

Deane St Mary's

April 2010

In our Easter edition Terry has written about the hope held out to the world at this time because of who Jesus is.

Elizabeth gives information about the **chaplaincy service** at RBH and reports on the **Hucker's** visit in March.

Eric Morgan is the subject of our monthly profile feature.

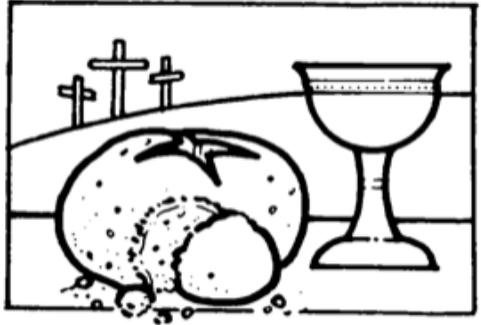
Books 4 U recommends a beautifully presented book on the important subject of **Christian Redemption**.

There are suggestions on how you might spend some time focussing on **what took place for our redemption** over the first Easter period from Maundy Thursday to Easter Monday.

Bolton Wanderers started as a Christian initiative as did many now famous clubs. Barbara Winder tells us about that.

We find out what went on at **General Synod** in February—more interesting than you might imagine!

With a **General Election** looming,



we learn from the Evangelical Alliance website how we might approach that as Christians. If you wonder what the **home groups** get up to there's an interesting report from a daytime one. Our Timeline topic this month is the **Nicene Creed**.

With **redemption** in mind there's a helpful story to illustrate the theme, the road to Emmaus in pictures and finally the St Mary's directory .

God raised him (Jesus)
from the dead, freeing him
from the agony of death,
because it was impossible
for death
to keep its hold on him!

St Mary's Info: April 2010

| | 9.00 | 10.30 | 6.00 |
|---------------|--|---------------------------|---|
| Apr 4 | Holy Communion | All-age Holy Communion | Evening Service Informal Holy Communion |
| | Isaiah 65:17 – 25; John 10:11 – 18 | | |
| Apr 11 | Holy Communion | Holy Communion | Evening Service |
| | Ephesians 4:17 – 52; John 20:19 – 31 | | |
| Apr 18 | Holy Communion | Baptism | Evening Service |
| | Ephesians 4:32 – 5:21; John 12:1 – 19 | | |
| Apr 25 | Holy Communion | Morning Service | Evening Service |
| | Ephesians 5:21 – 33; Jn 10:22 – 30 | | |

There will be a service on Good Friday at 10.30 a.m.

Ladies' Guild April

| | | |
|------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 13th | Anne and others | Words remembered |
| 28th | Visit Mayor's Parlour | 2.00 p.m. |

May Magazine Deadline

Copy to the Editor by April 12th at the latest, please.

anne-roberts@talktalk.net

01204 849468

or via a member of the team

Once again, the team would like to invite any member of the congregation to contribute to the magazine—a favourite Christian poem, a testimony, a prayer...

Signs of the times

What a winter we have had! I vividly remember one day back to mid-January when a bunch of us had to dig the snow from under two pantechnicon removal lorries so that they could get onto my old drive over in Glossop to load up and get my belongings to Deane. Kids being able to build snowmen, even igloos, that lasted for weeks reminded me of my own childhood -great fun! What is going on with the weather these days?



Different people tell us different things and there's much talk of global warming. Scientists around the world are observing weather patterns, *the signs*, and are seeking to understand the underlying reasons for them, i.e. *what the signs are pointing towards*.

Joel is one of those short books towards the end of the Old Testament part of the Bible and in it God, through the prophet Joel, explains the reason for an eco-disaster happening in 6th century BC Palestine. The land is being ravaged by a swarm of locusts. Truly 'a plague of biblical proportions' ! God has allowed the plague as a sign to his people (the Jews) that they are under judgement for turning away from him. But then he goes on to say:

*"Even now," declares the Lord,
"return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and mourning."*

Rend your heart

and not your garments.

Return to the Lord your God,

for he is gracious and compassionate,

slow to anger and abounding in love,

and he relents from sending calamity.

(Joel 2:12-13)

God disciplines those he loves (Proverbs 3:12, Hebrews 12:6), and he frequently had to call his people back to a close walk with him. The problem was that God's chosen people didn't always read the signs, or listen to the prophets that God sent them.

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Christians in Rome (Chapter 1), explains that simply by observing the world around us, anyone can see that God exists, even those people who have never heard or read about God. Paul goes on to explain why there is so much badness in the world... because people have rebelled against God and that consequently the whole world (...the earth included) is under judgement and destined for destruction. The badness in the world, which includes so called 'natural disasters' and 'man's inhumanity to man', are all, directly or indirectly, a result of our rebellion against the loving ruler of the world, and are a sign to us that we are all under judgement. The question is, are we reading the signs aright?

