

Deane St Mary's

August 2008

Mission Focus this month is Urban Outreach.

We report on Elizabeth's Ordination Service.

People Profile is

John Armstrong, Team Vicar of St Andrew's and Barbara Winder has told us about being a magistrate..

Beccy Rutter has reported on Sermons Day and important aspects of our church life.

We've a book recommendation and two beautiful poems inspired by the beauty of God in Creation. And there's more!



This is one of the many monsters in Deane Church.
Where is it?

"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son..."

The Rector has sent some helpful thoughts on the purposes of suffering.

Mini Directory

Team Rector	Ian Mainey	01204 61819
Team Vicar	John Armstrong	01204 651851
Curate	Dan Howard	01204 855112
Retired Clergy	Joyce Mitson	01204 655081
Wardens	Les Kilsby	01204 655700
	Craig Mochrie	01204 652324
	Beccy Rutter	01204 654737

St Mary's Info: August 2008

	9.00	10.30	6.00
Sunday 3	Holy Communion	Holiday Club Service	No service in church during August but an informal gathering at 127 Deane Church Lane, home of Beccy and Karen. All welcome.
	Greed!		
Sunday 10	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	
	Anger!		
Sunday 17	Holy Communion	Family Worship and Baptism	
	Lust!		
Sunday 24	Holy Communion	Family Worship/ Holy Communion	
	Envy!		
Sunday 31	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	
	Sloth!		

Ladies' Guild August

5th Joan Cooper Tips
 19th Mrs Dyson How I spent £30.5s.6d.

Front page Monster - he's at the top of a pillar about half way down the main aisle on your left.

From the Rector

God's Purpose In Suffering

It's funny how you get an image in your mind and then are quite taken aback when that image does not live up to reality. I suppose that really struck me when I was on a trip to the Holy Land the year before last. We came to Galilee and for some reason I had this picture in my mind's eye of the disciples pulling the boats up onto the sandy shore and of Jesus preparing a barbecue for them whilst making sure that the sand didn't get on the food. Imagine my surprise when I found that there was no sand, just small pebbles. Not even brightly coloured pebbles but black ones. Not at all what I had in mind.

You know sometimes we can get a completely wrong picture of Jesus as well. We can think to ourselves that he walked around the countryside with his disciples without encountering any problems at all. But is this true? Well to answer this question let's ask ourselves the following. Did Jesus suffer? Was Jesus sometimes lonely? Was he tempted to be discouraged? Was he misunderstood, maligned, and criticized unjustly? As you read through the Gospels, you'll quickly see that the answer to all these questions is: YES. So, what makes any of us think we'll be exempted from suffering or loneliness or discouragement or unjust criticism?

The truth is this, hard as it is for us to take on board, God is developing within us the character of Christ, and in order to do this, he must take us through all of the circumstances in life that he took Christ through. This means God is more interested in our character than our comfort, and he's more concerned about our holiness than our happiness. So, the question is not *if* you'll go through dark times in life, rather it's *when* you'll go through them.

Does God cause these tragedies? No. God is good, and he cannot cause evil, nor do evil. But God can use these dark and stressful

times for good; he'll use them to build a Christlike character within us.

So, what should we do when we go through difficult times?

Refuse to be discouraged - David said, "I will fear no evil" (Psalm 23:4 NIV). This implies a choice, an act of decision. As Jesus faced the cross, he made a choice to follow God's will; he made a choice to face down fear; he made a choice to ignore despair.

Remember God is with you - David said, "For you are with me" (Psalm 23:4 NIV). God not only promises his power, he promises his presence. We will never go through a dark day alone. Jesus knew he wasn't alone as he walked out his passion.

Rely on God's protection and guidance - David said in Psalm 23:4 that God's rod and staff comforted him. The rod and staff were basic tools a shepherd used to protect and guide the sheep. God will be with us, and he'll protect and guide us. Jesus could have called down 10,000 angels; he could have called his disciples to arms; instead he relied on God to protect and guide him.

One of my favourite verses in the Bible is Romans 8:29

"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son..."

It's a great verse which brings me both comfort and hope. But it's a verse with real challenge as well for it tells me that if I want to be conformed to the likeness of Jesus that there are going to be occasions when I am going to have to go through the difficulties of life.

But that is only what all Christians are called upon to experience to one degree or another, and we know that in Christ we do not go through those difficulties alone.

