# **Bollington Church News**

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's





Vicar

# Who's Who at St Oswald's

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Deanery Synod: Anthea Wilkinson, Anne Coomes

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#### Letter from Nancy

# **Lest We Forget**

'In Flanders fields, the poppies grow between the crosses, row on row, that mark our places; and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amongst the guns below.'

This is the first stanza of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. Within months, it



came to symbolise the sacrifices of all who were fighting in the First World War. Today, the poppy remains a tangible symbol of all those who have sacrificed their lives in war. But why do we remember?

'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.' (Micah 4:3). Writing about 700 years before Christ, Micah's words have to be seen against a background of violence with the fall of Samaria and the instability created by the aggression of Assyria.

However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations come together in peace instead of war. His vision saw a time when the arms of war would be turned into farming tools and people would live in peaceful community.

Our understanding of *peace* is more than the avoidance of war or the absence of conflict. It's about building relationships between people, communities and nations, which positively creates a love and care for others founded on justice for all.

As we remember the sacrifice of those who died in the First and Second World Wars, our response must be to look practically at how we can build

relationships of peace and justice in our world, starting with our own families, colleagues and neighbourhoods. As Micah says, 'we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.' (4:5). We always need God's presence and power to change us into the people who have a passion for peace and justice, and compassion for everyone.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.'

We will remember them.

**Blessings** 

Nancy

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Reflecting on the front cover

# The poppies of Remembrance Sunday

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the

midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in





A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year.

Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.

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#### With Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day in mind

War is a tragedy which commonly destroys the stage it is acted on. Matthew Henry

Mankind must put an end to war, or war will put an end to mankind. John F Kennedy

Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. John Philpot Curran

# SILKLIFE needs your help this Christmas –



#### Please support their Reverse Advent Calendar!

This year Silklife Foodbank needs your help - with some essential food lines. It has responded to about 2,000 referrals this year, giving over 3500 bags of food to the vulnerable in our community.

For the team to continue to meet the need on this scale, it must hold three months of stock. Therefore, the Foodbank is asking only for essential items, so that it can stay open help the hungry of Macclesfield. (However, any festive items donated as extras will still be included in food parcels given to clients who are referred by professional teams throughout December.)

You can drop your donations for Silklife foodbank at either Tesco in Bollington or the Bollington Health and Leisure Centre.

#### **CURATE'S CORNER**

with Jenny Eades

# Remember – this too shall pass

This is the season for remembering. We remember those we have loved and see no longer. We remember the fallen in our world wars. Perhaps we



remember, as the leaves fall from the trees that we are mortal. There always seems, to me, to be a certain sadness in the air in November.

There is a phrase that is sometimes attributed to the Biblical King Soloman – 'This too shall pass'. The legend says that a Sultan asked Soloman for a phrase he could rely on in good times and bad and Soloman wrote, 'This too shall pass'.

When times are bad it can help to remember that, as the bible says, 'Weeping lasts for a night but joy comes in the morning' Ps 30:5. No bad situation lasts forever. Personally, when I feel stressed and overwhelmed I remind myself that in 500 years no-one will remember my name or what my little struggles were.

And when life is good, the same phrase is not meant to put a damper on our joy, but can remind us to enjoy life to the full, to live in the present, to receive and enjoy every gift that comes our way, to live for today. The promise of the Christian faith is that while it is true that human things shall pass away, God's love is eternal. Love shall never pass away.

I do not think human deeds will echo in eternity but faith and hope and love will. And I suspect that what our loved ones will remember when WE enter eternity will not be our achievements, our glamorous jobs or possessions but the kindness, the love, the little acts of goodness we showed. What I remember most about my mum, who died in a November many years ago, is that she was brave and that she loved me. Those things will never pass away.

#### How to treat our enemies

During this month we remember those who have heroically given their lives in war. However, Jesus calls us all to a radical heroism:

'You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.' (Matt 5:43-45).

**Love Your Enemies:** Our 'enemies' are not always life-threatening; they can simply be impatient, judgmental, self—righteous or just plain disagreeable! Whether the conflict is with a family or church member, work colleague or spiteful neighbour, our attitude toward them must be one of love. We will naturally want to retaliate, but Jesus commands us to love!

**Pray for Your Persecutors:** It's only when we are ready to pray for someone we don't get on with, that God can soften our attitude towards them. Like us, they are those in need of God's forgiveness and grace. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor executed by the Nazis at the end of World War 2, wrote:

'This is the supreme demand. Through the medium of prayer we go to our enemy, stand by his side, and plead for him to God. For if we pray for them, we are taking their distress and poverty, their guilt and perdition upon ourselves and pleading to God for them.'

**Become More Like Jesus:** When we start loving our enemies and praying for our persecutors, we become more like Jesus. This is how Jesus lived; He willingly laid down his life for us and gives us the power to love our enemies as He did.

