

# Deane Parish Church

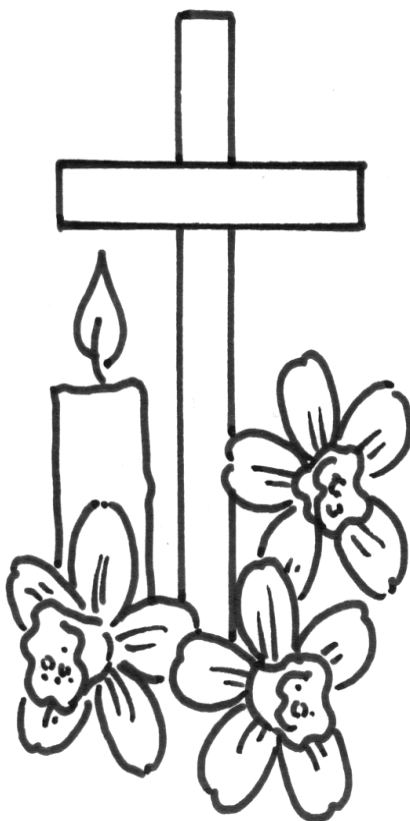
## March\_Lent 2011

This month's magazine includes material which encourages us to observe Lent in however small a way. Spending time with the thoughts, prayers and meditations will help us to prepare for the suffering and joy of the Passion and Easter periods which fall in April.

Terry has recommended some Lent reading and has encouraged us as we look at what God is doing at Deane Church.

Elizabeth Plant reports on her recent pilgrimage to Syria and Barbara Winder tells us about her fascinating work with Pat Dogs. We've a film recommendation this month — you'll have heard about it!

Sally Penrose is the subject of the month's profile.

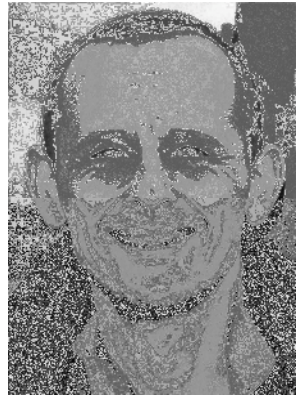


The next magazine will be published on Sunday April 17th, Material for inclusion to the Editor by Monday 28th March, please.

	9.00	10.30	6.00
Mar 6	Holy Communion	All Age Parade and Baptism	Informal Communion Prison Breakouts
	Exodus 16:1—5, 13—16; Matt 6:25—35		
Mar 13	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Service Investing in Others
	Exodus 19:20—20:21; Mark 12:28—34		
Mar 20	Holy Communion	Morning Service	Evening Service Angels and bread at sea
	MISSION SUNDAY Micah 6:3—8; Acts 1:7—11		
Mar 27	Holy Communion	Moring Service	Evening Service
	Exodus 23:1—19; Romans 8:1—8		
April 3	Holy Communion	All Age Parade and Baptism	Informal Communion
	Luke 10:38—42; James 1:17—27 MOTHERING SUNDAY		
April 10	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Service
	Exodus 24:15—18; Hebrews 7:22—8:2		
April 17	Holy Communion	Morning Service	Evening Service
	1 Samuel 8:1—22; John 12:12—29		

# Journeying with God

What a busy time December to March has been at Deane Parish Church, with a number of new ventures getting off the ground. The church office is now fully up and running and open four days a week. Beccy Rutter has been appointed as our part-time church administrator and has already re-vamped or just plain invented our admin infrastructure! Forty people did one or other of the *Christianity Explored* courses and now the evening *Discipleship Explored* course is running with a daytime one to start up soon. We



have partnered with the Bolton Music Service to provide a series of musical events (most involving pupils from local schools) in our lovely medieval church building. The Olive Branch Café in the Hall on Wednesday mornings (10am-12noon) got off to a very encouraging start and is being well patronised by 'church' and 'non-church' folk alike. We are working with Bolton Council, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Greater Manchester Probation Service and local schools to get our large and rather wild churchyard sorted out. And plans are well in hand to set up a toddler group in the Hall on Tuesdays. It is also encouraging to see new faces (of all ages!) at church pretty well most Sundays. There is a sense, people keep telling me, of something new at Deane! We certainly are into a new phase now of the journey with God that Deane Church has been on for nearly a thousand years.

