

Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



September 2025

Price 50p



Who's Who at St Oswald's

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Ex officio: Anne Coomes, Anthea Wilkinson.

Deanery Synod: Anthea Wilkinson, Anne Coomes

Diocesan Synod: Richard Raymond

Letter from Nancy

Dear All

September is back to school time for young people, a focus on new learning and development with each day bringing new experience and understanding. September, in the church's year, is a season of creation, of thanksgiving for the world around us.



I'd like to challenge you each day in September to put these two together. Spend a few moments each day being child-like in the way you look around you. Look anew at the world. Learn something new from your experience. Notice colours, sounds, patterns, the beauty of the earth as if you are looking around for the first time. And give thanks to God for all the goodness around you. See where you are drawn in prayers of thanksgiving.

If you also notice anew the brokenness in the world around you, the things that cry out with need, the things that are not flourishing, you can picture God filling the gap as you are drawn into penitence and intercession.

Finally, look anew at the world around you and pray for you to see as God sees, and have your heart aligned with God's heart, and notice how you are filled with humility and thanksgiving as you look anew at the world, whilst your heart pours out joy, pours out compassion and overflows with love.

*We thank You, our Creator, for all things bright and good:
the seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.
Accept the gifts we offer for all Your love imparts;
accept what You most welcome: our humble, thankful hearts
All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all His love.*

Every blessing, Nancy

Abiding in Jesus – reflecting on the front cover

This is the time of year for many churches to hold their Harvest Festival services. While gardeners can have pleasure growing fruit and vegetables, it can be hard work tending to them and dealing with pests.

In John 15:1-8 Jesus compared Himself to a vine and referred to God as the gardener. Jesus is telling us that God will prune our lives, not to harm us, but to encourage our spiritual growth.



God's pruning cuts away wrong attitudes and wasteful behaviour, all of which serve no useful purpose in our lives. This pruning is required so that we become more fruitful. And the fruit God wants is love, joy, patience etc.

To encourage its growth, a vine has to be regularly cut back. The effect looks drastic, but it is essential. When God cuts away the dead wood in our lives, He does it because He knows how our lives can grow. The pruning knives are in the hands of our Father God who only desires the best for us. This pruning process can be painful, but Jesus says that it is vital if the Holy Spirit is to flow through us to produce the fruit that God wants.

Also in this parable, Jesus said He was the vine, and we are the branches. We can do nothing for God on our own and must be joined to Jesus. In the same way a vine utilises the life-giving sap to flow into the branches, so we need the Holy Spirit to flow His life into us. It is only by remaining in Jesus can He give us the inner resources for an effective fruit-producing life.

Jesus said '*Abide in Me*' (John 15:4). Abiding speaks of sustenance, of being upheld and supported. So, if we are to reap a harvest of holiness, may we be prepared for God's pruning, and continue to abide in Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

Farewell to Ray and Irene Mills

By Chris Ward

We say farewell to Ray and Irene who have moved up to the north of Scotland to be near their daughter Lynsey.

Elaine and Maggie first met Irene at antenatal classes before their first children were born in the mid-1970s; Irene and Ray started coming to St Oswald's soon after this and have been regular members of the congregation and close friends ever since.

Ray was PCC Treasurer during a very busy period in the early 2000s with the closure and sale of St Johns and Holy Trinity churches and the curates house in Sandy Close. Ray was also an important member of our Parish cricket team!

Irene was a member of the Bollington Festival Choir and Ray was a loyal supporter of all their concerts.

We thank them for all they have done for the church and wish them all the very best in their new surroundings.

**

Choral evensong at St Oswald's

With special guests Knutsford Deanery Choir

21st September 6.30pm

**



MacMillan Coffee Morning St Oswald's
Thursday 25th September from 11.15am

Chub visits the Cathedral of the Peak

Jennifer Burdekin reports from St John the Baptist Tideswell

Once again, the worthy pilgrims of St Oswald's set forth on a journey into the East, and having traversed portions of Pott Shrigley and Chapel-en-le-Frith, they reached their destination...the Cathedral of the Peak in Tideswell.



Credit: Tideswellman, Wikimedia Commons

John the Baptist is not a cathedral, but is described so because of its sheer size and splendour. The church, which replaced a small Norman chapel, was built approximately between 1320 and 1400, and the exterior is very much as the day the masons finished.

