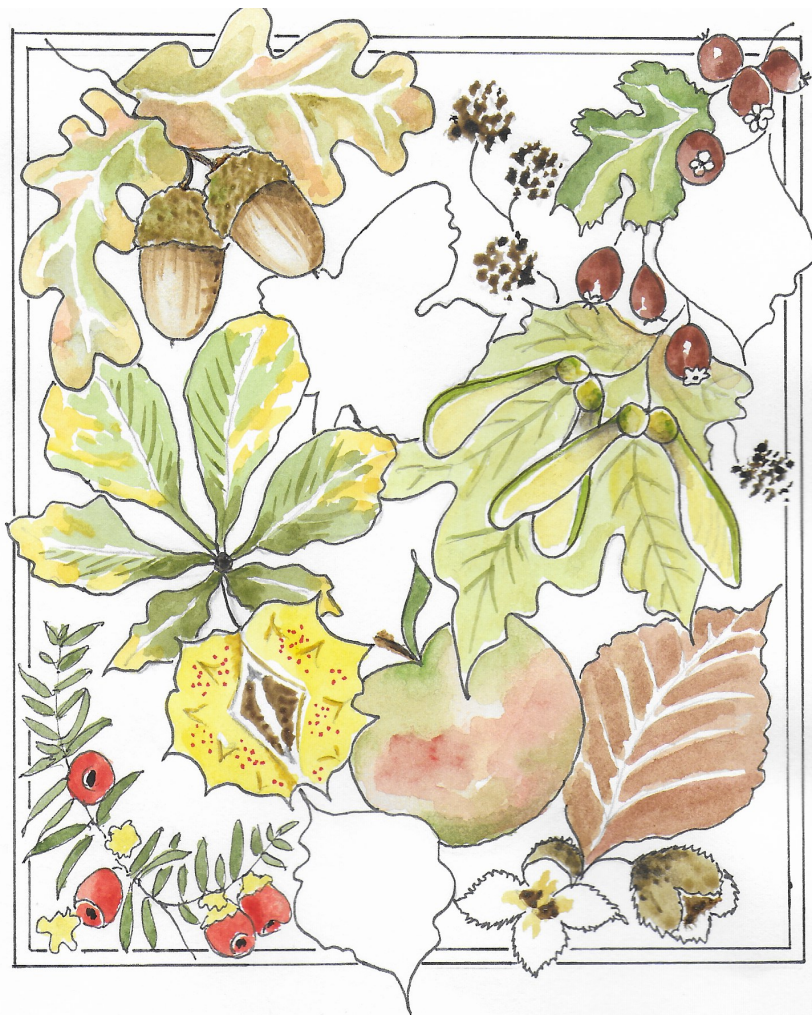


# Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



September 2022

Price 50p



## Who's who at St Oswald's

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## The Parochial Church Council April 2022-2023

Christine Osbaldiston, Jackie Pengelly, Richard Raymond, Alison Grimshaw, Elaine Houghton, Jenny Riley, Simon Thomas, Chris Ward, Angela Williams, Anne Coomes (*ex officio*)

*Deanery Synod:* Anthea Wilkinson, Chris Ward, Anne Coomes

*Diocesan Synod:* Richard Raymond

## Letter from Nancy

Dear All

September is a time of new beginnings.

Children start school, move up a year, go off to university. Anyone who works in education starts September at a pace. And even anyone who isn't connected with education will find groups that paused over the summer starting up again.



Some new beginnings are chosen and welcome, some unchosen. New beginnings. They are always scary at first, but if they weren't a little bit scary then they couldn't become an adventure. All new beginnings contain the possibility and hope of newness. Meeting new people, finding out new things, trying new ideas, discovering a new way of being.

God is the God of hope and new beginnings- God is always working to bring resurrection and new life out of what has gone before. Jesus tells us "Do not be afraid, I am with you." Seek the good in the newness, ask God to be with you and trust. It might feel like you're in the wilderness for a time, but there is good in that too. God is faithful and good.

Every blessing,  
Rev Nancy



# Bread and forgiveness

## *Canon Roy Arnold comments on the Lord's Prayer*

I don't know whether I read it somewhere, or whether it suddenly struck me personally, but have you ever noticed that in the Lord's Prayer we ask God to give us two things: bread and forgiveness?



