

# Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



February 2022

Price 50p

## Who's who at St Oswald's

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## The Parochial Church Council April 2021-2022

Christine Osbaldiston, Jackie Pengelly, Richard Raymond, Sally Garnett, Alison Grimshaw, Beverley Nixon, Maggie O'Donnell, Jenny Riley, Simon Thomas, Chris Ward, Angela Williams, Anne Coomes (*ex officio*)

*Deanery Synod:* Sue Berry, Anthea Wilkinson & Chris Ward

*Diocesan Synod:* Richard Raymond

## Letter from Nancy

Dear All

2<sup>nd</sup> February is Candlemas. A weather-beaten old farmer once told me that Candlemas marks the middle of winter for farmers, half of winter feed for livestock should be eaten by Candlemas, halfway through from when the grass stopped growing in Autumn to when it begins to grow fast enough in spring to feed the livestock once again.



Farmer Robert would stand outside church on Candlemas and recite, *“If Candlemas be fair and bright, winter will have another fight, If Candlemas be wind and rain, winter will not come again.”* I noticed that many winters this saying was proved wrong, but he had a wealth of excuses, “Ah, but the Blackthorn will flower early”.

In February, the hours of daylight start to return noticeably, and we feel we are emerging from the darkness of winter, and like all the natural world we turn to the light. Candlemas is the feast of The Presentation of Christ in the Temple. In the Bible story, in Luke chapter 2, the old man Simeon and the old woman Anna see Mary and Joseph bring baby Jesus into the temple. These two very elderly people are excited to see in this baby a light for the whole world and they proclaim it loudly to all will listen. A light who will set the whole world free from darkness.

This February will we seeing light returning at the end of the dark Covid tunnel? In the darkness of Covid, a light has revealed important truths and caused many people to reassess what really matters in life. People, relationships, community. What it means to live a life full of light – what it means to share that light with others. It is not new news. The elderly Simeon and Anna shouted aloud to all who could hear: Jesus is the light of the world that no darkness can ever put out.

Every Blessing,

Nancy

## Beginnings

*Canon Roy Arnold comments on the front cover*

Here we are again, near the beginning of a New Year. The theme of our parish news covers for 2022 will be 'Hymns We Love', and we start with a hymn which celebrates the start of a new day – 'Morning Has Broken.' It is a hymn that is popular at children's services and funerals.



Our cover shows us a blackbird, a bird with a lovely song to sing – often at daybreak and evening. This year, like all our years, will consist of days and nights, 24 hours of existence for me and for you. So, maybe it would be good to remind ourselves to live this year a day at a time. That is the advice of Jesus, who said "each day has enough trouble of its own", and I suppose plenty of joys too, if we care to take hold of them.

Another hymn, 'Lead kindly light' reminds us that we must take one step at a time, in other words – try not to worry too much about what may or may not happen in the future. Or for that matter, mither ourselves about what is past. Let us try to live this year a day at a time.

\*\*

## In praise of pressing on

It is worth considering the words of the apostle Paul where he says, "I press on towards the goal" (Philippians 3:14). It suggests that we keep on taking one step at a time, and simply keep on moving in the right direction, with discipline and determination.

The great Bible translator Willian Carey once said of himself, "If He gives me credit for being a plodder, He will describe me justly. Anything beyond that will be too much. I can plod. I can persevere in any definite pursuit. To this I owe everything."

Christian discipleship is not always exciting, glamorous, or even enjoyable. Sometimes it is a matter of quietly getting on with it, with our eyes fixed on Jesus.

## God so loved the world

*'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.'* (John 3:16)

This month, as we mark St Valentines' Day, we focus on the importance of love. In understanding the way God loves us, this verse shows us how we should love others.



*God's love is unconditional:* God demonstrated His unconditional love for us by sending His Son into this world, to show us how we should love others, especially when it is undeserved! *'There is nothing we can do to make God love us more. There is nothing we can do to make God love us less.'* (Philip Yancey).