As we have been going through Exodus at the 9 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. services since Christmas, we have been journeying with Moses as God prepared him for leadership. Then we were stepping out with Israel from slavery in Egypt to the unknowns of the desert. How nervous the Israelites, ill-equipped for life in the desert, must have been. And their hopes and dreams all hanging on a promise which God made to Abraham hundreds of years earlier. The promise that they would be God's special people and that he would give them a special land, a land of milk and honey, for their own. Little did they know on

leaving Egypt that God would take forty years to form them into a nation before they were ready to enter the promised land. God doesn't always take his people on the shortest route. Sometimes he takes us on what seems a roundabout route in order to prepare us for what is up ahead.

I believe that we are seeing this with the new hall project. We have got nowhere near enough money to build a new hall. That project is going to take a lot longer than was anticipated 3 years ago. Meanwhile we have a warm, welcoming Memorial Hall to use and we wait on God and keep listening to him to know when to re-launch the new build project. Meantime we push on with witnessing for Christ in this part of Bolton with the resources that God has given us - the most important resources being the spiritual gifts of God's people. People are always more important, and more vital to God's Kingdom-building work, than buildings!

I am mindful of God's promise to Joshua (Moses' successor) as he prepares to lead God's people across the River Jordan:

*"As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you."* (Joshua 1:5)

And the writer of the New Testament letter to the Hebrews applies this promise to all of God's people today (Hebrews 13:5). God is with us on the journey, in the good times and in the more testing times. God is with us!

And finally, another cause to celebrate! In June, Stephen and Joanna Bazely will be joining us at Deane. Stephen is to be our new curate. Currently in his third year of training at Oak Hill Theological College in London and previously working for St James' Church Muswell Hill. Please do be praying for Stephen and Jo as they prepare for the next leg of their journey with God in moving up to Bolton. I can just about remember (from eleven years ago) that getting ordained and beginning as a curate is a scary step of faith! God bless you. Terry Clark

(See inside the back cover for Terry's recommendations for Lent reading.)

9<sup>th</sup> March

## Ash Wednesday

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12 - 18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 - 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you

will return..." (Genesis 3:19) The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

**The Collect for Ash Wednesday is:**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
You hate nothing that you have made  
And forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
That we, worthily lamenting our sins  
And acknowledging our wretchedness,  
May receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
Perfect remission and forgiveness;  
Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
Who is alive and reigns with you,  
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and for ever.

## **LENT – Ash Wednesday to Good Friday**

**What about the custom of giving up things?** Lent is based on the period of 40 days spent by Jesus in the wilderness before the beginning of his public ministry in Galilee. Jesus fasted for 40 days, and so his followers were encouraged to do the same thing. The early Church recommended a fast of two or three days, but by the fourth century, people were encouraged to fast for the full 40 days.

The precise nature of this 'fasting' varied. In general, the western church understood 'fasting' as a reduced intake of food, and encouraged Christians to spend time in devotional reading or attendance at church rather than fasting.

**What about the length of Lent?** The period between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day is actually 46 days. Why not the 40 days that Jesus fasted? In the early Church, every Sunday was regarded as a celebration of the resurrection of Christ - so fasting was forbidden on a Sunday! So the period of 46 days thus consists of 40 days of fasting, plus the six Sundays which fall between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day.

# Another year, another destination!

Magazine readers will remember that in 2009 I visited Armenia. In autumn 2010 I was to be found in Syria, a place I had always wanted to see as it combines opportunities to visit Christian and classical sites.

Syria is one of the biggest countries in the Middle East bordering Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, Israel and Lebanon. At one point in our journeying we were less than 100 miles from the Iraqi border, at another we were under 30 miles from the Sea of Galilee.

