

Deane St Mary's

March 2010

Terry's first article as rector encourages us with the examples of his two favourite Bible characters (after Jesus!). Terry also gives advance notice of a youth camp in the summer (back page).

There's this year's **Embu** update.

Bryan Shephard is our profile subject; we've a **message** from the **Catholicos of all Armenians** and book recommendations.

The **Timeline of Christianity** focuses on Acts and the rest of the New Testament. The timeline itself will not be printed in future magazines so please keep this one if you want to follow it.

There are updates on the **new hall project**, the **Christian book-**

shop, **Youth Work**, **Ladies' Guild** and **Deane Church Shop**.

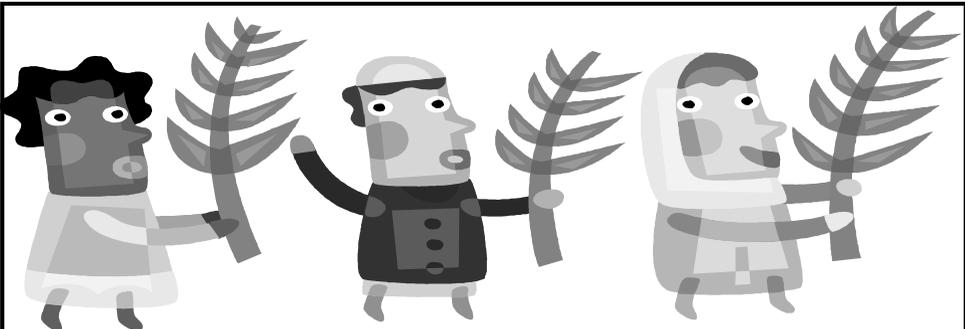
We look ahead to the **APCM** and to the **Handicraft Group Coffee Morning**.

A local church link with a **Namibian parish** opens our eyes to possibilities of helping others.

Palm Sunday is the featured special day this month and we have some insight into **life in Haiti**.

Words of Encouragement, a **child's explanation of God** and **things to pray about** round off this edition.

Please speak to a member of the team if you've any comments on or ideas for the magazine.



St Mary's Info: March 2010

	9.00	10.30	6.00
Mar 7	Holy Communion	All-Age Holy Communion with Parade	Evening Service Informal Holy Communion Kingdom
	Ephesians 2:11 – 22; Luke 13:1 – 9		
Mar 14	Holy Communion	Mothering Sunday All-Age Service	Evening Service Salvation
	Ephesians 3:1 – 21; Luke 2:33 – 35		
Mar 21	Holy Communion	Baptism	Evening Service Bishop Chris
	Ephesians 4:1 – 16; John 12: 1 – 8		
Mar 28	Holy Communion	Palm Sunday Service	Evening Service Worship
	Ps. 118:19 – 24; Matthew 21: 1 – 17		

Evening Service series - March 2010

The idea of this series is to look at some of the 'themes' that run through the Bible and bring the Old and New Testament together. It will help us to look at some of the foundations of the Christian faith to complement the series on Ephesians at 9:00am and 10:30am, but in a different way. It will help us to see the Bible as a complete, integrated book, with a single purpose. The idea is to look at the way that Old and New Testament work together.

St Mary's Mini Directory

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The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing



When I was interviewed by Nola Kilsby at my first 10.30am service at Deane, she asked me to name my favourite Bible character. Well, you have to say Jesus don't you? Especially when you're a vicar! But after Jesus, my two great heroes from the Scriptures are not perhaps from the usual 'A' list of Bible celebrities, yet one of them has two books of the Bible named after him.

Samuel was called by God to be a prophet when he was just a boy helping old Eli in the Shiloh Temple. Remember the account from 1 Samuel 3? "*Speak, for your servant is listening.*" As an adult he became the leader of God's people in that period bridging the gap between the judges and the first king, Saul. He lived in turbulent times. John Goldingay's excellent and very readable book *'Men behaving badly'* (2000. Paternoster) describes those times and the key Bible characters involved.

Samuel came from a highly dysfunctional family and had much to contend with through his life, yet he remained true to the Lord. And even when he was old and thinking of retirement (...the Lord had other plans!) he challenged the people to find fault with his life and no one could do so.

Samuel was also a tough cookie. You have to be if you are going to survive as a leader of God's people—in 11th century BC Israel or 21st century AD Britain. If you are going to lead effectively, there will be all kinds of opposition, human and demonic—often both at the same time. If you've never been a church leader, you won't understand!

But Samuel also had a pastor's heart and loved the people who God had called him to shepherd, even when they were being wayward: **'Do not be afraid,' Samuel replied. "You have done all this evil;**

yet do not turn away from the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. Do not turn away after useless idols. They can do you no good, nor can they rescue you, because they are useless.