The interior work was delayed by the Black Death, but eventually the late Gothic and Perpendicular styles appeared in the indoor architecture and very impressive it is.

The South Chapel contains the tombs of Sir Thurston de Bower and his wife, Lady Margaret. The North chapel is sadly suffering from rain damage and is under repair, but the ornate and magnificent main organ overshadows it, and fills a splendid site in the main nave.

The chancel is extremely interesting. In the very centre is a tomb with a stone cadaver resting in an alabaster chamber, the whole tomb is topped by an impressive slab of black marble. Over the altar are two statues. One was St Peter with his keys, accompanied by an unknown, yet beautiful lady.

The chancel organ dates from 1979 and is played regularly. The East window is a magnificent stained glass depiction of the tree of Jesse, and all the woodwork in the chancel was carved with superb characters.

We pilgrims were royally greeted, and some splendid baking was produced to assuage the appetites and help the coffee to go down.

Thanks must go to the Church Warden who gave us a very informative tour and history of this splendid church, not only the masonry but the brasses on the floor and the historical personages connected with the parish.

Further refreshments were taken in the Hanging Gate, and the pilgrims then went back to their homesteads and reflected on a most successful journey.

Thank you to the organisers and for a very pleasurable trip!



CHUB update for September

— from Sandra Edwards

We have postponed our September visit to Gawsworth Church until next April, after Easter. The Rector was unable to make a Tuesday arrangement until October, which we felt was too late for a summer visit. So, our final outing this year will be our Friendship Lunch in Bollington on Tuesday, 11th November. Do put the date in your diary, please!



CURATE'S CORNER

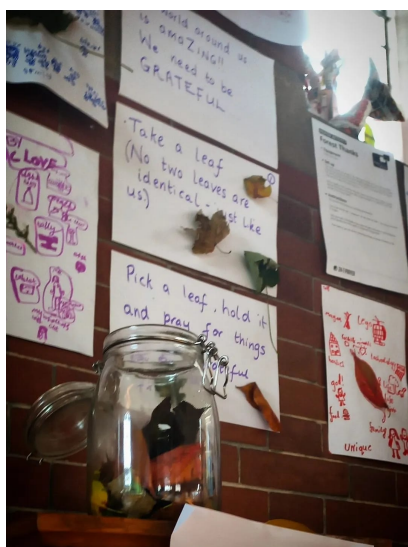
with Jenny Eades

Remember me, O God

At the heart of the Bible is the Book of Psalms, the songbook of both the people of Israel and the Christian church for thousands of years.

And in one of those psalms, Psalm 106, is perhaps the simplest prayer any human can pray – ‘Remember me, O God’. Prayer might be said to be a two way remembering – we remember God and we ask God to remember us – and our loved ones, and our world. ‘Remember me, O God’.

At its best, religion is there to help us to be human – well. Because being human *well* is hard. And if religion isn't doing that, it's not doing its job properly. And one way we can be human well is by remembering that we are not alone, by remembering that for generations people have turned to prayer



[illegible]

Remember – St Oswald's is YOUR church and it is there for you.
Remember that God is there for you.
Remember me, O God.

Wednesday Wanderings

with Jenny Eades

Your curate is NOT Bollington born and bred (and lives in Macclesfield – sorry!). But that does not stop me loving Bollington and finding it a real pleasure and privilege to serve, and pray for, the people of Bollington. But it does mean I don't know the highways and byways that well. So, to remedy that situation I intend to wander around, on my Wednesdays in the parish, and explore Bollington.

Sometimes that will take me to the wonderful Bridgend Centre <https://bridgendcentre.org.uk/> to join in with the guided walks they do every Wednesday morning. At other times I will simply walk around on my own. It is my intention to pray for each street I come to and for all who live and work there. And I hope to walk down EVERY street at some point.

If you know of anyone who would appreciate a clergy visit do contact me and let me know. Or if YOU would like a visit, I'd love to drop in for a cup of tea and a chat.

There is a Japanese theologian called Kosuke Koyama who wrote a book called *Three Mile an Hour God*. That is the speed of God, he says, because that is the speed at which God Incarnate walked around the highways and byways of Galilee.

