

Deane St Mary's

December 2008

We have struck a seasonal note on several pages this month. Ian has written some helpful notes on **the words of the angel to the shepherds** which help us in our walk with God today. The **winter solstice** and **the season of Advent** are explained and we reflect on the **person of Jesus** in some words of Augustine and others from an anonymous second century letter. There's a **Christmas poem** and some suggestions for **children's books** for Christmas and Bible reading notes to think about for the New Year. **Beccy Rutter** is profiled this month and **Elizabeth Plant** tells us how life as OLM is going. Barbara Winder has given us more help in researching **family history** and also reported on the recent trip to Israel.



There were
shepherds living
out in the fields
nearby, keeping
watch over their
flocks at night. An
angel of the Lord
appeared to them...

St Mary's Info: December 2008

	9.00	10.30	6.00		
Sunday 7	Holy Communion	Family Parade	Holy Communion		
	Mark 1:1-8; 2 Peter 3:8-15a Be Prepared!				
Sunday 14	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Service		
	John 1:6-8; 19-28; 1 Thess. 5:16-24 Finding Ourselves				
Sunday 21	Holy Communion	Family Nativity	Carols by Candlelight		
	Luke 1:26-38; Romans 16:25-end Are You Willing?				
Sunday 28	Holy Communion	Service of the Word	Evening Service		
	Luke 2:22-40; Galatians 4:4-7 Look Back; Look Ahead				
<table><tr><td>Christmas Eve 11.00 p.m. Holy Communion</td><td>Christmas Day 9.00a.m. Holy Communion 10.30 a.m. Family Service</td></tr></table>				Christmas Eve 11.00 p.m. Holy Communion	Christmas Day 9.00a.m. Holy Communion 10.30 a.m. Family Service
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**We shall be decorating the Church on
Friday Dec 5th at 9.30am.**

This requires quite a lot of effort especially as the crib and Christmas tree etc. have to be carried from the Memorial Hall.

If you can spare an hour or so PLEASE come along as we really do need a few more hands.

The Rector Writes

What "Time" is Christmas?

I know that for me as a Christian Easter is the most important season of the year, for it is then that we remember that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. But I have to admit that as I look back to my childhood there was only one season for me that was Top of the Pops, and that was Christmas. In many ways I still love the excitement of Christmas and all that it brings. Even though our children are not children any longer my wife and I still enjoy having them all with us during the Christmas season and they are good enough to let us indulge ourselves by putting out their special Christmas stockings on Christmas Eve as we have done every year since they were born.



As I child I could hardly get to sleep on Christmas Eve. I was just so full of anticipation as to what I would find early the next morning in my pillowcase at the bottom of the bed (no stocking for me - it didn't hold enough!). I guess that like many parents mine would get a bit exasperated when I asked on the umpteenth occasion, "Is it time yet?"

The first Christmas of course was perfectly timed by God, happening just when He wanted it, for as Galatians 4:4 says, "When the right time came, God sent His son..."

What time is Christmas this year? No, I don't mean on what date Christmas falls, that's fairly obvious. No, what time is Christmas? You'll find the answer in the four statements the angel said to the shepherds at the first Christmas (Luke 2:10-14).

It's time to release your fears!

The first thing the angel said was,

"Do not be afraid!"

Fear is the greatest barrier to knowing God and fulfilling his purposes for your life. Fear is a self-imposed prison that keeps you from living the life that God intends for you. So whatever you are afraid of - Christmas is the time to let go. The bible contains 365 "Fear not's" - one for every day of the year. It's time to stop worrying and start worshipping.

It's time to renew your faith!

The angel said

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

The Good News of Jesus keeps getting better because the bad news of the world keeps getting worse. The Good News is that God loves you, he created you for a purpose, you can know God personally by trusting in Jesus, and he wants you to spend eternity with him. God has really long range plans for your life. Christmas is the time to come back to God.

It's time to receive forgiveness!

Next the angel said,

"Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah."

If our greatest need was education, God would have sent us a teacher. If our greatest need was health, he would have sent a doctor. If our greatest need was financial advice, he would have sent an economist. But our greatest need is forgiveness, so God sent a Saviour. It doesn't matter what wrong you've done, Jesus paid for it on the cross. So this Christmas accept his forgiveness.

