

# Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



**October 2023**

**Price 50p**



# Who's who at St Oswald's

7 Bollington Rd, Bollington, Macclesfield SK10 5EG

|                                  |   |              |
|----------------------------------|---|--------------|
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| Churchwarden                     | Jackie Pengelly<br>jackie.pengelly@hotmail.co.uk                | 01625 572645 |
| PCC Secretary                    | currently vacant  |              |
| PCC Treasurer                    | Richard Raymond<br>richard.raymond109@gmail.com                 | 01625 612025 |
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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

*Deanery Synod:* Anthea Wilkinson, Anne Coomes

*Diocesan Synod:* Richard Raymond

# Letter from Nancy

Dear All

Do you know we have a lovely, simple Holy Communion service in St Oswald's every Thursday at 10.30am? It's shorter than a Sunday as we don't have hymns, people can sit throughout it, and it's followed by a friendly brew and a chat. Recently on Thursdays we've been hearing great stories from the Old Testament, like the story of the mighty prophet Elijah.



Our favourite bit is when Elijah challenges the false prophets of Queen Jezebel to a face-off competition to "call down fire from God". Elijah wins, in front of all the people, and proves God's power, but then no one listens to him, and they turn on him, so he runs away and sits in a cave and sulks. How many times do we find life unfair, so we just shut ourselves away and sulk and complain to God that we've tried but no one listens? In these times we can tell God how big our problems are, but we can also tell our problems how big our God is!

After hiding away in the cave sulking, Elijah has one of the most dramatic personal experiences of God in the Bible. Elijah is told to wait at the mouth of the cave on the mountain and God will pass by. First there is a mighty wind, but God is not in the wind, then an earthquake, but God is not in the earthquake, then a pillar of fire, but God is not in the fire. Finally, there is the sound of sheer silence and God is there in the silence, His "still, small voice" present with Elijah. God's word to Elijah is to stop sulking, get up and get on with his work. Elijah does, eventually passing on his mantle to the young prophet Elisha before being taken to heaven in a chariot of fire.

So, if you're ever sat and fed up on a Thursday morning, do come along to church. We can't promise chariots of fire, but we do have chocolate biscuits, friendship and the presence of God who is bigger than any problem.

God bless, Revd Nancy



## Harvest time

*Brian Reader comments on the front cover*

The word 'harvest' comes from the Old English word 'hærfest' meaning 'autumn', the season between summer and winter, time for gathering in the food. This was a vital time of year. A prosperous harvest ensured that a community would be fed throughout the barren winter months, so a good harvest was celebrated, and Christians thanked God as the giver of all good things.

The Harvest Festival is the closest thing we have to a day of thanksgiving. In the past there was no fixed day for harvest festival, as it was based on when all the crops had been brought in. The whole community, including children, were needed to help right up until the end, as lives depended on the success of the harvest.



In the past, the celebration would be held as soon as the harvest had been completed and the final cartload triumphantly returned to the farm. Then the Harvest Supper, or 'Harvest Home', would take place. This would occur on different dates across the country, and it may be why the Church of England still does not specify on which day Harvest Festival will be held.

When I remember Harvest Festivals of the past, the churches were always brilliantly decorated and there was always a sheaf of corn on the altar steps, or if in a town, a baker would produce a large loaf shaped like a sheaf of corn, usually with a small mouse on it.

Ann, in her harvest picture this month, has depicted the other fruits of the harvest, root vegetables, mushrooms, tomatoes, and legumes.

Now that most of us neither sow nor reap what we eat, it is almost impossible to imagine how crucial this time of year was in the calendar, but by knowing a little of the history and keeping these traditions alive we are honouring those who depended upon it.

# They did it!

They climbed Snowdon for St Oswald's - & raised over £2000 for audio-visual equipment



Very early on the morning of 22<sup>nd</sup> September, folk from the Bollington Hearing Centre and another Bollington business, Treks to the Wrecks, set off at 4am to do a crowd-funded climb up Snowdon, aiming to reach the summit in time for sunrise.

The Sunrise Walk up Snowdon was an “exciting challenge” for the team, especially as Hurricane Nigel was lashing Snowdonia at the time, with driving rain and howling winds.



