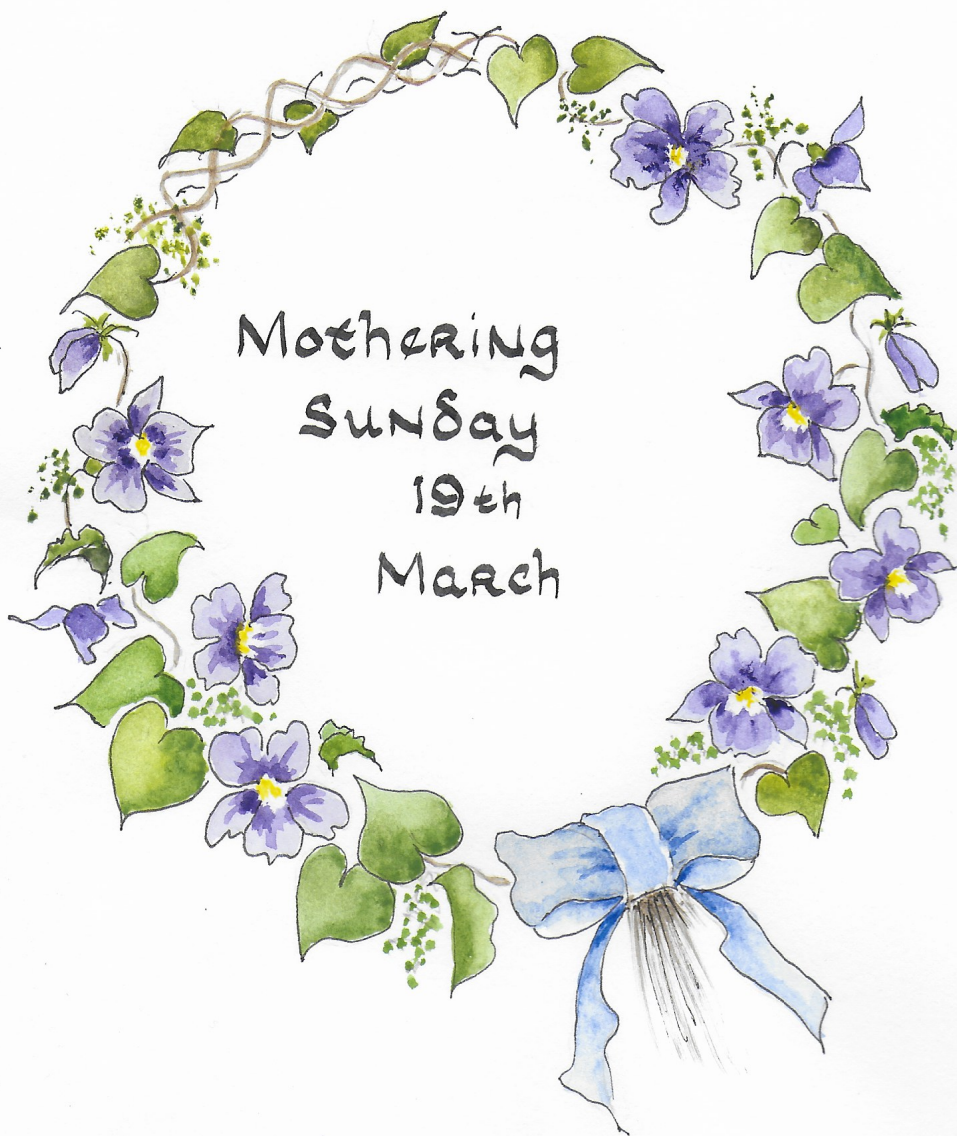


Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



March 2023

Price 50p



Who's who at St Oswald's

7 Bollington Rd, Bollington, Macclesfield SK10 5EG

Vicar	Revd Nancy Goodrich revnancygoodrich@gmail.com	07895 363038
Reader	Anne Coomes anne@parishpump.co.uk	01625 571144
Churchwarden	Christine Osbaldiston christine.osbaldiston@yahoo.co.uk	01625 575589
Churchwarden	Jackie Pengelly jackie.pengelly@hotmail.co.uk	01625 572645
PCC Secretary	Chris Ward c.j.w@ntlworld.com	01625 573892
PCC Treasurer	Richard Raymond richard.raymond109@gmail.com	01625 612025
Electoral Roll Officer	Jackie Pengelly jackie.pengelly@hotmail.co.uk	01625 572645
Parish Giving Officer	Chris Ward c.j.w@ntlworld.com	01625 573892
St John's CE School	Head: Melanie Walker head@stjohnsboll.cheshire.sch.uk	01625 572025
Bollington Cross CE School	Head: Yenson Donbavand admin@bollingtoncross.cheshire.sch.uk	01625 572138

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,

What is holiness? Have you ever sensed it, or felt it? It is hard to define, but you know it when it is there.

In Lent we try and draw closer to God, turning away from some of the distractions of everyday life and turning towards the holiness of God.



More prayer, because God is present when we pray.

More reading the Bible, because God speaks to us through scripture.

Self-denial, so we try to be less self-centred and more Christ-centred.

Sacrifice, because holiness needs us to let go of things.

Giving more money, because holiness is full of abundant generosity.

More self-discipline, a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Following Christ closer in Lent is a challenge, but Jesus never promised that following Him would be an easy road. But He does promise to give us the strength to walk it with Him. So we deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him.

Only when we follow Him in sacrifice can we enter into, and fully experience the holiness and joy of resurrection life.

Love and blessings for Lent.

Nancy x



Mothering Sunday

Brian Reader comments on the front cover

The picture on our front cover reminds us that, this year, Mothering Sunday occurs on the 19th March.

Historically, it was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So, each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' church - the main church or cathedral of the area. Inevitably this became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away returned home. (It was quite common in those days for children to leave home for work once they were ten years old.)

