

Deane St Mary's

June 2009

Dan has taken over Ian's column for a month or two and he focuses this month on the opportunities presented by the interregnum and on the advice of the visiting speaker at the church weekend in Conway. The centre spread shows St Mary's members enjoying themselves at this weekend. Pat Sewell enjoyed herself very much there and you'll find her profile in this month's magazine and a photo of her doing just that!

7th June is Trinity Sunday and there's some help in seeing something of the meaning of this doctrine along with two poems focusing on the Trinity.

Sermons past and present are also here.

The Mission Focus is SAMS.

The July deadline is rather soon after publication of this edition; it would help if material could be with the Editor by Monday June 22nd or early in that week.



Members of St Mary's packed into the Memorial Hall to say 'Goodbye' to Ian and Jean on their last official Sunday with us. Sylvia Harrison had prepared a delicious buffet lunch and Ian and Jean received a beautiful calligraphic depiction of the 23rd Psalm by an artist whose work they love. It seemed right to include in this magazine the almost complete text of Ian's report at the APCM and a brief summary of his last sermon. Sometimes the most important things people say are those they say on parting so we'll publish a summary of Ian's last sermon with us next month.

St Mary's Info: June 2009

	9.00	10.30	6.00
7 June Trinity	Holy Communion	Family Parade	Holy Communion
	Romans 8:9-17; John 3:1-17 Jesus alive in us!		
14 June	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Service
	2 Cor 5:6-10;14-17;Mark 4:26-34 By faith, a New Creation!		
21 June	Holy Communion	Family Baptism	Evening Service
	2 Cor 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41 Not an easy ride!		
28 June Sermons	Holy Communion	Svce of the Word	Evening Service
	2 Cor 12:2-10; Mark 5:21-43 Strong in weakness*		

June Sunday mornings

June begins with Trinity Sunday and our reading in Romans 8 speaks very clearly of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. If we are in Christ by faith, we have the Spirit of Christ and are called, indeed obliged, to live by the Spirit and not according to our basic sinful nature. More reasons for this and the way of life it will show itself in, i.e. the quality of our discipleship, are set out in passages from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. Paul was an 'all or nothing' man and he expected the same from all who followed Christ. The Gospel readings as ever point to the teachings and life of Christ and encourage our confidence in him as we seek to live through the Spirit.

The Curate Writes

I bet June is a very slow month, if you're selling light bulbs in Scandinavia. Along with Canada, Alaska, Greenland, Iceland and parts of Russia, they all experience the "midnight sun". In Bolton we enjoy more moderate luminosity; on June 21st we will see the sun from 4:39 am to 9:41 pm. Weather permitting.



In the new creation, when God brings this age and this world to an end, there will be midnight sun wherever you go. In the book of Revelation, God tells us that heaven "has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light" (21:23). One thing I'm really looking forward to in the life to come, is that we won't have that sinking feeling as August turns to September, and you notice the nights drawing in. The present cycles of light and dark, growth and decay, will be replaced by a perpetual feast and celebration, basked in glorious, divine Daylight.

For now, we remain Christ's church here in Deane, enduring the Bolton rains, persevering in the mission to which Christ has called us, and encouraging one another in our faith as we go along.

But I wonder, during this 'interregnum' following our Rector Ian's departure last month, what kind of season have we entered? Is it to be a winter, characterised by hibernation; an autumn, with falling leaves and gathering gloom; or a summer, when we disappear for holidays on the beach?

Personally, I hope it will be like a spring-time. There are opportunities during a vacancy that don't occur when we have a Rector in post. This vacancy will be a busy time for some - have you yet started to play your own part and pull your weight? And it is a time of new growth, when vision and imagination can strengthen, and even take new directions. Ian has faithfully taught and led us over the years; will we sit back and rue his departure, or rise to the challenge

and put God's word into practice? I bet I know which attitude Ian would prefer us take.

So, with those thoughts in mind, can I share with you a few ideas that were given to us by Peter Breckwoldt at the recent Parish Weekend (15th-17th May):

Let us keep the truth of the Gospel at the front of our minds: Jesus Christ is risen, He is reigning over all the earth, and He will return in judgement.

