

Deane St Mary's

February 2009

The Judean
desert
where
Jesus was
tempted.



Welcome to the February edition of the magazine.

In Lent we are encouraged to think of Jesus as he spent in the trackless wilderness. The Rector encourages us to find God's road map for our lives as they are not trackless wildernesses though they may feel like that at times!

We've seasonal thoughts on Ash Wednesday and two saints remembered this month and Dan is our profile subject!

We read of how one Deane church member came to be baptised in the River Jordan and of how through the prayers and action of another church member we came to have the connection with St Stephen's Embu.

We're encouraged to get walking and to think about the Parish Weekend in Conway when you could also go walking among other things. Let's hope that Spring is in the air before the end of the month!

We hear how wills can give us some clues about our family history.

St Mary's Info: February 2009

	9.00	10.30	6.00
February 1	Holy Communion	Family Parade	Holy Communion
	Mark 1:21—28 1 Cor 8:1—13		
February 8	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Service
	Mark 1:29—39 1 Cor 9:16—23		
February 15	Holy Communion	Family Baptism	Evening Service
	Mark 1:40-45 1 Cor 9:24—27		
February 22	Holy Communion	Service of the Word	Evening Service
	Mark 9:2—9 2 Cor4:3—6		

February 25 7.30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

With Valentine's Day and Love in mind:

Love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking together in the same direction. Antoine De Saint-Exupery

It is astonishing how little one feels poverty when he loves.

Bulwer

Men should keep their eyes wide open before marriage, and half shut afterward. Madame Scuderi

The Christian is supposed to love his neighbour, and since his wife is his nearest neighbour, she should be his deepest love.

Martin Luther

One of the best legacies a father can leave his children is to love their mother.

C Neil Strait

The Rector Writes

What is the road map?

It's interesting isn't it how phrases can work their way into common parlance. Let me give you an example. As I write this I have my radio on in the background because the one o'clock news is being broadcast on Radio 4 (and I like listening to the one o'clock news on Radio 4). At the moment the presenter is interviewing Tony Blair about the Middle East situation and particularly about the problems between Israel and the Palestinian state in Gaza. Tony Blair is at this very moment talking about getting the 'Middle East road map' back on the agenda.



'Road map'. I'm afraid that even just a few years back if somebody had mentioned road map to me I would immediately have thought of the rather large Phillips road map atlas which resides on the back seat of my car (3 miles to the inch! - very thick and very heavy). I would be thinking that someone was going on a journey by car and that they wanted to check how to get there. But of course the term 'road map' has taken on a different significance. Now when people speak about road maps they are more likely to be talking about strategies, about how you move from one situation to another.

Now it seems to me that God also has a road map, and he calls upon us to stick to it. I think that God's road map can be found in Proverbs 3:5-6,

"Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track."

(The Message).

This is one of my favourite passages in the Book of Proverbs because it so clearly tells me where the direction that I need for everyday life comes from.

Those words "He will direct your paths" (or, in the translation above, "keep you on track") are among the most comforting and the most empowering of all the phrases in the Bible. Why? Because I believe that most Christian folk have a deep seated and genuine desire to know God's direction. We want to know the path that God wants us to walk on. This verse stands as God's promise that instead of just having to guess at the direction God wants us to take we can confidently know it. And one of the most practical of ways that I can trust the Lord for showing me the way, instead of relying on my own understanding, is by allowing the Bible to become the checkpoint for all my decisions.

I've found again and again that when facing important decisions the best thing is to pray like this, "God, show me the right way by your truth in the Bible." And time and again I find that God does show me the way. In fact sometimes it's quite remarkable for it can be in my normal Bible reading for that day that some teaching or word of advice leaps out of the passage and points me in the right direction (by the way that's one of the reasons why having a daily pattern of reading the Bible is such an important thing).

Sometimes of course the answer might not be what we expect - that happens more often than not! But I can guarantee that we will never regret listening for, and then trusting in, God's direction.