In a world where everything seems to have to go faster and where speed and efficiency have become our new gods, knowing that the pace of God is slow and steady is something I find profoundly comforting.

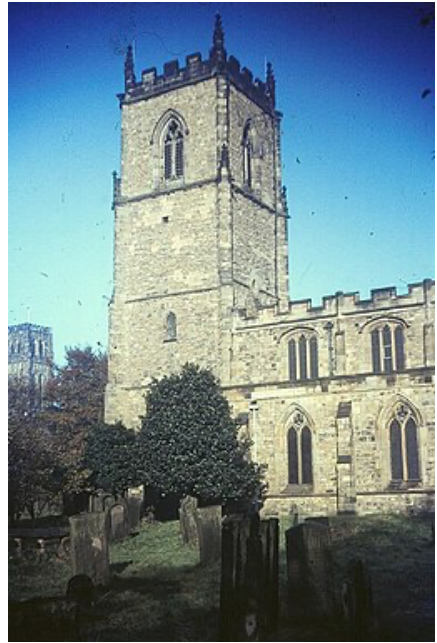
So do say hello if you see me out and about on my inefficient Wednesday walks. I always have time to chat. God bless. Jenny

A Bell's Not A Bell 'Til You Ring It

Richard Raymond reports

So wrote Oscar Hammerstein, and our treasurer Richard Raymond recounts his trip this summer to ring church bells in County Durham

One of the great joys of being a church bellringer is the opportunity to be on an outing to go and ring at other towers. This may take the form of an evening trip incorporating some ringing and then a pub meal or it might be a day out to an area a little further afield.



*St. Oswald's Church, Durham, 1967
by Derek Harper, via Wikimedia Commons*

For several years now the ringers of Prestbury have organised a weekend outing focussed on a cathedral city. In the past we have visited Southwell, Worcester, Lincoln, Wells and Hereford. In each place we have had a Saturday tour around the local churches to ring at the great variety of bells that we have found followed by the culminating excitement of an invitation to ring for Sunday service at the cathedral.

This year we went to the Durham area, the Land of the Prince Bishops so called because of the ancient right bestowed on the Bishop of Durham by William the Conqueror to raise his own private army, mint his own coins and generally to administer justice. This was done in grateful recognition of the bishop's actions in keeping the Scots at bay!

On the Friday night we rang at Chester-le-Street in the first of two churches on our tour dedicated to the great Northumbrian saint, St Cuthbert. On the

Saturday we travelled up the Tyne valley as far as Hexham to ring the glorious ten bells of the Abbey. Along the way we rang bells that had been cast over 300 years ago and some that were under ten years old; some had been cast by local founders, some by the great Whitechapel Foundry, others by the current Taylors foundry at Loughborough and even some by the Royal Eijsbouts bell foundry in the Netherlands. We encountered lightweight bells but also tested our skills on a six bell ring where the tenor unusually weighed over a ton.

Along the way we noted some tuneful rings and some not so harmonically pleasing ones! We also saw and appreciated the churches that we visited. We viewed the wide variety of architectural styles including one designed by Ignatius Bonomi who was responsible for the Skerne Bridge, the oldest railway bridge in the world, and which is still carrying today's trains. It was featured on the old £5 note and is part of the Stockton and Darlington Railway that is celebrating its 200th Anniversary this year. Closer to home, he also designed the little church at King Sterndale outside Buxton.

On Sunday morning I rang for service at our namesake church of St Oswald, Durham. There are 84 churches of this dedication in England. Then it was onwards to the 250 steps up to the ringing chamber of the ten bells of Durham Cathedral. Once there, past the handily placed de-fibrillator at about step no 150, we were allowed to go further up to view the impressive bells and to walk out onto passageway around the central tower with its glorious views of the city and surrounding countryside. After acquitting ourselves with honour on these fine bells we returned to earth to attend the choral evensong service to which we had 'called the faithful'.

A weekend such as this encapsulates all that makes church bellringing what it is. Ultimately, as shown by the ringing of two towers on the Sunday, it is serving the church in a most public fashion by sounding out that worship is about to take place. As with any skill, it needs practice and every visit to every different tower is an opportunity to hone one's skills, and what more enjoyable way to do this than by spending a weekend away in a beautiful area with friends.



A Garden Mystery Solved?

