

St Mary's Info: April 2009

	9.00	10.30	6.00
April 5 Palm Sunday	Holy Communion	Family Parade	Holy Communion
	2 Philippians 2:5 – 11; Mark 11:1 – 11		
April 12 Easter Day	Holy Communion	Family Service	Evening Service
	Acts 10:34 – 43; Mark 16:1 – 8		
April 19	Holy Communion	Family Baptism	Evening Service
	Acts 4:32 – 35; John 20:19 – 31		
April 26	Holy Communion	Svce of the Word	Evening Service
	Acts 3:12 – 19; Luke 24:36b – 48		

Mauddy Thursday

There will be an Agape Supper at 7.30 p.m. in the Memorial Hall. All are welcome. Please see the notice board at the back of church for details.

Good Friday

A quiet service appropriate to the day will take place in church at 10.30 a.m.

Don't miss these important days on the Church's calendar. They have been commemorated by Christians for two millennia. Without the events of those days there would be no Easter resurrection!

The Rector Writes

Walking the Easter Road

As many of you know I like walking and try and get out as often as I can on my day off to stretch my legs. I find that walking is not only good exercise, it also gives me the space to think and to put things which have been on my mind into perspective.



A few weeks ago I enjoyed a most delightful walk. It started in Scorton north of Preston and then headed into the Forest of Bowland. There were many wonderful things about the walk, going through a wooded valley listening to the woodpeckers at work, striding out across the fells listening to the larks singing. But the highlight of the walk was undoubtedly going up to the top of a hill with the delightful name of Nicky Nook. From there one could gaze out over Morecombe Bay and beyond.

In many ways I think that walking is one of the most Christian of acts, because it so much mirrors life. The journey of life consists of many walks, some over familiar ground and others visiting places we have never gone to before. Sometimes it can be too easy to discount the dull routines and only expect to find God in some new exciting adventure. But pilgrimage is about finding God along the way and not having to wait till we have reached the destination.

Such a walk is recorded in Luke's Gospel when we read of the two people who were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus, a distance of 7 miles, after the death and resurrection of Jesus. One of those on the journey is named Cleopas, but the other is not named. For some reason I have often assumed that this was another man, but recently I read somewhere that the other could have been Cleopas' wife. I like that thought for some reason.

Anyway the two on the day were not in good spirits, far from it. In fact they were devastated. They were dwelling upon Jesus'

crucifixion and the yelling mob which had called for Jesus' death. They were trying to make sense of the strange reports that Jesus had risen from the dead. Could it possibly be true?

The road was so familiar and their conversation so intense that they did not notice what was going on around them. I think they were hardly aware when a stranger came alongside them and fell in step—they were kept from recognising that this was Jesus, the one they had been talking about. We find this odd, but are there not times when we do not recognise Jesus' presence by our side?

As so often, Jesus opened up the conversation with a question. He asks them what they are discussing. But they take his question as ignorance, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" Jesus was not of course ignorant of these facts; he was at the centre of them. From there they shared with him what was on their heavy hearts and spoke about how their hopes had been shattered. But they also tell Jesus of the report the women gave who had gone to the tomb early that Easter morning.

having heard their account Jesus challenges them regarding their downcast spirits, but more than that he begins to open up to them the scriptures so that they might see that all this was in the plan of God, that he would suffer death upon the cross and be raised on the third day. And as the connections were made from the Old Testament scriptures so the power flowed and sparks of understanding flew with greater frequency. Their hearts burned within them. Often God's revelation begins with the warming of the heart, with an awareness of God's presence.

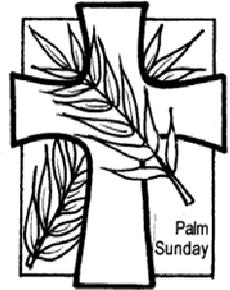
So impressed were Cleopas and his companion by this stranger that they invited him to stay with them in the inn they had just neared in order to share a meal with them. And it was in the blessing and the breaking of the bread that their eyes were opened and they recognised Jesus.