In this season of Remembrance, when we recognise that we all need heroes, what is the call to radical heroism in our own life?

# 1<sup>st</sup> November - All Saints' Day, the feast day of all the redeemed

All Saints, or All Hallows, is the feast of all the redeemed, known and unknown, who are now in heaven. When the English Reformation took place, the number of saints in the calendar was drastically reduced, with the result that All Saints' Day stood out with a prominence that it had never had before.

This feast day first began in the East, perhaps as early as the 5th century, as commemorating 'the martyrs of the whole world'. A Northern English 9th century calendar named All Hallows as a principal feast, and such it has remained. Down the centuries devotional writers have seen in it the fulfilment of Pentecost and indeed of Christ's redemptive sacrifice and resurrection.

The saints do not belong to any religious tradition, and their lives and witness to Christ can be appreciated by all Christians. Richard Baxter, writing in the 17th century, wrote the following:

He wants not friends that hath thy love, And made converse and walk with thee, And with thy saints here and above, With whom for ever I must be...

As for my friends, they are not lost; The several vessels of thy fleet, Though parted now, by tempests tost, Shall safely in thy haven meet....

The heavenly hosts, world without end, Shall be my company above; And thou, my best and surest Friend, Who shall divide me from thy love?

# Travels of a Churchophile

#### By Alan Wilson

Who hasn't stood and gazed at the sheer grandeur of our great cathedrals, marvelled at the vision of the architects and skill of the stonemasons with thoughts of the sights and stories those walls could tell?

I know I have, but until recently I hadn't given anywhere near as much thought to their humbler kindred, the parish church. Whereas there are 61 cathedrals in England (42 Anglican, 19 Catholic) churches vastly outnumber them.



St Oswald's Ashbourne

My interest in churches was given great impetus by acquiring a copy of Simon Jenkins's book *England's Thousand Best Churches*. He says "there are roughly 8,000 extant pre-Reformation churches in England and about the same number of Anglican churches built since then, plus countless places of worship of other denominations".

So, in June this year I began, in what I hope will be the first of many such visits, with a trip to Ashbourne, primarily to see St Oswald's church. There is an excellent guide produced by the Town Council. This features a 'history walk', and much else including the fascinating background to Ashbourne Royal Shrovetide, the street football game played every Shrove Tuesday and Ash

Wednesday, and a very good introduction to St Oswald's, although I later made sure to buy the church's 30-page booklet with its lovely full colour photographs.

It is probable Christian missionaries from Iona coming to Ashbourne account for the dedication to St Oswald. The church was consecrated in 1241 and the brass plate recording it is still there. There's no way I can do justice to a church with a spire 212 feet high which was once a candidate to be the cathedral for the Derby Diocese, so I shall just mention a few highlights: a church nearly 800 years old has witnessed many an event, and the way it looks now inside the church is not how it's always looked.

Some things however are well recorded for posterity: the great number and variety of windows, and the numerous tombs and effigies in the Boothby Chapel housing memorials to some local families. The one that stands out is the white marble tomb to Penelope Boothby who died age 5 in 1791. She is depicted in a long frock and appears so lifelike she appears to be sleeping.

The 19th century saw a number of new stained glass windows, and there is a nice little booklet included with the guidebook which lists them all, too many to mention here. The first organ was set up in 1710, and there have been several improvements and restorations since then, the latest in 2011. The present peal of eight bells dates from 1815; in 1931 it proved necessary to relocate and the ringing chamber was abandoned and the ropes lengthened down to floor level.

This was a most enjoyable visit to Ashbourne, with St Oswald's as the highlight for me, and has convinced me that, failing a personal tour of a church by the local churchwarden such as we experience on our 'Chub' visits, getting hold of a good church booklet and allowing enough time to fully appreciate it, is the next best option.

Even so, in the time available it's impossible to fully absorb every aspect of a church of this size and history, but capturing the essence of it can be very rewarding.

# Time to remember the Persecuted Church

Have you ever felt frightened to go to church? Afraid that someone might see you and report you to the authorities?

380 million Christians around the world have that anxiety, because one in seven Christians worldwide live in countries with high levels of persecution. That includes one in five in Africa and one in seven in Asia. These Christians make up the Persecuted Church, and live with the threat of discrimination, violence, imprisonment, and even death.

To support these suffering Christians, The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) is held each year in November. It is a good month to choose, because November is the month of remembrance — not only of our armed forces on Remembrance Sunday, but also of all Christian saints and martyrs who have given their lives for Christ, on All Saints Day and All Souls Day.

And so, on 2<sup>nd</sup> November thousands of Christians in churches across the UK will pray for the Persecuted Church worldwide. They will also send practical help through supporting well-established UK organisations such as Open Doors, Release International and Christian Solidarity Worldwide. These work to advocate for persecuted Christians in the UN and to advocate with national governments. They also distribute humanitarian aid to the affected communities around the world.