Syria, 2000 years ago, was one of the most important provinces in the Roman Empire. Today it still holds a strategic position at the crossroads of the Middle East. Ruled by President Assad, many would call Syria a police state, but that is not how it feels to western visitors. The people are welcoming and courteous, the streets are safe and even the traffic drifts along safely on unmarked four lane dual carriage ways, with less hysteria and honking of horns than is the case in some parts of Europe. The majority of the population are Moslems, but 10% are practising Christians, some still worshipping in Aramaic, the language Jesus used.

The capital, Damascus is one of the oldest cities in the world, being mentioned several times in the Old Testament, notably for the fine damask cloth for which it was and is famous. The wealth of Damascus came from its position on the great trade route from China and India. Spices and silks passed through in great quantity. But for Christians, Damascus is the place which St Paul was approaching when he had a vision of the risen Christ, which changed his life... and indeed Christian history. In Damascus we went to the different places associated with St Paul's conversion and where he escaped through the city walls in a basket.



But we also visited one of the most important Moslem sites, the Omayyad Mosque, where you see not only the tomb of Saladin but also the monument inside which is said to be the head of John the Baptist.



Just outside Damascus we visited Christian villages where Aramaic is still

spoken, and heard the Lord's Prayer said as Jesus would have taught it. Heading north, we stayed at Aleppo where soap and towelling is said to have been invented in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Aleppo soap is still made today from a combination of olive oil and laurel. Near Aleppo we went to the remains of the once vast basilica on the site where, in the 5<sup>th</sup> century, St Simeon the Stylite lived and preached on the top



of a 15 metre high pillar for 36 years. There is still a little of his pillar left today! In the remains of the church we held one of our informal communion services. Going south to Ezra, we saw one church which has been a centre for Christian worship continuously since 515. And for me as a Classicist, it was wonderful to walk through the Roman cities of Palmyra, and Bosra, two of the best preserved Roman sites anywhere.

Syria, of course, was on the crusaders' route to Jerusalem and Crac des Chevaliers is perhaps the best example of a crusader fortresses anywhere.

Would I recommend Syria to anyone? Yes, most certainly. I travelled with Pax Travel, a Christian company, but most tour companies offer Syria as a destination.

Elizabeth Plant



## Hymns we sing?

The Laodicean church is described in the Bible in the book of The Revelation as being lukewarm. If the Laodiceans were to have a hymnal, suitable for their conviction, here's a list of some of the hymns it may contain:

Just as I Am, with Lots of Excuses  
Make Suggestions to Me, My God and King  
My Hope Is Built on Nothing Much  
Not My Life - Let Me Be  
O Come, All Ye Wishy Washy  
O Come Let Us Ignore Him.  
Oh, for a Couple of Tongues to Sing  
Part of the Way with Jesus  
Pillow of Ages, Fluffed for Me

## Handicraft Group Coffee Morning Spring coffee morning SATURDAY APRIL 9<sup>th</sup> 10am-12noon

in the Church Hall

Tickets will available from mid March  
at the usual price of 50p (including  
refreshments) from any of the mem-

bers, or just come along on the day (Children free).

Proceeds will as usual be going towards the  
NEW CHURCH HALL

Thank you all for your past support  
Looking forward to seeing you in April



# Bishop's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

There is still space on the pilgrimage which the Bishops of Manchester, Bolton and Middleton are leading to the Holy Land from 19-27 November 2011.

It will be an eight-day journey which will visit many of

the key places in the life and ministry of Jesus. After arriving at Tel Aviv airport, the bishops will lead the group north to the Galilee region where they will spend time in Nazareth, Cana (where Jesus turned water into wine) and around the shores of Galilee. Then the pilgrims will head south for several days exploring the Jerusalem area including a half-day visit inside the Palestinian town of Bethlehem.

The group will also visit the Mount of Olives, Mount Zion and the Old City of Jerusalem where they will follow the famous Via Dolorosa. Each day there will be short services, readings and historical introductions to the sites visited. In Bethlehem the group will have the opportunity to learn about and reflect on current realities and tensions for Christians and their neighbours in the Holy Land, as well as meeting with local church leaders and visiting various projects.

