

Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



February 2025

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,

I love factories. The activity, the productivity, the creativity and the ability to add value and, with the input of raw materials, good industrial processes and workers who know how it all flows together, to produce a product that can be sold at more than the cost of making it.



I love the pride and joy that comes from a well-functioning factory with a good workforce, and I have worked in a fair few. Factories are in our Bollington story. The cotton-spinning mills were the first factories in the world. My great-grandfather maintained the massive waterwheel up at Ingersley Vale, keeping it turning to power the mill machinery. He'd started in the mill at age 9.

It is heartbreaking when production ceases, and secure jobs are lost as another mill closes. So often it is through changes in global trade and there is nothing the workforce can do. I was once made redundant from an automotive machinery business that lost trade to Croatia; many skilled and hard-working people lost their jobs.

Jesus grew up running a business. We are not told much about His carpentry in the Bible, but we can assume that Jesus will have known how to quote for building a doorframe, and how to cut the wood. His work will have been good, and He will have made a profit on His work.

'It is heartbreaking when production ceases, and secure jobs are lost...'

We are made in the image of a creator God whose work is good. Whatever we do in our everyday lives, it is right that we can have pride in our work. Working in a business involves risk-taking, creativity, adaptivity, making the most of opportunities and knowing when to

make cuts. God shows us that good decisions can be made with clarity and carried out with compassion. Work matters. We pray for anyone who is looking for work, that doors may open and that they may find work which is good.

May God bless the work of your hands.

Love Nancy x

**

Thinking about the front cover...

Candlemas, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

By Anne Coomes

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times, 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

Jesus is described as the Light of the World, and early Christians lit many candles in celebration of this day. They also began to bless the year's supply of candles for their churches on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West.



But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

New Electoral Roll needed for 2025

This year our church needs to produce a new Electoral Roll.

This means that everyone must reapply to be on the Electoral Roll. This happens every six years.

If your name is on the existing Electoral Roll, and you wish to be included on the new 2025 Electoral Roll, it is essential that you complete an application form. These are available in church or from the electoral roll officer, Jackie Pengelly.

If you are new to our church and wish to be included, please also ensure that you complete a form.



*The electoral roll is never too long –
come and join us!*

Membership of the Electoral Roll entitles you to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, and it also shows your commitment to our church and its mission.

**



Looking forward to Ash Wednesday

There will be a Communion service with the imposition of ashes on Wednesday 5th March at 10.30am at St Oswald's. Please note there will be no Thursday Communion service that week.

Capriccio Vocal Ensemble Spring Concert in aid of the Mayor's Charities

St Oswald's Church, Saturday 22nd March at 7:30pm

By Cherry Smith

Capriccio Vocal Ensemble was set up 20 years ago by a group of friends who enjoy giving informal concerts to raise money for local charities. We will sing some *a capella* (unaccompanied) pieces and some accompanied on piano or organ. There will solos, and also an opportunity for the audience to join in!

The Concert in March is in aid of the four charities
Judy Snowball is supporting as Mayor of Bollington:



Cre8 - is part of the community outreach of St Barnabas Church in Macclesfield. The Cre8 Music Project provides music-making opportunities for youngsters on the Moss Estate, and Cre8 Enterprises provide work opportunities for them.

Space4Autism in Macclesfield offers information, advice, help, activities and support for Autistic people of all ages across East Cheshire.

Just Drop In in Macclesfield provides counselling and well-being activities for families who live in and near Macclesfield, and who are finding life hard.

The Bridgend Centre in Bollington runs a range of activities and groups for anyone to attend, including Art, Guided Walks, Spanish, Armchair Exercise, Dance Exercise and a Community Choir.

It will be a thoroughly enjoyable evening, and will also raise much-needed funds for the Mayor's good causes. See you there!

Tickets £10 from 01625 829805 or on the Door. Under 18's free.



CURATE'S CORNER

with Jenny Eades

Praying Creatively

Are you creative? For a lot of people, if they weren't good at art at school, the answer to that question might well be 'no, I can't draw, so I'm not creative'.