Joel goes on to talk about a future time when, at Jerusalem, the means of salvation will come, and that, from then on, God will give his Holy Spirit to all his people (Christians), to empower them to live for him and to have assurance of forgiveness. 500 years later, God himself stepped into this world, born as a human to die on a cross on that first Good Friday in Jerusalem. Through his death, Jesus gives to anyone who turns to him that means of salvation. Jesus takes onto himself the punishment for the sins of his people. The Apostle John, in his Gospel account, says:

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
(John 20:30-31).

The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead is God's supreme sign to us that Jesus is who he says he is. The signs are there... we just have to read them!

Terry Clark

Going into Hospital?

Know someone in hospital?

Most people will find either themselves or a close relative or friend in hospital at some time or another. Do you know that almost every hospital has a chaplaincy team which works hard to support the patients and staff in their care? The Royal Bolton Hospital has a large team of chaplains, mainly part-time, who aim, between them, to visit every ward of the RBH at least twice a week.

If you are going into hospital or know someone in the church family who is in hospital, please tell Elizabeth Plant who will immediately contact the chaplaincy office and ask a chaplain to visit you within a couple of days. If you would like to receive communion, tell the chaplain when s/he visits you and this will be arranged. For those staying in hospital for longer periods, the chaplains will bring communion, on average, every two weeks. Once you are 'on the chaplaincy list' the chaplains should be able to follow you round, if and when you are moved to another ward. But if, at any time, you want to see a chaplain, tell one of the nursing staff and a chaplain will call to see you.

Every Sunday morning there is an Anglican/Free Church service in the RBH chapel at 10am. There is a Roman Catholic service at 3pm. Tell the nursing staff in plenty of time if you wish to attend, so that, if necessary, they can organise someone to take you.

Many people are only in hospital for a short period these days. But please keep Elizabeth informed so that she too can visit and also ensure that we have the names of all who need prayer.

There is a leaflet about the work of the RBH chaplaincy at the back of church. Please take a copy if you wish.

Useful contact details are:

RBH Chaplaincy office 01204 390770

Main RBH switchboard 01204 390390

RBH Chaplaincy email chaplain@rbh.nhs.uk

The Hucker visit



The visit on February 28th of David Hucker, our link mission partner from Arica, in the far north of Chile, coincided with the news of a massive earthquake in central Chile which killed several hundred people. David was able to re-assure us that Arica is over 1500 miles north of the earthquake's epicentre and so the people he had left behind were safe,

David brought his 16 year old son, Caleb to meet us. He and his wife Jean (Gina) arrived in the UK in early January to visit family, friends and their link parishes. But Gina had to return to Chile in mid February with their older son, Wesley, who was about to begin life as a student at the university of Arica. David and Caleb told us a little about the family. David is Australian, and Gina's family are from St Helen's. They have worked for SAMS (now CMS) for twenty years. They have been in Arica for ten years building a church in both senses of the word, creating a Christian community and developing a church building. Caleb's first language is Spanish, though his English is excellent.

Arica is on the coast very close to the border with Peru. Indeed Arica was in Peru until Chile defeated Peru in the Pacific War in the 1870s. Border disputes are still an issue. Arica has a population of 180.000. They include Chileans, Peruvians (both mainly of Spanish descent) and Amayra (indigenous peoples). The main industries are fishing, agriculture and tourism. Arica's beaches are some of the best in the world for surfing. Most Aricans call themselves Roman Catholics, but there is a great reliance on superstition; and native religious practices are far from unknown. Only about 5% of the population are evangelical (protestant) Christians. David and Gina and their Anglican community are part of this number. Their congregation is small but growing. The church building ten years ago was a derelict site which no one wanted. Now it is now almost completely finished.

But for years the church family had to worship with only the most basic amenities, including a net to protect them from the sun. They could not afford a roof! It never rains in Arica. The sun always shines, and the climate is like an ideal English summer, warm and sunny, but rarely too hot!

But despite an ideal climate Arica has many difficulties. David in particular high-lighted the problem of contamination. Some years ago waste lead was imported into Arica from Sweden to be recycled. Tragically those who imported the lead simply took the money from the Swedes, dumped the lead and left the area without doing any recycling which would have rendered the lead safe. The result is that the whole of Arica is suffering from lead pollution, with three areas being very badly affected. Lead poisoning, among other things, can affect the brains of children. Many young Aricans have reduced IQs as a result of living amid such contamination. At election times promises are made to move those in the most polluted area, but so far little has been done. It is because of the lead pollution that David and Gina do not want to settle permanently in Arica.

Please continue to pray

- for David and Gina, Wesley and Caleb as they return to Chile.
- for their congregation and those they are seeking to bring in to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

David and his family hope to be back in the UK for a few weeks in about twelve months' time.