The Bishops hope many will want to join them on this unique opportunity to follow in the steps of Jesus, and support our Christian brothers and sisters in this troubled region.

The pilgrimage is open to everyone. The cost, including en suite half-board accommodation, local guides, airport taxes and coach travel to and from the Manchester area is £1395.

The Christian company organising the pilgrimage is Lightline Pilgrimages, Epping, Essex, CM16 7PE, telephone 01992 576065. There is also a link from the Diocese of Manchester website.



## **More thoughts for Lent**

### **Stay trimmed and balanced**

'Do not let this Book ...depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night,...be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be ...successful.' Joshua 1.8

Any flying instructor will tell you that aeroplanes need to be 'trimmed' or 'balanced in flight' on a regular basis. After flying through storms and hitting air pockets, they get knocked out of line. That's true of our path through life. The bad storms of sickness, redundancy, divorce and disappointment, can knock us off our balance, too.

In other words, our attitude needs to be constantly checked and adjusted. Have you checked yours lately? What are you encountering at the moment that is putting pressure on you to veer off course?

So long as we live, we will always need to look to God, to stay 'trimmed and balanced'. Lent is an excellent time to do this.

The best way to stay balanced is to read God's Word. It gives us a true map of the world around us, and shows us where we are on that map. Here's an idea you can try for Lent: every week, for the next few weeks, choose a Bible verse and write it down on a small card. Carry it with you wherever you go and memorise it. In one year, you'll know 52 new scriptures, and more importantly, your attitudes will be more naturally in line with God's Word, your faith will be strengthened, and your life will be moving in the right direction.

### **Lent is a time for spiritual self-examination.... where do we stand with God?**

Holiness is not something to be received in a meeting; it is a life to be lived and to be lived in detail. D Martyn Lloyd-Jones

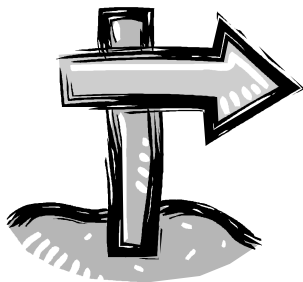
Lighthouses do not ring bells and fire cannon to call attention to their shining - they just shine! D L Moody

Forgetfulness of God's benefits is a sort of madness. John Calvin  
Every true prayer is a variation on the theme 'Thy will be done.' John R W Stott

## The Real Jesus

Some say Jesus was a good man  
That He helped the humble poor,  
Some say He was such a wise man,  
But a prophet, and no more;  
Some say that He was a hero -  
Just a martyr for a cause -  
But He is the Lord I follow  
He's the Christ - the Living Word.

For He was in the beginning,  
Through him everything was made.  
He's the light, no darkness dimming  
The True Light, which cannot fade.  
But the world has not believed him  
Those He made - unreconciled.  
And yet those who have received him  
Each become God's cherished child!



He has shown the Way to follow  
He has proven how to live;  
When in deepest pain and sorrow  
He cried out "Father, forgive",  
So this is the real Jesus  
Not a man from history -  
But our living Lord who frees us  
To new life, eternally.

*By Nigel Beeton*

## Prayer

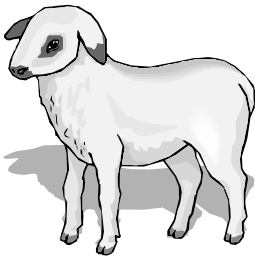
God stir the soil,  
Run the ploughshare deep  
Cut the furrows round and round  
Overturn the hard, dry ground  
Spare no strength nor toilsome  
Even though I weep.  
In the loose, fresh manure  
Sow new seed.  
Free of withered vine and weed  
Bring fair flowers to birth



## Some kind of lamb

If I were some kind of lamb  
soft, easy to attack, fragile  
I would listen for the shepherd  
who loves the colour  
and texture of my wool  
and the way I raise my head  
when the sun shines:  
He would overlook  
the awkward way I run  
and hit my knees  
against protruding fence  
in the night  
and he would pick me up  
for no good reason  
*by Tim Lenton*

LOVE



**Amen! Amen! Amen!**

# A Tapestry in the Cathedral

Blackburn Cathedral is spacious and full of light. At the west end there is an impressive metal sculpture of Christ and on either side of the nave are modern representations of the Stations of the Cross. It is a church in the Anglican tradition open to the world and to other Christian groups.



