Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



April 2022

Price 50p

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The Parochial Church Council April 2021-2022

Christine Osbaldiston, Jackie Pengelly, Richard Raymond, Sally Garnett, Alison Grimshaw, 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,

The Easter promise is one of hope and renewal. God is good and God is faithful. God is always at work to bring goodness and hope. The risen Christ is hope for humanity. The Easter story is a story we see mirrored in our lives. It has everything: despair, betrayal, death and grief.



From The Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, through the betrayal and arrest of Jesus, His trail and His crucifixion on Good Friday, the emptiness and deadness of the tomb on Holy Saturday and the resurrection victory of Easter Sunday.

When we follow the entire Easter story through, bit by bit, we see that there is always resurrection to be found, even in the bleakest moments. The risen Jesus is there with us, renewing us in hope and trust, always working for good to bring new hope.

There is so much in the world that cries out in anger and pain. War, abuse of power, poverty, disease, injustice, the list seems endless. Humans have the ability to bring peace, justice and healing but we fail, again and again. It would need us all to truly live our lives with values like humility, compassion, justice, generosity, peace and setting aside of power.

These are values that shine out from the example of Jesus, sacrificial values, shown in the self-giving love of the servant king. We can't do it ourselves; we always fail. Jesus shows us the way. The way is to follow Him through the Easter story. To trust Him and to hold onto the hope He offers.

Join with us at church this month, and follow each bit of the Easter story as we prepare to keep our eyes on the risen Jesus.

Easter blessings,



Nancy

That 'green hill far away'

Canon Roy Arnold comments on the front cover

The hymn 'There Is A Green Hill Far Away' was written in 1848 by an Irish bishop's wife, Cecil Frances Alexander, who was herself well-known as a hymnwriter and poet. It is a favourite hymn of many Christians.



A former vicar of Bollington thought it would be good to have three wooden crosses put up alongside White Nancy. (Why not use our green hill not so far away, as a site for remembering the hill in Jerusalem?). But that vicar left before he could turn his idea into reality. Meanwhile, we have a cross on our altar, on top of our church, and many of us wear a cross around our neck.

Whether or not folk realise its full significance, the cross is a sign of the love Jesus had for us all, as He suffered for our sins upon the cross. Cecil Frances Alexander's hymn sums it up in a most moving way:

There is a green hill far away, without a city wall, where the dear Lord was crucified, who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell, what pains He had to bear; but we believe it was for us He hung and suffered there.



He died that we might be forgiv'n, He died to make us good,

that we might go at last to heav'n, saved by His precious blood.

There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin;

He only could unlock the gate of heav'n, and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has He loved, and we must love Him too,

and trust in His redeeming blood, and try His works to do.

Source: Trinity Psalter Hymnal

Highlights of Easter at St Oswald's... all welcome!

NEW for all your family -

Welcome to Messy Church!

Come to Messy Church Bollington on Good Friday 10.30am-12 noon in St Oswald's for people of all ages to celebrate Easter together. Particularly suited to families, with crafts, activities, worship and Hot Cross Buns.



Messy Church is new to us here in Bollington Parish Church and is being organised by our new Messy Church team with worship led by Rev Nancy.

Messy Church enables people of all ages to belong to Christ together through their local church. It is a way of being church which is particularly suited to families, but is also welcoming to all. It meets at a time and on a day that suits local families and is particularly aimed at people who have never belonged to a church before.

**

Follow Jesus to the cross, hear the gospel story

Good Friday afternoon, 15th April, 2:00pm-3:00pm

Come to a service of the gospel reading of the arrest, trial, crucifixion, and death of Jesus Christ.

**

Enjoy some Easter creativity on Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday morning 16th April from 10:00am

Do you want to help **decorate Bollington Parish Church**, St Oswald's, for Easter? Lots of helpers old and young needed to have fun and proclaim the joy of Easter – bring daffodils, tulips, lilies, Easter baskets, bonnets, chicks, bunnies, eggs etc. Be creative!

NEW! Celebrate Easter morning on top of White Nancy

Easter Sunday morning 17th April at 7:00am



We are trying something new, inviting the people of Bollington to gather on the top of White Nancy early in the morning on **Easter Day at 7am** for a short service to celebrate.

