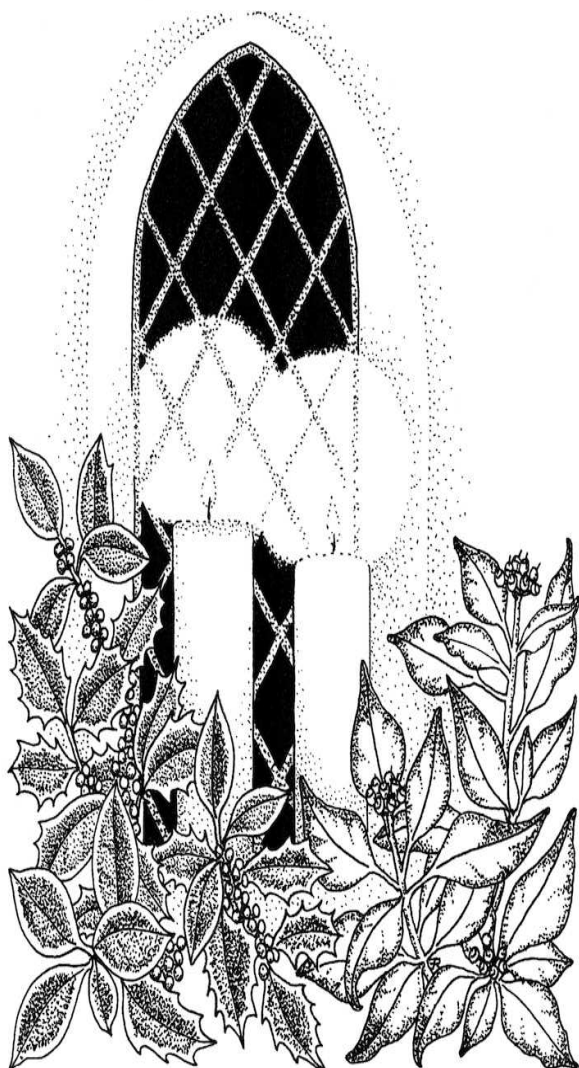


# DECEMBER 2012

Deane Parish Church

[www.deanechurch.org](http://www.deanechurch.org)



Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is, who was,  
and who is to come,  
we pray for the  
virtue of hope,  
that amidst the  
trials and difficul-  
ties of this world,  
we may keep our  
hearts fixed  
upon you, who reign  
over the cosmos.

May your grace  
enliven us,  
strengthen us,  
and defend us,  
as we await your  
coming in glory.

Amen

## **Pattern of Sunday Services at Deane**

### **Morning**

9.00 a.m. said (no singing) service of Holy Communion  
from the Book of Common Prayer

— about 60 minutes

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion OR Morning Service  
OR All-Age

— Holy Communion and Morning services are  
about 90 minutes during which there are three  
groups for children

A full programme card for Sundays is available in church. Children are very welcome at Deane, especially at the 10.30 service. There is an unsupervised crèche area and a toddler space available at the back of church at this service. The service audio is relayed to the crèche area. All-Age services are around 60 minutes.

Refreshments are available after the 10.30 service.

### **Deane at 6**

This is not a 'service', but an informal time of prayer, praise and exploring the Bible. The music is largely contemporary and refreshments are available as part of our time together.

### **Prayer Meetings at Deane in Deane Church**

Come along and pray for our church and community. Prayer meetings usually last for one hour to one and half hours, but feel free to come late or arrive early if you need to.

4th December, 8th January, 5th February at 7.30p.m.

Following our pattern of seasonal editions of the magazine the Lent edition will be published on February 10th. Matter for inclusion to the editor by Monday 28th January, please.

# Peace in Jerusalem?

As I write this, Israel and Gaza are firing missiles at each other - again. I was in Israel in January 2009 towards the end of the last Gaza war. That conflict resulted in around 1,300 Palestinian and 13 Israeli deaths, and ended as international criticism of both the Israeli Government and Hamas grew.

I vividly remember driving south from Jerusalem down to Bethlehem (the birthplace of the Prince of Peace!) and to Herodium (the remains of a palace of Herod, king of Israel when Jesus was born). 30 miles from Gaza and just outside the range of the Hamas missiles, I watched as Israeli Air Force jets soared overhead and heard the missiles exploding in the distance.

But what really brought home the tragedy for me was visiting a children's hospital and spending time with some of the Palestinian children who were innocent victims of that war and of other aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian

conflict. Many were now orphans and many were badly injured. I remember sitting at the bedside of one little boy

who was in a coma. I held his hand and talked to him (trusting God to do the translating, if indeed the boy could hear me) and prayed for him. Yet many of the children, despite their physical and mental traumas, were smiling and responded well to kindness and to adults who had the time to talk and play with them. In fact on both occasions that I have visited this land I have been struck by the resilience of both peoples and how most just want to get on with their lives and peacefully live side by side in this little strip of mostly desert at the eastern end of the Mediterranean. And we mustn't forget the witness of the many Christians (mostly



Palestinian, but also some Jews and others) in that land who are prayerfully working for peace.

