

Team Rector	Ian Mainey	01204 61819
Team Vicar	John Armstrong	01204 651851
Curate	Dan Howard	01204 855112
OLM	Elizabeth Plant	01204 63730
Retired Clergy	Joyce Mitson	01204 655081
Readers	David Dewhurst	01204 651347
	Nola Kilsby	01204 665700
Wardens	Les Kilsby	01204 665700
	Craig Mochrie	01204 652324
	Becky Rutter	01204 654737

PCC		
Lay Chair	Jane Hampson	01204 848433
Hon Treasurer	Les Kilsby	01204 665700
Hon 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	Becky Rutter	01204 654737

Other Responsibilities		
Flowers	Jasie Crompton	01204 655964
Gift Aid Sec	Les Kilsby	01204 665700
Handicraft Group	Dorothy Benyon	01204 417794
Ladies' Guild	Brenda Dixon	01204 653333
	Pat Sewell	01204 61278
Magazine Editor	Anne Roberts	01024 849468
Memorial Hall Bookings	Elizabeth Tidmarsh	01204 652184
Music Group	Becky Rutter	01204 654737
Organist	Lisa Atherton	01204 840741
Parent/Toddler Group	Jean Mainey	01204 61819
Deane Church Shop	Michelle Moxam	01204 660081
Vergers	Jasie Crompton	01204 655964

Sunday Schools		
Climbers (3-7)	Lynda Smith	01204 62093
Explorers (7-11)	Paula Small	01204 650981
Pathfinders 7-9	Angela Howard	01204 855112
CYFA (10-13)	Dan Howard	01204 855112

Youth Groups		
Voltage/Element	Karen Greenhalgh	01204 654737

Uniformed Organisations		
Rainbows	Margaret Latchford	01204 657101
Brownies	Anne Calderbank	01204 398206
	Liz Valentine	01024 651692
Guides	Carole Baxendale	01204 419167

Please tell Anne Roberts of any error or omissions.

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Deane St Mary's

January 2009

News, books and inspiration, it's all here in the Deane Church mag!

There are seasonal thoughts relating to the New Year and to church festivals celebrated in January, including a New Year poem.

There's inspiration in testimony of a life that could have been ravaged every day by HIV but has become a life lived in the joy of the Lord.

Find out why our church is like it is and what Christianity is really all about by taking up our book recommendations.

Joyce Mitson is our profile subject and there's more about researching your family history.

Find out about volunteering at Bolton Hospice and read more about the trip to Israel.

There also some important dates for your diary.



A change of scene this month—to the Holy Land. Taken by Barbara Winder, it shows the Mount of Beatitudes church, visited by the party which went from Deane in November.

St Mary's Info: January 2009

	9.00	10.30	6.00
Sunday 4	Holy Communion	Family Parade	Holy Communion
Sunday 11	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Service
Sunday 18	Holy Communion	Family Nativity	Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 25	Holy Communion	Service of the Word	Evening Service



On 6 January we celebrate Epiphany - the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus. Who were these wise men? Matthew calls them 'Magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were they called kings - by a

church father, Tertullian. Another church father, Origen, assumed there were three - to correspond with the gifts given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing.

The Bishop's Pilgrimage

Tuesday 3rd and Thursday 5th February 2009

KEEP THE LATE AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF THESE DATES FREE SO YOU CAN TAKE PART IN THE BISHOP'S PILGRIMAGE!

The Bishop of Manchester is visiting every parish in the diocese over a period of four and a half years. That's over 300 churches and he is just over half way through!

The Bishop's purpose is to underline the church's mission, encouraging the parishes as they share the good news of the gospel in their communities and pass on the baton of faith, hope, and love to the next generation.

To do this each church renews its community relations, celebrates its story and is blessed for future ministry.

The key components and a typical (though adaptable) timetable are -

- 4pm Arrival and prayers in church
- 4.30pm The Bishop shares pastoral ministry around the parish with the clergy
- 6pm Reception hosted by the PCC for community guests
- 7pm Service of celebration and commissioning

Israel Trip continued

Our final day in Israel saw us packed and boarding the coach for our overland trip to Tel Aviv for our evening flight. On the way we visited Mount Carmel, a green oasis, where the prophets of Baal were defeated, and lovely ancient Caesarea on the coast of the Mediterranean (Herod the Great as builder again) where they have also found a stone to Pontius Pilate.

