

Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



April 2024

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	currently vacant	
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 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,

He is not here. He is risen!

The resurrection of Jesus was probably as confusing and disorientating to the first disciples as much as it was joyful. “He is not here” reminds us of the physicality of the resurrection. It was, and is, bodily.



We tend to spiritualise anything to do with faith, because it’s easier, but the disciples who saw the risen Jesus saw at the same time something spiritual and something physical. They saw the ordinariness of Jesus’s body, scarred with the marks of the nails in His hands. Jesus speaks and eats. The risen Jesus, the exalted Jesus who belongs with God, keeps His ordinary human body. God’s love is embodied. Jesus’s ministry had already communicated that human flesh carries divine meaning, that God is enacted in the acts of humans.

Easter reminds us that our bodies matter. God knows and understands our bodies in sickness and in health. What we eat, what we drink, what we do. Our physical presence and acts matter. When we gather together, open our hands and receive the Eucharistic bread “This is my body” our bodies are entering into communion with the risen Jesus and together we receive life from Him and discover divine grace in our midst.

There is a seat in church in Bollington that is yours, that only you can fill. God wants you to receive life and grace when you come this Easter season to receive with joy that Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.

Alleluia! Happy Easter to all of you.

Love Nancy



23rd April – St George's Day

Brian Reader comments on the front cover

With Easter over on the last day of March, Ann has drawn a front cover for April showing the sword and shield of St. George with a collection of lovely spring flowers.

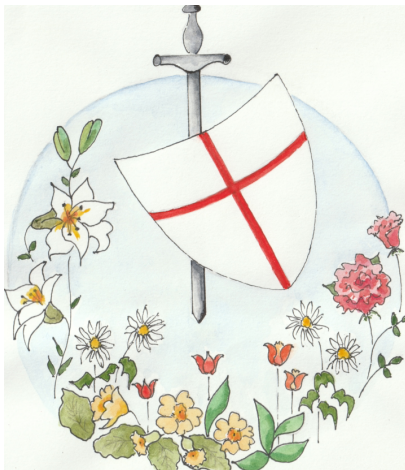
My memory of St. George's Day in the past is of big Church Parades both during the later part of the war and for years after it. All the Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies would march to the largest Church in the town for a commemorative service, but as we were never told much about St. George, I thought I should find out more.

Very little is known about St. George's life. He certainly wasn't born here; it is believed that he was born in Cappadocia, now in Turkey and that he was raised at least partly in Lydda in Palestine. It appeared that he freed Christian slaves while he was a high ranking officer in the Roman army and the Emperor Diocletian had him tortured to make him deny his faith in Christ.

However despite terrible torture, St George showed incredible courage and faith before being beheaded near Lydda in Palestine on 23rd April 303.

In the medieval period many European kingdoms fought in the Crusades in the

Holy Lands where they would have heard about St. George and many of the knights carried shields that were emblazoned with his red cross.



As stories of St. George's bravery spread throughout Europe, it is not surprising that many countries chose him as their Patron Saint.

The Chapel in Windsor Castle had been dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary, George the Martyr, and Edward the

Confessor, but in 1348, King Edward III established The Order of the Garter, in St. George's name and subsequently made him the patron saint of England. The Chapel was renamed after him as the king thought of him as the perfect embodiment for a strengthened England and the monarchy he was trying to achieve.

Unfortunately many legends connected with St. George's name are fictitious, including the slaying of the 'Dragon'. It should be noted that In the Middle Ages the dragon was commonly used to represent the Devil, which may explain why this feat was credited to him in the 12th century.

Shakespeare made sure that nobody would forget St. George, and had King Henry V finishing his pre-battle speech with the famous phrase, 'Cry God for Harry, England and St. George!'

**

Come along to the April 2024 Annual Church Meetings and Elections!

This year our Annual Parochial Meeting (APCM) will be held on Sunday 14th April at 11.45am.