The way God chooses to do extraordinary things through ordinary people can often seem odd to us. He chose to be born as a human, yet fully God, via the womb of a young unmarried woman living in a backwater of the Roman Empire. And soon after birth, Jesus became a refugee as Mary and Joseph protected him from King Herod who wanted to kill him. God chose to save his people from the consequences of their rebellion against him by himself dying a criminal's death on a cross. And he chose a bunch of poorly educated folk from Galilee to establish his church. Still today, God is in the business of doing extraordinary things through ordinary people. He is in the business of bringing good out of the most unpromising situations. He is in the business of redeeming lives, families and whole communities. And we see him most powerfully at work as people turn to him and trust in his word in the Bible.

Looking ahead through Advent to Christmas and the new year, we pray on for the peace of Jerusalem... and Bethlehem... and Gaza.

And may you know God's blessing in your life and in your home. And as you trust in him more fully may you be amazed by what God does in and through you!

Terry Clark  
Rector of Deane



...we pray on for the  
peace of  
Jerusalem...  
and Bethlehem...  
and Gaza.

# The Advent Virus

**Anonymous via email**

## **WARNING.....WARNING: ADVENT VIRUS**

Be on the alert for symptoms of inner **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love**. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs and symptoms of **The Advent Virus**:

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- A loss of interest in conflict.
- A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling.
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.

## **What has happened to the old-fashioned, spiritual Christmas?**

The cause is our disregard of Advent. The church set aside this four-week pre-Christmas season as a time of spiritual preparation for Christ's coming. It is a time of quiet anticipation. If Christ is going to come again into our hearts, there must be repentance. (doing a rethink). Without repentance, our hearts will be so full of worldly things that there will be 'no room in the inn' for Christ to be born again.... What is the joy of Christmas, but the joy of anticipation."

# Making a Difference!

**Don't want to give a bog standard Christmas gift?**

**Ever given anyone a toilet roll for Christmas?**

Well, there's always a first time! But they're not cheap! £8 in fact! Each sheet does have a lovely picture, and comes in a box however, and it is of course in a good cause—**Toilet Twinning!**

Toilet Twinning is a partnership between UK-based charities Cord and Tearfund - who got together because it **stinks** that 2.6 billion people don't have access to somewhere safe, clean and hygienic to go to the loo.

Through Toilet Twinning, Cord and Tearfund will raise awareness of this scandal, and help some of the world's poorest communities gain access to safe sanitation, clean water and hygiene education. It doesn't look much but what a difference it makes! For people in poor



communities, a hole in the ground in a basic shelter is quite literally a life saver - protecting women from the risk of attack as they find somewhere private to squat, and shielding children from preventable diarrhoeal diseases.

To twin your toilet or just order toilet rolls, go to...

<http://www.toilettwinning.org>

You can also call on 0300 321 3217 or write to:

Toilet Twinning Supporter Services

PO Box 5050

Sherwood Business Park

Annesley

Nottinghamshire NG15 0DJ

United Kingdom

# Making a Difference!

## Christian Solidarity Worldwide

*is a Christian organisation working for religious freedom through advocacy and human rights, in the pursuit of justice.*

Their primary work is advocacy, which they use to influence the legislation, policies, attitudes and behaviours which reinforce religious discrimination and persecution. Through this, they aim to bring about lasting cultural, social and political change.

CSW's evidence-based reports are widely used by the Foreign Office, US State Department, UN and others on a regular basis. They regularly brief officials from the European Council, the European Commission, current and future EU presidencies, MEPs, and NGOs on the situations in all their key countries of focus.

**Here are a few highlights from their work in the past year:**

- Influencing the reporting of religious violence in Nigeria to ensure the truth was reported.
- Breakthroughs in our Burma work when fourteen governments supported recommendations for a UN Commission of Inquiry.
- CSW's unique analysis of Nepal's draft constitution was used to brief politicians to ensure that it enshrines religious freedom.
- Organising a 24 hour in your own home prayer vigil on the day an Iranian pastor was going on trial after two years in prison. He was released! **YOU can be part of that!**
- Mobilising the general public to pray, protest and provide on behalf of persecuted Christians. By doing so, they provide solidarity and support to those in need. **YOU can be part of that!**

Go to <http://www.csw.org.uk> or write to Christian Solidarity Worldwide PO Box 99 New Malden Surrey KT3 3YF or if you'd like to get involved in a local support group (pray, learn, write letters and cards to persecuted Christians) speak to Anne Roberts or watch this space, church family news etc to learn more over the next few months.