At the airport we said goodbye to the Moulton party and our guide and driver, managed to pass the security checks, and were eventually on our way back to Manchester and its much lower temperatures around midnight. Our thanks go to Ian and Peter and their wives for arranging such a busy and inspiring journey. We now have our pilgrimage certificates signed by the Israeli government to prove that in November 08 we `ascended to Jerusalem` in the steps of our Lord.

Notice Board

Ladies' Meal
Deane Golf Club
Friday 23rd January
7.00 for 7.30
Details later
in weekly newsheet

Church Weekend

Friday May 15th to Sunday 17th May
Beechwood Court Conway
In 2006 the weekend was thoroughly
enjoyed by all who went.
Don't miss out this time!
Details later

Ladies'
Guild
January 6th
AGM
And
WHITE
ELEPHANT

News from Embu (Kenya)

Thank you to everyone who has freely given money in support of the street children in Embu. In November we were able to send £500 over to St Stephen's Street Children's Home. Canon Johnson Maringa wrote to give thanks for the generous gift and to say the money has been extremely helpful in providing tools especially the purchase of an expensive item, a Power -Saw. This will help with the cutting of large pieces of wood and fire wood. The money will also help to make a happy Christmas.

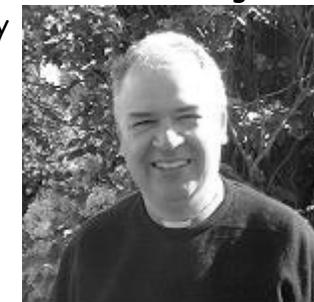
Canon Maringa on behalf of Dss Jessie, and all the staff and children at St Stephen's, send to everyone at St Mary's and friends, many Season's Blessing and a Prosperous New Year God Bless You All in the Name of Jesus.

Sheila and Chris Dewhurst-Taylor

The Rector Writes

Into the New Year with a hymn on our lips

As some of you know I like singing, and I particularly like singing hymns. But not only do I like singing hymns but I also like delving into the history of hymns—who wrote what and why it was written. I think the technical term for this is hymnology.



One of my favourite hymn writers is Isaac Watts who lived from 1674 to 1748. Watts was a prolific hymn writer and many of the hymns he composed we still sing today. One of his most well known hymns is "O God our help in ages past". This hymn has become virtually our second national anthem. It is often sung on State occasions and is nearly always included in Remembrance Day services. One of the interesting things about this hymn is that the opening original words were changed slightly. When Watts originally wrote the hymn it began "Our God, our help..." it was John Wesley who changed that first word from "Our" to "O", and for good or ill the majority of hymnals accept that alteration.

When Watts wrote this hymn he based it on the first seven verses of Psalm 90 which begins, "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations" (AV). Watts entitled his lines 'Man frail and God eternal'.

I said that this hymn is sung on State occasions and on Remembrance Day but I think we should also consider singing this hymn at the beginning of a New Year. Why? Because in this hymn we are taught to look both backwards and forwards. The first line begins "O God our help in ages past..." and the second line is, "Our hope for years to come..." so here is a hymn which tells us to thank God for getting us through another year and reminds us to trust God for the year

ahead. As the hymn write reminds us, God is both our help and our hope—two four letter words that pretty well sum up what our worship should be about at this time of the year.

First we look back on how God has helped us in the past. The great thing about this is that you can go back as far as you want into the past and discover in the Bible that God was there and that He was thinking about you. **“Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.”** (Ephesians 1:4). You see, in reality you can never go too far back to worship God.

At the beginning of 2009 it would be good to focus on last year and think about how God has specifically helped you. For instance, what do you have now that you didn't have a year ago? Maybe it would help if you thought more in terms of personal growth, experiences, and people God has blessed you with; if you thought in terms of how you know God better now than you did this time last year; how you know more about yourself than you did last year. What struggles have you gone through that God has helped you to overcome? Is there anyone in your life that maybe wasn't there a year ago that you can thank God for?