(continued on centre page right hand side)

Days of Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday

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



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

On this day churches worldwide will distribute little crosses made from palm fronds in memory of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before his death: the washing of his own disciples' feet. (see John 13) Jesus washed his disciples' feet for a purpose: "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.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis' The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising

the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call 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, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as he,

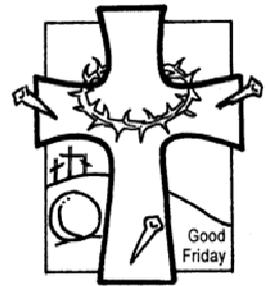


the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world.

John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

Good Friday

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year, and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the 'passions' composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday.



The custom of observing a period of three hours' devotion from 12 midday to 3 pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The 'Three Hours of the Cross' often take the form of an extended meditation on the 'Seven Last Words from the Cross', with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.

Easter Day

What do we mean by the resurrection of Christ? Jesus Christ came into this world to die as our substitute for our sins. The sinless Son of God



came to give his life as a ransom for many (Matt. 20:28). On that first Good Friday, Jesus was crucified. Some of his disciples then buried his body in a new tomb (John 19:30-42).

While Jesus was alive, he had predicted that he would rise from the dead. He challenged his enemies: "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." He was speaking about his body (John 2:19-22). Jesus also told his disciples many times that he would be killed by the leaders in Jerusalem, but be raised to life on the third day. The leaders who killed Jesus were aware of this prediction that he would rise from the dead. Although they did not believe it, they wanted to ensure that it would not happen, so they set a guard around the tomb. 'Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body, and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.' 'Take a guard,' Pilate answered. 'Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.' So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard."

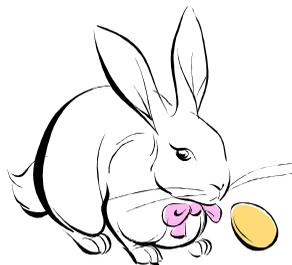
Despite their efforts, Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus had said to his friend Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life"? Jesus had brought a number of people to life from the dead, including Martha's brother Lazarus, who had been dead for four days (John 11). But the resurrection of Jesus Christ was different. It was not just resuscitation, as was the case with Lazarus, who later died again. On the third day Jesus was raised from the dead with a transformed body that was clothed with immortality and glory. His resurrection body could appear and disappear, go through material objects, and ascend to and descend from heaven.

EASTER CUSTOMS

Many of our Easter customs seem to be a mixture of Christian, Jewish and Pagan beliefs. Easter comes near the time of the Spring equinox on 21st March, when the length of day and night are equal. Throughout history, many ancient cultures have celebrated this as a time of birth and renewal following the long winter darkness.

The word Easter comes from the Scandinavian word `Ostra` and the German word `Ostern` or `Eastre`. Both derive from the names of mythological goddesses associated with Spring and fertility. Modern Easter symbols of eggs and bunnies have their origins in pagan beliefs. Rabbits were potent symbols of fertility, and the egg, the start of all life, was thought to have magical powers. There's evidence of ancient egg rolling and egg tossing contests. Eggs were sometimea buried in the foundations of buildings to ward off evil, and brides sometimes stepped on an egg before crossing the threshold to their new home. The first of the ornamental and precious Russian Faberge eggs was made as an Easter gift for the Empress Marie by her husband Tsar Alexander in 1883. Today in England, our eggs are more likely to be the chocolate kind, although some countries still have a tradition of giving coloured and decorated real eggs at this time.

The Christian Easter falls near the time of the Jewish Pass-over, after all that was the reason, Jesus, a Jew, and his disciples, journeyed to Jerusalem 2000 years ago! Passover is an eight day observance commemorating the freeing of Israelite slaves by Pharaoh Rameses II, and their eventual return to the Holy land. In the western Christian churches the date isn't fixed, but always falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon occurring on or after the Spring equinox; so it can be any time between March 22nd and April 25th in any one year.



` THE DONKEY `

by G.K.CHESTERTON (1874-1936)

When fishes flew and forests walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood
Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,
Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;
One far fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my ears,
And palms before my feet.

