

# Deane St Mary's

September/October 2009

We've a lot of news this month about what the young people have been/are up to and you'll find that very encouraging!

In the absence of a Rector, this month a Warden Witters!

Our Careforce worker introduces himself, so why not introduce yourself to Joel if you've not done so already.

It's definitely not too early to be doing your Christmas shopping if you want to fill a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child—you'll need to be organised for this by November 1st—details inside.

You'll have heard of the Bereavement Support Group. Ken Tidmarsh, who heads it up, tells us about it this month.

The subject of this month's profile is May Morris. You'll be fascinated. Sorry we didn't get a picture!

A book review to change your prayer life; dates for your diary of two coffee mornings; more about re-searching your family history and some history of Deane Church as well as other bits and pieces.



**A PRAYER FOR EVERY DAY**  
Lord, lead us from the lower  
life to the better life,  
that little things may lose  
their power to vex us  
and in all our anxieties we  
may have your peace which  
passes all understanding.

# St Mary's Info: Sep/Oct 2009

	9.00	10.30	6.00
Sep 27	Holy Communion	<b>Back to Church Sunday</b>	
	James 5:13-20 Luke 19:1-10		
Oct 4	Holy Communion	Family Parade	Evening Service
	<b>Harvest/Tear Fund Sunday</b>		John 4:7-14
Oct 11	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Service
	Hebrews 4:2-16; Mark 10:17-31		Daniel 4 and 7
Oct 18	Holy Communion	Family Baptism	Evening Service
	Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45		Daniel 5,10,11,12
Oct 25	Holy Communion	All age Service of the Word	Evening Service
	Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52		Theme tbd

## Some quotes with Harvest in mind...

Gratitude is the heart's memory - French proverb

A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all the other virtues. (Cicero)

Thanksgiving is the vibration of the soul's heartstrings under the soft touch of God's benevolence.

# A Warden Witters

The Rector writes is obviously temporarily suspended, and after Elizabeth picking up the reigns for the last magazine, we have agreed to share this part of the Rector's job, so this month I'm afraid it's a Warden witters!

I seem to be having a bit of an Old Testament phase at the moment, and at the evening services over the next few weeks we are delving into the book of Daniel. It's a fascinating book and I guess that many of us are familiar with the stories of Daniel and his friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. How many of you now have a picture in your head of Daniel surround by lions?

The book is a mixture of 'stories' and prophecies but it has a theme which runs throughout the book - the Sovereignty of God. If you look up a definition of sovereignty it will probably say something like 'supreme power or authority'. So the book of Daniel shows us that God has supreme power or authority.



As we look forward as a church over the coming months we see lots of changes on the horizon. The interviews for the new Rector will take place later this month and we are getting ever closer to the time when we have agreed to demolish the existing hall in preparation for the construction of new one.

I'm not sure that any of us really like change, maybe because change is often something that happens to us, rather than something that we are in control of. But I believe that we worship a God of change. I believe that we worship a God who wants to change our lives and the lives of those around us. In Romans chapter 12 we read 'Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind' (verse 2). I believe that

God wants to transform us.

The thing is that if we try and transform ourselves it just won't work. Only God can do that. Unfortunately that means letting go. Daniel and his friends experienced many changes during their journey - exiled to Babylon they lived under the rule of various different earthly kings. The thing was that they knew and held on to the fact that above those earthly kings was the supreme authority of God, who never changed and was in complete control. As we continue in this period of change within the life of the church let's hold on to the fact that God has ultimate control, just as He did in the life of Daniel. It might mean us letting go of the control of our lives, but maybe by letting go we're just falling a little bit deeper into the safe hands of God. It's hard, but I think I know where I'd rather be.

