

Deane Parish Magazine

August / September 2007



St Mary's Diary: August

	9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
Sunday 1st	Holy Communion (CW) Running on Empty (1)	Family Parade Running on Empty (1)	(No evening service)
Sunday 8th	Holy Communion (BCP) Running on Empty (2)	Holy Communion Running on Empty (2)	(No evening service)
Sunday 15th	Holy Communion (BCP) Running on Empty (3)	Family Worship (Baptism) Running on Empty (3)	(No evening service)
Sunday 22nd	Holy Communion (BCP) Running on Empty (4)	Service of the Word Running on Empty (4)	(No evening service)

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.londonmensoconvention.co.uk/nwc_home

St Mary's Diary: September

	9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
Sunday 2nd	Holy Communion (CW) Jeremiah 2:4-13 Luke 6:17-38	Family Parade Acts 18:1-23	Holy Communion (BCP) Jeremiah 2:4-13 Luke 6:17-38
Sunday 9th	Holy Communion (BCP) Jeremiah 18:1-11 Luke 9:18-36	Holy Communion Sunday School Acts 21:1-16	Service of the Word Jeremiah 18:1-11 Luke 9:18-36
Sunday 16th	Holy Communion (BCP) Jeremiah 4:11-28 Luke 13:10-30	Family Worship (Baptism) Acts 23:12-22	Holy Communion (CW) Jeremiah 4:11-28 Luke 13:10-30
Sunday 23rd	Holy Communion (BCP) Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 Luke 18:9-30	Service of the Word Sunday School Acts 25:13-26:32	Evening Prayer (BCP) Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 Luke 18:9-30
Sunday 30th	Holy Communion (BCP) Jeremiah 32:1-15 Luke 22:39-54	Service of the Word Sunday School Acts 28:28-31; 8:11-15; 27:13-44; 27:1	Praise Service

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

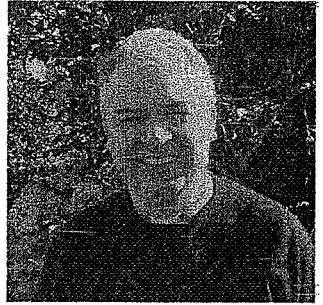
(for contacts,
please see back page)

Bert was the only
one who felt
comfortable with
the new Perspex
pews.



The Rector Writes

My shortest article ever



Well that's a strange title but it succinctly sums up my article this month. You see my article this month is really no article at all. In fact what it really is could be described more as is a preface. You see I want to write this month on three issues and not one. And each issue warrants an article in its own right. And as we are a bit thin on the ground with regards submitted articles this month I thought that this would make the ideal opportunity to cover each of these issues which have been on my mind, for I could not cover them in greater depth than if I tried to deal with them in just one article.

So what are the issues I want to write about? Well they are the issues which have been at the forefront of political debate over these last few weeks, and they are, the family, education, and gambling.

So let my brief preface come to an end, and let the articles commence. By the way I do not in way pretend that these are the last words on these topics. I'm sure the debate is going to rumble on and on, and I guess that not all of you will agree with what I have to say. But first—a joke.

Rough

A little girl asked her mother, "Can I go outside and play with the boys?"

Her mother replied, "No, you can't play with the boys, they're too rough."

The little girl thought about it for a few moments and asked, "If I can find a smooth one, can I play with him?"

"It's the economy stupid."

In case you don't know it that little catchphrase came to encapsulate the 1992 American Presidential Election. Bill Clinton was running against George W Bush. Bush was considered unbeatable because of foreign policy developments such as the end of the Cold War and the Persian Gulf War. The phrase, coined actually by a man called James Carville, refers to the notion that Clinton was a better choice because Bush had not adequately addressed the economy, which was undergoing a recession at the time.

In order to keep the campaign on-message, Carville hung a sign in Bill Clinton's Little Rock campaign headquarters with the following three points :

- Change vs. more of the same
- The economy, stupid
- Don't forget health care.

Although the sign was intended for an internal audience of campaign workers, the phrase became something of a slogan for the Clinton election campaign. Clinton's campaign used the recession to successfully unseat George H.W. Bush, whose approval ratings had been in the 80% range one year prior.