APCM (April 21st)

Remember in prayer the appointing of

- Wardens
- PCC members
- Deanery Synod representatives
- Sidespeople

And pray for an encouraging time together as we reflect on the past year and look forward to a new one in our service of God.

Come and vote and be encouraged!

This month's profile

Eric Morgan

I am a local lad. I was born in Deane, lived in Deane Church Lane, baptised at Deane, confirmed at Deane. I was educated at Deane primary school in Horsfield Street, learnt about God at Deane Sunday School, joined 1st Deane Cubs and moved through Deane Scouts and was part of the Youth Club in Deane Memorial Hall.

I started courting and was married in Farnworth. Except for baptisms and funerals, I didn't see the inside of a church until my marriage failed.

I met Jenny, got engaged a couple of months later and went to see Roger Jackson soon after with a request that he married us. He was rather taken aback as we were both divorcees and asked us to show commitment to the Church in Deane. We joined the choir and were married a year later.

It was the late Harold Lever who had suggested the choir, and a few years later I joined him in the ringing chamber. He was an inspiration. Controversially I admire Margaret Thatcher, not for her politics but that she had strength and conviction in what she believed.

My father died in 1981 just as I was beginning to get to know him, before I met Jen. My sister, Carole, died in 1992 and my mother in 1996. When I married Jen I inherited three children as part of the package, along with two cats. We still exchange Christmas cards with our ex-partners. My return to Deane Church taught me many things—about friendship, about forgiveness, about generosity, about belonging.

Jenny has suffered quite a lot over the years with ill-health and needs a lot of support. My mind often wanders to the Old Testament prophet Job. And then I think about our nine grandchildren.

Jen often says I spend too much time doing things for others. I suppose she may have a point as I have been on the PCC for many

years, Churchwarden about 5 years ago, choir, bellringer, Deanery Synod, flag raiser, clock adjuster, service committee, building committee, candelabra lighter, webmaster, historian and a few other things. I read lessons and until recently led intercessions. Just recently, I joined the team allowed to assist at the Communion Rail.

I used to attend the evening service until the focus changed to youth. I am getting older and like a more structured service, the reason I have joined the 9:00am congregation when it is 'family service' weeks.

After making a career change in 2004, 35 years of being a telephone engineer, I became a science technician, firstly at Thornleigh Salesian College and now at Bolton School Girls' Division. I have been given a new challenge in life.

The redundancy money gave us a 'once in a lifetime' holiday. My choice was the pyramids, Jen's a cruise. As we sailed round the Med we enjoyed 5 star food, which unfortunately didn't include Spam! I read my first book in many years on board, the Da Vinci Code. I enjoyed it because it was escapism, not for Dan Brown's accuracy. I was able to lose myself as the ocean passed by, giving me time to thank God for the riches of the earth and the time to enjoy His presence. After having repeated the 'once' a couple more times, I still hope to see the land of the pharaohs.

I am a traditionalist, with traditional values. Some may say I don't move with the times but at my age I have seen so many trendy ideas fall flat. The Book of Common Prayer has stood the test of time but what of the ASB and other attempts to dumb down our faith? I don't have a problem with women priests but the law now prevents me from expressing my opinions on certain other issues. My hopes and prayers are that Deane Church and its congregation will continue in the teachings of the Bible. And I have faith in Terry in his ministry with us.

My God has given me good health up to now, and by His Grace I hope to continue within His Church in Deane for many years to come.

Books 4 U

Redemption by Alister McGrath



Edward John Poynter
The Prodigal's Return

This is a beautifully illustrated book which explores the love of God in sacrificing his only son to save a world oppressed by sin and unable to help itself. There's poetry, prayer and reflection on various aspects of the theme of redemption, illuminated by a series of fine art paintings which McGrath uses to open out these themes in a very helpful way.

'The idea of redemption is like a seemingly simple beam of white light. Yet it is actually complex, composed of many elements, each of which needs to be identified and respected in its own right. It is a spiritual diamond with many facets...' As white light when passed through a prism breaks into the colours of the rainbow, so with redemption as we unpack its many components.

Redemption includes buying back, liberation, adoption, being wanted, being found, accepted back, delivered from bondage, ransom... and McGrath explores each of these aspects with many biblical references including the words of Jesus and of Paul. He explores what Jesus went through in order that we might be redeemed and so points to the love and compassion of God.

This is a book to take time over, to savour, to let it warm our hearts and set us on a new walk with God as we wonder again at what our redemption cost him in Christ. It is one of a series, the other titles being, Creation, Incarnation, Resurrection and God. Published by SPCK, not cheap at £10.99 each, but books to keep and to return to.

Maundy Thursday is remembered for three things. The first is the washing of his disciples' feet (John 13), as a demonstration of what he had meant when he had said,

"A new command I give you: Love one another.