**Next time you feel like GOD  
can't use you,  
just remember...**

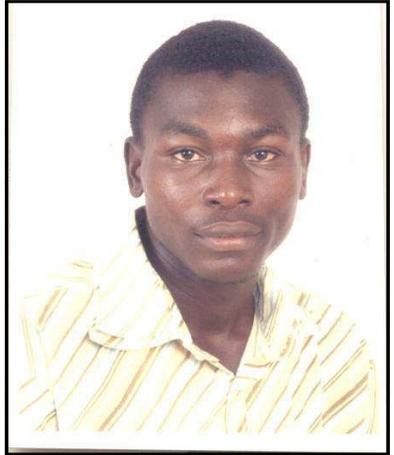
Noah was a drunk  
Sarah was too old  
Isaac was a daydreamer  
Jacob was a liar  
Leah was ugly  
Joseph was abused  
Moses had a stuttering problem  
Gideon was afraid  
Samson was a womanizer  
Rahab was a prostitute  
Jeremiah and Timothy were too young  
David had an affair and was a murderer  
Elijah was suicidal

Isaiah preached naked  
Jonah ran from God  
Job went bankrupt  
Peter denied Christ (3 times!)  
The Disciples fell asleep while praying  
Martha worried about everything  
Mary Magdalene was possessed by demons  
Zaccheus was too small  
Paul was too religious  
Timothy had an ulcer... AND  
Lazarus was dead!  
Now! No more excuses!  
God can use you to your full potential.  
Besides, you aren't the message, you are just the messenger...

# Introducing...

## Joel, Our Careforce Worker

### ME AND MY DEANE YEAR!



My name is Joel Iyorwa, I am 27 and part of a family of eight; Dad, Mom and 6 siblings and I am the first. I studied psychology in the University and have been fortunate to know the Lord at the tender age of 9, being at that time a little Sunday school boy, and have been walking with Him by faith ever since.

My home country is Nigeria, the most populous black nation on earth which lies on the western coasts of Africa. Nigeria has over 200 ethnic groups or tribes, and I come from the Tiv ethnic group in the "Middle-belt" region, precisely from Benue State.

Back at home, since graduating from the University and completing the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Scheme, I have been involved in the campaign against HIV/AIDS which has reached an epidemic stage in Nigeria. Using a faith-based approach, which encourages abstinence before marriage and faithfulness in marriage, as the panacea against the spread of the Virus. This I have been doing in schools, and different campuses, villages, etc. I have been part of a team that advocates abstinence for young people and we have been distributing and encouraging young people to sign abstinence pledge cards. It was while I got involved in this aspect of development work that I sensed a deeper longing and need to serve God by serving the People He has created. The opportunity with Careforce couldn't have

come at a better time.

I sincerely expect that my time in England will be a life transforming moment, an important milestone in my own life and work with God and service to Him and His people. I look forward to a beautiful, rewarding and fulfilling year working at the Deane Church. I believe it will be a wonderful platform on which to serve the Lord as I have always wanted to, now on the foreign scene as I have done at home for close to a decade; I hope it will be challenging perhaps, but equally great! While working here, I certainly hope to develop [new] skills, gain more and more experience, discover latent gifts perhaps. The Deane year, sure will place me on the threshold of a new dimension in my personal walk with and work for the lord. I'd be many, many feet, not just inches taller at the close of my year at the Deane Parish church.

## Handicraft Group Coffee Morning

Please come along to the Handicraft Group's  
autumn coffee morning on  
Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup>

from 10am to 12 noon in the church hall.

Tickets (which include refreshments) at  
50p are available from any member of the  
group, or can be bought on the day.

All proceeds go towards the building of the  
new Hall, so please do support us!

Everyone is very welcome!

# BOOKS 4 U

## Prayer - Does it make any difference?

By Philip Yancey

Reviewed by Alison Partington

As Christians we know prayer is important but for many of us it is not something we find easy. This book on prayer is useful for everyone, whether you find prayer easy or difficult; whether you have never prayed other than in an emergency or if you have been praying for years.

The book covers issues such as:

- What is prayer?
- What difference does it make?
- Why and how should we pray?
- What about unanswered prayers? and
- How should we pray for physical healing?

This book is not written by somebody who claims to be a prayer "expert" but by someone who shares his problems and issues with us and some of the answers he and others have come to - we share his prayer journey. It is also illustrated by true prayer "stories" from around the world. This makes the book very readable and it is full of practical help and ideas.

The book tackles many difficult issues in prayer such as:

- If God knows everything then why should we pray at all?
- When Jesus said "ask and you shall receive" why do so many prayers go unanswered?

My prayer life has changed dramatically as a result of reading this book and I thoroughly recommend it to others.