Historians think that it was the return to the 'Mother' church which led to the tradition of children, particularly those working as domestic servants or apprentices, being given the day off to visit their mother and family. As they walked along the country lanes, these youngsters would pick wildflowers or violets to take to church or give to their mother as a small gift.



The food associated with Mothering Sunday is the Simnel cake, a fruit cake with two layers of almond paste, one on top and one in the middle. The cake is made with 11 balls of marzipan icing on top representing the 11 disciples. (Judas is not included.) Traditionally, sugar violets would also be added.

But during the war I hated it because my mother had to use a substitute for marzipan. There were no ground almonds, nor fresh eggs. She used water, dried egg, soya flour and almond essence. The resultant paste was a brilliant yellow. The combination of soya and almond essence gave off a strong bitter aroma, which might pass for the smell of marzipan provided it was breathed in through a gas mask!



Civic Sunday 5th March 2023

ALL WELCOME!

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TOWN COUNCIL



Follow the Parade at 2.30pm
from Bollington Leisure Centre

Join in our Civic Service at 3pm in Bollington Parish Church

**

Join the North Staffordshire Sponsored Walk

Richard Jones reports

There seems just now to be so much bad news on TV and in the papers that we may feel like wringing our hands in despair. Christian Aid is one of the many organizations that have not given in to this temptation but who are instead responding with practical help.



Christian Aid has been responding to humanitarian disasters since 1945, aiming to be accountable to affected populations, and usually working with local partners. For instance, with the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together), it has delivered 28 tonnes of food to Ukrainian people displaced by the Russian invasion. It has also been helping those suffering in Turkey and Syria from the recent earthquake.

In the next few weeks I shall be making my own tiny contribution to the work of Christian Aid by taking part in the North Staffordshire Sponsored Walk round Tittesworth Reservoir, which takes place on Saturday 25th March. If you wish to sponsor me, there is a form to fill in at the back of the church.

Better still you could do the walk around the reservoir yourself. I shall leave a couple of spare sponsorship forms underneath my form. It is a beautiful walk, and you can get a well-earned cup of tea or even lunch in the visitors' centre.