What we need to realise is that God *wants* to lead and direct us. He wants to show us the way. Next time you face a decision, include God in the decision making process. Ask him to show you from his Word what you should do, what God's road map for you is, and then open your Bible. Tell God you don't want to be like the Lone Ranger. Tell him instead that you want to be directed by him, and ask him to make his paths clear.



Ash Wednesday

Lent begins On February 25th with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament. In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin.

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today some Anglican churches have revived the practice and a cross of ash is put on the forehead at one of the day's services. The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes.



The Collect for Ash Wednesday goes back to the Prayer Book, and stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

You'll find Caedmon's hymn and the collect for Ash Wednesday on a later page.

Two February Saints

February 11th Caedmon (d 680AD)

Caedmon should be the patron saint of all farmers who enjoy humming to themselves as they do the lambing this Spring. For Caedmon of Whitby was a bit like David in the Bible - he grew up as a simple herdsman out on the hills who enjoyed composing songs and poetry for himself while watching his flocks.

Like David, Caedmon also had a keen awareness of God, and used his creative gift to express his devotion and love for his Creator. When his poems and songs became known to others, they liked them so much that soon Caedmon left his sheep in order to become a monk. This gave him time to compose many poems based on the stories in the Bible: from Creation and Genesis, to the Exodus and entry of the Jews into the promised land, to the birth, passion and resurrection of Christ, and finally to the future Last Judgement, Heaven, and Hell.

Then one day Caedmon suddenly announced that he knew he was going to die soon. And so he did, in a state of charity and peace with everyone.

There was great mourning.

Sadly, only nine lines of his poetry have survived, and we have the great historian, Bede, to thank for even that much.

But in his time, Caedmon's gift of telling Christian stories in the vernacular must have been of great value in evangelising the common folk.



This is an image of the 'Song of Caedmon' in Celtic style, by Alison Barker.

February 23rd Polycarp c. 69 - c.155

Polycarp was one of the most important Christians in Roman Asia in the mid-2nd century, because of his link between the time of the Apostles and the earliest Christian Fathers. This disciple of John the Apostle became bishop of Smyrna and defended orthodox Christian belief against the heresies of Marcion and Valentinus.

Near the end of his long life, Polycarp paid a visit to Rome to discuss with the bishop there the possibility of agreeing a uniform date of celebrating Easter. When they found they could not agree, they amicably agreed to differ, and parted in good faith.

Polycarp returned to Smyrna, where a riot broke out at a pagan festival. The crowd suddenly turned on the Christians, whom they called 'atheists'. Polycarp was on a farm nearby, neither provoking nor fleeing martyrdom. When his captors arrived, he invited them to eat a meal, while he prayed alone for an hour. Then calmly, he agreed to go with them to his interrogation.

All the pagans' threats and promises did nothing to shake Polycarp. When ordered to execrate Christ, Polycarp gave this dignified reply: "For 86 years I have been his servant and He has never done me wrong; how can I blaspheme my king who saved me? I am a Christian: if you wish to study the Christian doctrine, choose a day and you will hear it." The crowd were outraged, and cried first for the lions and then for Polycarp to be burnt at the stake. He was bound, but an official killed him with his sword before his body was burnt. Later, grieving Christians collected his bones and buried them. They also wrote an account of his trial and martyrdom, which is the earliest authentic example of its kind.

O God, the maker of heaven and earth, who gave to your Venerable servant, the holy and gentle Polycarp, boldness to confess Jesus Christ as King and Saviour, and steadfastness to die for his faith: Give us grace, following his example, to share the cup of Christ and rise to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Baptised in the Jordan

When Pauline Vickers, a member of our nine o'clock congregation, was confirmed in 2005 the Bishop of Manchester remarked, in his address, on the circumstances of her baptism in the River Jordan. In 1985 Pauline was working on a cruise ship, visiting the Holy Land. Wanting to take part in expeditions, she felt drawn to the Jordan and, when she arrived, found that an American group was conducting baptisms. She asked to be included and was welcomed.



Pauline has been aware of guidance from childhood. At infant school she was given a Bible by the headteacher to hand to her bereaved grandmother; a passenger at sea gave her a New Testament; opening a Christian gifts stall on Bolton market, she was encouraged by another stall holder to commit herself to a church. First it was St Bartholomew's, Westhoughton, and now St Mary's, Deane.

