

Deane St Mary's

May 2009

In terms of the Church's year May sees two important festivals though only one of them, Pentecost, is noticed by most Christians today as it falls on a Sunday. Ascension day falls on a Thursday so it passes most people by, but it is the day when the Church remembers that Jesus was enthroned at the right of the Father and from there he sent the Holy Spirit. It is the day when we remember his being crowned as King. So it really is far more important than most of us think! It is a day to celebrate the completion of Christ's work, which we often mistake as happening at the resurrection.

This month Ian and Jean say 'Goodbye.' We've articles to throw more light on the festivals of the Ascension and Pentecost and an encouragement to help with the Christian Aid door to door collection.

John Tudor features in our



monthly profile column and Elizabeth Plant tells us about her heroic ancestor.

Barbara Winder continues her series on Deane Church stained glass and on Researching Family history. We're encouraged to get out of doors again—this time around the Wayoh.

There are newsy bits on the back page including a special celebration and a plea for information on and photos of Sermons past.

We also hear what the Youth have been getting up to.

St Mary's Info: April 2009

	9.00	10.30	6.00
3rd May	Holy Communion	Family Parade	Holy Communion
	Psalm 23; John 10:11 – 18		
10th May	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Service
	1 John 4:7 – 18; John 15:1 – 8		
17th May	Holy Communion	Family Baptism	Evening Service
	1 John 4:19 – 5:5; John 15:9 – 17		
24th May	Holy Communion	Svce of the Word	Evening Service
	Psalm 1; John 17:6 – 19		
31st May Pentecost	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	
	Acts 2:1 – 21; John 16:4b – 15		

Service of Holy Communion-Ascension Day, May 21st, 7.30 p.m.

May Sunday mornings

May ends this year with the birthday of the Church, empowered by God the Holy Spirit to bring his message of saving love to the world. By looking closely at several passages in John's Gospel we see how Jesus had laid the foundations of this Church in himself. Additional readings from Psalms, 1 John and Ezekiel show all biblical teaching centres around this theme - the forming by God of a people for himself, centred in his Son, empowered by his Spirit and living in love for him and each other, not of the world but sent into it in his name.

The Rector Writes

For the last time!

You know it really is hard for me to think that this will be the last article I will write for the church magazine. How many articles have I written since I first came to the parish? It seems to me at least quite a few. And often it has been quite difficult to know what to write.



If I pen something topical then it always stands the risk of being out of date by the time the magazine comes out. Do I write something really spiritual for those who would like a more devotional article? Or do I write an article addressing a subject from a Christian point of view? Yes, it can be quite hard coming up with a magazine article month in month out. Often I have sat at my computer desk waiting for inspiration to come—and sometimes that seems to have taken quite some time. Anyway here goes, for that last time.

First I thought that some of you who are reading this might like to know where we are moving to (apologies for those who already know). Well we are off to Birckdale which is just to the south of Southport. I suppose most people know of Birckdale because of its famous golf course, Royal Birckdale, which often hosts the Open Championship. The church to which I am going is St James' and although the parish is fairly small, about 5,500 (as compared to Deane's 16,000) it has a fairly large congregation, mainly because people travel to the church from all around Southport.

There are many reasons why both Jean and I felt that maybe God was moving us on (not least being asked by the Bishop of Liverpool to take the post) but one of the main reasons why we thought it right to go to this church was in order for me to be nearer to my mother who is now in her mid-eighties. With the move I will only be twenty minutes away from her, and will be better able to keep an eye on her.

I will be very sorry to leave Deane though. The church is a truly splendid building and I have felt very privileged to have served in a church with such a long and a rich history. We have also enjoyed living in Bolton. Both Jean and I are market people (we like a bargain, and the atmosphere) and we will really miss going down to the market and looking at all the produce, and of course the fish! Also we have appreciated the fact that the motorway links around Bolton are excellent enabling us to travel in any direction we have wished very rapidly.

