

THE PARISH OF DEANE

DEANE CHURCH NEWS

MARCH 1999

SUNDAY DIARY

7. THIRD OF LENT

8.00am Communion
10.30am Family Communion
Youth Service in
Scout & Guide hut
6.30pm Evensong

14. FOURTH OF LENT

8.00am Communion
10.30am Mothering Sunday
Family Service
6.30pm Evening Communion

21. FIFTH OF LENT

8.00am Communion
10.30am Family Communion
6.30pm Evensong



*Oxford Canal Bridge at Braunston, Northamptonshire (Photo: John Beldom)
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28. PALM SUNDAY

8.00 am Communion
10.30am Family/Parade Service
6.30pm Evening Communion

MIDWEEK DIARY

Communion: Wednesday at 10.00am in the Church Lounge
except March 17th

Lent Groups: Tuesdays and Wednesdays March 2/3; 9/10; 16/17; 23/24

Church Council: Monday March 22nd at 7.45pm at St Andrew's

Easter Egg Bingo: Saturday March 13 at 6.30pm in the Memorial Hall

WHO'S WHO

Rector: Roger B Jackson
The Rectory
234 Wigan Road (61819)

Vicar: Paul Ellis
St Andrew's Vicarage
Crescent Avenue (651851)

Readers:

David Dewhurst
11 Braemar Gardens (651347)

Nola Worsfold
22 Melbourne Road (659099)

Wardens: Philip Gore
12 Ellesmere Rd (63798)
Bryan Shephard
57 Molyneux Rd (01942 817288)
Les Kilsby
1386 Junction Rd West (492351)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Lay Stan Wilson
Chairman: 11 Clough Meadow (492034)

Honorary Keith Acton
Treasurer: 3 Mallowdale Close (842723)

Honorary Les Kilsby
Secretary: 1386 Junction Road West (492351)

CHAIRMEN OF WORKING GROUPS

Buildings & Fabric: Mike Kirkby
Worship: Nola Worsfold
Social: Bryan Shephard

OTHER OFFICIALS

Organist: Jim Needham
130 The Pewfist
Westhoughton (01942 812692)

Flowers: Mary Jackson
234 Wigan Road (61819)

Verger: Betty Calderbank
32 Junction Road (655375)

Archivist: Rodney Howard
42 Elswick Avenue (652417)

Covenant Sid Harris
Secretary: 11 Manningham Road (656355)

MEMORIAL HALL

Bookings: Julie Cooper
64 Melbourne Road (660946)

Caretaker: Ian Cooper
64 Melbourne Road (660946)

WHAT'S ON

Creche: under 3 years
Elizabeth Gardiner (660460)

Scramblers: 3 to 5 years

Climbers: 5 to 7 years
Denise Cox (653326)

Explorers: 7 to 11 years
Pat Boulton (655068)

All meet in the Memorial Hall on Sundays at 10.30 a.m.

Pathfinders: 11 to 14 years
Ian Gardiner (660460)

The Memorial Hall, Fridays 7.15 - 9.00 p.m.

C.Y.F.A.: 14 to 18 years

The Memorial Hall, Fridays 7.15 - 9.00 p.m.

BELL RINGERS

Practice Night Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m.
David McCormick (654503)

CHURCH CHOIR

Rehearsals on Sundays at 11.45 a.m.
Jim Needham (01942 812692)

MUSIC GROUP

Rehearsals on Thursdays at 7.30 p.m.
Ray Howarth (652602)

LADIES GROUPS

Meet in the Memorial Hall

Ladies Alternate Tuesdays
Guild: at 7.45 p.m.
Maureen Edwards (419374)

Mothers' Union: Alternate Wednesdays at 2.00 p.m.

Parents & Toddlers: Thursdays at 1.30 p.m.
Julie Cooper (660946)

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Meet in the Scout/Guide Hut

Brownies: 1 Tuesdays at 6.30 p.m.
Clare Miles (63355)
2 Wednesdays at 6.30 p.m.
Janet Barnsley (665896)

Guides: Mondays at 7.15 p.m.
Carole Baxendale (419167)

Cubs: Thursdays at 6.45 p.m.
Wendy Gooding (653277)

Beavers: Mondays at 5.45 p.m.
Jane Wadsworth (657254)

Rainbows: Fridays at 6.30 p.m.
Margaret Latchford (657101)

The Parish Office at the Rectory, 234 Wigan Road (61819) is open on Saturdays from 10.00 to 11.00 a.m. to deal with initial enquiries for Baptism and Banns of Marriage.

The Rector writes

27th February, 1999.

The Glenn Hoddle Affair.

Though it is often claimed that every weekend more people attend Church than go to football matches, nevertheless it is football that has recently put religion onto the front pages of the newspapers! I'm referring, of course, to the reported remarks of Glenn Hoddle which led to his sacking as the England football coach.

