

Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



November 2024

Price 50p



Who's Who at St Oswald's

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The Parochial Church Council April 2024-2025

Christine Osbaldiston, Jackie Pengelly, Richard Raymond, Elaine Houghton, Lynda Iverson, 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,

John Lennon wrote: *'Imagine there's no countries, It isn't hard to do, Nothing to kill or die for, And no religion too. Imagine all the people living life in peace.'* But on Remembrance Sunday, we should reflect on war past and present, and consider the *real* way to peace.



The way of war: *'What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill.'* (James 4:1-2). James reminds us that war has its basis in our own hearts, with the selfish desires that exploit, bully and kill others to get our own way. Sadly, when nations allow these inner selfish attitudes to determine their policy the result is war. Only God can establish true peace.

The way of peace: Isaiah, 2,700 years before John Lennon, also imagined a future of peace without any war: *'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.'* (Isaiah 2:4).

Only Jesus, the Prince of Peace, can bring true peace to our lives and world. Jesus did not experience the horror of battle, but He did die an horrific death at the hand of the Romans. He gave His life sacrificially, as He took God's anger at our sin on Himself and went on to conquer death in His resurrection. He did this out of love for us, and calls us to love others in the same way: *'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.'* (John 15:13).

How can we demonstrate such love ourselves? We can be confident in God's plan to bring an end to all wars when Jesus returns.

Love Nancy x



REMEMBRANCE

Brian Reader comments on the front cover

With the clocks going back and the nights getting longer, it is now very apparent that winter is upon us.

We start November with All Saints Day, followed by All Souls Day, and a week later it is Remembrance Sunday. In the past I have preached on many Remembrance Sundays and it is interesting to note that only a few years ago it was being questioned whether the Remembrance Service was still relevant; the First World War was such a long time ago and the world generally seemed to be at peace. We preferred to ignore the injustices outside our own borders.

Regrettably there is now war again in Europe and the whole of the Middle East could erupt into a wider conflict at any time. So what can we do? We should remember that for evil to flourish it only requires one good man to do nothing.



As Christians we have been shown a good example in Christ when He was here on the earth. He taught us how to live in friendship with each other, to help each other, to love each other and that God's Kingdom will come. But for what should we pray, I can hear you asking? God knows that the world needs justice and peace, so pray that God's will be done.

All requests can be answered in three ways; yes, no, or wait, and the answer to prayer is no different. We should live our lives in faith and hope, knowing that all things will come right with God

November is also the last month of the church's liturgical year, so is it all doom and gloom? No, on the last Sunday of November we celebrate Christ the King, and can then look forward to Advent and to Christmas with all the joy that the festival can bring.



CURATE'S CORNER with Jenny Eades

Time to Remember

The end of October and the beginning of November sees the Feast of All Hallows – All Hallow's Eve (Halloween), All Saints' Day 1st November and All Souls Day on 2nd November.

The Feast of All Saints' is when we remember the headline saints, the famous saints St Oswald and St John, St Werburga (patron saint of Chester and born in Stafford, so a local girl) and two of my favourites, St Francis and St Clare.

The saints have been called our friends in heaven ...there to cheer us on and share your troubles with, as you would with other friends.

At the Feast of All Souls we remember our little saints, the NOT famous but dear to us saints, our grans and grandads, mums and dads, friends we've loved and lost and who have gone before us.

And November, the month of Remembrance Sunday, seems a good time of year to remember. When our children were younger, during the weekend of All Hallows alongside the pumpkin lanterns, dressing up and eating too much sugar, we made time to look at photos of our relatives and to tell the children stories from when their grandparents were young. We told stories of pets WE'D had as children too, as animals have always been important members of our clan.



All Saints, Earls Barton - Stained glass window by John Salmon

Telling stories of those we've loved, who have died, can help us remember that we are still connected, still family. For children it can give them a sense of being rooted in a wider family and community – which is a real support for mental health and well-being.

And at St Oswald's we have a Time to Remember on Thursday 7th November, at 10.30. A simple communion service and a chance to light candles for those we've lost.

If you can't make it that Thursday the church is open now on Wednesdays. Come in, light a candle, say a prayer and remember.

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Our Royal Army Chaplains

For centuries, armies worldwide have taken their clergy to war with them. And while over the years the roles of chaplains may have changed, still their presence among the troops has remained as important as ever.

For the British, it was in 1796 that the Army Chaplain's Department was founded by the Revd John Gamble, who became its first Chaplain General.

In 1854, the Crimean War found it had 26,000 troops depending on only one chaplain: the Revd Henry Press Wright. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG) hastily financed more chaplains, and eventually 60 were sent out.