It's a time to rebuild relationships!

Finally the angel said,

"Peace to those on whom his favour rests."

Once you've accepted God's forgiveness He wants you to forgive others. Who do you need to offer forgiveness to this Christmas? It's time to make peace!

May you know the peace and the love of the Lord Jesus Christ this Christmas time.

December 21 Winter Solstice

A Midwinter festival has been a part of life since pre-Christian times. When the hours of daylight are fewest, the warmth of the sun weakest, and life itself seemingly at a standstill, our ancestors, the pagan peoples of Europe and Western Asia, kept festival by lighting bonfires and decorating their buildings with evergreens. Perhaps they believed that the dying sun could be enheartened by fire, and the life of the buried seed assured by the presence of evergreen branches.

With the advent of Christianity, the Spring gods became identified with Christ, and the birthday of the sun with the birthday of the Light of the World.

The early church father Tertullian did not approve of Christmas decorations. "Let those who have no light in themselves light candles!... You are the light of the world, you are the tree ever green...." But by the time of St Gregory and St Augustine, four centuries later, this had changed. Pope Gregory instructed Augustine not to worry about harmless outward customs, as long as the right God be worshipped through them. And so many Anglo-Saxon customs were never discarded, but simply endowed with a new significance.

By 1598 one John Stow of London wrote how: "Against the feast of Christmas, every man's house, as also their parish churches, were decked with holme, ivie, bayes, and whatsoever the season of the yeare afforded to be greene."

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 be beaten with whips,
the Foundation be suspended on wood;
that strength might grow weak; that the healer might be wounded;
that life might die.

Augustine

"The Light of the World"

William Holman Hunt (1827-1910) took the title of his most celebrated painting from the Gospel of Saint John, Chapter VIII, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life". The painting is reproduced in stained glass at Stand Reformed Church in Radcliffe and prints were once displayed in churches and schools throughout the country and all over the world. It is now less visible, but the importance of Hunt as a painter and the impact of his religious paintings are recognised again in a fascinating current exhibition of his works and those of his Pre-Raphaelite contemporaries. They will be on display at the City of Manchester Art Gallery, Moseley Street, Manchester, until 11th January 2009.

Hunt and his contemporaries sought to reintroduce the method and spirit of art before Raphael (1483-1520). Their works were detailed in their depiction of nature and remarkable for brilliance of colouring. Hunt was unusual amongst them as a committed evangelical Christian and his conversion actually occurred as he was working on "The Light of the World". The words of Christ in Revelation, Chapter III, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock", are the subject of the painting and the key to his conversion.

Although the three versions of "The Light of the World" are displayed, they do not reduce the impact of other paintings. Hunt made four long visits to Egypt and the Holy Land and the visits enabled him to experience imaginatively the world of Jesus and the world of the Old Testament. Another celebrated painting, "The Scapegoat", recalls the Jewish atonement in a desolate Dead Sea setting against the mountains of Moab and speaks prophetically of atonement through Jesus Christ.

There are paintings of "Sweet Nazareth of Galilee", as Hunt called it, of the Saviour in the Temple and of the Hireling Shepherd and the Strayed Sheep, which present nineteenth-century church leadership in a critical light. Secular subjects taken from



Shakespeare and legend, portraits and landscapes and scenes of daily life enrich the exhibition and raise awareness of the importance of the Pre-Raphaelites.

Explanations of the paintings and biographical detail are excellent, entry is free and, as readers probably know, there is a good café and a well-stocked book and gift shop - but don't forget that the City Art Gallery is closed on Mondays.

Charles Winder

Thank you, St Marys!

On Saturday the 20th Sept this year Daniel and I got married at St Mary's, Deane and had such an amazing day we felt it necessary to put pen to paper (or fingers to keys!?)