By Chris Ward

Last week, in the garden, I noticed the leaves had been stripped off a wild rose and then found some small green caterpillars on a lower leaf, which I identified as sawfly larvae. Nearby is a Solomons Seal which had all its leaves completely stripped to just bare veins but no sign of any caterpillars. Solomons seal has its own species of sawfly which may well

be the cause of the damage although there are some snails around. Sawflies are in the same major group of insects as bees and wasps and are named for their ability to cut slits in the leaves before laying their eggs in them.

Back to the wild rose: I then observed several pink feathery balls attached to the base of some other leaves. Checking in my Field Guide to Insects, these were clearly what are known as bedeguar galls or robin's pincushions commonly found on wild roses. The gall is the plant's reaction to the gall wasp larvae which have developed from eggs laid in the leaf by the adult wasp. These larvae develop inside the leaf in protected chambers and therefore cannot be a cause of the stripped leaves seen above. Gall wasps are small winged or wingless insects again in the same group as bees and wasps. Each species of gall wasp is specific to a particular plant such as the one that causes galls commonly found on oak leaves.



Church In the Pub

Anthea Wilkinson reports

Otherwise known as CHIP this ecumenical event happens on the last Wednesday of the month at 8.0 pm in the Cotton Tree on Ingersley Road. A space is reserved for us and some dozen or so folk meet to discuss current issues, topics suggested by the Vicar or a choice from several pre-printed questions all considered in the light of Christian teachings.

Sometimes the questions are fairly easy to understand such as 'is it always wrong to lie'. Answers to this varied from a firm yes, it depends and no.



There was discussion on how to answer 'does my bum look big in this' (or similar) truthfully but kindly. The final consensus was that white lies were acceptable as long as there was no element of self serving in them. If you have a different opinion do come along and join in the discussion.

The next month we had quite a difficult topic to discuss which was raised to address the Anglican fifth mark of Mission – Treasure where we are required to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The following questions were meant to help us! What is God's relationship with the earth? Can we see creation as the self-expression of God? The embodiment of God? Is the earth sacred? Are humans more important than animals? Can animals reason? Ego-centric or eco-centric? How should humanity relate to the world? Broken relationships? Humanity and the earth? Humanity and God? How are they renewed? Does all creation praise God?

What is the role of humanity in creation's praise? For houses, food production, transport? To what extent should humans destroy habitat? Why? Does it matter if species become extinct? Progress, development, economic growth – how will it continue?

Personally the only one I could answer with conviction was that I felt it did matter if a species became extinct. Whilst all accepting that God gave us a wonderful world and that we are not really treating His gift with the care it deserves it was hard for any of us to come up with workable solutions.

The most recent meeting was less structured with discussions relating the more current events. One theme that came to the fore was forgiveness, how easy or difficult people found it to forgive. Was it a 'one off', once given couldn't be rescinded, easier for the person receiving or giving forgiveness. Can forgiveness only be given if it is asked for and the wrong acknowledged?

There was some lively discussion on this subject with particular admiration for those in the news who publicly declare their forgiveness to someone who has, usually, harmed a loved one.

We end with the Grace but just before that we have a quick look through the local paper to see what articles we feel require our prayers, whether of thanks, for help or comfort.

CHIP reconvenes on Wednesday, 28th August, 8.0 pm at the Cotton Tree.

Just a couple of housekeeping notes, buying 'rounds' is not expected, well behaved dogs are very welcome and you can come and go as you please though we finish at 9.30.

Salvation and redemption. Is it for all creation? What does it look like for the earth? For ecosystems?

What can we do about it?

How/why do we strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

All in the month of September

It was:

1,100 years ago, on 4th Sept 925 that England gained her first ever king. He was Aethelstan, King of the Anglo-Saxons (924-927) and then King of England (927-939). Aethelstan was grandson of Alfred the Great, and 30th great-grand uncle to Queen Elizabeth II.

300 years ago, on 29th Sept 1725 that Robert Clive, 1st Baron Clive (Clive of India) was born. This British general helped to found the British Empire in India.

200 years ago, on 27th Sept 1825 that the world's first public railway opened. It was the Stockton and Darlington Railway in north-east England.

100 years ago, on 7th Sept 1925 that Laura Ashley was born. The Welsh designer and businesswoman was known for her traditional printed fabrics, soft furnishing and women's clothing.