Have there been things that we have missed whilst living here? Of course there have been. I know that Jean has missed the fells of the Lake District where we previously lived, and I have missed being near the sea. When you have been brought up near the sea, as I have, it is in your blood. But we will miss Bolton. And not mainly because of the market or because we will miss St Marys church, although we will, we will miss most of all the people who have become our friends and neighbours whilst living here, especially those in the church.

At the end of the day it is not where you are that is most important, it is the people you are with and the friendships you have formed, so we want to thank all those who have made our time here in Bolton really special. Maybe there are some reading this article who are in some way thankful that we came to the parish nearly seven years ago because our ministry has touched their lives. That is always nice to know. But I would want to say that I believe we have received far more from the people we have met in serving here than ever we have given in return. We value the friendships we have made here, and will continue to value them, for those friendships are stamped upon our lives.

And our prayer for the church? Well we pray that the plans for the new hall go ahead and that in 2010 we will be able to return for its opening. We pray you will be able to find another rector fairly soon. I know this will be an unsettling time for many. We pray that you will continue to support and help one another, as you are already doing. Above all we pray that you may all keep going on with the Lord in the power of the Spirit. (cont inside back cover)

Through Lent Groups to Easter

The material for Lent, prepared by our OLM, gave the home groups plenty to talk about. Discussion was animated as we considered opportunities for mission, nurture within the church community, listening to each other and the relationship between our work and our belief. It was particularly interesting to hear Christians of long experience describing earlier years in Bolton and to reflect on the continuing changes they had known. Further surprising changes were presented through the DVD which recorded varieties of witness from café church to skate-boarding, from children's church to mission groups in declining urban areas. In some of these groups there was an evident movement from social gathering to shared religious exploration.

Whatever the group, we inhabit the same world and ask similar questions. Prayers at Deane on Easter Day acknowledged cruelty and violence and the love and beauty which at the same time surround us. The Good Friday meditation, including St John's version of the crucifixion and the Letter to the Hebrews, acknowledged the sacrifice of Jesus, the cruelty and violence he endured and the love and forgiveness which embrace those who believe in him.

On Easter Day, listening to St Mark, we entered the garden with the women who followed Jesus. It is a story which each year seems to speak to its listeners for the first time and seems forever new. This year our own church and churchyard were radiant with sunlight, as if making visible the love, forgiveness and glory of God, offered at all times and in all places to all people.

Smile Awhile!

A spectator at the Olympic Games approached a competitor and asked him, 'Are you a pole vaulter?'

Back came the reply in broken English, 'No, actually I'm German... but how did you know my name?'

Ascension Day May 21st

The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now!

Here are some thoughts on the Ascension from the 17th century

‘His being below first, descending to the lowest condition of men, and then in that condition going up, ascending to the highest state of heaven and carrying our nature thither with Him, - this is that we hold by, and by nothing else. For if the Son of Man be gone up, we have all hope that the sons of men may get up thither after Him.... Thither is He gone as our forerunner, saith the Apostle; to lay open the way before us, saith the prophet; to prepare a place for us, saith He Himself.... It is but in heart and mind that we can get thither yet; *sed qui posuit ascensiones in corde*, He that can set his heart upon His ascension here, shall not fail to be with Him in person hereafter.’ John Cosin

This poem by John Donne is worth pondering

Salute the last, and everlasting day,
Joy at the uprising of this Sunne, and Sonne,
Ye whose just tears, or tribulation
Have purely washed, or burnt your drossy clay;
Behold the Highest, parting hence away,
Lightens the dark clouds, which He treads upon,
Nor doth He by ascending, show alone,
But first He, and He first enters the way.
O strong Ram which hast battered heaven for me,
Mild lamb, which with thy blood, hast marked the path;
Bright Torch, which shin'st, that I the way may see,
Oh, with thy own blood quench thy own just wrath.
And if the Holy Spirit, my Muse did raise,
Deign at my hands this crown of prayer and praise.

