

# Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



June 2024

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# Who's who at St Oswald's

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## The Parochial Church Council April 2024-2025

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*Ex officio:* Anne Coomes, Anthea Wilkinson

*Deanery Synod:* Anthea Wilkinson, Anne Coomes

*Diocesan Synod:* Richard Raymond

# Letter from Nancy

Dear all

Not another one! We are in election time, and it is very easy to be cynical about the whole political process, and to think the worst of anyone who stands for political office.



But that would be wrong. All political candidates are human, people willing to stand up and be part of a process which has its flaws but is how we give and take away authority. Our collective responsibility is to seek the common good and look after the most vulnerable members of society.

Leadership is hard, particularly when people seek to tear down rather than build up. But we can see proper ambition by looking to the example of loving humility and service and the powerful servant leadership shown us by Christ. As we exercise our democratic responsibility and vote, we can pray for good leadership throughout the world.

Now to another topic entirely. Last week I was a very proud guest of my husband Nigel, as he was honoured at a North West regional ceremony for NHS blood donors for having made 250 donations of blood and platelets. We met patients whose lives have been saved by blood donors including a young mother who got through her cancer treatment with bag after bag of donated blood that said to her every morning, B+ "Be positive!"

Real lives, real heroes!

God bless,  
Nancy x

# Clarence Mill in June

*Brian Reader comments on the front cover*

Now I have only lived in Bollington for 10 years, but I have happy memories of walking the canal bank and having a cheering cup in the café in Clarence Mill. Ann's picture captures well the tranquil surrounding of the Mill in present times.



Have you ever wondered what it would have been like some 170 years ago when the mill was extended, and working to capacity; reportedly spinning cotton as fine as silk. I doubt if there was much tranquillity in that hive of industry.

Later, just up the canal another mill, the Adelphi was built and a specially built canal barge, with a bow at each end, transferred supplies between the two mills. For those interested, there is much history that can be found online about that interesting period.

Looking at June from the Church's point of view, we will be commemorating St Barnabas on the 11th, John the Baptist on 24th, and St Peter and St Paul on the 29th.

Now Barnabas, a Levite from Cyprus, was not named as one of the 12 apostles, but he is mentioned in Acts as one who gave all he had to the Church, and accompanied Paul on his missionary expeditions. It is believed that he was martyred at Salamis, Cyprus, and he is traditionally identified as the founder of the Cypriot Orthodox Church.

It may seem strange that Peter and Paul share the same feast day. Peter, we know, was the disciple that Jesus called to be the Rock on which the young Church was built. Paul, or Saul as he was originally called, persecuted the early Church, but following his dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus,

St Paul could be regarded as the export manager for the Gospel to lands outside of Judea. Both Peter and Paul were executed in Rome.

On 24th May we celebrate John the Baptist's birthday. John, a relative and forerunner of Christ, prepared the way for Jesus, and was baptising Jesus when the Holy Spirit said that Jesus was the son of God. May God bless your June.

\*\*



## **Nigel Goodrich honoured for 250 NHS blood donations**

The vicar's husband, Nigel, has achieved quite a feat – 250 donations of blood and platelets! He was recently honoured for his generosity at a North West regional ceremony for NHS blood donors. Well done, Nigel!

## Curate's Corner

# Bless you!

*Our curate, the Revd Dr Jenny Eades, considers the meaning of blessing people.*



A question - when someone sneezes, do you say, 'God Bless you'? There are various theories about why we say 'God bless you' when someone sneezes – I will leave you to Google it and decide on your favourite.

But I want to think a little bit about the spiritual practice of blessing others – of wishing someone, or something, well – of wishing The Good – or God – for that person.

And it's on my mind at present because last week I visited several of the schools in Bollington to ask the children – and the staff – for their prayers/support/good wishes before I am ordained as a priest. And I took with me three stoles – scarves that I will wear as a symbol of my work and role – and I asked the children to bless them. To touch them and say a pray for me or just wish me luck if they preferred.

And the three stoles were carried up and down the lines of children by teams of 'stole bearers' – thank you my Y6 stole bearers – and it was chaotic and joyful and, for me, a sign of the presence of the Spirit of God at work in Bollington!

I now have, as far as I am concerned, the holiest stoles in the Church of England because each has been blessed by at least 250 of Bollington's children.

Blessing has many meanings. One is that it involves recognising the sacredness of a person or a thing. Another meaning is that it is making something sacred. A third is that it is speaking well – of a thing or a person or **to** a person.