The day was a beautiful sunny day which did help but I have a big 'thank you' to a number of people:

- Dan - he conducted a fantastic and very meaningful service. Many family and friends commented on what a wonderful service it was.
- Ian - for the help with the build up to the day and with his general advice.
- Lisa - for playing us various different musical arrangements prior to the day in order to help us decide and then playing beautifully on the day - again this was commented on.
- Eric & team for the wonderful bell ringing
- Nola & Josie for the beautiful flowers in church
- The choir - our families are not renowned for their singing voices and their assistance was greatly appreciated!

It really was a day we will never forget and cherish forever.

Thank you St Marys!

Melanie & Daniel (Mr & Mrs. Fox!)

The Season of Advent

Advent is a term from the Latin word 'adventus' which means 'arrival'.

It is a time of waiting for the Arrival of Christmas, the coming of Jesus to earth when he was born as a baby at Bethlehem two thousand years ago.



What is Advent?

Advent is the New Year of the Christian Church and the church season which leads to Christmas day. It is the time when Christians remember that Jesus came into the world in Palestine 2000 years ago and that Jesus also promised one day to return in all His glory.

When does Advent begin?

It begins on the Sunday nearest to the 30th November (St Andrew's Day) and lasts until midnight on Christmas Eve. Advent Sunday is the first of four Sundays before the 25th December.

What happens during Advent?

During the season of Advent Christians across the world prepare for the celebration of the arrival of the Lord through the birth of his Son Jesus Christ. Advent is a time to celebrate light in the midst of darkness. It is also a time to look forward to when Jesus will come a second time.

History of Advent

In the 5th century Advent began on 11 November (St Martin's Day) and took the form a six week fast leading to Christmas. During the 6th century Advent was reduced to its current length and later the fasting was dropped. However, it would perhaps be a good preparation for the coming of Jesus to spend time reflecting on the past year and repenting of the ways in which we have fallen short of the calling we have to seek to line like Christ who came at this time. We can also thank God for the ways he has enabled us to grow in grace and love for him and for others.

The Oxen

by Thomas Hardy (1840-1928)

Hardy is probably best known these days for his novels, including 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles'. However he was also a fine poet, and it was poetry he returned to at the end of his long life. This short poem refers to a West Country belief about Christmas that he was told as a child. The tradition was that the cattle in the barton (cowshed) knelt at midnight on Christmas Eve, in memory of the Christ child's coming. The poem mirrors Hardy's own struggles with his Christian beliefs as an adult; finding it difficult to believe but also hoping his agnosticism was misguided.

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock.

`Now they are all on their knees,'
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen,
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet I feel,
If someone said on Christmas Eve,
'Come, see the oxen kneel

`In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know.'
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.

Stocking Fillers for Children and Teenagers

Suggestions from Angela Howard

Ten Girls/Boys Who Changed the World by Irene Howat - £4.99 from Wesley Owen. These books are for 8 - 11 year olds and form part of a series of books about famous women and men who did something exceptional. The book has a short chapter on each person, who's faith in God enabled them to do something special for Him. They are inspiring and informative.

King of Christmas CD/DVD by Colin Buchanan and available The Good Book Company (www.thegoodbook.co.uk) and costs £11.00 for the CD and £15 for the DVD. This CD (and DVD) have Biblical Christmas songs for children aged 4 - 10. They are great fun and loved by the Curate's children!

The Beginners Bible by Catherine Devries and available from Wesley Owen for £10.99 (rrp £11.99). This probably the best available Bible stories book for children aged 2-5.

Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name: This is currently available through Amazon.co.uk for an amazing £6.64 including delivery. Probably the best children's Bible that is available (age 4 - 8). It is fabulous and I think every house with children should have one. Parents, Grandparents and Godparents this is a 'must have' Christmas present for children.

Review from Rev Mark Meynell on Amazon - *We've been looking for something like this for ages. It is a beautiful bible that our kids love - great pictures and excellently told. But more than that - it conveys the sense of the bible's overarching narrative and tries to keep things in context. So, when Paul's conversion is covered, there's a page summarising some of the things he taught. Some great chapter headings (eg Daniel in the lion's den is called*

Daniel and the Scary Sleepover - you can't get much better than that). Awesome.

The New International Children's Bible, New Century Version, published by Authentic Media and available from Wesley Owen for £13.99 (normal price is £16.99). This Bible is written in language suitable for children aged 7 - 12. It is a complete Bible and great for children to use at home and to bring along with them to church.

