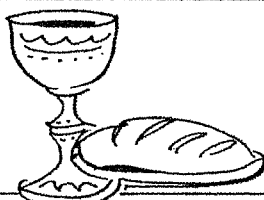


# Deane Parish Magazine

## *March*



2008

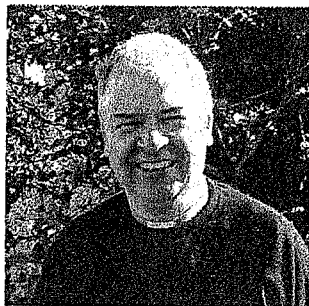


# St Mary's Diary: March

	9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
Sunday 2nd	<b>Mothering Sunday</b>		
	Holy Communion (CW) Psalm 23 John 9: 1-41	Family Parade  Psalm 23 John 9: 1-41	Evening Service with Holy Communion <b>The Cross</b> 'Not Plan B'
Sunday 9th	Holy Communion (BCP) Psalm 130 John 11: 1-45	Holy Communion Sunday School Psalm 130 John 11: 1-45	Evening Service <b>The Cross</b> 'What it represents'  CYFA @ 7.45 p.m.
Sunday 16th	Holy Communion (BCP) Zechariah 9: 9 Mark 11: 1-11	Family Service  Mark 11: 1-11	<b>3:00 p.m.</b> <b>Confirmation</b> <b>Service</b>  (no evening service)
<b>Maundy Thursday Agape Meal in the Memorial Hall 7.30 p.m.</b>			
<b>Good Friday Service of Meditation 10.30 a.m.</b>			
Sunday 23rd	<b>Easter Day Services</b>		
	Holy Communion (BCP) John 20: 1-18 Acts 10: 34-43	Holy Communion  John 20: 1-18 Acts 10: 34-43	Evening Service <b>The Cross</b> 'What it means to me?'
Sunday 30th	Holy Communion (BCP) John 20: 19-31 1 Peter 1: 1-9	Holy Communion  John 20: 19-31 1 Peter 1: 1-9	Evening Service

# The Rector Writes

## *Breaking the Roof Tiles*



I've never met a minister yet who didn't agree with the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German theologian who died in a concentration camp during the Second World War, who wrote "The church is only the church when it exists for others." Not only have I not met a minister who would disagree with this statement, I haven't met a congregation that would either. And yet although we might agree with this statement do we really seek to work it out in practice? It seems to me at least that many of us could not care less about our communities. Most of us suffer from what I would call the "Roof-tile syndrome."

What do I mean by the "Roof-tile syndrome"? Well let me tell you.

Do you remember the story told in Mark 2? Jesus is talking to people inside a house and some men come along with a paralyzed friend. They can't get to Jesus so they go up onto the roof and begin to dig a hole through it, and having done so let their friend down so that he ends up at the feet of Jesus. And Jesus seeing their faith forgives the paralyzed man and then heals him. And then controversy broke out among the religious people who were there.

"Roof-tile syndrome" is when we get so caught up in our own concerns, often religious concerns, that we turn our backs on those still outside the building. We become barriers and not gateways. We stop people coming to Jesus. We become more concerned about keeping things intact than about restoring lives that are shattered. We get more upset about things getting broken than excited about when the broken gets mended. It's when a church thinks a lot about Jesus, but fails to see that it sees very little of the forgiveness and healing of

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

(for contacts,  
please see back page)

Jesus. It's when we get so frightened about upsetting the status quo that we no longer take risks to introduce people to know Jesus. It's when our comfort takes precedence over other's needs. It's when a church begins to exist for itself.

Now I am not getting at anybody, or at our church. In fact I would be the first to admit that I am as guilty as the next person in this respect, maybe more so! But sometimes I get frightened

by the thought that the entire church body could vanish overnight and the local community would not notice we were missing (until it came to a funeral wedding or baptism). And not only that, I wonder if they would really care.

Maybe what we need to do, if we think this ~~is~~ the situation, is to repent of being a road block to people encountering Jesus, and instead endeavour to become roof-tile breakers.