Risen Lord, may we find in you that even the darkest endings give way to new beginnings!



Annals of St Mary's

A Hundred Years Ago

In 1902, the *Bolton Chronicle* recorded that Miss Ellen Ashton of Southport offered to finance the erection of the lychgate, in memory of her kinsman, Thomas Withnell, Vicar of St Mary's 1767-76. The lychgate was designed by the vicar, H S Patterson, and erected in 1903. Rain fell heavily on the day of the opening ceremony, giving ample evidence, in Miss Ashton's words, of the lychgate's value as a shelter for parishioners. The previous lychgate was probably demolished in 1799 when extensive work was done in the churchyard.

Two Hundred Years Ago

In 1796, a bassoon was purchased for £3 12s 6d; this is the first record of a musical instrument purchase. It was followed in 1801 by a 'viollincello' for the use of the singers, costing £7 17s 6d and in 1808 by a new bassoon at £5. 7s 0d. In 1807 the parish meeting decided that the church roof should be repaired, that the floor should be levelled and reflagged and that the outside of the church should be re-pointed. The old parish clock, if past repairing, should be replaced.

Three Hundred Years Ago

In 1714, St Mary's was one of the first churches to benefit from Queen Anne's Bounty, a fund established by the Queen in 1704 for the benefit of churches and clergy. In 1722 the glebe land given to St Mariden in 1265 and seized by the Crown in 1537 was finally conveyed by deed to the benefice.

Four Hundred Years Ago

In 1598, the Curate at St Mary's, James Pendlebury, was accused of falsifying the parish register. The alteration to Anne Worthington's date of birth had the effect of disinheriting her. The assumption is that Pendlebury was party to a conspiracy, but he denied this. There is no record of the conclusion of the case.

In 1615, Giles Marsh left £10 towards the establishment of a church school. By 1624 the legacy had been misapplied and the executors of the will were asked to provide sureties.

Charles Winder

Footnote below.

Urban Outreach

is in its 18th Year. The services it delivers have developed as needs have demanded. Every project is delivered in partnership with a large number of services and is committed to partnership working.

Short Term Accommodation for Young People (S.T.A.Y.)

This provides emergency direct access accommodation to young people in the 16-25 age range. Members of local churches open up their homes and provide bed, breakfast and an evening meal for young people who have nowhere else to go. S.T.A.Y. prevents young people having to sleep rough or in unsuitable accommodation, therefore reducing the risk of ill health, prostitution and drug abuse.

The scheme provides a breathing space for agencies who are working with the young people to find more permanent accommodation. All those involved, young people and Accommodation Providers receive a twenty four hour support service.



BOLTON WINTER WATCH

Winter Watch operates from January to the end of July.

The **Winter Watch** project provides roofless people and other users with food, clothing, washing facilities, Health and Housing advice, occasional sessions by hairdressers and a chiropodist and a dedicated Clinic with services provided by the Health Authority in the form of 2 nurses each weekend. The aim is to create a safe non threatening environment

There are a range of client groups which include older people, prison leavers, homeless, rough sleepers, drug misusers, young people, and people with mental health problems.

The centre at Spa Mill is staffed by volunteers from a range of services who have undertaken a brief training programme.

Most weekends see on average between 80-90 visitors per night.

Funded by Local Authority, Churches, Individuals, Business.

Street Life and OARS

(Offender, Advice, Resettlement Support Project)

Although Winter Watch meets the needs of vulnerable individuals in Bolton, it became apparent that for many using the services extra help and support was needed.

This was most apparent for those whose offending behaviour had resulted in a custodial sentence. At the point of release there were very few opportunities for them in terms of accommodation and employment. Over the past two years the Street Life project has received numerous requests for visits to prison from many of those who have used Winter Watch. This has resulted in opportunities to secure accommodation pre-release and begin the process of looking at employment.

The project also works with those sleeping rough to get them off the streets into safer accommodation, as well as those involved in the sex industry, helping to resolve a variety of issues from accommodation to drugs help. Funded through Homeless Directorate + Local Authority and Supporting People.

R.Ur.N.A.

Remember You Are Not Alone.

Research undertaken by Barnardos has demonstrated the strong link between children missing from home and sexual exploitation. A quarter of children who run away first did so before the age of 16 years and one in four before the age of eight.

