

Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



November 2022

Price 50p



Who's who at St Oswald's

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The Parochial Church Council April 2022-2023

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Deanery Synod: Anthea Wilkinson, Chris Ward, Anne Coomes

Diocesan Synod: Richard Raymond

Letter from Nancy

Dear All,

In the month when we think about those who have given their lives in war, the Two Minutes Silence is a significant act of remembrance. The silence provides an opportunity to remember those who have suffered in war and how we can work for a peaceful world. (However, we can also find ourselves thinking about lunch or whether we've switched off our phone?!)



Victor Frankl, a victim of Auschwitz, suggested that the most intolerable of all human conditions is not imprisonment or hunger, but lack of meaning. The two minutes of silence enables us to connect with Jesus' message, which offers true meaning to our lives and world. He spoke of giving ourselves in love for each other and the world, 'Love your enemies and pray for those that persecute you' (Matthew 5:44). He also demonstrated such love in sacrificing His own life, 'Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends' (John 15:13). When observing the silence, let's use it to reflect on this sacrificial love, as we call to mind those who have laid down their lives.

In our busy lives, where so much clamours for our attention, silence gives us an opportunity to reflect on our priorities and rediscover true meaning in our lives. This is not just for Remembrance Sunday, as Jesus often withdrew to find silence to seek God (eg: Luke 5:16). Let's use silence in our lives as space to seek God's will and offer ourselves to Him, just as those who gave themselves in conflict through the years.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

Revd Nancy

Poppies of hope

Canon Roy Arnold comments on the front cover

The poppies in Ann's cover for this month's magazine became a symbol of hope for a better future, after the horrors and carnage of World War I. But alas, this year

there has been bloodshed again in Europe. Russia, a one-time ally of ours against the Nazis, has again become our enemy. How sad it has been to see people fleeing Ukraine as refugees, with their homes and cities devastated.



The poem below was written as a hymn by the Rev Richard Bewes, former rector of All Souls Langham Place in London. It reminds us that our only true hope is in God.

God is our strength and Refuge

God is our strength and refuge, our present help in trouble,
and we therefore will not fear, though the earth should change!
Though mountains shake and tremble, though swirling waters are raging,
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

There is a flowing river within God's holy city,
God is in the midst of her – she shall not be moved!
God's help is swiftly given, thrones vanish at His presence –
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

Come, see the works of our Maker, learn of His deeds all-powerful;
wars will cease across the world when He shatters the spear!
Be still and know your Creator, uplift Him in the nations –
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

From Psalm 46, Richard Bewes; Copyright, Jubilate Songs



The 'Numbers Crunch'

*The finance report from
our Treasurer Richard
Raymond*



I thought it might be helpful to publish a few figures that just touch on how much it costs to keep our church going throughout the year. Overall, it costs us over **£220 per day** to keep the church open. That might seem an awful lot when many of us only use the building on one day of the week!

However, if we were to look at it annually, we might think a little differently. We have a full-time Vicar and we have 365 day support from our Diocese in all sorts of matters from helping us through safeguarding procedures, legal issues, worship guidance and yes, financial matters. We insure our building and all our activities for every day of the year and this costs over **£3000**. This year we have also paid over £3000 for gas, electricity and water; and it costs us to look after the churchyard at St John's; and we publish a monthly magazine; and much more!

BUT we are here for the community of Bollington by being the Parish Church of Bollington. St Oswald's is always available for those big life events such as weddings, baptisms and funeral, and also it can be hired for other events such as concerts. So, it is important that we look after our church.

**

Smile Lines

There are two sorts of problems in my life. The political ones are insoluble, and the economic ones are incomprehensible. - *Sir Alec Douglas-Home, former Prime Minister.*

He knows nothing; and he thinks he knows everything. That points to a political career. - *George Bernard Shaw*

Long live King Charles III

'And wherever you may live in the United Kingdom, or in the realms and territories across the world, and whatever may be your background or beliefs, I shall endeavour to serve you with loyalty, respect and love, as I have throughout my life.'