In blessing my stoles and praying for God's blessing on ME, or wishing me luck, the children – who are extraordinary – and each of them sacred, holy, made in God's image – made my *stoles* more sacred. And when I wear them, Sunday by Sunday, I will know they have been well and truly blessed by people who matter to me. And that thought blesses me all over again.

Whatever your beliefs, looking for the sacred, the holy or the good in life, speaking good **to** and about others and wishing good *for* others – or wishing **God for** others – is almost certainly something each of us already does. And by doing it just a little more each day it can become a sustaining and transformative practice. Try it and see.

With love,  
Jenny



# The Euros 24

A former Liverpool Manager Bill Shankly famously said, *‘Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that!’*

This month sees the start of the UEFA Euro 24 football tournament, which will be watched by millions across Europe and the world. Yet it also illustrates some key points about the Christian life. As Paul writes: *‘But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.’*

(Philippians 3:13b,14).



*A prize to be won:* The dream of every player in the competition is to be able to hold up the Cup themselves. For us the prize is the eternal life, God’s gift of relationship with Him for now and eternity through Jesus. But there’s an important difference between football and the Christian faith. To win the

Euros you have to be good enough, while Christ’s love for us is undeserved and is not dependent on how well we’ve done.

*Training to be undertaken:* If a team is going to win Euro 24, they need to have trained hard beforehand. Our training, as Christians, starts the moment we accept the gift of God’s life. On a daily basis, we must train ourselves to say *no* to the wrong things in our lives.

As we build up our *godly muscles*, we are better able to choose to do what is right in God’s eyes. To enable us to do all this we need to engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, studying the Bible and being part of a church and small group. How is your training going?

# How Sweet the Sound of Village Bells!

**By Richard Raymond**

June is perhaps the month of the year when wedding fever takes over and happy couples are seen emerging from churches and venues all over the place.

Confetti is strewn about and whether we have attended or not, that is the evidence that a union has been formalised.

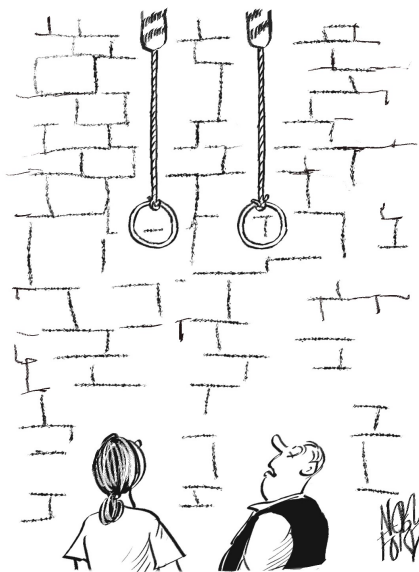
Sadly, we do not see this so often outside churches as the number of church weddings has declined over recent years. So this means that one of the iconic sounds of a summer Saturday afternoon in our villages and towns is not heard so much.

As the 19thC poet Thomas Hood wrote, 'Dear bells! how sweet the sound of village bells, when on the undulating air they swim!'

For a church bellringer it is a great joy to ring a bride into church and then to ring her and her new husband back out again. The merry sound of the church bells peal out to tell the world that the church has just been a place of much happiness as it has witnessed the start of two lives committing themselves to each other.

We cannot do this at St Oswald's as we do not have a tower with a set of bells, and since the closure of St John's there are no longer any ringing bells in Bollington.

However, wedding bells can be heard around the Macclesfield area and indeed Nether Alderley retains



"Apparently, the new member of the bell-ringing team is a keen gymnast"

the tradition of 'firing' their bells as a distinct and memorable welcome to the new couple as they leave the church.

When you next hear the sweet sound of bells on a Saturday afternoon, give a thought to the ringers up in the belfry. Seldom seen, they are making sure that this evocative English sound continues to accompany the traditional church wedding.

\*\*

## **Planted in the love of the Father**

Planted in the love of the Father  
You can grow, dear one,  
You can grow.

Watered by the spring of the Spirit  
His fruit you'll show,  
His fruit you'll show.

And when the sun scorches,  
And the thorns threaten,  
And the storms around life's garden blow -  
Your roots will hold,  
And hold secure,  
Because you're planted in the love of the Father,

*By Daphne Kitching*

## **The cattle grazing**

Smooth pastures, long, and wide to roam,  
Beneath your hoofs rich meadowland,  
Friend God the Son to bring you home  
To fields where springs eternal stand,  
Fields where springs eternal stand.