For the sake of his great name the Lord will not reject his people, because the Lord was pleased to make you his own. As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right. But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you. Yet if you persist in doing evil, both you and your king will perish."

1 Samuel 12:20-25 (TNIV)

It is curious isn't it that Samuel considered it a sin not to pray for the people? One of my primary responsibilities as the pastor/leader of Deane Parish Church is to pray for the flock and for the wider parish. This I do each day as I pray for folk as a whole and individually by name... or by face if I can't remember their name!

Samuel was also a visionary leader—constantly listening to God; constantly reminding the people that the main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing. Then, as in church life today, any of us can become obsessive about *DOING* things... even sustaining structures that have become barriers to church growth, or championing our own agendas. Yet, the Bible teaches us that the more important thing is *BEING*. Our worth, in God's eyes, does not come through what we do but *who we are*. As Christians, as we have been learning from Ephesians at the morning services, we are a *new people with a new purpose*.

And my other Bible hero? Barnabas. You will hear me talk about him a lot and I just pray that I could be more like him. A church had been set up in Antioch and the powers that be down in Jerusalem wanted to check it out to make sure that it was kosher. So, very wisely, they sent Barnabas.

When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and

faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

Acts 11:23-24 (TNIV)

Deane Parish Church has been going for a little longer than the church in Antioch had been but, as I get to know people here, I am looking for signs of what the grace of God has done, and I want to encourage you to remain true to the Lord with all your heart. Your new rector is no Barnabas, but if we:

- 1. keep the Bible as the foundation of all that we do,**
- 2. pray our socks off,**
- 3. love one another, in that forgiving, self-sacrificing, healing kind of way that Jesus showed us,**
- 4. look outwards as a church as much as we cling to what is within**

...I wouldn't be at all surprised if a great number of people were brought to the Lord!

God bless.

Terry Clark

Rector of Deane

New Hall Project Update

The fact that the new hall project has been put on hold for a while does not mean that the group responsible for overseeing the planning stage has gone on holiday!

Nola reports: 'As a group we are still continuing to meet, to get us to the point of being ready to go out to tender—I'm not sure how long that will take as things seem to be moving very slowly—a general topic for prayer though would be for the committee as they consider the fixtures and fittings for the inside of the building and that we get it as right as we can for all future users.'

April Magazine Deadline

Copy to the Editor by March 16th, please.

anne-roberts@talktalk.net

01204 849468

or via a member of the team

ST STEPHEN'S CHILDREN'S HOME

Embu, Kenya

(Embu is a town in the Central Highlands of Kenya and it is the capital of Eastern Province. Within a five mile radius of this town there are currently 1200 orphan children whose parents have died of AIDS. Most have a variety of health problems including HIV. They lack basic shelter and care, food and clean water as well as access to basic education.)

Extracts from St Stephen's annual report

We give thanks to Almighty God. He has once again guided us through another year in safety and good health. We are continually reminded of is unending mercies and love; we could not have come this far without Him.

The main aim of the home is to provide for the spiritual, physical, social and intellectual needs of the children and eventually repatriate and re-integrate them back into the community, as well adjusted and responsible citizens. The success of the home is measured by the number of children who have been transformed from destitute and vulnerable 'street children' to responsible, successful and productive members of the community.

We admitted three more children into this programme, while one was re-integrated back into their home and one was repatriated and placed in the Family. Currently there are **46 resident children**. There are also **34 children in the Family Support Programme**.

The project also supports **80 children in education from nursery to university**. Our major achievement this year has been to



Visitors from a church in Cheltenham paint the sign

see six of our children graduate from various college and university courses and find gainful employment. Without the Lord and every individual who has given their support we could never have achieved this.

With the help of friends in the U.K. we have put up two staff houses and a health clinic which will cater for the children and the community.

Lots of visitors from U.K., Canada and from within the Embu Diocese have brought great support and encouragement.

Unfortunately we are still faced with financial constraints. We have facilities to accommodate 100 children but insufficient funding to meet the needs of a group of this size. The clinic construction is complete but we lack funds to equip it.

There is an urgent need for the already initiated projects to become self sustaining to avoid having to borrow funds from other projects to continue operation. More ways should be sought to ensure that the Home is heading towards becoming self sustaining and operating at its full capacity.

Sheila Dewhurst-Taylor is the St Mary's contact for Embu and has visited the project. If you would like to know more or to help in any way with the project, please speak to Sheila.

You can see the photographs above, and more, by putting St Stephen's Embu Kenya in yahoo and following the link to the BBC item.