A Strange Custom

Beating the Bounds

In former times when maps were rare it was usual to make a formal perambulation of the parish boundaries on Ascension Day or during Rogation week. The priest of the parish with the churchwardens and the parochial officials headed a crowd of boys who, armed with green boughs, usually birch or willow, beat the parish boundary markers with them. Sometimes the boys were themselves whipped or even violently bumped on the boundary-stones to make them remember. The object of taking boys is supposed to ensure that witnesses to the boundaries should survive as long as possible. Priests would pray for its protection in the forthcoming year. Hymns would be sung, indeed a number of hymns are titled for their role, and many places in the English countryside bear names such as 'Gospel Oak' testifying to their role in the beating of the bounds.

The ceremony had an important practical purpose. Checking the boundaries was a way of preventing encroachment by neighbours; sometimes boundary markers would be moved, or lines obscured, and a folk memory of the true extent of the parish was necessary to maintain integrity of the borders.

In England the custom is as old as Anglo-Saxon days, as it is mentioned in laws of Alfred the Great and Æthelstan. It is thought that it may have been derived from the Roman *Terminalia*, a festival celebrated on February 22 in honour of Terminus, the god of landmarks, to whom cakes and wine were offered, sports and dancing taking place at the boundaries. Similar practices, of pagan origin, were brought by the Vikings.¹ In England a parish-ale or feast was always held after the perambulation, which assured its popularity, and in Henry VIII's reign the occasion had become an excuse for so much revelry that it attracted the condemnation of a preacher who declared "these solemne and accustomable processions and supplications be nowe growen into a right foule and detestable abuse."

Beating the bounds had a religious side in the practice which originated the term Rogation, the accompanying clergy being supposed to beseech (*rogare*) the divine blessing upon the parish lands for the ensuing harvest.

Pentecost May 31st

Pentecost was the old Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which took place at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was exactly 50 days after the Passover, the time of Jesus' crucifixion.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told his apostles that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for his apostles - but he knew they could not do the work themselves - they would need his help.

And so the apostles and disciples waited in Jerusalem, praying together for several days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues - to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the apostles and disciples of Jesus: and the Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian church that morning: proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, he could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Books 4 U

Experiencing the Spirit by Graham Beynon

Reviewed by Angela Howard

'Who is the Holy Spirit? He's like another Jesus. And what does he do? He shows us Jesus. He brings us to believe in him and know him. Do you see what this means? This means you and I can know Jesus Christ personally; we can have a relationship with him. In this, Christianity is unique.' (page 35).

Graham Beynon preached ten sermons on the Holy Spirit at his church in Leicester. These have been turned into a very readable and yet challenging book. Graham has a wonderful clarity in his teaching that enables the reader to understand some of the more difficult concepts of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and the church. He uses a good number of helpful illustrations, lays out each chapter with headings and ends the chapter with study questions on the Bible passage.

The work of the Holy Spirit is often both misrepresented and misunderstood. This book takes the Christian back to the moment of conversion when he or she received the Holy Spirit in their lives, and then identifies how He is at work in the converted. The book includes chapters such as 'Walking in the Spirit' and 'Resisting the Spirit'. I have been meeting up with three Christian friends and we are using this book each week as the basis for discussion and prayer. The book can be used for individual study or in a group setting.

'Experiencing the Spirit' is well worth reading - only 155 pages long so the chapters are a good length for reading in one sitting. It's also good value for money - let's be honest we would rather go for '2 meals for £10' at a local pub, but for an extra £1.18 two people could get to know God better through the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Let us all be better equipped in our understanding of the Holy Spirit, so that God can use us more effectively in His world to do His work.

Costs £5.59 from Amazon (free delivery) or £6.99 from Wesley Owen.

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid was founded in 1945 when Christians wanted to offer relief and reconciliation in post-war Europe. For more than sixty years it has been providing relief to those hit by disaster, helping people help themselves out of poverty and speaking out against injustice. It's all about helping people, regardless of religion or nationality, on the ground and in the corridors of power. The organisation is driven by the gospel of good news to the poor and inspired by the vision of a new earth where all people can live in justice, peace and plenty.

Christian Aid's work is rooted in Christian faith, inspired by hope and acts to change an unjust world through charity—a practical love and care for our neighbours. Its essential purposes are:

- to expose the scandal of poverty
- to help in practical ways to root it out from the world
- to challenge and change structures and systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised.

