

Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



June 2025

Price 50p



Who's Who at St Oswald's

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Deanery Synod: Anthea Wilkinson, Anne Coomes

Diocesan Synod: Richard Raymond

Letter from Nancy

Dear All

We celebrate Pentecost in June, praying afresh for the Holy Spirit, and I thought I'd share with you a prayer that is important to me.

The Holy Spirit abounds with the beautiful mystery of God. It is through the Holy Spirit that we experience the power of God at work in our lives. In the weeks after Easter our Bible readings are drawn from the Acts of the Apostles which is the story of the building of the early Church. Acts is full of visions and miracles, as the disciples begin to experience the Holy Spirit working through them and the Church beginning to grow. The Holy Spirit specifically brings gifts that grow the body of Christ, the Church of God, and I have definitely experienced that in my ministry in extraordinary ways.



As Christians, we pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit, not so we may keep Him to ourselves, but that with renewed vision, experiences and confident faith, He may overflow from us out to others, spreading the good news of Jesus Christ.

This is a prayer that I first prayed many years ago as part of a local church. It carried me on the journey to ordination and I continue to pray it for and with the local church. So now it is a prayer for Bollington for Pentecost:

Father,
pour out your Spirit upon us, Bollington, grant us a new vision of your glory,
a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word,
a new consecration to your service, that your love may grow among us,
and your kingdom come: Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This Pentecost, will you join in and pray it for the church in Bollington too?
Every blessing, Nancy

Thinking about the front cover...

Pentecost, not a ghost but a gift

We used to call it Whitsun – ‘White Sunday’ because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. There are no processions nowadays, and we’ve even changed its name. It’s now ‘Pentecost’, which is more accurate but needs explaining.

Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover, they had an amazing collective experience.



They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3,000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church. Many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn't helped by the earlier title 'Holy Ghost'. The spirit is not spiritually a 'ghost' but a precious gift.



Elaine Ward RIP

By Christine Osbaldiston

Just a few word about Elaine Ward, who died on the 12th April.

Born in Nottingham, Elaine was a clever child and went on to pass her 11 plus, won a scholarship to Nottingham High School for girls and went on to study history at Reading University. Elaine graduated in 1964 took a Diploma in Education and qualified to teach History at Secondary School. She got a job at St Albans High School in

Hertfordshire teaching O and A level History.

Elaine met Chris while she was at university, and they married in 1966. In 1974 Chris joined ICI Pharmaceuticals and they moved to Bollington where, after Jonathon and Oliver were born, she became a stay-at-home mum. Once Oliver started school, Elaine shared the running of the newly formed Allsorts playgroup based at St Johns School.

Elaine became a regular member of St Oswald's congregation, going on to lead St Johns Mothers Union, joined the NSPCC Committee and was an original member of the East Cheshire Hospice Bollington Support Group, fund raising before the hospice was built.

Elaine loved gardening and flower arranging both at home and at St Oswald's, under Elaine's watch the church was not often without flowers and she made

a point of making sure they were never without water. She also spent many hours with Chris weeding and making sure the church garden was kept in order.

A kind and generous person who found the time to visit the elderly, always the first one to talk to new people in church, and until recently, always doing jobs around the church building. A significant and valued member of our congregation for many years, we will miss her.

**

Here is a famous poem much-loved by Elaine, which was read at her funeral.

The Glory of the Garden

Our England is a garden that is full of stately views,
Of borders, beds and shrubberies and lawns and avenues,
With statues on the terraces and peacocks strutting by;
But the Glory of the Garden lies in more than meets the eye.

For where the old thick laurels grow, along the thin red wall,
You'll find the tool- and potting-sheds which are the heart of all,
The cold-frames and the hot-houses, the dungpits and the tanks,
The rollers, carts and drainpipes, with the barrows and the planks.

And there you'll see the gardeners, the men and 'Prentice boys
Told off to do as they are bid and do it without noise;
For, except when seeds are planted and we shout to scare the birds,
The Glory of the Garden it abideth not in words.