*Roy Arnold*

The need for bread is obvious, but what about forgiveness?

Perhaps this is illustrated by the terrible war in the Ukraine – that when people sin (do wrong or go astray) life starts to fall apart, for both themselves and others. Russia's aggression has led to thousands of deaths in Ukraine, and also disrupted the supply chain of wheat for millions of people in many other countries.



But the damage of sin is true for us in our private lives as well. Whatever we do, for good or ill, will spiritually affect our lives, and also the lives of those around us. So yes, we do need God's forgiveness as well as His bounty in giving us our daily bread. The two go together like the tractor and the plough.

\*\*

## Time for a smile...

A little boy opened the big Family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. "Mum, look what I found!" the boy called out, turning the leaf over and over.

"What is it, dear?" asked his mother.

With awe in his voice, the young boy ventured: "I think it's Adam's underwear."



## Bowled Over!



*The vicar tries her hand at bowling*

### *Chris Ward reports*

A recent invitation in our church weekly sheet ran:

“On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2-4 pm why not join us for Tea, Cakes and Bowling at Kerridge Bowling Club? A social afternoon where you can try your hand at bowling. If anyone can donate cakes, please speak to Christine.”

Kerridge Bowling Green was recently built at the edge of the Kerridge cricket ground, in order to replace the green owned by Tullis Russell in Ingersley Vale, which had been sold for building. Members of Tullis Russell and Plough Bowling clubs joined together to set up Kerridge Bowling Club, who now run the club by committee. They kindly offered the church the use of the green for the afternoon.

In the past we have had Parish cricket, home grown concerts, wine tasting, garden parties, fairs and other church events but this was a completely new idea. We were not sure how this would appeal.

We needn't have been concerned. That people turned out in droves might be an exaggeration, but we had an amazing response; with husbands, wives, children and grandchildren all taking part, most of whom had never played before. And marvellous weather.

We started with coaching from Bill Osbaldiston, learning the art of bowling on a crown green by using the jack, the bowl you will eventually aim at. We then formed into pairs, chose two bowls each and played a proper game, again with Bill's expert guidance.

For those who haven't played it is not easy: you have to allow for the bias in the weight of the bowl and the slope on the crown green. Those who did not play just sat in the glorious sunshine and watched. Being a church event, it would not have been complete without tea, coffee, cakes and a raffle.

Many thanks to Kerridge Bowling Club for allowing us to use the green and to those who organised the raffle and refreshments.

"It was so lovely to see everyone involved," said Christine.

**\*\***

## Good to be social

If you go to church and/or volunteer for local good causes, the good that you do to others will come back to you. A recent study has found that having a rich social life can help older people retain normal brain functions, and slow down any onset of dementia.

The research, done at the University of Utah, was recently presented to an Alzheimer's UK Research Conference in Brighton.





## When Praise and Play brought their Teddy Bears

To celebrate the end of term we held a Teddy Bears Picnic. This was held indoors due to, believe it or not, it being too hot outside, it was after all the hottest day of the year.

The children who are due to start school in September were presented with a book about starting school and a goody bag.

**Praise and Play will be back after the summer holidays on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 9.30am to 11.30am. Come and join us!**

## Back to School

September is that time of year when we get back to school after the summer break, along with our other routines. As disciples (lit: *learners*) we are all called to learn from Jesus and live like Him. God wants us to make a difference as disciples in our school and workplace, family and friends. As Paul writes:

*‘And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.’* (Colossians 3:17).

*‘WHATEVER you do’*: God is at work in every aspect of our lives. He can use whatever we do to make a difference to those around. Do we believe this? Our lives shouldn’t be like an orange, segmented into the sacred and secular, but more like an apple, in which the whole is available to God.



*‘Whatever YOU do’*: God wants to use us to share God’s love with the people around us, wherever we spend time. We can trust Him for the resources we need hour by hour, day by day, year by year. What do we need from Him?

*‘Whatever you DO’*: Our work is for God alone, as a response to God’s love for us. How does this perspective make a difference when what we do seems hard, unrewarding, or unappreciated by others?

