

Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



July/August 2025

Price 50p



Who's Who at St Oswald's

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The Parochial Church Council April 2025-2026

Val Genders, Ann Mather, Christine Osbaldiston, Jackie Pengelly, Richard Raymond, 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

One of the joys of being in St Oswald's on a Sunday is singing. Everybody can join in, it has great acoustics, we've all got the words, our magnificent organ raises the tune, the choir gives us a strong lead, and (at least by the last verse) we're singing well and it's joyful. It doesn't matter if we go wrong because we're joining in with heaven's song, which is always made angelic and beautiful.



Worship is timeless. The psalms are worship songs written thousands of years ago, which sing about humanity's experience of life and relationship with God that is as relevant today as ever.

"The Lord's my shepherd", Psalm 23, has been a favourite for generations. "Praise my soul the King of heaven" was thought to be the favourite of the late Queen and is loved by many people. I love "Thine be the glory" (but to be honest my favourite hymn changes with the church seasons). This week we sang the wonderful "Great is Thy faithfulness" and we all love singing "How great Thou art" and some of the Wesley classics.

"Shine, Jesus shine", nowadays an old favourite from 40 years ago. This Easter a children's favourite was the 2014 hymn "At the cross (love ran red)". Many modern worship hymns have very good theology, avoiding the problem lines we sing in many Victorian hymns, "No crying he makes." Really? A baby?

I regularly pray using the hymn "Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy one is here", the line "No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him" has often been my prayer.

Singing along to Songs of Praise is one way, but did you know that the top of

the worship song charts - "10,000 reasons (Bless the Lord)" by Matt Redman - has now been streamed 109 million times?

Favourite hymns give us a repertoire of prayer and worship for our lives that are part of our walk with God. But nothing quite beats joyfully singing them together in St Oswald's!

Have a happy summer.
God bless
Nancy

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Thinking about the front cover...

Be Still and Know...

"Be still and know that I am God" Psalm 46:10

Have you ever thought of taking some time out of daily life, to simply 'be still' with God? To hear His voice, enjoy His presence, and perhaps receive His direction for your future? His voice is always calming, always reassuring, it makes us feel overwhelmingly loved. It always gives us a sense of peace, which is deeper than any pain and stronger than any fear. No wonder the Scriptures talk of a 'peace that passes all understanding!'



He speaks to us through His word, the Bible. Then, as we sit in by our window looking out at the world, He gently whispers His instructions through all of nature, it sounds a bit like this.....The blue sky says; "Always Look Up", the Sun says; "Shine," the birds say; "Sing", the trees say; "be fruitful", the flowers say; "consider the Lilies", The open road ahead says; "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel" The gentle rustle of the wind in the trees says; "Though you can't see My face, you can hear Me, see reflections of Me, feel Me, touch Me and know me though all I create, if you just take the time to be still!."

Remembering John Rickman

John Rickman, a member of St Oswald's, died recently.

John was born in Taunton in 1941. His spine needed treatment, and he remembered being taken from Cornwall to Great Ormond Street Hospital on the train, with bombs coming down. His medical problems led the doctors to tell his mother that her son would not live to be 50. Instead, he lived to be 84!



When John was 15, the family decided to try life down under and emigrate to Australia. John loved the long sea journey and loved the ships. Australia didn't work out and he and his mother returned soon after.

John went to Exeter University to study for a BSc in Chemistry, graduating in 1962. He worked initially in London and joined ICI (now Astra Zeneca) in 1968 as an Experimental Officer. He continued to work for ICI until his retirement in 1998 as a Pharmaceutical Registration Officer.

John loved his racquet sports and walking. He was never a fast walker, and he always had the dirtiest boots of the group, but he loved it and reached the top of many hills and mountains.

John died quite suddenly at home at the age of 84. His funeral was at Macclesfield Crematorium on 28th May 2025.

Here two members of the church pay tribute to John Rickman...

‘John was a down-to-earth kind of character...’

Martin Crundall remembers a good friend

As his surname suggests, John had German antecedents. I believe that his grandfather ran away to sea, which may perhaps partly account for John’s interest in ships.

My friendship with John began in the 1990s, when we were both walking home after the Sunday morning service at St Oswald’s, and John suddenly invited me to share a mid-day dinner (not lunch) with him. Over the next 20 years or so, together with two other of John’s friends, we explored the many footpaths within about a 15-mile radius of Bollington.