How does Christian Aid work?

Christian Aid believes in giving people the power to find their own solutions to poverty, and therefore works through more than 650 partners - local organisations - in around 50 countries. Money and energy is focused where they will have the greatest effect - for example, by challenging people in power to tackle issues that have a big impact on poor communities, such as climate change and international trade rules.

They never give money to governments - instead they work directly with local organisations on the ground. Finally, money is spent wisely. For each £1 given in 2007/08, 80p was used for direct charitable expenditure. The other 20p was spent on fundraising and running the organisation.

Christian Aid Week

About one fifth of Christian Aid's annual income is raised through the house-to-house collections and other events which make up

Christian Aid Week. This year, the week runs from *10 to 16 May*, and focuses on the Democratic Republic of Congo.

How can we get involved in Christian Aid Week?

There is a list at the back of church for volunteers who would like to assist with the house-to-house collection. You can ask to do this in pairs or in a small group, for example if you have never been involved before or you feel happier collecting with someone else.

Help is also needed with preparation of the collectors' packs in advance, delivering envelopes (on Sunday 10th May) and opening the collected envelopes (Sunday 17th or Monday 18th). If you could assist with any of these tasks, please sign up on the list.

We are very grateful to Phil for all the hard work behind the scenes, making our Christian Aid collections happen over the last 20 years or so. It is Phil's intention to step down as co-ordinator and continue in a support role after this year. Please can you consider whether you would be able to be our co-ordinator next year.

Thank you in anticipation but if you have any questions please contact Phil Ray (654232) or Dan Howard (855112).

Farewell to Ian and Jean

26 April is Ian and Jean's last Sunday at Deane, before they leave to take up Ian's new post at Birkdale early in June.

Ian will be preaching at the morning services, and then all are welcome to attend a lunch at 12 noon in the Memorial Hall, at which a leaving presentation will be made.

We thank God for Ian's leadership over the past seven years, for Jean's contribution, especially to the Toddler group, and for all we have achieved together. Our prayers are with them both as they start their new ministry.

This month's profile

John Tudor

John moved to Bolton from Adlington together with his wife Sheila in 1969 have attended St Mary's Deane since that time. In the week that they moved to the Ladybridge Estate they had a visit from the then Rector, Mr Bishop, who arrived on his bike, as he had no car! During the course of conversation they learned that he had previously been the Rector of St Mary's Droylsden Manchester and had baptised Sheila when she was a baby over 30 years before. This set the scene for their first visit to St Mary's Deane.



John was working as a buildings services engineer for Post Office Telephones, later British Telecom. He was transferred to Royal Mail and worked on new buildings and code sort installations at Manchester, Liverpool and Preston. As a result of this he joined the Buildings sub committee at Deane and served until 2002.

John's son Mark was baptised at St Mary's and attended until he went to University. He now works as a lawyer in Tokyo having married a Japanese girl. They now have two daughters, one who is $2\frac{1}{2}$ years old and the other 1 year old. Sadly, John's wife Sheila, who most people in the Deane congregation would have known, died suddenly three years ago and so never saw her grandchildren.

John has been to Tokyo on a number of occasions but it's not the place that he would choose to live since he can only describe the city as "manic". The most restful and enjoyable holiday that he had with Sheila was in Bali where the pace of life is much more restful and the people are so pleasant and polite.

John is now allegedly retired but finds himself well deployed in the local Residents Association and in the Westhoughton Swimming

Club where swimming is taught to children and adults. He is Chairman of the Governors at St Mary's Church of England School, which is connected to Deane Church.

In his spare time John is a trainee counsellor on a diploma course and he has a placement at one of Her Majesty's prisons. He also assists as a receptionist at the Beacon Counselling Service. John's most used, if not most treasured, item is his computer. He uses it for many things including a video link to Tokyo to speak to his son and the grandchildren. Sending them Emails is far easier and cheaper than using the postal service.

John's role as Chairman of St Mary's governors involves meeting the full governing body each term and attending meetings with different groups of governors on various aspects of buildings, curriculum issues, personnel matters and progress meetings with the Head Teacher, Diane Jeffries.