The first meeting is the Meeting of Parishioners, this is a short meeting at which the Churchwardens are appointed for the coming year. Following this we proceed to the APCM at which various reports on the activities within the church are presented, including the financial report.

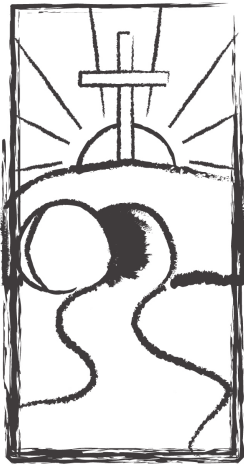
The election of PCC Members also takes place. We are looking for new PCC Members. If you are interested, please come forward.

If you wish to know what is involved, please speak to Revd Nancy or the Churchwardens.

The Treasure of Easter!

It's amazing what treasure can be unearthed with metal detectors! In this season of Easter, let's rediscover the greatest unburied treasure of the Resurrection.

The Apostle Peter reminds us that God *'has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.'* (1 Peter 1: 3,4). What does he say about this treasure?



On the one hand, it is the *reason for hope*. Peter was writing to Christians in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) who faced persecution under the Emperor Nero. In an uncertain world we know that Jesus suffered, but by His resurrection has secured eternal life for us. This inheritance not only guarantees life now, but also for eternity, as it *'is kept in heaven for you'* (4). Do we share this confidence? D.L. Moody, the 19th Century American evangelist, spoke of the time when people would read his obituary: *'Don't believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now'*.

On the other hand, this treasure is a *source of joy*. This unburied treasure fills us *'with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.'* (8,9). We face all kinds of trials in our lives, but God uses them to refine our faith and character, *'These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.'* (7).

We reflect this treasure by developing the Jesus' character and becoming more holy, obedient and loving.

'Christmas is the promise, and Easter is the proof'!

What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to the Bible: Deuteronomy & Joshua

The setting for these books is Israel's entry into the promised land after 40 years of wanderings in the wilderness. Deuteronomy gives us Moses' addresses on the plains of Moab, as the Israelites prepare to enter Canaan. The book of Joshua recounts the crossing of the Jordan and the victories that give the people control of Canaan.



The theme of Deuteronomy is God's covenant and his call for His people's obedience, loyalty and love. The '*shema*' (Heb: 'hear'), expresses this response to God: '*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.*' (Deut. 6:4-6).

The book contains instruction on how to live intentionally as God's people in response to His love and mercy. Total loyalty to God is also crucial, with the worship of any other gods being totally rejected. It is also widely quoted in the NT eg. Jesus' temptations (Deut. 8:3, 6:13, 16).

The book of Joshua, with its description of the conquest of the land and the destruction of cities and peoples, reminds us that God's love and purposes for us are worked out in the messes, storms and sins of our daily lives. As God says Joshua: '*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.*' (Joshua 1:9).

Joshua (*'The Lord saves'*) is the same name as Jesus Himself. Jesus overcame all powers of evil to bring God's people into their eternal 'rest' (Heb 4:1-11).

Don't be afraid of clouds

Have you ever sat and watched the clouds drift by? Some of them are vast, towering up into the sky. There can be clouds of discouragement and suffering in our lives as well, circumstances that temporarily blot out the sunlight of God's love for us. You may have such a cloud hanging over your life right now. You may be suffering discouragement, fear, despair, or bereavement.

Have you ever noticed that sometimes, when you board a plane, the sky is like a thick grey ceiling? It looks impenetrable. But the plane does not hesitate - it climbs steadily onward and upward straight into the cloud. And what happens? Nothing! The cloud cannot block your progress, it must give way before you.

The simple truth is, you may not be able to *see* through clouds, but you *can go through them*. The plane uses navigational aids for guidance, and we have the Holy Spirit to guide us through the darkest times. And finally, we emerge through the cloudbank, and there before us is a sun-drenched sky of blue and golden glory, far above the dismal and disappointing things far below.

