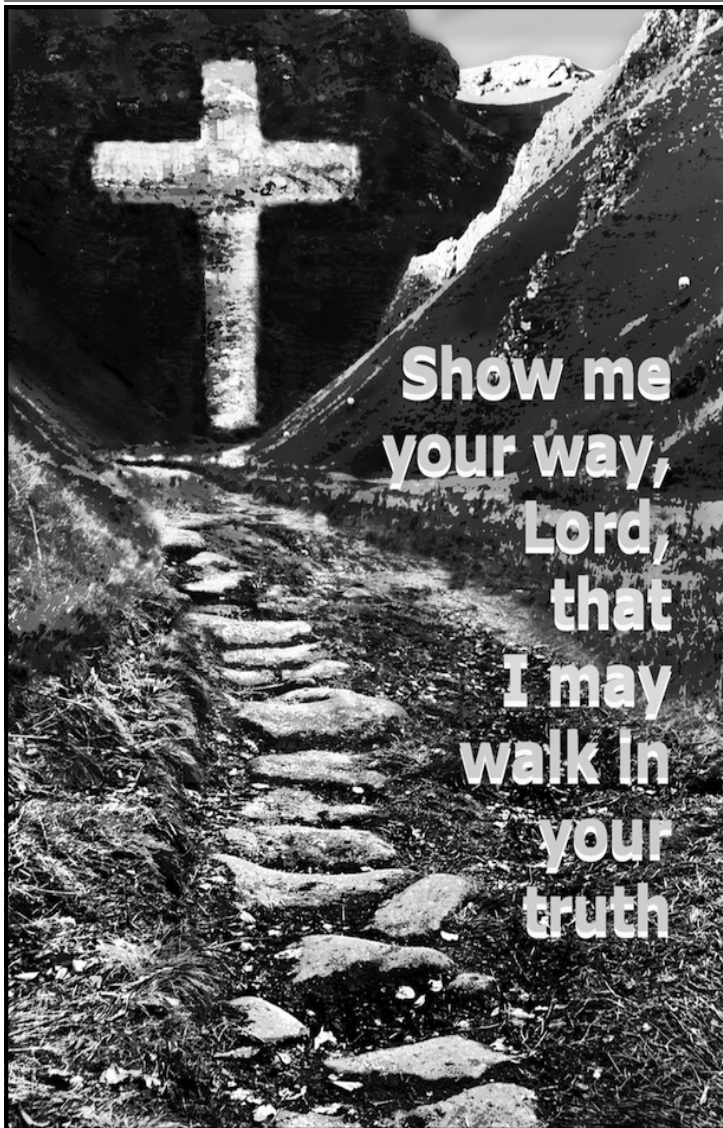




# LENT 2012

Deane Parish Church

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



**Show me  
your way,  
Lord,  
that  
I may  
walk in  
your  
truth**

Lent is perhaps more than anything about re-examining our walk with God, seeking redirection if we need it, letting go of those things which hinder our walk with him, so that in a deeper, fuller way we may walk in his truth and be ready to walk with him through the passion of his Son and to experience the glory of his resurrection and ours.

	9.00	10.30	6.00
19 Feb	Holy Communion	All-Age Service	Evening Service Joshua 18:1—10
	2 Corinthians 12:1—10;		
26 Feb	Holy Communion	Morning Service	Café Service
	2 Corinthians 13:12—14		Heaven and Hell
4 Mar	Holy Communion	All-Age Service	Evening Service Marks of a healthy church Teaching/Learning
	Galatians 3:26—4.7		
11 Mar	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Service Marks of a healthy church Biblical Theology
	Romans 8:1—2 & 3:31—39		
18 Mar	Holy Communion	Morning Service	Evening Service Marks of a healthy church The Gospel
	Ephesians 2:1—10		
25 Mar	Holy Communion	Morning Service	Evening Service Marks of a healthy church Conversion
	John 15:1—17		
1 Apr	Holy Communion	All-Age Service	Evening Service Marks of a healthy church Evangelism
	Zechariah 9:9—10		

Following our pattern of seasonal editions of the magazine the next edition will be published on Sunday March 1st, an Easter edition. Matter for inclusion to the editor by March 11th or earlier if possible, please.