# The Christmas Truce

This is the name given to a series of widespread unofficial cease fires that took place along the Western Front around Christmas 1914 during World War One. It is a phenomenon that has always fascinated me since it shows the ability of the human spirit to transcend war and hatred. The recent popular film `War Horse` uses a similar but fictional moment when Germans and British soldiers fight to save a struggling horse dying on the barbed wire between the two sides.

Through the week leading up to Christmas 1914 parties of German and British soldiers began exchanging seasonal greetings and songs between the trenches, in some cases only yards apart. Some even decorated the barbed wire with candles. Sometimes a brave individual would walk across no man's land to talk to their opposite number-on Christmas Eve and Day more ventured. Joint burial ceremonies and carol singing took place, and even games of football with sometimes 50 a side. A British soldier wrote of how strange it seemed and how he exchanged buttons with a German officer and saw `one of my machine gunners, a bit of an amateur hairdresser, cutting the unusually long hair of a German soldier, patiently kneeling on the ground, whilst the automatic clippers crept up the back of his neck`.

Commanding General Sir Horace Smith Dorrien was irate when he heard what was happening, and issued strict orders that it was treasonable to behave in such a way. There was a smaller version of the truce in 1915, but by 1916 after the horrors of two years of trench warfare there were only small isolated examples. In the following years of the war, artillery bombardments were deliberately ordered on Christmas Eve to



discourage truces. However in some cases for two days they tried to do it a precise and predictable times and places to try to minimise casualties.

One of the German soldiers who witnessed a truce in the Vosges in 1915 was profoundly affected by it and hoped for a place where young people of different nations could get to know each other. At the end of the war he went on to found the Youth Hostel Association in Germany in 1919. Hitler, however, a young Corporal in the 16<sup>th</sup> Bavarian Reserve Infantry in 1914-18 profoundly disapproved of the truces.

*Barbara Winder*

A cross, left near Ypres in Belgium in 1999, to commemorate the site of the Christmas Truce in 1914.

The text reads:  
1914 -

The Khaki Chum's  
Christmas Truce -  
1999 - 85 Years -  
Lest We Forget



## Christmas at Deane

Sunday 23rd December

10.30 Crib Service

6.00 Carols by Candlelight

# The Origins of Christmas Carols

The word carol is French in origin and has no real links with religion, being initially associated with a song during a circle dance. However their origin is generally considered to be ancient, going back possibly to the 4<sup>th</sup> century in some cases. Some like *`Good King Wenceslas`* and *`The Holly and the Ivy`* can be traced back to the Middle Ages and are amongst the oldest musical compositions still sung. In 1223 Francis of Assisi seems to be the first churchman to introduce carols into formal worship at his Christmas Midnight Mass in a cave in Umbria.

The first to appear in England as a collection were in 1426 *`25 Carols for Christmas`* by John Awdlay, a Shropshire chaplain, but they were probably sung not in church but by *`wassailers`* who went from house to house and were offered food and drink to sing. The early Protestant church was not initially comfortable with carols, believing they encouraged drunkenness and bad behaviour, but in the 18<sup>th</sup> century they gradually became more accepted and were brought into general church worship. Just a glance at the origins of some of our most popular carols shows the variety of places in the world from which they come.

*`Good King Wenceslas`* is based on the life of St Wenceslas, a real Duke of Bohemia (907-935), and tells the story of a good ruler braving a harsh winter to give money to a poor peasant on Boxing Day (the feast of St Stephen). It may be based on an old poem by the Czech poet Savoboda, translated into English by John Mason Neale in 1853 and set to a 13<sup>th</sup> century tune.

*`The Holly and the Ivy`* is a traditional carol which includes some pagan imagery; both plants being fertility symbols, although both were commonly used in church Christmas decorations. Henry VIII wrote a love song *`Green growth the Holly`*. There are many versions of the verses, including one in the British Museum. One view of the origins of this carol is that it is based on an ancient village singing contest custom, when groups of males and females sang dif-

ferent songs to see who was the best. The men sang verses praising the holly for its masculine qualities, the women songs praising ivy. More of the holly songs survive, as this verse from one from Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire shows:-

‘Holly stands in the hall, fair to behold.

Ivy stands without a door, she is full sore a cold.

Nay ivy, nay, it shall not be I wis,

Let holly have the mastery, as the manner is.’

Resolution of the holly and ivy contest came under the mistletoe or kissing bough, which we also have retained in Christmas decorations.

‘*Hark the Herald Angels*’ was written by Charles Wesley, one of the founders of Methodism in 1739. Originally it was far more solemn and set to his hymn ‘Christ the Lord is Risen today’'s tune.

‘*Silent Night*’ composed in Austria around 1818 by a young priest, was first performed on Christmas Eve 1818 at St Nicholas Church near Salzburg. As the church organ was not working, he was forced to write it for a guitar. It is probably the most famous and popular carol, being translated into 140 languages, and with its own museum near Salzburg. It was the carol sung by French German and British troops during the Christmas Truce on the Western Front in 1914, since it was one all three nations knew.

