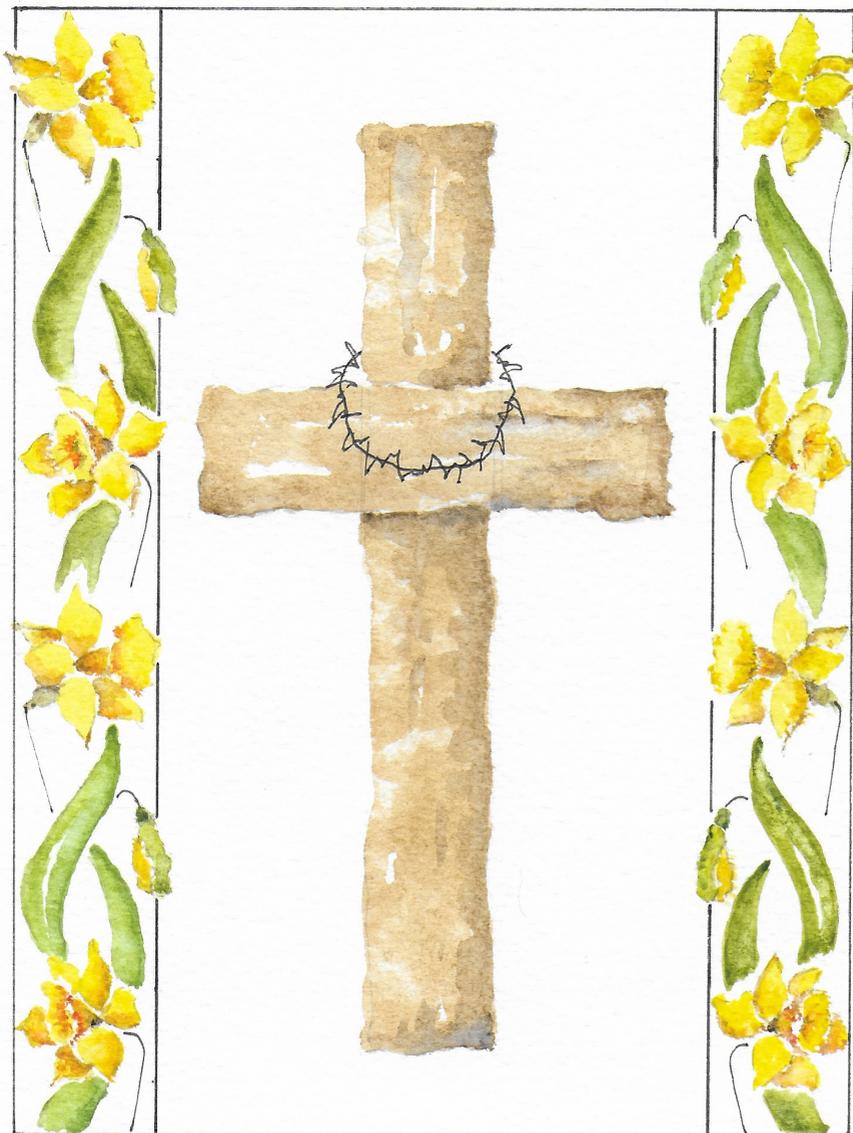


Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



April 2023

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,

I hope you are all feeling the joy of spring.

Last year I was given a secondhand greenhouse and it has been a wonderfully quiet place to go and pray. Over winter I have done far more praying than planting in there!



However, early spring is the time to plant seeds and I've reflected on how something as small and insignificant as a seed, after being buried under the soil, will sprout with new life of such glorious abundance.

So much of God's creative action in our lives is like a seed. When something is finished, buried, or ended we are left with a time of uncertainty. A confusing time of waiting and wandering, where we can't see the way and we are forced to be patient, then something new and different emerges which is full of goodness and abundance of new life. This three-fold pattern of orientation and stability, moving to disorientation and disruption, and finally reorientation and newness can be seen in our life stories.

It is of course the Easter Story: death, tomb and resurrection. Christ shows us the way to newness of life is through the tomb. Without the cross there would be no resurrection, the way to Easter joy and hope is through Good Friday.



So, when life gets difficult and it feels as if you are losing or being pushed under, pray and reflect that maybe, like a seed, God is planting you and the promise of Easter is that the best is yet to come!

Easter Blessings,

Rev Nancy x



The story of Easter

Brian Reader comments on the front cover

There are many ways to depict Easter and Ann has chosen a picture of a very austere wooden cross with the crown of thorns.

