

# Deane Parish Magazine

## February



2008

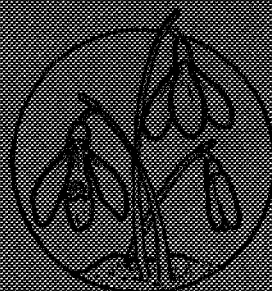


# St Mary's Diary: February

	9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
<b>Sunday 3rd</b>	Holy Communion (CW) Matthew 17: 1-9 2 Peter 1: 16-21	Family Parade Matthew 17: 1-9 2 Peter 1: 16-21	Evening Service with Holy Communion <b>The Church</b> (Shared Faith)
<b>Sunday 10th</b>	Holy Communion (BCP) Matthew 4: 1-11 Romans 5: 12-19	Holy Communion Sunday School Matthew 4: 1-11 Romans 5: 12-19	Evening Service <b>The Church</b> Shared Purpose (1)
6th February : ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE St Andrew's Over Hulin 7.30 p.m.			
<b>Sunday 17th</b>	Holy Communion (BCP) John 3: 1-17 Romans 4: 1-5, & 13-17	Family Service John 3: 1-17 Romans 4: 1-5, & 13-17	Evening Service <b>The Church</b> Shared Purpose (2)
<b>Sunday 24th</b>	Holy Communion (BCP) John 4: 5-42 Romans 5: 1-11	Service of the Word John 4: 5-42 Romans 5: 1-11	Evening Service <b>The Church</b> Shared Lives

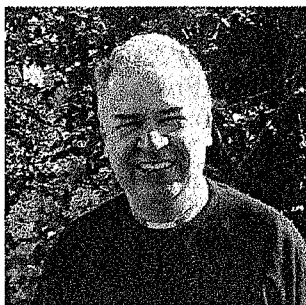
St Mary the Virgin  
Junction Road  
Deane, Bolton  
BL3 4LT

(for contacts,  
please see back page)



# The Rector Writes

## *Radiant certainty in difficult situations*



I opened the curtains a little and looked out of the bedroom window to see what the weather was like, and guess what? Yes you got it in one, it was raining, again. My heart sank. Yet another dismal day. I'm convinced I'm one of those who suffer from SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder). I'm one of those folk who needs to see, at least occasionally, that there is a blue sky up there above the grey cloud. And if I don't see blue sky for days on end I get down, at times really down.

Unfortunately the particular day in question when I peeped out through the bedroom curtains was a Sunday. You know, my one day of work. And I began to think to myself, I'd rather stay at home today and not bother going to church. You see it wasn't meeting up with people that was putting me off. Nor was it the thought of taking the services and preaching. It was the thought of worshipping. How was I going to be able to worship when I felt as I did?

Let me honest with you (after all, honesty is the best policy), there are some days when frankly I don't feel like worshipping God. And there are probably more days like that than I care to admit.

Some of those days are brought on by the short days of winter, but usually they happen on the days when I am staring at my circumstances and making faithless judgements about what I see around me. And I struggle with the truth, the God given truth, that God is in the circumstances surrounding my life – all the circumstances surrounding my life.

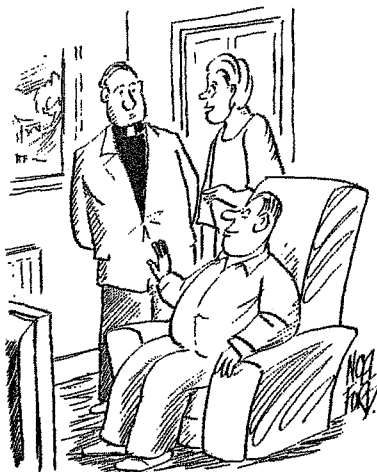
I wonder, have you ever considered that heartbreak can be part of God's "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11)? I mention this because I think at times we put so much of ourselves into avoiding hurt when in point of fact God would

have us embrace it. God wants us to know that he can heal our hurts and even use them for his benefit. He wants us to faithfully believe that the circumstances we think are harming us are actually positive situations that God is engineering.

God, who is omnipotent (all-powerful), sees the breadth and depth of our circumstances, and he knows his plans for our lives. Thinking then, like Christ, we can slowly – perhaps ever so slowly – begin to understand that avoiding the pain in our lives is actually an act of faithlessness. God calls us to faith in him during difficult circumstances. We on the other hand would rather place our faith in avoiding the circumstances.

As always Jesus shows us the way – because he is the Way. Jesus embraced the pain of God's plan for his life, and he did it with full faith that God was still working the plan to bring a "hope and a future" to your life and mine. Christ was so sure his grief would turn to joy that he showed a radiant certainty in God's faithfulness ("radiant certainty" is a phrase William Barclay uses to describe the attitude of Jesus at the Last Supper).