Now think about this year and how God is our only true hope. Think of the areas of your life where you need to apply that hope. What are you afraid of? Where are you feeling inadequate? What do you want to change and how can God help you? How about your plans? How big do you want to make them? How far are you willing to stretch? For all of these things God is our hope. And for all that we will face this next year that we don't know anything about right now, God is our hope. He will be enough.

**“Our fears for today,
our worries for tomorrow,
and even the powers of hell
can't keep God's love away.”**
(Romans 8:38)

are less likely to be microfilmed and in local libraries, but if they exist, they can be very useful. They are usually to be found in diocesan centres. Those for Lancashire are kept either in York or Chester (although some are available on microfilm in the County Record Office in Preston); those for Derbyshire in Litchfield. They are essentially the returns the local priest sent to his bishop, detailing the work he had done in the previous year, often on rather scrappy pieces of paper. However, because the archive was more secure, records exist in BTs that were otherwise lost. There are differences; the records are not always identical when both exist, and the Bishop's copy may be better written and include additional notes.

The second suggestion involves non-conformist church records, which are less predictable in their form and where they are lodged. However there is a growing move to microfilm them and to lodge them in county archives. As the records tend to be smaller in number, they are often more detailed, including dates of birth as well as baptism for example.

Finally I feel I must clarify the issue of double dating prior to 1752. Until 1582, the Western world used the Julian Calendar (initiated by Julius Caesar) which began the new year on 25th March. Pope Gregory initiated a more effective calendar (called the Gregorian) which began the year on January 1st from 1582, but it was taken up only by Catholic Europe; Protestant Europe continuing with the older one. In 1751 the Calendar Act meant that all countries used the Gregorian calendar and started years in January. In order to align the dates, in 1752 the year lost a number of days between 2nd and 14th September. Up to 1752 if you see Spring dates with two years next to them, you should record both.

Next month: The use of wills in family research. Barbara Winder

BITS AND PIECES

Gran was having trouble getting through the door with her walking stick, so she asked her grandson to open the door and then close it. Having done this he said “Gran, I am going to ask Dad to put a Granny flap in the door”.

Getting started in Family History: Church Records 2

Looking at originals or microfilms of originals is often fascinating and gives you a real sense of the parish incumbent and their problems. Some carefully divide their books into baptisms, marriages and burials, some put them together in the order in which they occurred. Remember many small churches were unable to marry their parishioners (although they may have called the banns) who had to be married in the mother church of the diocese. This was a more lucrative ceremony, and I have found pleas from parish priest to their Bishop to be allowed to marry their flock. Other priests gave useful additional information such as comments about where they lived, who their fathers were, and even their morality! Illegitimate baptisms frequently include a guess as to the possible father. Adult burials usually include ages, but the burials of infants rarely do so.

Although most baptisms and burials occurred within a matter of days of the events, there are some examples of significant gaps. In isolated rural parishes, there may have been limited services, and there are clear examples of whole families being baptised at the same time; one speculates that the local priest may have realised none had been baptised and gathered them together to do the deed en-mass! Although rare, there are also examples of additional baptisms of what appears to be the same child. This may have happened when the baby was very sickly at birth, with the second ceremony when it survived; however some non-conformist churches may have required their own baptism before membership was allowed, and I have found one example of an ancestor baptised again at twenty three shortly before she was married in a Bolton Baptist church.

All genealogists meet from time to time the problem of missing records, and worry if their ancestors used the church at all! I have two suggestions at this point which may help.

The first involves the use of Bishops Transcripts or BTs. These

LOVE BROUGHT ME TO LIFE

'You are HIV positive'. The words carry the cold steel of finality that drops with a thud into a person's spirit, deadening hope.

Their entire life shrinks to the size of a matchbox; days suddenly measured in fragile sticks; each a flick away from being extinguished till there are no more.

This disease has horrified too many people into wasted lives and bullied others into a corner of despair to the point where life is not worth living. Those who have been tragically caught on its harsh, unforgiving chain, live a life of despair and regret. HIV/AIDS combined with immense poverty in the nation of Rwanda, is seen by some as the last straw in an already desperate situation. Over 22 million people in sub-Saharan Africa are suffering with HIV, many of them women and children. According to UNAIDS, 190,000 people in Rwanda are living with AIDS, 27,000 of them being children.