Let us live a healthy church lifestyle: be teachable, loving, worshipping and out-reaching.

Let us open ourselves up for God to work through us: just as the disciples healed a man who had been unable to walk, so God will show His power and change people's lives when we tell them the good news of the Gospel.

Last but not least, **let us set clear priorities** and hold on to them; don't be so busy with good things that we stop achieving the best and most important things.

That's all very good in theory. Here are some practical steps we must consider:

Will you start coming to the **monthly church prayer meetings**? Will you commit to praying regularly, even daily, for the people and ministries of Deane church?

Will you **take definite steps to feed from God's word**, by joining a midweek Bible group, and perhaps by taking notes in the sermons? Will you take time out each day to **read the Bible and pray**?

Will you **offer your time and energies** to the wardens and PCC, to be used in the life of the church? Will you agree to do things that aren't your first choice, humbly accepting that we are all servants of Christ, who gave His life for us?

Will you **stand up for what is right**, according to Scripture, and support the church leadership in making a good choice for the next Rector?

If we all work together, in God's strength, by His Spirit, then I think we can look forward to a very sunny vacancy. Whatever the weather!

Prayerful poems for June

Three aiding

An eye saw thee beholding,
A mouth naming thee mentioned,
A heart thought thee enfolding,
A mind desired, intentioned.

Three Persons sanctifying,
Three Persons thine aiding be,
Father and Son supplying
And perfect Spirit to thee.
From an ancient Celtic prayer

Behold, enfold, hold

The Father who created me
With eye benign beholdeth me;
The Son who dearly bought me
With eye divine enfoldeth me;
The Spirit who so altered me
With eye refining holdeth me;
In friendliness and love the Three
Behold me when I bend the knee.

From an old Celtic prayer

Thank you for your prayers, cards, letters, flowers and donations I received on the death of Bill. My family and church family have done so much to help and support Peter, John and myself over the past weeks. I know you will always be there for me when needed.

God bless you and thank you once again.

Brenda Dixon.

7th June Trinity Sunday

Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself - way out there in space - unapproachable in its fiery majesty - is the Father. The light that flows from it, and which illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, are of the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

The Bible makes clear that God is One God, who is disclosed in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit. For example:

Deuteronomy 6:4 'Hear O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'

Isaiah 45:22 'Turn to me and be saved... for I am God, and there is no other'

Genesis 1:1-2 'In the beginning God created.... And the Spirit of God was hovering...'

Judges 14:6 etc 'The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power...'

John 1:1-3 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.'

Luke 24:49 actually manages to squeeze the whole Trinity into one sentence. Jesus tells his disciples: 'I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power (the Holy Spirit) from on high.'

In other words, the sun eternally gives off light and heat, and whenever we stand in its brilliant light, we find that the warmth soon follows.

A very special weekend

The weekend of June 26th -28th 2009 will be one to remember. Not only is it Sermons weekend, it is also the third anniversary of Dan's ordination, which means it is exactly three years since he arrived in Deane as our curate. But there is yet another reason to celebrate. On the Saturday, 27th June, Elizabeth Plant will be ordained priest at 6pm in Manchester Cathedral by the Bishop of Bolton. There are tickets available in the vestry on a first come, first served basis. Elizabeth advises anyone going to the service to get there early as no specific seats are reserved (except for those actually being ordained!). 5pm is not too early to aim to arrive! Elizabeth will be presiding at her first Communion service at 9am on the 28th. She hopes that as many as possible will be in church for what is a very important occasion for her.

Our guest speaker at the 10.30am service is Neil Gray who will be well-known to some of you. After the service there is to be a bring and share lunch in the memorial hall as a joint celebration of Sermons Sunday, Elizabeth's priesting and also to mark the three years which Dan and Angela have spent with us here in Deane. It is hoped that the whole church family will be able to come along.

For those not able to be at the 9am service on June 28th, the first 10.30am communion which Elizabeth will be presiding at is on July 12th.

Please do remember Elizabeth in your prayers as she prepares for her ordination, and also Dan, Angela and the girls, as they get ready to move to Thornton Hough in the Wirral where Dan has been appointed Vicar.