A man standing on a train platform was asked one day: *‘Who are you?’* He replied, *‘I am a Christian thinly disguised as an accountant.’* If we were asked the same question I wonder what we would say. As disciples of Jesus Christ, our identity is rooted in God and His call upon our lives. For each of us, September represents going back to school with Jesus, to learn how we can live for Him.



## The 'Numbers Crunch'

*The finance report from our Treasurer Richard Raymond*



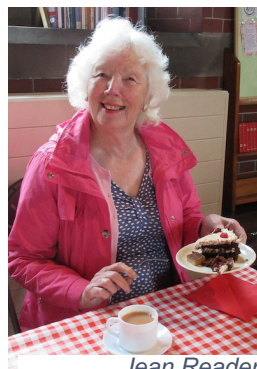
With the wedding season coming back to life after all the lockdowns and restrictions of the last couple of years, your treasurer has spent more time at the end of a bell rope ringing happy couples into and out of church than he has at his computer balancing the St Oswald's accounts. However, we continue to hold our own in paying our bills, so thank you to all who support the work of this church with your financial giving. Along with all of us, I view the impending winter energy bills with caution.

If anyone wishes to make a one-off donation to the work of St Oswald's, our bank account name is '**The Anglican Parish of Bollington PCC**'. Our account number is **39536416** and the sort code is **01-05-41**. There are Standing Order forms at the back of church so please do take one of these if you would like to make regular donations. Or just see me!! Thank you.

## Faith Hour draws to a close

*by Jean Reader*

It is with great regret that I have given up the Wednesday afternoon Faith Hour meetings. I have enjoyed choosing the Bible readings, the hymns and prayers, together with the interaction and viewpoints of all those who attended. Our meetings began some years ago and we have had a faithful following, but numbers have declined; although we did keep in touch over the 'phone during the Covid lockdown. I will miss my Wednesday afternoons, but unfortunately, I have been finding things quite a struggle. I am quite well but some days are not so easy. May God bless all past and present members who attended Faith Hour.



*Jean Reader*





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## Remembering 'England's Rose'

This month marks 25 years since the funeral of Princess Diana on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1997. Prince William has described how his mother's death was like an earthquake, the shockwaves taking time to sink in. When we remember the days leading up to the funeral, the whole nation seemed touched by her death. Over 32 million people watched the funeral on television. As we look back to this event, what is its continuing significance?

As those made in the image of God, we are called to reach out to show love to others. *'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.'* (1 John 4:7). Princess Diana did this, especially the vulnerable in our society, remembering especially her work with AIDS sufferers and landmine victims. However, she was also a flawed individual, who fought various 'demons' in her own life and struggled with relationships. People identified with her humanity as *one like us*: fallible, weak yet more than good enough.

There is always something powerful about vulnerability in others; we can identify with them because, like us, they don't have it all together. God uses flawed people in His purposes, as we clearly see in the pages of the Bible: Abraham, Moses, David and Paul, to mention just a few!

Ironically, Mother Theresa died the day before Diana's funeral. Again, she was somebody who was much loved for her work among the poor. However, despite being declared a saint last year, she openly talked about the vulnerability of her faith. Mother Teresa revealed that she spent nearly 50 years without a tangible feeling of God's presence in her life! It's not easy to be a perfect saint!

*'I think the biggest disease the world suffers from in this day and age is the disease of people feeling unloved.'* (Princess Diana)

## When Messy Church got to work on marshmallows

On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July we held our second Messy Church. With the use of craft activities we learned the story of Zacchaeus and how, after meeting Jesus, he turned his life around and became a good person. The most popular activity on the day was trying to build a tower out of spaghetti and marshmallows. Rev Nancy led a short service of worship followed by refreshments.



\*\*

### *Good to remember*

God works in us and with us, not against us or without us. - John Owen

Mountains can only be climbed with the knees bent. - Anon

You are a Child of God. Please phone home! – Anon

## When the Church finally agreed the Earth went round the Sun

It was only 200 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1822, that the Roman Catholic Church admitted that the 16th century astronomer Galileo Galilei might have been right about the Earth orbiting the Sun. The College of Cardinals reversed the Church's condemnation of his ideas. Galileo had spent the last nine years of his life under house arrest for publishing his work on the subject.