Foundation stone of health clinic laid by the Bishop of Embu



A group of children from the children's home (tops are a lovely emerald green).

This month's profile

Bryan Shephard

I was born on the 2nd June 1958 in Middleton near Manchester and have two elder brothers but sadly my parents have both died. I went to Middleton Parish School and later Moorclose High School and left school at the tender age of 16 and sort of fell into Banking at The Co-operative Bank, as my best friend at the time also went into Banking and it seemed a good idea at the time!. Well, nearly 36 years later it hasn't worked out to be a bad idea but the Bank has changed and is now under the banner of



Co-operative Financial Services, which has the Banking arm and the Co-operative Insurance Society as part of its offerings. More recently the Britannia Building Society came under its wing so it's all change somewhat. I enjoy my current role of Service Account Manager which is the "bridge" between the business areas and Information Technology (IT) and I am responsible for the delivery of IT services to numerous business areas.

I must admit the Bank has given me a good life and it is also where I met my wife Elaine in 1974 who many of you know, with great sadness died in 2007, after battling with cancer. Elaine was responsible for bringing me to Bolton which was her home town and I have lived in Westhoughton since 1982 the year we got married.

I have two wonderful children, Lauren and Ross, whom some of you will know. Lauren is currently studying Psychology at Sheffield University and Ross is doing his A levels at Canon Slade and he too is hoping to go to University at Leeds later this year. I guess since the birth of my children most of my spare time has been around them, taxi-ing them to various clubs, parties, football etc. At the moment I enjoy watching Ross play football on Saturday afternoons and he's

pretty good but not as good as his Dad was of course! I also enjoy walking when I can and love the Lake District and I think it's great to get out in the open countryside and let your mind wander.

As you know Elaine had a massive impact not just on mine and our children's lives but also many others in the Church and I think I am right in saying that she still does. It was with Elaine's encouragement that I started to come to Deane in the late 70's and eventually was confirmed when Roger Jackson was here. I think that Deane has been blessed with terrific teachers of the Gospel. Charlie Moore who was our Curate for a while introduced me to the Alpha course and it was during an Alpha Conference that the penny dropped with me and Jesus became "real". Whilst I had known Jesus in my head, I now know in my heart. I have had numerous roles in the life of the Church from being Chair of the Social Committee, a member of the PCC, a Church Warden and am currently the PCC Secretary.

At the time of writing, Terry has just joined us at what promises to be a both challenging and exciting period in the life of Deane Church and I know that with his leadership and our full support we can all grow both spiritually and as individuals in our journey with Christ.

More of those exam answers!

- Q Name the four seasons.
A Salt, pepper, mustard, vinegar.
- Q What are steroids?
A Things for keeping stair carpets still.
- Q How can you keep milk from going sour?
A Leave it in the cow!
- Q What is a seizure?
A A Roman Emperor—Julius Seizure—I came, I saw, I had a fit!
- Q Use the word 'judicious' in a sentence to show what it means.
A Now hands that judicious can feel soft as your face!

A message from
**His Holiness, Karekin II,
Catholicos of all Armenians**

When Elizabeth Plant was in Armenia, her party had the honour of being received by Karekin II, the Catholicos of all Armenians - the equivalent of the Archbishop of Canterbury. His Holiness gave the party a message to bring home to their churches on two issues—the genocide by the Turks in 1915 which many governments, including Turkey and the UK, do not accept ever happened, and secondly the recent conflict in the 1990s when Azerbaijan attacked, with great loss of life, the Armenian enclave of Nagorno Karabakh which is geographically inside Azerbaijan. A ceasefire is in place between Armenia and Azerbaijan, but peace is not assured. His Holiness says:-



**1915 genocide memorial
in Yerevan,
Armenia's**

Our primary concern in this region is the establishment of peace. We live in constant fear of the resumption of hostilities. We are aware of and grateful for the recent protocols between the Presidents of Armenia and Turkey to normalise relations, but there is a lack of trust on both sides especially towards the Turkish authorities. This is understandable as the Turkish authorities continue to deny the 1915 genocide. We must also be vigilant with regard to the conflict over Nagorno Karabakh. It is the people's aspiration to see the conflict resolved and a free, independent and secure life for the Armenians in Nagorno Karabakh. The United Kingdom's voice on these matters would be very helpful. During a meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury we raised these issues and asked for his help with the UK authorities. It is also our request to each one of you to contribute your own endeavours to bring peace and stability to this region. May God bless you all.