As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

On that night also Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, our Holy Communion. Jesus and his close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, as he, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world.

Taking bread, he blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, given for you. Eat it in my memory." He did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant written in my blood, blood poured out for you."

Luke 22:19, 20 (The Message)

Lastly, we remember Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

...he went, as he so often did, to Mount Olives.

The disciples followed him.

When they arrived at the place, he said,

"Pray that you don't give in to temptation."

He pulled away from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, remove this cup from me. But please, not what I want.

What do you want?"

At once an angel from heaven was at his side, strengthening him.

He prayed on all the harder. Sweat, wrung from him like drops of blood, poured off his face. He got up from prayer, went back to the disciples and found them asleep,

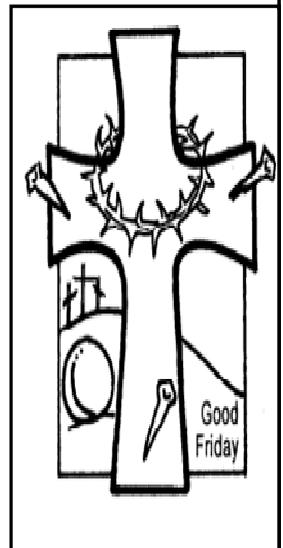
drugged by grief.

Luke 22:30 - 46 (the Message)

On **Good Friday** Jesus on the cross sacrificed his

life as a once-and-for-all offering for sin. It was a kind of charter sealed with his own blood which would dwarf any previous attempts to bring God and man together. It was, in fact, what God had always planned and the Old Testament laws and regulations were fulfilled at this time by this perfect sacrifice. This agreement would secure man's forgiveness and prove God's unending love for mankind.

Christ Jesus was in the form of God,
but he did not cling to equality with God.
He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant,
and was born in our human likeness.
Being found in human form, he humbled himself
and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross;
therefore God highly exalted him,
and bestowed on him the name above every name,
that at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth.
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Philippians 2:5b -- 11



**The best news
the world ever
had
came from a
graveyard!**

Son of Man, who endured in
your body
the agony of thirst in death,
and in your spirit thirsted
for the world's salvation:
deepen our understanding of your sufferings
by which our redemption was secured,
and increase in us those spiritual longings
which you alone can satisfy;
that hungering and thirsting after righteousness
we may be filled with all the fulness of God
and serve and praise you evermore.

Holy Saturday

is the day we usually get on with the shopping or travelling to a holiday destination.! The shops are crowded, the roads are busy. Do we ever pause to consider what the first disciples were doing and thinking on the day before the resurrection—which they did not know was to take place? Surely they felt confusion and great sadness! We know they spent a part of the day in preparing spices for the embalming of Jesus' body which they had been unable to do the day before, because by the time Jesus was laid in the tomb the Sabbath had begun. How different from running around like scalded cats as though the shops were going to be closed for a month, rather than just a day, or just ignoring the fact that in this day Jesus lay in a tomb.

Our search for God and our service to others will never be conducted in a neat world. Life will never submit to our good intentions, will never fall in line, will never stand still long enough to do our bidding. Life will never cease to be a messy affair and our spiritual journey will never be reduced to a tidying-up operation. God and the others don't wait to enter our life until we have put it in order. Our journey... is about finding God and serving others in the midst of the mess. The messiest place of all will be our own soul, our own life, which despite our best efforts, will insist on remaining human! And it is into this mess, this confusion, that God and others will invite themselves. John Kirvan

O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire you with a whole heart, so that desiring you we may seek and find you; and so finding you, may love you; and loving you, may hate those things which separate us from you, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Anselm (1033-1109)

Almighty God, give us wisdom to perceive you, intellect to understand you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, and life to proclaim you, through the power of the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ. Attributed to Benedict (480-553)

Easter Day

Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

This good news reverberates around the world today just as joyfully as it was spread from disciple to disciple that first Easter morning. The women came to the tomb expecting to find a cold corpse. Instead they were found by the living Jesus! (Joyce Huggett)

Most glorious Lord of life, that on this day
Didst make thy triumph over death and sin;
And having harrowed hell didst bring away
Captivity thence captive, us to win:
This joyous day, dear Lord, with joy begin,
And grant that we for whom thou didst die
Being with thy dear blood clean washed from sin,
May live forever in felicity.
And that thy love we weighing worthily,
May likewise love you for the same again;
And for thy sake that all like dear didst buy,
With love may one another entertain.
So let us love, dear love, like as we ought.
Love is the lesson which the Lord hath taught.