In it the Easter fire will be lit to proclaim

with joy the newness of life freely offered to us all. Come along – if you can get up White Nancy that early! Bring dogs, muddy children and chocolate.

Special Easter Communion Service

Easter Sunday morning 17th April at 10.30am, St Oswald's

After the early morning climb up White Nancy, come also to St Oswald's church at 10.30 for a very special Easter Communion service, see the beautiful Easter flowers and decorations in church followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for anyone who hasn't already eaten too much chocolate.

**

Our recent ReSource Sanctuary Day

Last month we welcomed the Rev Canon Felicity Lawson to lead us in a quiet day of prayer and reflection on how the Holy Spirit can enrich and empower our daily lives.

It was a day of warm sharing, and we hope to welcome Canon Felicity and her team back at a later date.



How to pray for the war in Ukraine

The war in Ukraine is moving fast and threatening millions of people's lives. Many of us feel overwhelmed by the scale and complexity of the threat. This prayer from the Church of England may help you to formulate your prayers.



In peace let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for the leaders of the nations, that you will guide them in the ways of freedom, justice and truth. Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

We pray for those who bear arms on behalf of the nation, that they may have discipline and discernment, courage and compassion. Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

We pray for our enemies, and those who wish us harm, that you will turn the hearts of all to kindness and friendship. Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

We pray for the wounded and the captive, the grieving and the homeless, that in all their trials they may know your love and support. Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

Most holy God and Father, hear our prayers for all who strive for peace and all who fight for justice.

Help us, who today remember the cost of war, to work for a better tomorrow; and, as we commend to you lives lost in terror and conflict, bring us all, in the end, to the peace of your presence; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Annual Church meetings, to be held on 8th May



Chris Ward, PCC Secretary, reports

St Oswald's annual church meetings will be held in the church on Sunday 8th May starting at 12 noon after the 10.30 Parish Communion Service.

We start with the annual meeting of parishioners, whose sole purpose is to appoint churchwardens for the coming year. All parishioners can attend and vote

at this meeting. Churchwardens must be nominated and seconded in writing in advance of the meeting.

This is immediately followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) which is attended by members on the church Electoral Roll. Here you can keep in touch with the year's activities at the church and see the Annual Accounts for 2021, all of which are issued in a printed Annual Report which will be available online.

Elections for Parochial Church Council members take place at this meeting with nominations made in writing before the meeting. Each member is voted on for three years, but after this can be re-elected for another three years. Based on the numbers on our church Electoral Roll we are entitled have 12 elected PCC members. This year we have 9 vacancies and one 'casual' vacancy for a parochial representative on the Deanery Synod, following the resignation of Sue Berry.

The first meeting of the newly appointed PCC will be held immediately after the APCM, in order to appoint the Lay Chair, PCC Secretary, Treasurer, Electoral Roll Officer and Sidespeople.

Electoral Roll. The church Electoral Roll is revised every year. If you are not already a member and wish to join, application forms will be available at the back of the church. Please leave your completed forms in the appropriate box or hand to Jackie Pengelly our Electoral Roll Officer. The revision must be completed at least 15 days before the APCM, where the numbers on the revised roll are announced.



The 'Numbers Crunch'

Finance report from our Treasurer Richard Raymond



Church Accounts

The church accounts for 2021 have been completed and audited, and the PCC has approved them, so that means that they can be presented to our Annual Parish Church Meeting this month, for information and scrutiny. Elsewhere in this magazine you will find out the date and time of this meeting, so please do come along to hear and see what your church has done over the last year.

Gifts to St Oswald's

As I write this, we are now in the season of Lent, which is a traditional period of reflection and sacrifice (no chocolate biscuits for 40 days?!). Whilst there are many calls on our finances these days, not least calls to help with aid to the refugees from Ukraine, maybe you could reflect that the church too is facing enormous gas and electricity rises, and other costs as well. Could you make a small sacrifice and make a one-off donation this Lent?

As always, any size of gift will be gratefully received. For cheques, our bank account name is '**The Anglican Parish of Bollington PCC**'. For online purposes, our details are on the Standing Order forms at the back of church, so please do take one of these. Or just see me!! Thank you.

Donations for Ukraine

The first floor of the Hope Centre in Macclesfield (16-18 Park Green) is being



used as a dropping-off point for the humanitarian charity Hope and Aid Direct. They urgently need tinned and dried foods, steel or strong plastic plates or bowls, mugs and cutlery. More about Hope and Aid Direct at: <u>https://www.hopeandaiddirect.org.uk</u> You can contact the Hope Centre on 01625 404384.