Karekin II Catholicos of all Armenians

WESLEY OWEN (Bolton)

has become

CLC (CHRISTIAN LITERATURE CRUSADE)

As mentioned at the end of the article in the December magazine the future of Wesley Owen had suddenly become uncertain and on December 18th it was announced that the entire company—the 40 bookshops, the distribution centre, the publishing arm—in fact the entire company had gone into administration. However, CLC (Christian Literature Crusade) has bought six shops, including Bolton. An Australian Evangelical Publishing company, Koorong, has bought a further five shops and the trading name of Wesley Owen. The remaining 24 shops which are now closing unfortunately includes the Manchester branch.

CLC is a Worldwide Christian Mission with shops in 57 countries all around the world and they are very keen to keep a Christian presence on the English High Street. Now, more than ever, we need your purchasing support, tempting though it may be to buy more cheaply via the internet! CLC depends a great deal on volunteers to man their shops and if you are interested and can give a small, but regular, time to help in this way, pop in to the shop and speak to the Manager, Julian Gittings, at the CLC shop at 129 Deansgate.

The monthly prayer meeting is continuing on the first Wednesday of every month, but for the time being in a new home - at the Rectory. The January meeting lost out to the snow, but we managed to meet in February (despite more snow) where we focused on the passage from Ephesians which Bishop Chris spoke on at Terry's induction service. The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 3rd March** when we will be focusing on **Global Poverty Prayer Week**. Hope to see you there.

Books 4 U

This month's recommendation comes to you from the Reading Club which meets approximately monthly and is also an update of our reading and activities.

For our meeting on March 10th we are following Terry's recommendation at his Induction service to read **Luke's Gospel**. We shall discuss how it has helped us or how we have noticed something for the first time or in a new way.

At the end of March we shall visit the **Imperial War Museum North** as a different way of facing an issue we might not normally think of in any depth—often the reason for our book choice.

In April we shall discuss two books centred on autism. One is an autobiographical account of life with autism—**A Painful Gift: the journey of a soul with autism, by Christopher Goodchild**. The book is described as 'a highly personal story from someone with the courage to tackle issues; to explore the agony and desolation that led him to the brink of suicide; to discover the possibility of intimacy and of the giving and receiving of love. He shares the unfolding of his relationship with his son, through joy and pain...' It describes his spiritual journey, his relationship with God, and the book is said to be 'a gift to all who read it, and a source of wisdom and hope.' The other book we shall discuss is **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time, by Mark Haddon**. This is 'a murder mystery like no other. The detective is fifteen and has Asperger's Syndrome, an autism spectrum disorder. He knows a very great deal about maths and very little about human beings. He hates the colours yellow and brown and being touched. He has never been further than the end of the road on his own, but when he finds a neighbour's dog murdered he sets out of a terrifying journey which will turn his world upside down.'

The date has not been set for the April meeting but if you would like to read one or both of the books and join us in our discussion you will be very welcome. Contact Anne Roberts on 01204 849468.

Timeline of Christianity

(see January/February edition for notes and explanation)

Timeline Topic: The Acts of the Apostles

Acts follows the story told in St Luke and is generally acknowledged to be written by the same author. St Luke, like the other gospel writers, speaks of Jesus as the Son of God on earth, both human and divine. In Acts, following the resurrection and the ascension into heaven, the apostles know the Son of God through the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit speaks dramatically to them and through them at Pentecost, giving fire and strength to the early church. Acts records the first few decades of the church, the struggles of its leaders and the rapidity of its establishment in Palestine, Europe and Asia Minor. Stephen suffers martyrdom, there are important converts, like Cornelius, the Roman centurion, and above all Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus, later named Paul. The heroic travels of Paul with Barnabas, Silas and Timothy took Christianity into the wider world and created the communities to which he wrote his letters. Before his conversion the gospel, explained and narrated by Peter, Stephen and James, had spread well beyond Jerusalem. The world was ready. In addition to its significance for us, Acts records the most exciting events in human history.

Timeline Topic: The rest of the New Testament

The letters written to the young churches and to some individuals in areas that are now approximately Turkey, Greece and Italy were written by several people, the actual authorship being disputed by some and not always very certain:

Paul the apostle whose meeting with Jesus is recorded in Acts;

John, the apostle, author of John's Gospel;

James, most probably the brother of Jesus;

Peter, the apostle;

Jude, the brother of James and Jesus

(continued)