If you would like to join in this year, Open Doors, Release International, Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), and International Christian Concern offer you digital resource packs containing prayer guides, information about specific regions of persecution, and materials for church services, home groups, and children's activities.

Meanwhile, here are some things to consider (figures from Open Doors):

Worldwide, at least 4,476 Christians were killed last year for their faith. Nigeria alone accounted for 3,100 of them. Other countries in sub-Saharan Africa have seen rising numbers of Christian deaths.

Worldwide, at least 4,744 Christians were detained. They were arrested and detained without trial. Some were then sentenced and imprisoned for following Jesus. In India alone, 1,629 Christians were detained without trial and another 547 were sentenced to prison. Believers were incarcerated for their faith in Eritrea, Bangladesh, Iran amongst others.

Worldwide, at least 210,000 Christians were driven from their homes last year and forced into hiding. Again, almost half of these were in Nigeria, where militant Islamism is on the rise.

As for individual countries, in Algeria alone last year, *all* the Protestant churches were ordered to close, or were forced to stop regular services. In Mexico, where organised crime is rampant, any Christians who protest at the violence become themselves a target for abduction and murder. In Kyrgyzstan, violence against Christians is also on the rise, as the authoritarian government further represses religious freedom.

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#### With Remembrance Sunday in mind....

A great war leaves the country with three armies — an army of cripples, an army of mourners and an army of thieves. - *Anon* 

War is the slaughterhouse of mankind, and the hell of this present world. - *John Trapp* 

War is not an act of God but a crime of man. - Cordell Hull, former US Secretary of State

# St Andrew and football

'Some people think football is a matter of life and death. I don't like that attitude. I can assure them it is much more serious than that' (Bill Shankley). When you replace the word 'football' with 'mission', this quote still has something to say! The apostle Andrew (we remember him on 30<sup>th</sup> November) demonstrates what the mission of the Church is all about (cf John 1:35-42). It's not unlike following your favourite football team!

When we support a football team, we make sure that we know all about them! When Andrew and his friend heard about Jesus, they wanted to find out more: 'Look, the Lamb of God.' (John the Baptist, v35). The first stage of mission is finding out more about Jesus, the One who enables us to be friends of God through His death and resurrection.

Secondly, when supporting a football team, we will spend time watching their games. Andrew asked, 'where are you staying?' and Jesus replied, 'Come and you will see' (v39). Andrew spent the rest of the day talking and listening to Jesus. As a result of this time, he had something to share. How much time do we spend with Jesus, reading His word and praying?

When our team wins, we want to share the good news! After meeting Jesus, Andrew's first action was to tell his brother Peter: 'We have found the Messiah' (that is, the Christ)' (v41). Are we willing to tell others about Him too? Sharing with family and close friends can sometimes be harder than talking with strangers. However, we don't need to follow a football team to engage in mission. It's all about being excited to share Jesus with those we meet day by day. 'Mission is seeing what God is doing and joining in' (Rowan Williams).

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#### Morning

There are two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

# All in the month of November

#### It was:

175 years ago, on19th November 1850 that Alfred, Lord Tennyson, became Poet Laureate of the UK (until 1892).

125 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1900 that Arthur Sullivan, British composer, died. Best known for his collaborations with the dramatist W S Gilbert on operas including H.M.S. Pinafore and The Pirate of Penzance. He also wrote the hymn Onward, Christian Soldiers.

100 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1925 that Richard Burton, Welsh stage and film actor was born. Known for Cleopatra, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? And many more. Fifth and sixth husband of Elizabeth Taylor. Died 1984.

Also 100 years ago, on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1925 that Ernie Wise, TV comedian and actor, was born. Best known for his comedy partnership with Eric Morecambe (Morecambe and Wise) Died 1999.

90 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1935 that Britain's Hawker Hurricane fighter plane made its first flight. It played a major role in WWII, especially during the Battle of Britain.

80 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> November 1945 that UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, was founded.

65 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1960 that a British jury cleared Penguin Books of obscenity for publishing D.H. Lawrence's novel Lady Chatterley's Lover. This is often considered the beginning of the permissive society in Britain. Also 65 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1960, that John F Kennedy was elected as the 35<sup>th</sup> President of the USA.

60 years ago, on  $9^{\text{th}}$  November 1965 that the death penalty was abolished in the UK

50 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1975 that Britain's first North Sea oil pipeline was officially opened.

40 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1985 that the Anglo-Irish Agreement was signed by the Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Irish President Garret Fitzgerald. It gave the Irish government a consultative role in the affairs of Northern Ireland.

30 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1995 that Princess Diana admitted that she had committed adultery, and spoke openly about her separation from the Prince of Wales in a frank interview with the BBC.

