

# Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



July/August 2023

Price 50p



# Who's who at St Oswald's

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## The Parochial Church Council April 2023-2024

Christine Osbaldiston, Jackie Pengelly, Richard Raymond, Elaine Houghton,  
Lynda Iverson, Simon Thomas, Chris Ward, Angela Williams

*Ex officio:* Anne Coomes, Anthea Wilkinson

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*Diocesan Synod:* Richard Raymond

# Letter from Nancy

Dear All,

Six Marys are mentioned in the New Testament, including Mary Magdalene, who is remembered in the church's calendar for July. What can we learn from Mary's story?

***We don't have to be defined by our past.***

When Jesus encountered Mary, He cast seven demons out of her (Luke 8:2). As a result, her life was transformed, and she became a follower of Jesus. Her life as a disciple was no longer defined by the person she had been before. Like Mary, we don't have to let our past without Christ dictate how we see ourselves today.

***Put Jesus at the centre of our world.*** Along with some of the women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases (Luke 8:1-3), Mary followed Jesus and His disciples and supported them in ministry. She was there at the cross (Matthew 27:55-56) and one of the first to the tomb on the Sunday (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1 and John 20:1-18). Like Mary, we are called to serve Jesus as dedicated disciples.

***Jesus uses the weakest in the world.*** Mary is a great example of Paul's words: *'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.'* (1 Corinthians 1:27). At a time when women were regarded as second-class citizens with no real autonomy, Jesus had a special compassion and care for women. Alongside Mary, the women's witness to the resurrection was taken seriously.

We should be careful not to dismiss the things that don't follow our expectations, because Jesus doesn't always do what we expect! He delights in working out His plans through unlikely people and in surprising ways. He did this through Mary, and if we let Him, He can do it through us!

With love and blessings, Nancy





## Summer

*Brian Reader comments on the front cover*

When it comes to Summer I am sure that we will all have our own thoughts and memories. Ann's depictive picture of a sunflower reminds us of reflective times in our gardens in late summer.

I write this in the sweltering heat and I am reminded of my parting shot from last month when I spoke of 'flaming June'. We should all be careful for what we wish.

It is said that 'Change as good as a rest', and many will seek to go away on holidays both near and far. In my youth, I was lucky as we lived in Broadstairs, and with the sea and beaches only minutes away we had no need to go elsewhere. Even when I and my brothers got married and had our families, we still used to return to Broadstairs whenever we could.



The Church also seems to go into a more relaxed summer mode, with umpteenth Sundays after Trinity, apart from 6<sup>th</sup> August when we remember the Transfiguration of Christ on

Mount Tabor. This feast commemorates one of the pinnacles of Jesus' earthly life, when His divinity revealed is to three of His closest disciples by means of a miraculous and supernatural light.

The feast of the Transfiguration is an important opportunity for Christians to look to Christ as "the light of the world," and to experience the kind of conversion which the Bible frequently describes as an emergence from darkness to light. We, too, urgently need to emerge from the darkness of evil, to experience the joy of the children of light!

This light, which shines forth from Christ both at the transfiguration and after His resurrection, is ultimately triumphant over 'the power of the darkness of evil.' We can do no better than follow God's own words – 'This is my Son, my chosen one: listen to Him.'



## Come join our new Church-in-the-Pub!

*Nancy, our vicar, reports...*

We've recently started something NEW in Bollington – Church-in-the-Pub. The Cotton Tree Inn, on Ingersley Road, was the perfect venue for some deep discussions about life, faith, and the world – all over a pint of beer or a glass of wine.

More than 20 people from the parish churches of Bollington, Adlington and Pott Shrigley came along on the night, and the chat was buzzing.

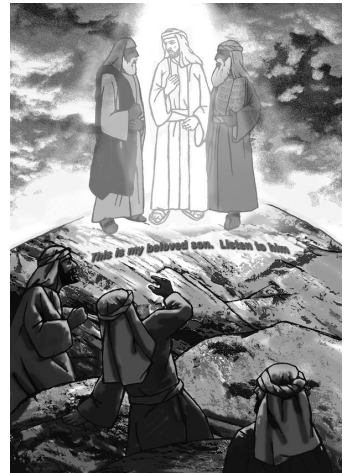
By popular demand, it will run again this summer, and all are welcome. The next Church-in-the-Pub is 8pm on the last Wednesday in July (26th) and in August (30<sup>th</sup>) in The Cotton Tree.