Note from the Editor

I've just been looking for pics of Palm Sunday on the internet and found this site. It's FUN for kids and for adults like me. I've just coloured in a picture of Easter eggs! There are pictures of Bible themes and all sorts. Try it. You just click and colour!
www.apples4theteacher.com/



Annals of St Mary's

A Hundred Years Ago

Additional bells were bought to complete the octave following a public appeal in "The Bolton Chronicle". The interior of the tower was repaired and the choir vestry under the tower designed and completed.

One Hundred to Two Hundred Years Ago

Under Thomas Brocklebank, Vicar 1818-29, the church's musical instruments were sold, probably because an organ had been installed. Later in the nineteenth century galleries were erected in the church, to be taken down fifty years later. In 1844 the pinnacles were added to the church tower, the gift of Peter Ainsworth MP for Bolton. One fell and damaged the tombstone underneath.

Two Hundred to Three Hundred Years Ago

James Rothwell, Vicar 1712-66, began our parish records and a system of accounts. Money was collected for church bells and the weathercock was erected in 1737. Under Robert Latham, vicar 1776 - 1817, a fourth bell was brought, probably by canal, from London. The churchyard was enlarged and drainage improved. Inside the church pews were introduced.

Three hundred to Four Hundred Years Ago

Late in the seventeenth century Deane actually had two vicars at the same time. One of them preached and the other said the prayers. John Tilsey, Vicar 1643-78, was a Presbyterian who distrusted both Bishops and Independents; he was expelled three times from the parish and spent some time in the Tower of London. The people loved him more than the Bishop did and he was always welcomed back. John Angier, Vicar 1663 -72, was known for the wildness of his youth and was required to repent before the congregation before beginning his period of office.

Four Hundred to Five Hundred Years Ago

William Rothwell, Vicar 1542-75, allowed George Marsh to preach in the church. After leaving Chester, Marsh had been curate of All

Hallows Church, London, and returned north to preach in Deane and elsewhere. He decided not to flee from the authorities but to "abide and boldly confess the faith of Jesus Christ".

Footnote: The source for these notes is James Boardman's *Records and Traditions of Deane Church, Village and Parish* (1904).

THE U IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God stuck U in the name of His Son.
And each time U pray, you'll see it's true,
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.
You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that's why He came.
And His great love for U is the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell crUcified.
Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?
The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,
and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.
When JesUs left earth at His Upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.
"Go into the world and tell them it's true
That I love them all - Just like I love U."
So many great people are spelled with a U,
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?
It all depends now on what U will do,
He'd like them to know,
But it all starts with U.

Books to ruin your life

I love books that make me think, that challenge me, that make me realise what it would be like to truly live my life for God. Don't read these books if you want a mundane life.

"In his steps" by Charles M. Sheldon

I discovered this book by accident when my Grandma was clearing out her spare room... she got it as a Sunday school prize in 1938, but it's still being printed. It's a fictional story that was originally a sermon series. It's very 1890s America, but some of the questions and issues are very 2000s Deane. It tells the story of a group of people who make a pledge not to do anything without first asking, "What would Jesus do?", and then to follow what Jesus would do in their situation. (Now printed as 'What would Jesus Do?' Amazon from 46p!)

"God 360" by Andy Flanagan

This was a particularly unwelcome present from a friend who knew I was struggling to have daily quiet time with God. This is a book of daily devotionals, with a twist... it challenges you to actually do stuff! This book is brilliant as it makes you apply the Bible to your life and reflect on your faith. This book had me e-mailing old friends, sticking Bible verses to my ceiling, and shopping and just generally got me re-focussed on God. I did wuss out of a few of the tasks... will you? (From £4.10 + p and p on Amazon)

"The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical" by Shane Claiborne

Shane describes himself as "an ordinary radical" and in a gentle but challenging way, encourages you to join him. He challenges Christianity that "lives life like everybody else" and explores what it really means "to love God, love people, and follow Jesus". If there's a bit of you that knows that the Church was started as something far more radical than it is now, you'll love this book. (From £4.21 + p and p on Amazon.)

Groan Awhile with Bob!

Two packets of crisps were walking down the road when a car stopped and the driver asked if they wanted a lift. 'No thanks,' they said, 'we're walkers!'