The school anticipates an OFSTED inspection early in the New Year and the governors are looking to improve the school's position in all aspects of education. The governors are also looking to improve the links between the school and the church. The children attend a service in St Mary's Church on the first Tuesday in each month, in school time, weather permitting. Members of the church are welcome to attend..... There will in due course be an invitation to church members to visit the school to see what goes on in the name of St Mary's Deane, and the governors would welcome a good turnout. The date will be announced later in the year.

John's father's mantra was "good deeds will be rewarded and evil will be dealt with by God". That seems to John to be an equitable way of dealing with things.

What would he like to see at Deane Church? In the first place that the Memorial Hall should be replaced by a hall which will be well maintained and of which we can be proud. This would then enable us to focus on the church interior, which John feels is in a pretty shabby state and needs attention.

John's prayer is that God will give us the guidance, wisdom and perseverance to achieve these objectives.

My Heroic Great-great-great-grandfather

My great-great-great-grandfather, Constable Henry Bailey was last seen alive as he was swept along by the cold fast flowing waters of the River Irwell close to Manchester Cathedral on March 11th 1835. He drowned attempting to save the life of a six year old boy who had fallen into the water. His body was found six months later by girls gathering mushrooms near old Barton Bridge. He was identified by his boots. He left a wife and six children.

It is proof of how highly he was valued by the people of Manchester that a public subscription raised over £1600 for the benefit of his widow and children. This was an enormous sum in those days. A memorial service was held for him in the church which is now Manchester Cathedral. A long sermon entitled 'The omnipotence of death' was preached. He was buried in Walkers Croft cemetery. During the 1840s Victoria Station was built on the site and it is believed that Henry's grave now lies under platform 2.

Henry was born in 1793. He worked as a baker and confectioner and married in 1815. He taught in Sunday School. He may well have witnessed the Peterloo massacre in 1819 which may have inspired him to become a police officer.

In 1830 Henry became Deputy Constable of Cheetham. This was an area close to Manchester Cathedral and Cheetham's College. Henry will have seen the celebrations for the arrival of the Liverpool to Manchester railway in 1830 and the election of Manchester's first MP in 1832. In contrast he would have witnessed the cholera epidemic in 1832 and the rioting in the cholera hospital.

The Manchester Guardian between 1830 and 1835 has many articles in which Henry Bailey features. One night he arrested a drunken bridegroom who had viciously assaulted his bride. He dealt with gangs causing terror, smoky factory chimneys, the reckless driving of milk floats, weights and measures frauds and pickpockets at Manchester races to name but a few cases. On one occasion he

travelled to Halifax to make an arrest for murder and brought the suspect back to Manchester. He was assaulted a number of times.

Once while breaking up a vicious brawl, he managed to arrest a man recently released from prison for killing a man in a previous fight, despite being attacked by the angry mob. Although he could not swim, Henry had rescued several children from drowning in the Irwell before the day he lost his life in 1835.

The Manchester Police Force only came into being in 1839. They keep no records or roll of honour of those who kept Manchester safe before then. Henry Bailey therefore for many years had no memorial. However in 2005 my sister, Catherine, contacted the Police Roll of Honour Trust who were drawing up names to be entered on the new National Police Memorial in London. Henry's name is now on that memorial; he is one of the earliest recorded police officers to die in the line of duty.

My family are descended from Henry's daughter Sarah. We have made contact with the descendants of one of Henry's sons. Could Henry be one of your ancestors?

The account of Henry's death is particularly well recorded in a long article in the *Manchester Guardian* entitled *Melancholy Catastrophe*. It shows how much journalism has changed in the last 170 years. If space permits, this article may appear in a future magazine.

Elizabeth Plant

You say	God says	Bible verse
It's impossible	All things are possible	Luke 18:27
I'm tired	I will give you rest	Matthew 11:28—30
Nobody really loves me	I love you	John 3:16 John 3:34
I can't go on	My grace is sufficient	2 Corinthians 12:9
I can't do it	You can do all things...	Philippians 4:13

Youth Work Update

The spring term has been a time of excitement, change, and real spiritual growth among our young people.

