BIBLE,
GAMES.... LOTS OF FUN!



Pathfinder Families' Picnic

20th May 2007

By Angela Howard (Pathfinder leader)

What fun we had at Rivington! The weather was remarkably good after a very wet Saturday. Pathfinders (11-14 year olds) enjoyed a fabulous afternoon out with their families, Pathfinder leaders and some extra members of the congregation, brought along to help with games and 'entertainment'. There were about 30 of us in total. We had a picnic in Liverpool Castle, which provided some shelter

Quotes from the Pathfinders

'It was a good day. I remember when me and Danny went out of bounds. Also we had a picnic. There was a castle which was big and old.' Tom

'I really enjoyed the games and picnic'. Danny

'I enjoyed doing the wide game. But I got really tired'. Andrew

'I enjoyed paying rounders'. Laura

It was great to spend some time relaxing and having fun together'. Karen

from the wind, and gave us an easily recognisable base for the afternoon. It was also a wonderful place for the younger family members to enjoy hide and seek, and play less boisterous games. 'Auntie Joan' had made the most incredible chocolate cake to share, much to the delight of Malcolm who had come along 'sans picnic'! After the food, there were games for everyone, and those who wanted to relax and chat were able to stay at the Castle. There

was rounders, volleyball (with the net strung between two trees and a friendly dog who found the ball a little too interesting), and then the highlight of the afternoon 'Coastguards and Smugglers'. This is type of wide game, that involves capturing smugglers and putting them into jail, all taking part within a marked area in woodland. The trees helped to provide cover and the long grass was an excuse to crawl on tummies! The Pathfinders and their family members enjoyed this game so much we played it three times. It was probably the best exercise the dads have had in a long time!

The question asked by the Pathfinders at the end of the afternoon was, 'when can we do that again?' It was a good afternoon for the parents to chat with each other and we spent almost four hours outside.✱

Sunday School and Youth Groups

The last Sunday School of the Summer term is on the 22nd July. The last Voltage and Element are during the final week of the school term. Sunday Schools and CYFA re-start on 9 September.

- Sunday School (age 3-11) your classes starts at 10.30 a.m. and you meet in the Memorial Hall.
- Pathfinders (age 11-14), remember to go to the 10.30 a.m. service. You will stay in for the first part of the service and then go to a room at the back of church for your class.
- CYFA meets at 10 Salterton Drive from 7.45—9.30 p.m.
- Voltage (age 11-14) meets 7.15—9.00 p.m. on Fridays in the Memorial Hall. First session in Autumn term is on the 7 September.
- Element (age 14-18) meets 8.00-9.30 p.m. on Thursdays in the Memorial Hall. First session in Autumn term is on the 6 September.

All contact details on the back page

With Lots of thanks.....

Elaine & Bryan would like to say a big thank you for the good wishes, cards, beautiful flowers and gifts received on the occasion of our Silver Wedding. It was lovely to share our celebrations with family and friends and we hope that everyone who managed to join us enjoyed the day as much as we did. Donations have been made to Bolton Hospice, EMBU and Oxfam.

The week ended in a two night luxurious stay in the Lake District (something we are not accustomed to). The hotel, weather and food were perfect, a big thank you to "The Friends at Deane" (whoever you are) for the champagne and chocolates on arrival. It gave us a real taste of how the other half live.

The past 25 years have been filled with sunshine and showers and we give thanks for the many blessings in our lives and the love and support of our family and friends. We continue to be strong in our faith and trust and hope in the plan God has for our lives. The prayers and encouragement we have received over the many years from our Church family have meant more than words can say and we give thanks to you from the bottom of our hearts. God is our strength and refuge, a very present help in times of trouble - all we can say is Thank Goodness for God!

All Our Love
Bryan & Elaine xxx

☺ The River ☺

Three men were hiking through a forest when they came upon a large, raging violent river. Needing to get on the other side, the first man prayed, "God, please give me the strength to cross the river." Poof! God gave him big arms and strong legs and he was able to swim across in two hours, having almost drowned twice. After witnessing that, the second man prayed, "God, please give me strength - and some tools to cross the river." Poof! God gave him a rowboat, strong arms and strong legs and he was able to row across in an hour after almost capsizing once. Seeing what happened to the first two men, the third man prayed: "God, please give me the strength, tools and the intelligence to cross this river." Poof! He was turned into a woman. She checked the map, hiked one hundred yards up stream and walked across the bridge.

8,760 hours in Deane Parish

by Dan Howard

How can we assess my first year as curate? Perhaps we should borrow from the business world and use some objective measures, like this:

CURATE'S ACTIVITY REPORT:

Regular services - Preaching: 41, Leading: 62
Occasional services- Baptism: 1, Funeral: 11, Wedding: 0.1
School assemblies - 17
Committees - PCC, Witness Cttee, Chapter, Deanery Synod
Groups (leader) - CYFA, Communion Preparation
Groups (occasional/ssistant) - Confirmation Preparation,
Bereavement Support, Pathfinders, Voltage

Somehow, when you put it like this, it's not very impressive. I'm sure the list doesn't add up to 8,760 hours... although come to think of it, some of the PCC meetings have gone on a bit. Anyway, this is a completely different kind of job. I used to work in Personnel management, and I have seen the value of setting objectives, but somehow it misses the point here.

For example - I didn't realise what it would be like when going to church is actually work. Well, slightly work-ish, but then again, it's not work at all. Confusing, really!

So, go on, how would you want to assess the curate's first year? "Oh, he's a nice young man!" (OK I'm kidding myself). But if you're not sure whether you like the latest curate, then you should really feel sorry for Ian - he's having to train me up, and so far he probably has had to put in more work than he's saved.