The King, the Snake and the Promise CD by EMU Music and available from The Good Book Company currently for £10.00 (normally £12.00). The CD traces an overview of the Bible with songs for children aged 4 - 10. The songs are excellent! The CD is enhanced and provides 10 sessions of the Bible overview that parents can do with their children and sheet copies of music can be printed off the CD.

XTB Notes published by The Good Book Company for children aged 7 - 11. These are Bible study notes that are designed to help the reader get into the Bible daily for themselves. XTB is packed with puzzles, pictures, prayers and solid teaching points. Children are encouraged to understand, apply and pray through the Bible in an accessible and thought-provoking way. A year's subscription (quarterly notes that are undated) costs £16.00 or start with a copy of Christmas Unpacked, Easter Unscrambled or Summer Signposts for £3.50 (each of these has 21 days of study notes).

Discover Notes are published by The Good Book Company. Discover aims to build young lives firmly on the gospel and a knowledge of the Bible. It's jammed full of straightforward, no-nonsense explanation of God's Word. Bursting with puzzles, questions and top teaching to help the reader get stuck into the Bible. Cost is £12.00 for an annual subscription (produced quarterly) and these notes are aimed at 10 - 13 year olds. You can buy a back copy for £3.00 - a great way to check whether it is suitable.

Engage Bible notes published by The Good Book Company for teen-

agers. These notes have been written to help young people understand and apply the scriptures. They also seek to address relevant issues in teenagers' lives and provide a Bible reading resource that is engaging and long-lasting. Cost is £12.00 for an annual subscription.

Treasures of the Snow by Patricia St John costs £5.99 and is available from Wesley Owen. A powerful story of how a girl has to learn to forgive. The truth of the gospel is clearly outlined in the book as it is woven through the story. For all children aged 7 - 12.

Awesome on the Inside: "Image is everything" say the adverts - and we believe them. But God wants to do something amazing with each one of us. He wants to break through the shallowness of looks and image, and change us deep down - in our hearts. He wants us to grow to our full potential by making us 'Awesome on the Inside.'. This is a super book for teenagers and costs £7.00 from the Good Book Company.

Remember the Lord: What do you get if you cross an activity book, a picture book and a songbook with a book of biblical devotions for families...? You get *Remember the Lord!* Colin Buchanan has put his pen to work to create this uniquely colourful and chaotic collection based on truths from 14 of his children's Christian songs. Join Colin on an adventure to discover more about God, His Word, His works and how we can place our trust in Jesus...no matter what! The included bonus CD features Colin reading sections of the book as well as five of his most popular songs. Costs £9.00 and is available from the Good Book Company.

The Good Book Company has a smaller range of books than most on-line websites, but they stock some of the best available resources for children and young people. It is easy to order over the phone 020 8942 0880 or via their webpage. Wesley Owen will also order their books if you would prefer to go into a shop. If you would like any help either ordering or selecting an appropriate book or CD, please ring Angela Howard on 01204 855112.

Bible Reading Notes

A new year approaching—an opportunity to get down to looking at God's word on a regular basis. Here are just a few suggestions. They can all be ordered or browsed at Wesley-Owen on Deansgate, opposite the GPO. Some give notes for all the year, some for a few months at a time. There's something for everyone!

SCRIPTURE UNION

[Daily Bread](#)

Practical help from the Bible - daily Bible reading guide. Daily Bread is also available in large print, and as an electronic download.

[Closer to God](#)

A creative and reflective approach to daily Bible reading

[Encounter with God](#)

Encounter with God is a daily Bible guide designed for readers who want a thoughtful, in-depth approach to systematic Bible reading.

[SUBmerge](#) and [Snapshots](#)

For 11-14 and 8-10 year olds respectively.

[Bible Max: Journeys with God](#)

A flexible, undated Bible resource aiming to help people read big 'chunks' of the Bible in time set apart with God. This book features starting points to help readers understand, then reflect on and respond to what they are hearing through the Bible readings and there is also space for personal journaling throughout the book.