Notes from 'The Counting House'

Finance report from our Treasurer Richard Raymond

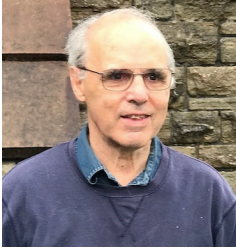
The Treasurer's office has been rather too busy lately to catch the Editor's very reasonable deadlines, so the contributions under the title of 'The Numbers Crunch' have dried up! However, under a new title, here are some snippets about money matters.

Many of you will know that I am one of the two organisers of the Hospice Christmas Tree Collection, which took place in early January. Supported by so many people throughout our East Cheshire communities, this raised over £145,000 whilst recycling nearly 6700 trees. Thank you to our church congregation for their donation, and to those people in Bollington who booked in trees or helped us as volunteers.

To church matters, and we have passed through another financial year end. It runs with the calendar year, so all the figures up to 31st December have been compiled into the 2022 accounts. These were sent to an independent auditor who checked all the income and expenditure, and then ratified that the figures are indeed a true record of the church's financial position. All of this has been completed and the PCC will discuss the results at its next meeting in early March. The accounts will be formally presented at our Annual Parish Church Meeting in April.

I have noticed that one or two people have increased their regular giving and I am most grateful for this. We are doing all we can to keep our costs down and we have made some decisions on how we can do this. We are running a Lent Thanksgiving Appeal along the lines of the Harvest Thanksgiving Appeal. Red envelopes are at the back of church and any contributions to this will be most welcome.

In the meantime, a reminder that our bank account name is 'The Anglican Parish of Bollington PCC'. Our account number is 39536416 and the sort code is 01-05-41. If anyone wishes to talk to me in private about any sort of donation, I am happy to be contacted.



Annual Church Meetings & Elections

By Chris Ward, our PCC Secretary

The Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM) is a legal requirement of the Church of England, at which amongst other things, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) members are appointed for a three-year term. This year we will also be appointing three new members as our representatives on the Macclesfield Deanery Synod, on a three-year cycle.

The meeting will be held in St Oswald's on 23rd April after the 10.30 am service. It will be preceded by a short Meeting of Parishioners at which the Churchwardens are appointed for the coming year. We are always looking for new PCC members, so please come forward if you are interested and discuss it with a PCC member. You will need to have been on the church Electoral Roll for at least six months to qualify for election.

If you wish to join the Electoral Roll and have a future say in the running of the church, please contact Jackie Pengelly, our Electoral Roll Officer; see details on the inside of the front cover of this magazine.

**

Come and join us for CHUB's meetings in 2023!

Derek Gascoigne reports

We held our annual meeting on 14th February, and agreed on these dates for 2023 visits: 18th April, 27th June, 8th September, and the Friendship lunch on Wednesday 15th November. We are looking at several churches for easy access and nearby pubs and a venue for the friendship lunch.

It is increasingly difficult to find a two course lunch for under £16, but we will do our best. I hope you are looking forward to the new season's visits and enjoy them as much as we enjoy providing them.

While funds are still quite healthy, it was decided that subscriptions remain at £5 annually and passengers give the drivers £2 towards petrol.

Winter visitors to our garden

By Chris Ward

We have a hebe growing right against our kitchen window; it is a little microcosm of wildlife. As it is so near the window, we can look closely at whatever alights on the bush. In the late summer, the bush is covered with bees and hover flies, feeding on the nectar in the purple flowers. But this winter it has attracted new guests, in the form of long-tailed tits. I have long been a follower of these little birds as they often arrive in the summer in groups of up to half a dozen, flitting from tree to tree. I always feel they are a family group staying together after fledging. They are not as colourful as the blue tit, but they can hardly be missed by their paler bodies and very long tails, which allow them to balance upside down on the branches.



Alexis Lours, via Wikimedia Commons

They have been almost daily visitors to the hebe during the last month (January/February) – usually singly but sometimes as a pair – feeding off the seeds that have been left from decay of the summer flowers. The birds regularly peck at the glass of the window; it was difficult to understand why. We can only think that they are seeing a reflection of the shrub in the window and pecking at that. They are indeed extremely agile, hanging upside down, and even clinging onto the window frame.