*From poems of the Western Highlanders*

## SAINT OF THE MONTH –

### St Petroc, founder of Padstow

If you would like to be in Cornwall this summer in search of peace and quiet, Petroc is the saint for you. Especially if you ever find Padstow a bit too crowded for your liking! He would have sympathised.

This 6<sup>th</sup> century abbot is Cornwall's most famous saint. Petroc set sail from South Wales, landed at Haylemouth, and founded a monastery at Lanwethinoc – now called Padstow, after him (Petroc's Stow). Padstow must have been popular even in those days, because about 30 years later Petroc, in search of some peace and quiet, moved on to build another monastery at Little Petherick (Nanceventon). Here he must have decided to try some 6<sup>th</sup> century equivalent of 'Fresh Expressions', because he engaged with his local community by building a mill and a chapel.

In time, Petroc began feeling crowded again. So, he tramped off to the remote wilds of Bodmin Moor, where he lived as a hermit – until some 12 monks turned up to join him. Firmly, Petroc kept them all housed in a monastery on a hilltop, while he enjoyed his private space in a cell by the river.

But even here Petroc was not alone. One day a terrified stag came rushing through the woods, pursued by the hunt. Petroc flung open the door of his cell, and the panting animal took refuge. When the huntsmen arrived on the scene, they did not dare to argue with the famous holy man, and instead went their way. The stag's gratitude made him tame, and Petroc would come to be portrayed with a stag as his special emblem.

Petroc was buried in the monastery in Padstow but in c.1000 his shrine and relics, including his staff and bell, were translated to Bodmin. Here they have stayed ever since, except for a short, unplanned trip to Brittany in 1177, when they were stolen and carted off by a naughty Canon of the Church. But Henry II intervened, and everything but a rib of Petroc was eventually returned.

Petroc's feast day is 4<sup>th</sup> June.

## *What's the Big Idea?* Introducing the book of Ruth

The book of Ruth is a story of God's grace operating in difficult circumstances, during the period of the Judges. It unfolds as a four-act drama, telling the story of how Naomi, her husband and two sons left Judah for Moab, where her sons married. When Naomi's husband and sons died, she returns to Bethlehem in Judah.

In the first act, Naomi tells her Moabite daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, to stay in Moab. However, Ruth refuses to leave Naomi and accompanies her to Bethlehem. In the next act Ruth meets Boaz, a relative of Naomi, while gathering barley in his fields.



The third act takes place at the threshing floor where Boaz is asleep and Ruth lies at his feet. She expresses her desire to marry him, as her kinsman-redeemer. But Boaz tells her of another prior claim. Finally, at the city gate, the other relative renounces his claim, and Boaz marries Ruth.

In Ruth's story we see God's unseen hand directing the lives of the characters to accomplish his purpose e.g. *'Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning'* (1:22). He transforms Naomi's sorrow into joy, rewarding Ruth with a place of honour in Israel's history. In Boaz, we see a foreshadowing of the work of Jesus Christ, as he pays the price to secure Ruth's future.

*'In its artful telling of this 'outsider' widow, uprooted and obscure, who turns out to be the great-grandmother of David and the ancestor of Jesus, the book of Ruth makes it possible for each of us to understand ourselves, however ordinary, as irreplaceable in the full telling of God's story'. (Eugene Peterson).*

# All in the month of June ...

It was:

200 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1824, that a London vicar, Arthur Broome, and some 22 of his friends, including the MPs William Wilberforce (anti-slavery campaigner) met at Old Slaughters Coffee House to found the SPCA - the first national animal protection society in the world. By 1840 Queen Victoria had given permission for it to be called the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

150 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1874, that the first lawn tennis sets went on sale in London. They included balls, racquets, a net, poles, court markers, and instructions. They were designed by Walter Clopton Wingfield, who is credited with having invented modern lawn tennis. Wimbledon began hosting international lawn tennis championships in 1877.

125 years ago, on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1899 that Anglo-Egyptian Sudan was established. It was granted independence in 1956 as the Republic of Sudan. South Sudan gained its independence in 2011. On 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023, violent clashes erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Sudan, resulting in the displacement of more than 8.6 million people. There are currently about 25 million people in need of aid in Sudan.

100 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1924 that George Mallory, British mountaineer, disappeared on Mount Everest. His body was found in 1999.

90 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1934 was the Night of the Long Knives: Hitler's execution of a number of senior Nazi officials and hundreds of other (perceived) political opponents.

80 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944 that D-Day and the Normandy Landings took place. More than 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy. The Battle of Normandy ended on 25<sup>th</sup> August. Allied victory.