**Put some of your Christmas goodwill into a shoe box - and send it to a child in need!**



When you start planning your Christmas this year, why not share some of the joy and fun? For hundreds of thousands of desperately needy children, there will be no Christmas coming at all in 2009 -

unless you send it to them.....in a shoe box!

Even as you read this, tens of thousands of people throughout the UK are busy packing shoe boxes to send out through Operation Christmas Child. The shoe boxes are easy to fill and the simple toys that they contain will bring joy and happiness to the lives of destitute children in Eastern Europe and Africa this year.

Operation Christmas Child is a project run by Samaritan's Purse International, a Christian relief and development charity. Last year 1.23million needy children in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and Africa received shoe boxes from children, families and individuals in the UK. For many of the children who receive a shoe box it will be the first Christmas present they ever receive.

So - how do you send Christmas to a child in a shoe box? It's easy! Simply take an empty shoe box, wrap it in gift paper (lid and box separately) and fill it with toys, educational supplies, hats and scarves and other items that will bring joy to a child's life.

Our church is taking part again this year, and if you would like to contribute, contact Alison Partington or visit [www.samaritanpurse.uk.com](http://www.samaritanpurse.uk.com) for more information or to read some of the wonderful stories of the joy a shoe box can bring. Last year

members of our congregation did nearly 100 shoe boxes and in the last 2 years close to 6,500 churches have taken part. Let's see if we can top the 100 mark this year!

A leaflet will be available throughout October at the back of church which is full of ideas of what to put in the shoe box, plus an identifying label to stick on the front of your box and a donation envelope so that you can include the £2.50 per box required by Samaritan's Purse to cover the distribution, transport, processing and promotion costs. Why not bring your wrapped and filled shoe box to our church on our Shoe Box Celebration Service on 1<sup>st</sup> November or if you cannot make it that day leave at the Deane Church Shop. To make an even bigger impact, why not involve your whole family, neighbours and friends and bring them all along to the service?

l o v e d s s k n a h t d e	<b>Wordsearch</b>
h n l r r m t e a u c t e m	
o o t c k i e n d m h r i r	
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# Soul Survivor

A Group of 13 teenagers from Deane Church, accompanied by Karen, Beccy, and Sean, went to the Soul Survivor Festival in Somerset this summer. Instead of me waffling on, here's what they had to say about it.



## **What was the best bit?**

The Music

Andy and Mike dancing

The Mini Mike and Little Crofty videos

The Teaching

The Worship

I liked going to watch free styling and skateboarding, going to gigs, the underground and Mr Boogies, and making necklaces.

Seeing how God meets with people, how he encourages them, heals, strengthens and forgives. Also remembering that God is our Father, our protector, our friend, who knows us better than we know ourselves, it's both scary and enlightening.

Seeing God do what He does best - change lives

Going round in a conga in the Big Top worship

It was all brilliant

## **What was the worst bit?**

The wasps

The rain

The Wasps

Needing the loo in the middle of the night, and convincing yourself that it really isn't that cold out there!

Deciding when to have a shower

Coming home because I wanted to stay another week

Being told the conga was too dangerous so we had to stop it

The Ice Cold Shower

Sitting on the floor for so long

**What was the funniest moment?**

Karen's glare the time we tried to run around the tent in the middle of dancing generation just after Mike had specifically said not to.

Watching Mike Pilavachi and Andy Croft dance

Little Mike and Little Crofty videos (check them out on YouTube)

Ask James!

When Hannah and Liv fell asleep in a seminar

The animal noises game

**Quote of the Week:**

"Nom nom nom"

"it's just the Lord."

"I see your face, You're beautiful" (Song words)

"I'm turning the other shoe"

"we've landed and we're just coming to the gate" (said towards the end of a 1 hour sermon!)

**What Did you learn**

No matter how much we try to ignore God and avoid him, he is always there. No matter how much we feel we don't love him, he will always love us. His love is unconditional.

That I can survive in a tent;

That God is always around if you just take the time to wait and let

Him minister to you; and also reminded that His timing is always perfect

Love - It's hard

See my blue book

That God works in mysterious ways

**Describe Soul Survivor in One Word**

Reviving.

Wow

Fantastic

Inspiring

Flabbergasting

we'd better be going back next year (That's not one word Dave!)

different!