Sermons Past



The Sermons week at Deane was a hive of activity. My Mother and I went to the churchyard along with lots more people, to clean the gravestones of the graves belonging to the family. Grass was cut, graves tidied up to give a splendid new look and the day before the Sermons families arrived with masses of flowers. I was in my early teens and thought it looked wonderful. On Sermons Day, there was much excitement when the band arrived and the mounted policemen ready to start the walk with this fantastic escort. The Singers in their white dresses were followed by the clergy and congregation. What a wonderful day! How sorry I feel that this is now in the past, but happy to have been part of it.

Madge Keating

Note from the Editor

I loved Sermons Day when I was a child (I went to St James' Waterloo street in those far off days), even though, whilst I was allowed to be in the Singers (white dress, veil and all) my voice was so dreadful (they said I sang in the cellar!) that I had to mouth the words! I blame that for all my adult hang ups of course (just joking!).

Books 4 U

The Parables of Jesus

by Terry Johnson

Reviewed by Angela Howard

Be warned - this book is not for those who want to remain 'comfortable' with the way they are currently living and working for God! Terry Johnson takes the reader through the parables that Jesus taught demonstrating how they are relevant and important to Christians today. His forthright approach will not sit easily with those who are unwilling to change their perception of the relevance of Jesus' teaching for the 21st Century. But for those of you who want to be distinctively different, this is a book that will open your eyes to the power of the gospel and the urgency of speaking the truth to those who have turned their backs on God. For both young and older Christians there is something fresh to learn as you read through familiar Bible passages.

Terry works through the parables in turn and provides some good questions at the end of each chapter, which can readily be used in group or for personal study. The real challenge is to work through all 29 parables, and allow God to teach you through them. This is a great book for daily Bible study (not a chapter a day for some of the parables, but work through the book over a couple of months). It is very readable, but the intensity of the content can be overwhelming. I warmly recommend it to those who are 'settled' in your Christian walk and need something to 'wake you up'!

ISBN - 1845502922 Costs £10.99 which seems a lot, but how much do we spend on our personal Spiritual growth? I would say this is well worth the money. You can get it from icmbooksdirect.co.uk for an incredible £7.99 + p&p.

Buy both these books from icmbooksdirect.co.uk for £15.71 including p&p (a great birthday present).

Mission Focus

The changing face of overseas mission and of SAMS

All overseas mission societies, SAMS included, have changed dramatically over the last 150 years. Gone are the days when missionaries went out from this country to set up missions and European-style churches, run by Anglo-Saxons for indigenous people overseas. Now SAMS and other mission societies are to be found helping people to help themselves through a variety of social projects.

In the early 1970s SAMS introduced a 10-year social plan to meet agricultural and medical needs. This led to the formation of the social action arm of the Anglican Church in South America, ASOCIANA, with which SAMS works in close partnership.

It was a sign of this new beginning that in 1974 SAMS magazine altered its name from SENT to SHARE to indicate that mission now is a process of sharing, rather than of sending out missionaries from the UK. Then in 1995 SAMS itself changed from being the South American Missionary Society to the South American Mission Society. So what is happening today? The aim is to work with indigenous mission partners for the good of the poorest and voiceless in society, changing the 'way the system works' which often means opposing big business and local and national governments, responding to people's emotional and physical needs, being alongside people in their struggle for justice and security in their lives. What it is not about is providing a top-down solution to any problem. It is helping people find their own solutions to their particular problem. It is about taking Christ's love into the poorest and most desperate places with no strings attached.

So what is going on today in South America?

Previous magazines have recorded the way SAMS and ASOCIANA are working together to help the Chaco people of northern **Argentina** in their struggle against deforestation. They have supported the

Chaco people in their legal battles with government and big business with some success. They have also helped develop one of the Chaco people's own industries, that of wood-carving. Wood-carvings are imported into the UK and are available through www.siwok.org.uk

A very different project to help disabled children and young people is being undertaken in **Ecuador**. 70% of Ecuador's children live in poverty. 10% of children, aged 5 upwards, work. In such a situation disabled children are at best left uneducated and dependent on others, and at worst are abandoned. Those with learning disabilities are also very vulnerable. At one centre in San Domingo, a town in the foothills of the Andes, 80 miles from the capital Quito, the children and young people can learn to be independent through basic education, provision of artificial limbs and wheelchairs, art workshops and helping the older ones to set up small businesses. The children themselves recently helped raise awareness of the needs of the disabled by singing at an event in the local cathedral. Their families were thrilled that they had been able to participate in such an occasion. \$100 was raised by this which was used to buy the younger children educational toys. A second class is about to be set up at the centre which is funded 100% by Ecuadorian sponsorship. The lives of many are being transformed.