When Dad came home from work he was astonished to find his son doing his homework sitting on a horse. 'What on earth are you doing?' he asked. 'Well ,the teacher said we had to write an essay on our favourite animal. That's why I'm here and Susie's sitting on the goldfish bowl.'

ITALIAN PASTA DIET

1. You walk pasta da bakery.
2. You walk pasta da sweet shop.
3. You walk pasta da ice cream van.

From the Rector (continued)

Those who encountered the risen Lord lost no time in sharing their experience. We read that on that very night they returned to convey their news to the followers of Jesus huddled in Jerusalem. And on their arrival their account confirmed the story of Peter, the women, and the other disciples.

You know I thought my walk to the top of Nicky Nook (that name really tickles me!) was rather special, but it was nothing compared to the weary walk of Cleopas and his companion, for that was truly an unforgettable walk, a life changing walk.

Tell me, do you sometimes find that a downcast mood slips over you? If you do then that's the time to remember the lesson of the road to Emmaus. Our feelings do not fit the facts. We are not alone. Jesus lives and our resurrected Lord walks the road of life with us. When we focus our attention on Him and realize how close beside us He is, that downcast mood will be replaced by Easter joy.

STAINED GLASS IN DEANE CHURCH

Deane Church is blessed with a number of fine windows, although the majority are from the 19th and 20th Centuries. The oldest windows are on the south aisle and in the south side of the chancel which are probably 17th century; you can see they are smaller in scope and have fewer colours, and their glass also tends to be thinner. I propose to begin on the north aisle and over subsequent months work my way around the church, rediscovering the windows.

As you enter the church, the window immediately ahead of you to the left of the old north door, often goes unnoticed. In front of it is a table with information, and it is sometimes partially blocked by screens. Although it looks older, it was actually put in in 1959, and is known as the **Bennett Window**. However, its rarity lies in its subject matter, which is unusual for an Anglican church, as it depicts the Wesley family, well known founders of the Methodist movement.

The window is dedicated to the memory of Ann Hepple Bennett, wife of Doctor Bennett MD, a local doctor and lay reader at the church. It was designed by H.R.Keedy. The brothers John and Charles Wesley were Anglican ministers, and remained in the church until their deaths, and also wrote many of the hymns we still sing in our services. The three lights show figures of the two brothers and their mother. However, it is the small pictures at the bottom of the window that are particularly interesting, since they show scenes from their lives.

Starting from the left, the first small window shows John preaching in a church, probably the original Ridgeway Gate Chapel in Bolton, now replaced by the Methodist Victoria Hall in Bolton Town Centre. We know both brothers visited and preached in the neighbourhood. The second view shows the High, Oxford, in 1750, where the Wesleys were students and started preaching. The final



view relates to a story from the Wesley's childhood, where their home was burnt down at Epworth, Lincolnshire, by people their father had offended. John was rescued from the fire, and so he said he was 'a brand plucked from the burning'.

Pause for Thought

It seems what is required of us is not new ideas, but obedience to those God has given us already. J V Taylor

If only we have the will to walk then God does not mind our stumbles. C S Lewis

It is not in our choice to spread the Gospel or not. It is our death if we do not.

Bonheoffer

Speak only if you can improve on the silence. anon

SAMS link missionary David Hucker writes from Arica, N. Chile.

It is very pleasing to write that the beginning of 2009 seems very encouraging. The church building is taking shape, new families have been attending and other members who were in difficulties last year have been strengthened in their faith. Looking back to last year it was very gratifying to see how the Lord worked in the lives of our congregation. Many lives were changed. I want to give two examples of members from our church who have had their lives turned around by God.

One couple in particular, to whom we have ministered for years, seem to have turned the corner in their marriage. With a life-threatening accident last year Gerardo submitted his life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. His minivan collapsed on top of him while he was doing some minor repairs. This led to a week in hospital and months of recuperation to mend his five ribs that he broke. God used this incident to turn his life around and heal his rocky marriage. Gerardo, amongst other new developments in his life, is helping in an overseeing capacity in the construction of the church.