A varied life has been the setting for her growing Christian faith. As a teenager Pauline, along with her best friend, Gail, worked in hotels in Babbacombe, Stratford-upon-Avon and Guernsey and is grateful for the help and training she received. The experience was necessary to support her application for employment in the Merchant Navy. For many years she worked in various roles on board ships, beginning in the restaurant, going on to cabins and shops on board the ferries, then on to cruise ships as a public room stewardess in the bars. Eventually she became an entertainments officer responsible for some of the activities. She enjoyed contact with a wide variety of people and travelled the world. After the Holy Land she remembers with most

pleasure the exotic seascapes and landscapes of Hawaii and the white wilderness of Alaska. In such a career crises occur. Amongst these she numbers being aground in New York Harbour, keeping watch for survivors after the *European Gateway* sank and, whilst away at sea, hearing about the disaster which overtook the *Herald of Free Enterprise*.

After the deaths of her parents, Pauline found a new life on shore. Virgin trains and Manchester Airport were followed by two years as a debt counsellor in Chorley. She firmly believes in the work that the charity, Christians against Poverty, is doing, not only in helping people to get their lives back on track again, during distressing financial times but enabling many to find God in their lives. Her experience in retail enabled her to run a Christian gift stall at Botany Bay in Chorley, and on Bolton Market. Now she combines part-time administration at the Lyngate Care Home with a website business, Faith for Light Gifts, www.faithforlightgifts.co.uk, which she runs with her husband, Malcolm, an ex-soldier and now caretaker part-time at the United Reformed Church, St George's Road. Even though her best friend now lives in Nottingham, they continue to support each other in their journey in the Christian faith.

It was fascinating to hear the record of Pauline's life, after she made an incidental remark about her baptism; the richness of her relationships with many people is impressive as is her knowledge of God's constant presence.

YOUR TURN!

We'd still love to hear from you if you have any magazine worthy news, hobby, community involvement, favourite poem or hymn. Contributions to anne-roberts@talktalk.net, brown basket on table at back of church, Charles Winder, Barbara Winder, Margaret Howard, Elizabeth Plant. Deadline for MARCH MAGAZINE is February 27th (March magazine will be out on March 1st)

BOOKS 4 U

"Rowan's Rule"

Rupert Short

This recent biography of the Archbishop of Canterbury emphasises his unusual distinction as a scholar, his versatility as a writer of prose and poetry, his subtlety of reasoning and the radiance of personality of which many who come close to him are aware. Rupert Short balances against these attributes the Archbishop's uncertain management of recent crises in the Anglican Communion and his failure to anticipate the effect of particular public pronouncements, for example on the relationship between national law and local custom.

He assumed his great office after occupying the Regius Chair of Divinity at Oxford University, the bishopric of Monmouth and the archbishopric of Wales. It was a difficult and turbulent time to move to Canterbury as divisions within the Church over fitness for ordination and the appointment of bishops were beginning to seem unbridgeable. Despite these problems and the dissension they continue to create, Rowan Williams has won respect across the Communion, though some leaders of some national churches remain suspicious and hostile.

The biographer, a journalist who has specialised in religious affairs, finds Dr Williams a fascinating subject and presents in detail his range of interest and depth of concern. One of the many tributes he quotes was offered recently at Oxford during the ceremony to confer a Doctorate in Civil Law: "We are indeed fortunate that at a time when the Church faces difficult challenges, we have a guide and governor who exhibits so many and various virtues". Against this, in what is a full and balanced biography, reservations and uncertainties are expressed. The text is accompanied by photographs which take the reader from childhood to maturity.

Should a Christian go to war?

Billy Graham

The American evangelist Billy Graham was on a friendly footing with several American presidents, both Republican and Democrat. This article comes from his past writings

War is one of the consequences of living in a fallen world in which sinful men and women are unable to settle differences between each other by peaceful means.

I believe there are just wars. World War Two, for example, came about when a tyrant sought to take over the world while at the same time eradicating an entire race of people. Only war put a stop to his bloodshed and enslavement of others.