Cool

**AMAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAZING**

# The Bereavement Support Group

It is now two years since the Bereavement Support Group was formed, in order to provide Ian Mainey with help and support in his ministry to the bereaved.

On September 5<sup>th</sup> of that year the Group comprising of five church members and our curate, Dan Howard, started a fairly intensive period of training by working through a specially designed CPAS course. The aim of the course was to learn about both the process of bereavement and loss, and how it is possible to "live with loss". Since then the group has slowly but surely established itself as a means of support for those who have experienced the loss of a "loved one"

A vital support on offer is for one of our Group to call and check to find out if there is anything that we can do to support someone following the funeral. It may be that somebody to talk to outside the family is all that is needed, but we can also offer practical help and advice to assist with any problems. We would not intrude into anyone's privacy but if they would like to speak with someone confidentially, then we are available to provide a listening ear as well as practical support over the following months.

If you would like to avail yourself at anytime of the service we offer, or would like to know more about the Group, maybe with a view to joining us at a later stage, then please do call me.

Ken Tidmarsh. Tel: 652184

## COFFEE MORNING

Guides, Brownies and Rainbows

HQ Junction Road

Saturday 10th November 10 to 12

ALL WELCOME

# 31 October All Hallows Eve

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1 November - All Saints' Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

# Summer Term Youth Report

**Voltage:** Numbers at Voltage went back down to a sensible number over the summer months, which gave us more opportunities for some proper chats with the young people. We also welcomed James Caffrey onto the team as a volunteer whilst he was home from university. His ability to relate to the lads and his sporting abilities have been a great asset to us. According to our records there are over 30 young people who have been to Voltage who are now the right age to move up to The Element. Hopefully September will see many new year 7s coming through the doors. Please pray that these young people will come, and settle well, and not be put off by what will be a very lively bunch of year 8s.

**The Element:** The Element have been looking at what it means to be a part of the church, which has led to them starting work on a display of the church family which we hope to put up in church. They also led us in a very lively and thought provoking evening service. I'm especially proud of this bunch for making the sacrificial decision to invite the year 9s from Voltage to visit The Element a few weeks early so that we don't lose contact with them over the summer as we have in previous years. They visited the year 9s at Voltage first, and then invited them to come to a social with The Element and join with their group from there. This has changed the atmosphere at the group and has not been easy for the older members, but demonstrates their commitment to sharing God's love with other young people.

**CYFA:** We usually do a lot of intense Bible Study at CYFA, covering a lot of ground - usually study a book, or bible character or biblical theme. This term, we looked at just one verse: Colossians 3:23 "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men" and considered how to apply this verse in different aspects of our lives. We explored lots of issues relevant to young people including attitudes to school and college work, image, and sexuality.

**Pathfinders:** Pathfinders have been using "The Grid" resource to study the bible and apply it to their lives. The group was well attended over the summer term with numbers around 9 or 10 towards the end of the term . Several of the members of this group have made a profession of faith and all were given trendy NIV bibles. Two of last year's Pathfinders are due to move on to CYFA and potentially 10 new members could come up from Explorers in September.

## **The Computer's swallowed Grandma!**

(A tribute to all grandparents who have who have been fearless and learned to use the computer!)

The computer's swallowed Grandma!

Yes, honestly, it's true.

She pressed control and enter

And disappeared from view.

It's devoured her completely;

The thought just makes me squirm.

Maybe she's caught a virus

Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through her recycle bin

And files of every kind.

I've even used the internet

But nothing could I find.

In desperation I asked Jeeves

My searches to refine.

The reply from him was negative;

Not a thing was found online.

So if inside your inbox

My Grandma should you see

Please scan, copy and paste her

In an email back to me!

# Razzamatazz

## Robots

A lot of tin foil, one man in a white coat, one man in a dress, a team of 15 adults and 13 young helpers, and 58 children... it can only be this year's holiday club!



There were all the holiday club favourites with a roboty twist! The children were organised into 6 teams: The yellows - Cogs and Gears, the reds - Wheels and Rollers, and the blues - Springs and Levers. They got points for their team by posting pictures, jokes, and worksheets into a robots mouth, taking part in games in the "Games Test Zone", taking part in Team Challenges which involved building a giraffe out of newspaper and balancing cups of water on a team helpers head, doing fantastic robot impressions and actions during our daily robot warm up and theme song, making some very impressive robots out of the junk church members had donated, and of course remembering each day's bible memory verse.