One of the things I LOVE about Christianity is that it takes issue with that negative self-assessment. Our Christian tradition, drawing on the Jewish tradition out of which we came, has the Spirit of God brooding over the waters of creation, the Holy One as Creator and Giver of Life. Creativity is at the heart of the Divine.

And that tradition asserts that we are made, all humans, not just those who can draw, made in the image of that Creative Spirit. So the question then becomes, not ARE you creative, but HOW ARE you creative?

Are you creative in the clothes you choose to wear each day? Or in how you organise or decorate your home or garden? Are you creative at solving problems? Are in juggling home and work and family commitments?

Are there areas of your life where you COULD be more creative but haven't yet given yourself permission to be so?

Well, Christianity, at its heart, GIVES you that permission – it tells the story of God's creative dealings with humanity, Christ's creative responses to human suffering and injustice and



I find bread-making to be creative – and satisfying!

ultimately the creativity of bringing life out of death, resurrection after crucifixion, hope out of despair. Christianity is a call to living creatively with God.

The spiritual pathway can, and I think should, be a creative pathway, where we explore the activities or practices, the ideas, the relationships that help us to flourish, that connect us to something bigger than ourselves.

One of my spiritual practices is bread making. What might yours be?

**

SMILE LINES

Visit

The new vicar was doing the rounds to meet his parishioners. At one house where he knocked, a woman inside called out: "Is that you, Angel?"

The vicar hesitated and then called back: "No, but I'm from the same department."

Bishop

A vicar was expecting his Bishop to come for lunch. He told his small son to be very polite to the visitor, and to address him as 'My Lord.' As they all sat down, the bishop smiled at the little boy and asked him how old he was. The little boy gulped and said: "My God, I'm seven."

Cow and choir

From a Cambridgeshire local newspaper in January 1900: 'WANTED – a steady respectable able man who can look after a garden, milk a cow, and sing in the church choir.'

Chocolate

A lovely heart-shaped box of chocolates was received on Valentine's Day by a young student from her new boyfriend. On the enclosed card was the inscription: 'To Helen, with all my allowance.'

Literary Trails through the countryside

By Chris Ward (with the approval of Richard Jones)



It all began with a chance conversation with Richard Jones one morning after church, when Richard mentioned he had discovered this book by the Anglican writer, Ronald Blythe. It was called *Akenfield*, and is about life in a Suffolk village in the early 1900s.

It was published in 1969, based on interviews with local villagers spanning the radical changes in farming practices with machinery replacing man and horse power. Richard said he was particularly interested as his father had bought a farm in Suffolk and many of the characters were familiar to him.

It so happens that I was reading Ronald Blythe's latest (and last) book *Next to Nature A Lifetime in the English Countryside*, published shortly after his death two years ago - which I reviewed in this magazine. It is full of literary references which led me to reading Thomas Hardy for the first time – *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, and a book of his poems, followed by watching the Thomas Hardy season on BBC4 last year. Meanwhile I lent Richard my copy of this book and he said he had the same problem, being sidetracked onto reading books mentioned by Blythe and eventually returned it to me.

However, the story does not end here. Richard in return lent me a copy of *I Julian*, by Claire Gilbert, a recent novel which imagines the life of Julian of Norwich, famous for her visions of God and living voluntarily as a recluse bricked up in a small room by the side of a church in Norwich. Helped by a monk called Thomas, she wrote down her visions and offers counsel to others visiting her cell. Although Julian lived in turbulent times in the 14th century, with pestilence killing many people and the Church actively condemning heretics which she could well be seen as, this book, though difficult at times, is a gentle read.

Observations on Love...both human and divine

Marriage is more than finding the right person; it is being the right person. - *Anon*

‘One plus one equals one’ may not be an accurate mathematical concept, but it is an accurate description of God’s intention for the marriage relationship. - *Wayne Mack*

Marriage is the ultimate invitation to growth in unselfishness. Living with another imperfect person pushes us to mature, mellow and master the art of relationship-enhancing self-denial. – *UCB Word for Today*

Even if it’s a little, do *something* for which there is no pay, but the privilege of doing it. – *Albert Schweitzer*

Let us make God the beginning and end of our love, for He is the fountain from which all good things flow, and into Him alone they flowback. Let Him therefore be the beginning of our love. - *Richard Rolle*

Look back, and remember He was with you. Then stand still, and realise He is with you. Walk forward, and trust: He will be with you always. – *Margaret Silf*

The self-sufficient do not pray, the self-satisfied will not pray, the self-righteous cannot pray. - *L Ravenhill*

We talk about heaven being so far away. Actually, it is within speaking distance to those who belong there. - *D L Moody*

Our prayers must mean something to us, if they are to mean anything to God. - *M D Babcock*

God made man to be somebody – not just to have things. - *Anon*
read.

