

Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



October 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



Nancy with Sarah Mullaly, then Bishop of London

Letter from Nancy

Dear All

At the beginning of this month we had the exciting news that the Bishop of London is to be our next Archbishop of Canterbury.

I had the privilege of being with Bishop Sarah in a service at St Paul's Cathedral when there was a royal visitor and she very kindly taught me how to curtsy in clerical robes!

Here are some words from Bishop Sarah, who asks us to pray for her as she will pray for us:

“In an age that craves certainty and tribalism, Anglicanism offers something quieter but stronger: shared history, held in tension, shaped by prayer, and lit from within by the glory of Christ. That is what gives me hope. In our fractured and hurting world, that partnership in the Gospel could not be more vital.

Hope is made of the infinite love of God, who breathed life into creation and said it was good. Hope shimmered in the courage of Abraham and Sarah and the challenging call of the prophets. Hope resounded through Mary's 'yes' to God's call to bear His Son. Hope is found in Christ's triumph over sin and death.

Hope doesn't skip over grief, pain and messiness of life but enters into it, and tenderly tells us that God is with us.

In every church you will encounter Jesus Christ, and his teaching to love one another: our source and our standard. This is both gift and responsibility. Jesus Christ is the life-changing hope that brings us together as church, even in our own brokenness and messiness – and sends us out into the world to witness to that Love.

I humbly offer myself, and the gifts and experience that God has given me, in service to God's world and God's Church. I will not always get things right. But I am encouraged by the psalmist who tells us that, 'Though you stumble you shall not fall headlong, for the Lord holds you fast by the hand.'

I trust in the truth of those words for me, for you, for the Church of England, for the nation, for the Anglican Communion and for the world. Held fast by the Lord's hand, please pray for me as I will pray for you."

Here in Bollington let us pray for Bishop Sarah and pray for such hope and trust in Christ to flourish in our small part of the church of God.

Every blessing,
Nancy
**



Reflecting on the front cover

(from Psalm 96)

Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.
Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he
comes, he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Staying on the Right Track



Credit :Pixabay

Some thoughts on railway-minded clergy, by Richard Raymond

Recently I was sitting in Church House at Daresbury, waiting for a meeting, when the vicar alongside me started chatting about the model railway he had begun to build. As that is one of my hobbies, I was happy to listen, but it also made me reflect on the paths I had crossed with other members of the clergy who held the same interest.

The 28 books of *The Railway Series* introduced Thomas the Tank Engine and his friends to the world. With a highly successful television series and spin offs into heritage railway open days, Thomas the Tank Engine has been a household name for many years, since the Revd Wilbert Awdry first wrote about him in the 1940's. I well remember seeing Mr Awdry running his model railway at various exhibitions; he was a tall man with a very prominent Adam's apple!

Meanwhile, over in Leicestershire a friend of Awdry's, another Anglican vicar, was turning his vicarage into a mecca for railway enthusiasts. Somehow, the Revd Teddy Boston managed to build a 100-yard length of 2 foot gauge railway track in the garden on which he used to steam an industrial locomotive called Pixie.

His house was full of a large model railway, a prodigious collection of railway books and also many religious tomes. What the diocesan authorities thought of it all, one can only guess but for those of us lucky enough to visit, it was an afternoon never to forget.

In 1933 a young man was ordained priest and was posted to Liverpool to serve his curacy. There he became fascinated with the steam engines working out of Lime Street station. He took up railway photography and thankfully for those of us interested in this and the later era of declining steam activity, he made a fantastic collection of images that were published into a number of high-quality books, of which I am fortunate to possess a number.

That man went on to have a distinguished war record as an army chaplain and was later consecrated bishop. He was Bishop Eric Treacy. Sadly in 1978 whilst waiting to photograph a steam hauled rail tour at Appleby station in Cumbria, Treacy suffered a fatal heart attack on the platform. His legacy lives on in his photographs.

So, the next time you are sitting next to a person you hardly know, maybe you will find out that they have the same interest as you. Then let your mind wander into past memories and enjoy those thoughts.

**

Smile Lines

Lost in translation: Sign on a door in Istanbul: American dentist – 2nd floor.
Teeth extracted by a new Methodist.

Travel: I love flying. I've been to almost as many places as my luggage.