In **Peru** SAMS mission partners are involved in a number of projects to help the poor. Over the last 10 years 10,000 people have benefited from a duck and vegetable growing scheme. Groups of 15 from the poorest shantytowns of Lima are given a 3-month course in duck rearing and vegetable growing. At the start of the course they are given ducks and seeds. They learn how to breed and care for the ducks and how to plant and sustain a vegetable garden. Droppings from the ducks are used to fertilise the soil. By the end of the course the participants have learned a life-changing skill which will not only give a much-improved diet to their families, but also give them goods to sell at the local market. Other schemes make use of the creative skills of the women by helping them create high quality tapestry collages which sell well in the USA and the UK. (continued)

... and a good time



**Church
Weekend
Beechwood
Court**



... was had by all!



**Don't miss
the next
one!**



This month's profile

Pat Sewell

I was born in Liverpool in 1930, apparently on the nursing home steps! The family moved to London in 1937 by which time I had an older sister and a younger brother. After the War, in 1947, another sister arrived.

My father worked for Ford Motors as a manager. In September 1939 when World War Two was beginning, we were evacuated to Essex because of the threat of bombing on London. We were only there for a short time and returned home. Then in 1940 after prolonged bombing on Liverpool, my brother John and I were sent to Biggleswade in Bedfordshire. The family has always said that the evacuation experience had a great effect on my life. I do know that it made me very independent. Perhaps another legacy of the War is that my favourite food is egg and chips, or indeed anything that is cooked for me by someone else! I don't waste food - another throwback from the War.

After leaving Grammar School I worked as secretary and in my spare time was very involved with hockey, tennis, athletics and swimming. I met my husband Don in Bournemouth in 1951 and after keeping British Rail in business for over four years we were married in 1955 when I moved to Bolton. Eventually we became a family of four with two sons who are now aged fifty-one and forty-nine. I now have three lovely grandchildren, all in their twenties. We had a very happy forty-six years together but sadly Don died in 2001.

We loved our holidays with family and friends. I have enjoyed Spain with Peter and his family and also Jersey where my youngest son lives with his wife. Other memorable holidays have been in Provence,



Pat enjoying herself on the Parish Weekend!

in Cape Town and recently in Israel.

My most treasured possession is my family and I applaud my sons for finding their lovely wives who are so supportive of me.

The films that I have especially enjoyed are "Shadowlands", the story of C S Lewis, "Bridges of Madison County" and "Brief Encounter", all weepies! There are many books that I have enjoyed, but when I was a child my Mum used to read "Her Benny" by Silas K Hocking, which also made us cry.

The church at Deane has been a rock for me for over fifty years and I have always found the teaching and preaching from all the clergy a great comfort. I have several responsibilities at the moment; I am a member of the PCC, the Deanery Synod, and also of the support group for Elizabeth Plant, our OLM. I am also a member of the Bereavement Support Group and, last but not least, I have been a member of the Ladies Guild for forty-seven years. I find much friendship and help from belonging to a Home Group, which I would recommend to everyone. I was happily involved with the Sunday School for over forty years and now I am licensed to assist at Holy Communion.

Finally I want to say how much I have been encouraged by many of the Church Family and, recently, Beccy, Karen and others who are bringing so many young people into the fold have impressed me. I owe so much to my family for their love and support, to my loyal friends and to the Church Family. God has been good to me.

Mission focus (continued)

SAMS therefore is now not only bringing Christ's love to many people, but also transforming lives in very practical ways.

