Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



The LORS's my Shepherd

March 2022

Price 50p

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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

This year Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 2rd March. It lasts for 40 days and 40 nights (not including Sundays) to remind us of Jesus going into the wilderness. For Jesus those 40 prayer-filled days were a time of testing and formation, becoming the person God wanted Him to be.



Lent is a gift to us of renewal. It gives us a few weeks to focus on God, focus on what really matters in life, focus on the kind of person God has made us to be, to develop more self-control, to become more alive to the needs of the world, to safely risk being open-hearted generous people, allowing God's abundance to flow through us and out from us into a thirsty world.

Please, please, everyone make the most of your Lent. It is a wonderful spiritual opportunity – the Holy Spirit will be helping you every step of the way if you take even little steps to get closer to God, and you will experience a new hope and renewal in your life. God is faithful and will be there when you pray.

What can you do?

Pray each day for God's help to go for a walk each day, or give up chocolate, crisps, biscuits, or alcohol – something that will benefit your health and help develop your self-control. If you do, you'll find yourself nudged closer to God.

Find a way of being deliberately generous and open-hearted each day.

Try to pause to pray the Lord's Prayer every morning. You'll begin to pray about other parts of your day too.

Give up six Tuesday nights in to join in with our Lent study group on *The Lord's Prayer*. You will be amazed at how God speaks when you learn. (Starts 15th March).

Make a firm commitment to be at our ReSource Sanctuary Day of teaching and experience of the Holy Spirit on Saturday 12^{th} March - which I am confident will be one of the most powerful days at church you'll have ever experienced

- you really must not miss out!! (We're doing it at the strong recommendation of Bishop Mark).

Whatever you do for Lent, do something. Draw near to God and God will draw near to you.

With every blessing,

Nancy

The Lord is our Shepherd

Canon Roy Arnold comments on the front cover

The fields and hills of Bollington are full of sheep just now, much like Ann Stringer's cover picture this month. Sheep and lambs have a strong biblical connection, and so often turn up in our hymns and worship.



Most people know the hymn 'The Lord's my shepherd',

which is the 23rd Psalm. It reminds us that Jesus is like a shepherd looking after us. Whether we are sweet like lambs, or older and a bit more stubborn – like sheep! – God still cares for us. When we go astray, Jesus, our Good Shepherd, comes searching for us. He wants to bring us home to Him, rejoicing over us.



The LORD'S my Shepherd

'Lamb' in the Bible has an even more important connotation. For the Bible tells us that Jesus Himself is the Lamb of God, and that He willingly laid down His life to pay for the sins of the whole world.

By that one sacrifice, we can be sure that if we come to God the Father, we will be forgiven our sins, and accepted into his family.

And then we, in our turn, can live lives that reflect the love of God for our families, our neighbours, and the whole of God's world.

In loving memory of Dr Maurice Coope



Rev Nancy remembers a hugely loved, very special doctor

The funeral of Bollington legend, Dr Maurice Coope, was at Macclesfield Crematorium on Friday 11th February. As Vicar of Bollington, I had the honour of officiating.

It was followed by a gathering at the Cock and Pheasant, a place where Dr Maurice would often be found doing informal medical consultations. Many stories were shared of his dedication to his work and the community and the love and respect that people had for him. He died suddenly of a heart attack at home in Bollington.

Dr Maurice Coope was born at home in Bollington in 1937 and grew up at The Waterhouse, with parents Eileen and Geoffrey Coope, both doctors. He was one of seven children: John, Russell, Christopher, Clemmy, Katherine, Maurice and Honour. Maurice fought against the family pull of medicine, but eventually

gave in, qualified as a GP, and never looked back. He married Dizzy, whom he met at medical school in Birmingham, and they worked together at The Waterhouse and had three children: Andrew, Philippa and Geoffrey.

At the funeral, Andrew spoke movingly of the values that his father lived by, with stories of his compassion, determination, positivity, hope, honesty, and integrity.

Many people in Bollington will remember Dr Maurice's commitment and drive to get the leisure centre built, selling bricks for fundraising. Dr Maurice was himself an excellent competitive squash player.

Andrew spoke of his father's medical accomplishments, how Dr Maurice trained the people who trained GPs and was a pioneer in giving prescriptions for gym sessions. We heard how he loved to giggle and tease and test his grandchildren, who spoke about him with so much love and respect.