Some Christians, including my wife Jean, find that Easter, with the story of the Crucifixion, to be quite a harrowing time. That is not surprising as the Romans meant this painful form of execution to be, not just a way to rid them of offenders, but also to be a warning to all.

The story of Easter is well known, but many chose not to understand, nor accept its true significance in all our lives. Why did Jesus have to die?

At the beginning, God created Adam and Eve to look after this beautiful world. He gave them everything they needed, and He also gave them free will, but they chose to disobey the instructions that God had given them. They succumbed to sin, tried to hide from Him, and for this act God cast them from the garden.

There is evidence in the Bible of how God tried to teach mankind about the way He wanted them to live, and to get them to obey His laws. He sought a relationship with His people, and He sent them prophets and leaders to explain the life they should lead. They were given commandments and a temple where sacrifices of animals could be made to atone for their sins.

Eventually, God sent His own Son Jesus Christ to show by His work and teaching what God was like, and how He longed for his people to be holy. Jesus was



recognised by many to be a good man of God, and the disciples slowly realised that He was indeed the Son of God. Yet some saw Him as a threat to their way of life and wanted to kill Him. Jesus allowed himself to be put to death, because through this act of sacrificial love, He assumed the guilt of all of us and His death paid our penalty.

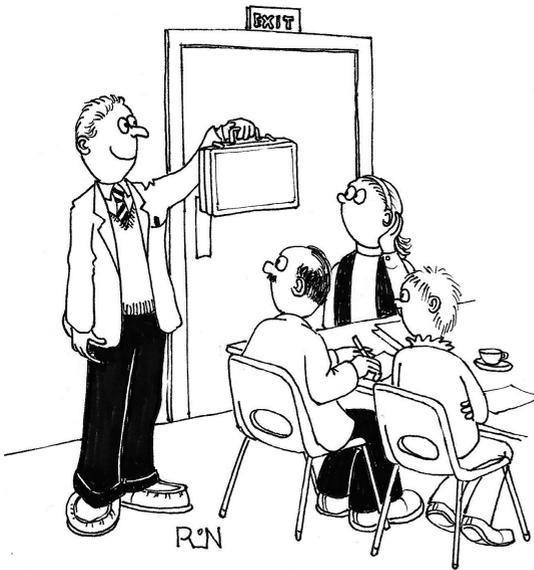
But Easter is not just about the Crucifixion; it is also about the wonderful Resurrection, when Jesus arose from the dead to enable eternal life to be available for all who believe in Him, and then follow His teachings.

Easter is in the middle of spring, and our Easter picture also includes bunches of yellow daffodils which reminds us of summer to come. So it is with certainty that I can wish you all a “Happy Easter”, as Jesus’ love on the Cross has enabled as all to return to a loving relationship with God, as was always His attention.

**

Coming soon – the Annual Church Meetings & Elections

This year our Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM) will be held in St Oswald’s on 23rd April after the 10.30 am service.



The treasurer made the most of his moment in the limelight

The meeting 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.

This year we will also be appointing three new members as our representatives on the Macclesfield Deanery Synod, on a three-year cycle.



Notes from ‘The Counting House’

Finance report from our Treasurer Richard Raymond

As I write this, we are approaching the end of Lent with the glories of Easter in sight. A very big Thank You to everyone who has contributed to the Lent Thanksgiving Appeal. There have been some very generous donations and I am sure that the sum raised will be significant.

A full report on our finances will be delivered at the Annual Parish Church Meeting to be held on 23rd April. This will comment on the figures for 2022 and will give an indication of my forecast for 2023.

For a number of years St Oswald’s has been signed up to two fundraising initiatives:

These are Easyfundraising (<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>) and

The Giving Machine (<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk>).

Both these organisations work in a similar fashion. You and me, as consumers using the internet to purchase goods, sign up with them. When we go on certain sites to buy products, we are given the opportunity to ask that a donation from our purchase goes to the charity of our choice – hopefully St Oswald’s!! It is very simple and very un-threatening and benefits the church. Why not have a look at the two sites? Next month I will detail a little bit more about the schemes.

Again, 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.

Praise and Play - all mums & tots welcome!

By Christine Osbaldiston

Tuesday mornings in St Oswald's Church are filled with the sound of toddlers having fun.

Our Praise and Play Group for babies and toddlers meet every Tuesday during term time 9.30 to 11.30am.

During the morning the children are free to play with the many toys available, perhaps dress up as Spider Man or Cinderella.

There is a craft table at which the children and also parents/carers can show off their artistic skills.

