

Deane Parish Magazine

December

2007



January

2008

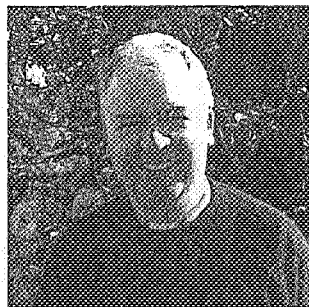


St Mary's Diary: December

	9.00 a.m.	10.30 a.m.	6.00 p.m.
Sunday 2nd	Holy Communion (CW) Isaiah 52: 1-12 Acts 13: 1-12	Family Parade Luke 23: 33-43	Holy Communion (BCP) Isaiah 52: 1-12 Acts 13: 1-12
Sunday 9th	Holy Communion (BCP) 1 Kings 18: 17-39 Acts 17: 16-34	Holy Communion Sunday School Matthew 24: 36-44	Service of the Word 1 Kings 18: 17-39 Acts 17: 16-34
Sunday 16th	Holy Communion (BCP) Isaiah 5: 8-30 Acts 20: 16-38	<i>Family Carol Service & Nativity</i> Matthew 2: 1-12	Holy Communion (CW) Isaiah 5: 8-30 Acts 20: 16-38
Sunday 23rd	Holy Communion (BCP) Micah 5: 2-5a Luke 1: 39-45 & 56	Service of the Word Micah 5: 2-5a Luke 1: 39-45 & 56	<i>Carols by Candlelight</i>
Monday 24th	CHRISTMAS EVE <i>Midnight Communion Service 11.00 p.m.</i> Zechariah: Revelation 11: 1-8		
Tuesday 25th	CHRISTMAS DAY <i>Holy Communion 8.00 a.m.</i> Isaiah 65: 17-25; Philippians 2: 5-11 <i>Family Service 10.00 a.m.</i> Luke 2: 1-20		
Sunday 31st	Holy Communion (BCP) Isaiah 63: 7-9 Matthew 2: 13-23	Holy Communion Isaiah 63: 7-9 Matthew 2: 13-23	No Evening Service

The Rector Writes

We Serve God By Serving Others



Recently in one of my sermons in church I spoke on 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15, a passage in which Paul warns those in the church who were idle and who were living off other Christians. One of the points I made was that in every church all members are willing, there are some who are willing to work in the life of the church, and some who are willing to let them!

I'm glad to say that I have had quite a few people telling me that they found the sermon helpfully challenging. Maybe there are some out there, I don't know, who found it unhelpfully challenging. But the strange thing was that as I came to this sermon I had already been thinking about this whole subject of service. I think that it began when I got a flyer through the post from Christian Focus Publications (a bit of publicity there). They periodically send me an update of the books they are publishing and I normally find it very interesting. Some of the books are new whilst others are reprints of old classics which other publishers have let drop from their publication list. My eye happened to light on a book by Helen Rosevere. I happened to have the privilege when I was a student of meeting Helen Rosevere as I had invited her to come and speak at our Christian Union, which she graciously consented to do. Helen had been a missionary in the Congo and had undergone terrible personal ordeals when she had been captured by rebels in the Congo uprising. She was no plastic saint, but a tough missionary doctor, and yet I was still amazed at the grace she displayed in her Christian life having undergone such ordeals and how she still shone for Jesus. I remember to this day just how challenged we all were with what she had to say, and I began to realise in

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(for contacts,
please see back page)

hearing her that my Christian life was not to be led as a hobby, which could be taken up and put down depending upon how I felt, but was to be lived day by day in sacrificial service.

But back to the book. It was the title that caught my eye, "Living Sacrifice", and the blurb underneath began with these words "What place does sacrifice have today?" Well the answer to that question is simple isn't? Very little. I am not surprised that this book has been dropped by the original publishers because I bet that it didn't sell very well. Who wants to think about sacrifice? Far better to read a book about the victorious Christian life. But think about it, Jesus often talked about sacrifice. How's this for instance, "Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24).