Another church member, Juan, was arrested for attempted armed robbery and spent time in gaol. His family, friends and I spent many days visiting him. He has a wife and two young girls. Juan is a lawyer and his wife is a doctor. Imagine the scandal that this created for his family. This was a very trying situation for many people in Arica who are in some way associated with Juan and his wife. His crime sounds more terrible than what actually happened, although to be sure, he did commit this crime and obviously traumatized his victim, a lady who has been mugged before. But he paid a heavy price for his gaol time. After several attempts to ask for bail he was eventually released and this was on Christmas Eve. He is now under house arrest until his trial on March 26th. He has pleaded guilty and it remains to be seen what his sentence will be. He could receive anything from 5 to 15 years for this crime. Today Juan is a man who ear-

nestly looks for God and has changed in many ways. Please pray with us that he would be released and put on probation.

The church building is coming along slowly. We have been frustrated with many contractors who have seen our project as too small for them. Last year one of the members felt that the Lord was asking him to build it, so he has decided to oversee the construction. He hires the tradesmen and saves us a considerable amount of money. We now have the back part of the building built; it just lacks a roof. By the end of March we hope to have the main part built. We then would only need the finishing touches. To complete everything (this includes the prayer rooms, Sunday school rooms, office, etc) I believe that we would be looking at a figure of around £10,000.

The financial crisis is difficult for most of us at this present time and we are no different here in Chile. The British pound is down when compared to the Chilean peso by 15%. Together with this statistic goes inflation in Chile, which has risen 15% in comparison to last year. Effectively we are 30% worse off this year, but we cannot discount in these troubled time God's faithfulness as He is actually the source of our provision. I would ask you to please pray for us in this area.

Wesley, our elder son, has only one year left at school and is then off to university. This year he changed schools as he felt that his old school was too regimented. Both boys have now started the new school year and are determined to improve their grades, which makes us parents very happy. Wesley is continuing with his guitar and Caleb is becoming more competent with the piano.

Thank you and God bless you for your financial giving. These are tough times, but God can and will bless His children. Thank you for your prayers as they make the difference here in our ministry. I am sure that the lives of the people mentioned and the construction of the church can be traced back to individuals who felt the burden to pray and lift these petitions before the Lord. Ultimately, as we know, it was the Lord's faithfulness to bring about the change in these areas, in answer to your prayers. God bless you and thank you.

This month's profile

David Dewhurst

David was born at Townleys Hospital, now the Royal Bolton Hospital, on the 17th April 1959, so yes, for him the big 50 is fast approaching! He was brought up in Deane near to where the old Emmanuel church used to be, living with his parents and younger brother, and he was baptised at the Saviour's church, which was situated on Deane Road facing the Lilian Hamer Home. Following the church's demolition in the late sixties, David attended Sunday School, Explorers and Pathfinders at Emmanuel Church.

David was a pupil at Pikes Lane Infants and Junior Schools and after passing the 11 plus exam he attended Hayward Grammar School in Great Lever.

In the early seventies David's family moved to Morris Green where he went to St Bede's Church for a short time and then in 1966 the Dewhurst family moved to the Ladybridge Estate.

When David left school he started to work as a trainee clerical officer at British Rail Engineering Ltd in Horwich and was soon appointed to a position in the Finance Department. While he was there, he changed roles within the department and the Company was taken over several times, finally it became known as Horwich Castings Ltd.

When the Company was taken over for the last time in December 2004 David was "the last man standing" and he found it a sad experience having worked there for nearly thirty years.

In January 2005, however, David started to work as an Accounts Assistant in the Finance Department at the Royal Bolton Hospital where most of his duties involve Credit Control and assisting the Cashier.

David joined the Deane Church congregation in 1982 spending the first twelve years as a Pathfinder and then being a member of various committees.

In 1994 he started a three year course for the Reader Ministry and was licensed in Manchester Cathedral in 1997. As a Reader, David's role mainly involves leading and preaching at the morning services which he really enjoys. Although preparing a sermon can take up a lot of time and energy, David finds it very challenging. Having wanted to become a chef when he left school, David enjoys cooking and is proud to say that he makes a mean beef in ale casse-role with dumplings, and a trifle with sherry or with coffee and Baileys

David also enjoys walking and he goes to a local gym twice a week - to work off the trifle!

