

Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



April 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

On that first Easter morning, Mary Magdalene was stood by the empty tomb, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.



He said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ She thought he was the gardener until he spoke her name “Mary”. Later, she announced to the disciples “I have seen the Lord”.

This year, it feels as if Lent is going on forever! Often it is over by the first week of April and we are celebrating the risen Jesus already. This year, we are still waiting by the tomb. We know it will end; we know that Easter Day will arrive, but Mary Magdalene didn’t know that. Her tears of grief were real. In her sorrow, as she waited by the tomb, she couldn’t even see the good news that was right in front of her.

This is the promise of Easter, the good news of resurrection hope: however low we get, whatever sorrow surrounds us, what depths we sink to, however much we weep, we can look down and around us, and even though we might not see him, Jesus is right beside us. He has been there already and is with us now. He has the scars. He brings newness of life every time.

The risen Christ is always bringing good out of bad situations. Renewal is promised. The scars remain, but Christ will bring forth new joy and new life. Joy flows from heaven in the announcement “I have seen the Lord”.

Come to church over Easter to share in the joy. We start with Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday at 7.30pm, remembering Jesus’s Last Supper, we are at the foot of the cross on Good Friday in St Oswald’s 2pm-3pm. On Easter Sunday

morning we're lighting the Easter Fire (outside St John's Church this year) at 7am, and having the great celebration of the Easter Communion in St Oswald's at 10.30am. Please come along – let God fill you anew with Easter Joy!

Love Nancy

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Thinking about the front cover...

18th April - Good Friday, the day the Son of God died for you

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9am in the morning, and died six hours later, at 3pm. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches.

In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the 'passions' composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday.



The custom of observing a period of three hours' devotion from 12 midday to 3pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The 'Three Hours of the Cross' often take the form of an extended meditation on the 'Seven Last Words from the Cross', with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.

Two Thoughts on Fundraising

Treasurer's report by Richard Raymond

We have received an estimate for repairing the church organ. Overall, the organ remains in good condition due to regular maintenance over the years. However, there are now some missing notes on the pedal organ, and the organ builders have outlined a restoration plan to ensure its reliability once again.

We currently have an Organ Fund, which holds slightly less than half of the amount needed for the repairs. The organ plays a vital role in our weekly worship, as well as at funerals, concerts, carol services, and civic events. If anyone feels they could contribute with a donation, I would be very grateful if they could have a word with me.

Secondly have you heard of Easyfundraising? It truly is an effortless way to raise funds for our church! If you often shop online, here's how it works:

1. Sign up on the **Easyfundraising** website (www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and select our church as your chosen cause.
2. When you visit a participating retailer's website, a prompt will appear asking if you'd like to donate.
3. Simply click to confirm, and then complete your purchase as usual.

That's it! Behind the scenes, **Easyfundraising** donates a small percentage of your purchase amount to the church—at no extra cost to you.

There are no commissions or hidden fees, and I simply oversee the funds received through this initiative.

Over the years, this scheme has helped us raise several hundred pounds annually, and I encourage you to consider using it as a straightforward way to support our church. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask me.

Our Annual Church Meeting – 13th April

This year our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in St Oswald's Church on Sunday 13th April at 11.45am.

The main meeting is preceded by a short meeting of parishioners at which the Churchwardens are appointed for the coming year. Christine is not standing for re-election, therefore we are looking for someone to take her place. If you think that you may be that person, please come forward!

At the main meeting the Annual reports are received, including the Financial Report, and new PCC members are elected.

Smile-lines

Good Friday confusion

I was standing in line at the bank when there was a commotion at the counter. A woman was very distressed, exclaiming, "Where will I put my money?! I have all my money and my mortgage here!! What will happen to my mortgage?! You can't do this to us!"

It turned out that she had misunderstood a small sign on the counter. The sign read: WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY.

Joseph's tomb

Pontius Pilate: "Joseph, I really don't understand you. You're one of the richest men in the region, and you've just spent a fortune on that new tomb for you and your family - and now you want to suddenly give it to this man Jesus?"