# You can't believe that!

What's the answer to safer schools, streets and neighbourhoods? The word we keep on hearing is tolerance. A positive sounding word. Shorthand for generosity, but what happens when tolerance goes from generosity to intolerance? This is a growing experience amongst Christians, who are finding out that tolerance isn't always as positive as it sounds. In fact there are a growing number of reports of intolerance towards Christians.

Recent cases demonstrate this well, a Christian shared his beliefs privately with a Police Community Support Officer and was arrested and put in a cell for causing "harassment, alarm or distress". There was also the teacher sacked for offering to pray for a sick pupil, the five year old girl scolded by her teacher for sharing her beliefs with another child and a woman disciplined at work for wearing a cross.

Where is the tolerance in



these situations? In trying to be tolerant, Christians are often picked out and sometimes victimised for their faith. Unfortunately these are only a handful of people now scared to speak or act as Christians. The problem has grown as the fear of offending people is ranked higher than a Christian's freedom of speech or equality. It is not surprising then that Christians who believe in forgiving, have so often become the target of abuse.

This intolerance is terrible and we ought to stand up against any injustice, but unfortunately the problem isn't limited to the UK. In fact cases abroad are much more serious, as the opposition many Christians face even in Europe can be atrocious. The persecution they experience maybe acts of vandalism, arson, violence,

jail, or even murder as well as all the abuse we don't hear about. However we are treated we need to be sure that we love the oppressed and those others don't tolerate. Hopefully our families are the first place that we demonstrate this kind of love and respect, where love is shown despite our differences and disagreements.

So how do we extend this

Does loving others involve hiding our faith...is that the most respectful way to live in multi-cultural Britain?

love to those around us? How do Christians cope with the pressure of being asked to be more tolerant, or to accept other beliefs in place of our own? Does loving others involve hiding our faith, and not talking about Jesus, is that the most respectful way to live in multi-cultural Britain? Well surely not if it's true!

The truth, especially when it's as powerful as the good news of Jesus, has to be shared with others. Some say that we should leave people to their own beliefs,

and not rock the boat. Everyone is entitled to their own belief and way of life, and that is true but what happens if God himself came to earth and told us how to live with him?

Jesus said 'I am the way the truth and the life', three truths we simply can't ignore. These three truths will challenge you, they are so important that you need to know them.

Jesus is the way to know God and the way to him! That one statement alone is earth shattering; Jesus is the only way to know God. So Jesus can't be ignored and neither should Christians, we have so much to share with others.

Jesus is the truth, which means that we can rely on everything he says. God said this is my Son listen to him. This means that we need to read what else Jesus had to say, we need to know whether our life fits with the one he gave us.

Finally Jesus offers life, not a moral life, but real life, knowing God. This is a living relationship; it changes life now, and secures for us eternal life with God when we die.

These three truths then

can't be ignored, yet how can something so exclusive still be tolerant and loving? How can it be right to speak about Christianity to people who already have their own faith?

Well of everyone who ever

Jesus said 'I am the way the truth and the life', three truths we simply can't ignore.

lived, Jesus was the most respectful and loving man ever. Yet he knew that it was worth talking about taboos and even causing offence when it comes to matters of life and death. Jesus did much more than just talk though; he lived the words he spoke. Jesus demonstrated what real love is; he came to earth to offer us life and gave up his own to do so.

To be a Christian then is to seek to be like Christ; we are to respect and love everyone, especially those who don't share our own beliefs. Yet to truly love others is to be ready to share what we know. Jesus is the only way to know God, and so people need to hear what he has to say. If we are motivated by this love for

others, then our conversations and our actions will always be above criticism. Christians can be known for their love for Jesus and their love for others the two actually go hand in hand. If we love others we will listen and learn from them, but we will still be willing to hold out the truth in love.

We can always test our motives, simply by asking who it is we are trying to please. Are we seeking to honour God, and to love him and share him with others, or are we acting because we think we are better or know more. If that is the case then we ought to go back to Jesus and learn what humility and love really are.

Stephen Bazely

If you would like to know more about what Jesus said, join us on Sunday or at one of our Home Groups.  
For something to reflect on,  
Philippians 2:4-11.

# 22nd February

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins 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. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

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. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today 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.