Credit: Dan Marsh, via Wikimedia Commons

These are King Charles III's words from his TV broadcast following the death of Queen Elizabeth. They reflect the Queen's own commitment to serve the nation for 70 years. They also express the continuity of monarchy: *'The Queen is dead. Long live the King!'*

However, continuity doesn't mean that things remain the same. King Charles III will face different challenges to the Queen, but the same God works His purposes through each of them. At his death, King David spoke these words to his son Solomon: *'Be strong and observe what the Lord your God requires: walk in obedience to him...Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go.'* (1 Kings 2:2,3) These are words for our new King and ourselves, as we seek God's will in a time of uncertainty.

King Charles III has demonstrated his ability to get alongside people to *'see the value of each person as God sees them.'* (Archbishop of Canterbury). He is also in touch with the important issues of the day. He has provided young people with opportunities to change their lives. He understands the life of the poorest in our society, and he is passionate about the state of our planet.

Let's pray for our king, as he faces new challenges and opportunities: *'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.'* (1 Timothy 2:1,2).



As this month we remember and honour the millions who have given their lives in service of their country, here are some observations on war and death...

As long as there are sovereign powers possessing great power, war is inevitable. - *Albert Einstein*

The Angel of Death has been abroad throughout the land, you may almost hear the beating of his wings. – *John Bright, Victorian politician*

The belief in the possibility of a short decisive war appears to be one of the most ancient and dangerous of human illusions. – *Robert Lynd*

More than an end to war, we want an end to the beginnings of *all* wars. - *Franklin D Roosevelt*

The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him. - *G.K. Chesterton*

I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.” - *Albert Einstein*

War must be, while we defend our lives against a destroyer who would devour all; but I do not love the bright sword for its sharpness, nor the arrow for its swiftness, nor the warrior for his glory. I love only that which they defend. - *J.R.R. Tolkien, The Two Towers*

The Bellringers' Hymn

By Richard Raymond

Has Hymn 496 'Belfry Praise' from the Ancient and Modern hymnal ever been sung at St Oswald's? I suspect not because this is the bellringers' hymn and of course we do not have a ring of bells at our church.

However, like many hymns, it has an interesting story.



Richard - a keen bellringer

The music is composed in part as if it were bells ringing. So, there are a number of places where the notes cascade down in a descending scale, just like you hear in a set of church bells. There are also a few bars of 'Queens' where the church bells would ring in the order of odd bells first, followed by the even bells which musically is CAFDBGEC. It is quite corny but equally so, quite effective!

The words reflect a knowledge of terms used in the belfry. A ringer would recognise the words 'stand', 'course' and 'called home'.

The first verse is the exhortation of 'Unchanging God, who livest enthroned in realms on high! To men the power thou givest, thy name to magnify. We raise the bells for ringing.....' These days we would add that many women also have the strength to ring church bells! Subsequent verses highlight the ringers' duties as they call the faithful to worship; as they proclaim that the church is open; as they ring with gladness for weddings and with sadness for funerals.

So who were the author and composer of the bellringers' hymn? One would assume that they were ringers themselves.

The hymn was written collaboratively in 1904 or 1905 with words by the Revd Henry Charles Wilder with music from the Revd John Henry Matthews. Where was Henry Wilder when he wrote the hymn? He became Rector of Sulham, west of Reading, in Berkshire but not until 1908 and stayed there for 35 years, but there are no bells at St Nicholas Sulham. Was he a ringer? Did he go to St Michael's Tilehurst which is just 2½ miles away and where there was a very active band in those days?

Now John Matthews was Rector of St Mary's Hedgerley, which is near Slough, and strangely the church had no ringing bells. So, was he a ringer? How did he know Henry Wilder?

We shall possibly never know the answers to these questions, but at least we have the legacy of their work in the bellringers' hymn Belfry Praise.