Whatever cloud is hanging over you at present, whether suffering, discouragement, fear, there IS something you can do about it NOW. Pray – pour out your heart to the Lord about it. He has promised that His grace will be sufficient for anything that we encounter in this life.

And – look up. Look towards heaven, *think beyond* those clouds, and remember His promise that the sufferings we may be undergoing *here* are nothing compared to the glory that God has prepared for us *there*.

The Bible assures us: 'The Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man that trusts in you.' Psalm 84: 11-12

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Lively choir

Seen in a parish magazine: 'Next Sunday the choir will give a recital, after which the church will be closed for repairs.'

SAINT OF THE MONTH – Dietrich Bonhoeffer (9th April)

Standing up to tyrants, no matter what the cost. That kind of courage has been in the headlines since the war in Ukraine began, as many brave people have defied Putin's oppression. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran pastor and martyr, did not have Putin to contend with, but Hitler. Bonhoeffer did not back down either, when the time came.

Bonhoeffer grew up with no thought of ever defying the leader of Germany. Nothing could have been further from his mind or background. Born at Breslau in Silesia (now the Polish city of Wroclaw) in 1906, Bonhoeffer was the son of an academic. In 1912, his father was appointed to be Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology at Berlin university, and so the family moved to Berlin.

Bonhoeffer never even considered going into politics. Instead, he studied theology in Tübingen, Berlin and New York, before returning to Berlin as a lecturer in theology in 1931.

But though Bonhoeffer did not chase political trouble, it soon came to him. For on 30th January 1933 Adolf Hitler, leader of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, had come to power. His totalitarian approach left no room for anyone in public life to disagree with him. Including anyone in the two major churches - Lutheran and Catholic.

But Bonhoeffer refused to be compliant, and joined the Confessing Church, which had formed in opposition to the takeover of the Lutheran Church. The Confessing Church also opposed Hitler's attempts to force antisemitism on the church and society.

Bonhoeffer was in America when war broke out in 1939, but he returned to Germany. He said: "I shall have no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian life in Germany after the war, if I do not share the trials of this time with my people."

Back in Germany, he joined the underground anti-Nazi opposition and worked hard to oppose Hitler. In 1943 he was arrested and imprisoned at Tegel prison

in Berlin. The involvement of many of his contacts in the July 1944 plot to kill Hitler may well have sealed his fate. He was finally moved on to Flossenberg concentration camp.

In April 1945, as American troops were approaching the camp, Bonhoeffer was hanged. The last words of this brilliant and courageous 39-year-old opponent of Nazism were: "This is the end - for me, the beginning of life."

Bonhoeffer left a great legacy behind him. His writings, and especially his *Letters and Papers from Prison*, have inspired many trying to make sense of persecution and needless suffering. His 1937 book *The Cost of Discipleship* is described as a modern classic.

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With Annual General Meetings at church in mind...

It was not an accident that 17 of the 36 parables of our Lord had to do with property and stewardship. - *William James Dawson*

Nothing is more stimulating than friends who speak the truth in love. - *Os Guinness*.

The church should be a community of encouragement. - *Fred Catherwood*.

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Who?!

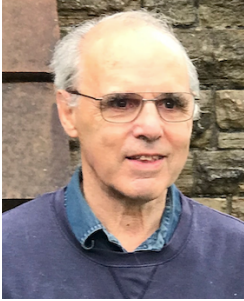
Seen in a West Country church:

Whenever I see a little church,
I always pay a visit.

So when at last I'm carried in,
the Lord won't ask 'Who is it?'

Cookie

In the cookie of life, friends are the chocolate chips. – *Anon*



The Saga of the Holy Trinity Crockery Cupboard

*Extracts from Holy Trinity Church
Committee Minute books 1937-1955*

Compiled by Chris Ward

1937 - November 15th

During discussion regarding future social events mention was made of finding new accommodation for the crockery, which at that moment was stored in wooden boxes. It was agreed that Mr N submit an estimate for a cupboard suitable for the storing of the crockery.