90 years ago, on 3rd Sept 1935 that British driver Malcolm Campbell set a new world land speed record of 301.13 mph in *Bluebird* at Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah. First person to break the 300mph barrier.

80 years ago, on 19th Sept 1945 that the Nazi propaganda broadcaster William Joyce (Lord Haw-Haw) was sentenced to death by a British court after being convicted of treason. Executed on 3rd January 1946.

70 years ago, on 4th Sept 1955 that Kenneth Kendall became the first newsreader to appear on screen in the UK, reading the *BBC Television News*.

Also 70 years ago, on 21st Sep 1955 that Britain annexed Rockall, an uninhabited granite islet in the North Atlantic, to prevent the Soviet Union from placing surveillance equipment there.

Also 70 years ago, on 22nd Sept 1955 that Britain's first independent TV channel was launched. ITV ended the BBC's monopoly.

60 years ago, on 4th Sept 1965 that Albert Schweitzer, German-born French theologian, philosopher, organist, physician and missionary doctor to Africa, died. Winner of the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize.

50 years ago, on 24th Sept 1975 that Dougal Haston and Doug Scott became the first Britons to reach the summit of Mount Everest. They were the first climbers from any nation to conquer the south-west face.

40 years ago, on 9th to 11th Sept 1985 that the Handsworth Riots took place in Birmingham. Unemployment and racial tensions fuelled a mass riot following the arrest of a man in a café and a police raid on a public house. 45 shops were looted and burned, and at least two people killed. Several more riots occurred across England that autumn.

30 years ago, on 3rd Sept 1995 that the online auction site eBay was founded (as AuctionWeb). The first item sold was a broken laser pointer.

20 years ago, on 12th Sept 2005 that the evacuation of all Israeli security forces and Israeli civilian settlements from the Gaza Strip was completed. Israel had occupied the Gaza Strip for 38 years.

15 years ago, on 19th Sept 2010 that the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was finally sealed after gushing oil for almost five months. It was the biggest marine oil spill in history

Book of Remembrance for September

1 st Sept	Edward Sharpley
2 nd Sept	Giancarlo Porcelli
7 th Sept	Allan Oldfield
11 th Sept	John Cooper
11 th Sept	Edward Stanesby
23 rd Sept	Freda Grace Oldfield
25 th Sept	Nellie Clay
29 th Sept	Paul Morgan
30 th Sept	Nellie Allen



From the Registers

Baptism 1st June Maya Chadwick

Burial of Ashes

23rd July Jean Bailey
31st July Muriel Cumberbitch
 Nora Tinsley
3rd August Paul Iverson

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

A letter from Lynda Iverson

Dear Nancy, Jenny and fellow members of St Oswald's:

I would like to thank you all for your prayers, love, comfort and support in what has been a very difficult year following the death of my husband Paul. I would also like to thank the organizers and members of the Grief Group which is held at our lovely church each month. The support, empathy and care shown in this group has been of great value to me and I would encourage anyone experiencing grief/bereavement to come along. Again, my sincere thanks. With love and prayers - Lynda

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Publishing & Printing: Published by the PCC, printed by IAM Print.

Distribution: Sue Whitehurst and Christine Osbaldiston

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 October issue to reach Anne by 15th September.

**

Observations on our Christian pilgrimage...

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point. – Billy Graham

Don't give up on yourself. God doesn't. Even Moses was once a basket case. – Anon

It is only with gratitude towards God that life becomes rich. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Worship in September

All services are held at 10.30am

Sunday 7 th	10.30am	Celtic Communion
Sunday 14 th	10.30am	Parish Communion
Sunday 21 st	10.30am	Parish Communion
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong with Knutsford
Deanery Choir		



Thursday 25th 11.15am Macmillan Coffee Morning

Sunday 28th September 10.30am Harvest Festival & Parish Communion
3.00pm Civic Service

Sunday 5th October 10.30am Celtic Communion

Baby and Toddler Group

St Oswald's Little Owls Baby and Toddler Group will be back after the summer break on Tuesday 9th September at 9.30am. All parents, carers and grandparents are welcome.

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

24th September - 8pm - Cotton Tree

Always held on the last Wednesday in month.

Do come along. It's always good company with different people coming every time. Everyone is welcome!