Joseph: "Well it's just for the weekend."

Easter Thoughts in a Churchyard

It's a yearly paradox. You've brought some flowers to the churchyard to lay on the grave of a loved one. All around you are graves and headstones, reminders of the inevitable end of life's earthly journey.

But it's Easter Day, and from within the church you can hear the singing: 'Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!' Perhaps then you notice a few other things. You're standing among the fresh daffodils and the grass that's suddenly green and growing again. For a moment you pause and reflect on the reverse of an old saying. In the midst of death - we are in life!

That essentially is what Easter is about - an annual reminder that death is not the end of the story. Cookham, in Berkshire, was once the home of the great 20th century painter, Stanley Spencer. Perhaps his most famous painting is 'Resurrection in Cookham Churchyard', which depicts local residents - many of them recognisable village characters - rising up out of their graves to be greeted by the risen Jesus, standing in the church porch. It's a glorious, vivid, shocking reminder of a great assertion. The graveyard is not a terminus, but a junction.

The resurrection of Jesus (and hence our resurrections, too) is the defining claim of Christianity. Christians don't follow the teaching of a prophet who died many centuries ago, or of a holy man whose life is an example to follow, excellent as that may be.



They put their trust in a Saviour whom they believe is alive and with them now, and they also believe that through Him they too will move through the junction of death to the journey that lies beyond - a journey he talked about to His followers.

The annual paradox lies in the inescapable fact of death, indelibly represented by those graves and headstones, and in the equally inescapable fact that - in apparent defiance of all logic - human beings down the ages have clung to the belief that death is not the end.

Every culture has its story of the life beyond - the Elysian fields, Valhalla, Nirvana, Abraham's bosom. But only with the coming of Jesus, and the witnessed events of that first Easter morning, has our instinctive belief been given wings. The paradox is the heart of everything. Death is a fact, but life is greater than death. 'Because I live', said Jesus, 'you will also live'.

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Where did your Easter egg come from?

Your Easter egg can be traced back to the early Church in Mesopotamia. Since ancient times, people had been giving each other eggs at pagan Spring festivals, as eggs were a symbol of the new life and rebirth in nature all around them. Then came Jesus and His death and resurrection, which made Easter the ultimate time for Christians to celebrate new life and rebirth. After that, it was only a matter of time before eggs found their way into commemorating Easter.



This seems to have first happened with the very early church in Mesopotamia, where those early Christians began dyeing their eggs after Easter, to celebrate the new birth that Jesus had given to them. The practise of using eggs in Easter celebrations then spread to the Orthodox Churches, and from there to the Western Churches across Europe.



CURATE'S CORNER

with Jenny Eades

Religion – a story to live by

What do you think religion is for? In the past, many people had a firm belief in a literal heaven and a literal hell. Religion – and especially believing the right things and doing the right things – was the way to avoid eternal

damnation.

Now, if you DON'T believe in a literal hell – and I don't – what THEN is religion for?

For me, religion is much less about avoiding damnation and much, much more about human well-being and flourishing. We can live our lives thinking we are alone in the universe, that hate is stronger than love, that hope is pointless, and we are small and insignificant unless we are rich and powerful or clever or thin. It's a compelling story and one the modern world tells a lot. I'm not sure it's a story that helps us to flourish.

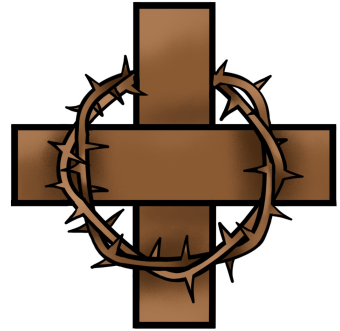
Or we can choose to live by a different story. We can live by a story that says humans are loved and created and that our lives have meaning. We can choose to see that all humans are valuable and precious – not just the rich ones or the pretty ones or the ones who look or sound like us. We can choose to listen for the footfalls of the Holy One walking beside us through good times and bad. We can choose to notice the beauty of this world and the gift of human kindness.