In February this year you could pass by the gentle and beautiful statue of the Madonna and Child, commissioned in memory of Helen Dex, and into the north transept. This led to an exhibition of the Quaker Tapestry, normally housed in Kendal but on loan in part to a different location for a month in every year. The many panels present the history, the social concerns and the spiritual discipline of the Religious Society of Friends, the Quakers, from its beginning in the seventeenth century. Amongst the important episodes depicted is the trial of William Penn and William Meade for unlawful preaching in 1670. Despite the bullying of the judge, the jury found them not guilty, establishing in English law the right of juries to bring in verdicts according to their conscience. Other panels represent the work of Elizabeth Fry with prisoners and convicts about to be deported, the support of Mary Hughes for the poor of London, opposition to the Slave Trade, the work of Quakers in commerce, industry and science. John Dalton, Arthur Eddington and Kathleen Lonsdale, chemist, physicist and crystallographer, were all members of the Society of Friends.

The tapestry originated in 1981 when an eleven-year-old put a question to his Sunday School Teacher, who was a skilled embroiderer. A short film showing the process of manufacture was part of the exhibition and an embroiderer demonstrated the techniques of hand-work which were used in making the Tapestry all over the world and in ensuring consistency in design. There are seventy-seven panels in the permanent Kendal exhibition. This is the place to see it because

its next location on tour will be Ely Cathedral.

Blackburn Cathedral with its interest in work by modern artists was a fitting setting. It was a setting, too, for the shared conviction of all Christians that the Light of the Divine can be pervasive in our lives, "The true light that gives light to every man".

## **It's Sainsbury's Active Kids time again!**

Last year you helped the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows of St Mary's Deane by collecting vouchers which were used to obtain large floor games for the girls to use at their meetings.

Again Sainsbury's AKV vouchers are now available for every £10 you spend at Sainsbury's store or petrol station. So please remember to collect your vouchers - better still ask your friends, relatives, and neighbours to collect the vouchers too! A box will be at the back of church until the end of the campaign.

Once again many thanks!

Please note that all sections Rainbows aged 5 to 7, Brownies aged 7 to 10 and Guides 10 upwards wish to invite new members to their meetings. Please contact Carole Baxendale Tel 01204 419167 for information. Girls are welcome to visit meetings first, with Parents if they wish, to see what we do.

### **Ladies' Guild**

After a winter break the Ladies' Guild will meet again on alternate Tuesdays in the Memorial Hall from March 15th. This first meeting will be sherry and scones (postponed from before Christmas, though the scones will be new ones! On March 29th Bob will surprise us!

2011

## Year of the Bible that shaped our culture

The King James Bible—the Authorised Version—was published 400 years ago this year. Its appearance marked the moment that a regally endorsed English translation was available for all and there is no doubt that it had a significant influence on the language, culture, literature and spirituality of our land. Now more people than ever before could read or listen to the words of this special book for themselves and understand them. It also meant that individuals could meet the Lord of that book for themselves, and respond to his love and purposes for their lives.

The ups and downs of the struggle to produce an English translation of the Bible occupied the hearts and minds for many years before 1611 and they are a fascinating record of faith, endurance and intrigue in themselves! William Tyndale's story in particular stands out; he literally put his life on the line because he wanted 'even the boy who pushed the plough' to be able to read God's word for himself.

Today we take it for granted that we can have easy access to the stories of the people of God and of Jesus, but it was not always so. In fact, there are still people groups in the world today who have no Bible in their own language and indeed there are also places where, as in Tyndale's day, Bibles have to be smuggled in at great risk to those involved.