Edmund Spenser (1552-99)

**Simon Peter
arrived and
went into the
tomb. He saw
the strips of
linen lying
there...**



O Lord, you have warned us that you will require much of those to whom much is given. May we, who enjoy so rich an inheritance of faith, work together the more faithfully by our prayers, our labours and our gifts, to share with those who do not know you what we so plentifully enjoy. 5th century anon

Set our hearts on fire with love to you,
O Christ our God,
that in its flame we may love you
with all our heart, mind, soul and strength,
and our neighbour as ourselves, so that,
in all things
keeping thy commandments
we may glorify you
as the giver of all good gifts.

Easter Orthodox Church Kontakion

Easter Monday

Has Jesus appeared to you?

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

Late have I loved you, O beauty
ever ancient,
ever new!

Late have I loved you

And behold, you were within, and I without,
and without I sought you.

And deformed, I ran after
those forms of beauty you have made.

You were with me, and I was not with you;

Those things held me back from you,
Things whose only being was to be in you.

You called; you cried;
and you broke through my deafness.

You sparkled; you shone;
and you chased away my blindness.

You became fragrant;
and I inhaled and sighed for you.

I tasted and now hunger and thirst for you.

You touched me;
and now I burn for your embrace.

St Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

Take Lord,
and receive
all my liberty,
my memory,
my understanding,
my entire will—
and all that I have
and possess.
You have given all to me
to you O Lord
I return it.
Everything is yours;
do with it
according to your will.
Give me only your love
and your grace
for this is sufficient
for me.

Ignatius Loyola
(1491-1556)

THE CHRISTIAN ORIGINS OF BOLTON WANDERERS

Bolton, as around 12 other early football clubs, was founded because of the work of church ministers and their efforts to improve the lives of the poor at the end of the nineteenth century. The actual origins of the club now at the Reebok Stadium, are at the bottom of Deane Road near the Fire Station, University and Town Centre.

On that land once stood a church, Christ Church, built in 1818 and initially Methodist but Church of England by 1841, and three church schools, one for girls, one for boys and one for infants. It was a poor and deprived district; and sometimes whole families lived in single rooms in the back to back houses of the area, working in the mills and factories that dominated the skyline.

In 1871, Joseph Farrall Wright arrived as the new vicar, in his late 40s, a widower with three sons. He had worked in more affluent areas of the town, but felt God was calling him to a more difficult ministry amongst the poor. He remained at Christ Church for the rest of his life. He was a frequent visitor to his parishioners' homes, and the schools, encouraging his second wife Ellen, and his sister Martha to teach there. It was his association with the Headmaster of the boys' school, Thomas Ogden, that led to the birth of Bolton Wanderers. Thomas was born in Kearsley; his father a spindle and fly maker. He was only 23 when he was appointed headmaster in 1869, and was the sole teacher for 140 pupils! Early inspection reports were damning, but with the appointment of Wright, things slowly started to improve. When Ogden married Ann Markland, the daughter of a Bolton butcher in 1873 at Bolton Parish Church, it was Wright who took the ceremony.

Ogden was a football enthusiast, and was encouraged by Wright to find out more about a new variety of football played in Turton village, called `soccer`. Turton was the first club in Lancashire to take up this new form of the game. It did not take long for

Ogden and Wright to decide that a football club should be formed at Christ Church under the new Association code. In June 1874, Ogden called a meeting at his school of young men who attended the Sunday School and were interested in forming a club, to be called Christ Church Football Club. Wright was the President and Ogden the club captain. Those present included Tom, John and Robert Rawsthorne, Joe Boardman, Charles Cooper, Jonathan Garside and Tom Naylor. Sixpence was collected from each member to purchase a football. There was an additional membership fee of 1 pence a week.

The first practice match was held in July on `Bob Wood's field`, now part of Heaton Cemetery. Their first match was against Farnworth, in a field off Plodder Lane. Here one half was played to Association rules and one according to Rugby rules! In the beginning they had no settled ground and played where they could, mainly against other Sunday School teams. In the end, they decided to rent a field known as `Dick Cockle's` on Pikes Lane.

Unfortunately the members began to feel that the role of Wright was overbearing (he did not allow meetings to take place without him being present) and they wished to recruit from beyond the Sunday School, so they took the decision to rename the club and break away from the church. As they had had so many grounds, they chose the name `wanderers` and added the name of the town, in 1877. Both Ogden and Wright were forced to leave the club they had helped to found, and the Rawsthorne family took over control.

Ironically, William Rawsthorne was a far harder task master than Wright, drawing up a long list of rules with fines for non-compliance. However when Peter Parkinson, the manager of a textile mill in the town, joined the club in 1878, he became the driving force behind its progress, and by 1881 the club was beating teams such as Blackburn Olympic and Preston North End. They were admitted to the new Football League in 1888.