TIME	Europe and the World		Th	
BC	4BC	Birth of Jesus		
	30AD 35AD 57AD 60AD 80AD 80AD 110AD 325AD	The Crucifixion Conversion of St Paul Letter to the Romans St Mark's Gospel St Matthew and St Luke Acts of the Apostles St John Nicene Creed adopted		
	380AD	Christianity is official religion of the Roman Empire.	420AD	St Pat
500AD	530AD	Rule of St Benedict	550AD 563AD	Wales Columb
	590-604AD	Reforms of Pope Gregory the Great	590AD	St Colu
	793AD	Viking raids on Christendom begin at Lindisfarne	597AD	St Aug Church
	800AD	Charlemagne first Holy Roman Emperor	664AD 690 ...	Synod Parts c
1000AD	1054AD	The Schism of East and West	1065AD	Consec
	1095-1291AD	The Crusades	1093-1109AD	Anselm
	1274AD	Thomas Aquinas Summa Theologiae,	1390AD	Wycli
	1378-1417AD	A Pope in Rome, a Pope at Avignon.	1408AD	Counc
	1453AD	The Fall of Constantinople		
	1455AD	The Gutenberg Bible	1457AD	Henry

The British Isles	St Mary's	
<h1>Timeline of Christianity</h1>		
Patrick's Irish Mission		
Augustine converted King of Kent Augustine founds Iona		
Columba's mission in Scotland		
Augustine establishes Catholicism in Canterbury.	Saxon Chapel thought to be on present site	
Alfred of Whitby first translation of Bible in English		
Reformation of Westminster Abbey		
Theodore Archbishop of Canterbury	1111AD	Chapel of St Mariden
King's Bible		
Council of Oxford	1452AD	Present building begun
Richard III King of England		

Timeline Topic continued

Unknown author of Hebrews—possibly Paul, maybe Apollos or Barnabas. Some have even had the temerity to suggest it may have been a WOMAN and that that is why it is anonymous!

The Book of Revelation belongs to a type of literature known as apocalyptic and should not be interpreted literally. It should not be reduced to a timetable of events but neither is it mere imaginative fantasy. It is a book of vision, firmly rooted in the history of salvation and proclaiming Jesus as Lord of all history. It is most often attributed to the apostle John and he would have been in his 80s when it was written if it was he.

These books of the New Testament were written into a variety of situations. Sometimes things were going well. Sometimes the young Christians were not behaving in keeping with the Gospel they professed. Sometimes there were doctrinal disputes or personality clashes. At times the church was under the threat of persecution or had already suffered it.

What went into the New Testament and why

This is a huge topic but this is what is believed today in the Protestant churches—Many modern Protestants point to the following four "**Criteria for Canonicity**" to justify the selection of the books that have been included in the New Testament:

Apostolic Origin — attributed to and based upon the preaching/teaching of the first-generation apostles (or their close companions).

Universal Acceptance — acknowledged by all major Christian communities in the ancient world (by the end of the fourth century).

Liturgical Use — read publicly when early Christian communities gathered for the Lord's Supper (their weekly worship services).

Consistent Message — containing a theological outlook similar to or complementary to other accepted Christian writings.

The basic factor for recognizing a book's canonicity for the New Testament was divine inspiration, and the chief test for this was apostolicity, i.e. *apostolic authority*, which is never detached from the authority of the Lord.

Youth Work Update

Voltage and The Element are both running in new homes this term. **Voltage** are meeting in Sutton Community Centre for the bargain price of £0! This move has seen us lose a few young people and gain a few. We're still figuring out what it means to be Voltage without playing pool, table tennis or football.... but we have discovered a new love for badminton!

The Element have been meeting all over the place while we searched for a new place to meet, which weirdly has led to more people turning up to each meeting instead of less. We are settled, for now, in Deane United Reformed Church. Again, we're missing being able to pelt a football around, but have discovered some new games that everybody is enjoying, and have grown closer as a group through this tricky time.

Both groups are using the Deep DVD resource from The Message which covers the basics of who Jesus is and what he has done for us. It has been really exciting seeing young people grasp a little of this for the first time. It's also been really exciting to see more young people coming to the evening service!

Pathfinders find themselves keeping the boilers company in the Choir Vestry again. Those in their final year at primary school have moved up into this group this term to help the transition before starting high school.

CYFA are now meeting in Karen's basement, and have just begun a study of Zechariah, which will be challenging, but hopefully rewarding, for all of us!

(See last two page spread page for prayer matters)

Ladies' Guild is now meeting in the URC

March 9th Terry Clark — Flowers of Israel

March 23rd Elizabeth Plant — Prayer

7.30 p.m. as usual

Deane Church Shop

(by the Editor)

We've all heard with pleasure how successful Deane Church Shop has been in its first twelve months. I went along to the shop to interview Nicola who runs the shop on a daily basis to try to discover the secrets of its success.

Nicola, I believe you work very hard in the shop. What makes it worthwhile?

The number of lovely people I meet and to know that I'm doing some good for the community.