Farewell to Beverley

Beverley Nixon led the flourishing Children's and Families ministry here at St Oswald's for 10 years.

Recently things haven't been the same for Bev, with many changes and challenges since the pandemic started and the new ways in which we are now moving.

Deciding to finish her ministry here, she stepped down as our Children's Officer at the beginning of Lent.

Many of you will have happy memories of Bev leading the Family Worship, Christingle Services, Light Parties, Christmas Eve Nativity Services, Schools Work, and of course Praise and Play, amongst very many other events and services.

We give thanks for all the good in what has been done, and we pray now for Bev for the time to come.

Bev said: "My grateful thanks to everyone who has supported and encouraged me in this role over the past 10 years and I wish you all well going forward."











The Giant Easter Egg Raffle

By Brian Reader

Some of you may remember that during Lent before lockdowns we used to raffle a large Easter Egg. Our vicar, Nancy has agreed that we should renew that tradition again this year.

Now for some of you, the talk of a big Easter egg in Lent when you are abstaining from chocolate may seem a bit cruel, but all that chocolate in that egg will not be available till Easter Sunday. And it is all for a good cause, or causes.

The way it works is that the local Rotary Club buys the egg, which is then raffled in the Church for £1 a go. The £100 made then goes to Rotary Charities and I give a £50 donation (gift aided) to St Oswald's Church Funds.

The Rotary Charities can be local, national or international. Recently the Rotary Club of Macclesfield Castle has enabled local schools to compete in the Youth Speaks programme which gives young people the chance to learn how to speak in public and run meetings, and the schools have done very well.

Our thoughts are with the Ukrainian



refugees and to fulfil a need for clean water in the small Polish border towns, clean water kits and temporary prefab accommodation has already been provided by Rotary, and more will be provided as needs are identified.

Only one person may win the egg, but all will be thanked by the many people receiving help.

Palm Sunday

It must have been a dramatic sight on Palm Sunday when Jesus approached Jerusalem to the adulation of the crowds. The Bible tells us that 'A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of Him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" '(Matthew 21:8,9).

But not everyone in Jerusalem welcomed Jesus; in the very next verse we read, 'the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"" (10). But by the end of the week, the crowds had turned against Jesus and were demanding His crucifixion. (Matthew 27:22).

Why did they turn against Jesus so quickly? Perhaps they were disappointed because He refused to fulfil their expectations in establishing a new political kingdom. Instead, He came to



change our hearts and save us from our sins by His death and resurrection.

As He said during that week, 'My kingdom is not of this world.' (John 18:36). This deeply disappointed those who hoped that He would throw out the hated Roman occupiers.

Where would we have been on that first Palm Sunday? *Among the disciples who welcomed Him or among the sceptical crowds*? It's easy to judge those who condemned Jesus, but would we have acted differently? We too can be disappointed when Jesus fails to meet our hopes and expectations of Him?

The message of Easter is that God still loves and accepts us, and because of Jesus we can be forgiven. He came for one simple reason: *'For Christ also suffered once for sins...to bring you to God.'* (1 Peter 3:18).

May we welcome Jesus afresh into our lives this Eastertime.

The empty tomb and the Risen Christ

'So they (*the women*) went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.'

That's how some early manuscripts of Mark's Gospel finish. It's an unexpected twist, when you consider the confident announcement at the outset: "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Good news? Afraid?

Mark doesn't embroider his writing. His Greek language is that of the street, and he uses short, abrupt sentences. So, he tells it straight when the women, who had remained faithful to Jesus right up to the end, were confronted with an empty grave, and the first intimation that Jesus was no longer dead. Nothing like this had ever happened. What had seemed like a tragic and inevitable finale was now flatly contradicted. These women had stumbled across something unique that God was doing. It was to be the beginning of a new era for the human race, encompassing past, present and future.

They were afraid. You bet. Matthew's Gospel tells it slightly differently: 'the

women hurried



away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy.' Later, when the other disciples encountered the Risen Christ, we read of their joy, doubt, disbelief, gladness, wonder. Luke encapsulates these confused emotions in a single phrase, 'While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering...'