Bolton Social Services originally approached Urban Outreach (Bolton) to discuss the possibility of setting up a missing from home project. Prior to this service there was no service dedicated to child runaways in Bolton. The aims of the project are to:

- Contact every child who is reported missing to the Police.
- To visit children who have run away from home.
- To establish reasons why they ran away and focus on ways of resolving the causes.
- Introduce and help engage the child and family with appropriate services.

See back cover if you want to get involved with Urban Outreach.

Why was August 15th once an important day at St Mary's?

Why was August 15th once a major feast day in every church's calendar? The reason is that until the time of the reformation the day was celebrated as the feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. But what is the Assumption? What is this belief that Roman Catholics still hold dear? On November 1st 1950 the then Pope, Pius XII, defined the dogma of the Assumption, declaring that Mary at the end of her earthly life was assumed (taken up) body and soul to Heaven.

But belief in the Assumption went back long before 1950. There are written records of the celebration of the feast as early as the sixth century. There was a vigil and fast on the day before and prayers on the following seven days. In fact it was mainly because people had celebrated this feast for so long that Pope Pius XII decided in 1950 to state the belief as a dogma. A dogma is more powerful than a doctrine. A dogma for Roman Catholics is something which has to be believed.

But is there any Biblical basis for this belief? The short answer is 'no'. Some quote passages such as Isaiah 61 v13 'I will glorify the place of my feet' and Revelation 12 v1ff 'the woman clothed with the sun'. But none are conclusive by any means. Others argue from the words of Gabriel to Mary 'Greetings, you who are highly favoured' ('full of grace' is another translation) that Mary had already received grace. This could lead on to meaning that Mary was born without original sin. If she was born without original sin, she would have lived a sinless life. If she lived a sinless life, the grave would not have been able to hold her.

Other Roman Catholic theologians have supported the Assumption from a different angle, with such arguments that it would not have been fitting for the body of the mother of Jesus to decay, and that since it was in Jesus' power to ensure that this did not happen, Jesus would have ensured that her body did not decay.

Others see evidence in the numerous visions which there have been over the centuries.

So is there any proof or indeed any evidence? The answer is 'no', but then some would say that many of our own beliefs are based on faith, not absolute proof. There is one interesting point. Relics of the saints have been revered over the centuries. You have probably seen some in visits overseas—a bit of St Paul's finger in Malta, a cloth which wiped Jesus' body in Bruges. But it seems that there have never been any relics produced of Mary!

So should we be reviving the feast of the Assumption? I think not! But it is illuminating to understand that this feast will have been celebrated in Deane for hundreds of years from when there was first a church on the site over a thousand years ago until the sixteenth century. And as members of the church family of St Mary's Deane, the Assumption is something which we all ought, at least, to have heard of!

Elizabeth Plant

What was the Reformers' view of Mary?

On the one hand, they were very critical of what they considered Marian excesses and they talked at length about some of the ways in which Mary was given too much veneration, too much almost idolatrous worship, substituting her for Christ himself in some ways at the popular devotional level. On the other hand, they themselves had a very explicit devotion to Mary, especially Luther but also Zwingli and Calvin in their own way. They wanted to give honour to Mary. They wanted to remind the church that she was to be called *blessed* in every generation. They honoured her as the vehicle of God's grace in giving Jesus to the world and an example of justification by faith alone, because she believed so purely in the gospel. I think we need to go back and reclaim something of the Reformers' more positive view of Mary, insofar as it really is biblical. It really is a part of our own Protestant heritage.

From an executive editor of (the American) 'Christianity Today'

Ordination 29th June

The Bishop of Manchester declared that the ordinands had become deacons and the cathedral rang with prolonged applause. It was a moving moment, a climax and witness to the dedication, long hours of study and practical training of those men and women who had some years earlier presented themselves as candidates.

It was a special Saints' Day, St Peter and St Paul, and the address by Canon Robert Jones of Worcester Diocese had its source in the record of their lives and personalities. The readings presented the calling of St Peter and St Paul's farewell to his ministry. Despite their differences and difficulties, which we can recognise and share, they had their love of God in common and their commitment to his Son. In understanding the founders of the church, the deacons and their congregations will follow the challenging way to God.

The seriousness of the service and the appointment of deacons, professing readiness to follow their vocation, inspired joy. The congregation was overflowing and some came from great distances. There were families with children and supporters from many churches. They joined in the service, listened to the ethereal singing of the choir, came together in the Peace and gave their united strength to all the ordained deacons, each with a strong local following, amongst whom was our own Elizabeth. The deacons left the cathedral to meet their friends and families and to begin a new life in the service of God.