The shop looks lovely and I believe that that's mostly down to you. Do you enjoy doing that kind of thing?

When I left school I did a youth training scheme year at Dorothy Perkins. I learned there several things which help me now, including window dressing. And yes, I just enjoy it! I have free rein in the shop and can do it as I like. I welcome suggestions from the volunteers so I have lots of ideas to choose from. We try to present everything well and to co-ordinate the displays.

What contribution do you feel the shop makes to the church and to the community?

The majority of the customers do not come to the church. They say it's like having the old corner shop back. They can pop in and there's no pressure to buy. They have a laugh and a chat and it's always warm! They like the fact that they are making a contribution to a hall which will be important to the community.

What sort of things do you need people to bring?

We make most money from the clothes but as Deane now has no library, people, especially the elderly, appreciate being able to come and get a book here. The bric-a-brac goes well too.

Any final comment as to why the shop works so well?

I see myself on the same level as one of the regular volunteers. We all pull together and it works!

Nicola says we can all bear in mind that even stuff which isn't re-useable brings in cash! Worn or torn clothing, bedding, curtains, bags, shoes, soft toys are all taken for recycling. They are collected each week by a recycling firm. 'Label your bags 'Rags' if that's what they are and we won't even look at them!' Items which do not sell after a while in the shop are also taken for recycling and these will ultimately find their way to a good home.

Comments from some of the volunteers.

A lady of Asian origin who recently lost her husband has said how helpful she has found it to be able to pop into the shop as it's so friendly!

Children's eyes light up when they get something special and that gives great pleasure to the volunteers.

Copies of the church magazine and the notices and church information are always available.

I asked one volunteer to describe her experience of the shop. **It's great! It's enjoyable. It's fun and we have a lot of laughs. Lots of folk come in for a chat. It's a place where people can leave things or messages to be picked up by other church members. It's not a doddle! There's lots to do. Nicola has set an excellent standard and does lovely window displays. She has the ideal temperament for the job, with the ability to get on with everyone. It's a nice big happy family!**

The shop made a profit in its first year of £17,400 towards the Memorial Hall Fund and everyone is very grateful to Nicola and everyone who has worked hard to make it so successful!

'Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.'

Deane Church Shop is a light in the community!

Annual Parochial Church meeting

It's almost that time of the year again! Our Annual Parochial Church meeting will take place on Wednesday 21st April at 7:30pm in Church. Everybody is encouraged to come along and take part in the meeting which provides us all with an opportunity to look back over the past year and think forward to the next. This year will be particularly important as it will mark Terry's first APCM as Rector of Deane.

It is also at this meeting that the **Wardens, members of the PCC and Deanery Synod are appointed**. Wardens and members are appointed to serve for a year, and Deanery Synod members for three years.

This year a number of people who have served for many years on the PCC will be standing down.

Craig Mochrie will be retiring as Warden, a position which he has held for a number of years. Many of you will know that Craig was going to retire as Warden last year, but in light of Ian's move to Birkdale agreed to continue for another twelve months. We are grateful that Craig made that decision - his experience and knowledge of the church, and particularly the graveyard, have been invaluable over the last twelve months in particular. He has also been a huge support to Elizabeth at the 9:00am service.

Pat Sewell will also be standing down as a member of Deanery Synod and the PCC. Pat has served the church in many different ways over the years and continues to be a huge source of encouragement, especially to those of us at the 6:00pm service. Thanks Pat for all you have done.

So as we approach the APCM there are many things that we need to carefully and prayerfully consider:

If you are not a Warden or a member of the PCC is it something which you think God is calling you to do?

If you already serve on the PCC are you willing and able to commit to serve in that capacity for another year?

If you are a member of Deanery Synod is that something

that you feel that God wants you to continue doing?

At the APCM we also appoint our **Sidespeople**. That sounds quite officious, but really we just ask people to think about whether they would like to serve by welcoming people into the Church and making sure that they have everything they need to take part in the service (books, notice sheets etc). Again please consider whether that is something you could get involved in. It is a really important job - sidespeople are often the first people that visitors, and regular church members meet when they come into church!

Please think about these questions and whether you want to get involved in any way. If you're not sure what any of it really means then please ask Terry, a Warden or a current member of the PCC.

Handicraft Group Coffee Morning

The Handicraft Group will be holding their

Spring Coffee Morning

SATURDAY 20th MARCH

from 10am-12noon.

This time it will be held in the Scout/Guide Hut .

Tickets are available at just **50p (including refreshments)** from any of the members, or just come along on the day (children free).

Proceeds will as usual be going towards the new church hall.