Love in Action!

'Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.' (1 John 3:18).



The writer Gary Chapman describes how love can be expressed in 5 different 'languages': words of encouragement, quality time, gifts, acts of service and touch. Do you have a preferred language of love?

As we think about St Valentine during this month, let's consider how God's love language is expressed in the word *agape*.

This is exclusively found in the New Testament and is uniquely defined by Jesus: *'This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.'* (1 John 3:16). Jesus' giving of His life on the cross provides the model for how we can demonstrate God's love in our relationships with others.

It is self-giving: are we ready to put the other person first, as Jesus did when He died for us in our place. Are we generous with our time, words, money and service, whatever the cost?

It takes the initiative: are we ready to show love to those who don't deserve it or who we find hard to love? Do we have eyes of compassion to see their needs and a heart to love and serve them?

It is intentional: are we ready to get close to those in need around us, irrespective of the time we have or how we feel?

The story is told of Jesus asking a little child, *'how much do you love me?'* The child replied: *'lots and lots and lots!'* Then they asked Jesus how much He loved them. Jesus stretched out His arms wide and said: *'I love you this much'*, as they nailed Him to a cross.

All in the month of February

It was:

175 years ago, on 23rd Feb 1850 that Cesar Ritz, the Swiss hotelier, was born. He founded the Ritz and Carlton Hotels in London, and the Hotel Ritz in Paris.

125 years ago, on 27th Feb 1900 that the Labour Party was founded in the UK.

90 years ago, on 22nd Feb 1935 that US President Franklin D Roosevelt banned aircraft from flying over the White House – because the noise kept him awake at night. The ban remains in place today, but mainly now for security reasons.

80 years ago, during Feb 1945 that Anne Frank died. The young Dutch Jewish diarist and Holocaust victim died in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp at the age of 15, probably from typhus.

Also 80 years ago, from 4th to 11th Feb 1945 that the Yalta Conference took place in Crimea. US President Franklin D Roosevelt, Winston Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin met to plan the final defeat of Nazi Germany.

Also 80 years ago, on 19th Feb to 26th Mar 1945 that the Battle of Iwo Jima, Japanese volcanic islands, took place. The iconic photo of US Marines rising the American flag on top of Mount Surabachi was taken on 23rd Feb.

Also 80 years ago, on 21st Feb 1945 that Eric Liddell died. An Olympic gold medallist in 1924 (400 m), he had withdrawn from the 100m heat because it was held on a Sunday and entered the 400 m instead. The story is told in the *Chariots of Fire*. (Liddell died in a WWII internment camp in China, aged 43.)

Also 75 years ago, on 9th Feb 1950 that the Red Scare began in the USA. US Senator Joseph McCarthy announced that he had a list of “known communists” who worked in the US State Department. He claimed that Communists and Soviet spies were in the federal government and US Army.

65 years ago, on 8th Feb 1960 that Queen Elizabeth II issued an Order-in-Council that she and her family would be known as the House of Windsor, and that her descendants would use the surname Mountbatten-Windsor.

50 years ago, on 11th Feb 1975 that Margaret Thatcher became the first female leader of the Conservative Party. She became Prime Minister in 1979.

40 years ago, on 7th Feb 1985 that the Mayor of New York City, Ed Koch, adopted the song *New York, New York* by Franck Sinatra as the city's official anthem.

Also 40 years ago, on 16th Feb 1985 that the Islamic militant group and political party Hezbollah was founded in Lebanon.

30 years ago, on 2nd Feb 1995 that the leaders of Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation held an emergency summit in Cairo, where they reaffirmed their commitment to the Middle East peace process.