Family and friends gathered in Elizabeth's house and garden for a superb barbecue lunch prepared by members of Elizabeth's family. Brother-in-law made an excellent barbecue chef!

Charles Winder

Apologies to Elizabeth for the photo in the June mag. We hope this comes out better!



PCC PLANNING EVENING REPORT

At the end of June the PCC held a planning evening where we spent time thinking about what had happened over the last 12 months, and what we'd like to see happen over the next 12 months.

This may sound a bit strange but we used a picture of a tree to help us to think about those things, with the three key parts of the tree linked to the things that we do as a Church. Let me explain!

Imagine a tree without roots. It wouldn't be able to draw up the water and the nutrients it needs to grow, and in heavy rain and wind it would soon fall over. As individuals and a Church if we don't grow strong roots through studying God's word and through prayer we will be more vulnerable when we hit difficult times in our life, and we won't grow in our faith. We called the roots of the tree "discipleship".

A tree without a trunk, well just isn't a tree! There are some things which are the bread and butter if you like of our life as a Church family - coming together on a Sunday at a service is probably one of the most obvious examples. We called the trunk "services".

A healthy tree bears fruit on branches. As a Church the fruit that we bear is seeing more people come to know Jesus as King of their lives. This is through the work we do and events that we run where we meet with people who don't already have that relationship with God. We called the branches "outreach".

We had a very active meeting and at the end of the meeting we had a very 'attractive' tree on the wall, with things to celebrate and things to focus our attention on over the next year. Rather than put it into words look at the tree over the page and see for yourself. Maybe there are things on there that you didn't know had happened. Please pray that as a Church we will continue to grow.

Maybe you could commit to praying for one of the areas that we have identified as an area of focus for this year? BR

What has happened:

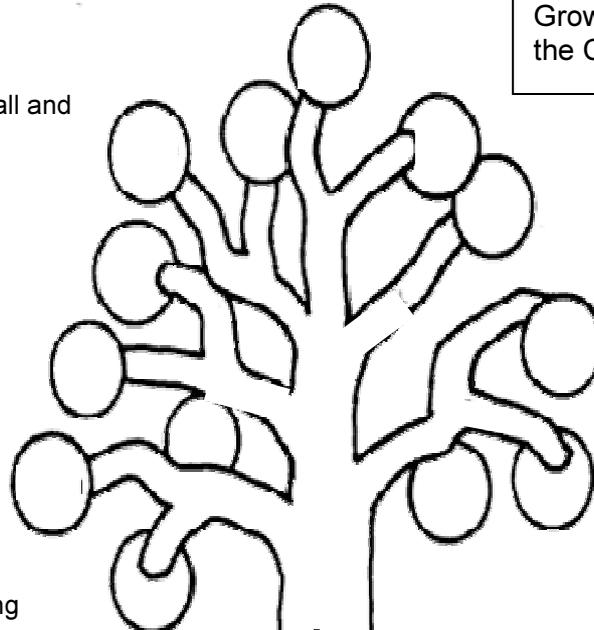
Next twelve months:

Branches - outreach

- Start group / enquirers group
- Hope 08 Day (May Bank Holiday)
- Holiday Club
- Light Party
- PAIS project – growth in the work in Ladybridge Primary School and St Mary's Primary School
- Beetle Drive (Harvest)
- Element and Voltage
- Bereavement Counselling Course
- Re-launch of magazine
- Progress with planning the new hall and re-ordering of the Church.