Christianity tells a story of human beings being so precious God wanted to walk with them, as one of them. A story of love being stronger than death. A story that says that we matter and that our flourishing matters – to the One behind and beyond and within all things.

Happy Easter.

The Real Easter

In CS Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the lion Aslan is put to death by the White Witch. The stone table on which He is killed cracks in two, but Aslan meets with Lucy and Susan alive again. He explains the Witch's failure:



'Her knowledge goes back only to the dawn of time. But if she could have looked a little further back, she would have known that when a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead, the Table would crack, and Death itself would start working backwards.'

This is a great picture of what Jesus' cross and His resurrection has achieved. As Paul writes, *'I want to know Christ, to know the power of His resurrection'* (Philippians 3:10). To understand the real Easter, we should experience the same power that raised Jesus from the dead!

New Hope: Like the girls in the story, Easter highlights the sadness and confusion that loss brings. Yet the resurrection of Jesus brings new hope, as it demonstrates the victory secured by the cross over sin, Satan and death. We can face life's difficulties knowing that Jesus walks beside us.

New Love: Our relationships are often characterised by a lack of forgiveness, hurt and betrayal. Yet Jesus' resurrection opens the possibility of new love, as His power enables us to accept others and forgive them.

New Life: When we are trying to make sense of life, like the girls in the story, Jesus offers us a living relationship with Himself. It's a friendship with God through Jesus that can begin today and continue for eternity.

When Lucy met Aslan again, she cried: *'Oh, you're real, you're real!'* We too can find the real Easter through a life changing encounter with the living Christ.

All in the month of April

It was:

250 years ago, on 23rd April 1775 that J M W Turner, the British artist was born. Known for his landscapes and turbulent marine paintings.

175 years ago, on 23rd April 1850 that William Wordsworth died. A Romantic poet, he was Poet Laureate from 1843-50.

150 years ago, on 17th April 1875 that the game of snooker was invented by Neville Chamberlain, a British army officer stationed in India.

125 years ago, from 14th April - 12th November, that the 1900 Paris Exposition, a World's Fair, was held. Nearly 50 million people visited Paris that year.

100 years ago, on 10th April 1925 that F Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby*, was published.

80 years ago, on 30th April 1945 that Adolf Hitler, Austrian-born German Nazi Party Leader, Chancellor of Germany (1933-45) and dictator (1934-45) committed suicide along with his wife, Eva Braun.

70 years ago, on 18th April 1955, that Albert Einstein, German-born American theoretical physicist, died. Considered the most influential physicist of the 20th century. Known for developing the special and general theories of relativity.

50 years ago, on 4th April 1975 that Microsoft, the computer software/hardware company, was founded by Bill Gates and Paul Allen in Albuquerque New Mexico.

40 years ago, on 21st April 1985 that Brazilian racing driver Ayrton Senna won the Portuguese Grand Prix. It was the first of his 41 Formula One wins.

Also 40 years ago, on 23rd April 1985 that the Coca-Cola Company changed the formula of Coca-Cola and launched it on the market as New Coke. The public were out-raged, and the original formula was restored within three months.

30 years ago, on 4th April 1995 that Kenny Everett, DJ, comedian and TV entertainer, died. Known for his zany humour, characters and sketches.

25 years ago, on 22nd April 2000 that the 'The Big Number' change took place on the UK's telephone system. Many area codes were created for mobile, freephone, local rate, national rate, and premium rate services.

20 years ago, on 2nd April 2005 that Pope John Paul II died. Succeeded by Pope Benedict XVI on 19th April.

Also 20 years ago, on 9th April 2005 that Charles, Prince of Wales, married Camilla Parker Bowles, who gained the title the Duchess of Cornwall.

10 years ago, on 2nd April 2015 that the Gorkha earthquake took place in Nepal. Nearly 9,000 people were killed, 22,000 injured, and 3.5 million made homeless.