As a football coach I understand that he has been reasonably successful with the resources at his disposal. Moreover, as a person he has always struck me as a decent bloke. But these things appear to count for nothing once the national press have got their knife into you. When a person in a prominent position in sport, politics or the Church says or does something unusual he will be hounded by the press like a dog worrying a bone. This has been Mr. Hoddle's sad experience in common with that of several ministers in the present Labour Government and its Conservative predecessor.

Actually there was nothing new or original in what Glenn Hoddle was saying. He was simply repeating classic Hindu beliefs about reincarnation. Robin Gill, the Professor of Modern Theology at the University of Kent has said that "If Hoddle happens to hold exotic beliefs, so do a lot of other people, not just Hindus. There is plenty of evidence that a sizeable proportion of the British population believes in reincarnation – 25% of the general population and 15% of regular Churchgoers". If this is the case then the reaction of our press was nothing less than hysterical. The mounting pressure which they exerted left the football authorities with little option but to sack the manager.

What concerns me and others too is this: Does this incident set a precedent for religious discrimination in this country? Are we now living in a society where people can be sacked for expressing their religious views? If a secular organisation like the Football Association can dismiss Glenn Hoddle because of his Hindu beliefs what other religious beliefs are going to be unacceptable. For instance, are those who describe themselves as "Born Again Christians" or who disapprove of the ordination of women going to be more at risk of losing their jobs?

Some people have argued that Mr. Hoddle should not have been sacked because his religious views were irrelevant to his job as a football coach. This may or may not be true in his particular case, though it must be said that many people, especially the disabled, were offended by his remarks. However, I don't believe that a Christian can afford to divorce his beliefs from his work. We must not put our faith into a watertight compartment labelled "For Sundays only", keeping it separate from our life and work during the week. What I believe as a Christian is bound to affect my attitude to people, to work, to leisure, to the environment etc. This is why the Glenn Hoddle affair concerns me. Could it mean that in our increasingly post-Christian secular society the person who seeks to apply his faith to his work, to put his faith into practice, is liable to be penalised? Of course, this is what is already experienced by many of our fellow Christians elsewhere; it could soon be happening here.

At this time of the year we are required to revise and update our Church Electoral Roll which is the official register of Church members. If you have joined us over the past year or have never previously got round to identifying yourself with the Church Family at Deane in this particular way then I wish to encourage you to do this by completing an application form by March 21st.

Roger B. Jackson.

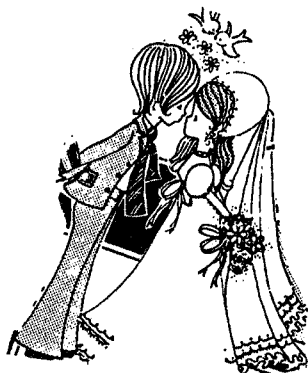


IN THE NEWS



Congratulations to four of our Guides who have gained the Baden Powell Trefoil Award. They follow in a long line of girls in our company who have achieved this highest honour. They are Amy Atkinson, Joanne Baxendale, Lorraine Smith and Stacey Smith.

Following the broadcast services from our Church a couple of years ago we received numerous letters of appreciation from all over the country. One was from a Harold and Dorothy Skelhorn who were married here 60 years ago and are now living in retirement in Swanage, Dorset. On the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary last month Dorothy sent this poem which she says she memorised when recovering from a cancer operation 24 years ago.



“Out of tune with life I went
Down the road of lost content.
Somewhere I had gone astray
Missing the signpost by the way.
I thought the road would never end
When suddenly I found a friend.
A meeting that was surely meant
Out of the blue from heaven sent.
Together we discovered the track
That led me home and brought me back
To where life sang again for me
A new horizon I could see.
How good it is to turn a bend,
And when in need to find a friend.”

Dorothy adds “When I am feeling a bit down and under the weather I say the poem to myself”. Many have found that when they have discovered the living Christ to be their Saviour and Friend He has enabled them to cope with all that life has thrown at them from time to time.

We extend our **Sympathy** to two members of our Church Family who have recently and unexpectedly lost their husbands – to Joyce Bachegalup in her loss of Terry and Malve Sharples in her loss of Eric.

This year’s **Women’s World Day of Prayer** will be held as usual on the first Friday of this month, March 5th. The service entitled “God’s Tender Touch” has been prepared by the Christian women of Venezuela. There is a choice of services –

At 2 p.m. in Bank Street Chapel when the Rev’d Carol Braithwaite is the speaker.

At 7.30 p.m. in Bank Top Church, Ashworth Lane, Astley Bridge when Miss L. McCullugh is the speaker.

In Church on Sunday mornings there is a growing number of parents with children who though they have reached the “walkie-talkie” age are still too young for Climbers. To enable their parents to worship we are planning to set up a crèche again in the Memorial Hall from 10.15 – 11.45 a.m. We would like this to be staffed by members of the congregation who take it in turns with one of the parents. If you are willing to go on a rota to assist in this way please get in touch with Mary Jackson Tel. 61819.

AFRICA



ANGOLA

A contact in Angola reports: 'Angola is in a virtual state of war. The cities of Huambo and Kuito were under siege for some weeks and were bombed by UNITA indiscriminately, causing many casualties among civilians. At present, the greatest needs for those areas is medicines and food.'