## Open Gardens a success

Thanks to all those who supported the Tea in the Garden at 1 Hill View last month. It was a lovely day and we raised £380 for church funds.'

# The Transfiguration

In August we celebrate Jesus' transfiguration, when Jesus took Peter, John and James with Him up a mountain to pray (Luke 9:28-36). Jesus was transfigured alongside Moses and Elijah: 'As He was praying, the appearance of His face changed, and His clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.' (29).



## *Jesus' Transfiguration: Watch!*

The disciples' eyes were opened, as Jesus' hidden divinity was revealed. The presence of Moses and Elijah confirmed Him as God's promised Messiah, who fulfilled God's plan and purposes. By foreshadowing the cross, resurrection and ascension, this event powerfully calls us to entrust our lives into Jesus' hands to experience His presence and power.

## *The Father's Word: Listen!*

There came a voice from the cloud covering them: 'This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to Him.' (35). God affirmed His love and call on Jesus, as His beloved and chosen Son. This is the second time God spoke audibly about Jesus (cf Luke 3:22), but on this occasion He was speaking for the benefit of the disciples. Do we hear God speaking these same words to us? We listen to what Jesus says to us, knowing that like Him we are deeply loved and accepted by God.

## *The Disciples Response: Learn!*

'The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen' (36). They were impacted by this experience and needed time to reflect on what they had seen and heard about Jesus. Eight days before they were asked by Jesus: 'Who do you say I am?' (Luke 9:20). In the transfiguration their understanding of Jesus was being transformed. As we reflect on Jesus' ministry, to encounter the real Jesus, we are also transformed.

*'No one who meets Jesus ever stays the same.'* (Philip Yancey)



# Welcoming our new curate to St Oswald's - the Revd Jenny Eades

*Jenny Eades joins us on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, and she will be with us for three years.  
We invited her to introduce herself...*

I was born and brought up in Northolt, Middlesex but moved to Macclesfield in 1986, a year after my marriage to Nick, who is Cheshire born and bred. We have three adult children, two living in Edinburgh and one still at home with us.

I have worked in and around education since my twenties, first as a special needs teacher, later



as a freelance advisor in mental health and well-being. I was fortunate enough to be able to visit Australia, New Zealand and Denmark in the course of my work and one of the highlights of my career was receiving a full ceremonial

'haka' or Mouri welcome from a group of children and teenagers in New Zealand. I saw a fairy penguin on that trip too!

Nick is now retired and we enjoy bird watching, board games and bell-ringing as shared interests. It is a coincidence that they all begin with 'b'! I enjoy sewing, knitting, bread making, writing, reading and generally being creative. We have a very elderly staffie called Evie – named after a parish on the islands of Orkney, where we holiday every year.

I am a member of the Third Order of the Society of St Francis and for many years we have visited Greenbelt as a family every summer.

I am looking forward very much to getting to know the people of St Oswald's and Bollington and am so grateful to be coming to you to continue my training.

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## Observations on our Christian faith...

What your heart possesses, your life expresses. - *Anon*

Prayer is the original wireless communication. - *Anon*

I have found in the Bible words for my inmost thoughts, songs for my joy, utterance for my hidden griefs and pleadings for my shame and feebleness. - *Samuel Taylor Coleridge*

Perhaps the straight and narrow path would be wider if more people used it. - *Kay Ingram*

Dame Edith Sitwell, when asked why she had come to faith, said she had looked at the pattern of a frosted flower on a windowpane, she had studied shells, feathers, petals and grasses; and she knew without a doubt there must be a cause... "I have come to believe that the cause is God."



## Celebrating our church's patron saint – St Oswald!



*AnonymousUnknown author, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons*

Many Christians have dreamed of doing something spectacular for God, which would be remembered for centuries afterwards. Oswald, who lived from 605 to 642AD, was in a position to do so.

He was a King, whose father, Aethelfrith, was a great warrior who laid the foundations of the great kingdom of Northumbria. But Aethelfrith was killed by a rival, and Oswald was only 12 years old when he was driven into exile with his elder sister and two younger brothers. For their own safety, all were taken to Irish territory in the West of Scotland.