We must accept our responsibility as citizens. A man may protest against war and criticise his government for becoming involved in war, but as a citizen accepting the privileges and benefits of his government, he must also accept certain responsibilities. If we are in entire disagreement with our government, we can always elect to take our citizenship elsewhere.

John the Baptist said one time, when soldiers inquired of him concerning their duty: "Extort from no man by violence, neither accuse any one wrongfully; and be content with your wages." But he did not tell them that they must cease being soldiers.

A Christian would find it hard to be a loyal citizen in a nation that promoted warfare. We can thank God that we are part of a nation that first seeks to solve problems by peaceful means.

From Answers to Life's Problems by Billy Graham, W Publishing Group.

EMBU

An interview with Sheila Dewhurst-Taylor

Sheila has been the inspiration behind St Mary's support of the St Stephen's project in Embu in Kenya which provides shelter and education for local street children.

Pat Sewell interviewed Sheila for this article.

Question: How long has the project been in existence?

Answer: It started over 26 years ago, long before the present centre at St Stephen's opened. It began with a daily soup kitchen for the children who lived on the streets who were literally starving. This was begun by the church which had been founded by Canon Johnson Maringa.

Q: How did you, Sheila, get involved?

A: I met Johnson when he visited Bolton over 24 years ago. After his visit we kept in touch and he kept on inviting us to visit his family. It was several years before we made our first visit. We have now been to Embu three times. On our first visit we shadowed Johnson on his visits to families in the slums and in the bush. We also helped at the soup kitchen. We visited St Stephen's which was then very basic, just a gated area where former street children could live safely. There was a small dormitory for 25 boys. The four girls shared a bunk bed in the food store.

Q: How do children end up on the streets?

A: Some are orphans; AIDS is very common. Some are forced on the streets because of poverty. Sometimes mothers, whose husbands have died or left home, are forced into prostitution. Some children run away from home because of abuse, though they are likely to] suffer more abuse on the streets. It was seeing so much pain and suffering by children (as young as five) living on the streets that gave me a burning desire to do something. The gated area that Johnson had begun was a start, but it was all very basic and it had no financial support outside Embu itself. I spent a great deal of time in prayer asking God for guidance. I challenged myself by saying that if,

after a full twelve months of prayer, I still had a burning desire to help, I would be sure that God was telling me to do something! Twelve months on the burning desire was still within me. I spoke with Roger Jackson who was very supportive and encouraged me to tell the church family what I had seen and how I felt. Speaking in church does not come easily to me, but I was overwhelmed by the support I received especially from the late Joyce Sutcliffe who died 10 years ago.

Q: How has St Mary's supported St Stephen's over the years?

A: You have sent several thousand pounds which have helped develop what was the simple gated area into a children's home. Your money has helped build workshops, bought livestock, tools and a cooker. It has provided education and training, water storage facilities, a bore-hole and a well. It has paid for a part time nurse. Two children were fully sponsored for a year. Money has also paid for special activities and outings and other projects too numerous to mention. Last November £500 was sent to buy new power tools to cut wood.

Q: How does St Stephen's now help the children?

A: It provides 'family' support for children who have no homes of their own. It works to re-unite street children with their families. It provides education from pre-school onwards. It teaches skills in, for example, woodwork, metalwork and farming which will enable youngsters to earn a living. It provides healthcare and much more.

Q: How has St Stephen's developed over the years?

A: It has changed enormously since the days of the soup kitchen. The buildings have grown in size and quality. The sleeping accommodation is now good. All the children go to school. Some have lived at St Stephen's for so long that they have completed their education and now offer their skills to the project. Most of the food they need is home-produced.

Q: Is there anything you want to say as we end the interview?

A: A big thank you to everyone for your financial donations over the years and especially for your prayer support. Keep up the good work!

A BIG THANK YOU TO SHEILA FOR ALL SHE HAS DONE AND CONTINUES TO DO FOR THE STREET CHILDREN OF EMBU.