CURATE'S CORNER

with Jenny Eades

Some good news for a change...Did you know that:

An AI assisted brain scanning tool has been launched in the UK and is speeding up stroke diagnosis and treatment?

That Jaguars, a threatened species, have seen their numbers increase by 30% in Mexico following the creation of protected areas?

That Scotland is to ban 'bottom trawling' across its marine reserves, something ecologists have been campaigning for a long time, and this is welcomed by the Scottish Fisherman's Federation? It is also to be banned in Greece and in UK waters in protected areas?

That coal use is still on the decline in the US AND it's violent crime rate is down 4.4% and is now back to levels not seen since the 1960s?

That the UK has rescued 150 'on the brink' species, through a rising number of nature recovery projects?

That Manchester is planning a pioneering age-friendly neighbourhood of zero-carbon homes and outdoor spaces and is leading the way in the UK's Age-Friendly Cities network?

You DIDN'T know any of that? Well, I'm not surprised. Bad news draws our attention, media channels major in bad news – it sells advertising. According to positive.news, where all these stories come from, 40% of the global population is turning off the relentlessly BAD news on its screens, televisions and radios. Myself included.

Christianity claims that it is Good News. And the Good News is that God **is** at work, quietly at work, through people of kindness, compassion and good will all round the world, every day. God is present in every act of neighbourliness, every welcoming smile.

God thinks everybody matters, including you, and no-one is ever alone. We can choose where to place our attention – on the bad news, the anger, the violence and hate. Or on the kindness, the quiet goodness, the hopeful human activities happening all the time in our communities. I suggest we all become Good News hunters and, once we've found some, let's spread it around....

**

Surge in violent attacks on A&E nurses

18th October is the feast day of St Luke, who is the patron saint of physicians. So this is a good month to pray for those working in the NHS...

A&E nurses face an increasing barrage of punches, kicks and spitting - and even having weapons aimed at them. The violence has been blamed on enforced long waits in A&E departments, corridor care, and chronic staffing problems.

Now the Royal College of Nursing reports that the number of attacks has doubled in five years, from 2093 cases in 2019, to 4054 in 2024.

One senior charge nurse in the East Midlands said: "Even patients you would expect to be placid are becoming irate because of just how long they have to wait. So, you can only imagine the behaviour of those who are already prone to violence." Another senior sister, in an A&E in east London, was punched in the head and left unconscious by a patient. "The violence is awful," she said. "And it is daily. Nurses, doctors – none of us feels safe."

So please remember these hard-working and dedicated people in your prayers. The RCN warns that such attacks lead to both physical and mental scarring, lengthy time off and sometimes staff never returning.

The growth of combined Charity Card Shops



Anthea Wilkinson invites you to come and help out this autumn!

It was way back in 1971 that the first, unintended, unplanned, unfinanced 'shop' for charity cards first opened its doors, those of a cold, old, tiny shop in an Alderley Edge side street, with a pasting table, a candlewick bedspread, a cash box and a paraffin heater.

Now, 54 years later the 'shops' have expanded, the sales generating £6m for the participating charities. The guiding principles haven't changed, namely to raise funds for charities, both national and local, by providing, free of charge, an outlet for the sale of their cards and guarantee in that each charity receives the full value of the cards they sold.

How is this achieved, you may ask.

Firstly, no-one involved is paid, the shops are all manned by volunteers, each charity providing the staffing of the shop for at least one day. It may be that a charity may provide a paid employee on their day, but the point is they are not paid by US!

Secondly, we sell Christmas items, gifts, books, stocking fillers sourced from national trade fairs or local wholesalers. The revenue from the sale of these items finances the costs of rent, publicity, insurance and equipment as well as funding the purchase of the gifts themselves.

In 2025, the Macclesfield shop will again be on the first floor of Macclesfield

Library, opening on Saturday, 1st November and running for five weeks until Saturday, 6th December.

We open from 10.00 until 17.00 during the week and 9.00 to 13.00 on Saturdays.

If you have never visited us before this is the year to start! Also if you know of a charity that would welcome the opportunity to sell their cards, please make them aware of us and put them in contact.

Sadly, some major charities have decided to stop selling cards other than online but charities such as Save Danes Moss and Just Drop In are recent additions.