Voltage (11-14s youth club)

The numbers at Voltage have remained high this term, but with some new helpers coming along occasionally things have been a bit easier. We have introduced a new structure to our youth night, and now instead of "talk time" we have "group time" when each young person chooses between arts and crafts, drama, discussion, or active games allowing them to learn more about Jesus in the way that is most appropriate and most interesting to them. This has made for a more positive time together, and is allowing those who want to talk more deeply about God the opportunity to do so without being interrupted by those who don't. The active games group in particular have made great progress and are beginning to be able to work together.

The Element (14-18s youth club)

For the most part of the term the Element split into two teaching groups, with those preparing for confirmation having their class with Dan and Karen, and the rest of the group having talks with Sean and Simon, covering the basics of the Christian faith. The highlights of this term include a number of our young people getting confirmed, some successful M4 outreach events with the Pais team, a trip to Manchester to the Soul Survivor tour where a few of our young people made public commitments to follow Jesus, and The Unofficial Agape where we met in church to share food, to talk about Jesus' death and resurrection, and play Church Long Jump.

Pathfinders (11-14s discipleship)

The pathfinders are now settled into their new pattern of leaving church for their own teaching on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays and many of the young people are really beginning to grasp Jesus' love for them and to respond to that.

CYFA (14-18s discipleship)

The spring term for CYFA has involved exploration of the themes of Sin and Salvation in the bible, a fair bit of Pictionary, lots of Angela's yummy baking, and a snowball fight!

Please pray

for our young people as they explore their identity and faith at what can be a very busy, and for some a difficult time in their lives.

for the leaders of these groups

for the new leaders building relationships with the young people and working out their role within the group ,

for more people to feel willing and able to support this work in preparation for Dan and Angela moving on to another church.

Spirit of God (Gen 1:2,2

Tim 3:16, Mk 1:8, Acts 2 0

Dancing with the Father
And the Son

In beginning the beginning,
You were there

Spirit of God,
Breath of life,
Creator.

Revealing words and wisdom
To prophets and apostles,
To scribes and editors,
You were there
In discernment,
Spirit of God,
Inspirer.

Filling with life and power,
With truth and courage,
Overwhelming with love and
praise,
You were there
At Pentecost,
Spirit of God,
Enabler.

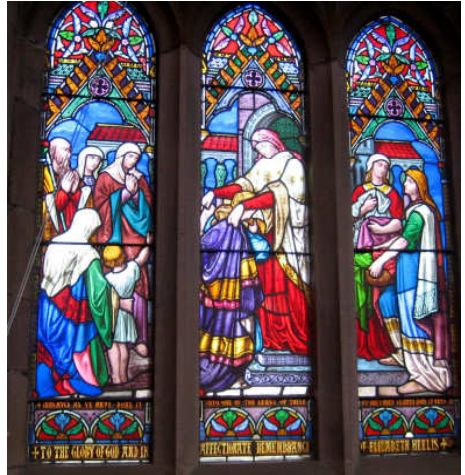
Longing to come,
To dance, to reveal,
To fill, to overwhelm,
To create and inspire and enable,
Spirit of God,
You are here
In fullness.
Baptise us.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS IN DEANE CHURCH 2

NORTH AISLE

ELIZABETH HEELIS WINDOW

Last month I looked at the Bennett Window with its link with the Wesley family. This month I will continue along the north aisle. Elizabeth Heelis is commemorated in two windows of Deane Church; the second window on the north aisle and the Sunday School window on the south aisle, which we will deal with at a later date.



The Heelis window is also sometimes called the Dorcas Window because it shows a character from the Bible, Tabitha also called Dorcas in Greek (which means a deer). In Acts Chapter 9, verses 36-43, we learn of her work with the poor in Joppa. Peter raises her from the dead in this chapter.

Elizabeth Heelis, who died in 1865, lived at `The Elms` `at the top of Deane Brow, in Deane Road`. Her brother Stephen was a benefactor of Deane Church, and she spent a good deal of time helping in the Sunday School. The window was the gift of the other Sunday School teachers, as well as relatives and friends.