There have been so many lovely stories told from people who remember him as their family doctor. He would often tell people that he'd himself experienced their same illness, ache, or pain, as if he'd suffered from a little bit of everything. He'd stand having a cigarette, laughing with patients before going in to run their stop-smoking clinic. Most of all people remember him as a truly excellent doctor and as a real people-person.

I was there, Bollington's Vicar, for Dr Maurice at his funeral, but he was there for me, Bollington's Doctor, at my birth. A beautiful circular symmetry.

I concluded by saying:

"On behalf of the people of Bollington, Thank you, Dr Maurice for everything: You shared your life with us: God give eternal life to you. You gave your love to us: God give His deep love to you. You gave your time to us: God give His eternity to you. You gave your light to us: God give everlasting light to you. Go upon your journey, dear soul, to love, light and life eternal. Amen."

Dates for your Diary this month

Our ReSource Sanctuary Day – don't miss it! Saturday 12th March, 10:30am – 4:00pm at St Oswald's

This 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! Then sign up on the list at church, or send Nancy or our Churchwardens a note with your name, your phone number and any dietary needs.

The day is free, and lunch is provided. At the end there will be a donation towards lunch and travelling expenses of the visiting team.

Lent Course – all welcome



Tuesday 15th March, 7.30pm for 6 weeks

The Lord's Prayer is known worldwide, but when did you last really think about what the words can mean for you? Come and join us as we prayerfully consider this prayer to end all prayers.

Prayer & Pastries, Thursday 10th March, 11:15am at St Oswald's

An ecumenical get together with some of the lovely folks from St Gregory's Roman Catholic Church to have a brew and a prayer together. Do come along and support us.

Bollington Horticultural Show, Saturday March 12th, 2:00 – 4:00pm

Come to the Civic Hall for Handicrafts, flowers, bulbs, cookery, refreshments.

The 'Numbers Crunch' - Richard Raymond returns next month.

North Staffordshire Sponsored Walk for Christian Aid



Saturday 2nd April, Tittesworth Reservoir

From Richard Jones

Spring is just around the corner. The snowdrops have been up for a week and the crocuses are now showing their faces. After the winter, it is time for us to wake up too. A few days ago, I had a phone call from one of the organizers of the 'North Staffs Sponsored Walk for Christian Aid'. He described the financial straits that the charity now finds itself in, and hoped we would be taking part in the event again this year. Of course, I said "Yes".

The walk really is a wonderful day out. The route goes around Tittesworth Reservoir and takes about two hours. There are a few ups and downs, but no proper hills and the views are beautiful. It starts and finishes at the visitors' centre where you can get a good lunch after the walk. Please help yourself to a sponsorshp form at the back of the church, or sponsor someone else!

Come and sing Easter with us at St Oswald's!

From Anthea WIlkinson

At the last PCC meeting it became clear that some people would love to sing in the choir but are not able to commit to weekly attendance. The choir has also



recently been depleted and would welcome support, particularly at special times in the Christian calendar such as Easter and Christmas.

The suggestion was to have a five or six week rehearsal time running up to singing at the appropriate service. At the moment, we are practicing before the Sunday service and I would envisage this continuing, though probably starting earlier with the augmented choir, so people could leave before the start of the service if they were unable to stay. Now that Covid restrictions are beginning to ease it would be lovely to work towards a joyfully sung service at 10.30 Easter morning.

Do let me know if you or a friend of yours could help by coming along to sing at this special time. Please contact me on 01625 573538 or <u>anthea.wilkinson2@btopenworld.com</u> with any queries . Thank you!

My growing concern for the environment

By the Rev Bill White, a retired vicar who worships at St Oswald's

I was delighted to see a photograph of Greystoke Church in the December magazine. Greystoke is the place to which Canon Phil Lambert has recently moved. Rosemary and I lived there for 12 years, as I served as its Rector. We know from joyful experience Greystoke is a very welcoming community. We wish him well.

I also had both the privilege and sorrow of conducting the memorial service for Jill Tovey in that church. Many of you will remember her as the wife of a former Vicar of Bollington.

We moved to Bollington in autumn 2019 and were keen to attend the local church, which we did until Covid-19 started, and spasmodically ever since.



Credit: Mauldy

Unable to do the post-retirement essentials like booking holidays, visiting family or friends, or even socialising we threw ourselves into a project. We had always wanted a garden that was productive, hospitable, restful, and wildlife friendly. Designing, sourcing materials, and then doing nearly all the labouring ourselves we are delighted with the outcome. Backing on to the canal, we had many conversations and much encouragement from those walking along the tow path. In the meantime, we remain learner gardeners but are appreciating some fruit from our efforts.