‘*While Shepherd Watched*’ was composed by an English Poet Laureate, Nahum Tate at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. Based on Luke 2, verses 8-14, it was the only Christmas hymn authorised to be sung in Anglican services before 1700.

‘*Oh Come All Ye Faithful*’ based on an ancient tune (Adeste Fideles) is also a very old carol. It has been attributed to many writers from St Bonaventure in the 13<sup>th</sup> century to King John of Portugal in the 17<sup>th</sup> and may have been originally (continued)





## Christmas Joy in Ethiopia

Ethiopians celebrate Christmas on 7 January and in grand style. People attend church wearing their white traditional clothes and afterwards get together at their houses to share the traditional foods and beverages prepared for the occasion. The traditional Christmas meal in many homes includes 'injera' (a flat sourdough bread), chicken stew, traditional bread and beverages.

## Christmas in Armenia

The Armenian Apostolic Church still uses the old Julian Calendar, Christmas is celebrated on January 6th. The Christmas holiday season starts on New Year's Eve (December 31st) and continues until the old Julian calendar's New Year's Eve on January 13th.

Some people do celebrate on December 25th, but not Christmas but Soorb Stepanos Day (St Steven's day). In most other countries St Stephen's day is on December 26th or Boxing Day! Santa Claus Gaghand Baba / Kaghand Papa traditionally comes on New Year's Eve (December 31st) because Christmas Day itself is thought of as more of a religious holiday in Armenia.

In Armenian Happy/Merry Christmas is 'Shnorhavor Soorb Tsnund' (which means 'Congratulations for the Holy Birth'). Happy/Merry Christmas in lots more languages.

At the beginning of December, a big Christmas Tree (Tonatsar) is put up in Republic Square in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia.



Favourite and traditional Holiday foods in Armenia include Anooshaboos (Armenian Christmas Pudding), Khozee bood (glazed ham) and dried fruits. Every house is ready with lots of sweets because anyone might knock on the door and come in for a party!

## Christmas in Mali

Mali is a mainly Muslim country, but Christmas is also an official public holiday. In Mali, most Christmas celebrations take place in Churches, where people remember the real meaning of Christmas, that Jesus came into the world as a baby.

The festivities begin on Christmas Eve with an all night service which includes worship, preaching and items performed by different groups including children, young people. The children memorise bible verses to recite on Christmas day at Church, as do the women. At the Christmas Eve service, each language group gets up and sings a song in their language.

There is often a baptismal service on the day after Christmas (Boxing Day), although this is sometimes held in the week before Christmas. Baptismal Services are special services where Christians make a public statement that they follow Jesus. This is normally done by being totally immersed (dunked) in water. Some people can spend over 30 hours in Church over the Christmas period! After Christmas the women's group of the Church often goes around to different courtyards (of houses) to greet people, sing and dance. The Church choir also does the same. If they come to your yard it is customary to give a small gift of money to the group. This is after Christmas Carol Singing!

Not many people give and receive presents at Christmas in Mali. It is only normally done by rich families.

*[www.whychristmas.com/cultures](http://www.whychristmas.com/cultures)*



(continued) composed by an order of Cistercian monks. The original text had only four Latin verses, and 3 others were added in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by a French Abbot. There are many stories connected to the carol. A Durham professor has argued the carol is a hidden birth ode to Bonnie Prince Charlie at the time of the Jacobite Rebellion. Those who believe it is Portuguese, argue it was written by King John of Portugal to accompany his daughter Charlotte to England to marry Charles II. Wherever she went the hymn was played in her honour, and became known as `the Portuguese Hymn`. *Barbara Winder.*

# Sending love in 100 million shoe boxes

This month hundreds of thousands of needy children across Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa will be eagerly opening shoe boxes of gifts sent by generous people in the UK, the US, Europe and Australia. Somewhere in the middle of all that there will be an historic shoe box: the 100 millionth shoe box that has been sent since 1990. No one will know quite which one it is, but it is a great milestone to celebrate.



Many local churches in these countries (from Bosnia to Liberia, Montenegro to Swaziland) are also offering the youngsters a short follow-up course called 'The Greatest Journey'. It simply explains who Jesus is, and what Christianity is all about. The literature and the course resources are shared at the invitation of local church leaders, after consultation with other civic leaders. Since 2010, 700,000 children worldwide have accepted an invitation to join the course. Please remember these children in your prayers - they face huge challenges in their young lives.

Operation Christmas Child was started in 1990, in Wrexham, by Dave Cooke, after he saw pictures of appalling conditions in Romanian orphanages on TV. That year he led a small convoy of vehicles from Wrexham to Romania, to help the children. In 1995 OCC merged with Samaritan's Purse.

*O Wisdom,  
O Holy Word of God,  
You govern all creation with your strong,  
yet tender care.  
Come, and show your people the way to salvation.*

# Observations on Christmas ...

I heard the bells on Christmas Day their old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, goodwill to men!