Unfortunately neither Ogden nor Wright lived to see this success. Wright died aged 56 in 1883, and Ogden died a few months later in 1884 aged only 38. The links between church and club were not entirely severed. Until World War 1, Bolton Wanderers continued

to make a contribution to the Bolton Poor Protection Society which Wright had instigated. Another link was when Wright's second son Joseph, who trained as a doctor, and worked in a practice on Deane Road, encouraged his junior partner to become the club's doctor. Christ Church itself, and its schools, were demolished in the 1930s as part of a slum clearance programme. Only an old rusty sign to Christ-church Gardens, noted where our famous old club was born.

Note: the information for this article comes from a book `Thank God for Football` by Peter Lupson, which I will be reviewing in the next magazine.

The ladies of the Handicraft Group

would like to thank all who supported their

craft coffee morning,

and are pleased to tell you that we were able to donate

a further £500 to the New Hall Fund,

Thank you all again for your support as without it,

the day would not have been such a success.

Other Private Members Motions and Diocesan Synod Motions

Synod carried a motion expressing concern about the potentially damaging effects on young people of computer games containing violent and sexual content, congratulating the government on the action it has taken in this area and calling upon it to continue to keep under review the regulatory system for advertising video games.

Women bishops The Bishop of Manchester updated the Synod on the work of the Revision Committee on Women in the Episcopate, explaining that having undertaken a considerable amount of work, the Committee was not yet at a position to bring forward revised draft legislation. It is anticipated that such material will be prepared in time for debate at the July Synod.

General Synod

children, mission and science....

The General Synod met in London from February 8th to 12th. Among other matters, it discussed:

Children and young people Synod discussed *Going for Growth*, the Board of Education's strategy for working alongside children and young people, which offers both a theological framework and priorities for practical action at diocesan and parish level.

Mission Synod considered research from the Mission and Public Affairs Council into the growth of the 'mixed-economy Church', and carried a motion encouraging further development of pioneer ministers and the making of Bishops' Mission Orders. The Rt Revd Graham Cray, Archbishops' Missioner and Fresh Expressions Team Leader, gave a presentation on Fresh Expressions.

TV coverage of religion and ethics. The Synod carried a motion expressing appreciation of the vital role played by those engaged in communicating religious belief and practice through the media, while articulating deep concern about the overall reduction in religious broadcasting across British television in recent years.

Science and religious belief Synod carried a motion urging the House of Bishops to promote a better public understanding of the compatibility of science and Christian belief.

Church buildings The Synod carried a motion calling on government for a substantial increase in the amount of money available for the repair of listed church buildings, including a commitment to continue the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

Relations with the Anglican Church in North America Synod carried a motion expressing its awareness of the distress caused by recent divisions within the Anglican churches of the United States of America and Canada, and recognising and affirming the desire of those who have formed the Anglican Church in North America to remain within the Anglican family. The motion asks the Archbishops to report back to the Synod on the issue in 2011. (continued across)

Engage with the General Election

A General Election is on its way and, five years after the last national vote, politicians are once again looking for our approval. Over the past year Parliament's reputation sank to a new low as, day after day for many weeks, a steady stream of fresh revelations were released detailing the ways politicians had used the expenses system for their own advantage. To be honest, it is very easy to look on in dismay and want nothing to do with politics.

Elections provide the chance to engage in the democratic system: to have a say about the way the country has been run, to offer an extension if we think the Government has done well, or to throw them out if we prefer an alternative.

For all the criticism that politicians receive it is crucial to remember that they are just people who make mistakes. They will try their best, but sometimes, like all of us, they will get it wrong. Democracy is essential because of our shortcomings, and elections give everyone the opportunity to have their say.

Party leaders will make speeches, announce policies, publish manifestos and plaster our billboards with marketing in an attempt to win votes. But it is up to all of us to decide who runs the country. Engaging with politics may seem difficult, even at times dirty, but we are ignoring our responsibilities as citizens if we step aside and refuse to get involved.

Get informed

It is often suggested that there is no difference between any of the political parties that compete for our vote. That is simply not true. We sometimes feel that it doesn't matter who we vote for, or even if we vote, because one party will win, others will lose, but nothing much will change. The fact is that sometimes it is in a party's interest to emphasise their similarity to other parties, especially when they are trying to win support. On other occasions clear lines of de-

marcation are preferred, usually to alert voters to the dangers of supporting the other party.

But we won't know this unless we get informed. The forthcoming campaign will be full of claims and counter-claims, what one party will protect and the others will cut. The dizzying array of announcements can overwhelm us, and it is easy to rely on what we have heard or read in the paper about what Labour, Conservatives or the Liberal Democrats are planning.

Four things we can do:

Decide what the most important issues are - the ones that affect how you will vote. What values and policy priorities are you looking for?

Read what the parties have to say for themselves. Yes, they are trying to sell their package, but at least you can see it firsthand.

Change your news habits, read a different paper or watch another news channel. They all come with a filter, so a variety will help build a truer picture.