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Miscellaneous observations on life:

In the 60s, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.

Which came first, the chicken or the various things that taste like chicken?

At the rate that things are changing, anyone nostalgic for the 'good old days' is yearning for last week.

The fastest land mammal is a toddler who's been asked what's in their mouth.

London Marathon 2025 – Sunday 27th April

Last year's London Marathon attracted more than 53,000 runners, which made it the world's biggest annual one-day fund-raising event EVER. It also raised a world record-breaking amount of £73.5 million for charities.

The route is 26.2 miles long. Greenwich and Blackheath is the starting point, and then the route takes in Woolwich, Greenwich, Rotherhithe, Bermondsey, Tower Bridge, Limehouse, Canary Wharf, Isle of Dogs, Shadwell, Tower Gateway, Westminster Bridge, Great George Street, Birdcage Walk, Buckingham Palace and finally to the iconic finish line on The Mall. It is all a far cry from the first London Marathon back in March 1981, when 6,747 people ran, and which did not raise any money specifically for charities.

Almost half of all children have been scammed online

Has your child been scammed online? If so, they are not alone! A recent poll for the UK Safer Internet Centre (UKSIC) has found that a staggering 46 per cent of children have been taken in by an online scam. And a study by Vodafone has found that nearly one million 11-to-16-year-olds in the UK have been scammed within the last 12 months. Most scams seem to take place on social media platforms, where they involve ads or quizzes which appear to be from well-known brands.

Easter chocolate dilemma

364 days of the year we tell our kids: "Do NOT eat anything you find on the ground, or anything from strangers!" On Easter morning we tell them: "Why don't you go outside and search in the dirt for chocolates that a strange giant bunny has left for you?"

Book of Remembrance for April

2 nd April	Cyril Chadwick
2 nd April	Barbara Blower
3 rd April	Richard Henry Lea
4 th April	Thomas Cumberbirch
5 th April	Alan Poulson
7 th April	Dennis Goodwin
7 th April	Alice Edna Hooley
7 th April	Brenda Whitehurst
8 th April	Alfred Leonard Robinson
11 th April	Sarah Platt
13 th April	Elsie Wilcox
13 th April	Peter Brookes
13 th April	Frank Skirvin
14 th April	Baby Daniel Michael Green
18 th April	Henry Farron Hyde
18 th April	Harold Hough
18 th April	Baby Daniel Michael Green
19 th April	George Brown
21 st April	Karen Whyte
21 st April	Fred Wrigley
22 nd April	Margaret Bowden
23 rd April	William Henry Frederick Hutter
24 th April	Betty King
24 th April	Edward Ball
29 th April	Eric Gottlieb
30 th April	Rowson William Hooley



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 11th March Elizabeth Allen

Our friends bring us to the grave and leave us there, but God will not. – Anon

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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 the May issue to reach Anne by 20th April.

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Guarding the Easter chocolate

Was there a security tag on your Easter egg this year? If so, it wasn't because high street bosses feared the Easter Bunny might take it. It's that shoplifting has soared to an unprecedented amount. There were more than 20 million shoplifting incidents last year - an average of about *50,000 cases a day*, according to the British Retail Consortium (BRC). In all, retailers lost £2.2 billion.

Worship in April

Sunday 6th 9.15am – Parish Communion
10.30am - All Age Service

Sunday 13th **PALM SUNDAY**
10.30am – Parish
Communion with donkey
11.45am - Annual Parochial
Church Meeting

Thursday 17th **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
7.30pm Parish Communion
8.30pm Watch of Prayer and
Compline

Friday 18th **GOOD FRIDAY**
10.30am - Messy Church
2.00pm - Good Friday service

Sunday 20th **EASTER SUNDAY**
7.00am - Dawn Service outside St John's Church
10.30am - Parish Communion

Sunday 27th 10.30am - Parish Communion

May

Sunday 4th 10.30am Parish Communion
NB: There is no 9.15am service



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. To book your place: 01625 462593 or cmicb-cheshire.middlewood.events@nhs.net