

Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



March 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,

The nine fruits of the Spirit, listed in Galatians are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. There is a very funny children's song about mixing up these fruits with bananas, coconuts and watermelons, which the children at Bollington Cross School sing with huge joy.



As a society we focus so much on having love, joy and peace in our lives with kindness, goodness and faithfulness in our relationships, but we are usually really bad at making space for patience or self-control.

There is real wisdom in keeping Lent as a practice in patience and self-control. Lent's six weeks are long enough to develop habits and disciplines to carry us through the year. Lent is a time when we look at ourselves with self-awareness and reflect on how we live our lives, how we affect other people and what we really should do differently. Lent is a time of repentance when we take responsibility for our actions and stop making excuses. Lent is a time of turning to God with honesty – this is who I am, real honesty and openness to God.

The discipline and self-control of daily focus on God opens us up to receive the blessings of Easter and the promise of a future where all things are healed and made new.

What can you do? Come along to church in Lent, God needs you and we need you and it is when two or three are gathered together that we become the body of Christ. Consider coming along on a Thursday morning at 10.30am if Sundays are not easy for you.



To help you take a few minutes each day in Lent to focus, I encourage you to sign up for the Church of England 2025 Lent daily email reflections called 'Living Hope' or download the 'Everyday Faith' App.

Anyone can come along to the six-week Lent Group about 'Living Hope' in Church (details on the website). Do come along to our Lent lunch on Thursday 27th March after the 10.30am morning service.

God bless
Nancy

**

Thinking about the front cover...

Ash Wednesday, a good time to admit you are sorry



Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

God is inviting you to come to Him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

**

God is closest to those whose hearts are broken. - Anon

Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes

Wednesday 5th March at 10.30am

Everyone is invited to our Communion service with the imposition of ashes on at St Oswald's. Please note there will be no Thursday Communion service that week.



Lent Group – Wednesdays 2.00pm to 3.30pm.

Beginning on Wednesday 12th March. We will be following the C of E's Living Hope Lent Course.

Lent Lunch - Thursday 27th March

Begins after 10.30am morning service. All welcome!

New Electoral Roll for 2025

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 Jackie Pengelly.

Capriccio Vocal Ensemble Spring Concert

Saturday 22nd March at 7:30pm



Capriccio Vocal Ensemble will be giving a concert at St Oswald's in aid of the four charities Judy Snowball is supporting as Mayor of Bollington. They are:

Cre8 does community outreach from St Barnabas Church in Macclesfield.

Space4Autism in Macclesfield offers help and support for Autistic people.

Just Drop In provides counselling and well-being activities for local families.

Bridgend Centre runs a range of activities and groups for anyone to attend.

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

Coffee: starter fluid for the morning impaired.



CURATE'S CORNER

with Jenny Eades

Throughout my childhood and beyond my mother said, 'God bless you and keep you safe' as she wished me good night. One of my treasured possessions is a card she sent me at a difficult time in my life which ends with those words.

A few weeks ago now, when the nights were still dark, St Oswald's was full of candles and cake – adults and children alike came into church after school and we blessed the candles – to take home with us – and the cake – to eat there and then.

When we bless something or someone we say – this is holy, YOU are holy – and we ask God to make that person, that thing even more holy, sacred, even more of a gift to the world. We *recognise* the sacred and we *ask* for a little more sacredness, beauty, kindness in our world.

So here's a question – who or what blesses YOU? Are there people in your life who are a blessing to you? Do they know that?

And are there activities that nourish and sustain you, or just plain cheer you up? We did Candles and Cake for Candlemas because candlelight and cake are two things that most of us enjoy – and we wanted to celebrate that together. The activities that bless us are part of our spiritual pathway and sometimes just seeing that can deepen our experience. Is lighting a candle for someone a practice that helps you? Because if it helps YOU it helps the world. Can you do it more regularly?