It is amazing what an influence the Authorised Version had once it became available in the language of its day. It shaped the thinking of generations of Christians who responded to its stories and truths by founding new movements for social justice; charities and missionary work that reached out across the globe; as well as sparking revivals and new denominations, which in their turn touched the lives of more and more people with the story of God's inclusive love. There are countless stories of how reading even a few lines of the scriptures have turned individual lives around to bring in God's



kingdom in new and surprising ways.

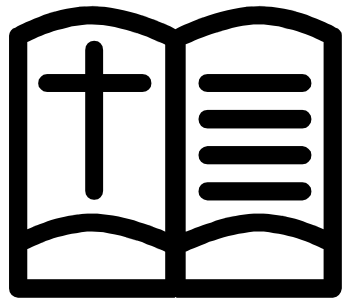
And this Bible has had a huge cultural and literary heritage too. Its words have shaped the poetry, hymns and thinking of countless writers, even up to the present day. Individual words and phrases which are part of our everyday speech come directly because of its influence—'a man after my own heart', 'a two-edged sword' and 'the eleventh hour' to name but a few!

So with all this to explore and celebrate, 2011 is surely an opportunity 'to big up the Bible' in our churches and communities. Why not get your church on board with the Year of the Bible and celebrate our special book!

For more information and ideas go to:  
Biblefresh—<http://www.biblefresh.com/>;

The King James Trust -2011—<http://www.kingjamesbibletrust.org/>; Barnabas in Schools—<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/2011>;

The People's Bible by Martyn Payne, Price £5.99,  
BRF - [www.brfonline.org.uk/9781841018522/](http://www.brfonline.org.uk/9781841018522/)  
*By Martyn Payne, of BRF Barnabas in Schools*



## **Confidence in God**

**Deane Parish Church Weekend Away**

**Conway 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

Booking forms available from the welcome desk, or from the church office.

Don't miss out on what will be

**a great weekend!**

## This month's profile

# Sally Penrose

Sally was born as Sarah Morris on the 17th August 1925 at 26 Gilnow Lane and was the seventh child of her parents. She was educated at Pikes Lane Primary School and Derby Street Secondary School, which she left at the age of 14.

Sally's first job was in the card room at Cannon Brothers and in her spare time she played rounders and it was as a result of this that she met her husband to be, Joe Penrose. He was serving in the Royal Pay Corps and stationed at Radcliffe but he lived in Bolton. He was not a native of Bolton, however, his hometown was Haltwhistle in Northumberland.

Sally and Joe were married at St Saviour's Church on Deane Road on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1949 and their first home was a "two up two down" on the "Victory". Two children were born, Stephen who has lived and worked in the USA for 25 years and, three years later, Susan, who lives in Bolton and is married to Roman. Stephen is now 58, retired and lives in Vale, which is a ski resort, still in the USA.

Sally has had four grandchildren. Two of them, the children of Stephen, Anthony and Stephanie are in the USA. Stephanie was married last September and Sally was so pleased to have been able to go to the wedding with Susan and Roman. Anthony who is 20 attends an American university.

Susan had two boys, Martin, who is married and lives in Little Lever and Stuart who was killed in an accident in Kos in Greece at the age of 18.

Sally and her husband moved to Whittle Grove in 1965 when she was working at the Co op on Ivy Road off Chorley Old Road. In the meantime, Sally's sister May took over a greengrocer's shop on St Helen's road and Sally went to work for her until she retired when she became 62.

Sally's husband died from cancer in Bolton Hospice on 1<sup>st</sup> April

1999. He had been ill for several years but only spent a week in the Hospice. Sally and her sister May are staunch supporters of the Hospice and contribute a great deal to the fund raising for it.

Sally now lives on her own but considers herself to be very fortunate to have what she describes as "a nice life". She enjoys attending Deane church and she goes to a luncheon club at St Peter's Halliwell. She and May go shopping together; they are often to be seen in Sainsbury's on a Thursday morning!