But with Treks to the Wrecks guiding the climb, everyone made it safely up the mountain – and down again – in about eight hours.

The vicar, the Revd Nancy Goodrich (pictured right), waited faithfully at the bottom of the mountain throughout the day.

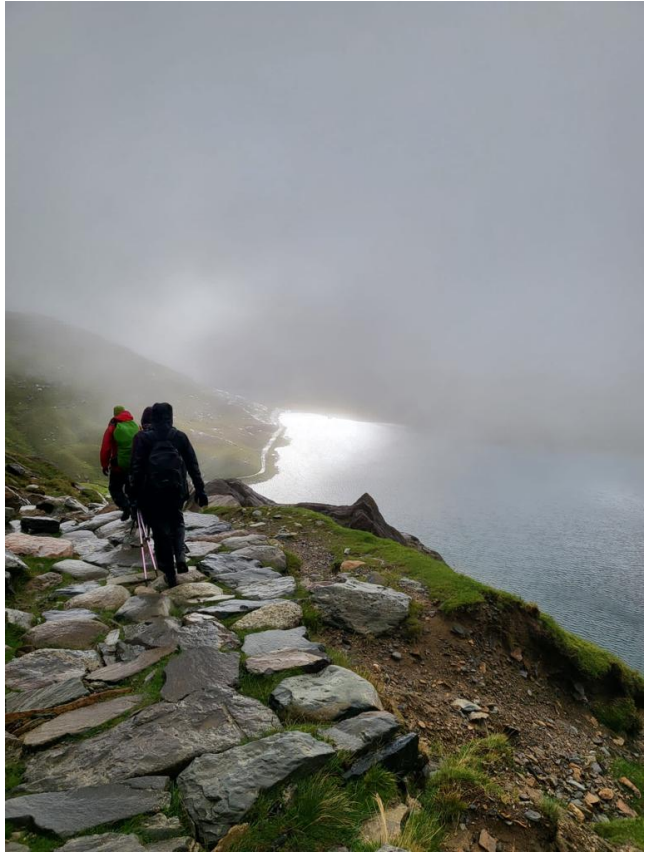
“I did my part by praying for them all!” she said.



Claire Kewney,  
Director of Bollington  
Hearing Centre  
explained her reason  
for taking part in the  
crowd-funded climb:

“St Oswald’s Church  
is a special space for  
the community in  
Bollington.

“The building is  
beautiful and  
historical, welcoming,  
and flexible. Some  
modern audio-visual  
equipment will  
increase its  
accessibility to the  
community, and  
enhance services and  
events, especially  
with the schools and  
young people.



“But there is another very caring and loving need for AV equipment in St Oswald’s: funerals. More and more, bereaved families want to share precious videos and photos of their loved ones at their funerals.”

So – a BIG THANK YOU to those who climbed Snowdon, and a BIG THANK YOU to all who gave to this amazing crowd-funding effort.

This Appeal for money for AV equipment is ON-GOING – if you would like to support it, please contact the church warden, Jackie Pengelly, on 01625 572645 for details of how to give.

Your support and contribution are deeply appreciated.

# CHUB visits Hathersage

*Anthea Wilkinson reports*

On Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September, when summer had returned after its two-month absence, I set off in glorious sunshine to pick up three passengers for the CHUB trip (my first!) to Hathersage where we were to look round the historic church of St Michael and All Angels.

Having left in plenty of time we were able to make our way in leisurely fashion, which allowed us to take in the wonderful scenery as we negotiated Winnats Pass. We arrived safely to a welcome as warm as the weather from members of St Michael's congregation. Although the weather wasn't exactly conducive to cake eating, these were provided in abundance, and so delicious that it was impossible to resist a second and, in some cases, a third!

We then proceeded to the church itself, a most impressive stone building, the first Gothic style church having been built in 1381 with a rebuild in 1420 by Robert Eyre – the name made famous by Charlotte Bronte in her novel *Jane Eyre*, which she will have heard when staying at the vicarage in 1845.

The next addition to the church was the porch. The original use for this was for church meetings which were not permitted within the church itself. The stone benches lining the porch would probably have ensured speedy conclusions to PCC meetings!





1851 saw the major restoration of the building. Then in 1914 the internal plaster was removed, and in 1945 they uncovered the natural stone. This was followed, in 1945, with a new vestry and sacristy.