So far this term we have celebrated Chinese New Year by making Chinese Lanterns, decorated biscuits, made sheep out of paper plates and listened to the story of the lost sheep. For Mothers' day, cards were made and also a variety of paper flowers.

A snack is provided for the children and coffee and biscuits for the adults. The session finishes with the singing of Nursery Rhymes (Rev Nancy now knows all these) a short bible story and a prayer.

If you have babies or toddlers and would like to meet other parents/carers come along on a Tuesday morning, a warm welcome awaits.



'Stainer's Crucifixion' for Good Friday

Our service on Good Friday at 2.00pm will include 'The Crucifixion' by John Stainer, sung by the Capriccio Vocal Ensemble & Friends.

By Cherry Smith

Many of us who have sung in Church Choirs over the years will have sung in a performance of 'Stainer's Crucifixion'* on Good Friday. When I first sang it, it was part of a three-hour mid-day service! In those days, it was very popular but it seems to have dropped out of favour recently.

Let me commend it to you!

'The Crucifixion' is set for tenor and bass soloists and four-part Chorus. The assumption is that it will be accompanied by a pipe organ. A pipe organ is able to express the most intimate and moving of emotions as well as thunderous outbursts so powerful they can shake the foundations of the building.

The Crucifixion' has both - so it is appropriate that it should be accompanied by a pipe organ rather than a piano. We have an excellent pipe organ that will be tested to its limits!

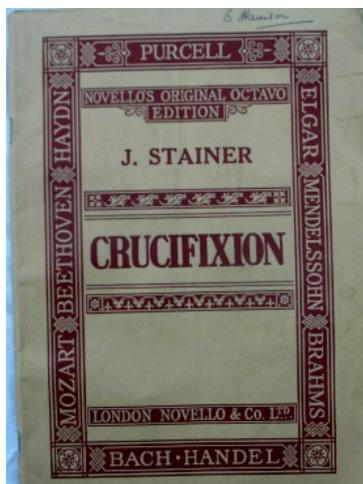
It has exquisitely tender movements such as 'The Agony' when Jesus sadly rebukes the disciples for falling asleep three times instead of keeping watch with him while he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemene before his betrayal. We, the Chorus, sympathise with him – perhaps we would not have let him down. It's easy to be wise after the event.

The Processional to Calvary when Jesus is led away to be crucified begins with a quietly thoughtful organ solo which gradually develops into a triumphant outburst joined fortissimo by the Chorus. If you have ever sung or heard 'The Crucifixion', you can never forget the powerful impact of 'Fling Wide the Gates'!

Then there's the sublime and deeply moving anthem 'God so loved the world' which is sung unaccompanied and is the one Movement that is still performed

by many a Choir especially around Easter time. It is a setting of two verses from the Gospel according to John (Chapter 3 verses 16-17) which explain God's unconditional love for his creation.

This is followed by a tender Tenor and Bass duet which could be accused of being sentimental but the music draws the listener in as it explores the meaning of God's forgiveness.



John Stainer was well respected in his day. As well as being a composer, he held the prestigious position of organist at St. Paul's Cathedral from 1872 to 1888. He was Professor of Music at Oxford University from 1889 until his early death in 1901. He received a knighthood from Queen Victoria in 1888 in recognition of his services to British music.

So why has 'The Crucifixion' fallen out of favour? It has been sneered at by high-brow music critics as being trivial and sentimental. True, the music is neither difficult to perform nor to listen to, but it was never meant to be

in the same category as Bach's St. Matthew or St. John Passions. Stainer intended it to be within the scope of most Parish Church Choirs! It was first performed in 1887 in St. Marylebone Church in London and the work was dedicated to its organist.

The libretto, by Rev.W.J.Sparrow Simpson, has been derided as being overly sentimental and 'Victorian', yet it manages seamlessly to combine passages from Scripture with his own poetry to tell the story with sympathetic devotion.

I believe it suits its purpose and is as relevant today as when it was first performed. Why not draw your own conclusions?

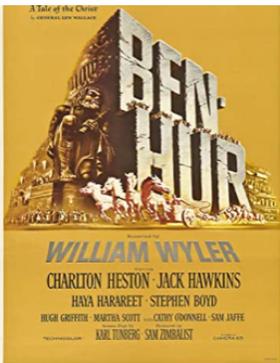
****The Crucifixion: A Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer*** by Sir John Stainer. Words selected and written by the Reverend J. Sparrow-Simpson, MA.

The story behind the story of *Ben Hur*

There is a story to be told of the writing of *Ben Hur*, the book that became the 1959 block-buster film featuring Charlton Heston.