The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12 - 18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 - 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis

3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

### **The 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  
so 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.

### **Ash Wednesday: a good time to admit you're sorry**

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

God is inviting you to come to him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it, and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.



## Timeline

# Deane in the Seventeenth Century

The Timeline now extends beyond the Reformation and the establishment of the Church of England to the Civil War, the execution of Charles I and the triumph of the Puritans under Oliver Cromwell. Bolton was a notably protestant town, referred to as "the Geneva of the north" and it was at this time that Deane had its most controversial vicar. John Tilsey was appointed in 1643 during the national conflict and uniquely for Deane by the House of Commons. He was an energetic, single-minded and challenging man, who managed to offend both Cromwell and Charles II but was evidently beloved of his parishioners. His grave is next to his wife's beneath the yew tree encircled by stone to the south-east of the church. Inscriptions, which were later renewed, can still be easily read and the letters in stone bear witness to an enduring love.

Tilsey was probably born in Bolton of a protestant family, as

his education at Edinburgh university suggests, and he was ordained about 1637, not by a bishop. As a Presbyterian he did not acknowledge a hierarchy of bishops but did not favour entirely independent churches. During his period at Deane, or just before, he was instrumental in the presentation of a petition to Parliament, with thousands of signatures, which enabled a special arrangement to be made for churches in Lancashire. After the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660 bishops resumed their role.

He had been a soldier, fighting in the Battle of Preston in 1642. His description of this battle was immediately published and widely distributed. It is probable that he wrote the unsigned "An Exact Relation of the Bloody Massacre at Bolton in the Moor" when he was serving as minister at Deane. Citizens of Bolton know of the part played by the Earl of Derby who was later executed near to the Old Man and Scythe. Despite Tilsey's support for



Cromwell, he had opposed the execution of Charles I and, attracting the anger of powerful independents, was ejected from the parish of Deane in 1650. Following changes in government policy he was reinstated, only to be ejected again in 1662, following the Restoration, because he resisted the Act of Uniformity, which demanded that all clergy be ordained by a bishop and that they should use only the Book of Common Prayer. Continuing to preach locally, he was threatened by further Acts of Parliament until a new Bishop of Chester enabled him to return to his parish. The Archbishop of York eventually intervened and Tilsey was ejected for a third time in 1678.

Despite retirement to Manchester, he was buried at Deane in 1684. His single-minded,

unswerving mission is reflected in the text he chose for his own funeral sermon, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever". He left twenty pounds to "the poor of Deane Parish" who had constantly supported him. After a life of challenge and combat, he has lain for three centuries beneath the yew tree.

Footnote Material for this article is taken from James Boardman's History of Deane, 1904, and "Bolton Bibliography".

*'he had prodigious parts, a retentive memory which made whatsoever he read his own, a solid judgment, a quick invention, and a ready utterance.'* (Calamy)

## Prayer Pointer (from Stephen's article)

We can always test our motives, simply by asking who it is we are trying to please. Are we seeking to honour God, and to love him and share him with others, or are we acting because we think we are better or know more. If that is the case then we ought to go back to Jesus and learn what humility and love really are.



a good time to admit you're sorry

# The Way I See It: MAKE WAY FOR MUM

It's possible to make a few fairly specific forecasts about Sunday March 18th. The most certain is that all over Britain mothers will receive cards, the best ones being home-made with crayons or felt-tip pens and featuring hearts and smiley faces. There may well be presents, too, carefully if clumsily packaged and containing one or more of the following: chocolate (in various forms), cosmetics, handkerchiefs or funny aprons.

From a more senior source (if the recipient is lucky) might come some flowers, a book, some half-decent perfume, or a subscription to a fashion magazine. If, however, he's got it wrong (as he usually does) she might find herself with a toaster, a new iron or even a season ticket for the local football club. It's Mothers' Day!

Of course, as far as the Church is concerned it's nothing of the kind. It's 'Mothering Sunday', which sounds quite menacing, really - too near 'smother' for comfort. Yet it did all start in church long ago, with a Lesson for the fourth Sunday of Lent which included the phrase 'Jerusalem which is above, the mother of us all' and a tradition of welcoming apprentices home halfway through the Lenten fast, bearing simnel cakes for their mothers.