Now my main point is this. It seems to me that one thing we need to regain in the church at large is the link between sacrifice and service. For that is another theme which runs constantly through the Bible. We are saved to serve. Think about these words of Paul for instance. "You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love." (Galatians 5:13)

Many people have the misconception that being "called" by God is something only missionaries, pastors, nuns, and other church leaders experience. But the Bible says *everyone* is called to serve God by serving others. Of course we are not saved *by* serving, but we are saved *for* serving. The Apostle Paul gives three insights related to this:

First, the basis for serving others is salvation. Paul says, "You were called to be free." You cannot serve God until you've been set free by Jesus. It's the prerequisite for serving. Until you experience the transforming power of God's grace in your life, you're too enslaved by your own hurts, habits, and hang-ups to think much about others. Without the freedom of forgiveness, you'll end up serving for the wrong reasons: trying to earn the approval of others, trying to run away from your pain, trying to remedy your guilt, trying to impress God. Service motivated by these illegitimate reasons is bound to leave you burned out and -bitter in the end.

Second, the barrier to serving others is selfishness. Paul warns, "Do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature." The No. 1 reason we don't have the time or energy to serve others is that we're preoccupied with our own agendas, dreams, and pleasures. Only a small minority of people use their lives to serve others, but Jesus said, "If you insist on saving your life, you will lose it. Only those who throw away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to really live." (Mark 8:35 LB)

Third, the motive for serving is love. Paul says, "Serve one another in love." This is an important key to building community: 1 Corinthians 13:3 records, "No matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love." (MSG) God is far more interested in *why* you serve others than in *how well* you serve them. He's always looking at your heart, serving willingly and eagerly out of love for Jesus and gratitude for all he's done for you. You are most like Jesus when you're serving others. After washing his disciples' feet, Jesus said, "I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you." (John 13:14-15 NLT).

But what now? Well maybe a start would be to ask yourself the following questions during this week.

· **How can I help?** – Consider your response to this Scripture verse: "Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, 'How can I help?'" (Romans 15:2 MSG)

· **Who will you serve this week?** – Ask God to bring to mind someone you should serve this week, and ask him what you should do for that person. Then do it! And may you be a blessing to others and in turn be blessed by God. ✦

Deane Handicraft Group Sale

The Deane Handicraft Group would like to thank everyone for their support at the Coffee Morning on the 28th October. £506.69 was raised on the day of which £450 will be donated to the 'New Church Hall Fund', together with £372 raised last year.

Light Party

By Karen Greenhalgh

On Wednesday 31st October, lots of children, dressed in their scariest clothes, wandered the cold streets in the hope of getting some treats.

But 45 children from the area decided to do something different. They came to our "Light Party" in the Memorial Hall. All the children were given glow bracelets to add to the light theme, and played parachute games, dodgeball, and the "superhero game" (a favourite from the summer holiday club). They ate doughnuts off string, passed Hula Hoops to each other on the ends of straws, and even rescued jelly babies out of plates full of cream!

Then it was time for the party tea. And despite having more children than we expected, there were still plenty of sandwiches, crisps and jellies to go round!

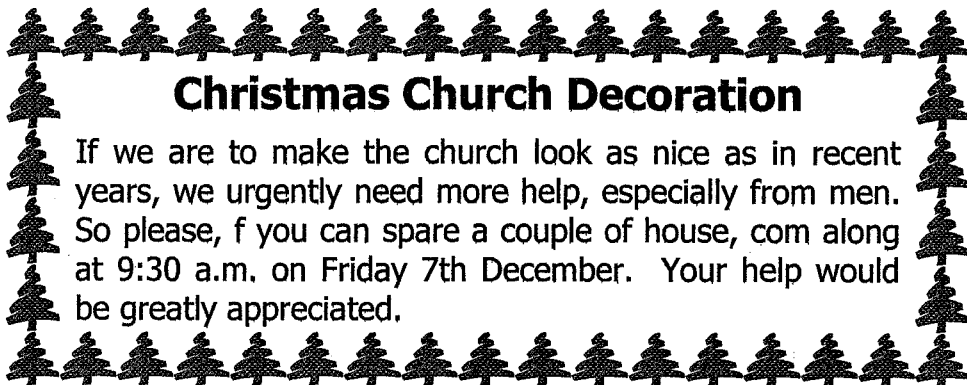
Next it was craft time: every child made a stand-up star to take home with them to remind them to "shine like stars in the universe" (Philippians 2:15). After all that we had 5 minutes left to have a quick chat about Jesus being the "Light of the World", and him



A chaotic but scrumptious party tea

calling us to "Shine like Stars", and to learn a new song: "Let your light shine"!