A Moving Grave

Madam Dorothy, a 45-year-old widow, survivor of the 1994 genocide and mother of eight children, has been in a battle with HIV for the past five years. As a young girl, Dorothy never thought of HIV. But then she discovered she was HIV positive. She said, "I looked cheap, irresponsible and not worth living with this shameful disease. I thought of committing suicide."

She faced taunts and discrimination from her people and the community. Dorothy thought of killing herself when people saw her shockingly, as a moving grave. "I feared the association with other people," she recalls. "Wherever I passed, people would point at me as the carrier of HIV, ready to infect them. I closed myself in my house to wait for my death."

Dorothy knew of God, but didn't have a personal relationship with Him. But her daughter, Clementine Ikitegetse, was registered and sponsored at a Compassion student centre and began teaching her mother about God's love.

God of Mercy

Then one night, her life changed forever. "It was at midnight that I had a dream saying that God cares and loves me, and it's only God who can be on my side. Since then my life changed and that very morning my life became a life of joy, peace and love." Dorothy started to realise what her beautiful daughter had been telling her about God's love. She began to read the Bible, which Clementine had received from Compassion.



"It was my daughter who led me to church where all my sins were washed away and my life was restored by the love that God and Compassion brought to my life," she says with joy, "Since then, God has been nursing me day and night telling me that there is no more death but life." The thoughts of suicide vanished. She smiles, "The God of mercy covered my grave which would have been my next decision to make."

A Restored Life

Dorothy started to receive support and counseling through the Compassion AIDS Initiative and is taking anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs). She is also receiving financial support and nutritional supplements, which have given her a new lease on life. She thanks God for this support, "God, what can I say about your love, about your care, about your church that is stretching its hand to us through Compassion? Had it not been for Compassion's support, I do not know what my life would be by now. Thank you God for your compassion."

The financial support Dorothy has received helped her to start her own small business venture in the nearby market. Compassion started a micro-enterprise programme to help mothers living with HIV/AIDS who have children registered at Compassion-supported projects. As one of the beneficiaries, Dorothy opened a small shop at the market. She spreads her goods of peppers and various other produce on the ground at the market from Monday until Saturday and her business

My friend and I do enjoy our holidays, especially since my retirement. Among the most memorable would be The Holy Land, Canada, New Zealand, China and Egypt. Now physical limitations and finances, for one or other of us, have started to take their toll, but they have been great adventures and we are still able to get around. After such a busy and demanding life, I appreciate the friendship and support of the people of Deane. I am thoroughly enjoying my so-called retirement, but am pleased to offer my vocation and skills where and when possible. I look forward to seeing what the future holds regarding the building and refurbishment programmes for the Church and Hall, and feel sure that you will all rise to the challenge.

Hand-written on the wall of Mother Theresa's room

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centred;
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;
Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends
and some true enemies;
Be successful anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;
Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;
Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;
Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;
Do good anyway

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;
Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;
It never was between you and them anyway.

This month's profile

Joyce Mitson

Although I have spent many years away from the area, my accent confirms that I am a Boltonian, born and bred. I am single, but have a wider family and many friends. As a child I lived in Barrow Bridge and attended "Colliers Row School", then Whitecroft High and "Lord's Commercial", which was renowned for its secretarial training.

On leaving school I had various secretarial jobs, before studying further, taking teacher training and teaching in the Bolton, Salford and Rochdale Colleges - known as universities those days!

I was brought up to attend church regularly, and when I set up home on my own, I began to attend St George the Martyr Church Daubhill, and was confirmed there.

In 1976 I became aware of an increasing call to full-time ministry, and was recommended for training, starting a two-year course in 1977 at Trinity College, Bristol. That meant resigning my post as Senior Lecturer in Business Studies and selling my house in Lostock. After training, I served in Wellington, Shropshire, and then my ministry took me to Liverpool and latterly to Bilston in the West Midlands from where I retired in 1999.