These birds are well known for their social nest building. They use moss, lichens, wool and spiders' webs felted together and lined with countless feathers. The nest is deep and domed, the entrance hole being at the side or the top. Scientists that have studied nest building concluded that the creation of the long-tailed tits' complicated nest is a co-operative effort from the members of the pair from start to finish. Their nests can hold up to ten chicks and are often vandalised by other birds. It is known that the family relatives join in to rebuild the nests – cousins, aunts and all.

It's difficult not to admire them.

The sermon I never gave - on playing golf!

By Brian Reader

Some of you know that I enjoy playing golf, but I wonder how many of you know that it can teach you a lot about life. For example, you can have good days and you can have bad days, and I am not just talking about the weather! But at least you are taking exercise in the fresh air and you could be away from the 'phone for three hours plus, or at least that is how it used to be before mobile 'phones!



Golf is a game of skill, with players matched against each other, using a handicap system which allows players of widely different standards to enjoy a game together. You are probably thinking that this does not seem much like life as you know it, and you would be right. Life has obstacles and disasters along the way and so it is with golf. The simple idea is to hit a small ball from the starting area which is called the TEE, over varying distances and into a HOLE specially cut on a beautifully cut GREEN. But before you get to the GREEN, there are a number of obstacles to avoid.

You are supposed to hit your ball down the FAIRWAY, but either side there is the ROUGH which can be long grass, bushes or trees and beyond that is the OUT OF BOUNDS. And then there are the WATER HAZARDS, streams, ponds or lakes to which the ball is attracted to have an early bath!

If that were not enough trouble, there are then the manmade BUNKERS, hollows in the ground or deep chasms filled with sand which welcome any errant ball.

To enable any progress to be made, there is a RULE BOOK which tells you what to do and the PENALTIES incurred, much like the Bible. When no one is close, it is easy to cheat on a golf course, but what satisfaction would that bring in the long run?

So as you stand on the TEE, pondering what to do, you have choices, just as you do in life. You could try and be safe and hit a gentle shot, or try a braver



shot to give you an advantage, perhaps over the pond or bunkers. But you know that taking risks has let you down in the past! Sometimes the slope of the fairway or the wind has put even the simplest of shot into trouble, while your opponent has had a lucky break and bounces over a stream. Even when you get to the green, a worm cast can

deflect your ball away from the hole, while your opponent's ball just topples in.

So where is God when you are playing golf? Well like life, God is always present; helping us to accept both disappointments and successes with equal grace. And if all goes badly on one round, then just enjoy the fresh air and the walk, and praise God for all beauties of nature you can see around you.

Look out for my next article – When the Vicar asked me to bring my golf clubs to Church!

We continue our series on the spiritual disciplines that help us to grow and deepen our faith. It will run throughout this year.

Spiritual Disciplines – the power of Fasting

Spiritual disciplines are practices designed to help us grow as disciples of Jesus. This month we are looking at the practice of *fasting*.

Fasting can be a neglected discipline, but plays an important part in the Christian life, especially during Lent. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and taught His disciples to fast: *‘when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen.’* (Matthew 6:17,18).

Why Fast?

Firstly, giving up something in my life underlines my desire to put God first in my life. Secondly, fasting shows me how much I depend on things other than God in my life, so I can surrender my idols to Him. Thirdly, fasting encourages me to have a deeper hunger and dependency for God in my life. Therefore, fasting gives me space to focus on God for His strength, provision, and wisdom and leads to a more intimate relationship with Christ. It also enables the Holy Spirit to reveal my true spiritual condition, leading to repentance, and a transformed life and a more attentive heart towards God.

How can I fast?

Usually fasting involves missing one or two meals during the day, although some can't abstain for medical reasons. It might also include abstaining or limiting the time I give to television, alcohol or social media. However, Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines e.g. joining a study group, *‘random acts of kindness’*, or giving more time to prayer and Bible Study. Whatever you do, make Lent count this year!

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.’ (Matthew 5:6).

