

Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



September 2024

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Who's who at St Oswald's

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Diocesan Synod: Richard Raymond

Letter from Nancy

Dear All,

Thriving communities will treasure and value their churches. Community churches are places that give expression to people's commitment to each other and where people can be in communion with each other regardless of who they are. Jesus teaches us how to live in communities and how to be a good neighbour. Jesus teaches us the story of the good Samaritan who is open-heartedly generous with his time and money in order to help a neighbour.



A community church, like Bollington's parish church St Oswald's, doesn't just happen. Church only happens when the community is generous. Generous with its care and prayers for others, with its time to run it, with funding its running costs, and in its commitment to being there and meeting together.

What does it mean to give generously? A generous gift is one which, if given back to you, would make a difference. A generous gift has an element of sacrifice – what have you given up? A generous gift is given with joy – knowing that you have helped. A generous gift is a symbol of commitment. God always blesses open-hearted generosity – you will get more out than you put in when that gift is given for good for your community. Generosity frees you from the fear of scarcity, and being generous fills your life with God's abundance.

Giving generously to your church matters, not only because having a church costs a community their time and money, but individually too, for yourself. When you give, you really do build up treasures in heaven. If you begin to give to your community church sacrificially and generously you find that it matters more to you. You find you are in deeper communion with your community. God becomes more significant in your life and you notice the outpouring of divine blessings on you. Your life becomes filled with gratitude and grace. I have seen it happen over and over again making a difference to people's lives. May God generously bless you all.

Love Nancy x



Strength from above

Brian Reader comments on the front cover

The swifts have already left us for a warmer clime, but the cheerful Blue Tits are still with us as Ann has shown in her art work for the front cover. She has also drawn some acorns and Michaelmas Daisies, indicating that autumn will soon be with us. This year Michaelmas falls on the last Sunday of the month and as the readings are appropriate, we will be celebrating the feast of St. Michael and all Angels.

As I write this on a wet August afternoon I am reminded of a poem which my mother had in our house during the war.

*God has not promised skies ever blue,
flower-strewn pathways always for you;
God has not promised sun without rain,
joy without sorrow, peace without pain.
But God has promised strength from above,
unfailing sympathy, undying love.*

It was attributed to Patience Strong, but the original poem was penned by an American, Annie Johnson Flint (1866-1932). Annie was a remarkable woman, her parents both died during her childhood, and she developed rheumatoid arthritis in her early-20s. This became so severe that by Annie's 30th birthday she could no longer walk. Her hands were disfigured, her body was twisted, and she was rarely able to sleep because of the extreme discomfort she experienced throughout her joints.



Despite the intense pain, Annie became a prolific writer and poet. In lyric and prose, she regularly reflected upon God's Word, His promises, and His abiding presence in her life, using her poetry as means of encouragement for her friends.

Come along to our Macmillan Coffee Morning!

At St Oswald's,
12th September,
from 11.30am.

Please come along and help people living with cancer. Coffee, tea, cakes and a raffle.



**

Derek Gascoigne steps down as leader of CHUB

It was heart-warming to receive so many good wishes for my birthday and the wonderful card with so many people signing it. It really makes one feel part of the family of St. Oswald's.

I think now is the time for me to step down as leader of CHUB, but still remain a Chubber. Hopefully, someone will step forward and take the mantle on. It has been a pleasure meeting people from different churches and organising so many visits, and delightful arranging the pub for the "afters". I must thank all the committee for the support and organisation of different visits. My swan song will be the Friendship Lunch on October 29th.

It has been a privilege to follow people who have gone before me as CHUB leaders, people like Cyril Barton and his wife, Joan, who started the CHUB almost 40 years ago, the Gilchris and Jean and Brian Reader.

**

Congratulations to Joan Kendrick and her sister-in-law!

Joan and Margaret have been saving their 1p, 2p and 5p coins this year, and have reached a grand total of £37.37 – which they are now donating to church funds! Well done and thank you for your generosity!

Citius, Altius, Fortius - Communter

Richard Raymond went to the Paris Olympics

This summer I was fortunate enough to have a once-in-a-lifetime experience when I and my wife along with two cousins went over to Paris to see the Olympics.

I have been lucky enough to attend many great sporting events in the past but I had never before been to the peak of athletic achievement as seen in the cauldron of Olympic competition.