1937 - December 7th

The question of providing a cupboard for storage of crockery was next reviewed and it was decided that the Secretary should write to Mr N urging the submission of an estimate for cupboard suitable for purpose in view.

1938 - January 11th

With regard to the crockery cupboard, it was agreed that this question be held over for a short while until the finance question had become more settled. (Elsewhere in the Minutes it states that there was a debit balance on the years working of £6 in the General Account)

1938 - February 14th

The question of a new cupboard for crockery was the next point brought forward for review. Mr N reported that a suitable cupboard would cost £3 - 15 - 0. This offer met with the approval of the committee but the proposal of Mr B that the actual work be held over until funds permitted confirmation of the order, was approved.

1939 - January 9th

The Treasurer informed the committee that he had received £3-17-6..... to be used for the purchase of a crockery cupboard.

1939 - May 15th

The question of the new crockery cupboard was the next point brought forward. Mr N stated that he would submit a drawing of the cupboard to the ladies as soon as possible.

1940 - January 9th

The crockery cupboard was first on the agenda. The measurements suggested by Mr N were: width (outside) 22" : height 2' - 10": Inside width- 14"; length to be decided later. It was left to Mr N to give the matter his attention.

1940 - September 30th

Crockery cupboard: The ladies responsible for raising the money for this, are rather concerned about it not yet being erected. The Vicar will speak to Mr N with a view to having it done as soon as possible.

1940 - November 4th

Crockery cupboard: Mr N would commence to make in a few days time and complete in the next few weeks....

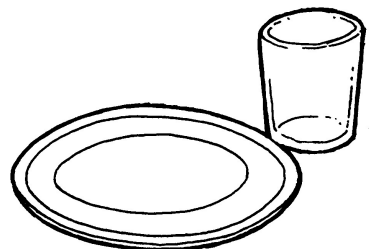
1941 - Meetings discontinued on account of wartime conditions

1946 - October 28th

Crockery cupboard to have been made by Mr N was still undelivered. The Secretary promised to approach Mr N, on this matter with a view to obtaining a definite statement as to whether he could or could not make a cupboard immediately. It was proposed that an alternative source of supply be sought if the cupboard could not be made at once.

1946 - November 19th

Crockery cupboard: Mr N had made arrangements for this to be made, - details of size, and position, were taken - with the assistance of the ladies of the committee.



1947 - January 13th

In reply to the Secretary's letter, Mr N confirmed that the crockery cupboard was almost complete – runners were awaited from supplier.

1947 - October 14th

Crockery cupboard not yet installed. Sec would approach Mr N.

1947 - November 11th

Crockery cupboard. Secretary would obtain some information for the next meeting.

1947 - December 8th

Secretary reported Mr N unable to make until after Christmas due to pressure of other work. Decided to hold further discussion at next meeting.

1948 - January 5th

Crockery cupboard: Mr Bramwell undertook to approach Mr N re getting this made.

1948 - February 23rd

Crockery cupboard – This was now installed in the kitchen.

1954 - February 9th

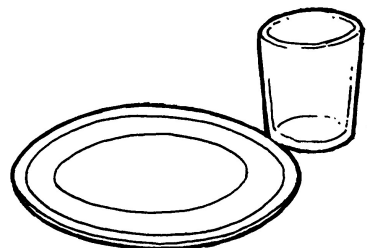
Crockery Cupboard – Mr Price kindly undertook to approach Mr N requesting early completion of the doors.

1954 - March 30th

Crockery cupboard doors – These had now been fitted by Mr N.

1955 - September 13th

Account from A G Needham & Sons for Crockery cupboard. After some discussion it was formally proposed by Mr Price seconded by Miss Rolley “that original quotation of £3/15/- be adhered to in settlement of the account” – This was carried.



10 years on, where are the Chibok schoolgirls?

Ten years ago, on 14th April 2014, the Boko Haram Islamic terrorist group kidnapped 276 female students from the Government Girls Secondary School in Chibok, Nigeria. Some of the girls escaped, some were rescued, or have been reported dead. But over 100 are still missing, fate unknown.