After many weeks of 'resurrection appearances', Luke rounds off his account with Jesus blessing the disciples: "While He was blessing them, He withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the Temple, blessing God.' A 21st Century disciple will contemplate the presence of the Risen Christ with wonder, adoration, and joy. Though hopelessly inadequate, we are enveloped by His sacrificial love, released by the crucifixion. We dare to look up, "afraid, yet filled with joy".

The new Pilgrim Porch in Chester Cathedral

Richard Raymond reports

It sometimes feels that Bollington is a long way from the mother church of our Diocese, Chester Cathedral. But there is a project taking shape over in Chester that may change our views on this.

An artist has been commissioned to create a new permanent feature for the interior of this medieval building. To make the project extra



Chester Cathedral: photo: wiki commons

special, it is being done to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of the Queen.

Inside the great wooden doors at the west end, an arresting new porch in bronze and glass is to be installed. This will allow visitors to step into the porch and view what is inside and will of course also throw great shafts of light into the nave. It will be called The Pilgrim Porch and there will be the shape of a labyrinth etched into the glass. Each of the 273 parishes in the Diocese have been invited to submit images which will be included on the labyrinth indicating the connection of each parish to the mother church. Furthermore, there will be an interactive web-link with more images and stories about each church that has taken part.

This exciting work is being created by the artist Stephen Broadbent whose other works in Chester include The Water of Life sculpture in the Cathedral Cloister Garden and The Celebration that sits in the Town Hall Square. He is passionate about creating 'artworks that connect to community or place'. That he has been commissioned to demonstrate the connection between parishes and their Cathedral seems an inspired choice.

St Oswald's has made its submission and it reflects the story of the mosaic. The response from the Broadbent studio was that it was a great story, and the images were amazing.

We look forward to viewing the finished porch later this year and to see our part in it. Maybe then we will feel not quite so far away!

Handel's Messiah

John Barton reflects on the much-loved oratorio, composed in 1741



The original idea was not Handel's, but his collaborator's, Charles Jennens, a passionate Christian who wanted to demonstrate that Jesus really was the 'Christ', or Messiah. This was being denied by Deists in the 18th Century, who believed God created the world and then stayed distant from it.

Jennens combed the Old Testament for texts which anticipated God's continuing activity in the world, with the expectation of greater things to come: *Comfort ye my people; Every valley shall be exalted; And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed* ... and so on. Then there were poignant passages anticipating suffering, with deep significance for Christians: *Behold the Lamb of God; He was despised; Surely He hath borne our griefs.*

Throughout the work, there is the strong sense that God is both omnipotent and also intimately involved with the human race: *How beautiful are the feet; the kingdom of this world is become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ.* The Hallelujah Chorus, the best known of the work, concludes the second part of 'Messiah', before the focus shifts mainly to the New Testament and Christ's resurrection and triumph: *The trumpet shall sound; Death where is thy sting; and finally, Worthy is the Lamb*.

Handel composed the music in 24 days, writing across the final manuscript, "To the glory of God". As he finished the Hallelujah Chorus, he said, "I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God Himself."

The work caused a stir by being presented in concert halls, rather than churches where some felt sacred works belonged. The first performance was in Dublin in 1742 and raised funds for charities. One of the soloists was Susanna Cibber, a woman of questionable reputation, whose rendering of "He was despised" so moved the Revd Patrick Delaney, that he cried out, "Woman, for this be all thy sins forgiven thee".

German-born Handel, who became a British subject and whose finances were sometimes precarious, didn't always get on with the wealthy Jennens, but the two men shared a single mission. The oratorio 'Messiah' is the result.

All in the month of ... APRIL

It was:

150 years ago, on 2nd April 1872 that Samuel Morse died. This American artist and inventor helped develop commercial single-wire telegraph systems and co-developed Morse code.

125 years ago, on 3rd April 1897 that Johannes Brahms, German composer, piano virtuoso and conductor, died.

100 years ago, on 3rd April 1922 that Joseph Stalin became leader of the Soviet Union, in succession to Vladimir Lenin.

90 years ago, on 23rd April 1932 that the Royal Shakespeare Theatre opened in Stratford-upon-Avon, replacing the one that burnt down in 1926.

75 years ago, on 1st April 1947 that the school leaving age in the UK was raised to 15.