Firstly, I should say how wonderful the whole of Paris looked. The city, bathed in intense summer heat, was spectacular in its cleanliness, in its welcome to visitors and in its desire to make sure everyone had a good time.

I had three apps on my phone that ensured I had my tickets with me, that I could find my way round the public transport system and that I could keep in touch with results from every discipline.

The venues were spectacular from the vast concrete Stade de France to the amazing and magnificent Grand Palais. I have no interest in Taekwondo but I went to this latter venue just because it was so spectacular. The cornucopia of visitors in the city was also enthralling with the Dutch in their national colour



Trust our Treasurer to be pictured by a bell! But was he in for a gold medal in the most garish shirt competition?!

of orange most prominent, and the incongruity of commuters with laptops sharing the train carriages with fellow passengers who could only be going to an Olympic event as they were wrapped in flags of their nation.

The experiences I had ranged from the raw emotion of actually seeing four GB gold medals being won to feeling the unbelievable joy that so many years of hard graft and total commitment had brought to the winners. I witnessed the most sensational individual sporting achievement that I have ever seen as Tom Pidcock came back from a 40 second deficit to overhaul the French leader of the mountain bike race.

The French crowd, always so enthusiast and noisy in the support of their countryfolk, were understandably rather subdued as my cousin and I belted out our nation anthem at the medal ceremony! I was also lucky enough to see the birth of GB's next superstar in the form of Keely Hodgkinson whom I cheered on to her gold medal. On the same evening in the stadium, the world record in the pole vault was also broken. How lucky was that to be present for such a momentous occasion?

Even though I was not sitting with her, I revelled in the joy that my wife had in seeing her Australian swimming relay team win gold in a new Olympic record. She was able to belt out her national anthem most certainly in much better tune than my singing! As the world teeters along in political uncertainty, I witnessed a bronze podium on which two athletes stood having shared third place. Their nationalities? Chinese and Taiwanese. Surely a powerful reminder that sport trumps politics.

So what relevance has all of this in our church magazine?! The new Olympic motto (an extension of the original one first articulated by a Dominican priest in 1891) translates as Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together. The Olympic Games are based on the values of achieving the best that you can in an atmosphere of harmony, friendship and dignity.

Surely these are the values that we as Christians should aspire to and the event that I witnessed was a true manifestation that nations can live together, work together and compete together in a respectful manner. Amen to that!



CURATE'S CORNER

Prayer & the power of 'stuff'

I have always enjoyed making stuff. As a little girl I made cuddly toys, aprons, bits of craft projects – and mostly I gave them to my mum to tell her I loved her, that she was so, so important to me.

Because we give gifts – 'stuff' - sometimes shop bought and sometimes homemade – to build up our relationships, to say I value you, you matter to me, I love you.

In some ways, wrinkles aside, I haven't changed much. I spent the spring months knotting prayer bracelets to give to year 6 children in Bollington – to tell THEM that they are loved – by St Oswald's, by God. I wanted them to knowas they headed off to the scary adventure that is high school....that prayer is more than words. And when words fail or beliefs fail you can still prayyou can light a candle, you can hold a prayer bracelet and remember that you are loved, valuable and that there is help out there. I wanted them to know that they matter – to God, to the world, to St Oswald's, to me and Revd Nancy.

At the beginning of July, my little prayer table at home was COVERED in prayer bracelets – and Revd Nancy and I and folks in the Sunday congregation prayed with every single one of them.



Now, my prayer table is a bit emptier – except I now have cards on it with the names of those we gave the bracelets to – because we are still praying for them.

One of the things I love about the Christian faith is that it is INCARNATIONAL – God becoming a body – a person. God saying that stuff – the stuff we humans touch and the kind things we do – are sacred and eternal.

That's why we light candles in church – to put our prayer into a simple action. And in the service called Holy Communion we eat a tiny bit of bread and drink a sip of wine – to connect us to the infinite, to the eternal, to remind us that we matter to the living God.

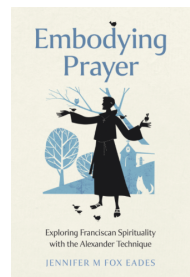


If the door to St Oswald's is open you are so welcome to come in and light a candle. If you or a young person you know would like a prayer bracelet – a 'pre-prayed-with' prayer bracelet, (people use prayer bracelets the world over!), drop me an

email and I'll make you one! Because I still like making 'stuff'. God bless.