Trunk - services

- Changes made to the 9am and 10:30 service to align preaching



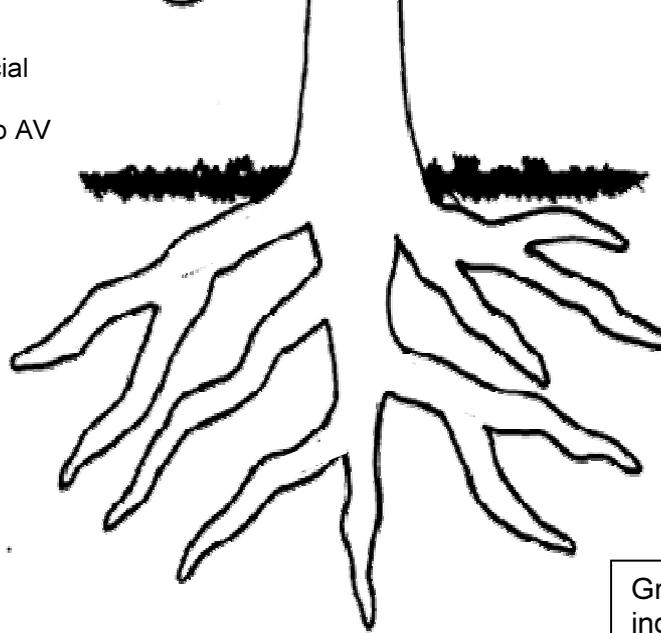
Growth in numbers in the Church overall

Fundraising for the redevelopment pro-

Improved communica-

topics

Changes to evening services
Providing refreshments at special services
Gradual improvements made to AV equipment
New band at 6pm service



Increase in the prayer life of the Church

Roots - discipleship

Parish weekend
Church Away Day
Home groups
Ladies Guild – saw an increase in the number of people attending the lent home group
Setting up the monthly prayer meeting
Pathfinder and Cyfa picnic

Growth in numbers attending Home Groups

This Month's Profile

JOHN ARMSTRONG

TEAM VICAR OF ST ANDREW'S

John Armstrong began his ministry at St Andrew's Over Hulton last summer. Having been ordained in 1997, he served as Curate at Christ Church Pennington in Leigh and then as Priest-in-Charge at Holcombe and Hawkshaw for six years.

A native of Workington in Cumbria, who feels that he owes a great deal to his parents, John left to go to College in Manchester where he studied Science, and after graduating he began work in the field of Molecular Genetics.

John's path to Christianity was similar to that of many young people. He went to church as a boy and enjoyed it but then as a teenager he stopped going. In his late teens he was brought back, becoming a true Christian when he was 19 years old having realised why Jesus had to die on the Cross.

John is very happy in his role as Team Vicar of St Andrews and he feels privileged to be in the position where he is able to build on all the good work done at St Andrew's over the years together with so many dedicated and committed people. His philosophy "whatever the set backs seem to be, always keep moving forward" stands him in good stead.

John and his wife Helen have three children, David 15, Mark 13 and Naomi 10. They enjoy relaxing together and, in particular, John likes to spend time building Airfix models, which come second only to the Bible as his most treasured possession! A fan of Liverpool football team, John also likes James Bond films, particularly those that feature Sean Connery and Roger Moore. His favourite food is either Indian or Italian.

As far as holidays are concerned, in the last few years the family has been to Center Parks in Holland, which they have found to be most enjoyable.

John is an admirer of John Calvin, a sixteenth century theologian and a major figure in the establishment of Protestantism, who sought to bring as many people as possible to Christianity in a reformed Church. John believes that the churches of St Mary's Deane and St Andrews have a bright future together and that they should be seeking to reach out to people who are not churchgoers and introduce them to Christianity in the twenty first century in the hope that they will become, in due course, members of the Church.

Casterton 3 CYFA Venture

Dan, Angela, Abigail and Bethia Howard, Elizabeth Tidmarsh, Tom Forrester, Danny Bartrupe and Julian Tomlinson will be going on a CYFA Venture 17-25 August, staying in a boarding school near Kirkby Lonsdale along with 46 teenagers and about 30 leaders plus cooks and some helpers. The venture is for any teenager aged 14-18 who wants to spend a week discovering more about Jesus in the context of a fantastic holiday. There will be paintballing, 'high ropes', abseiling, horse riding, inflatable water sports as well as time to relax, talks about the Christian faith and what God has done for us through Jesus. All the teens are allocated into a 'dorm group' of about 6 members with two or three leaders. Dan and Elizabeth will be taking on leadership roles. Please do pray for us....

- that the teenagers have a better grasp of the gospel message as they listen to talks, join in Bible Studies and Buzz groups;
- that God would keep us safe as we do exciting activities; for good weather;
- that Dan and Elizabeth work well with the other leaders and get to know their dorm groups quickly;
- that Abigail and Bethia would have a super week and that through this venture they would grasp more of God's love for them.

We will let you know how it goes..... and we'd love more people from Deane Parish to go next year. Angela became a Christian through a Pathfinder Venture 29 years ago and can testify to the influence Pathfinder and CYFA ventures (22 in all) have made to her faith!