Jesus was heading into a crisis that would cost him his life, yet he was so certain – radiantly certain – of God's faithfulness that not one of his disciples even discerned the gravity of the crisis! Jesus was so certain of God's faithfulness that it radiated throughout his whole being.



Henry is making a real effort for Lent – he's giving up the remote control and walking to the TV

And we also can have this radiant certainty, this certainty that God's hand is on our lives. We can say, when it comes to God's faithfulness, "I know because I know that I know." That's radiant certainty! The cross was Christ's glory, not only his penalty – and the same is true of difficult circumstances in our lives.

So where does this take us? Let me suggest four things:-

- We will develop a radiant certainty in God when we learn to trust in his faithful character. Our daily worship of God is irrevocably tied to our faith in God.
- We must choose to praise and worship God every day, no matter what the circumstances of our lives. Developing a radiant certainty in God begins with simple steps of faith and obedience.
- When faced with painful or difficult circumstances we need to ask God, "How do you want me to respond to this?" we need to make sure that we do not fall into the "Why me?" trap.
- We need to accept, as difficult as it is to do so, the fact that difficult circumstances are opportunities for us to intentionally focus our faith in God and see what he will do to give us hope and blessing.†

## **Ladies Guild**

Deane Church Ladies Guild will be meeting on Tuesday 5th February for a 'Pancake Supper' at 7.45 p.m. This will be the last meeting of the Ladies Guild before Easter, but meetings will resume again on Tuesday 1st April.

### **A Date for Your Diary...**

**Saturday 23rd February 2008**

**The Handicraft Ladies are holding a  
Pre-Easter Coffee Morning**

**10.00–12 noon in the Memorial Hall**

**All proceeds will be given to the Hall Fund**

**Tickets (incl. refreshments) 50p**

# **Gone North**

## **Written by Ian Mainey**

In December Bill and Betty Calderbank emigrated to Scotland. Apparently they wanted to move to a warmer climate! Or was it that they wanted to be nearer their son and his family.



Bill and Betty have always loved going to Scotland and so although I know they miss their old friends and neighbours, and of course the folk at church, I also know that they love being where they are and having the opportunity to see the family each day.

Betty has settled into her new church well and has joined the church's Ladies Guild – so for Betty it is a bit like home from home.

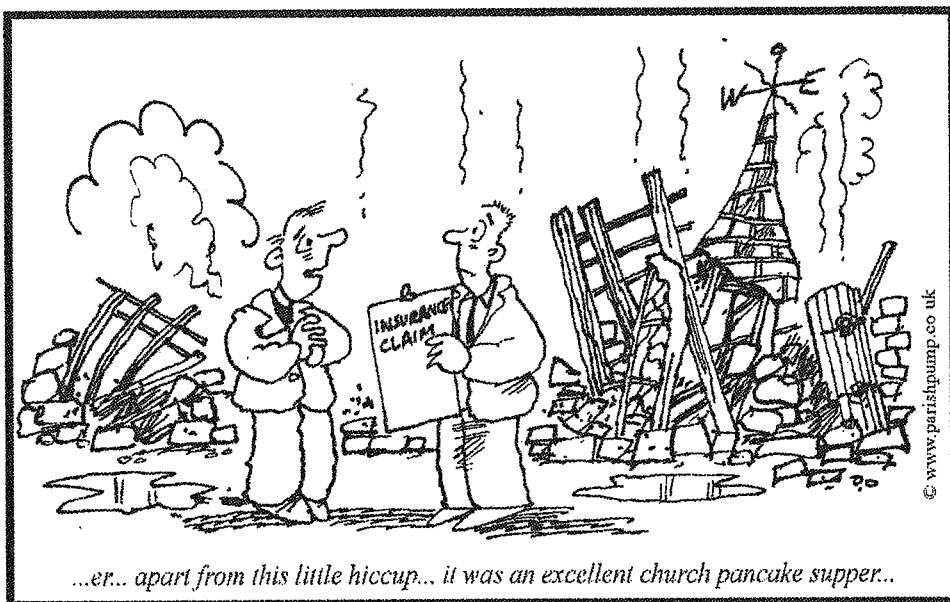
The main reason for writing this article about Bill and Betty however is to thank them for their many years of service to the church. As you know Bill acted as sexton in the churchyard for a number of years, mowing the grass and digging the graves. As always Bill was meticulous in what he did. Graves were dug straight and true and churchyard machinery was kept in tip top condition. Also the churchyard store was always kept nice and tidy, as befits a bolt hole for Bill to retire to out of the gaze of Betty!