*God's love is sacrificial:* God's love is not selfish or self-seeking, but selfless and self-sacrificial, putting the needs of others first. This is demonstrated by the cross, which is the supreme demonstration of God's love. He died for our sins to give us access to God's love, which is made real in our lives by the Holy Spirit.

*God's love is forgiving:* According to the film *Love Story*, 'Love means never having to say you're sorry.' Yet Jesus' love for us enables us to forgive others, as we find His forgiveness through the gift of eternal life, available to all who put their trust in Him.

In this World Cup Year, we remember Bobby Moore describing the terror of receiving the World Cup from the Queen in 1966: *"I noticed that the Queen was wearing some beautiful white gloves. I looked down at my hands and they were completely covered with mud!"* Although we approach God with dirty and spoilt lives, because of His love, we can shake hands with a holy God and share that love with others.



## The 'Numbers Crunch'

*Finance report from our treasurer, Richard Raymond*

Not a lot to report this month. Work is being done on finalising the church accounts for 2021 so that they can be audited in time for our Annual Parish Church Meeting.

New Year brings a new awareness to our lives, with new beginnings and new resolutions. If yours might be to review your giving to our church, or indeed, if you are thinking of becoming a regular giver, please talk to me. There are several ways that your financial contribution can be made, and I am happy to speak to anyone confidentially about these. All donations to the church ensure that the work that is done by the parish in the parish can continue and can grow.

\*\*

## 60 years since we first orbited Earth

It was 60 years ago this month, on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1962, that John Glenn became the first American astronaut to orbit the Earth. He made three orbits in the space capsule Friendship 7, which he named himself.

The three circles of the globe – which lasted just under five hours – made the Presbyterian Christian a hero and a household name. The American launch was postponed four times because of mechanical issues and uncertain weather, and the flight was not without its frightening moments. An apparent problem with the heat shield necessitated a change in plans during the flight.

Glenn, who represented Ohio as a Democratic senator for 25 years from 1974, returned to space in 1998 aboard the space shuttle Discovery, making him the oldest person to fly in space. That mission's main aim was to study the effects of space flight on older people. He died in 2016, aged 95.

Glenn said that seeing the Earth from orbit stirred in him a tremendous sense of wonder that strengthened his faith, adding: "To look out at this kind of creation out here and not believe in God is to me impossible.



# The Great Christmas Tree Recipe

*Each year just after Twelfth Night, the organisers of the East Cheshire Hospice Christmas Tree Collection cook up an enormous cake. Richard Raymond shares the recipe:*

## Ingredients

45 tree sellers	20,000 leaflets	75 banners
Over 12,000 emails	Add more emails to taste	Approx. 7000 trees
About 2000 roads	Nearly 250 square miles	45 vans x 2 days
150 helpers per day	1 giant chipper and 3 small chippers	
1 massive mulching machine	85 tonnes of compost	
PLUS: plenty of zest, humour, tea, beer and the spice of life!		

## Method

Supply leaflets to the tree sellers, place the banners in visible locations.

Fold in the 12,000 emails. Add more emails.

Mix the resultant data into an enormous spreadsheet.

Drink tea, beer and the spice of life.

Find 150 volunteers and blend to 45 vans. Sprinkle with instruction files, rounds sheets and safety equipment. Drizzle hot food, drinks and Mars bars onto the mix.

Repeat a day later. Drink tea, beer and the spice of life .... again

Visit all the roads over the whole area. Collect the trees and refer to the recipe for recycling. Load trunks and branches into the chipping and mulching machines. Weigh the mix and expect it to be around 85 tonnes.

Drink tea, beer and the spice of life in amazement.

## And finally

Take the cake to the hospice where the dream toppings of gift aid icing and matched funding decorations must be added to the online donations. Then sit back with tea or beer and the spice of life in quiet contemplation of another successful baking of the Enormous Christmas Tree Collection Cake!