BOOKS4U

"Revelation" by C.J. Sansom

This is the fourth in Sansom's series about the reformation in England. Following the dissolution of the monasteries and the Pilgrimage of Grace, the lawyer, Matthew Shardlake, finds himself involved in the investigation of a series of murders, based on prophecies in Revelation, the last of which seems to be directed at Catherine Parr, the King's future and final bride.

Sansom is a historian as well as a novelist and the period fascinates him. He presents the details of daily life, the effects of social evolution and the problems confronting a lawyer as though he had lived through the century himself.

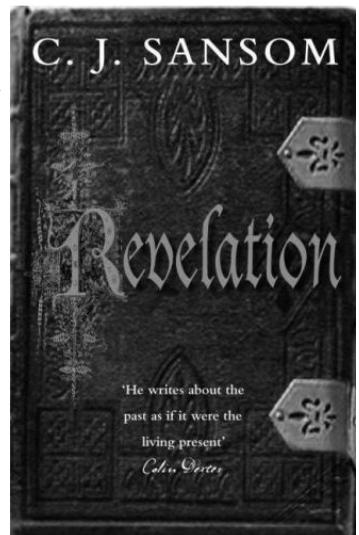
The tensions and dangers of religious controversy are evident. Extremes of fundamentalist thinking are behind the murders and there is an accompanying suspicion that the King is encouraging a return to earlier Roman practices.

The novel gathers pace as Shardlake and his associates pursue the murderer and realise his identity. Like all the others this is an exciting book to read and I hope that Sansom will continue his series into the reigns of Edward and Mary.

His previous reformation novels, all in paperback by now, are "Dissolution", "Dark Fire" and ""Sovereign". They are perhaps best read in that order.

At the time of preparation of this article Revelation was available on www.amazon.co.uk at 7.15 (rrp 17.99)+ p& p but this is free if you buy books worth £15 or more, so why not order with a friend?

Sansom has also published a striking story about Spain in the second world war, "Winter in Madrid".



GOD'S GRANDEUR

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod:
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs -
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.
Born at Stratford, Essex, on July 28th 1844, **Gerard Manley Hopkins** is regarded as one of the Victorian era's finest poets. He was raised in a prosperous and artistic family. He attended Balliol College, Oxford in 1863 where he studied Classics.

THE MARSHES OF GLYNN

As the marsh-hen secretly builds on the watery sod,
Behold I will build me a nest on the greatness of God:
I will fly in the greatness of God as the marsh-hen flies
In the freedom that fills all the space
twixt the marsh and the skies:

By so many roots as the marsh-hen sends in the sod
I will heartily lay me a-hold on the greatness of God:
Oh, like to the greatness of God is the greatness within
The range of the marshes, the liberal marshes of Glynn.
Born in Georgia in the USA, **Sidney Lanier** (1842-1881) fought with the Confederate Army in the Civil War (he was a POW for four months), was a professional flautist and taught literature. The marshes of Glynn County, Georgia, inspired this poem.

BARBARA WINDER TELLS US OF HER

WORK AS A MAGISTRATE

Deane Church members include a number of magistrates, and of them I am the least experienced, but that said, here is a brief account of my first three years' experience of this type of voluntary work.

I considered becoming a magistrate when I knew I would be taking early retirement. Most employers will be sympathetic to their employees becoming magistrates but as it involves time away from work, it is best to discuss the idea with them first. If you would lose money or are self employed, there is some payment involved to cover losses.

A major initial hurdle was filling in the 32 page application form! This involves identifying appropriate referees and a passport photograph. Think carefully about anything you put on the form, as you may be asked about it in your interviews. You are expected to observe at least two court sessions in the public area. There are few age restrictions; they are very keen for applications from younger magistrates since these tend to be under-represented. They are not likely to take you over 60, as you have to retire at 70.

Of those that apply, about 30 are asked to a round of interviews, at a local hotel. The interviews usually take place once a year. The panel consists mainly of current magistrates. You will be asked to attend twice for around an hour each time; one interview will find out more about you and discuss your application, the other will ask how you would deal with some imaginary cases them. You are not expected to know anything about the Law, but to apply just a common sense approach. Around half the group will be successful. You are told this is a bench balancing exercise to some extent, so some years they may need more men, or more people of a certain age or background. Those selected wait to go forward until all have been CRB checked. You will be allocated a mentor from the experienced magistrates who will sit on the same bench with you on at least 3 occasions in the first year, and help fill in appraisal forms. Most mentors are very helpful and you can ring or speak to them for further guidance.