25 years ago, on  $9^{th}$  November 2000 that Eric Morley, TV host, died. Known for establishing the ballroom dancing competition Come Dancing (1949 – 98). It was succeeded by a celebrity version, Strictly Come Dancing, in 2004.

20 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005 that John Sentamu became Archbishop of York (until 2020). He was the first black archbishop in the Church of England.

10 years ago, on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015 that the Paris Attacks took place when suicide bombers and armed terrorists from Islamic State (IS) attacked a football stadium, rock concert, cafes and restaurants. 130 people were killed and 416 injured.

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#### Exam

In the examination paper, the professor wanted us to sign a form stating that we had not received any outside assistance. Unsure of whether he should sign the form, a student admitted that he had prayed for the assistance of God. The professor carefully studied the answer page and then replied, "You can sign it with a clear conscience. God did not assist you."

# Martin of Porres – strength in weakness

Martin of Porres, whose feast day is on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, is the saint for anyone who has let God transform their bad, painful experiences into making them stronger and better, sensitive to the pain of others, and able to bring healing and kindness.

Martin was born in Lima, in 1570. The son of a Spanish officer and a freed slave woman from Panama, Martin was thus of mixed race - and rejected by both sides. Living in poverty with his mother, he grew up amid the turbulent violence that followed the Spanish conquest of Peru.

In his early teens, Martin became an apprentice to a barber-surgeon, and at 15 he joined the Dominican friary in Lima as a lay brother. He stayed for the rest of his life, working as a barber, farm labourer, almoner and infirmarian.

The traumas of Martin's childhood served to give him a great compassion for others who were still out on the stormy seas of life. He showed great compassion in nursing the sick, and he used his vast knowledge of herbal medicines to treat infections, fevers, intestinal ailments and sprains.

Martin was also generous in caring for those in need, distributing food and clothing to the poor of the city each week – all of which he had begged from the wealthy of the city. As he grew older, Martin began an orphanage for abandoned children and grew fruit trees to help provide food for the poor. Martin also loved animals and showed compassion even to the vermin of the city.

Where did Martin's strength come from? He spent long hours in prayer, seeking God's guidance and help in his work for the city. When he died of fever, aged 60, thousands of citizens in Lima mourned for him. Martin may have lived nearly five centuries ago, but today he is still one of the most popular saints in the Americas, considered the patron saint of social justice and interracial harmony.

## **Book of Remembrance** for November

26<sup>th</sup> Oct Frank Needham (accidentally left out last month)

6<sup>th</sup> Nov George Bowden

6<sup>th</sup> Nov Beryl Willis

7<sup>th</sup> Nov Wynnie Downes

7<sup>th</sup> Nov Winifred Mary Beardmore

9<sup>th</sup> Nov Harry Newton Clay 10<sup>th</sup> Nov Eileen Robinson

11<sup>th</sup> Nov Alice Medley

11<sup>th</sup> Nov Joyce Elizabeth Coley

11<sup>th</sup> Nov Hannah Ashton
11<sup>th</sup> Nov John (Jack) Archer
13<sup>th</sup> Nov Len Davenport
14<sup>th</sup> Nov Margaret Langford
14<sup>th</sup> Nov Peggy Hargreaves
14<sup>th</sup> Nov Norah Sharpley

16<sup>th</sup> Nov Mark Stewart Whittaker

18<sup>th</sup> Nov Thelma Gottlieb 19<sup>th</sup> Nov George Eric Gosling 20<sup>th</sup> Nov Gordon Oldfield 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov Beatrice Skirvin 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov Jean Wrigley

23<sup>rd</sup> Nov Marjorie Alice Craine

23<sup>rd</sup> Nov Mary Bowden

25<sup>th</sup> Nov Brian Bernard Newbould

25<sup>th</sup> Nov Harry Ainsworth 29<sup>th</sup> Nov Irene F M Bennett 29<sup>th</sup> Nov Bert Mitchell *Born* 



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 - Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September - Sylvia Wright

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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 December issue to reach Anne by 21<sup>th</sup> November.

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#### Bible knowledge

A minister was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I finally figured out what the Bible means!" The minister thought of his extensive theological library and smiled indulgently. He asked his young son what he thought the Bible meant.

"It's easy, Daddy," the boy replied. "It means: 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

# **Worship in November**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am - Celtic Communion

Sunday 9th Remembrance Sunday

> 9.15am - Parish Communion (please note earlier time) 11.00am - Service of Remembrance Memorial Gardens

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 10.30am - Parish Communion Sunday23rd 10.30am - Parish Communion Friday 28th 3.30pm - Christingle Service Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> 10.30am - Parish Communion

Sunday 30th 7.30pm - Bollington Festival Choir Concert

Thursday 13th 2.00pm - Bereavement group

## **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