*Galileo – under house arrest*

Galileo (1564 –1642) was a brilliant scientist and a pious Catholic. Albert Einstein called him the father of modern science, and he was one of the first to state that the laws of nature were mathematical. He was not infallible, however: his theories on tides were quite wrong: he described the idea that the moon influenced them as “childish” and “occult”.

His support for heliocentrism, a theory that had existed since the Ancient Greeks, however, was spot on, but the consensus at the time – political, scientific and religious – held that the Earth was the centre of the universe, and that any other view was “foolish, absurd and heretical”. That was the conclusion of the Inquisition in 1615.

Some 17 years later, Galileo published his theories, but unfortunately in a way that alienated the Pope, who until then had given him support as a scientist. He was tried by the Inquisition, who found him “vehemently suspect of heresy”, forced him to recant, and subjected him to house arrest. It could have been worse.

The Cardinals' decision in 1822 was a bit late to help Galileo, but it represented a big shift for the Roman Catholic Church – though it was not until 1835 that his work was removed from the Vatican's list of banned books. And it was only in 1992 that Pope John Paul II conceded officially that the Earth was not stationary in the heavens. Eight years after that he apologised to Galileo for the way he had been treated.

## All in the month of ... September

It was:

1900 years ago, from 13<sup>th</sup> September 122 to 128 that Hadrian's Wall was built in northern England. It ran for 80 miles from coast to coast and marked the northern limit of the Roman Empire.

200 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1822 that the Catholic Church admitted that the 16<sup>th</sup> century astronomer Galileo Galilei might have been right about the Earth orbiting the Sun.

100 years ago, on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1922 that the highest temperature ever recorded was reported to be 57.7 Centigrade (136 Fahrenheit) in Libya.

90 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1932 that Saudi Arabia was founded when the Kingdoms of Hejaz and Najd were unified.

70 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1952 that the Farnborough Air Show crash took place in Hampshire. A de Havilland fighter jet broke apart and fell into the crowd, killing 31 people.

50 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1972 that Palestinian terrorists invaded the Olympic Village in Munich, West Germany during the 1972 Olympic Games and took 11 members of the Israeli team hostage. All the hostages were killed.

40 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1982 that Princess Grace of Monaco, formerly the American film and TV actress Grace Kelly, died in a car crash, aged 52.

30 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1992 that the radio station Classic FM began broadcasting in the UK.

25 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1997 that Mother Teresa, Macedonian-born/Albanian India nun and humanitarian died. She founded the Missionaries of Charity and was winner of the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize. She was beatified in October 2003.

## Church of England's new strategy to help rural churches thrive

The Church of England has launched a 10-point strategy to help its thousands of rural churches survive and thrive.

The CofE has published *How Village Churches Thrive*, a practical guide to help the churches – many of them historic listed buildings with small congregations – have a sustainable future.

The strategy sets out 10 key areas “where applying relatively small changes can make a big difference to the revitalisation, recovery and renewal of our village churches, amplifying the efforts that may well be happening already.”

The ten key recommendations set out in the strategy are:

**Extend a warm welcome.** Think carefully and objectively about who your welcome is aimed at.

**Make the most of life events** – weddings, baptisms and funerals. Many people's first contact with church begins through the church being there for them at life's big moments.

**Use buildings creatively.** With thought and planning, your buildings can provide opportunities for people to connect with the community.

**Care for 'God's Acre.'** Engage the whole community in loving and caring for the churchyard.

**Be the 'heartbeat' of a village community.** Your church could affect positive change in village life. Leading a community audit could be an important place to start.

**Celebrate your heritage.** The history of the church buildings presents an opportunity for churches to connect with new people of all ages and backgrounds.



**Cultivate fruitful festivals.** Festivals across the year provide ideal opportunities to celebrate, be innovative and creative, and – in partnership with schools, businesses and local groups – to welcome others of every age group.

**Welcome more children.** Engaging with younger people is a priority for the CofE nationally – and village settings can offer great opportunities for creative ministry with children. Projects formed in partnership, especially with local schools, are most likely to thrive.