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE READING ASSOCIATION

A year in one volume, part or all of the day's Bible passage included - **Light for our Path.**

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

[New Daylight](#) is for those looking for a devotional approach to reading and understanding the Bible. Each daily reading includes the Bible passage, a comment from the contributor and a prayer or reflection.

[Guidelines](#) is for people wanting more serious and challenging study. It contains continuous commentary on passages from the Bible, with introductions and background information, arranged in weekly units.

[Day by Day with God](#)—daily Bible readings, comments and prayers from a regular team of women writers.

A second century writer reflects on the person of Jesus

This letter, written to a man named Diognetus in the second century AD, explains that the one who was sent by God to earth was not an angel or servant or prince, but the being through whom all creation was created. The gospel of John begins with a similar reflection.

The Almighty himself, Creator of the universe, the God whom no eye can discern, has sent down from heaven his very own Truth, his holy Word, to be planted in the heart of the human race.

To do this, one might have imagined he would send some servant, some angel, some prince. But no. He has sent the very Artificer and Constructor of the universe, through whom the heavens were made, and the seas set within their bounds, whose word is obeyed by the very elements of creation, who assigns the sun the limits of its course by day, and commands the moon to unveil its beams by night, and orders the obedient stars to circle the heavens.

He is the Ordainer, Disposer and ruler of all things, of all that is in heaven and earth, of all the seas and all that they contain, of fire, and air, and the deep, of all that is above and below and in between. Such is the messenger God sent to the human race.

One might have imagined that his coming would be in power, terror and awesomeness. But no. His coming was in gentleness and humility. God sent him as a king might send his own son, and he came among us as a fellow human being. For God would save us by persuasion, not by compulsion, (there is no compulsion to be found in God) and he sent him not to judge, but out of love.

Anonymous epistle to Diognetus (second century), translated by H J Richards

Getting started in Family History: CHURCH RECORDS

Parish records of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials may exist as far back as 1538, and they are the prime source for family historians prior to civil registration. That said, many will have gaps because of loss of books, mould and church mice as well as vestry fires, and all tend to have problems around the time of the Civil War in the mid 1600s. Although most have been microfilmed, the quality varies, and some handwriting, particularly the early records with the old italic script are difficult to read. It is best to approach them slowly, little by little since, like early wills, you may well find them easier after a time. My advice would be to start with the easier later records and work backwards.

Most parish records are deposited with county record offices, where you can view them, although good local libraries will also keep copies of more local ones; Deane's, for example, beautifully hand written, are available in Bolton Library, divided by year and type of ceremony.

By looking on the web on the family search website run by the Mormon Church you will find many useful birth and marriage records, freely available, and search them by surname and parish. My understanding is that the Mormon Church believes in retrospective baptism of any member's ancestors, thus encouraging genealogy amongst its flock, the archiving of church records from all over the world in Utah, and the creation of a number of special centres where anyone can visit to study genealogical records (one exists in Chorley in the grounds of their Temple complex). Although many faiths may be uncomfortable with this connection, it is undoubtedly true that the Mormon Church saved large numbers of records from being lost or destroyed and its site with over 80 million baptisms and marriages is probably the most useful single genealogical site on the web.

This month's profile

BECCY RUTTER

Beccy (Elizabeth Jane) Rutter born on 30th November 1979 is a true daughter of Deane. She attended our Church Primary School followed by Deane School, now Ladybridge High School. In the meantime, she made her way through Climbers, Explorers and Pathfinders. During this time she has lived in the area close to many of her relatives. Until recently Beccy lived with her mother, but now she has joined the ranks of property owners.



Beccy works for a regional organisation as a Town Planner. Her job, as a result of talking to a cross section of the public, is to help to determine how the North West should develop over the next 15 to 20 years with regard to housing - how many affordable houses should be built, and the location of those houses, so that people should have access to all the amenities they need.

As far as leisure is concerned, Beccy enjoys holidays. She has travelled extensively but her favourite destination to date is Switzerland where she had a memorable holiday in spite of unusually high temperatures and a broken arm! She is not very demanding as far as her favourite meal is concerned, preferring sausages and mash to anything else more exotic.