And some can pot begonias, and some can bud a rose,
And some are hardly fit to trust with anything that grows;
But they can roll and trim the lawns and sift the sand and loam,
For the Glory of the Garden occupieth all who come.

Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made
By singing: "Oh, how beautiful!" and sitting in the shade,
While better men than we go out and start their working lives
At grubbing weeds from gravel-paths with broken dinner-knives.

There's not a pair of legs so thin, there's not a head so thick,
There's not a hand so weak and white, nor yet a heart so sick,
But it can find some needful job that's crying to be done,
For the Glory of the Garden glorifieth every one.

Then seek your job with thankfulness and work till further orders,
If it's only netting strawberries or killing slugs on borders;
And when your back stops aching and your hands begin to harden,
You will find yourself a partner in the Glory of the Garden.

Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees,
So when your work is finished, you can wash your hands and pray
For the Glory of the Garden that it may not pass away!
And the Glory of the Garden it shall never pass away!

Rudyard Kipling 1865-1936

**

From the Registers

Funeral

7th May Elaine Ann Triscott Ward



CURATE'S CORNER

with Jenny Eades

So, what (and how) do we think about God?
(And a quick grammar lesson!)

This week I've been visiting Edinburgh and on Sunday I went, for the first time, to my son's church of St Peter's, Musselburgh. It's a Scottish Episcopal church – that's Anglican but

NOT Church of England. Similabut different!

And St Peter's Musselburgh are currently hosting an art exhibition by local artist Benet Haughton <https://benethaughton.co.uk/> . Beautiful, thought-provoking paintings in a beautiful setting.

And in his sermon that morning, the priest spoke of God as an artist and shared with us a poem by Jack E Miller called God is Gerund. Now a gerund, if you remember or were ever taught grammar, is a verb behaving a bit like a noun and usually ending in 'ing' – so 'sour dough **baking** is one way I pray', or '**reading** helps me unwind' .

And Miller's poem has beautiful lines such as "*God is Being, God is the unfolding of a flower*" and "*God is diving from the deep, Awakening from Sleep.....having compassion*".

You can find the whole poem on the internet if you want to read it all here <https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/god-is-gerund/>

People argue about whether God existsor not. But some would say that God is not a *thing*, a noun, to exist or otherwiseand God is definitely NOT an old guy in the sky with a beard! Rather, God is Being and Loving And laughing and playing and dancing in the rain.

In other words, God is a verb (or a gerund) much more than God is a thing. The

ancient Greeks used to say ‘When friends meet, a god happens’ and I like that. God is an activity, a happening, a moment of wonder, a sudden glimpse of sunshine after rain, the kind word, the gentle touch at the right time. God is wonder, laughing together, having compassion. I love the idea of God moments and I experience them in Bollington when I am with you all.

So perhaps my son’s Scottish Episcopal priest who spoke of God as being **an** artist might also have said, God is creativity or even God is the act of creating a new world, a kind world out of the mess and muddle of reality. God is something we are all doing – together – making all things new, each and every day of our lives.

And God is blessing one another – God bless!
Jenny

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Bollington Well Dressing

A message from Fiona May

Bollington Well Dressing has been popular for many years.



Photo: Donald Judge

Our theme for this year is ‘Let’s Go...Bollington.’

We will be celebrating the many wonderful outdoor activities that living or visiting in this area can offer.

Opening ceremony: Saturday 28th June

Open for viewing: Saturday 28th June - Wednesday 9th July

There will be a volunteer run cafe on the recreation ground available throughout the viewing days.

Churches mark 80th Anniversary of VE Day with commemorations, bell ringing, and prayers for peace

Churches across England have played their part in the recent commemorations to mark the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day.

The commemorations on 8th May provided an opportunity to honour the sacrifices made by those who served in the conflict. They also provided an opportunity to pray for lasting peace, echoing the spirit of unity that defined the end of the Second World War in Europe.