As the landscaping project approached completion, I realised I would need another challenge. The result: I enrolled with The Open University and have embarked on part time degree in Environmental Studies.

Why the environment? I have always been concerned about justice and, more recently, environmental justice, and felt called to "live simply, that others could simply live". However this, along with fanatical recycling, didn't feel enough.

From the side-lines I followed the activities of the environmental protest group, Extinction Rebellion, known as XR. They get a mixed press. Some say they are extremists, others that they are tame. Some judge it on what they would be comfortable with doing themselves, others just don't have the time or energy to even be bothered.

Surely a more objective approach is to ask: just how serious is the problem? Over recent years it has been impossible to be deaf to the concerns that many have about climate change. So much has been written, so many different views are expressed, and it is difficult to discern truth from social-media enhanced fiction. The reading for the course is helping me to be properly critical of the messages we hear. It gives access to well researched views, and of how the same data can be used to give contradictory opinions.

Where is God in all this? As Christians we believe in God the Creator, who takes delight in creation, and gave us a stewardship role. We believe in truth, justice, equality and compassion. We pray for God's kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven.

**

Encouragement for our Christian pilgrimage in Lent

The need of the world is to listen to God. - Albert Einstein

Time spent on the knees in prayer will do more to remedy heart strain and nerve worry than anything else. - *G D Stewart*

If Christians praised God more, the world would doubt Him less. - C E Jefferson

Some people treat God as they do a lawyer; they go to him only when they are in trouble. - *Anon*

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

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

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

Flower arrangements in our church

From Chris and Elaine Ward

The environmental effects of using 'floral foam' for flower arranging and for decorating coffins was raised at a recent meeting of the Church of England General Synod. National press coverage suggested that the church was advocating a ban on the use of such materials. This led to a series of letters to the Telegraph from flower arrangers for and against the idea. The gentleman who tabled the original question then clarified that he was not calling for sanctions, but was looking at alternatives.



At St Oswald's, if asked, we recommend making an arrangement in a vase which can easily be placed in a window or on a shelf. This has the advantage of not only protecting the

environment, but the flowers last longer in the fresh water of a vase. It is also less challenging for those new to flower arranging.

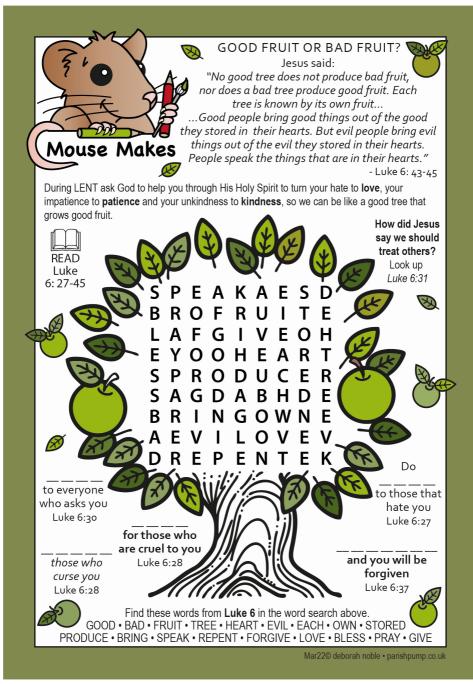
As in other churches, we do not to have flowers in church during Advent (as a preparation for Christmas) and Lent (as a season of reflection and prayer leading up to Easter).

We thank all our volunteers for signing up this year for weekly flowers.

Live Laugh Learn at Macclesfield u3a

- Retired from work, not from Life! Thursday 24th March

You are very welcome to join us at Macclesfield u3a's opening morning at The Calvary Church on Earslway, from 10.00am. We are a mutual self-help organisation of retired or semi-retired members who wish to socialise and learn. Our groups cover a whole range of activities including, outdoor pursuits, arts and crafts, languages, the sciences, sports, social activities, photography, literature and much more. We come together to learn and to keep active. Visit us at www.maccu3a.uk or call the membership secretary 07900 408753.