**

Smile Lines

Wife

A Sunday School teacher taught how the Bible describes God creating human beings. One little boy seemed especially intent when she explained how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later that day his mother noticed him lying down and looking worried. He told her: "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife!"

When it's okay to pray

Poster in a public school in South Pasadena, California: 'In the event of nuclear attack, the rule prohibiting prayer in school will be temporarily suspended.'

Sin

A very earnest member of a local church was praising the obvious spiritual gifts of the new vicar, adding, "We never knew anything about sin until he came!"

What about me?

When I was young my parents told me what to do. Now I am old, my children tell me what to do. When will I be able to do what I want to do?

How Does God Guide Us?

We are all faced with daily decisions about our jobs, future, money, relationships etc. Yet God promises to guide those who listen to Him: *'My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me.'* (John 10:27). There are five key aspects of hearing God's voice.

1. Scripture: The primary way God guides us is through the Bible: *'Your word is lamp for my feet, and a light on my path'* (Psalm 119: 105). The Scriptures give us general guidance for life eg whether to pay taxes, give or forgive others, as well as what to do in particular situations.

2. Holy Spirit: *'And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem'* (Acts 20:22). The Holy Spirit helps us to hear God's voice through Scripture, prayer or pictures, and also by prompting us in particular situations.

3. Common Sense: We must not abandon common sense: *'Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this'* (2 Tim. 2:7). In making most decisions, God uses our thinking about what to do. *'God's promises of guidance were not given to save us the problem of thinking'* (John Stott).



4. Wise Advice: *'Make plans by seeking advice'* (Proverbs 20:18). Although we're responsible for decision making, it's good to talk to others about the choices we are making.

5. Circumstances: God also guides us through circumstances, *'In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps'* (Proverbs 16:9). He will open or close doors in particular circumstances.

We won't always get it right, but God can include our mistakes in his bigger plan: *'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him'* (Romans 8:28).

A wonderful year for CHUB!

Derek Gascoigne reports

It's been a wonderful 2022 for Chub, back on track after almost three years of no outings. We started with a rather wet visit to Edale and lunch at the Hanging Gate in Chapel-en-le-Frith. This was followed with an eye-opening visit to Lower Peover and the Crown Inn, which opened specially for us. Then into Derbyshire for Hartington and a meal at the Royal Oak.

In October Margaret and Trevor Wadsworth organised our Friendship Lunch at the Poachers Inn, Bollington. It was a change, having it locally, and it was enjoyed by 31 of us. We now look forward to further interesting Churches & Pubs in 2023. So keep warm this winter, and we look forward to seeing you all next year.



Members of CHUB enjoying their lunch...

Ukrainian Church leaders rejoice – and keep praying

Ukrainian Church leaders have been welcoming their country's recent dramatic counter-offensive against Russia.

It was reported that Ukrainian tanks and armoured vehicles had recaptured at least 2300 square miles of land around the north-eastern city of Kharkiv, as well as territory closer to Kherson in the south.

President Zelensky praised his troops who were determined to “liberate all temporarily occupied territories”, and he also praised Ukraine's military chaplains for “praying for the lives of our soldiers.”

The head of Ukraine's independent Orthodox Church, or PCU, Metropolitan Epiphany (Dumendo) said that Christians were “rejoicing” at the latest military successes, and praying that “the Lord will help us overcome evil, and lead us all to victory and a just peace.”

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6th November – International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

Churches and Christians across the UK are being invited to remember the suffering of Christians persecuted and imprisoned for their faith in countries around the world.

According to Open Doors, the 2022 rankings are as follows. The top 20 countries where it is most dangerous to be a Christian are: 1 Afghanistan; 2 North Korea; 3 Somalia; 4 Libya; 5 Yemen; 6 Eritrea; 7 Nigeria; 8 Pakistan; 9 Iran; 10 India; 11 Saudi Arabia; 12 Myanmar; 13 Sudan; 14 Iraq; 15 Syria; 16 Maldives; 17 China; 18 Qatar; 19 Vietnam; and 20 Egypt.