Here's another question?
Who do YOU bless? Who do



you bless just by being you? Who do you bless with your care, your kindness, your prayers? Knowing that we bless others can also help us through the hard times.

And if you are lucky enough to have children or young people in your life, do you ever say 'God bless you and keep you safe'? It's a very, very old custom. Do pass it on. And God bless YOU and keep you and those you love, safe, today and every day.

**

Time for the Great Daffodil Appeal!

March is time for the Marie Curie charity's annual flagship fundraiser, the Great Daffodil Appeal.



Every five minutes, someone dies without the support they need. But by donating and wearing your daffodil this March, you can change that – and help Marie Curie Nurses bring expert end of life care when there's no cure, whatever the illness.

Money raised also funds the charity's free support line and webchat which is available to anyone with an illness they're likely to die from and those close to them. It offers practical and emotional support on everything from managing symptoms and navigating care to financial information, including how to get help with energy bills and bereavement support.

However you can help through volunteering, every penny will help Marie Curie deliver quality care to those who need it most.

For information and to donate visit: [Mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil](https://mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil)

**

The most important thing in life is to live your life for something more important than your life. - William James

A Stick of White Chalk

By Richard Raymond

As a church bellringer, I often attend Tuesday night practice at St Mary's Nether Alderley. A few weeks after Christmas, I was surprised to see some figures and letters chalked on the outside of the church entrance door in the south porch. Perplexed, I wondered: was it a mystic sign, a joke, or something with religious meaning?

On the door, in white chalk, was written: $20 + C + M + B + 25$.

This is, in fact, the time-honoured Catholic tradition of 'chalking the doors' at Epiphany. It is an exhortation for Christ to stay with those who live or work within, throughout the following year. It is the Epiphany house blessing.

The figures represent the year - 20 at the beginning and 25 at the end, making 2025. Each addition sign signifies the cross. As Epiphany was the time the three Kings visited the newborn Christ Child, the letters stand for the Magi: Casper, Melchior, and Balthazar.

However, CMB is also the abbreviation for the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which translates as 'May Christ bless this house.'

I had never seen this before, but now that I understand its meaning, I have no need ever to be perplexed again.

Now, do we have a stick of white chalk in the house?

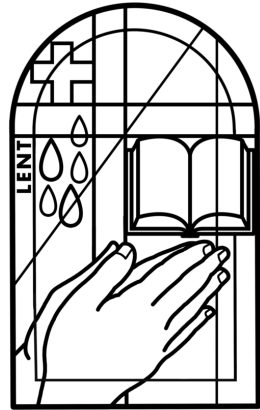
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A healthy adult consumes each year one-and-one-half times his own weight in other people's patience.

*Birthday cake is the only food you can blow on and spit on,
and yet still everybody rushes to get a piece.*

A Lent Reflection

Somebody asked a Christian friend why he was eating doughnuts, when he had given them up for Lent! He answered, *'At the bakers I told God, that if He wanted me to buy doughnuts, He should provide a parking space in front. On the eighth time around, there it was!'* Rather than seeing Lent simply as a time to give things up, let's use it intentionally for self-examination, reading Scripture, penitence, fasting and prayer.



At Jesus' baptism, God's voice says, *'You are My Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased.'* (Luke 3:22). The Holy Spirit then leads Jesus into the wilderness, where we find Him coming to terms with who He is. Satan's temptations challenge Jesus in key three areas of His identity: His divine sonship, political power and Messianic role (Luke 4: 1-13). It is as though Jesus was looking into the mirror at Himself to discern what kind of Saviour He should be.

For us, Lent is an opportunity to hold up a mirror to ourselves and ask the question, *'who am I?'* It's a season of honest encounter with who we are, what we've done, and how we should live. What will we see when we hold up the mirror to ourselves?

Keeping Lent, could mean taking time to read Scripture, studying a Christian book or spending five minutes each day in silence! We might fast by missing one or two meals, refraining from TV, alcohol, social media, or scrolling on our phones. All of these can help us to give more attention to God in our lives. Whatever we do, Lent is a season for self-reflection, as we put ourselves in a position to receive afresh the forgiveness and healing that God offers.