This month's profile

Dan Howard

Thank you for inviting me to write a profile. To begin at the beginning, I was born in London and lived there for all of 12 months before my parents moved to West Kirby on the Wirral. So, I'm no stranger to the North, although it's true that I only got my Lancashire passport because of my wife, Angela, who comes from Over Hulton. As it happens, both of us have moved around a lot over the years, so it's remarkable that we ever met in the first place! It was when I left university, without much of a clue what I wanted to do in life, that I ended up in Cambridge working for an engineering company. I was in their Personnel Department which meant I got to know a lot of the staff, and there was a particularly attractive engineer called Angela Woods working just downstairs. That is, when she was in the UK, as they kept sending people overseas. And she was at the same church as well, St Andrew the Great... and one thing led to another... and here we are, married for 12 years now, with two daughters who are at primary school, Abigail and Bethia.

This present stage of life is full of change. In 2004, I left my job in Human Resources to pursue a new calling, being convinced that God was leading me into full-time ministry. So, we moved to London for full-time college training at Oak Hill, and then arrived in Deane Parish in July 2006 to begin a Curacy. In Manchester Diocese, Curates are given up to three years before finding a post as Vicar or similar, somewhere else... which means that, just when we feel we're settling here, we have to move on again this summer! As a result of these changes, it has helped our faith, in the sense that when life is uncertain, and you don't even know where you will live or your children will go to school, then you find that you can completely trust in God in any situation. He certainly knows what's around the corner, even if we don't.

Now, for some of the things I like in life. I've been excited to take up a few hobbies recently: I've joined a badminton club on Friday nights, not having played much since school days; Angela bought me a Ferrari for Christmas, so I'm enjoying assembling it from a hundred small, plastic parts; also, we have got a new camera, which is a digital SLR, and we're starting to learn how to take good shots.

One thing I do a lot of is reading... now there's a surprise! I've just finished "Dark Fire" which is a historical murder mystery by C.J. Sansom - great stuff. I always have a dozen books on the go; another good one is "Case for a Creator" by Lee Strobel and I'd recommend this if you're at all interested in science.

Finally, my hopes and dreams for Deane church... well, it would be great to have the church fill up at the monthly prayer meeting (1st Wednesday of the month!), and when that starts happening, I think there's massive potential for growth. The Gospel is the most exciting thing we can pass on to people, and we're in a great position to reach Deane parish and beyond...

This month we remember the birth of

Charles Darwin

God is the true origin of species. Don Garlington

If the universe reveals its order to us through rational science, it is because the universe is so ordered by the Author of reason. G Roche
No philosophical theory which I have yet come across is a radical improvement on the words of Genesis, that 'in the beginning God made heaven and earth.' C S Lewis

Modern evolutionary secularism provides no foundation for valuing human life. R C Sproul

Agree or disagree with any of these statements, how well informed are we when folk challenge our Christian beliefs on scientific grounds? It is not a subject that will go away just because we ignore it. Where do you stand? Are you worried by the whole subject?

RECIPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL PARISH WEEKEND

Ingredients

The fellowship of Travelling Parishioners

Two talks by speaker unknown at present

Morning quiet times together

A Communion Service

A comfortable venue—Beechwood Court, Conway

Views of the Welsh coast

Good food

Beautiful grounds, play area, tennis court, walks from the gate...

Afternoon walks

DIY Concert Party

Method

Take a group of parishioners and transport them to Conway.

Install them for the weekend at Beechwood Court—a beautiful house and grounds on the slopes of Conway Mountain with views across Deganwy, Llandudno's Great Orme and Anglesey.

Mix in two excellent talks in the context of morning worship and a good helping of lively music.

Enjoy numerous delicious meals lovingly prepared by John and the excellent staff of Beechwood Court.

Walk off the calories in the free time on Saturday afternoon or visit beautiful Bodnant Gardens and of course there's always the shop to visit in Conway and Llandudno.

Be amazed at the talents displayed in the Saturday Evening Entertainment!

Share in the Sunday morning Communion Service.

Sadly, leave on Sunday afternoon—after an all too short but happy weekend spent with friends who are our church family.