Of John’s earlier years, I only know what John and his mother, who came to live with him in her later years, told me.

John’s distinctive appearance was due to the curvature of his spine. His mother suggested that early intervention might have corrected this, but for some reason this had not happened.

But John never let his spinal problem hold him back. He was a chemist who had worked for ICI and subsequently Zeneca. He had many friends from university, work colleagues and his other interests, particularly those he met playing racket sports, tennis, table tennis and badminton, and he was well known locally.

It has been told to me that some badminton players, who on encountering John for the first time, were quickly disabused of the idea that John’s appearance would ensure them of an easy game! He was a very good all-round player.

He was also an enthusiastic gardener, a member of the local association and spent a lot of time growing flowers, fruit and vegetables in his garden and conservatory and tending to the flower beds around St Oswald’s.

John was a 'down-to earth' common-sense character who stuck to well-used furnishings, utensils, kitchen and electrical equipment, while avoiding modern electronics. He did his own cooking, re-introducing me (mostly a vegetarian) to traditional 'meat and two veg and gravy' dinners, and rejecting what he referred to as 'foreign rubbish'!

For many years, John helped to distribute the Bollington Live magazine, and also our own church magazine. For the latter he collected the money from the advertisers, sometimes from as far away as Poynton. He was also the treasurer for the CHUB group. John was a good and well-loved friend to me, and I think to many others. It was sad to see his slow decline after the Covid lockdown.

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R.I.P. John Rickman



Ann Stringer writes of John...

He was such a lovely person to have known. John worked hard for the church magazine for many years, acting as our treasurer. In those years, the magazine was a separate entity from the church funds, and financed itself so well from advertising that we were actually able to GIVE up to £1,000 to the PCC, from time to time! Our healthy income was entirely due to the efforts of John. No local business or shop was safe from him calling on them, and asking if they would advertise in the magazine, and he got results!

He was also a long-time member of the Bollington Horticultural Society, and a generous sponsor for the show.

His recent funeral was full of friends from the many groups in which he was involved. Many thanks to Revd Nancy for her warm eulogy, and for taking the funeral on the day.

Christian Aid Week 2025

By Richard Jones



In the early 19th century Alexander von Humboldt travelled to South America and reported on the environmental degradation caused by the cutting down of trees to make way for huge farms.

200 years later that degradation, exacerbated by climate change has reached a scale beyond Humboldt's worst nightmares and is causing real poverty, particularly among indigenous peoples. In the Alta Verapaz region of Guatemala indigenous communities have observed many impacts of climate change including extended dry seasons, the degradation of soil, contamination of water and a decreasing diversity of plants and crops.

In the face of these challenges the resilience, the ingenuity and the determination of local people is inspiring. Aurelia is a farmer and leader in the Q'eqchi' community in the Alta Verapaz region of Guatemala. Faced with problems of land degradation she obtained agricultural training and support from Congcoop which is funded by Christian Aid.

With Congcoop she learned to cultivate crops which are better suited to the changing climate, to construct rainwater collection systems and nurseries, to produce organic fertilizer and food for her chickens. She is now growing cacao, sugarcane, cinnamon, corn and pineapples. Most important of all she is inspiring others in her community to make changes and create a better world. All this is made possible first of all by vision and determination of the people of Guatemala but also by the support of charities like Christian Aid.

This year, thanks to the work and generosity of the congregation, St Oswald's Church raised £763.17 for Christian Aid. Thank you everyone.



CURATE'S CORNER

with Jenny Eades

Package Tour or Pilgrimage?

Summer is a time when our thoughts turn to travel. The BBC series *Pilgrimage* reflects a growing interest in travel for spiritual reasons – making a journey as a spiritual practice or a kind of prayer, rather than primarily for business or pleasure.

And it's easy to see how walking an ancient pilgrim's route, as the celebrities do on the television series, can be a spiritual practice. But I think that ANY journey, any HOLIDAY, can also be a HOLY day or series of HOLY days – a spiritual practice that refreshes you deep down.



For many years my family have holidayed on the Orkney Islands, off the northern tip of Scotland. We gather together as a family, away from the world and ordinary business and we look and we listen and we soak up the beauty, the history, the wildlife, the music, the FOOD of Orkney.

It has always felt like a family pilgrimage from which we return refreshed in body, mind and spirit.

So, how can you turn ANY holiday into a pilgrimage or spiritual practice?