**

*The important thing about your lot in life is whether
you use it for building or parking. - Anon*

Taking books to Christians everywhere

The first Thursday in March brings us World Book Day. So, this month is a good time to think about sending Christian books around the world.

For the last 35 years, the Book Aid Charitable Trust has collected Bibles and Christian literature books from supporters in the UK and supplied them to its partners in countries where books are badly wanted, but not easily found or afforded.

It all began in the back of a car in 1988, when an English missionary couple retired, and then began to collect Christian books from friends to send abroad. Since then, Book Aid has worked with global partners in 17 countries in Africa, Asia and Central America.

The vision is so simple: gather books around the UK, sort and package them and ship them around the world. When the books reach their destination, they are sold at affordable prices, and the profit earned through the book sales is used to develop and enhance local literature initiatives and support Christian ministries. Scholarly books are shipped to equip Bible College libraries where they are used to train a new generation of ministers of the Gospel.

In order to pay the shipping and administration, Book Aid began selling books online, as well as in their bookshops in Lower Sydenham, Barnard Castle, Ranskill and Templepatrick. Each shop is a sanctuary where people can enjoy a quiet corner and a cup of tea while exploring the many shelves of books.

To date, Book Aid has sent over 35 million books! If you can help with books, or with collecting them, or working in the warehouse or in one of the Book Aid bookshops, please go to <https://book-aid.org>

**

Hospitality: making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.

All in the month of March

It was:

175 years ago, on 5th March 1850 that the Britannia Bridge linking Anglesey and mainland Wales across the Menai Strait was officially opened. Designed and built by engineer Robert Stephenson, it was replaced after a fire in 1970.

150 years ago, on 7th March 1875 that the French composer Maurice Ravel was born. Best known for *Bolero*.

125 years ago, on 28th March 1900 that British archaeologist Arthur Evans began excavating Knossos, capital of the Minoan civilisation, in Crete.

100 years ago, on 21st March 1925 that Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh was officially opened.

90 years ago, on 16th March 1935 that driving tests began in Britain.

80 years ago, on 24th March 1945 that Operation Varsity took place in Wesel, Germany. The USA, Britain and Canada carried out the largest single-day airborne landing operation in history. Allied victory.

70 years ago, on 11th March 1955 that Sir Alexander Fleming died. Joint winner of the 1945 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discovering penicillin

60 years ago, on 8th March 1965 that the first US troops arrived in Vietnam.

Also 60 years ago, on 18th March 1965 that Soviet cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov became the first person ever to make a spacewalk.

50 years ago, on 26th March 1975 that the Biological Weapons Convention came into effect, banning all biological and toxin weapons.

40 years ago, on 3rd March 1985 that British miners voted to return to work

after a year-long strike over pit closures and job losses.

30 years ago, on 2nd March 1995 that the 'rogue trader' Nick Leeson was arrested for his role in the collapse of Barings, Britain's oldest merchant bank.

Also 30 years ago, on 26th March 1995 that the Schengen Treaty came into effect in the European Union. Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain) eliminated their internal border controls.

20 years ago, on 10th March 2005 that Dave Allen, Irish comedian, died.

Also 10 years ago, on 24th March 2015 that the Germanwings Flight 9525 crashed in the French alps, killing all 150 people on board. An investigation found that the co-pilot had deliberately caused the crash, due to depression.

**

Beware of these contagious diseases in church!

Frontophobia: A morbid fear of the front seats in church. The sufferer is struck by an attack just inside the church door and then collapses in the nearest back seat.

Sermonic Throat: A dreaded choking caused by the start of the sermon. The sufferer unwraps a sweet very slowly and noisily, which seems to help.