We learnt a lot about ourselves and God over the week. On Day One we learnt that God created the world and it was good; on Day Two we learnt that God made each one of us and we are "fearfully and wonderfully made"; on Day Three we read about how Adam and Eve got things wrong and thought about how we get things wrong too, but if we trust God with all our heart he will make our paths straight; on Day Four we saw how God flooded the whole earth because everybody did evil all the time, but that he rescued Noah and his family because he was a righteous man and thought about how we can do right things by loving the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and

strength and loving our neighbours as ourselves; and on day five we learnt about how Jesus died and rose again so that we could be forgiven for our sins and be friends with God.

It was a very exciting, if very tiring week. It was great to see children thinking properly about what Jesus had done for the first time and learning parts of the bible with such enthusiasm. It was also great to see new people volunteering as team leaders, and so many young people wanting to help out. Sean did a fantastic job as our Chief Engineer, leading the children with great enthusiasm and energy, and Dan again gave a brilliant performance as Grandma Watt in our daily Watt Family Dramas!

A massive THANK YOU! to everyone who made the week so great: our refreshments team, registration desk, team leaders and helpers, the band, the drama cast, those who donated money and craft materials, and the children who came along so enthusiastically!



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o	o	t	c	k	i	e	n	d	m	h	r	i	r
n	i	s	d	h	w	f	e	i	g	r	e	l	e
i	t	l	f	o	i	t	n	i	a	i	d	p	m
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r	p	f	a	d	a	a	y	l	g	k	u	e	s
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**Wordsearch**  
**Solution**

# This Month's Profile

## May Morris

May Morris was born in April 1927, the youngest of a family of eight; she had four brothers and three sisters. With May, two of the sisters, Ethel and Sally, became regular worshippers at Deane Church. The family lived with their parents behind a greengrocer's shop in Gilnow Lane, which was owned by May's father. The accommodation behind the shop was very cramped for such a large family but they managed very well.

May attended Pikes Lane School and at the age of 11 transferred to the secondary school in Derby Street where she remained until she was 14. On leaving school, May decided that she did not want to work in the family shop and found a job in a mill where she earned the equivalent of about £1 35p a week! After three months, however, her father having died and her mother being too ill to manage the shop, May left the mill to take over the management of the shop, her siblings being already employed elsewhere.

May describes the shame and embarrassment of having to visit the wholesale market every morning pushing a box on wheels to buy fruit and vegetables to sell in the shop. In course of time she graduated to using a handcart and eventually a car. As she grew more used to her daily visits to the market, she began to enjoy it, particularly the haggling over prices and the banter with the other shopkeepers and wholesalers. In 1966 the Council condemned the shop in Gilnow Lane and May was forced to buy another shop on St Helen's road. At about the same time, together with one of her brothers and Ethel, she moved to the Ladybridge Estate where she still continues to live, Ethel having sadly died last year.

The greengrocer's shop on St Helens road was such a success that Sally left her job at the Co-op to work for May and some time later Ethel was recruited to work for her too alongside three part timers and four Saturday girls. May says that they had many distinguished customers including Lady Hulton. In any event the shop was well known in Bolton for its good value and happy atmosphere and

May continued to manage it until she retired.

May has not had an easy life. At one stage she spent about six months in hospital in Hulton Lane recovering from TB. Ethel went into Wrightington Hospital where she was also treated for TB. At that time TB was a greatly feared disease, and after her recovery May found that some people were reluctant to socialise with her. However, her own good sense prevailed and she put the experience behind her. By this time she was putting into practice the lesson learned from her mother - to live with honesty and to do whatever you can for others. May describes her mother as a wonderful, caring person.

May has enjoyed life in spite of the difficulties that she has encountered, and she continues to do so. She has had many wonderful holidays including trips to Thailand, Bali, Portugal, Singapore, Hong Kong, a flight to New York on Concord, returning on the QE2, and has even driven a mini bus to Italy and back! Now May and Sally enjoy more leisurely holidays in Llandudno and in Blackpool.