Also 80 years ago, on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1944 that Germany launched the first V-1 flying bomb ('doodlebug') attack on London. 9,521 V-1s were fired at London and south-east England during the war.

75 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1949 that George Orwell's novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four* was published.

70 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1954 that Alan Turing, British mathematician, logician, cryptanalyst, and computer scientist died. Noted for his contributions to code-breaking during World War 2. Considered the father of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence. Prosecuted for his homosexuality.

60 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1964 that the Beatles' first world tour was held. Over two months they played 30 concerts in seven countries, beginning in Copenhagen.

50 years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1974 that chemists at the University of California, Irvine, published the first report that warned that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) could damage the Earth's ozone layer. CFCs were widely used in refrigerators, air conditioning systems and as aerosol propellants.

40 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> June 1984 that Indian government troops stormed the Golden Temple in Amritsar, which was being held by a Sikh militant group. More than 1,000 people were killed, including the group's leader. The resulting fighting led to the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi that autumn.

30 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1994 that the highest individual score in first-class cricket was achieved. Brian Lara scored 501 not out while playing for Warwickshire against Durham. It is the only score of 500 or more in first-class cricket history.

25 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1999 that former British cabinet minister Jonathan Aitken was sentenced to 18 months in prison for perjury and perverting the course of justice after he admitted lying during a libel action against The Guardian newspaper and Granada TV. He served seven months, and is the only British cabinet minister to have been imprisoned.

15 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009 that Michael Jackson 'the King of Pop', American singer, songwriter, and dancer, died of an anaesthetic overdose, aged 50. His hit songs included *Thriller*, *Bad*, and *Black or White*.

# The D-Day Landings

Eighty years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944, the D-Day Normandy Landings took place. More than 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy. The Battle of Normandy ended on 25<sup>th</sup> August with an Allied victory.



The question of what the *D* stood for has never been absolutely determined: some say it just stood for Day; others maintain it was Disembarkation, because it was an amphibious operation. What is sure is that there was a spiritual dimension. General Eisenhower, the commander of Operation Overlord, urged those taking part to “beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking”, and President Roosevelt broadcast a prayer to the nation.

Before June 5 – the original date for D-Day, before bad weather forced a rethink – a massive and successful series of deceptions were put in place to make the Nazis think the invasion would come elsewhere. The Germans were certainly confused. Hitler, thinking the attack was a feint, refused to send reinforcements, and their strategy was hampered by the absence of their brilliant Commander Erwin Rommel, who was on leave.

Nevertheless, the Americans suffered over 2,000 casualties at Omaha Beach, which was the most heavily defended. Altogether it was reckoned that over 4000 Allied troops were killed, but about 156,000 successfully stormed the beaches, and many landed behind the lines, including American paratrooper Private John Steele, who descended on to the pinnacle of the church tower in Sainte-Mère-Église, the first village to be liberated by the U S Army. Lit up by searchlights, he survived by pretending to be dead, was captured and then escaped, joining the invading soldiers.

This year handmade silhouettes of almost 1,500 servicemen were transported to Normandy for an art installation, *Standing with Giants*, to mark the anniversary.

# The RSPCA celebrates 200 years

It was 200 years ago this month, on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1824, that a London vicar, Arthur Broome, and some 22 of his friends, including the MP William Wilberforce, met at Old Slaughters Coffee House in London. They were there because they were deeply concerned about the pitiful plight of many animals in Victorian England.

That day in June, Arthur Broome and his friends decided to found the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). It was the first national animal protection society in the world. Wilberforce, who was also known for campaigning to end slavery in the British colonies, now turned his attention also to the welfare of animals.

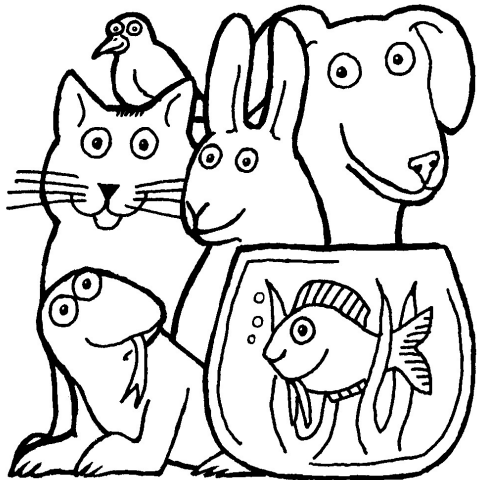
At the time, compassion for animals was regarded as strange. But the SPCA began to change all that, by working tirelessly to promote kindness, and to prevent cruelty to animals.