The three brothers were educated by the Christian monks on Iona. Meanwhile, warfare raged in Northumbria, and in due course the time came for Oswald to

make a difficult decision. Should he remain in safety, or return to claim his kingdom? In 632 his older brother led an expedition there to sue for peace, but instead he was put to the sword. It was a time of broken dreams and bitter grief for the young Oswald, who must have spent many hours in prayer before he decided to risk his life by following his brother south.

In his famous book, *The Ecclesiastical History of England*, Bede tells us that Oswald prepared to meet his enemies Cadwallon and Penda in battle on a December night at a place which is now called Heavenfield. His small army was likely to be outnumbered and victory seemed impossible. But that night, Oswald had a vision of St Columba, the founder of Iona. Columba prophesied that Oswald would be king, and reminded him of God's words to Joshua at the River Jordan, "Be strong, and of good courage... for you will be the leader of these people as they occupy this land."

Before battle commenced, Oswald made a rough cross from two young trees and held it upright until soldiers were able to fill in the hole around it. Then he led his army in a prayer that God would bring victory and deliverance to his people. He also promised that if they survived, he would send for missionaries from Iona to bring the Christian faith to Northumbria.

**‘Oswald, a king with faith, courage and humility.’**

Oswald's subsequent victory has become part of the region's folklore, commemorated by the name of that battlefield and the more permanent cross which now stands at Heavenfield. Many leaders would have

regarded such a triumph as the high point of their career, advanced to the royal palace and quickly forgotten their promise to God. But Oswald remained faithful, and in due course St Aidan arrived in the new kingdom and made Lindisfarne the centre of his ministry.

Now it was time for Oswald to reveal a quality less frequently associated with kings, but even more vital to the spread of God's work. That quality was humility. As the sponsor and protector of Aidan, he could easily have imposed his own agenda on this new mission. Such a test came early, when Aidan declined Oswald's offer of resources at court in Bamburgh Castle, and chose the remoter location of Lindisfarne.

Not only did Oswald accept the monk's decision gracefully; he continued to spend many uncomfortable weeks on the road acting as Aidan's interpreter.

His willingness to lay aside his kingly privileges and play second fiddle to a spiritual leader ensured that the Gospel spread quickly through the new kingdom and transformed many lives.



Within a few years, dark times returned to Northumbria. Oswald was slain in battle and his brother Oswin succeeded to the throne. Penda continued to wreak havoc with his marauding raids; on one famous occasion, Aidan watched him attack the royal fortress as he prayed on the Farne Islands, and it is written that his intercessions caused the wind to change direction and beat back the flames from the castle gates.

But through it all, the light of Christianity continued to flourish and grow. Aidan is rightly remembered as the missionary who brought the good news to Northumbria, but he could not have succeeded without Oswald, the man who was brave enough to claim an earthly kingdom, yet obedient enough to play a humbler role in advancing a heavenly one.

Prayer from the liturgy for St Oswald's day (5<sup>th</sup> August), written by the Northumbria Community: *"I place into your hands, Lord, the choices that I face. Guard me from choosing the way perilous of which the end is heart-pain and the secret tear."*

*"May I feel your presence at the heart of my desire, and so know it is for Your desire for me. Thus shall I prosper, thus see that my purpose is from You, thus have power to do the good which endures."* (Copyright Northumbria Community Trust, 1996)

# Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude

*‘Solitude is a time when we withdraw from the company of others in order to give God our undivided attention’ (John Ortberg).*

The spiritual discipline of *solitude* is about spending time alone with God, to grow in relationship with Him and hear Him more clearly. This practice was a priority in Jesus’ life and ministry, especially at crucial moments eg *‘Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed’* (Mark 1:35).

Solitude is not so much about what we *do* as what we *don’t* do! If we want to hear God, we need to consciously shut out the external noise in our lives and focus on the quiet inside us. If we are honest, this can be a real struggle. We want to do it, but other things can so easily get in the way: distractions, tiredness, jobs that need doing, wandering thoughts etc. Solitude gives us an opportunity to enjoy God’s presence, as somebody who we really want to spend time with.

Richard Foster (*‘Celebration of Discipline’*) suggests some ways in which we might grow in this discipline:

*‘Little solitudes’*: small everyday moments to seek inner silence eg, coffee times, travelling to work and time spent outside.

*Quiet place*: having specific places where we go to be quiet, eg a room or special chair in our home.

*Retreat*: organising a retreat where we can have time in silence and solitude.

We need to plan carefully how we use our time with God, including silent listening, meditating on Scripture, prayer, journaling, taking a meditative walk, or listening to a worship CD.