All in the month of ... March

It was:

300 years ago, on 8th March 1723 that Sir Christopher Wren, English architect, died. Best known for designing St Paul's Cathedral.

70 years ago, on 19th March 1953 that the Academy Awards ceremony (the Oscars) were televised for the first time.

Also 70 years ago, on 26th March 1953 that Dr Jonas Salk announced that he had completed the first small-scale test of a polio vaccine. Larger tests began in February 1954, and mass vaccinations began in April 1955.

65 years ago, on 2nd March 1958 that the first land crossing of Antarctica was completed by the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition, led by Vivian Fuchs. The team of 12 men travelled 2,158 miles from Shackleton Base to Scott Base (via the South Pole) in 99 days, using six vehicles.

60 years ago, on 22nd March 1963 that the British Secretary of State for War, John Profumo, told Parliament that he and Christine Keeler were not in a relationship. A model, Keeler was in sexual relationships with a drug dealer and a Soviet naval attaché. (In June he admitted he had lied, and resigned.)

40 years ago, on 6th March 1983 that Donald Maclean, British-born Soviet spy died. He was a member of the Cambridge Spy Ring.

Also 40 years ago, on 26th March 1983, that Anthony Blunt, British art historian and Soviet spy, died.

25 years ago, on 16th March 1998 that Rwanda began mass trials for the country's 1994 genocide. There were 125,000 suspects for 500,000 murders.

20 years ago, on 12th March 2003 that the World Health Organisation issued a global alert about a severe form of pneumonia (now known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome – SARS) that was affecting people in China, Hong Kong and Vietnam.

Book of Remembrance for March

- 3rd George Haworth
- 6th Harold James Gumm
- 9th Joan Lee
- 9th Fred Walker
- 9th Graham Garland
- 10th Mary Oldfield
- 10th Kenneth Allen
- 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 Robin George Samuel Webster
- 26th Lesley Holmes
- 27th David Gaskill
- 29th Audrey Beresford Cameron
- 30th Emily Holmes
- 31st Margaret Ainsworth

**



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

Adam and Eve's true nationality

A British man, a Frenchman and a Russian were viewing a painting of Adam and Eve frolicking in the Garden of Eden. "Look at that beautiful garden they are maintaining so well," mused the Brit. "They must be British."

"Nonsense," the Frenchman disagreed. "They're naked, and so beautiful. Clearly, they are French."

"Ah, but no clothes, no shoes, no shelter," the Russian pointed out, "they have only an apple to eat, and they're being told this is Paradise. They are Russian."

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Tel: 07895 363038 / www.stoswaldbollington.org.uk / Facebook

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

Deadline: Material for the April issue to reach Anne by 20th March.

Worship at St Oswald's in March

Sunday 5 th	9.15am - Parish Communion 10.30am - Family Worship 3.00pm Civic Service
Sunday 12 th	10.30am - Parish Communion
Sunday 19 th	10.30am MOTHERING SUNDAY – All Age Communion
Sunday 26 th	10.30am Parish Communion



Lent Lent Group every Tuesday 7.00pm in church – all welcome!
Lent Lunch Thursday 16th March at 12.15pm
Lent talk by Father Michael Winstanly Thursday 9th March
11.15am at St Gregorys, and Thursday 30th March at St Oswald's

Easter at St Oswald's – ALL WELCOME!

Palm Sunday 2nd April	9.15am Holy Communion 10.30am All Age Worship with donkey
Maundy Thursday 6th April	10.30am Morning Prayer 7.30pm Holy Communion 8.30pm Watch of Prayer & Compline
Good Friday 7th April	10.30am Messy Church 2.00pm Good Friday service with The Capriccio Scratch Choir singing Stainers' Crucifixion
Easter Saturday 8th April	10.00am Decorating the church for Easter
Easter Sunday 9th April	7.00am Service on White Nancy 10.30am Easter Communion Service

Regular midweek activities

Every Tuesday during term time, 9.30-11.30am, Praise and Play
Every Thursday at 10.30am, Holy Communion