# Introducing Wendy Moss,

*our visiting 'Reader in training'*



## **1. Wendy, where do you come from?**

I'm a Macclesfield Lass, born in Macclesfield hospital where both my parents worked and where I now work. I did my nurse training in Birmingham, returning to Macclesfield in 1981.

## **2. We know you work at the hospital, but what do you do there?**

I manage the Newborn Hearing Screening Department. We check all newborn babies to make sure their ears function as they should. I'm mainly office based but I do get to play with babies!

## **3. What do you most enjoy about it?**

Making a difference. A dad of a hearing-impaired boy once said, 'If you want to know about Newborn Hearing Screening, ask my (4 year old) son. He won't be able to tell you anything about it, but the fact he can have a conversation with you is all you need to know!'

## **4. Were you brought up as a Christian to go to church?**

Yes, I attended Beech Lane Methodist Church, until my early teens.

## **5. When and how did Jesus Christ come to be personally special to you?**

When I was 19, as a Student Nurse in Birmingham, I was invited to a Home Group. There I met a room full of people genuinely living their faith. It was so 'real' I found it quite overwhelming and made my commitment to God that night.

## **6. What is your church background?**

When my children were young, we all attended St Georges Street Baptist



Church in Macclesfield. I became part of the Music Group, took the services regularly, and occasionally preached. I then became very unwell, initially bedbound and then housebound for a couple of years, until I accepted that I needed to use a wheelchair.

We joined Holy Trinity Hurdsfield over 20 years ago. I went with friends for their Easter Morning service, and I have been there ever since. These days, I'm part of the HTH prayer ministry team, I also help lead a Home Group and I have been involved with the St Luke's (Hospital Chapel) Team for some time. I have been taking services and preaching since 2016.

### ***7. What made you decide to go for Readership?***

Having taken quite a few services in the Hospital Chapel, I decided to take the 'Foundations for Ministry' course, and then after much consideration and prayer, I felt led to consider Reader Training. It was the right decision. It's been really fabulous, I have learned so much in every module. Although since March 2020, Covid has prevented us from meeting each week at Daresbury, it had made us all very adaptable – and Zoom experts! Fitting everything around a full-time job has been a challenge though.

### ***8. What do you hope to focus on in the future, as a Reader?***

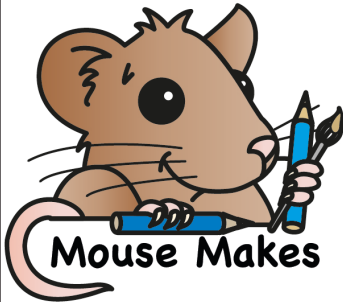
Once the Hospital Chapel re-opens, I will be back with the St Luke's Team taking services. Meanwhile, I have preached a few times at HTH, and as a guest elsewhere. HTH has a good number of people on the Preaching Team, so I may be also helping out in other churches where there is a need.

### ***9. What do you enjoy doing in your free time?***

I belong to Macclesfield Seals Swimming Club and also the Macclesfield Christian Music Ministries Choir, producing musicals by Roger Jones. I also have a poodle called Mr Willow who is a real cuddle-bug.

### ***10. What do you hope to achieve while you are with us at St Oswald's?***

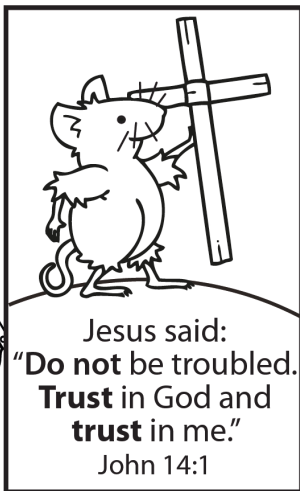
I'm looking forward to developing my skills, growing and learning from you all. Without being entirely flippant, I also need to learn how to work in a surplice! Although I have worn uniform all my working life, this is one uniform I could get tangled up in rather easily - especially in the wheels of my wheelchair! I foresee more than a few giggles along the way...