But then the greeting card industry got interested, the occasion spread to America and bingo - it was suddenly big business. Of course it's more than that. It's also a very welcome opportunity to recognise that mothers tend to play a rather big role in everyone's life and to say 'thanks' to them. On the whole, Mothering Sunday/Mothers' Day is definitely a 'good thing'. (continued inside back



It's been a while since I've written anything for the Church magazine about our youth work. And over that time we have certainly had our fair share of encouragements and challenges.

## Was that really youth work?!

### The Element (14-18s)

The Element has also seen a lot of changes over the last year.

During the summer term, as GCSE time began, The Element shrank rapidly from a diverse group of up to 30 young people to a committed core of around 12. This small committed group has continued to meet regularly as the members of both The Element and CYFA and are growing together in their maturity and faith as well as developing strong encouraging friendships with one another. We've been really encouraged by Claire joining the leadership team of this group this year bringing the number of regular leaders up to three. We have also had two new young people move up into this group. Towards the end of term

we had a great trip Ice Skating in Blackburn.

### CYFA (14-18s)

In September 2011 our curate Stephen Bazely took the reins of CYFA, supported by Jo and myself. This group is now meeting three times a month, after the evening service for games, bible study, and cake. Once every month we are joined by the youth group from St Andrews, JZ. It's been great for these groups to mix: having the encouragement of spending time with other teenage Christians from a different church, and sharing experiences and ideas. Four young people have moved up into this group from Pathfinders and Voltage.

[ Games, bible study and cake! ]

## Pathfinders (11-14s)

Pathfinders continue to meet in the Rectory on Sunday mornings, led by Elizabeth. There are technically around 10-14 young people we would view as pathfinder members, but we generally see between 4 and 6 of these at any one Pathfinder meeting. Julie has had to stand down from her role in co-leading this group due to family commitments and so Elizabeth has generally been supported by myself, Ken, or Jo. Elizabeth is doing a brilliant job in leading this group, but is managing this in the uncomfortable position of not having a leadership team to plan and reflect with.

## Voltage (11-14s)

Last year was a difficult year for Voltage. As we moved back into the Memorial Hall, numbers increased, but many of those who came along did not want to, or were not able to, engage with the activities. Only having one room to meet in instead of two meant those young people who did want to join in with the activities were disrupted by the others and things became very difficult. This led to some interesting conversations both with the young people and the leadership team about the purposes and expectations of the group, and we decided to have an advertised programme of activities so that the young people could choose to come only to those nights that they would want

to join in with. There were still some difficult nights following this, but there were a few evenings where there was just a small group of young people, many of whom have never come to church, who really wanted to spend time studying the Bible as well as joining in with



the other activities which was really refreshing and encouraging towards the end of a tough term. We also had a pizza and film night which over 20 young people attended, and all managed to join in with topping and eating their own pizza and sitting watching a film on the big screen with little disruption.

Most of those who have found it really hard to engage with Voltage are now in Year 10 and would usually have been invited to join The Element, but we have had to take the tough decision of not encouraging many of these young people to move up, as they do not yet seem ready to make the transition to this more mature group. It seems sad that there are around twenty young people in that age group that we have had contact with in the last three years that we are not able to continue working with, but many have made it clear that their aims and wants are different to what we have to offer so we have chosen not to take the risk of moving them up when this could damage the work we are doing with other young people.

Despite a large group moving

we have had to take the tough decision of not encouraging many of these young people to move up...

up and out, there is still a small group of around ten years 8 and 9 that would now be Voltage. This group was attending Voltage and joining in well at the end of the summer term, and some had even begun attending the evening service. However, with no hall to meet in, and our leadership team shrinking from five to three we have struggled to maintain this contact. Sean and Elizabeth both needed to leave the Voltage team at the end of the summer term to focus on other areas of their ministry. Sean is still co-leading The Element and Sunday School, and takes a mentoring role with some of our older teenage lads, and Elizabeth is still leading Pathfinders, on top of her other roles in the church and wider community.

Voltage has certainly been on a bit of rollercoaster ride over the last year, and we haven't even begun to invite any Year 7s yet.