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

If Jesus were born one thousand times in Bethlehem and not in me, then I would still be lost. - Corrie ten Boom

We must not have Christ Jesus, the Lord of Life, put any more in the stable amongst the horses and asses, but he must now have the best chamber. - George Fox

The hinge of history is on the door of a Bethlehem stable.

- R Sockman

Christ has outlasted the empire that crucified him 19 centuries ago. He will outlast the nations who deny him now. - Anon

As the print of the seal on the wax is the express image of the seal itself, so Christ is the express image - the perfect representation - of God. - Ambrose

The nature of Christ's existence is mysterious, I admit; but .... reject it and the world is an inexplicable riddle; believe it, and the history of our race is satisfactorily explained. -Napoleon Bonaparte

We know how God would act if he were in our place - he has been in our place. - A W Tozer

Jesus Christ disturbs everything he confronts. - Rolfe Barnard

**Christ is the express image  
- the perfect representation -  
of God.**

# Women Bishops

I write this on the day after the debate and vote in General Synod on the proposed legislation to allow women to be appointed to the episcopate of the Church of England. The legislation was narrowly rejected.

Many this morning, including the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Prime Minister were saying how disappointed they were by the vote and how the church is not keeping pace with the society in which we live. In fact Archbishop Rowan said in Synod this morning *"Whatever the motivations for voting yesterday, whatever the theological principle on which people acted and spoke, the fact remains that a great deal of this discussion is not intelligible to our wider society - worse than that, it seems as if we are willfully blind to some of the trends and priorities of that wider society."*

Having followed the speeches made during yesterday's debate, I was struck by how little mention there was about the authority of the Bible. As with Archbishop Rowan this morning, there was yesterday (in

the debate and beyond) considerable emphasis on how the Church of England seemed to many to be behind the times and that the public could not understand why we were delaying in giving women the same 'rights' as men.

Whatever our views on women bishops, if we allow society to determine the course of God's church then we will be in dire straits indeed. The Bible calls us to be God-pleasers not people-pleasers. I agree with the Archbishop however that most people in the wider society, and in fact most I'd say within the churches, do not understand why the vote went as it did yesterday. Perhaps we clergy need to explain the issues more fully.

Basically there were three groups of people who voted against the proposed legislation:

1. Conservative evangelicals who argue that the Bible teaches that men and women are equal yet have different but complimentary roles within the church.
2. Anglo-catholics who also believe that men and women are equal but argue from tradition and the example of Christ choosing only men as apostles.
3. People from across the



broad spectrum of traditions within the Church of England, *including those for and against women bishops*, who thought that the proposed measure was simply bad legislation since it did not allow proper provision for those clergy and churches who had theological issues with women bishops.

When the Church of England makes the headlines it is often noted that church attendance has been declining for decades and that failing to "get with the programme" (as David Cameron urged us this afternoon!) is the reason for this decline. What is overlooked is that whilst *most CofE churches are experiencing decline*, the ones that are experiencing most significant long-term growth are those led by clergy from the conservative evangelical and charismatic evangelical traditions. And, by the by, church leaders within the conservative evangelical tradition include the Rector of Deane, the Vicar of St Andrew's Over Hulton and the Rector of Holy Trinity Platt, the church with the largest congregation in Manchester Diocese. There are currently no conservative evangelical bishops within the

Church of England... they are simply not being appointed. Yet Church of England dioceses gladly accept the millions of pounds of money sacrificially given by conservative evangelicals each year towards parish share payments.

There is no easy answer as to how we go forward on this issue, and it's looking like it will rumble on for another 3+ years, but we must keep the main thing the main thing: the prayerful and faithful proclamation of Christ and his Kingdom.

Terry Clark      Rector of Deane  
*Almighty and everlasting God, ruler of all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of your people. In the wake of the vote in General Synod, grant comfort to those who are sorrowful, rest to those who are weary, and clarity to those who are confused. Give to each of us, heavenly Father, a heartfelt repentance for our sins, a renewed spirit of grace and love towards our Christian brothers and sisters, and a shared commitment to seek your will, revealed in your holy Word. Above all, gracious Lord, help us fix our hearts where true joys are to be found, in Jesus Christ our Saviour, who died for us and rose again, for we ask all these things in his name, Amen.*

# Don't miss out...

You may have heard that we're having a special week to help people meet Jesus, called 'Come and See'. It would be terrible if after more than a year's preparation we didn't involve you, your friends and family. The only way we can be sure not to miss the opportunity is to hear what you and your friends are interested in.

## **What do you want to see?**

If the idea of crafts or quizzes gets you excited then tell us, but if those ideas don't fit the bill then tell us what would interest you. Maybe you share a hobby you others like lion taming, running, scrabble, photography or golf. If 'Come and See' is going to be the best we can make it, then we need to hear from you.