Finally if you, or someone you know, has a morning or afternoon to spare during November and feel you would like to support this venture do please get in touch, it's a friendly environment and no special skills are required other than welcoming customers and making the occasional cup of tea!

Please do get in touch with me on 01625 573538 or email if you prefer, anthea.wilkinson2@btopenworld.com with any questions or offers of help.



The agony - and ecstasy – of playing the organ



One of our organists, Martin Crundall, tells the story of his love for church organs, down many years.

When I was young, I used to listen to my brother, eight years older than me, playing Beethoven sonatas on our piano.

At the age of seven I had lessons with his teacher but soon gave up, thinking it was too difficult.

When I was fourteen, I had lessons for about one year with the same teacher. Most of the pieces were light music with lots of arpeggios which I found difficult. Then, for about four years I played little more than hymn tunes. I liked the four part harmonies.

I started to play the organ at about the age of 16 at St John's Presbyterian Church in Warrington. What interested me was not only the sounds that could be produced, but how a performer could do several things at once, and also the mechanics of the instrument.

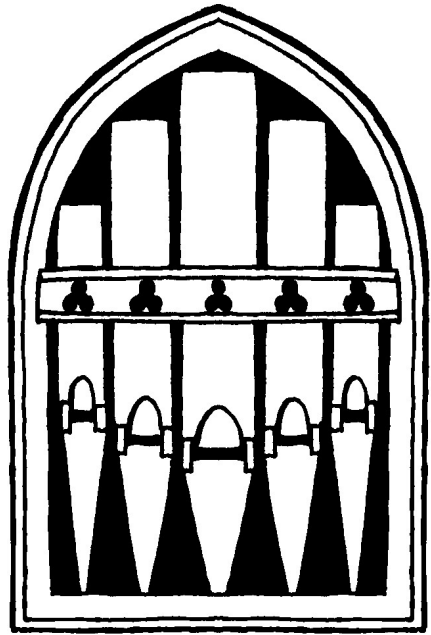
After completing National Service in the Royal Marines, where my job was to teach basic English and Maths, look after the library and play the harmonium wherever the unit went, on windy parade grounds and even in the desert, I went to Manchester University and was astonished and thrilled listening to the music students play Bach's music on the Whitworth Hall organ.

I followed advice from one student, Neil Chaffey, to have lessons with Alan Wicks at Manchester Cathedral, who took on this raw beginner and taught me to keep my shoes on and to try to observe the rests in the music. He was very

interested in the baroque composers and while I was attempting to play Bach, he would sometimes add mutation stops until the sound was so rich that it was difficult to tell what I was playing.

My first paid post was at St Luke's Chapel of Ease on Liverpool Road in Warrington where there was a small choir of young girls.

I became a member of the Warrington Organists' Association and acted as treasurer for that, and also for the Presbyterian Guild of Organists, both of which subsequently failed. Not my fault!



I contributed to the composite organ recitals which were held each year in Warrington churches.

At this time, I was kindly allowed to practice on the organ at St Mary's R.C. Church in Buttermarket Street in Warrington. One of the priests, Father Jackson, an ex-submarine commander, sometimes played his oboe with me. The organ was a very good two-manual one in a large resonant building. On one occasion, Father Jackson took my father and myself to Ampleforth to play the organ there. This was when Basil Hume was the abbot there.

I heard Reubke's Sonata on the 94th psalm played at Chester Cathedral, obtained the score and practiced hard so that I could at least give a third-rate performance. Then I got permission to try it out at Chester, but was completely defeated by the complexity of the organ console!

For some time, I had a pupil, Patrick Larley, whom I helped to get started on

organ playing and introduced him to the organs in Warrington. He became a professional player.

Later my family moved from Warrington to Bollington, and I would play, just occasionally, for my own amusement at St John's in Bollington.

At subsequent times I had lessons with Audrey Robinson at the Albion URC church in Ashton (so did Jonathan Scott) and later with Derek Cantrell at St John's in Bollington. He came from Withington on Friday evenings and charged £12. During the time that I was working at the Atlas Computer Laboratory in Chilton and living in Abingdon I had lessons with John Webster at University College, Oxford studying Reger's music.