Beccy is not a great cinemagoer but she does appreciate the Wallace and Gromit films mainly because of the amount of patience and effort that has gone into their production.

Beccy does, however, spend time reading. Her favourite non-Christian book is "Birdsong" by Simon Faulks. This is a novel set at

the time of the 1914-1918 War, which Beccy found gripping and difficult to put down before reaching the end. There are two Christian books that Beccy would recommend. The first is "If you want to walk on water you have to get out of the boat". This is a challenging book, based on Peter walking on water towards Jesus. It causes the reader to examine the way life is lived. The second book is "In His Steps" by Charles M Sheldon. Although this book is actually a serialised sermon, it challenges the reader to determine what it means to follow in Jesus' footsteps and the difference that could make in our everyday lives.

Beccy is in her second year as Churchwarden, which involves many duties including sitting on the PCC and the Standing Committee. She is also Music Co-ordinator, which means that she co-ordinates the music for our Sunday services, and special events, working with the Clergy and leaders and with Lisa Atherton the Organist, the musicians and singers.

Beccy's vision for St Mary's Deane is to see us grow numerically, but more importantly, spiritually. She believes that this will only happen if we individually, and as a family, learn to trust God implicitly every day. This may involve taking risks, but our fears ought to be allayed if we believe, as every Christian should, that God is in control. If we can step out in faith as a Church, then Beccy thinks that we will really see God at work, an exciting prospect!

Holy Land visit cont However the most moving visit of the day was to the Yad Vashem museum which commemorates the Holocaust. Here nothing was quite as it seemed; a simple avenue of trees was for example a memorial to people who had risked their lives to help Jews, giving their names and countries. Most moving of all was the memorial to 2 million lost Jewish children that pronounces their names and ages in candle lit darkness but as there are so many takes 8 months to recite them all. We returned early to our hotel as the Jewish Sabbath was starting at sun down and we all had to pack for the journey to Tiberius on the Sea of Galilee on the next day. **TBC**

CHURCH TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

November 2008

In the early hours of Tuesday, November 11th two minibuses collected sixteen Deane and St Andrew's church members to catch an early morning flight to Tel Aviv and begin our week's adventure in the Holy Land. We touched down around 6.30 pm, some three hours after a similar sized party from Moulton, which we were joining. Our hotel in Jerusalem, the Prima Royale, welcomed us with a late meal, and we were soon resting, ready for the next day's full programme. We had already met our friendly and knowledgeable guide, Ofer, and his equally friendly driver.

Most days started early, around 6.30, with a wake up call, 7 a.m. breakfast and 8 a.m. on the coach and ended with a meeting (in Jerusalem this took place in the hotel's Synagogue).

The first day in Jerusalem involved a visit to Bethlehem and the Shepherds' fields, which meant crossing into Palestinian Territory via the Wall and exchanging guides and buses. The 'little town' had become a sprawling and dusty metropolis with long, sometimes bad-tempered queues to see the birth place itself. However we were all impressed with the Shepherds' Fields church and gardens, with its simple beauty and attractive fountain. I was not aware that apparently the same fields that heard the angels' call, also sheltered the romance of Ruth and Boaz, thus linking the Old and New Testaments.



We returned to our Israeli guide and driver to visit the Mount of Olives with a breathtaking view of Old Jerusalem, and to walk the steep hill Jesus travelled on a donkey on Palm Sunday. The view from Dominus Flevit, the tear drop shaped church, was particularly

moving. We finished the walk in the rather small Garden of Gethsemane with its ancient olive trees.

Thursday was centred entirely around the old city of Jerusalem. We entered by the Rubbish Gate (!) and were thoroughly checked here and before entering the Dome of the Rock by security.

After

watching for a moment we separated into men and women and moved to the sections of the Wailing (or Western) Wall to pray. Many praying pushed small pieces of paper into cracks in the Wall with special prayers on them. This is the oldest part of the city and Wall, and nearest to the Foundation Stone on which Abraham was asked to sacrifice Isaac- which is now covered by the mosque of the Dome of the Rock, so that Jews may not visit it. Entering the courtyard of the Dome involved further security, but the views from the courtyard and gardens of the golden dome itself and the Mount of Olives were well worth it.