It was great to see so many children enjoying themselves, and a big thank you goes to all those who helped: giving and preparing food, planning the craft and the music and helping out with the children on the night.†



Christmas Church Decoration

If we are to make the church look as nice as in recent years, we urgently need more help, especially from men. So please, if you can spare a couple of hours, come along at 9:30 a.m. on Friday 7th December. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

My thanks to the Deane Church family....

Once again I have cause to express my thanks to the Deane Church family. During the course of Rodney's illness over the last two years, we were so grateful for the many kindnesses and prayers of the people of Deane Church, which helped to sustain us both. We were so pleased when it became possible for Rodney to return to church during the period when the treatment he was receiving made him better and stronger. When he could no longer attend, he was interested in what was happening in the church and always asked me searching questions!

Since Rodney's death, I have been overwhelmed by expressions of condolence, cards, letters and donations to Bolton Hospice, where Rodney enjoyed working and which cared for him so well during his illness. I have drawn great comfort from these and from your continuing prayers and thank you all so much.

Margaret Howard

Observing Advent

The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival". The focus of the season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and looking forward to the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. In church tradition Advent is a season of penance and prayer in preparation for this return of Christ. Thus scripture readings for Advent include themes of our accountability for faithfulness to his word during our lives here on earth, judgment on sin and the hope of eternal life. All this will happen when we appear him at his second coming.

Here are a few ideas as to how we might observe Advent

- **Advent calendars** aren't only for children! They can provide a focus for a few moments' thought together day on each as Christmas approaches.
- There are a few copies of sample **Bible readings** for Advent and Christmas at the back of church.
- Treat yourself to one of the **books** listed below and set aside some time each day to read it.
- Get out those **Bible notes** you bought and have neglected and make a determined effort to use them each day.
- If long quiet times and daily readings are not your style, simply sit and read the **Collect for Advent** which will be on the notice sheet on the first Sunday in Advent. Follow it with the Lord's Prayer; listen quietly to a piece of Christmas music and say a simple prayer from your heart, thanking God for sending Jesus to live amongst us.
- When you **shop or bake or wrap presents**, consciously remind yourself what it's all about.
- Pop into **Wesley-Owen** for a good selection of Christmas cards with the theme of the real Christmas, a good selection of children's Christmas books and other present ideas. Lots of Cd's of Christian music too—and Advent calendars with biblical scenes and thoughts.
- Ask for/buy for a friend, child, spouse... a **book or CD** which will build you up in the faith that Christmas is all about.
- **Classis FM** plays lots of quality Christmas music from early in December. Tune in to 101.1 FM—and forgive the adverts!
- Try to take time out to go to a **quality Christmas concert**, e.g. at the Bridgewater Hall—usually well worth the effort.
- Liverpool Anglican Cathedral has a **Santa Lucia** celebration which is magical. A long way to go but lots of cafés nearby for a different day out—15th December. Their **Advent Carol service**—2nd December at 3.00 p.m.—is fantastic too. Details on website – www.liverpoolcathedral.co.uk.

Happy Advent!

Book recommendations

All available from www.brf.org.uk or from Wesley-Owen, who are happy to receive orders by telephone — or call in at the shop — opposite the Post Office on Deansgate

Beginnings and Endings (and what happens in between)

Daily Bible readings from Advent to Epiphany

By Maggi Dawn

- drawing together all four Gospel accounts of Christ's coming.

The Promise of Christmas: *Reflections for the Advent season*

by Fleur Dorrell

- in 25 short Bible-based reflections, Fleur Dorrell unwraps the promises of Christmas with seasonal thoughts on the prophecies fulfilled by Jesus' birth and the reassurance of the promise of new life in Christ.

When the Time was Right: *Bible readings for the Advent season*

by Stephen Rand

- not just a book that looks back to the first Christmas, but an opportunity to anticipate the future and allow Jesus to make a difference in our lives today. In this book of daily readings and reflections, we meet the kind of people God used to unfold his plan at just the right time: the failures, the reluctant, the ordinary, the humble, the faithful, the persevering - and he can use us too. Author Stephen Rand brings fresh insight and an active edge to these daily readings, drawing from over 20 years working with Tearfund and his close involvement in the Make Poverty History campaign.