DATES: 15TH TO 17TH May 2009

Bookings forms and details with costs are on the list at the back of church

And finally.. so that everyone can come who would like to, if those who can do so could donate a little extra it would be very much appreciated. Also, if you could offer transport that would be extremely helpful.



**DO COME—YOU WILL ENJOY YOURSELF—
IT'S JUST A GREAT WEEKEND!**

COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Almighty and everlasting God,
You hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

**For those looking to be inspired in the renewal of those
New Year Resolutions, here is a suggestion!
(Another will appear next month to keep you going!)**

A short winter walk in the Bolton area

I am afraid both walks involve the use of a car, and require stout shoes or boots. Both are excellent dog walks and are circular. Although both are good summer walks, the lack of tree cover means you gain additional views in winter. The ground can be soft, so they are best walked after a dry spell or frost. Both take around an hour to 90 minutes to complete.

Rivington and Liverpool Castle (about 3 miles)

Travel through Horwich to the Lever Park entrance gates leading to Rivington School. Opposite the school you will find a surfaced car park with toilets in woodland. Park there.

Cross the road with care and walk to the left of the school climbing steadily through woodland until you reach a bridle path. Turn left along the path until you come to a cross roads by some houses. At this point take the right fork which rises, and after a few metres you'll see an opening on your left to a pinearium. Walk through this, descending slowly, leaving by a gate, and then take the downhill path, some metres along you'll see on your left a horse gate, with high metal squeeze. Go through that and its woodland (full of bluebells in late spring) until you exit by a gate onto the road. Cross the road to the Lower House Barn, where you can take tea or buy gifts as well as use the facilities.

Walk though the barn car park, exiting through the new assault course which is being built at the far side. Take the path to your left which dips to cross a stream and then rises to the lake shore. There are several paths along the shore and it is impossible to get lost, until you reach Lord Leverhulme's deliberate ruined folly, Liverpool

Castle, which you can look around with care. Ahead of you, you'll see a broad tree lined drive stretching to the main road you've already crossed twice. Go along the track, and about halfway along you'll see to your right a path taking you back through the trees to your initial car park.



HAPPY WALKING!

That's another few calories burned up! Keep at it!

A Bit of Fun!

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services

- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's the chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands!
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a crèche downstairs.
- The Rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing, 'Break forth into joy.'
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24th in the church. So ended a friendship that began in their school days.
- Don't let worry kill you off. Let the church help!
- The sermon this morning: Jesus walks on water. The sermon this evening: Looking for Jesus.
- Remember in prayer those who are sick of our community.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang, 'I will not pass this way again', giving much pleasure to the congregation.

GETTING STARTED IN FAMILY HISTORY: WILLS

When I started in family history research, I assumed that my families were probably too poor to have wills or memorial inscriptions (MIs). I was wrong, and have found many useful examples of both in my researches, some wills going far back into the 1600s, and one at least being the basis for a significant family feud.

A list of wills will include the part of the county they come from, the dates as well as names, and the Latin *infra* or *supra*, the former being wills for smaller amounts of goods and chattels, the latter for larger. Wills give many useful insights into the character and interests of your ancestors, and their priorities. They often clarify relationships and link generations; they may include lists of their furniture and goods, their cattle and stock, their house and land. They are usually, but not always, made by men.

Wills divide into pre-1858 and post-1858, because after that date wills came under the authority of the civil court system, and a national alphabetical list of proved wills was published and can be consulted at any large library. However the actual details of the will are only available by consulting the Family Division in London. Pre-1858 wills were proved by church courts, and so where your will was proved depends on the place your ancestor was living at the time of their death. Most southern county wills are held at Kew Records Office. Many county records offices, including Preston, have a wide selection of the county's wills that can be consulted, but finding wills for smaller counties may involve identifying the church court involved. I had to visit Litchfield to look at my Derbyshire wills.

The older the will, the more likely it is to be stilted and wordy, since lawyers were paid by the word in those days! Many wills from the 1600s and 1700s begin with a request that God may take his soul and an assurance that he was of sound mind if weak in body. They often

contain details of where he is to be buried, and any charitable donations (usually to local worthy widows).