So whether you'd like to suggest an event or organise one, tell us. You might already have a group and you just want some help in thinking how you could include some way of hearing about Jesus. We're here to help.

**our prayers make  
'an eternal  
difference'.**

## **The hidden ingredient**

One of the less obvious elements of preparing for a week like this is prayer, but just because we don't see it doesn't mean it isn't crucial. It's possible with all the excitement and planning to forget praying, but as Terry says our prayers make 'an eternal difference'.

Have you been praying for the week? Do you know anyone involved in organising the week or someone you want to invite? Whether you know a lot or a little, your prayers will make all the difference. Why

not get your home group or a couple of friends from church together to pray.

### Doing it together

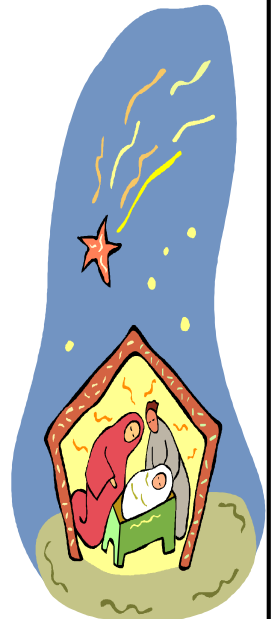
With the joint service in our minds and the words of Bishop Chris fresh in our ears, let's seize the opportunity to work together and make 'Come and See' a week we'll never forget. This is not just about people knowing more about our churches, it's about them meeting their creator and finding life in Jesus.

### So what's next

If you've an idea for an event you want to share or you'd like to put one on, then contact Beccy in the office. If you want to pray for the week and find out more then keep an eye out for all the prayer updates.

'Come  
and  
See'

*Man's maker was made man that he,  
Ruler of the stars, might nurse  
at his mother's breast;  
that the Bread of Life might hunger,  
the fountain thirst,  
the light sleep,  
the Way be tired on its journey;  
that truth might be accused  
of false witnesses,  
the Teacher might be beaten with whips  
the Foundation suspended on wood;  
that Strength might grow weak;  
that the Healer might be wounded;  
that Life might die.  
Augustine*



## This month's profile

# Audrey Rushton

Audrey was born in Farnworth in 1936. Previously her parents had lost a baby boy and a little girl, so consequently she was an only child. However, as they had family in the area on both sides, she grew up with close and loving cousins and they all had a wonderful and happy childhood.

Audrey started school aged 5 at Highfield Primary School. It was during the war and she remembers gas- masks, air-raid shelters and "sirens" but at the time she and her friends thought that it was just part of growing up. Even not having sweets, chocolates and bananas etc. were taken in their stride; and bread and home- made jam tasted just as good on their picnics in the fields around Plodder Lane and New Bury. They played outside everyday when it was fine and organised May Queens, concerts and stalls in their avenue and had great fun and freedom.

Audrey loved to draw and read and began piano lessons which stood her in good stead in later life when she was teaching.

At the age of 11 Audrey went to Farnworth Grammar School and there began many life-long friendships which she still enjoys to this day. She had always loved sporting activities as she had gone walking, exploring and cycling with her father even when quite young so now at Senior School she was very much into athletics, netball, tennis and gymnastics. The Old Farnworthians Netball team still meets up every few months but not for sporting activities, just to lunch and enjoy a good natter!

Audrey and her friends all worked very hard at school, it was in the early Fifties, and in the Sixth Form her favourite subjects were Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry which she passed well at "A" Level. She decided not to go to University as she wanted to go into Primary School teaching' and so she went to Edge Hill Teacher Training College which she thoroughly enjoyed. She started teaching

in Worsley in 1957.

Audrey was baptised at Market Street Congregational Church Farnworth. Both of her parents' families had been very much involved there although her mother, who came from North Wales, recalled listening in trepidation as a small child to her grandfather "Tide" Bellis preaching with vigour at the Welsh Chapel! Audrey went to Sunday School and later became a Sunday School teacher at Dixon Green Congregational Church nearer to her home.

Audrey met Alan in her early teens and went to the Youth Group at his Church, St Johns and began to worship there. Before they were married in 1959 she was confirmed into the Church of England at St John's Farnworth.

Alan and Audrey lived in Brightmet for ten happy years before moving to Ladybridge in 1969. They joined St Mary's Deane and became involved in the life of the church.

Audrey and Alan's three children, Judith, Catherine and Andrew are now married with children of their own and are living in Vancouver, Canada, Buckinghamshire and Derbyshire. They are sure that the guidance and love that they were given at St Mary's Sunday School, Pathfinders, CYFA and in the uniformed organisations will stay with them as they go through life with faith.

Audrey continued to teach when the children went to school. She taught at Daisy Hill, St James and for many happy years in the Infants Department and Reception Class at Lord Street Horwich.