To that end perhaps we should ask two questions about our community:

1. What are their needs and how might we do good unto them (and that might be different from what our needs might be and what would make us feel good about ourselves)?
2. What are they doing and doing well that we can celebrate and thank them for (which is rather different from focusing on what they are doing wrong and which we want to denounce).

As I write this article I find myself in the middle of Lent (I always find Lent a great time for reflection and self examination). Like others in the church I am attending one of the house groups. They are really great, very thought provoking (come on why are not more of you in the house groups?). Along with the weekly meetings I am very much enjoying reading Jeff Lucas' daily notes which are in the booklets which accompany the studies. Really challenging. Anyway I was struck by the contrast between Jonah 1 and Acts 27 and 28. Both passages, if you look them up, are about a God worshipper aboard a ship with a pagan crew. And both involve a violent storm which was so bad that the crew had to jettison their cargo. But that is where the similarity between the two passages ends.

Jonah is on board because he is fleeing from God. When he is confronted by the crew he is disdainful about them and boastful about himself. It turns out that there is only one way for the crew to survive the storm, they must toss this God worshipper overboard.

Paul on the other hand is on board the boat because he is obedient to God. He might be a prisoner of Rome but he is more a servant of God. When the pagan sailors panic Paul is wise, humble and helpful. He lets them know that he cares for them. It turns out that there is only one way these pagans can survive the storm and that is to put this God worshipper in charge.

What a lesson this is! The more we, as a church, genuinely care for the people in our storm-wrecked community, the less we denounce and boast about ourselves, the more we bless and serve, then perhaps they will allow us to steer the boat.

And what does this require? Maybe just a little willingness to break some roof tiles.✦

## **Decorating the Church for Easter**

We will be decorating the church on Easter Saturday, 22 March at 9.30 a.m. If you could spare an hour to help out it would be greatly appreciated. Please see Bob Benyon..

## **Sunday Evening Service**

Over the next few weeks at the evening service, in the run up to Easter, we will be focusing our thinking on the cross.

### **Why?**

Simply to help us focus our minds on the central truth of the Easter story – that Jesus died for us on the cross and rose again three days later.

### **So what will we be thinking about?**

We'll be exploring the fact that the cross wasn't God's 'Plan B', thinking about what the cross actually represents and about what the cross means for me and for you.

### **Who are the services for?**

Everybody!

### **What will the services be like?**

Varied. Each week tends to be slightly different depending on the topic being looked at and who is leading the service, but they always offer an opportunity to hear from and be challenged by God's word, to confess our sins to God and to pray together.

### **What time do they start and finish?**

Church is open from 5:30pm and the service starts at 6:00pm.

They are usually finished by 7:30pm but we welcome everybody to stay around and have a brew and a biscuit. We might chat about the service, or about yesterday's football results, it really doesn't matter, just stay and say hi and see where the conversation leads.....!

### **How can I find out more?**

If you're curious and want to know more then ring Dan (01204 855112), Karen (07821 304564) or Beccy (07900 266315) and ask away!

# Too Much - Too Young!

By Alison Partington

Can you remember being 13? For some of you that may be longer ago than for others, but for most of us being 13 was a time marked by a growing amount of school work and a growing social network of activities and friends. However, for many 13 years old in the developing world, being a teenager means heading up a household as AIDS currently orphans one child every 15 minutes. Rachel is a 13 year old from Uganda where there are one million children orphaned by AIDS. Rachel has been a full time parent since the age of 8; cooking, cleaning, caring for her younger brothers and sisters and being unable to attend school herself. AIDS not only took her parents it is taking away her childhood.

Rachel turns to the only place she can - the local church. Local pastor Noah is her lifeline, but he and his church are financially very poor. Even so they help to provide Rachel and other orphans with basic provisions. Noah lives in a tiny one-bedroomed hut with his wife and 2 toddlers, so he cannot take in extra children himself. Rachel, who inherited a larger house, has taken in 3 younger children whose parents left no home when they died. A team of volunteers from the church visit Rachel four times every week. They teach her how to cook, clean and cultivate crops.