Both Sally and May like to go out for meals and Susan and Roman drive them wherever they want to go. Sally's children are very attentive, she speaks to Susan on the phone every day and Stephen phones two or three times a week. She also has nieces who are very good to her.

Sally says, "I consider myself to be very lucky and God is very good to me"

(Apologies to Sally, but Ed's computer would not scan her photograph)

## **Concerts at Deane Parish Church** **in partnership with Bolton Music Service**

**Wednesday 16th March 7.00 p.m.**

### **Spotlight Concert**

Providing young soloists (instrumental and vocal) with an opportunity to perform in front of an audience.

They will perform pieces in a wide variety of styles.

Tickets £4 with concessions including refreshments.

**Friday 25th March 7.30—9.00 p.m.**

### **An evening of Jazz and Popular Songs**

**Bolton Jazz Orchestra and BMS Singers**

Tickets £4, concessions £2 inc refreshments.

# MY WORK WITH PETS AS THERAPY

When I decided to retire from work some five years ago, I also decided to acquire a dog. I had had dogs before when the children were young, but as the job became more onerous and the children had moved away, I had given up having one until my days were emptier. The breed I decided on was a spaniel as they have a reputation for being



friendly and easy to train, and I chose the smallest of the breed, a Cavalier King Charles. So I acquired Charlie, who is a Ruby in colour in the summer of 2006 aged 8 weeks, and although he has a very definite personality and a good deal of courage, I quickly realised that he would make an excellent PAT dog.

The PAT organisation works with some 1000 dogs and around 100 cats nationally (the cats must be fine on a lead), and places them in a number of places who have requested them for a variety of reasons. Each area has a coordinator and its dogs vary from the very small to the largest (the coordinator for the north west has a Great Dane), but they must all be checked for their temperament before they are allowed near the public. Charlie and I needed two references and a 30 minute test in a local park. He had to be at least 15 months old as well. Then we were given a range of organisations to choose from in our area. I chose the Christian Nursing Home Hazlebrook in Horwich, and Charlie and I have visited there once a fortnight for the past two years. In addition Charlie has worked on the Stroke Ward at Bolton Royal Hospital, attended local carnivals and joined me in giving talks.

When I acquired another Cavalier, a tri called Oliver two years later, I was less certain about his initial temperament, because

although he was kind and friendly, he was a more nervous dog, particularly when Charlie wasn't with him. However, he has become a really good PAT dog, and has now been going to Beechville Nursing Home on Chorley Old Road for a year. He has even mastered that strange thing the lift, with a bit of reward being offered.

I am often asked what we do when we visit. Well we go to the lounges and meet the residents- both dogs know to sit quietly by someone's feet whilst they pet them. Sometimes they will be asked to sit on a knee and Charlie was even allowed on beds on occasions at the hospital, though I made sure his paws were very clean. Even quite confused residents seem to enjoy seeing them and often call them by their own pet's name (they will both answer to any name in that situation). People with limited mobility will reach out and make an effort to touch them, and actually stroking a pet is very good for your heart rate. Both my dogs really work hard at visits to please and meet new people, and they do find visits quite tiring. They are working dogs, just like sheepdogs in the fields, or police dogs on duty.

Other PAT dogs visit schools and work with pupils with learning difficulties as a reward, and specially trained ones are involved in work with animal phobias. In America, which has a similar organisation, they are known as comfort dogs. There are still far more organisations wanting these animals than there are animals available; Hazelbrook waited 2 years before it gained Charlie. To be a member is not without costs, you have to buy the coat and lead, pay any travelling expenses and an annual fee of £20, but it is very worthwhile, and something you and your pet can do together. If anyone is interested in knowing more, they can speak to me, or there is lots of information on the Pets as Therapy website.

*Barbara Winder.*



# "The King's Speech"

It is at least an interesting coincidence that we should be reading Exodus as "The King's Speech" goes on general release. Moses has to be persuaded by God that he is the right person to lead the Israelites to the Promised Land. Amongst other things he pleads, "I am slow of speech and tongue". He is not allowed to escape his responsibilities and God promises to help him with his speech.