Across the country, thousands of church bells rang out at 6.30pm on VE Day. This echoed the bellringing that swept across the country in 1945, as churches and cathedrals joined in the national joy and thanksgiving.

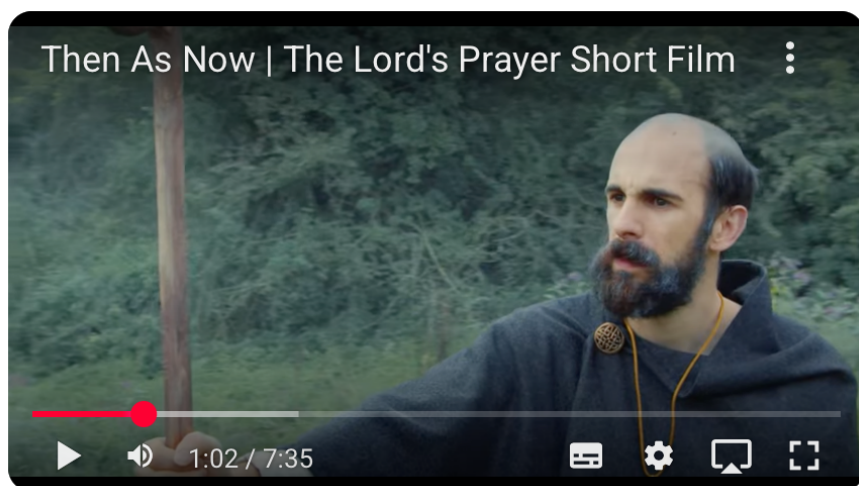


Thousands of parishes held their own services of commemoration, while people at home lit virtual candles online, in honour of loved ones who had taken part in the war.

The Bishop of St Germans, Hugh Nelson, the lead Bishop for the Armed Forces, said:

“The 80th anniversary of VE Day was a time to remember with deep gratitude the courage and sacrifice of those who fought for the freedoms we enjoy today.” He went on to say that in this “increasingly dangerous world”, it was good “to offer prayers for peace. As we

honour the past, so we renew our commitment to building a more peaceful and just world for all.”



Faith of the northern saints explored in short film

The power of the Lord's Prayer is celebrated in a new short film that is part of the Archbishop of York's current 'Faith in the North' initiative. *Then as Now* is available to watch from the [Archbishop of York's YouTube channel](#).

Set in the magnificent landscape of the north-east, the film interweaves the faith of the old northern saints from the 7th century (including St Cuthbert and St Hild) to the faith of Christians today. *Faith in the North* is a prayer, storytelling and church-planting movement led by Archbishop Cottrell. His aim is to encourage people across the Northern Province to explore the Lord's Prayer afresh during 2025.

Archbishop Cottrell says: "The Lord's Prayer has been spoken through the centuries by countless people seeking strength, direction, and peace. If you've never prayed before, this is the best place to start and if you've been praying this for some time, it's a great opportunity to engage anew with each line of the prayer. Join me in rediscovering Christ's story in our hearts and communities today."

All in the month of June

It was:

175 years ago, on 24th June 1850, that Herbert Kitchener, the 1st Earl Kitchener, was born. This Irish-born British Army officer became Secretary of War during WW1, when he appeared on an iconic poster asking people to join the army.

150 years ago, on 3rd June 1875, that George Bizet, French Romantic composer, died of a heart attack at 36. Best known for his opera *Carmen*.

125 years ago, on 25th June 1900, that Louis Mountbatten, 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma, was born. He became Governor-General of India (1947-48), First Sea Lord (1955-59), and Chief of the Defence Staff (1959-65). Assassinated in 1979 by an IRA bomb planted on his fishing boat.

90 years ago, on 1st June 1935, that driving tests became compulsory for all new drivers in Britain.