The phrase is often repeated in American political culture, usually preceded by the word "it's", and with commentators sometimes substituting a different word in place of "economy". e.g., "It's the trade deficit, stupid!"

Now all of this came to mind because listening to the politicians on the TV and the radio they could have used the catchphrase "It's the family stupid!" because this is the latest battlefield between the two major political parties.

It has all arisen because Ian Duncan Smith presented a document outlining a number of the problems within our society, and suggesting some ways in which those problems could be tackled. One of the major problems that Ian Duncan Smith highlighted was that many children in Britain today are being brought up in emotional poverty, deprived of the security that flows from a stable family relationship. It pointed out for instance that statistical evidence would appear to suggest that those raised in a family structured on marriage achieved significantly higher results at school.

Of course when you state things such as this it doesn't take somebody long to find someone who has become a high achiever who was brought up in a single household. Also when you begin to talk about tax breaks for those who are married it won't be long before the word "discrimination" is used, and as we all know that "discrimination", or the lack of it, is the new orthodoxy, "discrimination" is out, "diversity" is in. And finally of course there will be some who will tell you of those who are brought up in abusive family situations where both adults were married.

There is of course another problem in the whole political debate. Politicians don't like to get involved in such debates, they don't really like people telling how they should live their lives. Why? Because they are scared that they will be caught out as hypocrites. For instance if they say that, for example, marriage is best, what are they going to say if one of their own party members is caught in the act of infidelity?

Of course I would guess that not many of you will need to know where I stand on this subject. And with regards to the charge of hypocrisy I just want to say that with regards to this topic I find the unpopular doctrine of original sin curiously liberating. The doctrine of original sin teaches us that none of us are perfect, that moral weakness is a part of our human condition. It means that the fact that we don't always do what we say does not undermine what we say we should do!

Marriage is an ideal. God gave it out of love, for love, and for the nurture of children. Are there bad marriages? Well of course there are. That's human nature. Each one of us is forever struggling in the real world to live up to Gods ideals. This is what makes us human. But the fact that we are all flawed human beings is not enough reason for denying that marriage is best for children nor for divorcing public policy from our ideals - providing of course there is also ample compassion for those who, for various reasons (for example through circumstance) are unable to attain those ideals.†

Eight Changes to Makes Churches grow

(taken from the Church of England Newspaper)

1. Planting new congregations - including sending out church plants to new areas and laying on additional services.
2. Less formal, more relaxed worship.
3. Better provision for children and young people.
4. Better welcome at the front door.
5. Better small groups and pastoral care.
6. Lay on evangelism courses like Alpha and Emmaus.
7. More lay involvement in leadership.
8. Improvements to church buildings.

Marks of a Healthy Church

(from www.re.jesus.com)

1. Energized by faith
2. Outward looking focus.
3. Seeks to find what God wants.
4. Faces the cost of change and growth.
5. Operates as a community.
6. Makes room for all.
7. Does a few things and does them well.

“Education, education, education”

Well I guess it doesn't need me to remind you where this political catchphrase comes from. In 1997 Tony Blair promised the electorate that “Education, education, education” would be his party's main aims. And in 2000 Tony Blair again told his party at their annual conference in Brighton, “Line one of the contract in the next manifesto will be a promise to increase the share of our national wealth spent on education in the next parliament,” And repeating his rallying call from the last general election - in preparation for the next, Mr Blair promised that his “government's passion” would be “education, education and education. Then, now and in the future.”

Just before he stepped down as Prime Minister Tony Blair delivered a speech at the Mansion House in London. In that speech he again spoke about the need to make Britain's schools “world class” and said there's “too much potential untapped, too much talent wasted”.

Well I would guess that with reference to this remark most of the political parties would probably be united, and so would I.

Education is I believe at the centre of both the Christian and Jewish faiths. That is why there are so many Christian and Jewish schools. After all in the Old Testament we find these words in the Book of Deuteronomy, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and might”. And then almost immediately come these words, “you shall teach these things diligently to your children, speaking of them when you sit at home or walk in on the way, when you lie down and when you rise”.

The Judeo/Christian religions are religions of education, faiths in which study is as important as prayer. Why? Because to defend a country you will need an army, but to defend a civilization you need schools. So our heroes should be the teachers who work in our schools, our citadels the schools to which we send our children, and our passion should be education and the life of the mind.