**

Jenny's latest book, **Embodying Prayer, Exploring Franciscan Spirituality with the Alexander Technique**, (written as Jennifer Fox Eades) is published by Christian Alternative Books, £8.99



Our CHUB VISIT to St Mary's Astbury

Report by Brian Reader

It is eight years since St. Oswald's CHUB last visited the Church at Astbury. I was fitter then, and we were able to walk to the church from the Egerton Arms car park. This time, in July, we parked in the Church car park and walked up a new metal ramp engraved with the names of all who had contributed to its construction.

Once inside the church we were welcomed by Bill Ball the Church Historian who told us much about the Church. It would appear that the site had been used for worship for many years. Some historians mention Druids and the Yew tree is probably some 2000 years old. The Domesday Book of 1086 records the presence of a priest at Astbury, but not a church.

The oldest part of St Mary's dates to the middle of the 12th century, with most of the rest of the church is a jumble of 14th-16th century work. The result is a layout almost unique in English parish church architecture; in fact, the nave at the west end, is even wider than Chester Cathedral!



When you enter the nave the thing that I first saw were the fine oak box pews. These were constructed with pegged mortise and tenon joints and contain no glue. We were then encouraged to examine the church for ourselves and look for the snail in the stained glass windows. There was much to see.

St. Mary's is considered it to be "one of the most beautiful churches in the county", while others have called it "one of the most exciting Cheshire churches". If you have never been, it is well worth the effort.

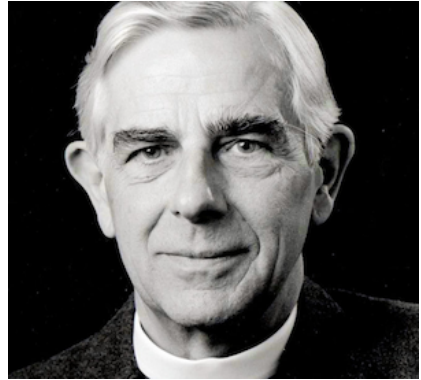
After the visit we returned to The Cock and Pheasant for an excellent lunch.



Thank you for the music!

You may not have heard of his name, but you will certainly have sung some of his hymns.

For Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024), who died on 12th August, has been called “the supreme hymnwriter of his generation”.



During more than 50 years of ministry, this former Bishop of Thetford wrote 400 hymns in all, including the much loved ‘Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord’ and ‘Lord for the years your love has kept and guided’. He even wrote a new Christmas hymn every year, for over 50 years.

With his background in the Cambridge University Mission in South London (now the Salmon Centre) and the Church Pastoral-Aid Society (totalling 14 years), it is no surprise that the theme of the saving gospel of Christ, crucified and risen, featured as largely in his hymns.

TDS (as he was called) was always a keen “gospel-hearted” Archdeacon of Norwich and later Bishop of Thetford. His interest in hymn-writing began while he was still very young, and by 1973 he was working with Michael Baughen, (a former bishop of Chester) on the editorial team which produced Psalm Praise, which put Psalms very much back on the music-stand. There TDS worked hard to craft hymns which perfected the art of rhyming every line (not every other) with its partner.

The output of TDS was phenomenal. Just two examples: in the hymn-book *Praise!* (2000) he has 53 entries; compare Graham Kendrick with 28, John Bell with 4, and Stuart Townend with 3. In the largest *Ancient and Modern* to date (2013) Timothy has 41, Bell 33, Kendrick 14, and Townend 12.

And whatever you do!

In the church today we sometimes assume that discipleship is more about the *sacred* part of our life, rather than the *secular as well*. Are we aware of what God is doing in our school, workplace, with friends and family, on our street or in our leisure time? Whole life disciples spend every day with an awareness of the presence of Jesus in their lives. As the apostle Paul writes:

'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.' (Colossians 3:17)

SO - we do ordinary things in the name or character of Jesus, i.e. *acting in the same way that Jesus would do if He were in our place*.

It's helpful to think in terms of *frontlines*, the places where we spend most of our week:

Everyone has a frontline: young or old, working or not, sick or well. This could be our workplace, home, college, community or club.

This is *where God has called us!* God is at work on our frontline to shape and use us, making it a place where we can grow as a disciple and make a difference to those around.

As churches we need to be *committed to helping each other* see the significance of our frontlines in God's purposes. Are we supporting one another, especially in prayer?