Firstly, LOOK at the place you're staying in or visiting.

Don't just take photos – really look at what's there – the people, the wildlife, the architecture, the flowers and the landscape.

Take time to look closely. You might even take a pad and pencil and draw what you see – no-one need ever see your drawings – just the act of looking long enough to put pencil to paper will ensure you remember that place, that time, as no selfie ever will.



Then LISTEN – to the locals, to the birds, to the sounds of the sea. The free birding app Merlin identifies bird song and that can help you slow down and enjoy the sounds of nature. Scientists say that hearing birdsong sends a chemical to our brain that brings us joy!

And finally consider VISITING a local place of worship, if you can, and spend time feeling thankful for the hope and the courage and the faith of the generations of people who have lived in that place.

And perhaps say a prayer – for them, for yourself and your loved ones – that you, too, may return home refreshed in body, mind and spirit. Safe travels,

God bless, Jenny

Our Nancy takes part in Clergy Support Trust's Festival Service at St Paul's

In May our vicar, Nancy, was delighted to be part of the Clergy Support Trust's 370th Festival Service in St Paul's Cathedral.

The first festival service was held way back in 1655, when it acted as the founding event of the Trust. And there has been a Festival Service almost every year since then, making this one of the oldest musical events in the world.

As the Clergy Support Trust is an important national charity, senior figures took part in the service: the Archbishop of York, the Lord Mayor of London, and the City of London Livery companies. The magnificent choirs of three cathedrals provided the singing, and as one of the charity's three Treasurers (senior trustees), Nancy took part in the procession.

Nancy said "When the huge doors of St Paul's Cathedral opened and the noise of the bells gave way to the trumpet fanfare and the three choirs sang out with thousands of people present, it was magnificent.

"But after processing up the aisle, which is a full hymn length in St Paul's, the worship of God was in essence just as our worship of God is in St Oswald's, full of joy."



A big THANK YOU to the Bollington Girl Guides!

On a beautiful sunny Monday evening in June the Bollington St Oswald's Guides came to the graveyard at St John's for their meeting. The girls worked really hard for an hour and a half, pulling up weeds, sweeping the



paths, moving old flowers, removing broken pots and anything made of glass.

Meanwhile, we talked about how graveyards are places filled with love and stories. We inspected the rest of the graveyard which had beautiful wild flowers and grasses swaying in the breeze amongst the gravestones. The swifts flew overhead and birds were singing in the trees. The hard work was inspired by the Guides' desire to do random acts of kindness in their community.

Afterwards the columbarium looked so neat and tidy. Bags of rubbish were removed, and the girls had a well-earned rest. We finished in the columbarium by saying a prayer together and we sang taps:

"Day is done, gone the sun,
from the sea, from the hills, from the sky.
All is well, safely rest,
God is nigh."

All in the month of July

It was:

150 years ago, on 26th July 1875 that Carl Jung, Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst was born. He was the founder of analytical psychology.

125 years ago, on 2nd July 1900 that the premiere of Finnish composer Jean Sibelius's tone poem *Finlandia* (*Opus 26*) was given in Helsinki.

100 years ago, on 21st July 1925 that racing driver Malcolm Campbell became the first person to travel at over 150 mph. He raced at Pendine Sands in Wales.

80 years ago, on 5th July 1945 that WW2 leader Winston Churchill lost the General Election to Clement Attlee's Labour Party.

70 years ago, on 16th July 1955 that Stirling Moss became the first British driver to win the British Grand Prix.

Also 70 years ago, on 23rd July 1955 that racing driver Donald Campbell broke the world water speed record breaking the 200-mph barrier at Ullswater.

65 years ago, on 14th July 1960 that primatologist Jane Goodall arrived in Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania to study chimpanzees in the wild.

60 years ago, on 8th July 1965 that Great Train Robber Ronnie Briggs escaped from Wandsworth Prison in London. He lived in Brazil until 2001, when he returned to London and was re-imprisoned. Released in 2009, he died in 2013.

40 years ago, on 13th July 1985 that the two Live Aid concerts were held simultaneously in London and Philadelphia, as well as at other venues such as Sydney and Moscow. They raised millions of pounds for famine relief in Africa.

30 years ago, from 11th to 22nd July 1995 that the Srebrenica Massacre took place. The Bosnian Serb army massacred 8,000 men and boys.

25 years ago, on 23rd July 2000 that American golfer Tiger Woods, then 24, became the youngest player to win the Grand Slam.