Visit the Evangelical [Alliance's General Election](http://www.eauk.org/elections) site (www.eauk.org/elections) for a comparison of what each party says about different policy areas.

Get involved

Christians will support various political parties. We all see the world a little differently, so our priorities for Government will vary. Even where the outcome is broadly agreed, the means to get there can differ, and this is reflected in the presence of Christians within all the mainstream parties. Occasionally Christians will be encouraged to support one party over the others because of certain issues that Christians feel strongly about, but this runs the risk of missing the diversity of issues and challenges that make up politics in the UK.

It is also highly unlikely that we will agree with all the policies of any one party and that none of the mainstream parties represent all of our concerns. Even if it feels a little unsatisfactory, we must find the party or MP that most closely reflects our values and policy priorities and then support them.

It may seem like a big step, but think about attending a local hustings as this is an opportunity to quiz the candidates about their policies both for national Government and the local area and is an opportunity to listen to the candidates debating their views with each other.

Get voting

It might sound simplistic, but in 2005 four out of 10 people didn't vote. Among those aged 18 to 24 only 37 per cent voted and almost as many people did not vote as supported either Labour or the Conservatives. And this was an improvement on the turnout in 2001.

Everyone casts his or her own vote, and it is important not to try and tell each other whom to support. However, this does not mean we should avoid talking about politics. In particular, we should encourage and help our families and friends to get to the polling station on election day

Adapted from an article in the March/April 2010 edition of Idea - magazine of the Evangelical Alliance.

Prayers for Easter Day

O Lord God, our Father, you are the light that can never be put out; and now you give us a light that shall drive away all darkness. You are love without coldness, and you have given us such warmth in our hearts that we can love all when we meet. You are the love that defies death, and you have opened for us the way that leads to eternal life.

None of us is a great Christian; we are all humble and ordinary. But your grace is enough for us. Arouse in us that small degree of joy and thankfulness of which we are capable, to the timid faith which we can muster....to the wholeness of life which you have prepared for all of us through the death and resurrection of your Son. Do not allow any of us to remain apathetic or indifferent to the wondrous glory of Easter, but let the light of our risen Lord reach every corner of our dull hearts.

A Day in the Life of a Home Group

The group which meets on Tuesday afternoons always begins with general conversation and tea. There is no ice to be broken. Most recently some one had been looking at a book about the Pretoria Pit Disaster. This led to family recollection about the life of a coal miner, talk about the gravestones in St Mary's churchyard and the disaster itself. It will be a hundred years in December since it occurred and we hope there will be an article in the magazine, giving some details about the men buried at Deane.

They and their families were included in our opening prayer, before we continued our discussion of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus' rejection of "eye for eye" led to many questions: defence of your family, attitudes to war, the concept of the Just War and the role of the Emperor Constantine (AD 274-337) in the attempt to reconcile war with Christian teaching. In an earlier meeting a member of the group had described her intervention in a street fight and now another member explained that turning the other cheek indicated in the context a challenging spirited resistance rather than a yielding to evil and aggression.

Everything in the Sermon has led to prolonged discussion and, though we left the current topic only reluctantly, we met the next one, prayer, with joy. Quiet moments are more available to some of us than to others but are embraced at all times and in all places by us for meditation and conversation with God. We discussed the way we say and listen to set prayers and compared these moments with moments in which we compose our own prayers. We spoke of the deep happiness of entering a church in daytime and joining a few engaged in solitary prayer and, in contrast, we dwelt on the monthly prayer meetings at Deane, where we can listen to the prayers of our friends. We read the two versions of the Lord's Prayer in St Matthew and St Luke and thought particularly about "Your will be done". Here the meeting ended and next time the topic will continue. Come if you can to the Deane URC Church at 1.30 on Tuesday 23 March. We concluded with prayer.

Timeline Topic

The Nicene Creed

The Church often made statements of faith to counter a teaching perceived as heresy (contrary to accepted interpretation of scripture). When the Nicene Creed was drawn up, the heresy of the time was Arianism, which denied that Jesus was fully God.

Arius was a church elder in Alexandria, Egypt, in the early 300's. He taught that the Father, in the beginning, created the Son, and that the Son, in conjunction with the Father, then proceeded to create the world. The result of this was to make the Son a created being, and hence not God in any meaningful sense. It was also suspiciously like the theories of those Gnostics and pagans who held that God was too perfect to create something like a material world, and so introduced one or more intermediate beings between God and the created world. Alexander, Bishop of Alexandria, sent for Arius and questioned him. Arius stuck to his position, and was finally excommunicated by a council of Egyptian bishops.