In later life I joined the Manchester Organists Association and enjoyed visits to see and try out other organs. Giggleswick School was one exciting excursion.

Along the way, I have attended organ courses in Salisbury and Edinburgh which allowed the opportunity to try out some of the major organs.

During my life I have explored church organs in many different places, including those visited more recently on our CHUB outings. There are so many interesting varieties. I do miss the lovely Renn organ which used to be in St John's.

To sum up, as I say, my organ experience has been one of ecstasy and frustration, always searching for that ultimate other world experience and at times despairing of my incapacity to attain it.

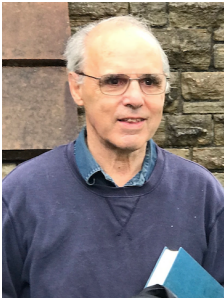
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Who is God?

During a youth service, the minister asked if anyone could tell her who God is. One youngster waved a hand, and ventured: "Isn't God the man who saves the King?"



In the late September sun



Chris Ward's Nature Notes from the beauty of his garden...

After a stormy weekend we were blessed with bright sunny days, and the garden wildlife sprang to life again.

One Sunday I saw my first dragonfly flying up and down as they do, generally known as hawking, to catch their insect prey on the wing. I was surprised to see it, as we no longer have a pond for them to breed in.

Anyway, it eventually settled on a bush and allowed me to get quite near to study it more closely. It had a green body, and you could see its head swivelling around and it occasionally flexed its 'tail end' up to its head. It seemed to be just relaxing in the warmth of the sun. It stayed for about five minutes before flying off.

I identified it to be a Southern Hawker (*Aeshna cyanea*). They are widespread and common in southern and central England , where they can be seen hawking along woodland rides well away from water.

Then today (Tuesday) I saw a beautiful brown butterfly feeding on the flowers of the hebe at the back of the house, and then again on the flowers of a sedum down the garden.

It was a struggle to correctly identify it at first, as it did not match any of the pictures in my Wildlife Book (the lazy way of identifying insects). I eventually tracked it down to be a 'Comma' (*Polygonium c-album*), distinguished by it ragged edges and a tiny white patch (like a comma punctuation) on the underside of its wings. The upper side is a beautiful copper with darker brown markings.

**

Truths about children

A young child is a noise with dirt on it.

An unbreakable toy is useful for breaking other toys.

A child will not spill on a dirty floor.

Having children is like having a bowling alley installed in your brain.

Having children will turn you into your parents.

If you have trouble getting your children's attention, just sit down and look comfortable.

Avenge yourself; live long enough to be a problem to your children.

**

Dear Lord,

So far today, I am doing all right. I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, or cursed. I have not charged on my credit card or eaten any chocolate. However, I am going to get out of bed in a few minutes, and I will need a lot more help after that! - Amen.

All in the month of October

It was:

750 years ago, on 27th Oct 1275 that the city of Amsterdam in the Netherlands is traditionally considered to have been founded.

200 years ago, on 25th Oct 1825 that Johann Strauss II, was born. This Austrian composer is best known for his waltzes, including *The Blue Danube*.

125 years ago, on 20th Oct 1900 that the American aviation pioneers the Wright Brothers made their first untethered glider flight at Kill Devil Hills, in North Carolina.

100 years ago, on 13th Oct 1925 that Margaret Thatcher, Baroness Thatcher, was born. She was the first woman Prime Minister of Britain (1979-90). (Died 2013.)

90 years ago, on 12th Oct 1935 that Luciano Pavarotti, Italian operatic tenor, was born. Considered one of the finest tenors of the 20th century, and one of the most commercially successful of all time. (Died 2007.)

80 years ago, on 12th Oct 1945 that US Army combat medic Desmond Doss became the first conscientious objector in US history to receive a Medal of Honour for heroic actions. He saved the lives of 75 men during the Battle of Okinawa. The film *Hacksaw Ridge* told his story.

70 years ago, on 20th Oct 1955 that *The Return of the King*, the third and final part of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, was published.

65 years ago, on 30th Oct 1965 that Diego Maradona was born. The Argentine football player, manager and coach is regarded as one of the greatest football players in history. (Died 2020.)

60 years ago, on 8th Oct 1965 that the Post Office Tower (now the BT Tower) in London was officially opened. It was the tallest building in the UK until 1980.