*‘If we possess inward solitude we do not fear being alone, for we know that we are not alone.’* (Richard Foster)

# Story behind the HYMN: Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God, With heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done, In whom His world rejoices;  
Who, from our mother's arms, Hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today...

*By Martin Rinkart*

The joy and serenity of this hymn are staggering, when you learn the circumstances in which it was written. Martin Rinkart was a pastor at Eilenberg, Saxony, during the terrible Thirty Years' War (1618-1648). As a walled city, Eilenberg offered some protection to the inhabitants. No wonder that political and military refugees of all sorts poured into the city, making it dangerously overcrowded. Soon the water supply was fouled, the sanitation overwhelmed, and the food ran out. Famine and disease followed.

In 1637 a terrible pestilence swept through the city, killing some 8,000 people, including Rinkart's beloved wife. By that time Rinkart was the only minister left in Eilenberg, because the others had either died or fled. So Rinkart conducted the burial services for 4,480 people, sometimes taking as many as 40 to 50 funerals a day!

Eilenberg was besieged and overrun three times – once by the Austrian army and twice by the Swedes. When a Swedish general demanded the town pay him 30,000 thalers, Martin Rinkart pleaded that the impoverished city could never meet such a levy, but the general scorned him. At that, Rinkart turned to his companions and said: 'Come, my children, we can find no mercy with man; let us take refuge with God.'

On his knees there and then, Rinkart led his friends in a fervent prayer and in the singing of a hymn. The Swedish commander was so moved that he decided that the levy be not 30,000 thalers, but instead 1,350 thalers.

Somehow, out of the hell of the Thirty Years War, came this lovely hymn of peace and total trust in God. Martin Rinkart had to dig deep into his faith to survive, and the result was serene dependence on God – despite chaos and destruction all around.

# All in the month of ... July

It was:

400 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1623 that William Byrd, English Renaissance composer, died. Regarded as one of the greatest British composers, and best known for his sacred music.

150 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1873 that British-born Australian explorer William Gosse discovered Ayers Rock and named it in honour of Sir Henry Ayers, the Chief Secretary of South Australia. It is now known as Uluru/Ayers Rock.

125 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1898 that Henry Moore, British sculptor and illustrator, was born. Best known for his huge semi-abstract bronze sculptures.

75 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1948 that the National Health Service (NHS) began operating.

65 years ago, on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1958 that debutantes were presented at the British royal court for the last time.

60 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1963 that the British government revealed that intelligence officer Kim Philby was a long-term Soviet spy.

50 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1973 that pharmaceutical companies in the UK agreed to pay more than £20 million in compensation to 400 children born with birth defects after their mothers took thalidomide during pregnancy.

20 years ago, on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2003, that a team from the BBC reported that the Loch Ness monster did not exist. They had combed every inch of the loch using 600 sonar beams guided by satellite navigation, and still found nothing. The search operation was covered in the documentary, *Searching for the Loch Ness Monster*.

15 years ago, on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2008 that NASA reported that its Phoenix Mars Lander had found frozen water in a soil sample taken from two inches below the surface of Mars.



# All in the month of ... August

It was:

400 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1623 that Anne Hathaway died. She was William Shakespeare's wife.

125 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1898 that the British Antarctic Expedition set off from London and became the first to spend winter on the Antarctic mainland and cross the Ross Ice Shelf. It was the first British expedition of the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration. It returned to London in June 1900.

100 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1923 that Richard Attenborough, actor and director, was born. Best known for his roles in *The Great Escape*, and *Jurassic Park*. He also directed films including *A Bridge Too Far*, and *Cry Freedom*.

80 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1943 that British Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten became Supreme Allied Commander South East Asia.

65 years ago, on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1958 that Ralph Vaughan Williams, British composer, died. Among his famous compositions are: *The Lark Ascending*, *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*, and *A Sea Symphony*.

60 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1963 that the Great Train Robbery took place on the West Coast Main Line at Ledburn, Buckinghamshire. £2.6million was stolen in one of the UK's most infamous robberies.

25 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1998 that a car bomb in Omagh, Northern Ireland, killed 29 people and injured 370. It was the deadliest act of violence in the 30-year history of the Troubles.

15 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2008 that the K2 Disaster took place. 11 mountaineers from several international expeditions died on K2, the world's second-highest mountain. Four others were injured. It was the worst single accident in K2's history.