Also 30 years ago, on 23rd Feb 1995 that James Herriot, veterinary surgeon and best-selling author of *All Creature Great and Small*, died.

Also 30 years, on 26th Feb 1995 that Barings Bank, the oldest merchant bank in London, collapsed after its chief trader in Singapore, Nick Lesson, lost £827 million on unauthorised transactions.

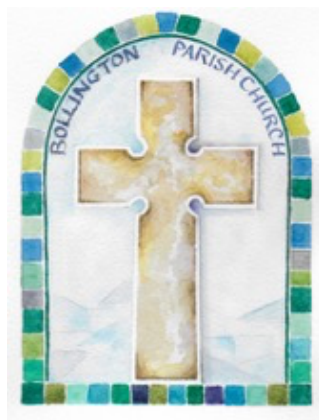
25 years ago, on 11th Feb to 29th May 2000 that the British government suspended the Northern Ireland Assembly, after it failed to strike a deal on decommissioning IRA weapons.

Also 20 years ago, on 14th Feb 2005 that YouTube, the online video-sharing service, was founded. It was purchased by Google in 2006.

Also 20 years ago, on 16th Feb 2005 that the Kyoto Protocol came into effect. The international treaty obliges industrialised nations to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Book of Remembrance for February

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 th Feb | Gilbert John Capper |
| 5 th Feb | Phyllis Jackson |
| 6 th Feb | John Arthur Ashton |
| 7 th Feb | Ian Mather |
| 7 th Feb | Hilary Mary Morgan |
| 7 th Feb | Barbara Audrey White |
| 7 th Feb | Gary Mark Kendrick |
| 8 th Feb | John Neville Bamford |
| 8 th Feb | Bessie Hughes |
| 9 th Feb | Arthur Houghton |
| 10 th Feb | Revd. John Bryce Warburton <i>(Vicar of this parish 1981-1991)</i> |
| 11 th Feb | Amy Osbaldiston |
| 14 th Feb | Hubert Wallworth |
| 15 th Feb | John H Downes |
| 15 th Feb | Alan Heathcote |
| 16 th Feb | Colin Bailey |
| 16 th Feb | Dorah Stanesby |
| 17 th Feb | Emmeline Worthington |
| 17 th Feb | Walter Chadwick |
| 19 th Feb | William Lea |
| 20 th Feb | Joseph Bowden |
| 21 st Feb | Catherine Elizabeth Mallon |
| 25 th Feb | Joseph Bowden |
| 25 th Feb | Elizabeth Bowden |
| 27 th Feb | Kate Amelia Mills |
| 28 th Feb | Charles Clifford Arnold |
| 28 th Feb | Amy Elizabeth Molineux |



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Bollington Church News

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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.

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

Deadline: Material for March issue to reach Anne by 20th February.

The purpose of this world is not to have and to hold, but to forgive and to serve. – *Wilfred Grenfell*

Christ's sheep are marked in the ear and the foot; they hear His voice, and they follow Him. - *Anon*

Worship in February – all welcome!

Sunday 2nd Feb

9.15am - Holy Communion

10.30am - All Age Service

Sunday 9th Feb

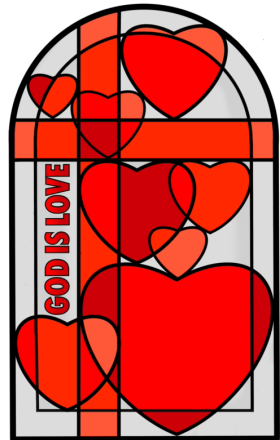
10.30am - Parish Communion

Sunday 16th

10.30am - Parish Communion

Sunday 23rd Feb

10.30am - Parish Communion



Regular activities

Holy Communion - every Thursday morning at 10.30am

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

Little Owls - Tuesdays during term time, 9.30am to 11.00am

Sacred Space - Wednesdays during term time, 3.30pm to 4.30pm

Good Grief Café - a local community bereavement group run by the Middlewood Partnership Social Prescribing group. It meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at St Oswald's at 2.00pm. To book your place, please call 01625 462593 or email cmicb-cheshire.middlewood.events@nhs.net

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