2009 sees a further change for SAMS as it links up formally with CMS to form one society with a world-wide mission field. The merger will save on administration costs in the UK. Please continue to pray for all those working for SAMS and especially for our own link mission partners, David and Gina Hucker, who are based in Arica in Chile. STOP PRESS It is hoped that wood-carvings made by the Chaco people will be on sale at the back of church throughout June.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Parochial Church meeting was held on 23rd April, and as you can imagine it was quite emotional as Ian chaired his last meeting as Rector of Deane. The meeting involves the appointment of officers for the coming twelve months, and this year the appointments were as follows:

Church Wardens: Les Kilsby, Craig Mochrie, Beccy Rutter

Members of the Parochial Church Council: Ken Tidmarsh, Jane Hampson, Charles Winder, Bryan Shepherd, Karen Greenhalgh, Mike Kirkby, Michelle Moxom and June Gill.

There are a number of other members who are also members of the Deanery Synod who continue to serve on the PCC: Nola Kilsby, Edna Barlow, Eric Morgan, Pat Sewell, Paula Small and Philip Gore

As many of you will know Philip Gore has been very poorly for a long period of time, so please continue to pray for him.

Les Kilsby, as Treasurer, outlined the Parish accounts which include Deane and St Andrew's accounts. This is a huge task and we thank Les very much for the work which he undertakes as Treasurer, which quite often goes unseen. Once again the accounts have been independently examined by Keith Acton, and again we thank Keith for his assistance in making sure everything adds up! Keith has been appointed to act as Independent Examiner again this year.

So finally to Ian's address to us.....well perhaps we'll just leave it in his own words.....

It seems strange to be standing before you knowing that this will be the last report that I will give as Rector of Deane Parish.

I want to begin my report this year in the same way I have begun it every year since I have been here, and that is to begin with a word of thanks. I wish to thank the churchwardens, Les, Craig and Beccy, for all the help and assistance they have given me this year. Each has had their own particular areas of responsibility and they have fulfilled them admirably. I am grateful that the churchwardens have all

agreed to be nominated again this year. I think during a period of change, as this will undoubtedly be, that having some stability in the leadership of the church will be no bad thing. At some point the PCC will need to choose their representatives to act on their behalf at the meetings with the diocesan officials and patron in both drawing up a short list of candidates and then being involved in the interviews. Normally at least one of the churchwardens is involved in this process and certainly with the nominated churchwardens that you have I am confident that they will discharge their duties very well.

But it is not just the churchwardens who need a word of thanks. Thanks needs also to be given to all who have contributed to the life of the church. That goes from the PCC members to the church cleaners. If people did not assist in the church in some capacity or other, then things would quickly begin to become unmanageable. Each person who assists in the life of the church is like a link, and if any part of that link is missing then the rest of the church will suffer. Certainly I would find it very difficult to discharge all my duties without the assistance of the Standing Committee and Josie Crompton who takes care of the churchyard administration.

This coming year in the life of the church will be, I am sure, an eventful one. Hopefully the present church hall will be demolished in 2010 and the new church hall will be erected. I believe that when constructed this hall will not only be a wonderful asset for the church but a wonderful work of regeneration for this area. I think our new hall will show the way with regards to what a quality construction should look like. But the new hall will also enable our groups to offer a better service, and attract new groups to use the new hall, thus providing an income stream for its upkeep. Frankly the present hall is well past its sell by date! Of course I know that finance is an issue but I believe that as a church we can raise the necessary sums with assistance from grant making bodies.

With regards to raising money the decision was made late last year to lease a shop and run it as a charity shop to help in financing the new hall. This was a real step of faith and with the help of Mike Kirkby and Michelle Moxon this idea became a reality. And the Deane

Church Shop has proved to be a great success, not just in monetary terms but also in raising the profile of the church in the area. It has also proved to be a social gathering place for members of the church.