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

Pray for Coastal Africa, suffering from conflict. Fighting continues in Sierra Leone, civil war is only now coming to an end in Guinea Bissau, and Liberia is seeing tentative peace after nine years of civil war. Pray too for Tearfund's partners and West and Central Africa team, dealing with issues of peace and reconciliation and disaster preparedness.

RWANDA

Praise God for the release of Pastor Elie of Tearfund partner Inkuru Nziza, unjustly imprisoned for over two years on charges relating to genocide. Continue to pray for Elie and his family as he readjusts to a life of freedom, especially as people released from prison have occasionally been targeted by others.

Remember the on-going work amongst those still imprisoned, many of whom were involved in the genocide but have subsequently come to faith in Christ due to Elie and Christians like him. Pray too for Amani, a church leader and prison chaplain who has access to many of the prisons and often speaks to thousands of prisoners interested in the good news of Jesus Christ.

MEDITERRANEAN AND CENTRAL ASIA



GEORGIA

Since independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Georgia has experienced severe economic collapse and great political instability. Both Abkhazia and South Ossetia have been involved in civil wars to secede from Georgia, resulting in the mass displacement of population. Pray for Tearfund's Mediterranean and Central Asia team as they support partner World Concern in a business training programme to help address the problem of unemployment.

MOLDOVA

This is one of the poorest countries in the region, and motivation and hope are low following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Pray for Tearfund partner Breadline working with Agape church, addressing poverty in Chisinau and surrounding areas.

LATIN AMERICA



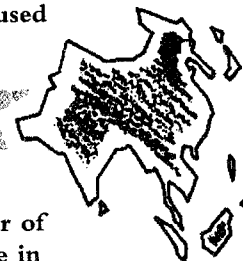
COLOMBIA

A brutal attack on the communities of El Diamante and El Venado has left around 200 families displaced - just one example of the recent violence by FARC guerrillas. Pray for these families and for the peace negotiations. Pray too for members of the El Diamante church, provisionally housed in churches around

Tierralta, who are vulnerable and without protection as the army base has been removed.

HURRICANE MITCH

Continue to pray for the rebuilding of lives and economies following the devastation caused by last year's hurricane.



ASIA

NEPAL/INDIA

Persecution against Christians and burning of churches in the state of Gujarat continues, and has spread to Nepal. Pray for a change of heart in the persecutors and for protection of Christians.

AIDS

By the year 2000, up to one quarter of the world's HIV/AIDS sufferers will live in India. Pray for an increased response from the Indian government. AIDS is also having a devastating effect in Thailand and Cambodia.

This prayer poster has been produced as part of Tearfund's World Watch Prayer Link scheme. For further information please contact Tearfund's Enquiry Unit on 0845 355 8355. Email address-enquiry@tearfund.dircon.co.uk
Our telephone prayer bulletin Tearline also provides up-to-date information 24 hours a day: call 0181 977 2079.

MONEY MATTERS



Thank you to all who have contributed to God's work through our church.

	Planned Giving Envelopes	Loose Collections	Totals
Jan 3rd	£558.01	£ 70.45	£628.46
10th	672.96	132.12	805.08
17th	696.00	85.80	781.80
24th	572.32	141.11	713.43
31st	610.34	71.65	681.99
Standing Orders	275.50		275.50
Weekdays		19.28	19.28
	----- £3,385.13 =====	----- £520.41 =====	----- £3,905.54 =====

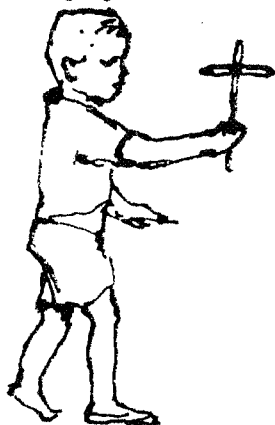
In the corresponding period last year the amount given was £3,980

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The treasurer wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the anonymous donation of £200 which he received at the evening service on February 7th and also the legacy of £3,000 from the late Helen Thornley, formerly of Deane Church Lane.

Bolton Hospice

The Hospice is most grateful to those who supported their vital work by obtaining Christmas Bells. The project raised £11,000 of which our contribution was £13.20.



The Palm Crosses which will be distributed at the services on Palm Sunday March 28th have been made in the Kwa Zulu province of South Africa and in Tanzania. In both cases this helps to provide work for people who have little other opportunities to earn income.



We desperately need more volunteers to assist with cleaning our Church. Basically the job entails giving an hour of your time once every 5 weeks on either a Friday morning or evening to work in a team with 8 others. Most of teams are now under strength and one is depleted to 5 members thus making the task bigger and longer.

We require 9 more people to bring all the teams up to strength. If we fail to get this number then we shall probably have to reduce the number of teams so that the Church is only cleaned fortnightly which could leave a poor impression on our visitors. We need you, so don't leave it to someone else to volunteer!