It was written in 1880 by Lew Wallace, an American lawyer, Union general during the Civil War, and then governor of the New Mexico Territory. (His statue still stands today on Washington's Capitol Hill).

Wallace had told his wife that he intended to examine the New Testament, and then write a book that would explode what he called "the myth of Christ's resurrection". Wisely, his Christian wife did not argue with him, but simply prayed.



The months passed, and Wallace read and reread the New Testament, and wrote and rewrote his draft chapters. Finally, he confided to his wife that he could not refute the resurrection of Christ, and that therefore his book would not be written.

Wallace's wife disagreed. She persuaded him to write his book, but from a new and different standpoint altogether. '*Ben Hur - a tale of the Christ*' was the result. It is the story of a high-born Jewish man who is taken prisoner by the Romans, who encounters Jesus, and whose life is gradually transformed. Oh, and there is a battle at sea and a chariot race in the story as well!

In the past 143 years since it was written, '*Ben Hur - a tale of the Christ*' has never been out of print.

**

Good to remember...

All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of mankind on this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life. – *James Allan Francis*

Spiritual Disciplines – the power of Confession

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

This month we are looking at the practice of *confession*. *'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.'* (1 John 1:9). Confession enables us to enter fully into God's grace, as we are assured of forgiveness for our sin and shame.

It is the death and resurrection of Jesus that makes this a reality. On the cross he bore our sin in himself to put us right with God: *'God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.'* (2 Cor. 5:21).

In *'Celebration of Discipline'*, Richard Foster describes three aspects of confession:

Be Specific: It's easy to say, *'God, please forgive me because I sinned today,'* rather than, *'God, I spoke angrily today... please forgive me.'*

Be Sorrowful: Confession is not primarily about feelings about sin, but having a deep regret at having offended the Father's heart.

Be Determined to Avoid Sin: Confession gives us a yearning for a holy life and avoiding sin. It is the *will* to be delivered from sin that we seek. This is a gift, as it can only be done in God's strength, not ours.

Some practical tips: Make confession part of our regular prayer time, using the pattern ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication).

Reflect on what you need to confess, asking God to speak into the situation and then pray with a trusted friend. Write down those things that are making you feel guilty, pray and then tear the paper up into pieces. This is a physical reminder of the sin being taken away.

'At the heart of God is the desire to give and to forgive.' (Richard Foster)

All in the month of ... April

It was:

150 years ago, on 4th April 1873 that the Kennel Club was founded in London. It oversees dog shows across the country and operates Britain's national register of pedigree dogs.

90 years ago, on 3rd April 1933 that the first flight over Mount Everest took place with British pilots the Marquis of Clydesdale and Donald McIntyre.

80 years ago, on 30th April 1943 that the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp was established in Germany. Tens of thousands of people died there.

75 years ago, on 7th April 1948 that the World Health Organization (WHO) was founded in Geneva, Switzerland as a specialist agency of the United Nations.

70 years ago, on 16th April 1953 that Queen Elizabeth II launched the Royal Yacht Britannia. It was decommissioned in 1997.

50 years ago, on 4th April 1973 that the World Trade Centre in New York City was officially opened. It was destroyed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001.

30 years ago, on 22nd April 1993 that Stephen Lawrence, an 18-year-old British teenager, was murdered in a racially motivated attack in London.

30 years ago, on 29th April 1993 that Queen Elizabeth II announced that Buckingham Palace would open to the public for the first time, to raise funds to repair fire damage at Windsor Castle.

25 years ago, on 10th April 1998 that the Good Friday Agreement was signed in Northern Ireland.

20 years ago, on 14th April 2003 that the Human Genome Project was successfully completed, with over 99% of the human genome sequenced and mapped, including all of the genes.

Book of Remembrance for April

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



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

Burial of Ashes in March:

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 2 nd | William Patrick Evans |
| 23 rd | Edna Kathleen Madeley |
| 25 th | Ronald Frederick Clark |

Good to remember

Our friends bring us to the grave and leave us there, but God will not.
Man's way leads to a hopeless end - God's way leads to an endless hope.

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

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

Worship at St Oswald's in April

*Children will enjoy our services in gold.**

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 – for children!***
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**

Sunday 16th April

10.30am All Age Communion

Sunday 23rd April

10.30 am Parish Communion followed by the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Sunday 30th April

10.30am Parish Communion

Regular midweek activities

Every Tuesday during term time, 9.30-11.30am, **Praise and Play***

Every Thursday at 10.30am, Holy Communion