In 1978 I was among the first women to be ordained deacon, and priested in 1994. In addition to being team vicar, I was Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands in the Liverpool Diocese, and Diocesan Local Ministry Adviser in the Lichfield Diocese - unusual posts for women in those days.

I enjoy gardening, collecting old postcards (especially of Bolton) and British coins (who doesn't), and am an enthusiastic visitor to antiques and collectibles fairs.



is flourishing.

She makes a profit each month and is now able to pay her house rent and take care of her family and their basic needs. "I have hope and I am sure that my business will grow into a multimillion business," she laughs loudly. "Whatever we do, God is there to facilitate it into success, because we serve the God of success, not the God of failure." God has brought new hope into Dorothy's life. She explains, "I used to think that HIV/AIDS is the end of my life. I never thought that God's love is beyond all we think, but I discovered that God's love can change what we call death into life." All her eight children are aware of her health and they have drawn closer in this complicated situation. "My children have stood by my side especially when the world seemed to turn its back on me and my family."

A Living Testimony

Remarkably, Dorothy doesn't see her life as her own. She says determinedly, "I will live a life with a difference, the life of creating a positive environment for women and children who are living in the world of HIV/AIDS and tell them that it is not the end of the road, that living with HIV does not mean that God has turned His merciful eyes from us." She uses her added days to give a testimony, advocating for women and children, especially those who were brutally raped and deliberately infected with HIV during the 1994 genocide.

Despite all the regret-filled, darkened lives that HIV/AIDS has imposed on Rwanda, God has revealed His grace to many through Compassion's support. A smile breaks broadly on Madam Dorothy's face, "Love brought me to a new life...I live a life of testimony of what the good Lord has done in my life with this deadly disease. I thought of committing suicide, but the God of mercy showed me love through Compassion. Long live sponsors and Compassion! Had it not been for Compassion, I would be dead by now, I believe."

By Nikki Sealey, Compassion UK with Briton Kamugisha, Compassion Rwanda Article reproduced with permission from Compassion UK
www.compassionuk.org

NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS AND CUSTOMS

Most research seems to agree that the earliest celebrations of the New Year began in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. However, like the majority of early celebrations it began in Spring not Winter, around mid-March, and lasted for around 11 days! The Babylonians also made good resolutions a feature of their celebrations like us, but theirs tended to be about returning `borrowed` farm equipment, not giving up chocolate!

Our calendar is mainly Roman in origin, and the early Roman calendar was only of 10 months in length, so the year had little relationship to the seasons and constantly needed readjustments! In 153 BC the Roman Senate declared January 1st to be the official New Year, and created two new months of January and February. However by 45 BC the problems with the year continued, so much so that it expanded to be 445 days long!

The early Christian Church was opposed to the use of January 1st, believing it to be a pagan celebration, and the 567 AD Council abolished it. However some Christian sects still celebrated it as the Feast of Christ's Circumcision (traditionally performed 8 days after the baby's birth). In the Middle Ages, the church associated the New Year with the first day of Spring or Easter (usually in March). The British only adopted the reformed calendar with New Year's Day on January 1st in 1752. Many Eastern Orthodox Churches, still using the old Roman calendar, celebrate it on January 14th.

There are many customs associated with New Year celebrations throughout the world. Here are some examples of them:-

CHINESE The Chinese New Year occurs on February 12th and is associated with a Spring Festival. The celebrations can last 15 days, and presents are bought and houses cleaned extra thoroughly. A traditional New Year's Eve meal involves seafood and dumplings. The day itself has the custom of Hong Bao (Red Packets) when married couples give children and unmarried friends gifts of money in red envelopes (red is a traditionally lucky colour). The celebrations end with fireworks and a parade of lanterns.

sprained her foot, thus missing the majority of the rest of the tour. However, unlike Joan, she was thankfully sufficiently recovered to return with us.

The next day began with a visit to Mount Tabor to visit the pretty church of the Transfiguration with excellent panoramic views over the countryside of the Jezreel Valley. This involved some queuing and shopping as we waited to be ferried up in local minibuses, although some of us opted to walk down. Nazareth was not as pretty as many expected, and had a number of tensions surrounding the building of a local mosque next to the Basilica of the Annunciation. This modern church contained beautiful stained glass, as well as art works from all over the world. Our final stop of the day was the marriage church at Cana where we saw several Japanese couples renewing their marriage vows.