George VI came to the throne when high-profile leadership was needed and his speech defect was a serious problem, compounded by the fact that so many people knew about it. The film opens in Wembley Stadium where the then Duke of York had to address a huge crowd. The scene is very short but it agonisingly draws attention to the Duke's inadequacy and fear. Even a person without such a defect can understand the demands of such a moment and the crushing results of failure. The film examines the slow process of therapy and the physical and psychological origins of the stammer. Treatment begins when the main character, expressively and marvellously played by Colin Firth, is still Duke. The meeting with the therapist is arranged by the Duchess, his wife, and the Duke is a reluctant, unresponsive subject. A long, fascinating struggle begins; hope and despair alternate and complement each other. Following the abdication of his brother, the new King faces the greatest challenge and the scenes prior to the Coronation are dramatically presented. An even greater challenge is the rallying speech to the nation at the beginning of the second world war. When he succeeds, relief felt by everyone who listens, aristocrat, politician and citizen, is palpable. It is a matter for applause and congratulation because achievement so far exceeds expectation. The King grows in presence and he acknowledges a measureless debt to his Australian therapist, Lionel Logue, the other half of a compelling partnership.

It is a wonderful, absorbing film. At the end of some showings the audience has clapped and many wish to see it again. Since its release a book of the same title has been published, co-authored by

Mark Logue, the therapist's grandson. It examines some of the recorded history of speech defects and, like the film, ascribes the King's mastery of his problem to his relationship with the sympathetic and resourceful Lionel. From the healing miracles in the New Testament, we know that healing depends on the faith of the patient and readiness to be healed.

## Lent recommended reading

Thinking of the journey that Christ-followers are on with God (out of slavery to sin and onwards towards the promised land of Paradise), I am recommending two books for Lenten reading this year. One (the more devotional read) is Tom Wright's *The way of the Lord: a pilgrim journey in life and faith*. Bishop Tom takes us on a pilgrimage to various Biblical sites and weaves into the telling great wisdom, insight and life-application. Nine chapters (132 pages)... that's one chapter a week through Lent with three to spare! The other read that I'm recommending is D.A.Carson's *A call to spiritual reformation: priorities from Paul and his Prayers*. Twelve chapters (230 pages)... two chapters a week during Lent? I have used and recommended this book a lot over the years. In it we kneel beside the Apostle Paul and learn how to better engage with the Father in prayer. Deeply rooted in the Bible and with lots of practical advice for improving our prayer walk with God. Both books will be available in church at reduced price from Sunday 13th March.

Terry Clark

## St Mary's School

will be coming into church for their assemblies on  
Tuesday 8th March and Tuesday 12th April (Easter assembly)  
at 9.15 a.m.

All are welcome to come along.

Team Rector	Terry Clark	01204 61819
OLM	Elizabeth Plant	01204 63730
Readers	David Dewhurst	01204 651347
	Nola Kilsby	01204 665700
Wardens	Les Kilsby	01204 665700
	Beccy Rutter	01204 654737
	Ken Tidmarsh	01204 652184
Administrator	Beccy Rutter	01204 654737

## District Church Council

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	01204 849468
Memorial Hall Bookings	Church Office	01204 659637
Music Group	Beccy Rutter	01204 654737
Verger	Josie Crompton	01204 655964
Weddings Admin	Anne Roberts	01204 849468

## Sunday Schools

Climbers (3-7)	Sally Cooper	0777 644 1440
Explorers (7-11)	Paula Small	01204 650981
Pathfinders 7-9	Elizabeth Tidmarsh	01204 652184
CYFA (10-13)	Karen Greenhalgh	01204 654737

## Youth Groups

Voltage/Element	Karen Greenhalgh	01204 654737
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## Uniformed Organisations

Rainbows	Paula Small	01204 650981
Brownies	Anne Calderbank	01204 398206
Guides	Carole Baxendale	01204 419167

Please tell Anne Roberts or office of any error or omissions.