Bill probably does not know this but the first time I ever came across him was when I was asked to look at Deane church during the interregnum. Jean and I were staying with my parents just after Christmas and so we came over one bright sunny Saturday with the snow lying thickly on the ground. The main gates were open and we walked in to see Bill clearing the snow off the path and gritting it with sand. That's the kind of person Bill was, the type who quietly got on with a task for the good of others. Bill is of course a fount of information on the churchyard. I don't think there is anything Bill doesn't know about it. Any query there was about the churchyard we could be sure that Bill would have the answer. How we will miss Bill's knowledge.

Betty. Well what can be said about Betty? The first thing that could be said about her was that she was very good at keeping me in order. But more to the point Betty was a super helper and a good friend. First thing Sunday morning there was Betty helping me to get everything ready for the 9.00am Holy Communion Service. For many years Betty helped out as the vergger, making sure that all was ready at funerals and weddings. And then there was the key holding responsibility. When anybody required access to the church Betty was the one who volunteered to let them in.

I said that Betty was a good friend and so was Bill. Many a pleasant time I have spent round at their house talking about this and that and I always found their comments and advice helpful. Both of them are straight talking Lancashire people, but there was never any guile in what they said.

I know that we all miss Bill and Betty being around. In fact I for one still expect to see them round and walking their dog Zena. The fact of their departure has not yet quite sunk in. But I know I speak for all of us in wishing Bill and Betty much blessing in their new life up in Fife. We are grateful for their ministry to us and their many years of service to the church and we now want to wish them a long and happy time with their family up north. Oh and I hope Zena is not missing me too much!☺



## **Deane Church Lent Course 2008**

There will be a 4 week Lent Course  
starting the week beginning either 11 or 18 February

### **Everyone is very welcome**

Dates & venues will be finalised when groups have been  
allocated & will be published in the church notice sheet.

Please sign up at the back of church to book a place.

### **What does it mean to be a Follower of Jesus?**

Dan Howard and Nola Kilsby will be running a short course after Easter specifically designed for people who are interested in finding out more about 'What it means to be a Christian'. The course is aimed at people who have not been coming to church for long and would like to discover who Jesus really is, and also for folk who have belonged to the church for a number of years and would like to go over the basics of the Christian faith perhaps for the first time.

Do think about coming on this course—it is so important that we know what we believe .... especially how God has provided us with a rescue plan. We can only be set free from our sin (those things we have done wrong) because of Christ's death on the cross. His resurrection proves that death has been defeated and we can look forward to eternal life with him when we die if we believe and trust in his death and resurrection.

Speak to Nola (665700) or Dan (855112) for more information



# **Lent is early this year — because Easter is.**

By Anne Roberts

It seems strange to be nearly into Lent so soon after Christmas! Western Christians (i.e. in simple terms, not the Orthodox Church) celebrate Easter on the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or next after the vernal equinox\* (autumnal equinox in the southern hemisphere) on March 21<sup>st</sup>. This year there is a full moon on March 21<sup>st</sup> so Easter is as early as it can be! The last time Easter was so early was in 1913 and the next time will be later than 2124, which is as far as the tables I've found go! Are you with me so far? Don't worry if you're not. It's all based on the date of Passover which is based on the Jewish calendar, which is lunar.

The real point for us here is that the start of Lent is based on working back from the date of Easter 40 days, plus Sundays. Yes, it's 40 days **plus** Sundays, because every Sunday always commemorates the Resurrection. If you're fasting for Lent, some would say, you have no need to do so on Sundays! They don't count—a little known fact. In some traditions Saturday is not included in the fast either because that is regarded as the Sabbath. So where does that leave those who are giving up chocolate (or anything else) for Lent? With their own consciences, I suppose!

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. All churches that have a continuous history extending before AD 1500 observe Lent. The ancient church that wrote, collected, canonized, and propagated the New Testament also observed Lent, believing it to be a commandment from the apostles.

So, each of us has a decision to make. Do we dismiss the whole idea as having no relevance in today's world, or do we find some way of moving closer to God at this time, which is the whole point? We each need to find our own way of doing this but if it doesn't involve some form of discipline it misses the point. It's not that we're setting about trying to deserve anything from God. It's a matter of growth and that almost always involves discipline. It doesn't happen automatically. So it could be a matter of asking ourselves how serious we are about growth in likeness to Christ.

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\* The equinoxes are the two days in the year on which the sun is directly overhead at noon on the equator and day and night are of equal length everywhere on Earth.