A particularly warm and sunny day with no wind dawned for our trip on a replica wooden boat along the coast to Capernaum. The trip began with a surprise, as the crew played the National Anthem and ran up the Union Flag. Once in the middle of the Lake, the boat's engines were stopped and we were able to have a short service. We came ashore near a museum of a 2000 year old boat found and preserved in the mud. We then visited the Mensa Church and the church of the loaves and fishes at Tabgha, almost on the beach, with its lovely mosaics including one of the loaves and fishes; as was pointed out, only four loaves since the fifth would be on the communion table.

Capernaum itself was fascinating, although largely an archaeological site, with its house in which Peter lived and Christ stayed, and the ancient Romanesque synagogue in which He may have preached. At Kursi we visited an ancient ruined church in the folds of the hills below the Golan Heights, where Jesus performed the miracle of the Gadarene swine—a peaceful place full of beautiful flowering bushes. We ended the day at sunset on the Mount of the Beatitudes, where we took communion in the lovely gardens with inspiring views over the Sea of Galilee.

Continued inside back cover

CHURCH TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

November 2008

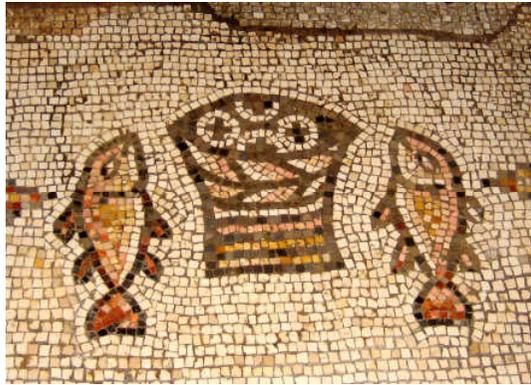
(continued)

We left our Jerusalem hotel early for the second half of our holiday, passing through the Judean hills, along the Israeli side of the Dead Sea, to the fort of Masada at its southern edge. We travelled up to Herod's fort and the archaeological site by cable cars. Interestingly, although it was about one and a half thousand feet up, because of the fact that the Dead Sea is so far below Sea Level, at the top we were at sea level!

Masada means a great deal to many Jewish people because it marks an heroic three year resistance against a powerful Roman invading army around the time of Christ. In the end the rebel force of 900 people killed themselves rather than be captured. From there we stopped briefly at Qumran where we saw some of the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, and then a final stop at a bathing beach. Many of us took the chance to float in the waters and to plaster the Rector with Dead Sea mud!

We were aware of the political situation on this journey, moving in and out of checkpoints, along the valley of the surprisingly small Jordan river, and that the mountains seen on the far bank of the Dead Sea are those belonging now to Jordan. As night fell we entered Tiberius, and were quickly allocated rooms at the Golden Tulip Hotel, overlooking the Sea of Galilee.

That night at dinner, one of our party from Moulton, Joan, unfortunately fell and broke her femur and was rushed into the efficient care of the Israeli Health Service. The next day, en route to the coach, Pat from Bolton unfortunately also fell and badly



JAPAN BONENKAI or `forget the year` parties when old grudges are forgotten.

SPAIN Eat 12 grapes at midnight for 12 happy months.

HOLLAND Bonfires are lit on New Year's Eve. Their special food is doughnuts (the circular quality mirroring the circle of the year).

SOUTH KOREA People traditionally travel to the furthest land peninsula to watch the sunrise.

GREECE January 1st is the Festival of St. Basil, one of the founders of the Greek Orthodox Church. Traditional cakes, baked with a gold or silver coin inside are called St Basil cakes.

U.S. The dropping of a huge ball in Times Square, New York is the symbol of the New Year, and happens just before midnight. Nowadays it's made of Waterford Crystal and weighs over 1000 lbs.