By 1840 the Society's work was held in such high regard that Queen Victoria gave her permission for the SPCA to be called the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

By then there were five full-time inspectors, who were paid a guinea a week. In time, other similar societies sprang up around the world.

Nowadays, the Society has many staff in England and Wales, including 323 inspectors and many volunteers. It is a charity and receives no government funding. It looks after ALL animals, including farm animals, wildlife, pets, and research animals.

And here is an interesting footnote to history: the SPCA was launched five years *before* even the police force!



# Book of Remembrance for June

2<sup>nd</sup> June - Jeffrey Newcombe

4<sup>th</sup> June - Sue Bennett

6<sup>th</sup> June - Ian Hough

6<sup>th</sup> June - Rachel Mary Arnold

6<sup>th</sup> June - Annie Fisher

6<sup>th</sup> June - Joe Fisher

7<sup>th</sup> June - Albert Clayton

7<sup>th</sup> June - Bertha Jackson

7<sup>th</sup> June - Ethel Fidler

7<sup>th</sup> June - Fred Walton

8<sup>th</sup> June - Jimmy Bennett

8<sup>th</sup> June - Mary H Sutton

9<sup>th</sup> June - William Alexander Robb

10<sup>th</sup> June - Graham Hough

10<sup>th</sup> June - James Blower

10<sup>th</sup> June - Donald Ainsworth

11<sup>th</sup> June - Edith (Cissie) Hough

12<sup>th</sup> June - William Ian Hughes

12<sup>th</sup> June - Eva Martin

12<sup>th</sup> June - William (Billy) Ainsworth

13<sup>th</sup> June - Peggy Wakefield

13<sup>th</sup> June - Jason P Whitworth

14<sup>th</sup> June - Ethel Arnold

17<sup>th</sup> June - Edmund Heathcote

17<sup>th</sup> June - Ethel Cantrell

19<sup>th</sup> June - John T Bowyer

22<sup>nd</sup> June - Reginald Isherwood Stearn

22<sup>nd</sup> June - Mary Ashton

23<sup>rd</sup> June - Harry Brailsford

24<sup>th</sup> June - John Keith Arnold

26<sup>th</sup> June - Ruth Robinson

30<sup>th</sup> June - Ida Mary Robinson



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

# 100 years since George Mallory died on Everest

One hundred years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1924, the British mountaineer George Mallory disappeared on Mount Everest. His body was found in 1999.

The man who may have been the first to climb Everest went missing with his fellow climber Andrew (Sandy) Irvine after setting off for the summit and encountering deep snow and high winds. It was the third attempt on the summit by that year's expedition.

Another member of the group claimed to have seen them making progress very close to the summit, but doubt was later cast on this: it was extremely misty, and the timing did not seem to fit. There have always been claims that Mallory and/or Irvine reached the summit and fell on the way down: the condition of Mallory's body lent some credence to this, as did the absence of his wife's photograph, which he always carried with him and intended to place on the summit. Sadly, his camera, which could have provided undeniable proof, was never found. Nor was Irvine's body.

Irvine was inexperienced but strong, and an expert on the use of bottled oxygen. Mallory was regarded as the most skilful climber on the expedition, with a "natural, catlike ability". He came from a long line of clergymen, and his first climbing experience, aged seven, was on the roof of his father's church, St Wilfrid's, at Mobberley, in Cheshire. When asked on a lecture tour in 1923 why he chose to go to Everest, he replied: "Because it's there."

The expeditions in the 1920s were forced to take a more difficult and longer northern route because of Nepal's refusal to grant access to the southern side of the mountain. Everest was officially first climbed – and safely descended – by Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay using the southern route in 1953.

\*\*

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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 July/August issue to reach Anne by 20<sup>th</sup> June.

### **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 June – all welcome!

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> - 9.15am Holy Communion  
10.30am All Age Worship

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> - 10.30am Parish Communion

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> - 10.30am Parish Communion  
**(Jenny Eade's 1st Communion after Ordination)**  
**Followed by a Bring and Share lunch to celebrate Jenny's ordination.**

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> - 10.30am Parish Communion

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> - 10.30am Parish Communion

\*\*



## Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Chester Cathedral – 3pm

The Revd Jenny's ordination to the priesthood.  
If you would like to attend, please ask Jenny about availability of tickets!

## Regular midweek activities

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

Every Thursday at 10.30am, Holy Communion.

If you would like to join our flower rota, ask Christine Osbaldiston!