Traditionally in Africa the extended family is the first port of call for orphans. However, the sheer numbers of children being orphaned by AIDS means that the safety net of the extended family is often either wiped out or helpless to cope with yet more hungry mouths. The church can be a hope, but the orphan crisis is proving too great a weight for the local church to carry - the global church needs to help take the strain. We cannot replace a mum and dad but we can provide basic items such as blankets to sleep on and help for school fees.

Tearfund is working with the network of local churches to help provide care for children affected by HIV. Church inspired projects supported by Tearfund have been working for years in Uganda to transform judgemental attitudes, dispel myths and pull on the volunteer power of congregations to care for people living with HIV.

Children who are orphaned by AIDS suffer far more than the death of their parents. They are more likely to suffer poor nutrition, lose their land to unscrupulous relatives, lack emotional support, experience stigma and, lack of parental guidance and interest, means they are less likely to attend school regularly enough to achieve basic literacy - jeopardising their future. "I've missed out a lot as a child" says Rachel. "Other children have parents who care for them but I just struggle along."

You might think they would be better in an orphanage. Although not a perfect solution, the best solution for the healthy development of children is in the context of their own home, rather than in an institutional setting. Their land and home gives security for the future. "We prefer to be here because this is our home, our personal property." This is why Tearfund provide help to local churches to help these young children in their own home.

Globally 15.2 million children have been orphaned by AIDS, some 80% living in sub-Saharan Africa. One in eight of all children in Africa have lost one or more parents. The scale of this problem is immense but even small amounts of money can work miracles in the lives of these children, by helping them attend school regularly, eat nutritious food and accessing medical help. If you want to help Tearfund in this work visit [www.tearfund.org/HIV](http://www.tearfund.org/HIV) or call 0845 355 8355.

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

Dan Howard and Nola Kilsby will be running a short course after Easter 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.

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



You add. We multiply.

## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

In recent years the average amount contributed per envelope in the house-to-house collection during Christian Aid Week has increased but the total collected in the area covered by St Mary's Deane has fallen. This can be explained simply by the fall in the number of collectors and rounds collected and in 2007 only 50% of our area was covered. The challenge this year is to reverse the recent trend and YOU can help in any of the following ways:-

- Sign up for an individual round typically of 50 – 60 houses
- Join a 'group collection' in a selected area on a particular night (eg Monday evening 6.30 – 8.30 pm)
- Help with preparation of the collection material (counting envelopes etc)
- Delivering envelopes for the group collection or possibly for individual collectors
- Help with opening envelopes and counting the money.

A list will be available in church during March. Please sign up as soon as possible in order to simplify the allocation of rounds etc.

### **Deane Church Handicraft Group**

The Deane Church Handicraft Group are looking for ladies to join them. This is a self-help group - so if you can sew, embroider, knit etc, just bring the things you need and we will help you to get started. The money we make goes towards the New Church Hall. The class is held on Monday afternoons 1.15–3.15 p.m. in the Memorial Hall. Please speak to Dorothy Benyon for more information (01204 417794). The coffee morning in February raised £446. Thank you to all who supported the event.

The church would also like to say a HUGE thank you to the 'Handicraft Group' for all their energy, hard work and generosity.



## News From Embu in Kenya

Greetings for 2008 have come from the staff and children at St Stephen's Children's Home in Embu in Kenya. St Stephen's is a home for almost 100 children which a number of families at St Mary's supports. If it were not for St Stephen's, most of the children would be living on the streets and none would be able to go to school.

The staff and children had an exciting Christmas. They were visited by a family of supporters from Ontario, Canada, who brought with them sufficient funds to purchase furnishings for two new class rooms which Plan International constructed for them last year, and also enough to buy an electronic piano and a photo copier. Each child also received a recorder as a Christmas present.

Over the Christmas period the visiting family ran workshops teaching the children how to play their recorders and also gave piano, guitar, singing and drumming lessons. There was a concert before the visitors left when the children showed off their new skills.