40 years ago, on 1st Oct 1985 that riots broke out in Toxteth in Liverpool and Peckham in London. Five days later (6th Oct) Met Police Constable Keith Blacklock was killed in the Broadwater Farm housing estate riot in Tottenham. He was the first British constable to be killed in a riot since 1833.

Also 40 years, on 26th Oct 1985 that the Australian government returned the ownership of Uluru / Ayers Rock to the local Pitjantjatjara people, on condition that they lease it to the National Parks and Wildlife Agency for 99 years and allow it to be jointly managed.

25 years ago, on 26th Oct 2000 that the BSE Inquiry Report was published in the UK. It concluded that the BSE (Mad Cow Disease) epidemic was caused by the use of infected meat and bone meal in cattle feed.

20 years ago, on 3rd Oct 2005 that Ronnie Barker, TV comedian, actor and writer, died. Known for *The Frost Report*, *The Two Ronnies*, *Porridge*, *Going Straight* and *Open All Hours*.

Also 20 years ago, on 18th to 26th Oct 2005 that Hurricane Wilma, the most intense Atlantic hurricane ever recorded, hit the Caribbean, Central America and the eastern USA. 63 people died. The storm caused £18.1 billion. damage.

15 years ago, on 13th Oct 2010 that 33 Chilean miners who had been trapped underground for 69 days following the collapse of the San Jose copper-gold mine were rescued. Around one billion TV viewers around the world watched them being pulled to the surface one-by-one, in a specially designed capsule.

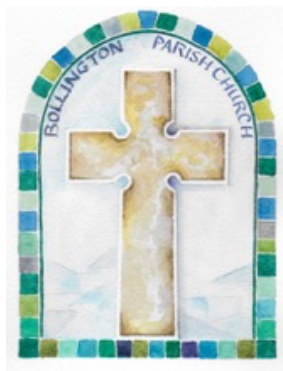
10 years ago, on 26th Oct 2015 that the Hindu Kush earthquake hit Afghanistan, India and Pakistan. At least 399 people were killed, and 2,536 more injured.

**

Sharp words make more wounds than surgeons can heal. - *Anon*

Book of Remembrance for October

2 nd Oct	Rachel Mary Poulson
2 nd Oct	Sarah Anne Wood
3 rd Oct	Amy Slater Goodwin
5 th Oct	Wilfred Clay
5 th Oct	Sheila Tarr
6 th Oct	David Hooley
8 th Oct	Annie Oldfield nee Ridgeway
8 th Oct	Dora Hunt
11 th Oct	Edward Russell Cutler
12 th Oct	Joyce Dixon
12 th Oct	Wilfred Jackson
14 th Oct	Fr William David Thomas (<i>Vicar of this parish 1947-1953</i>)
15 th Oct	Clifford Eli Brunt
16 th Oct	Richard Rendell
16 th Oct	Lesley Martin
19 th Oct	Mabel Tarr
22 nd Oct	John Lewis Whiston
23 rd Oct	Muriel Lloyd
24 th Oct	Elizabeth Woolley
25 th Oct	Anne Richards
26 th Oct	Sarah Elizabeth Stanesby
27 th Oct	Eric Jackson
29 th Oct	Philip King
30 th Oct	Ralph Greenwood
31 st Oct	Edward Chadwick



From the Registers

Funeral

2nd Sept Hayley Gibson

Baptism

7th Sept Walter Gadbury

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

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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 November issue to reach Anne by 17th October.

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Good to think about

Beauty is God's handwriting. - *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

There is a living God. He has spoken in the Bible. He means what He says and will do all He has promised. - *J Hudson Taylor*

Interest does not tie nations together; it sometimes separates them. But sympathy and understanding does unite them. - *Woodrow Wilson*

Worship in October

Sunday 5 th	10.30am	Celtic Communion
Sunday 12 th	10.30am	Pet Service & Communion
Sunday 19 th	10.30am	Parish Communion
Sunday 26 th	10.30am	Parish Communion
Sunday 2 nd	November	10.30am Celtic Communion

Thursday 30th October 10.30am All Souls Communion Service

Come and give thanks for those whom you may have personally known and loved. We will be lighting candles in thanksgiving and remembrance.

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