Also 75 years ago, on 16th April 1947 that the term 'Cold War' was used for the first time when American financier and presidential adviser Bernard Baruch described the relationship between the USA and the Soviet Union.

50 years ago, on 11th April 1972 that the first episode of the radio comedy panel game show 'I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue' was broadcast on BBC Radio 4. It is still running.

40 years ago, on 2nd April 1982, that the Falklands War began when Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands. A British victory, although Argentina continues to claim sovereignty over the islands.

30 years ago, on 27th April 1992 that Betty Boothroyd became the first female Speaker of the House of Commons.

25 years ago, on 5th April 1997 that the Grand National steeplechase was disrupted after the IRA sent coded bomb warnings. 60, 000 people were evacuated from the Aintree course and the race was postponed.

Also 25 years ago, on 13th April 1997 that the American golfer Tiger Woods, aged 21, became the youngest player to win the US Masters championship, and the first African American to win.

Book of Remembrance for APRIL

- 2nd Cyril Chadwick
- 2nd Barbara Blower
- 3rd Richard Henry Lea
- 4th Thomas Cumberbirch
- 5th Alan Poulson
- 7th Brenda Whitehurst
- 7th Alice Edna Hooley
- 8th Alfred Leonard Robinson
- 11th Sarah Platt
- 13th Frank Skirvin
- 13th Peter Brookes
- 13th Elsie Wilcox
- 18th Baby Daniel Michael Green
- 18th Harold Hough
- 18th Henry Farron Hyde
- 19th George Brown
- 21st Fred Wrigley
- 21st Karen Whyte
- 22nd Margaret Bowden
- 23rd William Henry Frederick Hutter
- 24th Edward Ball
- 24th Betty King
- 29th Eric Gottlieb
- 30th Rowson William Hooley

From the Registers

Baptism: 20th February: Edith Robyn Ledgar

Marriage: 20th February: Paul Darren Ledgar & Rebecca Katherine King

Funeral: 3rd March: Mary Clayton

Burial of Ashes: 14th March: James Alfred McNulty 16th March: Sarah Leanne Bell



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What others say about Easter...

Easter is when everybody dresses up for Jesus' big coming out party. - Anon

The world cannot bury Christ. The earth is not deep enough for His tomb, the clouds are not wide enough for His winding-sheet. - *Edward Thomson*

All history is incomprehensible without Christ. - Ernest Renan

The cross of Jesus Christ is a two-way street; we have been brought to God and God has been brought to us. - *Donald Grey Barnhouse*

Who delivered up Jesus to die? Not Judas, for money; not Pilate, for fear; not the Jews, for envy; but the Father, for love! - *Octavious Winslow*

Carry the cross patiently, and with perfect submission; and in the end it shall carry you. – Thomas a Kempis

The Christian church has the resurrection written all over it. - E G Robinson

And finally, some advice to gardeners:

The easiest way to tell the difference between young plants and weeds is to pull up everything. If they come up again, they're weeds. – Anon

Bollington Church News - how to contact us

Tel: 07895 363038 / www.stoswaldbollington.org.uk / Facebook Editorial: Christine Osbaldiston, Ann Stringer, Anne Coomes Please send any material to: anne@parishpump.co.uk Advertising: Richard Raymond: richard.raymond109@gmail.com Publishing & Printing: Published by the PCC, printed by CPO. Distribution: Sue Whitehurst and Christine Osbaldiston Get the magazine: please ring Ann Stringer on 01625 574325. Deadline: Material for May issue to reach Anne by 18th April.

Worship at St Oswald's in April

Sunday 3rd 9.15am - Parish Communion 10.30am - Family Worship with Baptism

PALM SUNDAY 10th

10.30am - Reading of the Passion

MAUNDY Thursday 14th

7.30pm Holy Communion8.30pm Silent vigil hour of prayer9.30pm Compline (Night Prayer 10mins)

GOOD FRIDAY 15th

10.30am – 12.00 Messy Church 2pm-3pm GOOD FRIDAY Service

EASTER SUNDAY 17th

7am - Easter Fire Service on White Nancy (20mins)10.30am - Easter Day Communion- followed by Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday 24th 10.30 Parish Communion



LENT LUNCH in aid of Ukraine

Thursday, 7th at 12.30pm in church. All welcome!

Please sign the list at the back of the church to let us know that you are coming.

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