# Book of Remembrance for July & August

3<sup>rd</sup> July - Florence Stearn  
4<sup>th</sup> July - Hilda Kelly  
5<sup>th</sup> July - Frank Johnstone Pimblott  
8<sup>th</sup> July - Mary Foster  
10<sup>th</sup> July - Harry Ainsworth  
13<sup>th</sup> July - Jane Margaret Sauer  
14<sup>th</sup> July - Samuel Victor Kershaw  
15<sup>th</sup> July - Donald Wilson  
17<sup>th</sup> July - Thomas Brocklehurst  
19<sup>th</sup> July - Charles Green  
19<sup>th</sup> July - Les Lappin  
21<sup>st</sup> July - Elsie Lea  
22<sup>nd</sup> July - Sylvia Brunt  
22<sup>nd</sup> July - James Bennett  
22<sup>nd</sup> July - Olive Lane  
25<sup>th</sup> July - Sylvia Lily Thomas  
27<sup>th</sup> July - Annie Williamson  
29<sup>th</sup> July - Joseph Edward Pye



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

2<sup>nd</sup> August - Henry John Allen  
4<sup>th</sup> August - Edward Holmes  
5<sup>th</sup> August - Susan Elizabeth Walker  
12<sup>th</sup> August - Margaret Wardle  
15<sup>th</sup> August - Mary Walker  
17<sup>th</sup> August - John Kenyon  
21<sup>st</sup> August - Ada Henson  
21<sup>st</sup> August - Fred Horrox  
24<sup>th</sup> August - John William Spooner  
26<sup>th</sup> August - Violet Jackson  
28<sup>th</sup> August - Geoffrey Mellor  
28<sup>th</sup> August - Margaret Annie Spooner  
29<sup>th</sup> August - Kenneth Gaskell  
30<sup>th</sup> August - John Fred (Jack) Oldfield  
31<sup>st</sup> August - Stella Gascoigne

# From the Registers

## Memorial Services

25<sup>th</sup> May - David Lancaster

26<sup>th</sup> June - John Boyd Roe

## Funeral

30<sup>th</sup> June - Joe Lee

## Burial of Ashes

11<sup>th</sup> June - Alberta King

\*\*

## Bible Society to sponsor a garden at RHS Tatton

Bible Society says it is “excited” to be sponsoring a garden based on Psalm 27 at the RHS Flower Show Tatton Park in July.

Psalm 27 is a profound meditation on loss, fear and faith. Inspired by designer Ollie Pike’s reflections on burial grounds – “scenes of sadness, but also of hope and spiritual refreshment” – the Psalm 27 Garden will aim to lead visitors on a journey through pain to peace.

Ollie Pike says: “The psalm speaks to me of protection and to be hopeful. It gives a feeling of comfort in difficult moments and to have faith that things will improve.”

The garden follows Bible Society’s sponsorship of Sarah Eberle’s Psalm 23 Garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2021. The Psalm 23 Garden won a gold medal, Best Sanctuary Garden and Best Construction.

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Publishing & Printing: Published by the PCC, printed by I AM Print.  
Distribution: Sue Whitehurst and Christine Osbaldiston

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

**Deadline:** Material for the September issue to reach Anne by 18<sup>th</sup> August.

# Worship at St Oswald's in July & August

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July</b>                         | 9.15am Parish Communion<br>10.30am All Age Worship        |
| <b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July</b>                         | 10.30am Parish Communion                                  |
| <b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July</b><br><b>MESSY CHURCH</b> | 10.30am All Age Communion<br><b>4.00pm</b>                |
| <b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July</b>                        | 10.30am Parish Communion                                  |
| <b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July</b>                        | 10.30am Parish Communion                                  |
| <b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August</b><br><b>PET SERVICE</b> | 9.15am Parish Communion<br><b>10.30am All Age Worship</b> |
| <b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August</b>                      | 10.30am Parish Communion                                  |
| <b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August</b>                      | 10.30am All Age Communion                                 |
| <b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August</b>                      | 10.30am Parish Communion                                  |



**MESSY CHURCH –**  
**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 4.00pm**  
Families welcome!

**PET SERVICE – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August, 10.30am – All welcome!**

Bring your dog (on a lead), or any small pet (in a suitable carrier).

## Regular midweek activities

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

Every Thursday at 10.30am, Holy Communion