## Aspects of Christmas



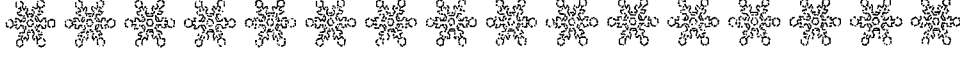

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December the Memorial Hall was transformed with soft lighting, Christmas music and festive decorations. Aspects of Christmas was a fundraising event for the new Church Hall, and proved to be an enjoyable and profitable evening.

Demonstrations took place during the event. Aimee showed us how to make a table centrepiece, Beccy's cake demonstration was fabulous as she took us through how to create a Father Christmas from icing, and Angela made gift bags and boxes that could also be used for table gifts. Throughout the evening savoury and sweet nibbles were brought to the tables to taste and recipes provided so that these festive nibbles could be made at home. There was also a quiz to enjoy and participate in. One of Beccy's beautifully iced cakes (won by Mel Higson) and a stunning table decoration made by Nola (won by Mary Jackson) were raffled off.

Many church members had generously made preserves, pickles, cakes, Christmas decorations and Christmas gifts to sell on the night. There were six tables laden with goodies and they looked spectacular! The produce not sold on the evening was taken over to church for sale the following couple of Sundays.

We sang carols and chatted with friends and altogether it was a splendid evening. With ticket and produce sales we were able to add over £850 to the Hall Fund. So a huge thank you for all the people who worked hard to make this event happen – all those who contributed items for sale, those who helped to set up and clear up, those who came along to support the event and those who bought items for sale.

Angela Howard



## Body Beautiful

By Rev Melvin Tinker and Rev Nathan Buttery

Reviewed by Angela Howard

There's an old Greek story about a man called Jason who sailed to discover the Golden Fleece with a crew of sailors called the Argonauts. One day they sailed past an island on which were some creatures called Sirens who were half woman and half beast. But they had beautiful voices and they used to lure passing ships to their island and then kill them. Jason knew this danger and as they were passing the island Jason sang his own crew a song. The crew had a choice. To listen to Jason's song and be saved or else listen to the song of the Sirens and risk jumping overboard to go to the island and face certain death. And there are two voices ringing in our ears all the time. Jesus' voice in His Word, or the voice of the world. The voice of the master teacher Jesus is saying "Listen to me. Be distinctive. Be salty. If not then you are heading for disaster"

*Taken from chapter 10, The Influence of the Church.*

Body Beautiful examines the Bible's teaching about the church and how it is to function in the world. The chapters are based on how a gathering of people (what we would call a church) can operate effectively to grow believers in their faith and knowledge of God, to encourage support within the church as its members get to know one another and serve one another, and how to be effective Christians (with the support of the church) within the world. The chapters are based on eleven sermons preached by Melvin Tinker and Nathan Buttery at their church in Hull. It is very readable and extremely helpful especially for Christians who want know what God's design is for the group of people who meet Sunday by Sunday at St Mary's, Deana. I warmly recommend this book, which is available from [www.IDofthose.com](http://www.IDofthose.com) for an amazing £3.00 (rrp £7.99), or 10 for £15.00 (ISBN 1850784655).

# St Mary's Church Directory

Team Rector:	Ian Mainey	01204 61819
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Readers:	David Dewhurst	01204 651347
	Nola Kilsby	01204 665700
Wardens:	Les Kilsby	01204 665700
	Craig Mochrie	01204 652324
	Beccy Rutter	01942 814946
<b>PCC Lay Chair:</b>	Jane Hampson	01204 848433
Honorary Treasurer:	Les Kilsby	01204 665700
Honorary Secretary:	Bryan Shephard	01942 817288
<b>PCC Sub-Committee Chairs:</b>		
Nurture:	Charles Winder	01204 841947
Service:	Edna Barlow	01942 817434
Witness:	Dan Howard	01204 855112
Worship:	Beccy Rutter	01942 814946
Archivist:	-	-
Flowers:	Josie Crompton	01204 655964
Gift Aid Secretary:	Les Kilsby	01204 655700
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:	Elizabeth Tidmarsh	01204 652184
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
<b>Sunday Schools:</b>		
Climbers (age 3-7):	Lynda Smith	01204 62093
Explorers (age 7-11):	Paula Small	01204 650981
Pathfinders (years 7-9):	Angela Howard	01204 855112
CYFA (years 10-13)	Dan Howard	01204 855112
<b>Youth Groups:</b>		
Voltage (years 7-9)	Karen Greenhalgh	07821 304564
Element (years 10-13))	"	07821 304564
<b>Uniformed Organisations:</b>		
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