80 years ago, on 22nd June 1945, that the Battle of Okinawa in Japan ended (after 82 days). This battle saw the highest number of casualties in the Pacific Theatre of the war, with more than 265,000 killed.

75 years ago, on 3rd June 1950, that the first successful ascent of Annapurna in the Himalayas was made. It was the first successful ascent of a mountain over 8,000 metres. Annapurna is the tenth highest mountain in the world.

70 years ago, on 11th June 1955 that the Le Mans disaster took place. A car spun off the track, killing 83 spectators and injuring 100 more.

50 years ago, on 18th June 1975, that the first North Sea oil was pumped ashore to Britain.

40 years ago, on 2nd June 1985 that UEFA banned all English football clubs from playing in European competitions following the Heysel Stadium disaster of 28th May. The ban was lifted after five years.

30 years ago, on 25th June 1995 that Ernest Walton, Irish physicist died. He was the first person to split an atom.

25 years ago, on 10th June 2000, that the Millenium Bridge opened in London. It closed for a while two days later, when it was found to sway uncomfortably when people walked in step.

15 yeas ago, on 28th June 2010, that the US Supreme Court ruled that all American citizens have the right to own a gun. The right is protected by the Second and the Fourteenth Amendments. There are an estimated 393 million privately owned guns in the USA, and about 340 million people.

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Smile Lines

Notices in a church newssheet:

- Organist required: to work with small but trying priest and congregation.
- The Low Self Esteem Support Group meets Thursday. Please use the back door.
- There will be a shared supper at church this Sunday – with prayer and medication to follow.
- The students will be presenting Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in the church basement Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Good quote

A certain bishop had a fondness for using Bible quotations whenever he visited a function. When he arrived to open a new Maternity Home the organisers thought: "Now we have him stumped." However, after a few well-chosen words, the bishop smiled and said: "I know you are waiting for a quotation, so here it is: 'We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed!'"

Book of Remembrance for June

2 nd June	Jeffrey Newcombe
4 th June	Sue Bennett
6 th June	Ian Hough
6 th June	Rachel Mary Arnold
6 th June	Annie Fisher
6 th June	Joe Fisher
7 th June	Albert Clayton
7 th June	Bertha Jackson
7 th June	Ethel Fidler
7 th June	Fred Walton
8 th June	Jimmy Bennett
8 th June	Mary H Sutton
9 th June	William Alexander Robb
10 th June	Graham Hough
10 th June	James Blower
10 th June	Donald Ainsworth
11 th June	Edith (Cissie) Hough
12 th June	William Ian Hughes
12 th June	Eva Martin
12 th June	William (Billy) Ainsworth
13 th June	Peggy Wakefield
13 th June	Jason P Whitworth
14 th June	Ethel Arnold
17 th June	Edmund Heathcote
17 th June	Ethel Cantrell
19 th June	John T Bowyer
22 nd June	Reginald Isherwood Stearn
22 nd June	Mary Ashton
23 rd June	Harry Brailsford
24 th June	John Keith Arnold
26 th June	Ruth Robinson
30 th June	Ida Mary Robinson



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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 July-August issue to reach Anne by 20th June.

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Good to think about

Don't put a question mark where God puts a full stop.

Are you wrinkled with burdens? Come to the church for a facelift.

When praying, don't give God instructions - just report for duty.

God grades on the cross, not the curve.

To forget a wrong is the best revenge.

The last ten years of life are the best, because we are freest from illusions and fullest of experience. - *Benjamin Jowett*

The evening of a well-spent life brings its lamps with it. - *Joseph Joubert*

Worship in June



Sunday 1st June - 10.30am Parish Communion **with Baptism**

Sunday 8th June - **PENTECOST** 10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 15th June - **TRINITY SUNDAY** 10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd June - 10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 29th June - 10.30am Holy Communion

Trinity Sunday, celebrating our God who is Three Persons

Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself – way out there in space, and unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father. The light that flows from it, which gives us life and illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, are *of* the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

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, 3.30pm to 4.30pm