At a suitable point the group will be brought together to be inducted as magistrates, swearing an oath in front of a judge in Bolton

Crown Court. This is a pleasant occasion, with tea and cakes, and you can invite up to three members of your family to watch.

Bolton bench is a busy one with around 200 magistrates, sitting Monday to Friday and some Saturday mornings. You will be asked to specify a day when you are available and given a timetable with a diary of when you are sitting (not every week, about once a fortnight), but swaps are quite frequently done so these days are not set in stone. You are expected to attend court by 9.30 and around half the courts will continue into the afternoon. All magistrates have to attend a minimum number of sittings. If you complete a whole day, you will have been counted twice. Once you feel more comfortable, you can volunteer for additional trials.

You will begin in the Adult Courts as a `winger`, one of a bench of three, and will not be able to apply for Chairmanship until you have completed 4 years. After three years you can express an interest in more specialist courts such as Youth and Family courts and be assessed for your suitability, but will still be expected to spend time in the Adult courts. You can also join other committees and visit primary and secondary schools if you are interested.

The work varies as most crimes initially are tried in the Magistrates' Courts, even murder, but in the case of such crimes the court `declines jurisdiction because its sentencing powers are not sufficient` and they are sent to Crown courts. You will be expected to access training throughout your period as a magistrate. As a new magistrate you will have some days of induction training as a group, and follow-up training at the end of your first year. You will also be taken on visits to local prisons and assessment centres.

The courts are formal places and it was difficult to get used to being bowed to when I entered court and addressed as `Your worship` and `Madam`. Each court has a Clerk who is the legal expert who will advise the Bench on legal matters, and I was made very welcome by my fellow magistrates, who are an interesting mixed bunch, from ex-newspaper reporters to clergymen and fire chiefs. We have a number of social events each year and even an ex-magistrate's club! The work is interesting and varied and I encourage all interested to apply.

'Sermons' Weekend

21st and 22nd June

The weekend started with a barbeque on Saturday afternoon. Despite the weather we had a really enjoyable time with plenty of food (courtesy of Dan outside under a gazebo!) and games. About 35 people came along, and a number were people who don't come to Church on a regular basis, so it was a really good opportunity for us to get to know them.

Unfortunately once again the weather meant we couldn't hold our 10:30am service outdoors (maybe next year!). Anyway Sunday School had made some very creative and brightly coloured postcards to help us share with one another some amazing truths about God. We started the service by shouting them out together to remind ourselves and each other just how awesome God is.

Our guest speaker was Derek Smith from Kings Church, Bolton, and he brought us a really challenging and inspiring message about the boy who was willing to give his bread and fish to Jesus and let Him work a miracle to feed the crowd of people. Just an ordinary boy on an ordinary day who was willing to give everything he had, and look what happened. Makes you think doesn't it?!

Once again we had Bolton Music Service Youth Brass Band with us, and we appreciated their contribution.

The evening service took inspiration from one of our Rector's favourite radio programmes - Desert Island Discs! We all have our favourite hymns and songs, and we asked Ian, and Kirsty Thorpe from Deane URC to choose two of their favourites - one traditional and one new - and share with us why those songs are special to them. Ian's choices were *He who would valiant be* and *Lord I come to you*, and Kirsty chose *Through all the changing scenes of life* and *Blessed be your name*—all songs which tell of the fact that life is full of ups and downs, but that God is always there. We finished with a beautiful verse from Zephaniah 3 which tells us that not only can we sing to God, but that God is also rejoicing over us with singing too!

Through all the changing scenes of life
in trouble and in joy
the praises of my God shall still
my heart and tongue employ.
O magnify the Lord with me,
with me exalt his name;
when in distress to him I called,
he to my rescue came.

Please don't
forget, we'd
love to print
YOUR
favourite
hymns,
poems and
quotes.

Back to Church Sunday

28 September 2008

Three Simple Things To Do Right Now!

1. Put it in the diary. Make sure you will be at church on 28th September.
2. Think of a few people you may be able to invite, nearer the time.
3. Pray for those people, and for the whole church as we take part in this.