20 years ago, that the 7th July (2005) London bombings took place. The coordinated series of four suicide bomb attacks on London's transport system during the morning rush hour killed 56 people and injured more than 700. It was the worst-ever terrorist attack on Britain, and the country's first attack by suicide bombers.

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All in the month of August

It was 1700 years ago, on 25th August 325 that the First Council of Nicaea ended with the adoption of the Nicene Creed. It summarised the Christian faith and established the doctrine of the Holy Trinity.

Also 250 years ago, on 23rd August 1775 that King George III issued the Proclamation of Rebellion. It stated that the American colonies were in a state of open rebellion, and must be suppressed.

150 years ago, on 4th August 1875 that Hans Christian Anderson, Danish writer, died. Best known for his fairy tales, such as *The Emperor's New Clothes*, *The Little Mermaid*, *The Princess and the Pea*, *The Ugly Duckling*, and many more.

125 years ago, on 25th August 1900 that Friedrich Nietzsche, German philosopher and philologist, died. His work had a major impact on modern intellectual history. One of his most prominent concepts was the 'will to power', which he believed was the main driving force in humans.

100 years ago, on 5th August 1925 that the Welsh nationalist political party Plaid Cymru was founded. Today it holds four of the 32 Welsh seats in the UK Parliament, 12 of the 60 seats in the Senedd, and 202 of the 1,231 principal local authority councillors.

90 years ago, on 21st August 1935 that John Hartley, British tennis player, died. He was the only clergyman ever to win Wimbledon, and in fact he was world number 1 player in both 1879 and 1880 – winning Wimbledon both years.

80 years ago, on 6th August 1945 that the US Army Air Forces dropped the world's first atomic bomb - on the city of Hiroshima in Japan. The centre of the city was destroyed, and about 80,000 people were killed immediately. A further 60,000 died by the end of the year, from injury or radiation.

70 years ago, on 28th August 1955 that Emmett Till, an African American teenager was mutilated and killed in Mississippi, after flirting with a white woman. His death was a key event to motivate the Civil Rights Movement.

50 years ago, on 20th August 1975 that NASA launched its Viking 1 space probe on a mission to Mars. It was the first spacecraft to land successfully on Mars.

40 years ago, on 22nd August 1985 that the Manchester Air Disaster took place when a British Airtours Boeing 737 burst into flames. 55 people were killed.

20 years ago, from 23rd to 30th August 2005 that Hurricane Katrina hit the Bahamas, Cuba and southern USA. The city of New Orleans was flooded by 80 per cent, and altogether more than 1,800 people died.

10 years ago, on 1st August 2015 that Cilla Black, pop singer and TV presenter died. Known for her hit song *Anyone who had a heart* and for presenting *Blind Date* and *Surprise Surprise*.

**

Preaching hazards

Showing your new parish that you are a forceful preacher may not always be a good idea, as the Revd Sydney Smith found out when he first arrived at All Saints Church in Foston in 1806. "When I began to thump the pulpit cushion on my first coming to Foston, the accumulated dust of 150 years made such a cloud that for some minutes I lost sight of the congregation."

Be encouraged by Mary Magdalene

Six Marys are mentioned in the New Testament, including Mary Magdalene, who is remembered this month in the church's calendar (22nd July). What can we learn from Mary's story?

We don't have to be defined by our past:

When Jesus encountered Mary, He cast seven demons out of her (Luke 8:2). As a result, her life was transformed, and she became a follower of Jesus. Her life as a disciple was no longer defined by the person she had been before. Like Mary, we don't have to let our past without Christ dictate how we see ourselves today.

Make Jesus the centre of our world:

Along with some of the women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases (Luke 8:1-3), Mary followed Jesus and His disciples and supported them in ministry. She was there at the cross (Matthew 27:55-56) and one of the first to the tomb on the Sunday (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1 and John 20:1-18). Like Mary, we are called to serve Jesus as dedicated disciples.

Jesus uses the weakest people for His purposes:

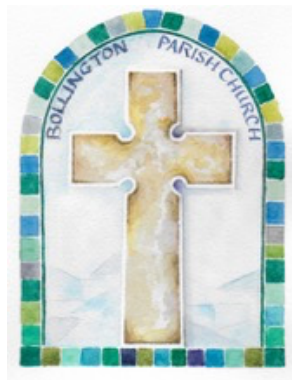
Mary is a great example of Paul's words: *'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.'* (1 Corinthians 1:27).