Older wills are more likely to try to leave complex arrangements for the disposal of the goods. One of mine gives detailed account of what should be given to his only son, but only if he live `peaceably with his mother` which suggests the son and his mother had problems living together. The same will organises what should happen to his inheritance if anyone in the list dies, and details exactly which pieces of furniture should go to which child, thus the son should have `the table, form, cupboard, and dishboard in the house and the two bedsteads in the parlour`. We must remember in those days pieces of furniture were rare and much prized.

Farming families frequently give details of their livestock and crops in the inventories that accompany many rural wills, and usually include the cost of each item. One Winder will of 1717 details `3 red cows, one brown, one black, 2 oxen, 2 heifers, one colt, two mares and a foal and 3 calves`. One poorer Osbiston will gives a share in a horse between 4 people! Do not assume because a family member is left out of a will, they are in disgrace; it may be they are provided for in other ways. How a farm is divided may give clues as to the interests of family members; who gained the sheep, the pasture and orchard, the grain fields and who had money because he was not interested in farming.



Most wills were made when the person was close to death, but in some cases they are significantly earlier. One of my family wills was made 12 years before his death; perhaps he had a significant illness but recovered. The wills of younger men are often different since they usually leave dependent children. Some attempt to detail the education of their children and even the re-marriage of their wife, from beyond the grave.

(CONTINUED INSIDE BACK COVER)

STOP PRESS ORDINATION NEWS

Elizabeth Plant has just received confirmation of the date and time of the service when she will be ordained as priest. It will be on Saturday 27th June at 6pm in Manchester Cathedral. Elizabeth hopes that all who wish to attend this service will be able to do so.

CAEDMON'S HYMN OF CREATION

NOW MVST WE PRAISE
THE GVIARDIAN OF HEAVEN'S REALM
THE CREATOR'S MIGHT
AND HIS MIND'S THOUGHT
THE GLORIOVS WORKS OF THE FATHER
HOW OF EVERY WONDER
HE THE LORD ETERNAL
LAID THE FOVDNATION.
HE SHAPED ERST
FOR THE SONS OF MEN
HEAVEN AS THEIR ROOF
HOLY CREATOR
THE MIDDLE WORLD HE
MANKINDS GVIARDIAN
ETERNAL LORD
AFTERWARDS PREPARED
THE EARTH FOR MEN
LORD ALMIGHTY.

The Bishop's Pilgrimage

Tuesday 3rd and Thursday 5th February 2009

KEEP THE LATE AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF THESE DATES FREE SO YOU CAN TAKE PART IN THE BISHOP'S PILGRIMAGE!

The Bishop of Manchester is visiting every parish in the diocese over a period of four and a half years. That's over 300 churches and he is just over half way through!

The Bishop's purpose is to underline the church's mission, encouraging the parishes as they share the good news of the gospel in their communities and pass on the baton of faith, hope, and love to the next generation.

To do this each church renews its community relations, celebrates its story and is blessed for future ministry.

The key components and a typical (though adaptable) timetable are -

4pm	Arrival and prayers in church
4.30pm	The Bishop shares pastoral ministry around the parish with the clergy
6pm	Reception hosted by the PCC for community guests
7pm	Service of celebration and commissioning

FAMILY HISTORY (CONTINUED)

The simplest way to collect information on a significant will is to ask for a photocopy, usually an inexpensive business. Some centres will also post these on to you for the cost of the postage.

Wills from the 1600s and beyond are often difficult to read, but the National Archives web-site has a very useful free tutorial on reading old documents that you can consult. All names are of interest in a will, even the witnesses that are likely to be family friends or servants. Do not underestimate the changes in the value of money over the centuries, and there are websites that can help you work out the true value of a monetary bequest.

My next article will look at memorial inscriptions or MIs.

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
Music Group	Beccy Rutter	01204 654737
Organist	Lisa Atherton	01204 840741
Parent/Toddler Group	Jean Mainey	01204 61819
Deane Church Shop	Michelle Moxam	01204 660081
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.