NORTH AISLE: GREENHALGH WINDOW

The window was given in memory of Jane Greenhalgh, wife of James, who lived at `Greenhill` Deane. It was purchased in 1881, and has three windows or lights, showing three of the Beatitudes from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matt. Chapter 9/Luke Chap. 6).

The Left Light portrays `Blessed are they that mourn` and shows Mary meeting Jesus when he was called to raise Lazarus her brother (John Chap 11).

The Central Light portrays `Blessed are the merciful` which

shows the Virgin Mary visiting her cousin Elizabeth after an angel told her Elizabeth also would bear a son (Luke Chap 1).

The Right Light shows `Blessed are the pure in heart` and depicts Jesus with two of his disciples (probably Philip and Nathaniel). Jesus said of Nathaniel that he was a man `in whom is no guile` (John Chap 1).



Just Sex - Is it ever just sex?

By Guy Brandon, IVP, £9.99

People today are hopelessly confused about sex. On the one hand, it is meant to be something special. On the other, it is casually dismissed as trivial - merely or 'just' sex.

Sex has also become a big issue for Christians. Faced with a barrage of messages from a sexually permissive environment and lacking a clear rationale for biblical teaching, many Christians are unsure of what they think. This book encourages us to consider whether the impact of our sexual relationships on others around us is fair, or just.

With conviction and pastoral sensitivity, Guy Brandon explains the strength and integrity of the Christian world-view of sex. In doing so, he also addresses the inconsistency and inadequacy of the prevailing idea that consent alone is enough to sanction a sexual relationship. Demonstrating the damage created by this approach he offers a better, more just way, which brings with it the promise of God's shalom.

GETTING STARTED IN FAMILY HISTORY NEWSPAPERS

An area which is often ignored initially by family historians, can prove to hold fascinating information, that is local and national newspapers. I have found local newspapers particularly useful. For the most part they relate to events in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. I have already pointed out their usefulness to confirm birth, marriage and death dates, but they may also include an obituary or an account of a funeral. One useful WINDER obituary, of a local artist, even included a photograph.

Some on-line archives of national and local newspapers can be consulted, although you may have to visit your local library to look at them free of charge. They are often linked to American universities for some reason, but they all include a search engine facility which allows you to trace a specific ancestor. Be aware that newspapers sometimes folded or changed their names, so be ready to look at any possible newspaper in the right area. Your local library should also have copies (usually on microfilm) of its local newspapers, in date order. Some also, and Bolton Library is one of them, have very useful indexes where you can look up names or events and be directed to the appropriate copy. You can make notes of the entries or ask for a copy. Always remember to detail the newspaper, its date and page numbers, in case you need to check back later.

Large scale disasters such as those to do with mining, fires, floods, diseases and war, will have local and national coverage. It is often useful to compare versions of events, since local newspapers may have additional information. In addition individual coroner's inquests or even Boards of Inquiry may give further details. More ordinary events such as the opening of a new school or local celebrations or even a period of awful weather and its effect on local farmers, may also have glimpses of our ancestors.

I would like to give you an idea of the variety of reports I have

found using local newspapers, and which you might also find useful. My research has included an ancestor who played for a local cricket team with reports of matches, an ancestor in a local school play, a dispute between a great aunt and her father which ended in Derby Magistrates' Court, a long account of a drunk and disorderly conviction (the same ancestor who played cricket!), a new invention with an advertisement, the sale of some property and the end of a business, charitable gifts by a local churchwarden, an inquest on an ancestor killed in collision with a milk float on Bury Road, and so on. My next article will look at the Poor Laws.

What we wish we could be

So strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity
to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that
there is something special in them.

The think only the best, work for the best, expect only the
best.

The be as enthusiastic about the success of others
as you are about your own.

To forget past mistakes
and press on to greater achievements in the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times
and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself
that you have no time to criticise others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger,
too strong for fear.

To walk—at all times—with God.

Impossible? Maybe, but see 6 pages back for encouragement.