In 1879 the Revd James William Adams became the first chaplain to be awarded the Victoria Cross – for his brave actions during the Second Afghan War.

During the First World War (1914 – 1918) chaplains became known and loved for their bringing of comfort, care and compassion to the troops.

In 1919 the King honoured the army chaplains by granting them the prefix 'Royal' .

The Second World War (1939-45) saw chaplains learning new skills like parachuting with the Airborne Forces. During those years of violence and turmoil, Royal Army Chaplains were everywhere, even sustaining captives in Far East prison camps and on the Burma-Siam railway.

Since 1945, Royal Army Chaplains have continued to serve wherever British soldiers are sent. The wars may vary in shape and locations, but the need for care, compassion and prayer for the soldiers remains constant.

Currently the Royal Army Chaplains' Department looks like this:

- Chaplains are typically assigned to bases or units in sets of three, including Anglican, Catholic, and Non-Conformist chaplains.
- Chaplains are non-combatants and are not permitted to carry weapons.
- Four civilian chaplains minister to Buddhist, Sikh, Hindu, and Muslim soldiers.
- All chaplains are expected to provide pastoral care to any soldier, regardless of their faith or denomination.
- The ranks of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department are:
 - Chaplain-General (CG) = Major-General
 - Deputy Chaplain-General (DCG) = Brigadier
 - Chaplain to the Forces 1st Class (CF1) = Colonel
 - Chaplain to the Forces 2nd Class (CF2) = Lieutenant-Colonel
 - Chaplain to the Forces 3rd Class (CF3) = Major
 - Chaplain to the Forces 4th Class (CF4) = Captain

It has been said that: "Life as an Army Chaplain is a calling like no other...it is a vocation that is both demanding and rewarding and offers an adventurous journey of faith." The current chaplain general, the Revd M Parker KHC CF says: "As chaplains, we have time for people and time to care for them. We are there for them in all of the challenges that they might face. It may to us be the smallest example of our vocation - listening, comforting, advising, praying - but to those we serve, it can be a life changing encounter."

The article is based on material from: <https://www.army.mod.uk/who-we-are/corps-regiments-and-units/royal-army-chaplains-department/>.

Remembrance

This year our Remembrance includes several significant dates from past wars.



2024 marks the 110th anniversary of the start of World War I.

2024 marks 80 years since D-Day. The Normandy Landings of 6th June were the largest seaborne invasion in history, and began the Allied invasion of Normandy, which led to the liberation of France.

2024 marks the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino in Italy, the bloodiest battle of the Italian Campaign, when Allied forces finally broke through the Germans' notorious 'Gustav Line' and freed Route Six and the way to Rome.

2024 marks the 80th anniversary of the battles for Kohima and Imphal, where in northeast India the Imperial Japanese Army was held off by much smaller numbers of British and Indian troops.

2024 also marks the 80th anniversary of Operation Market Garden in the Netherlands, when the Allies freed Eindhoven and Nijmegen, but failed to capture the bridge at Arnhem. (The story is told in the film *A Bridge too Far*)

As the British Legion says, "While D-Day was fundamental, the Second World War was not won on any single day – and pay tribute to all who served from the British Armed Forces, Commonwealth and allied nations, such as those who served in the Battles of Monte Cassino, Imphal and Kohima, Operation Market Garden and the Scheldt.

This year the British Legion also wants to pay tribute to those who served and currently serve in Kosovo 25 years after the deployment of the NATO peacekeeping force, KFOR, and to those who served in Afghanistan, as this year marks 10 years since the end of Operation Herrick.

Donations in Memory

Ann Lashford – from Christine, Roy and Family

Hylida Arnold – from

Mrs Alison Pendleton
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Sue Matthews
Allen and Ann Stringer
Sheila Capper
Rosemary and Michelle Jackson
Elaine and Dave Clarky, Bradley and Joel
Christine and Bill Osbaldiston
Jackie and Alan Pengelly
Margaret and Trevor Wadsworth
Joan Kendrick
Angela and Dai Williams
Betty Hough
David and Sue Coppock and Family
Derek Gasgoigne
Elizabeth, Martin and Simon Murphy
Laura and Lee Atherton



OUR VERY DEAR AND LOVED AUNTIE – from
Nancy and Fred Brookes; Jillian (Ashton) and Family; Jennifer Doran
and Family; and Elayne King on behalf of Berta and Neville King.