The Emperor Constantine summoned a council of Bishops in Nicea (across the straits from modern Istanbul), and there in 325 the Bishops of the Church, by a decided majority, repudiated Arius and produced the first draft of what is now called the Nicene Creed. A chief spokesman for the full deity of Christ was Athanasius, deacon of Alexandria, assistant (and later successor) to the aging Alexander.

The Arian position has been revived in our own day by the Watchtower Society (the JW's), who explicitly hail Arius as a great witness to the truth.

You can find out more by Googling 'Nicene Creed' or looking in any history of the church. Elizabeth has recommended 'The Making of the Creeds' by Frances M Young (SCM Classics).

Here is the creed in full—it is the one most commonly used in services of Holy Communion.

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost
of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again
according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father [and the Son];
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshipped and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

It makes you think!

A young boy spent hours and hours making a model yacht and when it was finished he ran excitedly to the pond to see if it sailed. Yes, it did!

But alas the wind carried it to the middle of the pond and try as he would, he couldn't retrieve it. Broken hearted he had to abandon it.

Next morning he ran down to the pond to see if it was still there but it had gone. Every day he visited the pond to see if somehow it had come back, but all in vain!

Some weeks later he was looking in the local second hand shop and, lo and behold, there was his boat! The paint was scratched, the sails were torn, but he'd know that boat anywhere.

He went inside the shop full of excitement and told the shopkeeper his story. The shopkeeper was very sympathetic but explained that he had bought the boat in good faith and couldn't possibly give it away.

When the man saw how upset the boy was he said that if the boy called after school every day for a week and cleaned the shop he would give him wages enough to buy the boat.

There can seldom have been a more willing cleaner and at the end of the week the boat was his!

He ran home excitedly and went straight up to his bedroom, proudly put the boat on a shelf in the bookcase and looking at it said,

**I made you;
I bought you
and I want you for my very own!**

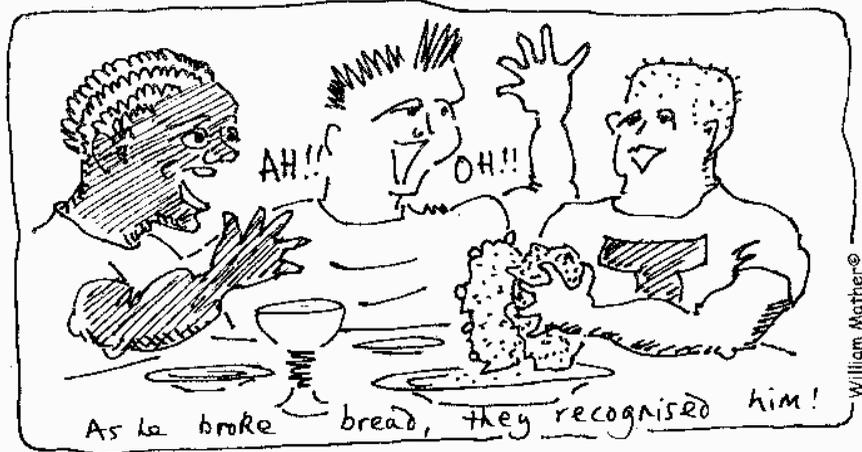
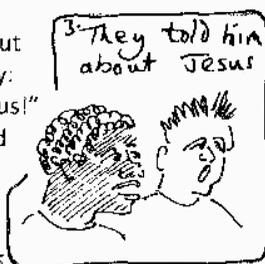


Bible Sketchbook

Recognition!

Deep depression.
Leader dead.
Revolution over.
Take a long walk:
Talk it all out.
...But rumours...
He's alive...
Someone comes.
Something exciting
About him.
Time to eat:
"Stay with us."
He breaks bread
At supper...
Simple act, but
Extraordinary:
"It's him. Jesus!"
All is changed
For ever.

Read more
Luke 24: 13-35



| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Team Rector | Terry Clark | 01204 61819 |
| Team Vicar | John Armstrong | 01204 651851 |
| DLM | 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 |
| | Beccy Rutter | 01204 654737 |

DCC

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| Lay Chair | Jane Hampson | 01204 848433 |
| Hon Treasurer | Les Kilsby | 01204 665700 |
| Hon Secretary | Bryan Shephard | 01942 817288 |

Other Responsibilities

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 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 |
| Music Group | Beccy Rutter | 01204 654737 |
| Organist | Alan Bevis | |
| Verger | Josie Crompton | 01204 655964 |
| Weddings Admin | Anne Roberts | 01204 849468 |

Sunday Schools

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Climbers (3-7) | Lynda Smith | 01204 62093 |
| Explorers (7-11) | Sean Cornforth | 07875531677 |
| Pathfinders (yr 7-9) | Elizabeth Tidmarsh | 01204 652184 |
| CYFA (yr 10-13) | Karen Greenhalgh | 01204 654737 |

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.

S t M a r y' s D i r e c t o r y