St Stephen's is proud of the success of its students. All work very hard to achieve their potential. One former pupil is now at teachers' training college, another will graduate this year with a degree in chemical engineering, a third is to be ordained in 2009. One pupil has returned to the school as a member of staff. He runs a welding shop in the technical building and has just completed an order for 15 beds for a Kenyan school for the blind. It is wonderful that those who have themselves been helped want in turn to serve others.

Please continue to pray for St Stephen's. Thankfully the outbreaks of unrest and violence, following the disputed elections, have not affected Embu yet. Do pray for continued security in Embu and that peace will soon come to the whole of Kenya.

If you would like to know more about the work of Embu, please speak to Sheila or Chris Dewhurst-Taylor.✠

# **GETTING STARTED IN FAMILY HISTORY**

## **STAGE ONE BEGINNINGS**

**By Barbara Winder**

Family history or genealogical studies is a topic that interests many people all over the world. Most people don't expect to find royal or famous connections, but are interested in finding out more about their ancestors' lives and the conditions under which they lived. I propose to start a series in the church magazine which will use some of my own experiences and hopefully help a few of you to start an interesting hobby.

This initial article is intended to talk about first steps, and I will go into more details in later articles.

### **STEP ONE: ASK THE RELATIVES/CHECK THE ATTIC**

I can't stress enough the importance of talking to living relatives, particularly the older ones about their knowledge of the family, and writing it down. Don't ignore stories or family legends as these often contain a grain of truth, and on the other hand don't assume they have always 'got it right' however confident they may be. Unfortunately my parents' died before I really became involved in genealogy, but I still have a 93 year old aunt who is excellent at remembering who's who in old black and white photographs. Older people are frequently very interested in the process and pleased to be able to help.

In addition look for old boxes of photos and materials and check the attic. In some cases you won't know who these people are but someone else in the family may do. Very old photographs sometimes have the photography studio name on the back and websites exist which look at examples from particular studios. Some are helpfully dated and named on the back, so vow to do the same to your photographs or your children will be experiencing similar difficulties in years to come! A particularly good find is a family Bible which may have significant names and dates in its flyleaf. Other possibilities include old letters, magazines, programmes, bills, rent books, and discharge papers. You may also find certificates on births, marriages and deaths of ancestors. These are gold dust and I will talk more about them later.

### **STEP TWO: ORGANISING YOUR MATERIALS.**

Your information will include papers of different shapes and sizes, and certificates are a particularly awkward size. Many of us use cheap files and

plastic wallets to keep information in, although others worry about acid and have special acid free wallets for sensitive documents. It is up to you but you can spend a great deal of money on this. Some people keep all their information on computer, and there are special programmes to enter your family trees. However I have a mixture of both, partially because I like the solidity of paper, and partially because I think a back up's always wise. Computer records are useful because they are easier to share with others, more readily changed when you find a new piece of evidence, and quicker to restructure.

You will most definitely need different files for different surnames within your immediate family. The surnames will take you in different directions and probably to different counties, perhaps countries. My decision was to follow my grandparents' surnames (3 in my case since two married with the same family name) rather than try to follow every name (though some people look up enormous lists of names); and then my husband's four grandparents' surnames. I have made two exceptions to this rule, one name was added (SLATER) because of its links to early Methodism and the cotton trade in America, and one to help a cousin who had tried for 20 years to track down her errant grandfather (we eventually found the family in Australia).

All for now, but next month I hope to say something about surnames in general and their origins, and start looking at certificates.✚

### **Sainsburys Active Kids Vouchers (AKVs)**

Our Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units are taking part in the Sainsburys Active Kids campaign again. Last year you helped us collect an amazing **3067** vouchers, enabling us to claim free electrical kitchen items and games equipment.

This year's campaign runs from 14<sup>th</sup> February to 4<sup>th</sup> June. Once again we would be grateful if you'd collect the vouchers whenever you shop at Sainsburys stores, petrol stations or on-line. You can also convert Nectar points into AKVs by visiting [www.nectar.com](http://www.nectar.com) (select 'Guides' from the drop down list and follow the on-screen instructions)

This is a great way to gain invaluable equipment and experiences at no cost to the unit, so spread the word to all your family, friends & neighbours, and lets see if we can collect even more than last year!

# 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
<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*