O Come, Emmanuel: *Reflections on music and readings for the Christmas Season* by Gordon Giles

- a 'musical mystery tour' of daily readings for Advent and Christmas. The spirit of Christmas is often to be found in familiar Christmas carols and songs—love and forgiveness, pain and loss, darkness and light, new life and rebirth. With a reading for each day of Advent and background information on each of the pieces selected. A good opportunity to sit and listen properly to each of the pieces you have on tape or CD.

A Feast for Advent: *Reflections on Christmas for every day in Advent* by Delia Smith

- with over 100,000 copies sold to date, this highly popular book continues to speak to people more than 20 years after it was first published. With a focus on the real joy of Christmas, Delia Smith leads us through Advent with a prayer, Bible reading and reflection for each day. Her own insights and experience of faith help us to prepare for the celebration of the coming of Christ into our world and the challenge that it poses in the face of our increasingly secularized festival. ✚

Betty and Bill Calderbank have moved away!

Betty and Bill would like to thank members of Deane Church for all the cards and good wishes they received for their recent move to Scotland. They were overwhelmed with the love shown to them and were very grateful for all the help they received. They will miss everyone in the church family, but are happily settling into their new home.



Ladies Guild

The Ladies Guild recently had a sale of handmade Christmas crafts by Margaret Greeney. The sale raised £240, of which £120 will be donated to Derian House (as requested by Margaret). The remaining £120 will be given to the Ladies Guild charity.

St Mary's Primary School

Christmas Carol Service

To be held in St Mary's Church

On

Tuesday 11th December 2007 at 9.00 a.m.

All are very welcome

'Knowing God'

The Northern Women's Convention, 13th October 2007
Armitage Centre, Manchester

by Becky Rutter

On the 13th October Angela, my mum and I attended the Northern Women's Convention. The Convention was first held in 2005 and theme of this year's event was 'Knowing God'.

The day started at 10:00am with a time of worship and the first teaching session which explored the issue of knowing God through His word. In particular the session focused on Hebrews 1:1-4. After a welcome coffee break (and a chance to peruse the book stall) the second session helped us to delve into how we can know God through His Spirit with readings from 2 Peter and John.

The afternoon provided a range of seminars to choose from:

- Knowing God and His will for our lives
- Knowing God and making Him known to our Muslim neighbours
- Knowing God and making Him known to our Kids
- Knowing God and winning our husbands
- Knowing God's word is sure

About 1,000 women of various ages and from all over the Country attended. There was useful teaching, good music and the day also provided plenty of opportunities to chat together.

In 2008 the Convention is being held on Saturday 11th October. Speak to Angela if you'd be interested in going along - it would be nice to take a bigger group next year!! You can visit the website for more information: www.londonmensconvention.co.uk.

Editor's Note:

There is also a Men's Convention which will be held on Saturday 10th May 2008, at the Armitage Centre....

Please put the date in your diary now! Dan will have more information as it becomes available.



St Mary's Church Directory

Team Rector:	Ian Mainey	01204 61819
Assistant Curate:	Dan Howard	01204 855112
Retired Clergy:	Joyce Milson	01204 655081
Readers:	David Dewhurst	01204 651347
	Nola Kilsby	01204 665700
Wardens:	Les Kilsby	01204 665700
	Craig Mochrie	01204 652324
	Becy 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:	Edna Barlow	01942 817434
Witness:	Dan Howard	01204 855112
Worship:	Becy Rutter	01942 814946
Archivist:	-	-
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:	Becy 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 620993
Explorers (age 7-11):	Paula Small	01204 650981
Pathfinders (age 11-14):	Angela Howard	01204 855112
CYBA (age 14-19):	Dan Howard	01204 855112
Youth Groups:		
Voltage (age 11-14):	Karen Greenhalgh	07831 304554
Element (age 14-18):	"	07831 304554
Uniformed Organisations:		
Rainbows:	Margaret Latchford	01204 657101
Brownies:	Anne Calderbank	01204 398306
	Liz Valentine	01204 651692
Guides:	Carole Baxendale	01204 419167

Please inform the editor of any errors or omissions