The modern altar panel and frontal fit beautifully into the more ancient aspects of the church, and as well as some lovely stained-glass windows, I particularly liked the Rylatt window in the Lady Chapel, with its depiction of eight local creatures, including a ring-ouzel!

Peter Miles, our most interesting guide, also drew our attention to two ornately carved wooden chairs used by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert when they attended the official opening of Liverpool's St. George's Hall. As the hall was largely built from local stone, the chairs were presented to the church by the City of Liverpool as a 'thank you'.

The bronze war memorial was flanked by two original World War 1 grave markers. The other famous name associated with the church is Little John, friend of Robin Hood, who is buried in the graveyard.



One or two of us made the ascent of the church spire, up quite narrow spiral stone steps. This enabled us to get ‘up close and personal’ with the six bells, and also to enjoy the wonderful view of the inside of the church.

There was so much of interest in this church, that it was hard to leave, but the call of lunch was heard, and we (26 of us) moved on to the Little John Hotel in the village. Having arrived on time for our pre-booked meal, we were a little disappointed by the 30-minute wait for food. However, when it did arrive our only complaint was how much there was – very generous portions of delicious food, particularly the chips! There were some empty plates at the end of the meal, and several doggie bags, and we enjoyed lots of lively conversation.

A safe drive home was the end to a lovely CHUB outing, which I certainly hope to repeat.



# Animal Welfare Sunday - 1<sup>st</sup> October

Animals suffer. All over the world.

One way in which you could help them is to support the work of The Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals (ASWA), which has been working for more than 30 years to promote animal welfare, and to make “Christians and others aware of the need to care for the whole of Creation.”

ASWA introduced the annual service of Animal Welfare Sunday (held on the nearest Sunday to 4<sup>th</sup> October – St Francis-tide) to encourage churches to include animal welfare concerns in their prayers.

As a spokesman explains, “Care for all God’s creatures is a non-negotiable part of Christian discipleship. Animal issues are theological issues and should be on the churches’ agenda. We believe that God has given us a responsibility towards sentient beings with whom we share God’s world. The Bible teaches us that God has given us ‘dominion’ not ‘domination’ over animals (Genesis 1:26). This means ‘loving care’ not ‘ruthless exploitation’. We teach respect for all creation and highlight the ways in which animals suffer because of human neglect, exploitation and cruelty.

“Throughout the Bible, there is a recurring theme that when people are given power by God, it is in the expectation that they will use it to benefit rather than oppress the weak. Furthermore, it is inconceivable that a compassionate Creator would make animals capable of thought and feeling, of knowing comfort and pain, and then be indifferent to the quality of life which they enjoyed. When we see images of animal cruelty on television or the newspapers, we ask what kind of person could have inflicted it. Similarly, what kind of God would deem it acceptable?

And so ASWA works, through education and lawful action, to curb the abuse of animals in intensive farming, the food chain, experimentation, diseases associated with animals, the ill treatment of pets and the killing of animals for pleasure. “These all raise ethical questions.”

More info at: <https://www.aswa.org.uk>

## Prisons Week - 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October

Prisoners and their families need help if they are to really repair and rebuild their lives. And so it is that Prisons Week has been growing steadily, year by year. Prisons Week is supported by the Church of England, the Catholic Church, the Free Churches Group, and the Salvation Army. It is also supported by the prison ministry organisations including Prison Fellowship, Prison Advice and Care Trust, and Caring for Prison Leavers. Other supporting organisations include Bible Society, the Mothers Union, and Youth for Christ.

The week-long campaign each October aims to provide Christians across the country with information, expertise, resources, and encouragement for this particular, and challenging, area of ministry. Above all, Prisons Week urges individual Christians to pray for prisoners and their families, that their lives might be rebuilt and renewed. Prisons Week describes its aim as “relieving the human suffering caused by crime and imprisonment.” For more info, please visit: [www.prisonweek.org](http://www.prisonweek.org)

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## 29<sup>th</sup> October - Bible Sunday as Ukrainians request Bibles

The war in Ukraine has led to a dramatic rise in the demand for Bibles, as people ask existential questions about life and death. The Ukrainian Bible Society reports that, in the last 15 months, some 700,000 Bibles have been distributed across the war-torn country. This is a five-fold increase on numbers handed out before the war. In 2020, some 136,767 Bibles were distributed in Ukraine.