HYLDA ARNOLD

Thank you to all who attended the funeral and for the above donations, the lovely service and your kind thoughts remembering Hylida ARNOLD. They are much appreciated. - from Roy, Elizabeth and Rebecca

PAUL IVERSON

Thank you to all who attended the funeral of Paul Iverson and for their kind donations to St Oswald's church. – from Lynda and Family



The Bollington Parish Magazine of October 1934

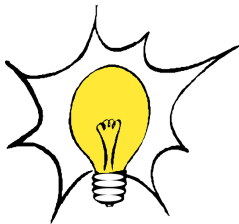
Chris Ward looks back nearly 100 years...

This magazine, published 90 years ago, records two important events in the church in Bollington.

First it announces the 'Centenary Fair' to be held on the 2nd and 3rd of November 1934 to celebrate the founding of the Parish Church of St Johns in 1834.

The vicar, Reverend Reginald Norton Betts, also took the opportunity of publicising his new book 'Bollington through the Centuries' written to coincide with this event and for sale at the Fair. The book was re-published by the Bollington Civic Society in 2005.

The magazine then reports that at St Oswald's the 'outstanding event of the past month' was the inauguration of the new electric lighting system which had been installed by Mr C Davies to replace the original gas fittings put in when the church was built in 1908.



Artwork: Pixabay

At this inauguration service 'a well filled church representative of the whole Parish, were charmed by the effect: quite apart from the utility and practical value gained by electricity the beauty of the church has been enhanced by the revealing of features in the structure hitherto half-hidden'.

Only recently (2016) these lights were replaced by a new system using LED lights with some additional spotlights over the pulpit, lectern and altar. This again improved the appearance of the church and saved the bother of forever climbing up to replace the old bulbs.

Another connection, so to speak: I understand that the above Mr C Davies was the grandfather of Allan Davies, who has recently been doing electrical work on the church in readiness for the newly installed television screen, presumably mentioned elsewhere in the magazine.

An Introduction to the gospel of LUKE

We continue our series looking at books in the Bible

Luke is the third of the synoptic gospels. The gospel and Acts were both written for Theophilus, a Roman official, who acted as Luke's patron to ensure that his gospel was copied and distributed. It was intended for a wider audience, to help both Gentile believers and unbelievers understand who Jesus is and that the gospel is intended for the whole world.

Luke's account of Jesus' life and ministry can be divided into 4 main sections: the coming and early life of Jesus (1:1-4:13); Jesus' ministry in and around Galilee (4:14-9:50); His ministry (mainly teaching) *on the road* to Jerusalem (9:51-24:53) and His final week in Jerusalem (19:28-24:53).



For Luke, the key focus is how God's plan of salvation for the world is fulfilled in Jesus.

Therefore, he writes an orderly account ranging from the birth of Jesus to His ascension. He is a strong champion of the outsider. As an outsider himself (a Gentile writer in the NT) he shows how Jesus includes those who are typically seen as outsiders by the religious establishment of His day.

This includes women, the poor and *sinner*s (incl. tax collectors, prostitutes and shepherds!), as well as showing how Gentiles, Samaritans and Jews are all included in God's plan of salvation. Luke also emphasises the importance of prayer in Jesus' ministry and the role of the Holy Spirit.

**

The two great movers of the human mind are the desire of good, and the fear of evil. - *Samuel Johnson*

Forgiveness is a funny thing – it warms the heart and cools the sting. - *William A Ward*

Should Christians go to war?

Have you ever wondered how people of peace, like Christians, can contemplate the use of force? Certainly, the violence of the first quarter of the 21st century is staggering. Terrorist activity and military conflict worldwide – the resulting loss of life is never be something of which the human race can be proud. No wonder such mayhem causes us distress – and this distress should ideally drive us to prayer.

As for what Christians should do, here are some questions to consider:

1. *Do we believe in the validity of punishment?* The answer, surely, must be Yes – if there is such a thing as objective truth and a given morality by which human life is ordered. If this were not so, we would have to remove from our vocabulary such words as ‘reward’, ‘merit’, ‘justice’ and even ‘forgiveness’.

Punishment is not a popular word in circles that dislike the language of retribution, and who speak rather of ‘corrective punishment’. However, St Paul said that secular authority is “God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.” (Romans 13:4, NIV). So, the treatment of wrongdoing must have a retributive element in it, if it is ever to be corrective.

2. *Is there a difference between force and violence?* The use of force is the disciplinary exercise of lawful authority – as seen, for example, in a well-run police force. This is a valid part of God’s order. St Paul said: “Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities...he who rebels is rebelling against what God has instituted....” (Romans 13:1,2 NIV)

Of course, ‘force’ can become ‘violence’ under a repressive authority. Revelation 13:5-8 depicts such authorities as a blasphemous “beast”. Then the call can indeed be for civil disobedience. The earliest Trades Unions themselves were begun through Christian influence!