Our walk continued at the lovely, simple crusader church of St Anne, next to the ruins of the pool of Bethesda, where Jesus healed a paralysed man. Here, as elsewhere, a different member of the party would take time to read the appropriate biblical passage. We then followed the Via Dolorosa through bazaars and narrow passageways, with its many stations, to the crowded Church of the Holy Sepulchre. This world heritage site is covered in ornate frescos and icons and is believed to mark the place of the crucifixion and the tomb where Christ was laid.

The last visit of the day was to the Garden Tomb site, run by an ecumenical order. Their guide pointed out a possible Place of the Skull, and a tomb and situation that more nearly fitted the biblical accounts. We were able to take Communion here as a group, and all found the place tranquil and impressive.

Friday took us outside the city to the more peaceful local countryside. In a lovely village we found the church of the Visitation which commemorates Mary's visit to Elizabeth, with wonderful angelic frescoes. We also visited Emmaus. **(back one page)**

A Typical Month in the Life of - an OLM

By December it will be six months since I was ordained deacon in Manchester Cathedral and I am now beginning to see some kind of routine to my ministry!

On Sundays you will always find me at both the 9am and 10.30am services and sometimes at the 6pm too. I preach at least once a month at the two morning services and about once a quarter in the evening. I lead the 9am service quite often up to the offertory and sometimes lead a 10.30am service as well.

Monday mornings start with a clergy prayer meeting. John Armstrong and Julia Davies join the St Mary's team for this. We read Morning Prayer, praying for people, events and situations in the parish. A short meeting follows when we catch up with what needs to be done and when. Monday morning too is when I often have an official training meeting with Ian as my training incumbent.

On the first Monday afternoon of the month Ian and Dan take communion to Bakewells and Lyngate. At present I go along with them so that when, God willing, I am ordained priest next June, I will be able to do this by myself. This is generally the day when we also take communion to the housebound.

Tuesday evenings will usually find me at one meeting or another. I belong to a house group and on alternate Tuesday's the Ladies Guild meet. But I sometimes have to miss both as the diocese organizes compulsory training evenings for new deacons which take place at Church House in Manchester on Tuesday nights. Occasionally there are training sessions on Saturdays too. Every eight weeks there is a tutorial meeting for all new deacons. Celia McCulloch, Bishop Nigel's wife, is in the same tutorial group as I am.

On average once a week there will be a funeral in church or at Overdale for someone who lived in the parish. Before the funeral the family has to be visited and the service arranged. At present I am

learning how to lead a funeral, but soon I will be doing them by myself! After Christmas, and a few lessons on how not to drop the baby in the font, I will be able to conduct baptisms too.

All members of the clergy are automatically on the PCC and members of the deanery synod. I also belong to the deanery Chapter. This sounds mysterious but consists of all the clergy in the Deanery of Deane. I am a member of the Witness Committee and the Magazine Committee both of which meet every six weeks or so. There is an OLM support group too. Some weeks I may have no meetings at all, another week I may be at three or four or more.

There are a number of other activities which I get involved in on a more ad hoc basis. I sometimes lead assemblies at St Mary's CE School when Ian is not available. I occasionally do hospital visiting. When Deane Church Shop opens I hope to be able to be in the shop from time to time to support those working and shopping there. I am trying to teach myself Hebrew and Dan has offered to help me with this. I now have more sympathy with pupils who struggled with Latin! As you can see, it is a busy, but very rewarding and inspiring life. And I have not mentioned sermon preparation at all! Sermons do not write themselves! They can take several hours over a number of days.

The big date for 2009 will be Saturday June 27th, the day when, God willing, I will be ordained priest. After that I will be able to preside at communion and officiate at weddings.... but all of that is as yet in the future.

I continue to be grateful to all the church family for your ongoing prayers and support. Prayer is a non-negotiable part of the Christian life, and we neglect it literally at our peril.

Elizabeth

Note from the Editor

Thank you for your patience with me during the recent illness of my Father. And thank you for all your prayers during what proved to be his final illness.