They both enjoy a meal in a restaurant and May likes to relax in front of the TV watching cricket on Sky Sports and at other times reading historical novels. A fervent Royalist, May admires greatly the hard work done by the Queen and the Princess Royal.

May and her brothers and sisters were brought up as Methodists and it was not until 1989, when she and Ethel had become members of the congregation at Deane, that May was confirmed, Ethel having already been confirmed when she was in Wrightington hospital. There have not been many Sundays since her confirmation that May has been missing. May, Ethel and Sally have been staunch supporters of Deane Church and all of the activities there, and Sally and May continue to do so. May believes that being a Christian is a seven days a week job, something that we all need to remember. She also believes that we need young people in the church and that we must strive at Deane to encourage the youth to remain in our Christian family. In addition we must reach out to those people who attend the church services for a time, for whatever reason, and then disappear, and try to bring them back into the fold. A challenge for us all!

# Vicars of Deane

As we await a new Rector, we can reflect on the many who have served the parish in the past. The list of names on the north wall shows that John Tilsley was appointed in 1643, uniquely for Deane by the House of Commons. He was an energetic, single-minded and challenging man who managed to offend both Oliver Cromwell and King Charles II, but was evidently beloved of his parishioners. His grave is next to his wife's beneath the yew tree, encircled by stone, to the south-east of the church. Inscriptions can still be easily read and the letters in stone bear witness to an enduring love.

Tilsley was probably born in Bolton of a protestant family, as his education at Edinburgh University suggests, and he was ordained about 1637, not by a bishop. As a presbyterian he did not acknowledge a hierarchy of bishops but did not favour entirely independent churches. During his period at Deane, or just before, he was instrumental in the presentation of a petition to Parliament, with thousands of signatures, which enabled a special arrangement to be made for churches in Lancashire. After the Restoration bishops resumed their role.

He had been a soldier, fighting in the Battle of Preston in 1642. His description of this battle was immediately published and widely distributed. It is probable that he wrote the unsigned "An Exact Relation of the Bloody and Barbarous Massacre at Bolton in the Moor" when he was already serving as minister at Deane. Despite his earlier support for Cromwell, he opposed the execution of Charles I and, attracting the anger of powerful independents, was ejected from the parish in 1650. Following changes in government policy he was reinstated, and, in addition to his ministry, played a notable part in the development of Chetham's Library in Manchester. He was ejected again in 1662 after the Restoration of Charles II because he resisted the Act of Uniformity, which demanded that all clergy be ordained by a bishop and that they should use only the Book of Common Prayer. Continuing to preach locally, he was threatened by

further Acts of Parliament until a new Bishop of Chester enabled him to return to the parish. The Archbishop of York eventually intervened and Tilsley was ejected for a third time in 1678.

Despite retirement to Manchester, he was buried at Deane in 1684. His single-minded, unswerving mission is reflected in the text he chose for his own funeral sermon, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever". He left twenty pounds to "the poor of Deane Parish" who had constantly supported him. After a life of challenge and combat, he has lain for three centuries beneath the yew tree.

"Men who are free  
Love the old yew tree  
And the land where the yew tree grows."

Footnote Material for the article is taken from James Boardman's History of Deane, 1904, and "Bolton Bibliography".

## Concern over violence in Pakistan

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Britain are among church leaders expressing deep concern over violence against Christians in Pakistan.

In recent weeks many acts of violence have been committed against Christians in Pakistan, including the burning of 47 homes in the village of Korian and 100 homes in Gojra City. More than 290 families have been made homeless and at least 9 people have died in the violence, which has arisen as a result of religious tensions between Christians and Muslims.

## Ladies' Guild Programme

September 22nd	Mrs Dyson
	Musical Memories
October 6th	Harvest Supper
October 20th	Kath Hughes

# GETTING STARTED IN FAMILY HISTORY: WHAT DO I DO NOW?

If you have followed this series of guides, you will have already looked at a variety of sources. You may have exhausted ideas and want to explore further. Here are some suggestions where you may be having difficulties. My main difficulties, because of the usefulness of the census reports, are before 1800 and after 1900! I will deal with both areas in turn.