Last year, the Church of England welcomed 20,000 people back to church through this event. Let's make sure we are part of this exciting initiative here in Deane Parish. Start thinking and praying right now. And don't be fearful - a personal invitation is very powerful, and the worst that can happen is they say 'no'. Romans 10v14: "how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" Let's offer more people the chance to hear the message of life in Christ. Enquiries to Dan Howard, or Ian Mainey.

Footnote to Annals of St Mary's: The source for these notes is James Boardman's *Records and Traditions of Deane Church, Village and Parish* (1904). Mr Boardman was warden of our church 1867-72, before moving to London. In a later edition we will quote matter from five hundred and more years ago.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord!



Music is an integral part of the life of the Church, and the bible tells us that it should be. We are told to *speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs* and to *sing and make music in our hearts to the Lord* (Ephesians 6:19). Music can help us to praise God and to give Him thanks for everything that He has done for us. At Deane we have a number of people who are using their musical gifts and talents to serve God.

Deane Singers

The Deane Singers are a group who came together about two years ago, bringing together singers from our traditional robed choir and music group. At our two more traditional services on the second and fourth Sunday of the month the group robe and are accompanied by our organist, Lisa Atherton.

On the first and third Sunday at our more informal family services the singers are accompanied by a group of musicians.

Currently we have around 12 singers and we practice every week after the 10:30am service.

Musicians

On the first and third Sunday a group of musicians accompany the singers. We have a range of instruments including keyboard, flute, clarinet, saxophone, rhythm guitar, bass guitar, drums and African drums. It can be a tight squeeze in the corner where we sit!

In addition we have also brought together a band who play at two evening services a month. Currently we have rhythm and bass guitar, keyboard, drums and two singers. The band involves some of the young people from our youth groups (Voltage, Element, Pathfinders and CYFA). Band practice on a Tuesday evening (7:00 - 9:00pm) in Church.

We welcome new members into any of the groups and if you're interested in getting involved speak to Beccy Rutter (01204 654737).

Between all of the different groups we cover a wide variety of music from traditional hymns to songs written in the last year or two. They all appeal to different people of course! But whether traditional or new we try to ensure that the words we sing are based on the truth of God's word, and complement the message being shared at the service. Often we take home the words of songs more easily, but if those words can remind us of what we have been learning about together from God's word then it can help us to focus on that and meditate on it.

A few years ago Ian wrote a paper which explored some of the issues related to music in the Church. His penultimate paragraph seems like an appropriate way to finish this article:

Music is a great gift from God, and used rightly, it can help us to learn and remember the truths of the gospel, express our thanks and praise to God, and encourage and build one another up in our faith.

Advert!

We will be having another 'Come and Sing' concert again this Christmas on Saturday 20th December. This is an opportunity for anybody to come along and sing together in a concert in Deane Church. You don't have to be able to read music or have any experience of singing in a choir. We have a number of rehearsals in the weeks leading up to the concert (usually on a weekday evening). More details will follow but why not consider coming along and giving it a try, especially if you've never done anything like it before. Maybe think about bringing a friend along too.

Laugh lines!

At an optometrist's office: IF YOU DON'T SEE WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE!

In a podiatrist's office: TIME WOUNDS ALL HEELS!

In a veterinary surgery: BE BACK IN FIVE MINUTES. SIT! STAY!

In a restaurant window: COME IN AND GET FED UP!

Thanks to Bob Benyon for these!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE INVOLVED WITH **URBAN OUTREACH?**

Winter Watch is a part of Urban Outreach. It is a place where vulnerable adults of Bolton can come to receive a hot, home cooked meal, access to showers, clothing, medical advice, chiropody and hairdressing services. We can only offer this service because volunteers are willing to serve those people in our town who desperately need our help. As a volunteer myself I feel it is a privilege to be able to serve God in a practical way by serving our guests at Winter Watch. You too can be part of the project.

There are many areas you could be involved in

- A volunteer in the café (*You must attend one training session*)
- Help during harvest time (*The Mill will be open during different times both day and evenings*)
 - *Sorting harvest gifts*
 - *Dating harvest gifts*
 - Food Provider
 - Prayer Partner

Food preparation on a Friday morning

If you feel you would like to join the team at Winter Watch, or you would like to find out more details, please contact Yvonne on 01204 385848 or email winterwatch@urbanoutreach.co.uk

Yvonne Pyle

Winter Watch Coordinator

... and finally

**In tennis, love means nothing.
In God, love means everything!**

Thank you to Joyce Welsh for sending us this reminder!