I think I should turn the question around - give you my assessment of Deane Parish. An article about the church is much more interesting than an article about me. But here again, I don't think the statistics tell the real story. It's not really about how many people come to such-and-such a service... you could always find a bigger church, but would that mean it's better?

First things first: Deane church has got its main focus on exactly the right thing, which as far as I can tell is the most important priority of any

church. And that is, to be devoted to Jesus Christ and the message of good news He has brought. That may seem obvious... but actually some churches manage to lose track of it! We have a good number of people who are serving God and passing on the Gospel message, and we have a Rector who is 100% committed to keeping that focus, and we should thank God for that.

But I think we have some challenges to face. Having moved here from London, I was struck by the inward focus of communities in these parts. This is not better or worse, it's just the way things are here. For example, many people don't move more than a few miles from their parents' homes. Or you might easily come across someone who has frequented the same pub for their whole adult life. Or someone who teaches in the school they once attended. Where I come from, all that would be extremely rare.

Therefore at Deane church we should recognise the kind of culture that surrounds us, and perhaps guard against some of the unhealthy church attitudes that might arise. So, instead of expecting new people to fit into our existing arrangements, we can show them love by adapting what we do to fit their needs, and by making a point of speaking to newcomers. Or, instead of focusing exclusively on the group of life-long friends we've always had, we can show love to all kinds of people in the church by finding out about them – even just asking their name, for a start. You know, I've asked a lot of people to tell me their name since I came here, and as long as I remember it by the 2nd or 3rd time of asking, they never get offended!

The reason I've focused on these examples is because I believe that a church, in a nutshell, is a group of people who Christ has chosen to belong to each other, because we need each other. Our job is to build each other up in our faith and our day to day lives. So I want to encourage people to do that more and more.

So, as you assess the curate's first year, I hope you'll measure me by the way I have encouraged (or not) the people at St Mary's to build each other up in Christ. Whether I'm preaching or just having an informal conversation, my goal should be to point people to Christ and help them in their faith. Unfortunately, I fear that this paints me in a worse light than the statistics above!... ♦

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2007

By Phil Ray

Christian Aid's motto, 'we believe in life before death', indicates a commitment to give hope of 'a life' to individuals and groups by means of self-help schemes. As a secondary role Christian Aid also provides support in emergency situations.

Everyone is very busy and nobody enjoys house-to-house collections but it is one way in which people can show that they care about what is happening around the world.

Unfortunately this year's collection was disappointing as only half of the rounds were covered despite the efforts of those who did help (especially those who covered 3 rounds). To date it looks as if the total will be about £2150. This compares with £2450 last year and £2850 in 2005.

After 26 years (and as we may not be in the area next year) it is time for someone else to act as coordinator and inject new life into this project. Please consider whether this is a task that you could undertake.

Many thanks to the collectors, donors and those who have helped behind the scenes (counting out envelopes, counting the money etc) and also to those who have supported me and given encouragement for Christian Aid Week for this and previous years.

NORTHERN WOMEN'S CONVENTION

Saturday 13 October

Armitage Centre, Manchester

**A day specifically for women, with teaching talks and seminars.
A great time of learning together, and mutual encouragement.**

**Angela Howard is planning to go and would love to order
tickets for a group of women within the church.**

**Please speak to Angela for more information (01204 855112)
website: www.londonmensconvention.co.uk/nwo_home**

St Mary's Church Directory

Team Rector:	Ian Mainey	01204 61819
Assistant Curate:	Dan Howard	01204 855112
Retired Clergy:	Joyce Mitson	01204 655081
Readers:	David Dewhurst	01204 651347
	Nola Kilsby	01204 665700
Wardens:	Les Kilsby	01204 665700
	Craig Mochrie	01204 652324
	Beccy Rutter	01942 814946
PCC Lay Chair:	Jane Hampson	01204 848433
Honorary Treasurer:	Les Kilsby	01204 665700
Honorary Secretary:	Bryan Shephard	01942 817288
PCC Sub-Committee Chairs:		
Nurture:	Charles Winder	01204 841947
Service:	Nola Kilsby	01204 665700
Witness:	Dan Howard	01204 855112
Worship:	Beccy Rutter	01942 814946
Archivist:	Rodney Howard	01204 652417
Flowers:	Josie Crompton	01204 655964
Gift Aid Secretary:	Les Kilsby	01204 665700
Handicraft Group:	Dorothy Benyon	01204 417794
Ladies Guild:	Brenda Dixon	01204 653333
	Pat Sewell	01204 61278
Magazine Editor:	Angela Howard	01204 855112
Memorial Hall Bookings:	-	-
Memorial Hall Caretaker:	-	-
Music Group:	Beccy Rutter	01942 814946
Organist:	Lisa Atherton	01204 840741
Parent and Toddler Group:	Jean Mainey	01204 61819
Verge:	Josie Crompton	01204 655964
Sunday Schools:		
Climbers (age 3-7):	Lynda Smith	01204 62093
Explorers (age 7-11):	Paula Small	01204 650981
Pathfinders (age 11-14):	Angela Howard	01204 855112
CYFA (age 14-19)	Dan Howard	01204 855112
Youth Groups:		
Voltage (age 11-14)	Karen Greenhalgh	07821 304564
Element (age 14-18)	Karen Greenhalgh	07821 304564
Uniformed Organisations:		
Rainbows:	Margaret Latchford	01204 657101
Brownies:	Anne Calderbank	01204 398206
	Liz Valentine	01204 651692
Guides:	Carole Baxendale	01204 419167

Please inform the editor of any errors or omissions