So please come along
and support our effort,



Namibia Links

Deanery Synod Report

At the recent Deanery Synod a very inspirational talk was given by **Richard and Margaret Fairclough** of Holy Trinity Horwich about the link the parish has with a parish in Namibia. This is a summary of their work.

Namibia lies in south west Africa.

Population: 1.8 million (similar to Gtr. Manchester)

Size : Approx 4 times bigger than the UK

Much of the land is desert and uninhabitable. The majority of people live in the rural area in the far north close to the border with Angola.

OUR LINK PARISH OF OKATHITU

Okathitu is a bush land parish in the far north of Namibia, with an area more than the size of the Deane Deanery. Okathitu is not a village as we would know it, but an area of bush land with mainly small trees, quite flat, but on a high plateau, about 3500 ft above sea level.

Most people live in family homesteads, which consist of several huts with grass roofs, for sleeping, eating, sitting etc (surprisingly cool in hot weather). These are surrounded by a stockade of tree branches, to keep their animals out. They live almost entirely off their own produce and their nearest neighbours may be half a mile away. Only rarely will they walk to the nearest town.

Carrying water from a water station (funded by UNICEF), could take an hour each way. They have no mains electricity but use candles for light and fires to cook. Electricity is coming gradually .

Their parish church could be 8 miles away so there are little mission churches here and there built from sticks and corrugated metal with logs to sit on. The priest gets around them all occasionally on foot but the services are usually led by a lay person. The present



priest walks 8 miles each way from his homestead to the main church and on top of his normal parish duties he has to work on his land or his family won't eat.

THE BEGINNINGS OF OUR LINK:

The Manchester Diocese is linked to the Anglican Diocese of Namibia, a single diocese for the whole country, and parishes were asked to link up with a Namibian parish. Holy Trinity signed up to this and David & Shirley Turton went out in 1997, to stay with Fr. Kashima for 2-3 weeks, introducing themselves to the people and getting to know them. The following year Fr Kashima and one of his lay readers came to Horwich and this established a pattern of alternate return visits.

Our involvement began in 2001 when I, as head teacher of Horwich Parish School, was asked to form a link with local schools in Okathitu parish. So Margaret and I went out on an exploratory visit to see what links were possible.

We saw how little they had in terms of books, materials and apparatus—things which we take for granted in our schools. The few text books were shared and teaching was the teacher reading straight from a text book whilst the pupils sat passively and listened. The teachers were not trained to use active learning techniques. So obviously our first priorities were to provide money for books and materials and to let the principals see for themselves how differing teaching approaches are used in our schools.

The following year we funded the visit of two school Principals and an assistant teacher to Horwich where they spent three weeks in our parish school, observing the teaching and learning. The heads also looked at leadership and management of schools.

In 2003 we took out the funds we had raised and took the principals shopping in Windhoek, the capital city, and there have been many developments since which have totally transformed people's lives. Give God the glory!



28th March Palm Sunday

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when the Church remembers how Jesus arrived at the gates of Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover was due to be held. He was the Messiah come to his own people in their capital city, and yet he came in humility, riding on a young donkey, not in triumph, riding on a war-horse.

As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into his path. They knew his reputation as a healer, and welcomed him. But sadly the welcome was short-lived and shallow, for Jerusalem would soon reject her Messiah, and put him to death.



Let's not forget Haiti!

Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. 70% of Haiti's 10 million people live on less than £1.22 a day. Unemployment before the earthquake stood at 60%. One experienced aid worker said, prior to the earthquake, that he had never witnessed anything like the deprivation in Haiti—'no public services, no water, no light, no rubbish collection—nothing!' Natural and man-made disasters have devastated a once fruitful land. Despite all this, the level of Christian commitment in Haiti is challenging to those of us who lead softer lives. In the immediate aftermath of the quake there were public outpourings of worship, often far into the night as the witness of Christian aid agencies and the church over past years has shown the Haitians the nature of God's love. The World Council of Churches has joined the demand for 'an immediate and full cancellation' of Haiti's foreign debt. The country is saddled with repayments to banks, other countries and the International Monetary Fund, which were chiefly loaned to the dictatorship of François (Papa Doc) and his son, Jean-Claude (Baby Doc) Duvalier, who inflicted 30 years of terror on the people of Haiti. (based on an article in The Tablet)

Words of Encouragement

'For what is our salvation? Some people say it is salvation from sin, and that is true, as far as it goes. But it does not go far enough. For we are not merely saved from sin; we are saved **for** sonship. We are children of God. As Christians, this is our primary identity... God stepped down to become man in order to raise us up as his children, to become 'partakes of the divine nature.' The Son of God became a Son of Man so that the children of men might become children of God. Baptised into Christ, we enter into the life of the Trinity, the eternal family of God. Salvation could not get any better than this.'