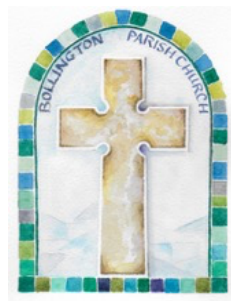
Accelerated Vocal Response: A condition which causes the sufferer to try to sing faster than the organ. The opposite of *Retarded Vocal Response*, where the sufferer tries to sing slower than the organ.

Theexits: A condition where the sufferer can't help but rush for the exit, before the minister gets there.

Church Meeting Paralysis: This can strike suddenly, when a post in the church needs filling. A good dose of enthusiasm works wonders.

Book of Remembrance for March

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 3 rd March | George Haworth |
| 6th March | Harold James Gumm |
| 9th March | Joan Lee |
| 9th March | Graham Garland |
| 9th March | Fred Walker |
| 10th March | Mary Oldfield |
| 10th March | Kenneth Allen |
| 14th March | Elizabeth Chadwick |
| 15th March | Jack Johnson |
| 18th March | Kenneth George Wilcox |
| 19th March | Baby Euan George Rogers (<i>born asleep</i>) |
| 19th March | Katheryn Ruth Pimblott |
| 22nd March | Emma Jackson |
| 25th March | Patricia Hilary Wood |
| 26th March | Robin George Samuel Webster |
| 26th March | Lesley Holmes |
| 27th March | David Gaskill |
| 29th March | Audrey Beresford Cameron |
| 30th March | Emily Holmes |
| 31st March | Margaret Ainsworth |



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

February 17th: Peter Horbury Liley and Patricia Wendy (Kate) Liley

The Bible is a letter God has sent to us; prayer is a letter we send to Him. - Matthew Henry

Effective prayer is a quartet – the Father, the Son, the Spirit, and the Christian. - J Blanchard

Changing a light bulb must be a generational thing

Do you know how to clean a car, change a lightbulb, hang a picture and identify a spanner? If yes, then chances are that you are a Baby Boomer (1955-1964) and not a Gen Z (1997-2012).

For recent research has found that some Gen Z are paying up to £1,300 a year for simple household tasks to be done, because they don't want to tackle them. Changing a light bulb? Gen Z worry that a step ladder can be dangerous, and that the bulb might be "too hot".

Hanging a picture frame? Add air to a car tyre? Identify a spanner? Fit a wiper blade? Clean a car? The list of practical jobs is endless, and huge numbers of Gen Z get round them by asking a parent or paying a professional, to do it. The research was commissioned by Halfords. It concluded that DIY may sadly be a dying skill, because too many Gen Z-ers are simply not practically minded.

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Many millennials are still at home

According to the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), the 'Hotel of Mum and Dad' is flourishing, with nearly a fifth of all millennials still at home. That is nearly half a million.

Bee Boileau of the IFS says: "In the last decade and a half, there has been a substantial increase in the proportion of young adults living with their parents. This has occurred alongside, and indeed has been fuelled by, increases in rents and house prices."

Overall, in the 25 to 34 age brackets, men are more likely than women to be living at home (23 per cent compared with 15 per cent). Rates are higher among UK-born young people from Bangladeshi and Indian backgrounds (62 per cent and 50 per cent respectively).

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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 April issue to reach Anne by 20th April.

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 March

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 2nd | 9.15am - Holy Communion 10.30am - All Age Service |
| Wed 5th | 10.30am Holy Communion with imposition of ashes (please note no Thursday Communion this week) |
| Sunday 9th | 10.30am - Parish Communion |
| Sunday 16th | 10.30am - Parish Communion |
| Sunday 23rd | 10.30am - Parish Communion |
| Sunday 30th | Mothering Sunday – 10:30am Parish Communion |



Regular activities

Holy Communion - every Thursday morning at 10.30am

Church in the Pub - last Wednesday in month, 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 - 2nd Thursday of each month at 2.00pm.

Local bereavement group run by Middlewood Partnership. To book your place: 01625 462593 or cmicb-cheshire.middlewood.events@nhs.net

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