The girls, who lived in surrounding areas, were seized at gunpoint at night from the boarding school, where they had gone to take important final exams. It was believed to be safe because Chibok had never been attacked before. Many of the girls were Christian. Boko Haram is opposed to western-style education, because they say it corrupts the values of Muslims. The name Boko Haram in the local Hausa dialect means “Western education is forbidden”.

Some of the girls escaped within hours – many of them by jumping off lorries – but a total of 219 girls were taken away. About 100 have been exchanged for Boko Haram militants, following negotiations arranged by the Red Cross. Two others escaped in 2016 and 2017, and one was found hiding in the forest with a child.

Meanwhile the Nigerian army launched a major offensive against Boko Haram, with help from the US, UK and France, and were said to have regained nearly all the occupied territory in north-east Nigeria. But no more of the Chibok girls were found, and in the years since then, many more reports of atrocities have continued to come in.

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The 5th commandment

In reply to a question in Sunday school, one little boy said that the fifth commandment is: ‘Humour thy father and thy mother.’

Long prayer

A friend took her small daughter to church. The vicar’s prayer had gone on for several minutes when suddenly a small voice piped up: “Has he forgotten how to say Amen?”

All in the month of ... April

It was:

300 years ago, on 7th April 1724 that the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's St John Passion was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.

200 years ago, on 19th April 1824 that Lord Byron died. One of the greatest British poets and a leading figure in the Romantic movement, he died of sepsis while fighting for Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire. Aged 36.

150 years ago, on 5th April 1874 that Johann Strauss II's operetta Die Fledermaus was performed for the first time, in Vienna.

100 years ago, on 23rd April 1924 that the British Empire Exhibition opened in Wembley, London.

90 years ago, on 3rd April 1934 that British inventor Percy Shaw patented the Cat's Eye reflective road stud.

75 years ago, on 4th April 1949 that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was founded.

70 years ago, on 26th April 1954 that the Soviet Union transferred Crimea from Russia to Ukraine. In 2014 Russia annexed Crimea, but it is not recognised internationally, and a number of sanctions were imposed on Russia as a result.

65 years ago, on 9th April 1959 that Frank Lloyd Wright, American architect and writer, died. Regarded as 'the greatest American architect of all time.'

60 years ago, on 15th April 1964 that 12 men convicted of carrying out the Great Train Robbery in August of 1963 were jailed for a total of 307 years. They were given some of the longest sentences in British criminal history.

50 years ago, on 6th April 1974 that the Swedish pop group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest with their song Waterloo. It was the first time that

Sweden won the contest. ABBA went on to be one of the most successful groups in music history.

40 years ago, on 17th April 1984 that British police officer Yvonne Fletcher was shot dead during a demonstration outside the Libyan Embassy in London. This led to an 11-day siege by the police.

30 years ago, on 6th April 1994 that the Rwandan genocide began, when a plane carrying Rwandan president Juvenal Habyarimana and Burundian president Cyprien Ntaryamira was shot down by extremists. Civil war broke out the following day, and between 500,000 and one million people were massacred during the next 100 days.

Also 30 years ago, on 26th April 1994 that the first post-apartheid multiracial elections were held in South Africa, with 18 million blacks eligible to vote for the first time. Nelson Mandela was elected president, and took office on 10th May.

25 years ago, on 5th April 1999 that Libya handed over to the United Nations two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie. They were taken to the Netherlands to face trial. One was found guilty, and sentenced to life imprisonment, only to be released in 2009 because he was dying of cancer. The other suspect was acquitted.

20 years ago, on 1st April 2004 that Google launched its free email service, Gmail.

10 years ago, on 14th April 2014 that the Boko Haram Islamic terrorist group kidnapped 276 female students from the Government Girls Secondary School in Chibok, Nigeria. Some of the girls escaped, some were rescued, or have been reported dead. But over 100 are still missing, fate unknown.

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Do it

Here's a sure-fire way to cross off every item on your To-Do list: Do the chores first, then write them down and *then* cross them off!