At a time when women were regarded as second-class citizens with no real autonomy, Jesus had a special compassion and care for women. Alongside Mary, the women's witness to the resurrection was taken seriously. We shouldn't be quick to dismiss the things that don't agree with our expectations, as Jesus doesn't always do what we expect! He delights in working out His plans through unlikely people and in surprising ways. He did this through Mary, and if we allow Him, He can do it through us!

Book of Remembrance

July

1 st July	Alan Medley
3 rd July	Florence Stearn
4 th July	Hilda Kelly
5 th July	Frank Johnstone Pimblott
8 th July	Mary Foster
10 th July	Harry Ainsworth
13 th July	Roy Osbaldiston
13 th July	Jane Margaret Sauer
14 th July	Samuel Victor Kershaw
15 th July	Donald Wilson
17 th July	Thomas Brocklehurst
19 th July	Les Lappin
19 th July	Charles Green
21 st July	Elsie Lea
22 nd July	Sylvia Brunt
22 nd July	James Bennett
22 nd July	Olive Lane
25 th July	Sylvia Lily Thomas
27 th July	Annie Williamson
29 th July	Joseph Edward Pye



August

2 nd August	Henry John Allen
4 th August	Edward Holmes
5 th August	Susan Elizabeth Walker
12 th August	Margaret Wardle
15 th August	Mary Walker
17 th August	John Kenyon
18 th August	Paul Michael Iverson

21 st August	Fred Horrox
21 st August	Ada Henson
24 th August	John William Spooner
26 th August	Violet Jackson
28 th August	Kathleen Conroy (nee Osbaldiston)
28 th August	Margaret Annie Spooner
28 th August	Geoffrey Mellor
29 th August	Kenneth Gaskell
30 th August	John Fred (Jack) Oldfield
31 st August	Stella Gascoigne

Would you like to include the name of a departed loved one? An entry costs £10. Please contact Ann Stringer on 01625 574325

Church organ repairs get the go-ahead

At the PCC meeting in June we were delighted to give the 'go ahead' for the repairs to the church organ. The organ in St Oswald's is a quality instrument, which needs an overhaul to keep it in good shape for the future. Visiting organists always comment that it is difficult to play, as random pipes, keys and pedals don't work, which of course shows the amazing skill of our regular organists, who know how to play around the broken notes!

The repair quote is £7,800, and our fund raising is very nearly there. This good news means that we are now in the organ-builder's pipeline of work for the year ahead. Organ building and repair is such a specialist craft that we are delighted that the St Oswald's organ will receive the care it needs.

Open wide

A lady was very nervous about her appointment at the dentist. She sought courage from her Bible. The verse her finger landed on was Psalm 81:10: 'Open thy mouth wide and I will fill it.'

What exactly is 'a lie'?

A little boy was asked in a school exam to explain what 'lying' is. He wrote: "A lie is an abomination unto the Lord, but a very present help in trouble."

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Or talk to Richard Raymond, our treasurer, on 01625 612025.

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

Deadline: Material for the September issue to reach Anne by 15th August.

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Good to think about

Prayer is the breath of faith. Prayer meetings are the lungs of the church. - *C H Spurgeon*

Prayer is not a convenient device for imposing our will upon God, or bending His will to ours, but the prescribed way of subordinating our will to His. - *John R W Stott*.

Humility, after the first shock, is a cheerful virtue. - *C S Lewis*

Worship in July and August

All services are held at 10.30am

Sunday 6 th July	Celtic Communion
Sunday 13 th July	Parish Communion
Sunday 20 th July	Parish Communion
Sunday 27 th July	Parish Communion
Sunday 3 rd August	Celtic Communion
Sunday 10 th August	Parish Communion
Sunday 17 th August	Parish Communion
Sunday 24 th August	Parish Communion
Sunday 31 st August	Parish Communion

Coffee Morning on Thursday 3rd July, 11.15am

(after the Communion service). Raffle and cake stall. Proceeds for Church funds.

Regular activities

Holy Communion - every Thursday morning at 10.30am

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

Sacred Space - Wednesdays, 3.30pm to 4.30pm

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

In May we chatted about what makes a good friendship. The next two last Wednesdays are 30th July and 27th August. Do come along. It's always good company with different people coming every time. Everyone is welcome.