Anatoliy Raychynets, deputy general secretary of the Ukrainian Bible Society explains, “The experience of this time is that so many people are looking for Bibles and churches. We are doing everything possible to reach all the needs, but more Bibles are needed. With the help of the Word of God, we can bring the love of God to those who need it.” Bibles are distributed around the country, including to soldiers and civilian communities on the front line, and to those in hospital. “Wherever the Bible is taken, it is very much appreciated,” said Anatoliy.

# Spiritual Disciplines: Worship

*'Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks.'* (John 4: 23).

The spiritual discipline of worship has both a personal and corporate dimension. It includes worship services as well as day-to-day activities. God is actively seeking worshippers (John 4:23) and worship is a response to our experience of God's love. The main words used of worship in the Bible have the sense of *submission* and *service*. They remind us that our lives need to be shaped by worship *on a daily basis*.

There are different ways into worship: practising stillness, offering praise (cf Psalm 95) and offering the whole of our lives as a living sacrifice (cf Romans 12:1). Worship is an act of the will; we choose to honour and please God. Depending on our circumstances, worshipping God requires effort on our part. However, entering into worship is to be transformed by His presence into the likeness of Jesus (cf 2 Corinthians 3:18).

Richard Foster in *Celebration of Discipline* offers some helpful ways in which to engage with worship on a daily basis:

*Learn to practise the presence of God daily* by punctuating every moment with praise and adoration.

*Have different experiences of worship*, both in large and small gatherings (i.e., small group)

*Be prepared for gathered worship* in heart and mind.

*Be willing to let our worship transform* our thinking and practice as God meets us.

*Cultivate holy dependence* on God for everything in our lives, looking forward to all God wants to do.

*Learn to offer a sacrifice of worship*, however we are feeling!

*'Now the worship is over, let the service begin'* (Bishop Michael Marshall, closing a service)

# The most valuable thing you can own

At the recent coronation the King was given a Bible with the words '*the most valuable thing that this world affords*'. As Bible Sunday is celebrated this month, let's ask why we should read the Bible?

The Bible isn't a single book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over 1500 years in a range of styles including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (looking the end times). Despite having a number of different writers, it claims one authority - God Himself! '*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work*' (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired ('*the word of God in the words of men*') and equips us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us when we read: '*when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth*' (John 16:13).

How should we read the Bible? Let's consider the following guidelines:

*Right time:* We need a regular routine, which will meet our needs. This will vary according to our circumstances e.g. a mum at home with young children, somebody with a demanding job or a retired person.

*Right Place:* We need to find a space where we can be undisturbed (e.g. lounge, bedroom, train or kitchen).

*Right Version:* We need a version of the Bible which we can readily understand and use. A number of versions are available (e.g. NIV, The Message), as well as Bible apps we can access on our phone.

*Right Help:* Reading notes also help us to understand a passage and apply it to our lives.

Let's get reading!!

# All in the month of ... October

It was:

150 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1873 that Edwin Landseer, artist and sculptor, died. Known for his animal paintings, and for his famous lion sculptures at the base of Nelson's Column in London.

90 years ago, on 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 1933 that physicist Albert Einstein arrived in the USA as a refugee from Nazi Germany.

80 years ago, on 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 1943 that the Burma Railway was completed. The Japanese built it using Asian labourers and Allied prisoners-of-war, thousands of whom died. One of the railway bridges is the famous film *Bridge over the River Kwai*.

75 years ago, on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct 1948 that the Morris Minor car was launched at the British Motor Show at Earl's Court in London. It cost £358.

70 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 1953 that former US Secretary of State George Marshall was awarded the 1953 Nobel Peace Prize for engineering the Marshall Plan – a massive economic aid programme for Europe in the aftermath of WWII.

65 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1958 that Michael Bond's children's book *A Bear Called Paddington* was published. It marked the debut appearance of Paddington Bear.

Also 65 years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct 1958 that the State Opening of the British Parliament was televised for the first time.