But we continue to pray for the right leaders, the right ideas, and the right venues, to be able to continue our work with this age group, and begin to be able to extend this work to others who might want to be involved.

Sue, Tom, and I did manage to meet up with six members of Voltage for a bowling trip in the autumn term, and at that trip it was agreed that Voltage would take the form of two small groups that would be invited to my house for food, games, craft, and Bible study on a fortnightly basis. Two young people have engaged with this way of doing Voltage, and it's been lovely to have the time and space to have good conversations over a meal, play games without these being disrupted, and chat about the Bi-

ble together. However, the other young people have not yet managed to attend these sessions, which suggests this might not be the best way of working with them. As a leadership team there is little else we are able to offer at the moment as there are not enough of us to safely run a trip for the whole group or to run a youth club type venue.

It's been lovely to have the time and space to have good conversations over a meal, play games without these being disrupted, and chat about the Bible together.



## Soul Survivor

We have just begun planning for our annual trip to Soul Survivor. This has long been the highlight of the year for many of our young people, and has often been a life-changing experience for many of them as they invest a serious amount of time in developing their relationship with God. After lots of discussion and debate on the pros and cons of CYFA Ventures and Soul Survivor, the young people decided that Soul Survivor was still the camp for them this year and we have also invited the young people from JZ to join us. We are trying more than ever to balance the books for Soul Survivor this year, so that we don't need to ask for PCC reserves to pay for any shortfall. But with

the funding body who have given us a grant for the last two years saying that they won't support the same trip again, and a number of young people requiring subsidised places to be able to attend, any support from members of the church family to help us to meet the cost of this trip would be appreciated.

So all in all, it's been an odd kind of year in the youth work of our church and our groups look nothing like they did twelve months ago. But despite difficulties with buildings and the age old problem of too few leaders, we are still seeing young people meeting up, getting to know Jesus and growing in their faith. Perhaps not as many as I would like, but God's maths is better than mine.

Karen

### Prayer Pointer

God is inviting you to come to him this Ash Wednesday.

What a wonderful offer!

Make the most of it, and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.



**Jesus demonstrated what real love is...**

## This month's profile

### Melanie Higson

Hello, I am Melanie Higson. I am married to Lee and have two sons, Harry (3) and Isaac (1). I was born in Ascot, Berkshire and lived there for most of my life. I went to Brunel University and studied Business Management. Then I worked in the Marketing within the Travel Industry for 7 years; this included Continental Airlines and P&O Ferries.

In 2000 I decided to take a year out and travelled to Thailand, Australia and New Zealand. I worked at the Sydney Olympics and Paralympics as part of the athlete services team in the athletes' village. I also worked as a volunteer at the opening and closing ceremony. This was an amazing experience for me and having a year to explore this part of the world was great fun. In 2003 I decided to have a career change and got a job as a Community Worker for SureStart in Reading, a family project in a deprived area.

I met Lee in 2004. We got married in September 2007 and I got a job as a Community Worker



at the Great Lever Children's Centre. Bolton is now my home and I have been made very welcome by Lee's family and many other people.

In November 2008 Harry and I started going to the Baby & Toddler group at St Mary's that was run by Jean Mainey. It was a place where I could meet other mums with small babies, chat over a cup of tea with toast and I made some lovely friends. The group really helped me as a new mum who was relatively new to



the area. In November 2009 I started running the group as Jean Mainey left the Church and I have been doing so ever since.



The group, now called Little Lambs,

runs on Tuesday 9.30-11.30 in the Church. We have some wonderful helpers who make tea, coffee and toast for everyone. The babies and children

enjoy a play in a different environment with a selection of toys.

We have a craft and singing session and I would have to say

that we make everyone feel very welcome. There is a real community feel to the group and I know that many mums, grandparents and carers really look forward to coming.

Currently I am enjoying attending a home group where I can explore the bible and ask the questions I have. I have always considered myself to be a Christian but only since coming to St Marys have I realised there is so much more to it. Having two small children to look after on a Sunday morning in Church makes it difficult at times to focus but I am getting there!

## Prayer Pointer

As a leadership team there is little else we are able to offer at the moment as there are not enough of us to safely run a trip for the whole group or to run a youth club type venue.

But despite difficulties with buildings and the age old problem of too few leaders, we are still seeing young people meeting up, getting to know Jesus and growing in their faith.