**Mouse Makes**

But I **trust**  
in you,  
O Lord;  
I say,  
"You are  
my God."

Psalm 31:14



Jesus said:  
"Do not be troubled.  
**Trust** in God and  
**trust** in me."

John 14:1

Cut out and colour these cards to help you to **thank** and **praise** God.

When I am afraid  
I will **trust** you,  
I praise God for  
His word,  
I **trust** God, so  
I am *not* afraid.

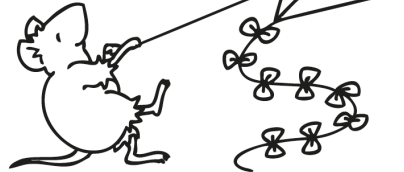
Psalm 56:3-4



The Lord is good,  
a refuge in times  
of trouble.  
He cares for those  
who **trust** in Him.

Nahum 1:7

"May the God of hope fill you  
with joy and peace as you  
**trust** in Him." Romans 3:13



**Trust** in the Lord with  
all your heart and  
lean not on your own  
understanding.  
In all your ways **submit**  
to Him and He will make  
your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6



## **Saving the Planet - via your kitchen and bathroom**

*As world leaders wake up to the crisis of global warming and plan emergency measures before it is too late, each of us can make a difference right now, beginning in our own homes. By the Ven John Barton, former Archdeacon of Aston*

### **Start in the KITCHEN**

25% of the world's food is thrown away. One supermarket discovered British households waste seven million tonnes of food waste every year, partly because most of our fridges aren't cold enough. Keeping the fridge temperature at a maximum of 4 degrees will help food last longer and save waste. Vast quantities of greenhouse gases are released by animals reared to supply us with red meat and dairy products. Cutting down on quantities and conserving leftovers would help.

Conserving electricity by washing clothes at 30 degrees and replacing power-hungry tumble driers with a clothesline or old-fashioned clotheshorse would have the added advantage of reducing soaring power bills. According to the Good Housekeeping Institute, "many mainstream detergents are brimming with synthetic chemicals like phosphates, chlorine and bleach that pollute our waterways, damaging delicate ecosystems, and may irritate sensitive skin." Plant-based and eco-friendly alternatives are now readily available and work well in the washing machine and dishwasher.

### **Don't forget the BATHROOM**

Annual increases in UK water consumption would be curbed, if we were to shower rather than bath. Exchanging the shower head for a water-saving type, which regulates or aerates the flow, would save both water and cash. Spending less time in the shower needn't be a hardship. Daily shampooing may actually be counter-productive - it's best to let some oils remain in the hair, so they can act as moisturisers. Biodegradable body wash is available in bulk, from which re-usable containers can be filled.

Eco-friendly toothpaste is now on the market, some of it in plastic-free containers. More water can be saved by turning the tap off as we brush. Beware wet-wipes which may be 'flushable', but aren't biodegradable, because they are part-plastic. Eco-friendly alternatives are now available.

Saving the planet needn't cost the earth.

## All in the month of ... FEBRUARY

It was:

175 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1847 that Thomas Edison, American inventor and businessman was born. Best known for inventing the first practical incandescent light bulb, phonograph, movie camera and projector.

75 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 1947 that the first of the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in caves in Khirbat Qumran (now in the West Bank, Palestine).

70 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 1952 that Princess Elizabeth ascended the throne following the death of her father, King George VI. She was in Kenya at the time and became the first Sovereign in over 200 years to accede while abroad.

60 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 1962 that John Glenn became the first American astronaut to orbit the Earth in the space capsule *Friendship 7*.

50 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 1972 that the British Government declared a state of emergency over the miners' strike which had begun in January.

Also 50 years ago, on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 1972 that the House of Commons voted by eight votes to join the Common Market (now the European Union).

30 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 1992 that the English Premier League was founded, superseding the first division of the Football League.

25 years ago, on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 1997 that an inquest into the death of black British teenager Stephen Lawrence ended. The jury decided that he had been unlawfully killed by five white youths, but they were not then convicted.