For the full list of 50 countries, please go to:

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/world-watch-list/>

The man who gave us the National Health Service

If you use the services of the National Health Service this autumn, spare a thought for the 'presiding spirit' which led to its founding.

Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan was born 125 years ago this month, on 15th November 1897, the sixth of ten children. The family lived in Tredegar, Monmouthshire, where his father was a miner, and his mother was the daughter of a colliery blacksmith.



'Nye' Bevan (Credit: Howard Coster)

When he was 14, Bevan followed his father and older brother in the mines, but in his spare time spent hours in the local library, self-educating himself. At 19, Bevan joined the Independent Labour Party and in 1919 he moved to London to continue his studies and encountered the works of Marx and Engels. In 1925 his father died in his arms of the miners' disease pneumoconiosis.

In 1926 Bevan was appointed a full-time union official and was soon caught up in the miners' strike, which led to the General Strike of May 1926. Bevan became known as a firebrand activist and agitator.

In May 1929, when he was 31, Bevan entered Parliament as Independent Labour Party member for Ebbw Vale. A passionate socialist, he regularly attacked Neville Chamberlain, Lloyd George, Winston Churchill, and even his own party's prime minister, Ramsay Macdonald. Bevan's outspokenness caused the parliamentary authorities to suspend him from the house in 1937, and his own party expelled him for a time in 1939.

When in July 1945 Labour was returned to government with a landslide, the new Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, offered Bevan a Cabinet position. "I

understand that you have much experience of negotiation. I am offering you the post where you will deal with health, housing and the local authorities.”

And so, at 47, Bevan became the youngest member of that Cabinet. He oversaw the building of over a million new houses before 1950, and in 1946 the government steered through the National Insurance Act, which created the infrastructure of what was to be the Welfare State.

In 1948 the National Health Service Act, which Bevan had seen through Parliament, became law. This allowed people to receive, free at the point of use, medical diagnosis, and treatment at home or in hospital. As the writer Brian Brivati observes: “It was the decision to nationalise the hospitals that made the profound difference in the... creation of the NHS. This decision was Bevan’s and its implementation was down to his skill, patience, and application as a minister. It is the most significant and lasting reform in the history of the Labour Party, and it was achieved by one man.”

Aneurin ‘Nye’ Bevan was Minister of Health 1945 to 1951. The National Health Service became operational on 5th July 1948.

**

Finding Tutankhamen

It was 100 years ago this month, on 4th November 1922, that Howard Carter, a British archaeologist, discovered the tomb of the Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamen.

Howard Carter had shown an artistic streak from a young age, and when his father, a successful artist, painted a portrait of a well-known Egyptologist, the young Howard’s imagination had been caught. He wanted to go to Egypt.



Credit: Mark Filscher

And so, in 1891, when Howard was only 17, his father found him a job

working for an archaeologist who needed an artist to sketch the artefacts he found. As Britain occupied Egypt in the late 19th century, it was a time of increased European interest in ancient Egypt.

Over the next few years Carter worked under different archaeologists on different sites, including Amarna, Thebes, Edfu and Abu Simbel. Then in 1907, Carter began working with the wealthy English aristocrat, Lord Carnarvon, excavating various Egyptian nobles' tombs.

When in 1914 Carnarvon attained a licence to dig for the tomb of King Tutankhamun, he gave the job to Carter. After WW1 the search began, but it was not until 4th November 1922 that they found anything. That day a boy who worked on Carter's team as a water fetcher started to dig in the sand with a stick. He found a stone step, called Carter over, and the rest is history. A flight of steps was found that lead to a sealed door and a secret chamber. On 26th November 1922 Carter and Lord Carnarvon entered the tomb and found the gold and treasures. On 16th February 1923, Carter opened the innermost chamber and found the well-preserved sarcophagus of King Tut.

The find made headlines around the world. Carter remained in Egypt until the excavation was completed in 1932.