A WALK FOR BLUEBELL TIME AROUND THE WAYOH

The three reservoirs to the north east of Bolton around Turton (the Entwistle, Wayoh and Jumbles) are all worth visiting and have accessible car parks. The Wayoh and Jumbles are particularly pleasant in bluebell time.

The best car park for this walk is the one at the SE embankment of the Entwistle Reservoir, which can be reached either from the A666 to Blackburn or the Chapeltown road. The road you need is the B6391 Green Arms Road, which has a short narrow road off it called Batridge Road, about a mile NW of Chapeltown. You may need 50p for the machine. You should have stout shoes or boots for walking through the woods at the start. The walk is around 4 miles and again it's a dog walk which doesn't need leads beyond the car park, and one minor road crossing, and with places to paddle safely for children.

At the far corner of the car park find a path signposted 'Entwistle to Wayoh Concessionary Footpath'. Descend through the woods with a steep sided valley on your left. On your left also you'll see the Victorian railway viaduct which takes the line from Manchester via Bolton to Blackburn. You will pass below the viaduct until you reach the shoreline.

At this point turn left to go over a bridge along the clear shoreline path. At the end of the bridge bear right with the lake on your right. When you reach the dam end you'll emerge into a lane (take care because it is used by cars) called Hob Lane. Cross straight over the road to join a track through a gate. You'll see the lake continues in a smaller form on your right, and continue on the track through the woods over footbridges (including one over the Broadhead Brook which feeds the lake) till you come back to Hob Lane. Cross it again, but this time you will be walking along the further bank of the reservoir. It will continue to be on your right side.

After about half a mile, the path starts to ascend with fields and the village of Edgworth visible on your left. At the top of your rise with good views over the reservoir, there is a useful seat. You then need to descend a rather narrow path with a fenced steepish drop to your right (take care of children and small dogs).

Turn right at the end of this section, taking the footpath



across the southern embankment, and at the end of the embankment turn right again to join the shoreline path. After about half a mile you will see sign-posted path to the car park, just before the viaduct and bridge, which you originally descended. Take it (this time uphill) and it

From the Rector (continued)

As I look back I see that my Christian life has been a journey, a journey which has taken me to places I never dreamed I would go to. That journey has led me to people I would not have met, but for Christ leading me to them. And although that journey has been hard at times I am thankful for all that it has brought, and I know Jean is as well.

When we left theological college many years ago the wives group gave Jean a small handmade present. It was something which we treasured. It was a little banner which we used to hang near the front door. It had stitched on it these simple words, "God will be with you wherever you go". Those words have been such a strength to us over the years, and they have been real to us. We have known in our heart of hearts that God has been with us wherever we have gone, and will be with us wherever we go. Our prayer for you at this time is that you also may know that, "God will be with you wherever you go."

With our love, prayers and thanks.

Ian and Jean

news

Ladies' Guild

April 21

Elizabeth Tidmarsh
Pilgrimage to Israel

Date for your diary

May 23rd 10 to 12 noon
Annual Coffee Morning

June mag deadline

no later than May 22nd,
please. Publication date:
7th June because of
school holidays.

The Handicraft group would like to thank all who supported their spring coffee morning. It was well attended, and very enjoyable, and we are very happy to have been able to donate a further £475 to the new hall fund. Thank you all again, for we couldn't do this without your continued support .

We haven't received any contributions to an article on **Sermons Past** as yet. If you'd like to see such an article next month, please get searching and let us have your photos, memories etc.

DIAMOND WEDDING



On June 11th Myra and Kenneth Higson will celebrate their Diamond Wedding. The Rev.R C Worsley who had been Rector since 1927 married them at St Mary's Deane. Soon afterwards the Rev. Worsley retired to Tiverton in Devon.

Myra and Ken have worshipped in Deane Church all their lives. They met when Myra was 15 years old and a member of the Guides and Ken was 18, an Assistant Scout Master.

Over the years they have performed many duties. Both have served on the PCC. They have been sides persons and church and hall cleaners. Myra was also a Sunday School teacher. In addition Ken has also been a bell ringer since 1943, and before and after each Service the bells have rung merrily!