60 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 1963 that the term 'Beatlemania' first appeared in the Daily Mirror newspaper in the UK. It described the intense, frenzied reaction of fans of the Beatles.

50 years ago, from 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 1973 to 17<sup>th</sup> Mar 1974 that the 1973 Oil Crisis took place. OPEC suspended oil exports to nations supporting Israel in the Yom

Kippur War. It led to major shortages and rationing in the UK, USA, Canada, Japan, the Netherlands, Portugal, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and South Africa.

40 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 1983 that Lech Walesa, leader of the Solidarity movement (later President of Poland) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Also 40 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 1983 that Microsoft Word 1.0 was released. It was the first version of the popular word processor, and Microsoft's first full-featured application.

30 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 1993 that South African leaders Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk, won the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to end apartheid.

25 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 1998 that David Trimble and John Hume won the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize for brokering the Northern Ireland peace accord.

20 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 2003, that Mother Teresa was beatified by Pope John Paul II and given the title Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. (She was canonised as Saint Teresa of Calcutta in 2016.)

15 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct 2008 that the 2008 financial crisis 'Bloody Friday' took place. The world's stock exchanges suffered one of the worst declines in their history – about 10% in most cases. About £89.5billion was wiped off the value of Britain's biggest companies.

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## **From the Registers**

Wedding: 6th Sept     Hannah Chadwick and Adam Gibbins

Baptism: 6th Sept     Harry Michael Gibbins



# Book of Remembrance for October

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct  | Rachel Mary Poulson  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct  | Sarah Anne Wood  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct  | Amy Slater Goodwin   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct  | Wilfred Clay   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct  | Baby Sheila Tarr   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct  | David Hooley   |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct  | John Alfred Humphrey Waterhouse                            |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct  | Annie Oldfield nee Ridgeway                                |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct  | Dora Hunt  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct | Edward Russell Cutler                                      |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct | Joyce Dixon  |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct | Wilfred Jackson  |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct | Rachel Elizabeth Waterhouse                                |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct | Father William David Thomas Vicar of this parish 1947-1953 |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct | Lilian Hughes  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct | Clifford Eli Brunt   |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct | Richard Rendell  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct | Lesley Martin  |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct | Mabel Tarr   |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct | John Lewis Whiston   |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct | Muriel Lloyd   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct | Elizabeth Woolley  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct | Anne Richards  |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct | Sarah Elizabeth Stanesby                                   |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct | Eric Jackson   |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct | Philip King  |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct | Ralph Greenwood  |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct | Edward Chadwick  |

\*\*

## Good to think about

Exercise daily - walk with the Lord. - *Anon*

We don't change God's message - His message changes us. - *Anon*



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## **Bollington Church News – how to contact us**

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

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

**Giving to 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**. Or talk to Richard Raymond, our treasurer, on 01625 612025.

# Worship at St Oswald's in October

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Oct</b>  | 9.15am Parish Communion<br>10.30am All Age Worship |
| <b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>  | 10.30am Parish Communion                           |
| <b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Oct</b> | 10.30am All Age Communion                          |
| <b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct</b> | 10.30am Parish Communion                           |
| <b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Oct</b> | 9.15am Parish Communion                            |
| <b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>  | 9.15am Parish Communion<br>10.30am All Age Worship |

## Regular midweek activities

Every Tuesday during term time, 9.30-11.00am, Praise & Play  
Every Thursday at 10.30am, Holy Communion

## Coming soon!

### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, Prayers for Peace – Taize style

St Gregory's Church, 7.30 – 8.30pm Join us for an hour of Taize music, prayers and reflection at St Gregory's Church. All welcome!

### Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October - Church in the Pub

The Cotton Tree Pub, Bollington, 8pm. Our friendly evenings in the Cotton Tree continue – come and join our informal discussions about faith and life.

### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Music for an autumn evening

St Oswald's, 7.30pm. The Capriccio Vocal Ensemble is returning to St Oswald's for a concert of sparkling music. Tickets £10. Under 18s free. From Cherry Smith on 01625 829805, or on the door. Proceeds to the church organ fund.



### Tuesday 31st October - Messy Church Light Party 5.00pm to 6.30pm

Children in costumes, accompanied by their parents, are welcome!