In human civilization there are three visions of society. One is the vision that says "Give everyone an equal share of wealth". This is the philosophy behind Communism, and it has been shown not to work. The second vision says "Give everyone an equal share of power". But history tells us that this vision can only work in small communities, such as the ancient state of Athens. The third vision is the one that says "Give everyone an equal share in education, equal access to knowledge, skills, opportunity, aspiration, life chances, and dignity". This is the way that works. The other ways don't work because with wealth and power the more you share the less you have. But with knowledge the more you share the more you have. That's why you can share it equally without anyone losing.

But frankly to achieve this will require more than the word of politicians. It will require more than the effort of those already involved in the world of education. It will require all of us to play our part. If parents do not support their children's education a school will fail. If a community does not uphold its schools then its schools will fail. And if within our culture we do not support schools, they will fail.

It is within schools that a society hands on its values to the next generation, and that demands effort from all of us. So let every church, every community, celebrate its schools, honour its teachers, and praise their achievements.

"Education, education, education". Yes it is true that our children deserve the best from our schools. After all they only have the one chance. But it is also true that our schools deserve the best from us. †

Holiday church

A family on holiday went to visit a strange church. Afterwards, father criticized the sermon, mother thought the organist had played atrociously, and the daughter disliked the choir's choice of anthems. Then the small boy of the family ventured: "But it was a good show for a pound, don't you think, Dad?"

"Regeneration may be a "better way" to help deprived areas than allowing them to open Las Vegas-style casinos."

Who said that? Our new Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, and in so doing basically issuing the death knell on the idea of the government sanctioning super casinos.

I must say what really struck me was how disappointed the MP and the councilors were for the ward in Manchester in which the casino was going to be built. For them this was the end of any hope of renewal in this socially disadvantaged area of Manchester. I must say that I have a measure of sympathy for them. For those of you who have been in central Manchester one can see the evidence of much investment and regeneration. But what about the less fashionable areas of the city?

The question is how is regeneration to be brought to such deprived areas, and is gambling the way forward? When word came to William Wilberforce that the King had given his assent to the Bill to end the slave trade he asked his cousin, Henry Thornton, what they should abolish next. Thornton, an earnest Christian replied, "the Lottery".

We may have made some progress over slavery and racism but we appear to have stayed in the past with regards to gambling. Perhaps in two hundred years time people will look back on us with amazement that we tolerated Government sponsored betting. But I suppose the The Lottery is now embedded in our national life providing essential funding for public projects (as well as projects that I for one would have thought should be funded from general taxation revenue).

All of this has of course led to the situation where, a few months ago, casinos were being offered to seventeen towns and cities with the notion that this will assist some of our poorest communities in their bid to renew their common life. In the end Manchester won the bid, though it was still being disputed by Blackpool when the Gordon Brown made his sudden announcement.

So, was Gordon Brown right to pull the plug on the super casino in

Manchester, or was the local MP right in saying that it should have gone ahead?

Some of you may know the story in the Bible of two prostitutes coming to Solomon with a baby, each claiming that they were the mother of the child. They both made a very plausible case and Solomon was left to judge between them. When he called for a sword to cut the child in two the true mother immediately gave up her claim.

That was enough for Solomon to discover the truth, to judge in her favour and give her the baby. It has to be admitted that Solomon proposed a very bizarre method to reach such a decision.

But this strange story maybe give us a principle to work on with regards to the super casino in Manchester. Why don't we let Gordon Brown and the local MP play a game of poker to decide whether the casino should get built or not. If Gordon Brown wins, it doesn't get built, and if the local MP wins the casino does get built. Of course I can hear some of you saying now, "That is a truly bizarre suggestion!" But think about it for a moment. If you reject gambling as a bad way to make decisions about our cities, its worth asking why some people think its such a good way to regenerate them! :

Practise makes perfect

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bed-time story. From time to time, she reached up to touch his wrinkled cheek. Then she would stroke her own cheek. Finally she interrupted: "Grand-dad, did God make you?" "Yes, dear," he answered, "God made me a long time ago." "Oh," she paused, "Grand-dad, did God make me too?" "Yes, indeed, dear," he said, "God made you just a little while ago." Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

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
Verger:	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
CYPA (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