Audrey has been a volunteer at Bolton Hospice Day Care Unit for 16 years, a member of the Bolton Ladies' Club and the Church Guild. She is also part of a cleaning team at St. Mary's. She loves to spend time with friends.

Audrey and Alan especially adore spending time with their six grandchildren and see them as often as they can.

They still love to travel whenever they are able to do so.  
(continued after two pages)



# A Weekend at Cloverley Hall

Calverhall in Shropshire is a village remote from the nearest small towns. A long drive leads from the village to Cloverley Hall, which is an attractive nineteenth century building, renovated and extended and now the setting for Christian conferences. The grounds and gardens are a pleasure to walk in. There were roses in autumn, trees were leafy still and we enjoyed all this in sunny weather. Outdoor games and entertainments invited competitors of all ages and encouraged the togetherness which made the weekend such a success.



Indoors the three groups had different activities but a common theme. We were all led to think about the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and the joy which comes from our relationship with them. The youngest group made leafy representations of the Trinity, which we saw in the final joint session, their seniors recorded their activities in a vivid series of pictures and the rest of us, congregated in the coach house, shared with the Rector his own joy in the three persons of God.

To begin, the Rector asked us to choose pebbles from a box. Brought together, though various in shape, surface and colour, they were like a Christian community where the life of each individual is enriched by all the others. Joy in the second session was expressed in stories, The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin, The Lost Son. All are found. Rembrandt's painting of the Prodigal Son, which was amongst our materials, expressing the joy of the father, whilst emphasising the disapproval and jealousy of the elder son. His frustrated sense of entitlement is all too easy to understand but it is eclipsed in the story and the painting by the grace, the tenderness and the radiant love of God.

In St John's Gospel Jesus speaks of the joy he shares with all his disciples. It was a joy felt centuries later by St Augustine, following his conversion to Christianity, and described in his *Confessions*, one of the most influential of Christian texts, whose content the Rector sketched for us. We were asked to think of how Christianity came to us and how we would express our belief to inquirers. There is help in the final verses of St Matthew which speak of the power with us and around us and the presence in our lives of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. A video-clip showed how difficult it is to talk about the Holy Spirit. We read the passage in Galatians, where St Paul describes the gifts the Spirit brings. In knowing and sharing our gifts, we enable the Spirit to work amongst us and through us.

The weekend was rich in reflection. A Thought for the Day preceded the longer sessions and we ended the weekend with communion. We varied the programme by visits to neighbouring small towns and a group walked along the canal from Market Drayton. Cloverley Hall, with its unobtrusive management and excellent provision of meals and drinks, was a great success for us. For all the arrangements and events we are grateful to Beccy, Terry, Stephen, Elizabeth, Simon, Claire and Mark, Kathleen from St Luke's in Glossop and Ian and Liz from the Salvation Army Church. We were a large party and there is room at the Hall for one yet larger.



# BOLTON CHORAL UNION

I thought it may be of interest to you to know something of the plans for concerts this year and the choirs we will be working with. Some of these events are before publication of this magazine, but still, you can see what we do.

Bolton Choral Union is over 100 years old, and rehearses every Friday at St Andrews and St George's church in the middle of town from 7.30-9.30. We always welcome new members, and you are also welcome to come along to join in a rehearsal and see if you would like to be a member. You do not have to be able to read music.

On **November 3<sup>rd</sup>** we are singing at Blackburn's King George's Hall for a joint concert with Blackburn Music Society and Blackburn and Darwen Brass Band, using songs from the shows and entitled **`From Broadway to Hollywood`**, with soloist Richard Pollock and songs from **`Miss Saigon`**, **`Lion King`**, **`West Side Story`** etc.

On **December 1<sup>st</sup>** we are performing Handel's **`Messiah`** at

the Victoria Hall in Bolton in a joint concert with Bolton Catholic Music Society and the Bolton Symphony Orchestra.

There will also be our usual **Family Carol Concert** on **Wednesday December 19<sup>th</sup>**, when St Peter's Smithills will be our primary choir, again in the Victoria Hall.

Our Spring Concert will involve the latest work by Karl Jenkins called **`The Peacemakers`** on **March 23<sup>rd</sup>** at the Victoria Hall. The music will be provided by the Northern Chamber Orchestra, and Blackburn and Darwen Brass Band. The programme will also include Vivaldi's **`Gloria`** Mozart's **`Laudate Dominum`**, and Pachelbel's **`Canon`**.

Our final summer concert takes place at Bolton Parish Church on **Sunday June 16<sup>th</sup>**, which includes, amongst other works, the premiere of **Michael Greenhalgh's `Festal Mass`** to celebrate his 40 years as our conductor.

We do hope you manage to find the time to come to at least one of our varied concerts. Joyce



and I usually have information about tickets, or you can usually also pay on the door. Almost all concerts start at 7.30 apart from the Carol Concert which starts at 7pm and there are special offers for children's tickets and concessions.