Also 25 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1997 that scientists at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh announced they had successfully cloned a sheep named Dolly.

20 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2002 that Cancer Research UK was founded. It is the world's largest independent cancer research and awareness charity.

10 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2012 that Whitney Houston, one of the bestselling music artists of all time, died. She drowned in her hotel bathtub because of coronary artery disease and drug intoxication, aged only 48.

# Book of Remembrance for FEBRUARY

- 4 Gilbert John Capper
- 5 Phyllis Jackson
- 6 John Arthur Ashton
- 7 Gary Mark Kendrick  
Barbara Audrey White  
Hilary Mary Morgan  
Ian Mather
- 8 Bessie Hughes  
John Neville Bamford
- 9 Arthur Houghton
- 10 Revd. John Bryce Warburton  
*(Vicar of this parish 1981-1991)*
- 11 Amy Osbaldiston
- 14 Hubert Wallworth
- 15 Alan Heathcote  
John H Downes
- 16 Dorah Stanesby
- 17 Walter Chadwick  
Emmeline Worthington
- 19 William Lea
- 20 Joseph Bowden
- 21 Catherine Elizabeth Mallon
- 25 Elizabeth Bowden  
Joseph Bowden
- 27 Kate Amelia Mills
- 28 Amy Elizabeth Molineux  
Charles Clifford Arnold



Would you like to include the name of a departed loved one? An entry costs £10. Please contact Ann Stringer on 01625 574325

\*\*

## Donation to Columbarium

In memory of Donald Ainsworth, from Jean, Judith, and Roy

## Encouragement for our Christian pilgrimage

We talk about heaven being so far away. Yet it is within speaking distance to those who belong there. - *D L Moody*

Our prayers must mean something to us if they are to mean anything to God. - *M D Babcock*

God made man to be somebody, not just to have things. - *Anon*

Christ's sheep are marked in the ear and the foot; they hear His voice and they follow Him. - *Anon*

How is it that nobody has dreamed up any moral advances since Christ's teaching? What was there in His heredity and His environment to account for this unique teacher, and the remarkable fact that no greater has ever looked like emerging? - *Michael Green*

All history is incomprehensible without Christ. - *Ernest Renan*

The yearning of man's heart is homesickness for God. - *Anon*

Seek Christ, and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in. - *CS Lewis*

We make our friends, we make our enemies, but God sends our next-door neighbour. - *GK Chesterton*

## Four famous quotes from Desmond Tutu

*The recent death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu was mourned around the world. Here are four of his more famous quotes.*

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

"Don't raise your voice, improve your argument. Good sense does not always lie with the loudest shouters."

"Forgiving is not forgetting; it's actually remembering - remembering and not using your right to hit back. It's a second chance for a new beginning."

"Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realise our need of one another."

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## Worship at St Oswald's in February

Sunday 6	9.15am - Parish Communion
	10.30am - Family Worship
Sunday 13	10.30am - Parish Communion
Sunday 20	10.30am - Family Communion
Sunday 27	10.30am - Parish Communion



Every Tuesday during term time, 9.30-11.30am: **Praise and Play**

Every Wednesday at 2:00pm: **Faith Hour Meeting** in the Vestry

Every Thursday at 10.30am: **Holy Communion**

## Resource Day Saturday 12th March – all welcome!

Our Resource Day will be in church on Saturday 12th March 2022. It is a day when we come together as a church to go deeper into the life of God. We will be led by a visiting team who are dedicated to helping small local Anglican churches renew their faith and breathe deeply of the Holy Spirit to come alive anew. It should be a fabulous day, so put it in your diary now. *Nancy*

## Bollington Church News – how to contact us

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Publishing & Printing: Published by the PCC, printed by CPO.

Distribution: Sue Whitehurst and Christine Osbaldiston

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**Deadline:** Material for March issue to reach Anne by 18<sup>th</sup> February.