David also loves to travel. He has enjoyed many holidays in Europe including a cruise on the Mediterranean last May; he has also visited Australia, the Holy Land and Oberammergau.

As part of David's 50th Birthday celebrations, he will soon be going on a tour of North America, a place that he has always dreamed of visiting.

David's hope for St Mary's Deane is that during the Interregnum, after Ian's departure, the members of the congregation will see it as a good opportunity to pull together and, as individuals, to discover how they can play their parts and use their gifts and talents to the best of their ability, in order to keep the church running smoothly.

A note of encouragement

I would like to say how much I enjoyed the visit of the Bishop. The evening went without a hitch, from the buffet groaning under the food to the uplifting service afterwards. The youth band was excellent, giving that extra lift to the singing. The words and blessing by the Bishop is something I will always remember and I'm sure everyone else. Thanks for a wonderful evening. Madge Keating.

GETTING STARTED IN FAMILY HISTORY OCCUPATIONS

Another fruitful area in genealogy is that of occupation studies, and these were frequently passed on in families from generation to generation and are linked to broader social history.

The first clear indication of likely occupations to follow up begins with the census returns from 1841, although many of us have numerous ALs (Agricultural Labourers) and FSs (female servants) on our family trees. Birth and marriage certificates also contain useful information, although some tended to impress on such occasions and apprentices frequently became full-scale craftsmen. The title of the trade may also be unusual to modern ears, and on line directories of ancient trades should always be consulted. Thus a collier did not do the same work as a miner.

The free website *Genuki* is very useful in this area, and has specialist sections and discussion groups on specific occupations. The Society of Genealogists also publishes cheap useful pamphlets on occupations in their 'My ancestor was a ...' series.

Another profitable area is that of Trade Directories which exist for counties and for most major towns and cities. They include information on the district/area, the names of occupants and their addresses and trades, and some advertisements. The majority begin in the nineteenth century but some exist for earlier times, although their coverage is less secure. Many now can be explored on line freely, and exist in local reference libraries such as Bolton.

If their trade was skilled there may be details of their apprenticeship papers, and some required a licence to practise such as pawnbrokers and publicans. The later are particularly interesting records if they still exist since they include information on the criminal records of any bad behaviour in a public house and who owned them. The Bolton licensing records go from the 1870s to the mid-1930s, but some towns have earlier records. You are more likely to find a record of your ancestor if their profession was regulated by an offi-

ciating body such as doctors (from 1845), lawyers, nurses, and ministers of religion (Crockfords from 1858). The National Methodist records can be consulted at the Rylands Library in Manchester and include interesting details of individual circuits and parishes. Public servants such as Police, firefighters and merchant seaman, were generally well recorded but the level of detail varies.

Women also worked, especially from working class households. They were often employed in domestic service or in the textile industries. When they married they tended to be noted as wife of `whatever was their husband's profession`. Poor children also worked from a very young age, especially in the cotton mills or in mining, from around 10 years. Before this they are unfailingly noted as scholars on the census returns.

If you have an ancestor who was part of a dangerous profession such as mining or firefighting, look for significant events that they may have been involved in; for example I discovered that two of my mother's uncles (twins) and a cousin were lost in the Parkhouse Pit Disaster of the late 1880s.

If your ancestor was a member of any of the forces, there may also be useful records to consult. Virtually every one of us has an ancestor who served in a branch of the military, as a volunteer or conscript, at home or abroad, in peace or wartime. Typically a service record includes where the person served, and performance evaluation, training, awards, disciplinary actions, next-of-kin, discharge and pension entitlement, medical history, and religion. From the twentieth century onwards these are part of the National Archives and can be freely searched in person or for a sum, on line. Detailed regimental records are usually with the museum of the regiment and are more costly to uncover, and nineteenth century records are kept at Chelsea Royal Hospital with a link to the National archives. Significant anniversaries may also release useful records, for example in 2005 we discovered that an ancestor fought at the battle of Trafalgar as a seaman.

Next month I intend to look at the part played by newspaper archives in tracing our ancestors.