Scott Hahn

History will look back on our generation and the choices we made, Extreme poverty is not inevitable—any more than slavery was 200 years ago, segregation 50 years ago or apartheid 25 years ago. Yet in order to end it, we must not only see the world at is, but imagine how it might be—and work together to make it so.

Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP
Secretary of State for
International Development

Holocaust Memorial Day (27 January) this year celebrated the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Many theologians and others still ask where God was while so many suffered and died. Holocaust survivor, Rabbi Hugo Gryn, said, 'I believe that God was there Himself, violated and blasphemed.' He tells of how on the Day of Atonement, he fasted and prayed among the stacks of insulation boards. He tried to remember the prayers he had learned as a child at synagogue and asked God for forgiveness. Eventually, he says, 'I dissolved in crying. I must have sobbed for hours.. Then I seemed to be granted a curious inner peace... I believe God was also crying.. I found God.' But it was not the God of his childhood, the God whom he had expected to rescue the Jewish people. Hugo Gryn found God in the camps, but God was crying.

Dr Edward Kessler, executive director of
the Woolf Institute of Abrahamic Faiths, Cambridge

Out of the mouths of babes..

An eight year old's assignment, explaining God.

One of God's main jobs is to make people. He makes them to replace the ones that die. He doesn't make grown ups, just babies, because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can leave that to the fathers and mothers. God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers, pray at times besides bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your Mum and Dad's head asking him for things they've said you can't have. Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach people who didn't want to learn about God.

They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his Father, and he told his Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K. His Dad, God, appreciated everything he had done on the earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road any more. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his Dad out by listening to prayers and helping out with the answers.

You should always go to church on Sundays because it makes God happy and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to school, but God can.

It's good to know he's around when you're scared in the dark or when you can't swim and get thrown in the deep end by big kids. But... You shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back any time he pleases.

Think/Pray about it!

Repeated from Terry's article

1. keep the Bible as the foundation of all that we do,
2. pray our socks off,
3. love one another, in that forgiving, self-sacrificing, healing kind of way that Jesus showed us,
4. look outwards as a church as much as we cling to what is within

Standing Committee meet on the 15th March, but there is also a joint meeting of the Standing Committee and the Church and Hall Development Committee on the 8th March where we will be discussing a paper that Terry is putting together.

Embu Pray for

- the children of Embu and millions like them in Africa who are homeless, orphaned and vulnerable.
- financial provision for St Thomas, children's home and for the clinic.
- protection for all the staff and children.

Youth Work Update Please pray

- for us as leaders as we deal with working in new environments and coming up with new ways of doing things
- for the young people, that they will continue to want to belong to the clubs, continue to feel welcome and to find something positive to do at the groups and get to hear about Jesus
- for the people that are letting us use their buildings and for positive relationships with them

Pray for the cancellation of Haiti's foreign debt.

Colwyn Bay

In 1989 the curate at St Ebbe's, the church that I then attended in Oxford, invited me to go along to help out at a CYFA Venture in North Wales. 21 years later I am still 'helping out' at it!

Colwyn Bay 4 is a brilliant summer holiday for 14s-18s, based at Rydal Penrhos College. Being on the coast and near to the mountains make it a brilliant location and each day there is a range of great activities e.g. mountain biking, canoeing, archery, climbing Snowdon, workshops or just chilling out on the lawn.

Each young person is in a 'dorm group' with 2 or 3 leaders per group. 'Dorm times' each morning are spaces to catch up with each other and to do some Bible study. Each evening the whole Venture comes together for the Focus meeting, which includes a Bible talk, singing, prayer, drama sketches and multi-media. Focus meetings are always interactive. Spotlights at various points through the Venture are interactive times to get into a particular issue e.g. relationships, the environment, the big picture of the Bible.

The leaders' team (around 25 people) are highly committed and bring a wide range of gifts to the Venture, and the overall leaders (I was one for about 8 years) oversee the whole thing. There is also a junior leaders team on the venture. They have their own Bible study track and help out with various practical tasks through the week. Junior leaders are 18+ year olds.

I am aiming to be at CB4 this summer (1st-8th August) but I'm aware that folk from Deane Church will also be heading off on other events and holidays for young people, for instance Karen Greenhalgh and her team taking teenagers to Soul Survivor and Elizabeth Tidmarsh helping at Sedbergh CYFA Venture. Is anyone else involved with another Christian event for young people outside the parish this year? We need to be supporting you in prayer.

Please pray for us and if you know of anyone who may like to come along to CB4, do have a word with me or see further details at www.ventures.org.uk Terry Clark 01204 61819