As one teacher put it: *"I spend an hour a week teaching Sunday school and they haul me up to the front of the church to pray for me. The rest of the week I'm a full-time teacher and the church has never prayed for me. That says it all."*

With less than 6% of the UK population now going to church, God wants to use us as salt and light *wherever* we spend time. Christians are exactly where they need to be to serve Him, so that others might see what a disciple of Jesus looks like, as we grow as disciples ourselves.

An Introduction to the Gospel of Matthew

This month we turn to the New Testament and look at Matthew, the first of the gospels. Although linked to Matthew the apostle, it is generally believed that the author used oral tradition, written fragments, eye-witness accounts, as well as common material in the other synoptic gospels (Mark and Luke).

Matthew, in writing for Jews, sets out to prove that Jesus is the true Messiah. He connects Jesus' birth, life death and resurrection with the Old Testament Scriptures. In fact, he quotes the Old Testament more than any other New Testament author.



This is reflected in the opening genealogy which traces Jesus back to Abraham; in his use of the terms *kingdom of heaven* and *Father in heaven*, reflecting a Jewish reluctance to use God's name; and in the way he portrays Jesus as the *Son of David*.

The whole gospel is structured around five blocks of teaching (chapters 5-7; 10; 13; 18; 24-25). This fivefold division reflects the structure of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament).

Matthew provides a comprehensive context by which we see all God's creation and salvation completed in Jesus, and all parts of our lives (work, family, friends and future) completed in Him. At the end of his gospel, Matthew records Jesus' commission to His disciples share this good news, promising to be with them:

'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'
(28:18-20)

All in the month of September

It was:

400 years ago, on 10th Sept 1624 that Thomas Sydenham, English physician, was born. He became known as the 'father of English medicine'. His textbook on medicine became the standard medical textbook in England for the next 200 years.

250 years ago, on 4th Sept 1774 that British explorer Captain James Cook became the first European to discover New Caledonia in the south-west Pacific, during his second voyage.

150 years ago, on 21st Sept 1874 that Gustav Holst, was born. This British composer, arranger and educator is best known for *The Planets*.

100 years ago, on 25th Sept 1924 that British racing driver Malcolm Campbell broke the land speed record for the first time. He recorded a speed of 146mph in a 1921 Sunbeam Grand Prix car at Pendine Sands, Carmarthen Bay, Wales.

90 years ago, on 22nd Sept 1934 that the Gresford Colliery Disaster took place in Wales. An explosion killed 266 miners and rescuers. It was one of Britain's worst coal-mining disasters, but the cause of the explosion remains unknown.

80 years ago, from 17th to 25th Sept 1944 that Operation Market Garden took place. The Allies attempted a massive airborne invasion of German-occupied Netherlands, but they were forced to withdraw. The story was told in the film *A Bridge Too Far*. The operation included the Battle of Arnhem – German victory.

75 years ago, on 1st Sept 1949 that the Christmas song *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* was released. It was sung by the American movie-star and singer, Gene Autry, nicknamed the 'Singing Cowboy'.

70 years ago, on 15th Sept 1954 that the iconic photograph of Marilyn Monroe's billowing skirt as she stood over a New York subway grate was taken

during filming for *The Seven-Year Itch*. The event was staged as a publicity stunt.

60 years ago, on 4th Sept 1964 the Forth Road Bridge opened in Scotland. It links Edinburgh to Fife across the Firth of Forth. (A second bridge, the Queensferry Crossing, opened in 2017 and largely replaced it.)

50 years ago, on 8th Sept 1974 that former President Richard Nixon was granted a full and unconditional pardon by his successor Gerald Ford for any crimes he may have committed or participated in while in office. (Nixon had resigned in August after Watergate.)

40 years ago, on 10th Sept 1984 that British geneticist Alec Jeffreys discovered genetic fingerprinting, also known as DNA profiling. It allowed criminals to be identified from hair, blood, or sweat left at crime scenes. It also allowed families to trace their lineages or determine the paternity of children.

30 years ago, on 22nd Sept 1994 that Roy Castle, British TV presenter, dancer, singer, comedian, actor and musician, died. Best known as the presenter of the children's TV show *Record Breakers*. He himself broke nine world records while presenting the programme, including the fastest tap-dancing.