TOCKHOLES WOODS WALK

This walk is an excellent one, although you probably need a car to get to the start of it, and is about 5 miles in length. It is possible to both shorten and lengthen it. You can park at the beginning on a free car park, with toilets and an excellent cheap café and information centre. It can be muddy so take stout shoes or wellies, and dogs can be off the lead to explore once you have crossed the first road. Children also enjoy paddling in the stream at the bottom and visiting the café to see wild birds feeding through the one-way glass. It has toys to keep them amused and bowls of water for dogs. Both muddy families and dogs are welcome to enter.

Take the A675 from Bolton to Belmont. Once through the village, passing Bolton Sailing Club on your right, the road switchbacks over the moors until you see a road to Tockholes on your right just after a layby on your right. Take it. Ignore the two car parks signed on your left and take the narrow road through stone walls until you see a pub, groups of houses and a bus turn round on your right. Park in the far car park nearest the café and information boards.

Turn back across the road with care and go through the gate opposite with another information board. You will see that the paths diverge a little way down the slope. Take the right hand path as it drops fairly steeply through trees. At the bottom, as the path levels on the valley floor, you'll see a gate and a much wider path. This is the Witton Weavers Way which loops through these woods. Ahead of you is the first of the three reservoirs in the valley, so turn right on the path, keeping your lake on your left. Follow the clear path as it runs and climbs through woodland; including a good show of bluebells in season. Eventually, having looped around two reservoirs, the path bears sharp left across a causeway over the second dam. Look to your right to see the dam's green wall and the third lake, and to your right for an excellent view of Darwen Tower on the moorland above. If you wish to lengthen your walk at this point, you can take the right fork down the slope, around the third lake and eventually to Abbey

Village, however, the main walk continues crossing a little wooden footbridge across a stream and turning left to go along the shores of the second lake, keeping it on your left now. This pretty lakeside path can be wet but winds its way around the shoreline, until it reaches a footbridge and a wall by the first lake. Take the path through the woods at this point until you come to a fast flowing stream with little rapids and shale banks. It has a clear path on its southern bank, so do not cross it but follow the path keeping the stream on your left, until you come to a bigger bridge with an iron gate. Several paths meet at this point and some used to be old coachways to Holinshead Hall, the ruins of which are some metres to your right as you cross the bridge. Continue along the widest path to



your left after the bridge, until the woodland starts to thin and you see a path climbing through the more open slopes to your right. Take it, leaving the Weavers Way for the last time, and climb up to the belt of trees, taking a sunken path with high banks. At the top of the slope and the end of the trees, you'll see you have emerged back to the first path you took with the road and gate on your right, and the car park and café ahead. If you want to shorten the walk you can cross after the end of the first lake and pick up the shore path on its opposite bank.

ENCOURAGEMENT

There are few people who do not thrive on encouragement (not to be confused with flattery). Why not say encouraging things about church life in this magazine; thank folk who've helped and generally put some positivity around? We could start a column specially for this. I'll start by saying how fantastic are the folk who send the stuff for the magazine! It makes my job as Editor a joy! Anne R

Bits and pieces



"It comes to something when the state of the pound is such that we *hope* to find lots of foreign coins!"

Looking Ahead

Do you have any photos or memories of Sermons past? It would be good to have some of these to put in the June edition of the magazine. If you have anything please place it in the magazine box on the table at the back of church or give to a member of the magazine

If you would like to have future newsletters from David and Gina Hucker emailed directly to you, please give Elizabeth Plant your name and email address. Why not make contact with David and Gina yourselves? The email address is davidhucker@gmail.com

It's Sainsbury's Active Kids time again!

Last year you helped the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows of St Marys Deane collect 5446 AKVs, which went towards dance classes - the girls tried a variety of styles including line dancing, jazz, disco, salsa and street dancing.

From 11th February to 3rd June, you'll receive one Sainsbury's AKV for every £10 you spend at any Sainsbury's store or petrol station. You can also convert Nectar points into AKVs by visiting www.nectar.com. So please don't forget to claim your vouchers - better still, ask your friends, relatives, neighbours and anyone else you can think of to collect the vouchers too! A box will be at the back of church until the end of the campaign. Thanks again!