**Barbara Winder**

## **Passion for Christmas**

**10<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

**Book your free tickets for the Passion for Christmas Carol Service with Drama and Massed Choir!**

**The Service will be recorded Live for Tower FM's Christmas Morning Show. Premier Suit Reebok Stadium.**

**Free parking.**

**Get your tickets by calling 0844 871 2932 and collect them from Bolton Central at the Reebok Stadium or you can go online at [www.bwfc.co.uk](http://www.bwfc.co.uk)**

**it is really going to be a fantastic evening.**

(continued) One particularly exciting holiday was to Nicaragua in Central America where they visited their daughter Judith, who was working there during a Sabbatical for fifteen months, in a very rural and unstable part of the country. In addition, on one of their visits to Canada, Audrey and Alan followed in the footsteps of Audrey's maternal grandfather who had gone out to work in the copper mines in Phoenix BC in 1906. It is a remote mountainous area where he worked for nine years. They followed the trail one hundred years later in 2006!

Another wonderful experience was their visit to Jerusalem and the Holy Land with members of St Mary's Deane. It was such a special journey and one that Audrey will hold in her heart for ever.

Audrey feels that she and Alan have been blessed to have such loving and supportive families and such warm and caring friends at St Mary's. Every day she gives thanks to God for his love for us all and she looks forward to the exciting future that He has planned for us at Deane.

# Men of Deane

Phil Tedd, athlete, musician and teacher, was our most recent breakfast guest. An engaging speaker, he talked to us about his career in water polo and athletics, his enjoyment of sport and his Christian practice. Sometimes sport, Christian principle and practice clashed. However good you are at it, you have doubts about a game which encourages violent, unscrupulous play. When as a runner you are required to practise on Sundays, you will find your priority being challenged again. Despite these reservations, Phil's delight in sport and the demands of training were evident and his skill and achievement have certainly enriched his career in teaching. He is really a Director of Music, another role where dedication and discipline are necessary to the achievement of exciting and satisfying results. For him all these activities are expressions of Christian life and he uses his great gifts as he is able. A humorous and generous man, he made the breakfast a memorable occasion.

## Men of Deane Programme

**Friday 21st December 7:30pm**

**Our annual Christmas social** - starting off at the King's Head for a get together, and then moving on later back to the Parish Centre for a Chinese takeaway and a couple of games. I'll circulate menu's closer to the time but let me know if you'll be joining in for this one.

**Thursday 24th January 7:30pm**

**Dilemmas in Movies evening** - The Parish Centre (TBC - could be the rectory) - complete with large screen and cinema sound!. A compilation of various clips from movies guaranteed to stimulate interest and discussion as topical issues are raised. Refreshments / nibble will be provided at this popular event.

If you have any ideas for future MoD activities, perhaps a visit out somewhere, a guest speaker you know who would be willing to speak at a Men's Breakfast, or something completely different, please do drop me a line.

Lee Higson

leehigson@hotmail.com

## **Handicraft Group Autumn Coffee Morning**

The ladies of the Handicraft Group would like to thank all who supported their craft coffee morning, and are pleased to tell you

we raised in total the sum of £766.65

Although we are only a very small group we thank God that we can put our talents to some use, and we do recognise that without you continued support our achievements would not be possible.

So thank you all again for your continued support, as without it the day would not have been such a success

God Bless you all



## **Rainbows, Brownies and Guides**

A very big thank you to everyone for collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. The girls have enjoyed dancing sessions and have received ingredients to promote healthy eating with this year's vouchers.

### **Guides**

A presentation evening was held for six girls who have received their Baden Powell Award, the highest award in the Guide section. Congratulations to Georgia Packwood, Laura Small. Rebecca Walker, Jessica Wrennall, Amelia Wrennall and Moira Campbell on achieving this award!

Team Rector	Terry Clark	01204 61819
Curate	Stephen Bazely	01204 849288
OLM	Elizabeth Plant	01204 63730
Readers	David Dewhurst	01204 651347
	Nola Kilsby	01204 665700
Wardens	Lee Higson	01942 795038
	Beccy Rutter	01204 654737
	Ken Tidmarsh	01204 652184

Church Office 01204 659637

## District Church Council

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

## Other Responsibilities

Flowers	Josie Crompton	01204 655964
Gift Aid Sec	Les Kilsby	01204 665700
Handicraft Group	Dorothy Benyon	01204 417794
Ladies' Guild	Josie Crompton	01204 655964
	Pat Sewell	01204 61278
Magazine Editor	Anne Roberts	01204 849468
Music Co-ordinator	Beccy Rutter	01204 654737
Verger	Josie Crompton	01204 655964
Weddings Admin	Anne Roberts	01204 849468
Little Lambs	Melanie Higson	01942 795038

## Sunday Schools

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

## Youth Groups

Voltage/Element	Karen Greenhalgh	01204 654737
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## Uniformed Organisations

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