SCOTLAND England has taken over many of the Scottish celebrations of the New Year, known as HOGMANY (probably old French in origin). The old name for New Year's Day is NE'ERDAY. Many of the celebrations clearly have their roots in Norse and Viking myths. The Vikings celebrated the whole season as YULE (from which we get our logs). The tradition of `first footing` has also spread. This was the rule of the first person to cross a neighbour's threshold on New Year's Day should be a dark man with a gift (traditionally salt, coal, shortbread, whisky or blackbun (rich fruit cake).

The song `Auld Lang Syne` was partially written by the poet Robert Burns from an older version, and published in 1796. The title means `Old Long ago`. The tradition of singing it with crossed linked arms should apparently only apply to the last verse.

BITS AND PIECES

R.E. Teacher: Why was Solomon the wisest man in the world?

Little Girl: Because he had lots of wives to advise him.

Mother: Were you a good girl in church today?

Susan: Yes Mum. A man offered me a plate of money and I said "No thank you".

Extracts from Part 106 of `In Memoriam` by Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-92)

The majority of this long series of pieces (133 poems in all) were written between 1833 and 1836, but it was not finally published until 1850. The poems chart the progress of the poet's grief for the tragic loss of his friend, poet and scholar Arthur Henry Hallam, who died suddenly in 1833 aged just 22. In section 106 the poet hears the bells of the New Year and feels renewed optimism for the world.

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light,
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out wild bells and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow.
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out, my mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place or blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.



are responsible for arranging the flowers all over the hospice buildings. So there is something for everyone.

Many people think that working in a hospice could be depressing but that certainly is not the case, although the patients there have terminal illnesses. Yes, of course there is sadness when a death occurs but there is also a great deal of joy when, for instance, a patient is pronounced well enough to go home, and it does happen very often! The doctors and nurses give a great deal of love and care in dealing with the patients and their families but they are always cheerful and encouraging and there is a lot of laughter.

Several members of Deane Church have been patients at the Hospice and there are some members who have been, or who are currently, volunteers. I know from my own experience how grateful patients and their families are for the work done by volunteers and how worthwhile and sometimes humbling the job of the volunteer at the Hospice can be.

Margaret Howard

Prayer of Saint Basil the Great

O God and Lord of the Powers, and Maker of all creation, Who, because of Thy clemency and incomparable mercy, didst send Thine Only-Begotten Son and our Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of mankind, and with His venerable Cross didst tear asunder the record of our sins, and thereby didst conquer the rulers and powers of darkness; receive from us sinful people, O merciful Master, these prayers of gratitude and supplication, and deliver us from every destructive and gloomy transgression, and from all visible and invisible enemies who seek to injure us. Nail down our flesh with fear of Thee, and let not our hearts be inclined to words or thoughts of evil, but pierce our souls with Thy love, that ever contemplating Thee, being enlightened by Thee, and discerning Thee, the unapproachable and everlasting Light, we may unceasingly render confession and gratitude to Thee: The eternal Father, with Thine Only-Begotten Son, and with Thine All-Holy, Gracious, and Life-Giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

VOLUNTEERING AND BOLTON HOSPICE

One of the things the English are good at is volunteering for various charitable works and organisations. In Bolton there are many instances of organisations that depend for their existence on volunteers. This is not altogether true of the Hospice because it could not do its work without the expertise of the doctors and nurses and the administrative staff who are responsible for the day-to-day running of patient care. It should not be forgotten, however, that it was the people of Bolton who recognised the need for a hospice and who began fund raising to make it happen, and who were eventually responsible for bringing it into being. The government makes a contribution to the finances, but not nearly enough, and the Fund Raising Department at the Hospice has to raise the larger proportion of the money needed to keep the Hospice and its various services going. Fortunately the people of Bolton are very generous and support the many fund raising efforts whether through playing the Hospice Lottery, making donations after a death, by buying from the Hospice shops or attending concerts, pub quizzes etc. held in aid of the Hospice.

So where does volunteering fit in and how does it help?