20 years ago, from 1st to 3rd Sept 2004 that the Beslan school hostage crisis took place in Russia. Armed terrorists took over 1,100 children and adults as hostages. Russian security forces ended the crisis on the third day, entering the school with tanks and heavy weapons. More than 300 hostages were killed, including 186 children. Hundreds more were injured.

10 years ago, on 18th Sept 2014 that the Scottish independence referendum was held. The citizens of Scotland voted to remain in the UK rather than becoming an independent country. (Independence: 44.7%; Remain 55.3%)

**

Cucumber

A small boy asked his mother for a cucumber to take to Junior Church. A slightly puzzled mother complied. Later she asked what it had been used for. "Sorry, mum," he confessed. "I got it wrong. We were supposed to bring a newcomer."

Book of Remembrance for September

1 st Sept	Edward Sharpley
2 nd Sept	Giancarlo Porcelli
7 th Sept	Allan Oldfield
11 th Sept	Daisy Alberta King
11 th Sept	Irene Burgess
11 th Sept	John Cooper
11 th Sept	Edward Stanesby
23 rd Sept	Freda Grace Oldfield
25 th Sept	Nellie Clay
29 th Sept	Paul Morgan
30 th Sept	Nellie Allen

**

From the Registers

Burial of Ashes

10 th July	Robert Kettleby
20 th July	Audrey Wilson

Funerals

8 th August	Hylde Mary Arnold
14 th August	Ann Lashford

**

Good to think about

The new birth is a change of direction and change of affection. It's a union of the soul with Christ. Christ comes to you through the Holy Spirit, and you become a partaker of God's life. - *Billy Graham*

If we complained less, and praised more, we should be happier, and God would be more glorified. Let us daily praise God for common mercies. - *Charles Spurgeon*



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

The coming of Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer

Some 75 years ago this month, on 1st September 1949, the Christmas song *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* was released. It was sung by the American movie-star and singer Gene Autry, nicknamed the “Singing Cowboy”.

The song was adapted from a poem/story written by Robert L May for a children’s colouring book. It was published in 1939, and 2.4 million copies were distributed free in its first year. May initially considered the names Rollo or Reginald for his ‘ugly duck’ reindeer, but eventually settled on Rudolph. Concerned about how to make the reindeer distinctive, he was looking out of his office window when a thick fog blocked his view. This gave him the idea for Rudolph’s bright red nose, enabling Santa to see where he was going.

The story-poem was turned into a song by May’s brother-in-law, Johnny Marks. Gene Autry took it on, and his recording reached No 1 on the Billboard chart for pop singles in week Christmas of 1949. It sold 2.5 million copies in the first year. Up to the 1980s it was the second best-selling record of all time.

**

Breaking the land speed record

One hundred years ago, on 25th September 1924, British racing driver Malcolm Campbell broke the land speed record for the first time. He recorded a speed of 146mph in a 1921 Sunbeam Grand Prix car at Pendine Sands, Carmarthen Bay, Wales.

Born in Kent in March 1885, Major Sir Malcolm Campbell MBE gained the world speed record on land and on water at various times, breaking nine land speed records between 1924 and 1935. He started racing cars in 1910 and had a near-fatal accident – the first of several – at Brooklands racetrack in 1912.

His car was christened *Blue Bird*, and the name was used for all his subsequent speed record attempt vehicles on land and water. Years later, a slightly altered version of *Bluebird*, was employed by his son Donald, who was killed in 1967 attempting a new record on Coniston Water.

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Distribution: Sue Whitehurst and Christine Osbaldiston

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

Deadline: Material for the October issue to reach Anne by 14th September.

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 September

- 1st Sunday 9.15am Holy Communion
 10.30am All Age Worship
- 8th Sunday 10.30am Parish Communion
- 15th Sunday 10.30am Parish Communion
- 22nd Sunday 10.30am Parish Communion
 3.00pm Civic Service
- 29th Sunday **10.30am Harvest Festival** followed by
 Bring and Share Lunch
 4.00pm Messy Church



Thursday 12th Sept 11.30am
MacMillan Coffee Morning



Wednesday 25th Sept - **Church in the Pub, 8.00pm** in the Cotton Tree

Regular activities

Church in the Pub - last Sunday in each month, 8.00pm in the Cotton Tree

Little Owls - will be back after the summer holiday on Tuesday 10th September
9.30am to 11.00am

Holy Communion - every Thursday morning at 10.30am

Flower rota - if you would like to join, please ask Christine Osbaldiston.