**I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)**

## Around the local Anglican churches

*Our deanery is divided into 3 'clusters' and one of these clusters comprises Deane Parish (Deane Parish Church and St Andrew's Church), St Bede's Church Morris Green, and St Thomas and St John Church Lostock.*

Rev'd Tim Ashworth (St Bede's & Lostock) is currently running a cluster **Growing Leaders** course at Lostock. 16 people are doing that course.

[www.cpas.org.uk/church-resources/growing-leaders-suite/growing-leaders](http://www.cpas.org.uk/church-resources/growing-leaders-suite/growing-leaders)

Terry and Stephen are at present leading a cluster **Christianity Explored** course, hosted by St Bede's Morris Green. 13 people are doing that course.

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

In addition to their regular meetings, Deane's **CYFA** (Sunday nights 14s-18s) group are meeting with the equivalent group from St Andrew's once a month. Stephen leads this.

Plans are coming together for a parish (possibly cluster!) mission around Easter 2013 to be led by Terry. We are very privileged to have been allocated a team of ordinands (students training for ordination in the Church of England) from Oak Hill Theological College ([www.oakhill.ac.uk](http://www.oakhill.ac.uk)) plus a member of their teaching staff to help us with this mission.

At Deane we have booked Cloverley Hall ([www.cloverleyhall.org](http://www.cloverleyhall.org)) for our next **church weekend away**, which will be Friday 12<sup>th</sup>— Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011. Our theme will be — 'Knowing the joy of the Lord'

# Church Weekend Away

If you were at our church weekend away at Conway last year you'll know what a good time it was. In the end we had pretty much a full house (47 of us); it was a really good time of fellowship and the adult teaching on 'Confidence in God' from Adrian Youings and the work with the children by Kathleen Hughes was brilliant. Folk on the weekend were saying that they would be keen to go on another Deane weekend away. What did strike us about the Conway venue however was that it would be too small for a larger group and so did not allow us to 'grow'.

Looking around at lots of different alternative venues, we have made a booking at Cloverly Hall in North Shropshire for the weekend of **Friday 12th-Sunday 14th October 2012**.

This is one week before Bolton half term holidays start.

Cloverly Hall is 55 miles from Deane (Conway is 87 miles) and they can take 70 of us for that weekend. There is another group already booked in for that weekend but there is plenty of space at Cloverly.



Friday 12 -  
Sunday  
14th  
October at  
Cloverley  
Hall, nr  
Whitchurch  
The week-  
end will be  
relaxed and  
will have  
built into it  
teaching  
times and  
free time  
for you to  
reflect or  
just chill  
out! Costs  
from  
£90.00 per  
adult, full  
board from  
Friday tea  
to Sunday  
lunch.  
Children  
under 6 are  
free.

## Shop Talk

Time flies! We are now into our fourth year at the Church charity shop and thanks to all our helpers and volunteers it continues to be a great success.

Always seeking to do better there are a few ways you may be able to help.

I understand that some places of work run a kind of private eBay for the sale of various items. Does anyone have access to one of these schemes? We could supply goods. Any offers? Would anyone like to have a stall at a car boot stall? Again, we could supply suitable items.

Don't forget to remind neighbours about the shop. In particular we welcome items of clothing.

Please let us have your spare plastic bags (not the charity bags). It would save us buying them.

A local business has very kindly donated quite a few Christmas goods for sale in the shop. We need somewhere to store the boxes. Does anyone have room in a dry garage for instance or other suggestions?

Many thanks, once again!

Bob Benyon

## Child Protection Training

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. St Bede's**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2012 9am - 2:30pm St Andrew's**

Do you help out at a children's or young people's group at church?

There are vital training sessions being held for you at St Bede's  
Morris Green and St Andrew's Over Hulton

Susan Mapledoram will be taking us through the Diocese Child Protection Training with opportunities to ask those tricky questions and think how we can make sure we do a brilliant job with the young people in our churches.

To book your free place contact Deane church office, [deane-churchoffice@btinternet.com](mailto:deane-churchoffice@btinternet.com) or 01204 659637.