Giving thanks for our



mothers

The honouring of mothers goes back to Roman times. Each Spring, a pagan festival honoured Cybele, supreme Goddess of Fertility and Mother of all the Gods. Other celebrations paid tribute to Mother Earth. From the Middle Ages, in England, it became traditional for outdoor labourers and craftsmen to have a day off in Lent. Later, domestic servants were also given short leave to visit their mother and family. These brief holidays became opportunities to go to church. The Services at the 'mother' church symbolised the coming together of families. The term 'Mothering Sunday' dates from the 16th century. This year it falls on the 27th March.

'Mother's Day' is a secular festival. It originated in 1908 after a woman called Anna Jarvis held a church memorial service for her mother in West Virginia, USA. She was a peace activist and a nurse. She founded Mother's Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. Anna wanted people to honour the mother of the family, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. Before she died, Anna regretted the commercialism that followed and expressed that this was never her intention.

Many mothers are mentioned in the Bible along with interesting stories about them. These include Eve, Hagar, Leah, Ruth and Bathsheba, to mention only a few. A few times God enabled childless women to have a baby: Rachel, Rebekah, Manoah's wife (unnamed) and Hannah who eventually gave birth to Joseph, Jacob, Samson and Samuel respectively. There was also Sarah, wife of Abraham, who aged 90 became the mother of Isaac.

It is possible that these miraculous births were remembered by the Virgin



Mary. She was certainly aware that her elderly relative was pregnant. These events foreshadowed angel Gabriel's announcement that Mary was going to have a baby. Then added "For nothing is impossible with God." (Luke 1:37)

On our Mothering Sunday, what else can we remember about mothers and give thanks to God for them?

Observing Lent

This month sees the start of Lent, the 40-day season of penitence, self-examination and fasting running up to Easter. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and taught His disciples to fast: *'when you fast.'* (Matthew 6:17).

The spiritual discipline of fasting involves missing one or two meals during the day, refraining from TV, alcohol or social media, and identifying the things that get in the way of our focus on God. What are the benefits of fasting?

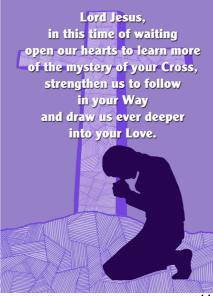
The act of giving something up expresses my desire to put God first in my life.

it shows me the things that I depend on rather than God, so that I can surrender 'my idols' to Him. It encourages me to have a deeper hunger and dependency for God. It gives me space to focus on God for His strength, provision, and wisdom resulting in a more intimate relationship with Christ: 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.' (Matthew 5:6).

Fasting enables the Holy Spirit to reveal my true spiritual condition, leading to brokenness and repentance, and a transformed life along with heart that is more attentive and dependent on God.

Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines, eg: joining a study group, 'random acts of kindness', giving more time to prayer and Bible study or solitude, and reading a Lent book. Whatever you do, make Lent count this year!

'Jesus takes it for granted that His disciples will observe the pious custom of fasting. Strict exercise of self-control is an essential feature of the Christian's life. Such customs have only one purpose - to make the disciples more ready and cheerful to accomplish those things which God would have done.' (Dietrich Bonhoeffer).



Christian Basics: Why the Cross?

The cross is a picture of violence, yet the key to peace;

a picture of suffering, yet the key to healing;

a picture of death, yet the key to life;

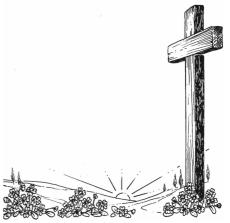
- a picture of utter weakness, yet the key to power;
- a picture of capital punishment, yet the key to mercy and forgiveness;
- a picture of vicious hatred, yet the key to love;

a picture of supreme shame, yet the Christian's supreme boast.

The cross really is the key to everything! Although a horrifying instrument of torture and death, it is also a symbol of love and peace. On the cross Jesus died

to deal with the problem of our sin and defeat the powers of death and evil. He identified with our sufferings and set us an example of self-sacrificial love.

As St Peter writes, 'He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed ... Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God' (1 Peter 2:24, 3:18).



Jesus died in our place on the cross and took away our guilt, to pay the full penalty for our sin. Access to God's presence is now open to all, symbolised by the Temple curtain being torn in two from top to bottom. The barrier between us and God was torn down in order 'to bring us to God'.

Jesus is the bridge providing access between us and God. 'If Jesus Christ is to be our Saviour then He must be able to place a hand upon a pardoning God and another hand on a penitent sinner and draw them together in an act of reconciliation' (Bishop Handley Moule).