3. *Do we assent to the depravity of the human heart?* People are selfish. We can’t be trusted to behave well towards others. So, our societies need to agree rules for our order and survival. Without such restraints, and the power to apply them, chaos and anarchy are the result.

A Christian is called to shun all violence, but to also be committed to the disciplined use of force. Sadly, a lot of muddled thinking takes place (especially during times of international conflict) when the debate fails to take account of the difference between violence and force. Force is concerned with the upholding of law. Violence is concerned with the overthrow of law.

**

Stories of answered prayer during World War II

Premier Christian Radio has produced a series of podcasts on extraordinary stories from World War II.

When we prayed: Miracles of World War II, is in seven podcasts, hosted by Pam Rhodes. Premier says: "Join us on a journey back in time to witness how God answered the nation's prayers during one of history's most tumultuous periods."

King George VI called the UK to a national day of prayer on seven critical occasions throughout WWII, and each time, those prayers were met with extraordinary outcomes.

This series, produced in cooperation with the Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer, weaves together firsthand accounts from those who lived through the war, insights from their families, and analysis from historians, offering a powerful look at the divine intervention during the conflict.

The series is produced by Premier, and can be heard at:

<https://www.premier.plus/podcasts/when-we-prayed-miracles-of-world-war-ii/>

or <https://www.eternalwall.org.uk/news/142/when-we-prayed-miracles-of-world-war-ii>

HYMN: The story behind 'To God be the Glory!'

Fanny Crosby (1820 – 1915), the American singer and musician, was blind from the age of six weeks. She married her music teacher, Alexander Van Alstyne, who was also blind. She was a prolific song-writer, and once signed a contract with a publisher to write three songs every week throughout the year. But in fact, she wrote thousands during her lifetime.

Although American evangelists Moody and Sankey used this hymn on their missions, it did not become an immediate favourite. But after Billy Graham featured it in his Harringay crusade in 1954, Londoners were soon singing it on their way home, in streets and busy queues and underground trains.

When Dr Graham took it back to the United States and introduced it at his crusade in Nashville, Tennessee, it soon took its place in the group of top favourites hymns.

To God Be the Glory *(the first two verses)*

To God be the glory, great things He hath done,
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life our redemption to win,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice;
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory; great things He hath done.*

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

By Fanny Crosby (1820 – 1915)

All in the month of November

It was

250 years ago, on 22 Nov 1774 that Robert Clive, 1st Baron Clive (Clive of India), died. He was the British general who helped found the British Empire in India.

150 years ago, on 23rd Nov 1874 that Thomas Hardy's novel *Far from the Madding Crowd* was published. It was his first major success.

125 years ago, from 2nd Nov 1899 to 28 Feb 1900 that the Siege of Ladysmith, a British Colony of Natal, took place. The Boers surrounded the town and cut off the rail link, starving the British defenders. A relief party, which included future British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, arrived on 28th Feb. British victory.

100 years ago, on 2nd Nov 1924 that the first crossword puzzle to appear in a British newspaper was published in the Sunday Express.

Also 100 years ago, on 29th Nov 1924 that Giacomo Puccini, Italian composer, died. Known for his operas, including *Tosca* and *Madame Butterfly*.

80 years ago, on 12th Nov 1944 that the British RAF bombed and sank the German battleship *Tirpitz*, sister ship of the *Bismarck*, off Norway.

70 years ago, on 3rd Nov 1954 that Henri Matisse died. Leader of the Fauvist movement, he is seen as most important French painter of the 20th century.

65 years ago, on 1st Nov 1959 that the first stretch of the M1 motorway opened in Britain. Britain's 1st motorway services were at Watford Gap.

60 years ago, on 23rd Nov 1964 that the Second Vatican Council allowed the use of vernacular languages (such as English) in Roman Catholic sacraments and rituals, including the Mass.

50 years ago, on 8th Nov 1974 that British aristocrat Lord Lucan disappeared from his home in London after his children's nanny was bludgeoned to death

and his wife was attacked. There were hundreds of claims of sightings around the world in the following years, but he was never found.

Also 50 years ago, on 20th Nov 1974 that British politician John Stonehouse faked his death by leaving a pile of clothing on a beach in Miami. He was found in Australia on 24th Dec, and arrested on suspicion of being Lord Lucan.

Also 50 years ago, on 25th Nov 1974 that South African heart surgeon Dr Christian Barnard performed the world's first double heart transplant.

40 years ago, on 25th Nov 1984 that 36 musicians gathered in London to record the Band Aid single *Do They Know It's Christmas* to raise money for famine relief in Ethiopia.