It is not only the hall which needs attention; the church also needs work doing on it. Some of that work is fairly obvious and non contentious. For instance outside the stolen flagstone paving needs to be replaced; new downpipes are required; the fencing round the church needs fixing and new lighting down the path installed. Inside new internal glass doors are needed to provide a more welcoming approach to the church and inside the church needs redecorating and a new lighting system installed as the present lighting system is deteriorating rapidly. We are all aware as well that in the near future new toilets and crèche facilities are required. I believe that the plans for the church drawn up for us by our architect Brian Foxley show us the way forward. The preliminary plans have been worked through with a representative of English Heritage and they are happy with the overall scheme of things, although further consultation is required. I know that the issue of the pews has been the most contentious aspect of the plan but I for one, and I can say this as I am leaving, believe it is the only logical way forward in enabling the church to be used flexibly. The church has had such radical changes made within it in times past. When the church was first built there would have been no pews at all, just rough benches. We know from the records that in the past there have been different pews in the church from the ones we have now, for instance in the early 1800's there were box pews in the church. And indeed greater changes have taken place within the church than are now being considered, for instance the introduction of galleries around the inside of the church; the ringing chamber being moved from the ground floor to the first floor to introduce toilets and a kitchen; the organ moved, as well as the consul so that the north side chapel could be introduced; the pulpit moved, not once but three times; the Hulton chapel changed. Of course I know that in a world where all appears to be changing that having some familiar things which do not appear to change is rather comforting, but things do change, and churches change as people's needs change. I have had

one comment that the proposed changes to the church are driven by a desire to keep up with other churches, that they are the product of wanting to make our church better than other churches. I want to say, and in leaving I can safely say this, that kind of comment is nonsense. The purpose of the plans for the church is to enhance the character of the church, to make it more user and mission friendly.

All this said I now want to say a very important thing. We can have the best hall facilities in the area, we can have the most sympathetically restored and comfortable church in the area, and still fail as a church. For at the end of the day the church is not the buildings, the church is the people. And unless the members of the church have a heart for the things of God and a love for others, then it will fail in its mission and purpose. You see when I come to leave this place what will be the memories I take with me? Well yes of course I will look back and thank God that I have been able to serve in such a wonderful historic building. I still think it incredible that at some time or other my name will appear on that wooden board listing all the vicars of this parish. But you know it will not be the memories of the church building I will primarily be taking with me, it will be the people I have met, people who have helped me in my walk with the Lord Jesus Christ. There have been many such people in this church who have done this, many of them are here in this room tonight, some are sadly no longer with us.

I am sorry to be leaving the church but I do believe that moving to the parish of St James Birkdale is the right thing for both Jean and I and this church. It will also bring me nearer to my family to my roots. I left Liverpool in 1980 and so I have been away from the city for nearly 30 years, I will enjoy being back in my home town. Also to be honest I have found this parish to be very challenging. It is a large parish, one of the largest in the diocese, and this, coupled with having a historic church to manage and the largest churchyard in Lancashire, makes for a very heavy workload. I have been concerned that just physically I am beginning to run out of puff. I feel as well that after a long and faithful ministry from Roger Jackson it would not be helpful to the church to have yet another long incumbency,

I feel that a new face is needed. I believe that things are in place for the church to move forward and I pray that the new rector will be able to do just that, ably assisted by you all.

I am conscious that I have not worked alone in this parish; I have had the joy of working with other colleagues. When I first came to the parish I worked closely with Paul Ellis, our then team vicar, and subsequently I have worked with John Armstrong. I have enjoyed immensely working with them. Also Dan has been a valuable member of the team here in Deane. I know that we would all want to wish both Dan and Angela every blessing in their future ministry. And then there is Elizabeth Plant. It has been a real joy to see Elizabeth go through her training with flying colours (would we have expected anything less?) and be ordained last year. And at the end of June this year Elizabeth will be priested in Manchester Cathedral. Elizabeth will be a great asset in the parish not only whilst you await the appointment of a new rector but also in the years to come.

Finally I would like to thank Jean once more for the all the support she has given. It can be very difficult being a ministers' wife. Their role is not clearly defined in a parish; neither would one want it to be. But Jean has always been there, following me around the country and making a home wherever God has led us. She has given to me far more than I believe I have ever given to her.

My wish is that each one of you may know God's blessing upon you and that each of will believe that God has even greater things to do here in this church. Let me finish with the opening words of Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians, 1 Corinthians 1:4-9, for these words sum up what is in my heart for all, " I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way— in all your speaking and in all your knowledge — because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful." **God is faithful.**