* *

Quotable quotes

For every step you take towards God, God takes two steps toward you; and if you come to God walking, God comes to you running. - *James Martin*

Hardening of the heart ages people more quickly than hardening of the arteries. - *Anon*

Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important. - *Anon*

The best vitamin for making friends is B-1. - *Anon*

All in the month of ... November

It was:

175 years ago, on 8th November 1847 that Bram Stoker, Irish-born British writer, was born. He is best known for his Gothic horror novel Dracula.

125 years ago, on 15th November 1897 that Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan, British politician was born. He was the Minister of Health 1945-51 who led the establishment of the National Health Service.

100 years ago, on 4th November 1922 that British archaeologist Howard Carter discovered the tomb of the Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamen. On 26th November he reached a second sealed doorway and discovered the famous treasures.

80 years ago, on 5th November 1942 that the WW2 Second Battle of El-Alamein ended. British troops led by Generals Alexander and Montgomery defeated Rommel's German forces in Egypt. On 10th November, Winston Churchill announced: "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

75 years ago, on 20th November 1947 that the marriage of Princess Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten, Duke of Edinburgh, took place at Westminster Abbey in London.

60 years ago, on 20th November 1962 that the Cuban Missile crisis ended and US President John F Kennedy lifted the military blockade of Cuba.

30 years ago, on 11th November 1992 that the Church of England voted to allow women to become priests. The first women were ordained in March 1994.

Also 30 years ago, on 20th November 1992 that the Windsor Castle fire broke out in a private chapel and spread to a large part of the building. Damage was extensive and took five years to repair, at a cost of £40 million. Buckingham Palace was opened to the public for the first time to help raise the money.

Book of Remembrance for November

6th George Bowden
6th Beryl Willis
7th Winifred Mary Beardmore
7th Wynnie Downes
9th Harry Newton Clay
10th Eileen Robinson
11th John (Jack) Archer
11th Hannah Ashton
11th Joyce Elizabeth Coley
13th Len Davenport
14th Norah Sharpley
14th Peggy Hargreaves
14th Margaret Langford
16th Mark Stewart Whittaker
18th Thelma Gottlieb
19th George Eric Gosling
20th Gordon Oldfield
22nd Beatrice Skirvin
23rd Mary Bowden
23rd Marjorie Alice Craine
23rd Jean Wrigley
25th Harry Ainsworth
25th Brian Bernard Newbould
29th Bert Mitchell
29th Irene F M Bennett



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

From the Registers

Funerals	3 rd October	Daisy Alberta King
	5 th October	Donald Mirrlees
Burial of Ashes	13 th October	Dennis Goodwin
Memorial Service	14 th October	Neil Stringer

APOLOGY in October's issue

We apologise for missing off **Lilian Hughes** from the Book of Remembrance on 15th October.

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Get the magazine: please ring Ann Stringer on 01625 574325.

Deadline: Material for December/January issue to reach Anne by 18th November.

Worship at St Oswald's in November

Sunday 6 th	9.15am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	All Age Worship
	4.00pm	A Time to Remember
Sunday 13 th	9.15am	Parish Communion
	11.00am	Remembrance Service at Bollington Memorial Garden
Sunday 20 th	10.30am	All Age Communion
Sunday 27 th	10.30am	Parish Communion

A Time to Remember

Sunday 6th November at 4:00pm

Have you lost someone whom you loved? You would be most welcome to join us for a short service to remember all those whom we have lost.

Remembrance Service at Bollington Memorial Garden

Sunday 13th November at 11:00am

You are most welcome to join us for the annual service in the Bollington Memorial Garden



Credit: Jon Pidduck

Worth remembering...

War is a tragedy which commonly destroys the stage it is acted on. - Matthew Henry

The tragedy of war is that it uses man's best to do man's worst. - Harry Emerson Fosdick

God grants liberty only to those who are always ready to guard and defend it. - Daniel Webster