**Reach the isolated and lonely.** Village churches are in ‘the perfect position’ to make a positive impact on isolation and loneliness.

**Communicate effectively.** Focused communication supports your parish vision and strategy and ensures that all your efforts have more chance of being effective.

Church House Publishing, who published the new guide, describe it as “Packed with practical advice and inspiring case studies to encourage and increase confidence in all who work or worship in a village church.”

\*\*

## Hymns for People Over 50

Precious Lord, Take My Hand, And Help Me Up  
Just a Slower Walk with Thee  
Go Tell It on the Mountain, But Speak Up  
Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing  
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah, I've Forgotten Where I've Parked The Car  
Count Your Many Birthdays, Count Them One By One  
Blessed Insurance  
It Is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Hurt

## Back to school

Young James finished his summer holidays and went back to school. Two days later his teacher phoned his mother to tell her that James was misbehaving. "Wait a minute!" protested his mum. "I had him here for weeks and I never once called YOU when he misbehaved!"

# Book of Remembrance for September

1 Edward Sharpley  
2 Giancarlo Porcelli  
7 Allan Oldfield  
11 John Cooper  
11 Edward Stanesby  
11 Irene Burgess  
23 Freda Grace Oldfield  
25 Nellie Clay  
29 Paul Morgan  
30 Nellie Allen



## From the Registers

### Weddings

13<sup>th</sup> August: Barbara Yates and Harry Nightingale

### Burial of Ashes

30<sup>th</sup> June: Joyce Rothwell

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

## Donation

In memory of Stella Gascoigne from Derek and family.

\*\*

### *Good to remember*

The church is the only society in the world that never loses any of its members, even by death. - *Anon*

Certain thoughts are prayers. There are moments when, whatever be the attitude of the body, the soul is on its knees. - *Victor Hugo*

## HYMN: The story behind ... ABIDE WITH ME

One of the most famous hymns in the world came out of Brixham, near Torbay, Devon, in 1847. In those days it was a poor, obscure fishing village, and the vicar was the Rev Henry Francis Lyte. It was a discouraging place to be a pastor, but Henry felt that God wanted him there, and so he stayed.

By the time he was 54, Henry had contracted tuberculosis and asthma, and he and his family knew he was dying. It would have been so easy for him to look back on his life and feel a complete failure. What had he ever much accomplished? And yet – and yet – Henry knew that in life it is not worldly success that matters, but how much we respond to Jesus Christ, and how much we follow Him.

In September of 1847 Henry was preparing to travel to the south of France, as was the custom for people with tuberculosis at that time. One day before he left, he read the story in the gospel of Luke about the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They were met by Jesus on the day of His resurrection, and they invited Him to stay with them because it was getting late. “Abide with us”, they said “for it is towards evening.”

“Abide with us - for it is toward evening.” These words struck a chord with Henry, who knew that it was getting ‘towards evening’ in his life. So he sat down and wrote the hymn as a prayer to God. Here is the first verse: –

### ***Abide with me***

*Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

Shortly after Henry wrote that hymn, he preached his last sermon. He was so ill he practically crawled into the pulpit to do so. A few weeks later, in Nice, France, he died, and so of course he never knew that his hymn would go on to become world famous, and that nearly 100 years later it would be the last hymn played by the brave musicians on board the Titanic the night it sank.

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**Deadline:** Material for October issue to reach Anne by 16<sup>th</sup> September.



## Worship at St Oswald's in September

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept:	9.15am Holy Communion 10.30am All Age Worship
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept:	10.30am Parish Communion
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept:	10.30am All Age Communion 3.00pm Civic Service
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept:	10.30am Parish Communion
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct:	<b>Harvest Festival Services</b> 9.15am Holy Communion 10.30am All Age Worship

## Dates for your diary

### Back to School blessing - Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September



At All Age Worship, 10.30am, we shall be thinking about the start of the new school year. All children, whether they are starting school for the first time, moving school or just returning after the summer, are invited to bring along their backpacks to be blessed by Revd Nancy.

### MacMillan Coffee Morning - Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September

At 11.30am (after the 10.30am Communion) we will be holding a Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan. Please come along and support this worthy cause. Lots of cakes and a raffle.