Handicraft Group  
**Easter Coffee Morning**

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2012

10.00 to 12 noon

Guide Hut

Tickets will be available from the end of February

At the usual price of 50 p (including refreshments) from any of the members, or just come along on the day (children free).

Proceeds will go the new church hall fund.

Thank you for all your support in the past and we look forward to seeing you in March.

## Men's Breakfast

The Men of Deane will be meeting at the Cafe Vienna at 08:30am on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February for the quarterly **Men's Breakfast**. There will be a short presentation afterwards titled "British Islam - Threat or Opportunity?". This will be given by Phil Rawlings, a Church of England Minister based in Trafford who has completed an MA in Islamic Studies and currently serves as an Inter-faith Officer. The cost of a full English Breakfast (including tea/coffee, toast, fry up etc) is £5.25. Alternatively, an American Breakfast is offered at £7.50 including a Gammon steak and waffles! Please contact Lee Higson or Terry Clark for further details and if you'd like to come, just drop me an e-mail with your meal preference to [leehigson@hotmail.com](mailto:leehigson@hotmail.com) or phone on 07712003290 or 01942 795038.

## Prayer Pointer

for Nigerian Christians as they face religious persecution and discrimination.



Jesus said 'I am the way the truth and the life...'

# Nigerian Christians face escalating attacks

Attacks on Christians in Nigeria continue – and are on the increase. Church leaders there are now deeply concerned that some sort of "systematic ethnic and religious cleansing" may develop. Ayo Oritsejafor, head of the Christian Association of Nigeria, has reported that some of the most recent attacks came after the militant Islamist group, Boko Haram, issued a three day ultimatum for Christians to leave the north. The ultimatum 'expired' on the 4th of January, and after that violence erupted.

At least eight Christians were killed when gunmen stormed a church in Gombe, capital of Gombe State, during a prayer meeting on 5th January. Pastor Johnson Jauro, whose wife was shot dead in the attack, said: "The attackers started shooting sporadically. They shot through the window of the church, and many people were

killed including my wife. Many members who attended the church service were also injured."

The following day, the 6th January, around 20 Christians were gunned down in Mubi, Adamawa state, as they gathered to mourn the death of another Christian who had been killed the night before. The assailants chanted "God is great" as they fired Kalashnikov rifles. They were also carrying knives and machetes. The next night (7th January) three people believed to be Christians were shot dead in the north-eastern town of Biu.

A Boko Haram spokesman claimed responsibility for the attacks. Boko Haram was behind a series of attacks on churches and



other targets in five states over Christmas that left more than 40 people dead and prompted President Goodluck Jonathan to declare a state of emergency in the most troubled areas. Boko Haram is fighting to create an Islamic state and impose sharia law. The group has been responsible for more than 500 deaths over the last year.



(Mother's Day continued)

It's also quite a good thing for the church, because families like to come together on this particular day, and by tradition (fairly recent, I suspect) posies of flowers are provided for the children to give to their mums - and sometimes grandmas, too. Because the following weekend is the feast of the Annunciation (the angel Gabriel telling Mary that she was going to have a baby), preachers may justifiably point out how crucial the role of motherhood is in the whole Christian story. All those paintings and stained glass windows of the Madonna and Child remind us that, just like all the rest of us, Jesus had a mother who fed and nurtured him, guided him through the years of childhood and stood by him later on when things were dark and dreadful.

Some chocolate, some flowers, a phone call, a nice lunch out - only a gesture, perhaps, but they are ways of saying 'thank you, mum'. She deserves it, doesn't she?

**Prayer Pointer**—for all households and care homes where we live, that the love of our caring God will be shared in all of them.

Love is slow  
to lose  
Patience  
1 Cor 13

Team Rector	Terry Clark	01204 61819
Curate	Stephen Bazely	01204 849228
OLM	Elizabeth Plant	01204 63730
Readers	David Dewhurst	01204 651347
	Nola Kilsby	01204 665700
Wardens	Les Kilsby	01204 665700
	Beccy Rutter	01204 654737
	Ken Tidmarsh	01204 652184
Church Office		01204 654737

## District Church Council

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

## Other Responsibilities

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

## Sunday Schools

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

## Youth Groups

Voltage/Element	Karen Greenhalgh	01204 654737
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## Uniformed Organisations

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