Wear your daffodil to support Marie Curie

This March the UK's leading end of life charity Marie Curie will once again be asking people across the UK to support its Great Daffodil Appeal.

Money raised from the flagship fundraising appeal will help the charity's doctors, nurses and hospice staff continue their vital work providing expert care to people at the end of life, and their families. Funds raised also go towards the Marie Curie Information and Support Line, which provides support for people dealing with all aspects of end of life including bereavement.

Last year Marie Curie provided direct support to more than 69,000 people – a 15% rise on the previous year – which is more than ever before.

Marie Curie would like to encourage as many people as possible to give their money or time through volunteering, donating, and fundraising. This could include taking part in a Step into Spring challenge, organising a fundraising event, purchasing products from the Marie Curie online shop, or donating.

This year, for the first time in two years, Marie Curie's volunteer collectors will be back on the



streets donning their daffodil hats and selling the charity's iconic daffodil pins.

During the Great Daffodil Appeal, on 23rd March, Marie Curie is inviting everyone in the UK to take part in the National Day of Reflection. It will be a day to come together and support the millions of people who are grieving and remember those we have lost.

You can show your support for the day by wearing a daffodil pin and joining the minute's silence at 12 noon. Or take part by joining one of the many local events happening across the UK or join one of the online talks for inspiration, support and reflection.

For more information on the National Day of Reflection and how to support Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal this March, visit: <u>mariecurie.org.uk</u>

All in the month of ... MARCH

It was:

150 years ago, on 16th March 1872 that the first FA Cup Final was held at the Oval in Kennington, London. Wanderers beat the Royal Engineers 1-0.

100 years ago, on 10th March 1922 that Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi was arrested and charged with sedition for his campaign of non-cooperation against the British Indian government.

Also 80 years ago, on 25th March 1942 that Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul, was born. The American soul/R&B/pop/gospel singer was known for her many hit songs including *Respect* and *I Say a Little Prayer*. (Died 2018)

75 years ago, on 1st March 1947 that the International Monetary Fund began operating.

70 years ago, on 11th March 1952 that Douglas Adams, British comedy writer and dramatist was born. Best known for *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* series. (Died 2001)

65 years ago, on 25th March 1957 that the Treaty of Rome was signed, creating the European Economic Community (EEC) which came into force on 1st January 1958. It was renamed the European Community in 1993 and dissolved in 2009, having been replaced by the European Union.

60 years ago, on 19th March 1962 that the American folk-rock singer Bob Dylan released his debut album *Bob Dylan*.

50 years ago, on 24th March 1972 that the government of Northern Ireland resigned, and on 30th March 1972 that the British government introduced direct rule of Northern Ireland from Westminster (until 1999).

30 years ago, on 19th March 1992 that Buckingham Palace announced the separation of the Duke and Duchess of York (Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson.)

25 years ago, on 6th March 1997 that Queen Elizabeth launched the official Royal website: <u>www.royal.gov.uk</u>

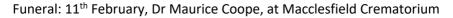
Also 25 years ago, on 21st March 1997 that the Rev W V Awdry, British clergyman and children's writer, died. Best known as the creator of *Thomas the Tank Engine*.

Book of Remembrance for MARCH

- 3rd George Haworth
- 6th Harold James Gumm
- 9th Fred Walker
- 9th Graham Garland
- 10th Kenneth Allen
- 10th Mary Oldfield
- 14th Elizabeth Chadwick
- 15th Jack Johnson
- 18th Kenneth George Wilcox
- 19th Katheryn Ruth Pimblott
- 19th Baby Euan George Rogers
- 22nd Emma Jackson
- 25th Patricia Hilary Wood
- 26th Lesley Holmes
- 26th Robin George Samuel Webster
- 27th David Gaskill
- 29th Audrey Beresford Cameron
- 30th Emily Holmes
- 31st Margaret Ainsworth

From the Registers

Baptism: 6th February, Jonah Pearce





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Worship at St Oswald's in MARCH



Wednesday 2nd March: 10.30am - Ash Wednesday Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes (**Please note** there is no 10.30am Holy Communion on Thursday of this week)

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 – MOTHERING SUNDAY, Parish Communion

Every Tuesday during term time, 9.30-11.30am: Praise and PlayEvery Wednesday at 2:00pm: Faith Hour Meeting in the VestryEvery Thursday at 10.30am: Holy Communion

Bollington Church News - how to contact us

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