The deadline for the January magazine is Friday December 12th and copy may be sent or given to Anne Roberts.

anne-roberts@talktalk.net Tel:01204 849468

Notice Board

CHRISTMAS BINGO –

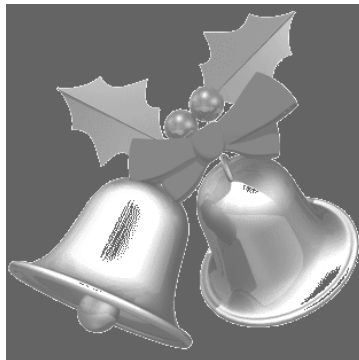
Saturday 6th December 6.30 – 8.30

Pie and peas supper

(Bring your own drinks and glasses)

Adult £3, child £1.50, Family ticket (2 adults, 2 children) £8.00

Please help by making donations of Selection Boxes for the prizes.



Ladies Guild

Dec^{9th}

Carols and readings

**If you would like to learn
to ring the Bells, please
speak to**

**Ken Higson or
Eric Morgan.**

World Aids Day

Dec ember 1st i

Please pray for those suffering,
and those looking after them.

**Our charity shop
The Deane Church Shop
is almost ready to open.**

**The official opening is on 1st December.
For further details contact Michelle on
01204 660081**

The ladies of the Handicraft Group

would like to thank all who supported the recent coffee morning,
and are pleased to tell you that we are able to add a further £550
to the new hall fund.

CHRISTMAS AT DEANE



Youth Christmas Worship



Friday 19th December
7:15pm – 9:15pm
Deane Memorial Hall
For more information speak
to Karen Greenhalgh on
01204 654737

CHRISTMAS SING

COME AND SING CONCERT WITH SMS
SINGERS

SATURDAY 20th DECEMBER

7:30PM

DEANE CHURCH

FOR MORE INFORMATION SPEAK
TO BECCY RUTTER ON 01204
654737



SING
IN
PLEASURE

Family Nativity



Sunday 21st December
10:30am
Deane Church

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 21st December
6:00pm

Deane Church

If you'd like to sing speak
to Beccy Rutter on 01204
654737



Deane Parish Church
St Mary the Virgin

S t M a r y's D i r e c t o r y

Team Rector	Ian Mainey	01204 61819
Team Vicar	John Armstrong	01204 651851
Curate	Dan Howard	01204 855112
OLM	Elizabeth Plant	01204 63730
Retired Clergy	Joyce Mitson	01204 655081
Readers	David Dewhurst	01204 651347
	Nola Kilsby	01204 665700
Wardens	Les Kilsby	01204 665700
	Craig Mochrie	01204 652324
	Beccy Rutter	01204 654737

PCC

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

PCC Sub-Committee Chairs

Nurture	Charles Winder	01204 841947
Service	Edna Barlow	01942 817434
Witness	Dan Howard	01204 855112
Worship	Beccy Rutter	01204 654737

Other Responsibilities

Flowers	Josie Crompton	01204 655964
Gift Aid Sec	Les Kilsby	01204 665700
Handicraft Group	Dorothy Benyon	01204 417794
Ladies' Guild	Brenda Dixon	01204 653333
	Pat Sewell	01204 61278
Magazine Editor	Anne Roberts	01024 849468
Memorial Hall Bookings	Elizabeth Tidmarsh	01204 652184
Memorial Hall Caretaker		
Music Group	Beccy Rutter	01204 654737
Organist	Lisa Atherton	01204 840741
Parent/Toddler Group	Jean Mainey	01204 61819
Verger	Josie Crompton	01204 655964

Sunday Schools

Climbers (3-7)	Lynda Smith	01204 62093
Explorers (7-11)	Paula Small	01204 650981
Pathfinders 7-9	Angela Howard	01204 855112
CYFA (10-13)	Dan Howard	01204 855112

Youth Groups

Voltage/Element	Karen Greenhalgh	01204 654737
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Uniformed Organisations

Rainbows	Margaret Latchford	01204 657101
Brownies	Anne Calderbank	01204 398206
	Liz Valentine	01024 651692

Guides Carole Baxendale 01204 419167

Please tell Anne Roberts of any error or omissions.