30 years ago, on 14th Nov 1994 that the first fare-paying passengers travelled through the Channel Tunnel linking England and France.

Also 30 years ago, on 19th Nov 1994 that Britain's first National Lottery draw was held.

25 years ago, on 29th Nov 1999 that the Northern Ireland Assembly appointed its first power sharing executive committee.

15 years ago, on 26th Nov 2009 that the Murphy Commission of Inquiry published its damning report on the abuse of children by Roman Catholic priests in Dublin during 1975 - 2004.

10 years ago, on 3rd Nov 2014 that the One World Trade Center officially opened in New York City. It replaced the World Trade Center that was destroyed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001.

Also 10 years ago, on 27th Nov 2014 that P D James, British novelist, died. Best known for her crime novels featuring the detective, Adam Dalgliesh.

**

Experience is what you get when you are looking for something else. - *Anon*



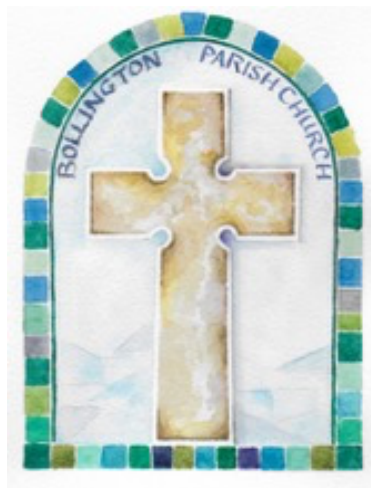
Bonfire Night – the Firework Code to keep you safe

Here are some tips from the police, to help families stay safe while they are having Bonfire Night fun...

1. Only buy fireworks that are CE marked. Respect them – they travel at speeds of about 80 mph.
2. Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks.
3. Keep fireworks in a closed box.
4. Follow the instructions on each firework.
5. Light them at arm's length, using a taper.
6. Stand well back.
7. Never go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode.
8. Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them. Throwing a firework is a criminal offence – you can be fined up to £5,000.
9. Always supervise children around fireworks.
10. Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.
11. Never give sparklers to a child under five. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2000 degrees. If three sparklers burn together, they will do so at the same heat as a blowtorch.
12. Keep pets indoors.
13. Don't set off noisy fireworks late at night and never after 11pm.

Book of Remembrance for November

6 th Nov	George Bowden
6 th Nov	Beryl Willis
7 th Nov	Wynnie Downes
7 th Nov	Winifred Mary Beardmore
9 th Nov	Harry Newton Clay
10 th Nov	Eileen Robinson
11 th Nov	Joyce Elizabeth Coley
11 th Nov	Hannah Ashton
11 th Nov	John (Jack) Archer
13 th Nov	Len Davenport
14 th Nov	Margaret Langford
14 th Nov	Peggy Hargreaves
14 th Nov	Norah Sharpley
16 th Nov	Mark Stewart Whittaker
18 th Nov	Thelma Gottlieb
19 th Nov	George Eric Gosling
20 th Nov	Gordon Oldfield
22 nd Nov	Beatrice Skirvin
23 rd Nov	Jean Wrigley
23 rd Nov	Marjorie Alice Craine
23 rd Nov	Mary Bowden
25 th Nov	Brian Bernard Newbould
25 th Nov	Harry Ainsworth
29 th Nov	Irene F M Bennett
29 th Nov	Bert Mitchell



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

22 nd September	Harry Brailsford
26 th September	Margaret Brown

Funeral

18 th October	Sheila Kirk
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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.

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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 November

Sunday 3rd November –

9.15am - Holy Communion

10.30am - All Age Worship

Thursday 7th November 10.30am - **All Souls Communion Service**

Come give thanks for those whom you have personally known and loved. We will be lighting candles in thanksgiving and remembrance.

Sunday 10th November - **Remembrance Sunday**

9.15am - Parish Communion (please note earlier time)

11.00am - Remembrance at Bollington Memorial Gardens



Sunday 17th November - 10.30am - Parish Communion

Sunday 24th November - 10.30am - Parish Communion

Friday 29th November - 4.30pm - **Christingle Service**

Don't miss....

Church in the Pub - in the Cotton Tree - Wednesday 27th November 8pm

New Sacred Space Hour - Wednesdays in term time 2.30pm to 4.30pm. In addition to the candles and the space, there will be opportunities to explore ancient Christian prayer techniques like meditation and contemplation – activities that modern science now tells us support our mental health and well-being.

Holy Communion - Every Thursday morning at 10.30am

Little Owls - Every Tuesday 9.30am to 11.00am during term time