Good to think about...

The Resurrection is the central theme in every Christian sermon reported in the Acts. The Resurrection, and its consequences were the 'gospel' or good news which the Christians brought; what we call the 'gospels'... were composed later. The miracle of the Resurrection, and the theology of that miracle, comes first: the biography comes later as a comment on it. - *CS Lewis in 'Miracles'*.

God fits our souls here to possess a glorious body after; and He will fit the body for a glorious soul. - *R Sibbes*

Jesus can be contacted 24 hours a day: just go on-line via your knee-mail. - *Anon*

With the soon-to-come General Election in mind...

There are two sides to every question, and a politician usually takes both. - *Anon*

It's nice to have five years between elections. It takes people that long to regain their faith. - *Anon*

A politician doesn't stand on his record; he jumps on the other fellow's. - *Anon*

It's a good thing that politicians are generally paid by the year. They would starve to death on piecemeal. - *Anon*

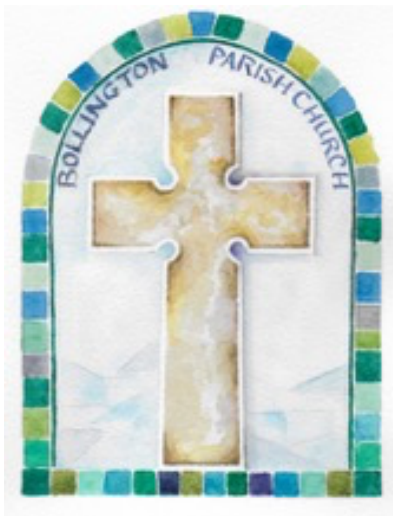
The trick in campaigning is to give them platitudes without fear or favour, and straight-from-the shoulder generalities. - *Anon*

A politician thinks of the next election, a statesman of the next generation. - *Anon*

Honesty is a question of right and wrong, not a matter of policy. - *Anon*

Book of Remembrance for April

2nd April - Cyril Chadwick
2nd April - Barbara Blower
3rd April - Richard Henry Lea
4th April - Thomas Cumberbirch
5th April - Alan Poulson
7th April - Dennis Goodwin
7th April - Alice Edna Hooley
7th April - Brenda Whitehurst
8th April - Alfred Leonard Robinson
11th April - Sarah Platt
13th April - Elsie Wilcox
13th April - Peter Brookes
13th April - Frank Skirvin
14th April - Baby Daniel Michael Green
18th April - Henry Farron Hyde
18th April - Harold Hough
18th April - Baby Daniel Michael Green
19th April - George Brown
21st April - Karen Whyte
21st April - Fred Wrigley
22nd April - Margaret Bowden
23rd April - William Henry Frederick Hutter
24th April - Betty King
24th April - Edward Ball
29th April - Eric Gottlieb
30th April - 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

From the Registers

BURIAL OF ASHES: 27th February - John Arthur Gibson

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Bollington Church News – how to contact us

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

Editorial: Christine Osbaldiston, Ann Stringer, Jackie Pengelly, Anne Coomes
Please send any material to: anne@parishpump.co.uk

Advertising: Richard Raymond: richard.raymond109@gmail.com

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

Deadline: Material for the May issue to reach Anne by 16th April.

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 in April - all welcome!

Sunday 7th 9.15am Holy Communion
10.30am All Age Worship

Sunday 14th 10.30am Parish Communion

Sunday 21st 10.30am Parish Communion

Sunday 28th 10.30am Parish Communion



The day a donkey visited St Oswald's

On Palm Sunday we were delighted to welcome a special visitor – Barney the five-year old donkey.

The church was packed with children and parents who then processed around the outside of the building with Barney.

Barney was impeccably behaved and didn't even try and eat any of the palm crosses! We hope he will be back next year.

Regular midweek activities

Every Tuesday during term time, 9.30-11.00am, Little Owls.

Every Thursday at 10.30am, Holy Communion.