There are the obvious ways—helping on the wards by making drinks for the patients and their friends and families, serving meals to patients, talking to them and making sure that they have everything that they need. There are the receptionists, particularly in the Day Therapy Unit, who see the day patients in and out, greet the patients and their carers who come to the clinics and answer the telephone. Other receptionists man the reception in the In Patient Unit in the evenings and at weekends. There are volunteers who help in the Fund Raising Department, others who serve in the shops, who drive patients to and from the Day Therapy Unit, and yet others who help in the kitchens and now there are volunteer gardeners who keep the Garden of Tranquillity looking good. There are also volunteers who

2 January - Basil the Great (c330-79)

The memory of Basil is important particularly in the Orthodox Church.

Basil was most people's idea of the perfect diocesan bishop. He was a theologian of distinction, who as a monk devoted himself to much prayer and teaching. He leapt to the defence of the church from the persecution of the Arian emperor Valens, but also appreciated great secular literature of the time, gave away his inheritance to the poor, knew how to run a soup kitchen, and counted thieves and prostitutes among his converts. Not your everyday bishop!

Basil came from a distinguished and pious family and he had the best education available at Caesarea, Constantinople and Athens. He decided to become a monk with Gregory of Nazianzus, and settled as a hermit near Neo-Caesarea. He became bishop of Caesarea in 370, with 50 suffragan bishops to look after. It was the time of the great Arian heresy, and Basil would come to be seen as one of the great champions of the Church, defending it from secular encroachments.

Basil loved his people - and was known for his generosity and care for the poor - both through food and medical care. He was a great preacher - preaching both morning and evening to vast congregations - and organising services of psalms before daybreak.

He was interested in monastic legislation, and to this day, nearly all monks and nuns of the Greek Church follow his rule. His emphasis was on community life, liturgical prayer, and manual work. His rule allowed for almsgiving, hospitals and guest-houses. Basil wrote some important works on the Holy Spirit.

He died at 49, worn out by austerities, hard work and disease. He was so loved that even strangers mourned his death, and in the centuries that followed, many artists painted pictures of him. His cult spread rapidly in the West, through Greek monks in Italy and through St Benedict admitting that his rule had been inspired by "our holy father Basil".

A prayer of St Basil follows in a few pages.

Deane Church Shop

After a great deal of hard work by many people the Deane Church Shop has opened.

As always it is hard to make particular mention of individuals but it seems appropriate to single out just three.

Many thanks to Mike Kirkby for setting up the premises in such a willing manner.

Michele Moxam deserves thanks for organising the staff who will work there, making rotas etc.

Nicola is managing the shop on a day to day basis and our thanks go to her for her commitment in this.

To these and all others who have helped and continue to do so week in and week out, go the thanks of the whole church family.

Thanks of course to those who have taken in stock. MORE is needed!

Opening hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10.00 to 4.00

Saturday 10.00 to 1.00

Call in and say hello or bring or buy!

Call Michelle on 01204 660081 if you need any information.



BOOKS 4 U

Basic Christianity (50th Anniversary Edition)

John Stott IVP £7.99

'Jesus certainly existed. His existence as an historical figure is vouched for by pagan as well as Christian writers,' says John Stott. In this famous little book, Dr Stott goes on to consider some of the fundamental questions of Christianity: Who was Jesus? Why was he crucified? Did he really rise from the dead? The author offers a clear and full explanation, showing what it means to be a Christian today. This book has helped many thousands of people to faith or to deeper certainty in faith. It is timeless and a help anyone who wants to look seriously into or polish up on the basics of the Christian faith.

A Little History of the English Country Church

Roy Strong Vintage £9.99 paperback (£6.59 on Amazon)

Bearing in mind that a large proportion of English churches, not least St Mary's Deane, were country churches until relatively recently, this book offers an intriguing insight into the development of layout, liturgy and practice of many of our churches. 'It is a celebration of the English country church and a plea for its preservation. From the arrival of the missionaries from Ireland and Rome, who created crosses to mark the places where they preached, to the beautiful architecture and spirituality of medieval Catholicism; from the cataclysm of the Reformation, which replaced the splendour of ritual with the preaching of the word, to the age of the 'squarson', the gentrified cleric of Jane Austen novels, Roy Strong takes us on a journey—historical, social and spiritual—to explore what men and women experienced through the ages when they went to church on Sunday.' (comments on back cover)

(Hardback on Amazon at £11.89—postage free on orders over £15.)