This year, and two years earlier than planned, the National Archives realised the 1911 census. As there are real problems with the 1921 census (war damage), it is the last significant census many of us will have access to, and at the moment it is only available on the web to fee payers. I suspect that this may change but whilst the rest of us wait for a more generous release, it is possible to explore it to some extent free of charge, via the National Archives site. You can't get sight of or print offs of whole households, but by using the search engine carefully it is possible to work out who is living with whom and in what area, if not road or street. Another valuable resource is to check the voters' lists which are available for every household for every year in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. You will not get children (or initially women!) but you will be able to check your family's movements if you have some idea where to look for them (do not forget street directories also which give details of the head who was living in each house with an occupation or profession).

Pre-1800 records give another source of difficulties, as Parish Records are partial in coverage and haven't always survived. Penwortham church near Preston has lost all its records between 1750 and 1800 in a fire, leaving me with a huge gap to recover for one of my families, but because a Lancaster church has solid records from 1590 and a Duffield church from 1670, I have much earlier records for those branches. Typically, as with my OSBISTONS, you will find

yourself with a scatter of early records but no clear link or bridge with later ones. Make note of the early ones as it is not impossible that one day you may sort the problem. For example new technology is already making damaged records or old writing accessible. A series of flood damaged census records from whole sections of Manchester has recently been recovered.

One way of documenting this I've found useful is to have a ledger with a page each 10 years for these early records; often they are just baptisms and marriages but they also include wills, property information, hearth taxes, muster rolls etc. You may never know for certain if the Richard in that will is the same Richard who married Jane and had Anne as a child, but such speculation can be allowed for these early fragments.

However, especially with early records, you may eventually have to visit the area of interest, with a pen, paper and camera. Before you go do your research about when facilities are open, and set yourself a series of clear tasks and goals to achieve. If possible enlist the help of other family members, as this is a more enjoyable journey with others and older children frequently enjoy the challenge.

Finally if you really enjoy this work, think of giving something back to others in the search. Join your local genealogy group, or a group on the web. Help the national movement to put birth marriages and deaths records on the web (FreeBMD). Bolton's small group doing this work give a few hours a week at the Record Office at Mere Hall. Join a group trying to index grave memorials before they disappear or are lost. Look for websites associated with towns in your county of interest via GENUKI. In the Derbyshire area there are several and I have downloaded several old school and work photographs to one of them for future researchers.

I hope you have enjoyed this series and found it useful. If I can be of any help to a struggling fellow researcher, I'm very happy to suggest options, but remember I am by no means any kind of expert.

# St Mary's Directory

Please inform Anne Roberts of any changes to this directory

Team Vicar	John Armstrong	01204 651851
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
<b>PCC</b>		
Lay Chair	Jane Hampson	01204 848433
Hon Treasurer	Les Kilsby	01204 665700
Hon Secretary	Bryan Shephard	01942 817288
<b>PCC Sub-Committee Chairs</b>		
Nurture	Charles Winder	01204 841947
Service	Edna Barlow	01942 817434
Worship	Becky Rutter	01204 654737
<b>Other Responsibilities</b>		
Flowers	Josie Crompton	01204 655964
Gift Aid Sec	Les Kilsby	01204 665700
Handicraft Group	Dorothy Benyon	01204 417794
Ladies' Guild	Josie Crompton	01204 655964
	Pat Sewell	01204 61278
Magazine Editor	Anne Roberts	01024 849468
Memorial Hall Bookings	Elizabeth Tidmarsh	01204 652184
Memorial Hall Caretaker		
Music Group	Becky Rutter	01204 654737
Organist	Lisa Atherton	01204 840741
Parent/Toddler Group		
Verger	Josie Crompton	01204 655964
<b>Sunday Schools</b>		
Climbers (3-7)	Lynda Smith	01204 62093
Explorers (7-11)	Paula Small	01204 650981
Pathfinders 7-9		
CYFA (10-13)		
<b>Youth Groups</b>		
Voltage/Element	Karen Greenhalgh	01204 654737
<b>Uniformed Organisations</b>		
Rainbows	Margaret Latchford	01204 657101
Brownies	Anne Calderbank	01204 398206
	Liz Valentine	01024 651692
Guides	Carole Baxendale	01204 419167