

Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



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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

The countdown of days left until Christmas has changed over the years.

We used to have countdowns of shopping days left, which counted down very quickly, but now every day before Christmas is a shopping day.



Advent calendars used to contain simple pictures of toys, trumpets and sprigs of holly with a crib inside door number 24. Then they went chocolate, then gin, and now every brand is in on it. You can get all your Christmas presents in an Advent Calendar and spend hundreds of pounds, often bought as a self-treat. Often we're too distracted and forget to even open a door each day, because they don't really matter.

Pause for a moment and think of the very first Advent Calendar, the very first countdown to Christmas. It was a young woman privately counting down until her due date, an uncertain scary time. Mary was looking forward to the first Christmas Day, knowing that it would be life-changing. The visit of the angel had begun the countdown, and it was no box of chocolates. It was life-changing for Mary, for the whole world and for you and me.

Behind the doors Mary opened on her countdown to Christmas were gifts far more precious and numerous: gifts of love, trust, courage, faith, compassion, peace, justice, joy and more.

We all have been given this Advent Calendar, begun by Mary, as a free gift. Now all we need do is to remember to open the doors each day and we'll find Christ is there, the most precious gift of Christmas for us all.

Have a blessed Christmas all. Love Nancy xx

Reflecting on the front cover

There are several colours that we traditionally associate with Christmas. They are green, red, and gold, and to a lesser extent, white and blue.

Green: Evergreen plants like holly, ivy and mistletoe were used for thousands of years to decorate buildings during the long dark winters. The Romans exchanged evergreen branches in January to wish each other good luck. The ancient Egyptians brought palm branches into their home during the mid-winter festivals. In Europe during the Middle Ages, the 'Paradise tree' which figured in plays about the loss of Eden, was normally a pine tree with red apples tied to it.

Red: This is the colour of holly berries, and it reminded people of Jesus's blood when He died on the cross. Red is also the colour of bishops' robes, which is how St Nicholas came to be portrayed wearing red. Red is also the colour of fire, which keep you warm during cold dark nights.

Gold: This is the colour of the Sun and light. It was the present of one of the Wise Men, and traditionally, was the colour of the star over Bethlehem.



White: This is the colour of purity and peace. It is the colour of the altar cloth at Christmas.

Blue: This is the traditional colour of Mary's robe, as the dyes that made cloth blue in previous centuries were rare and expensive. It is also the colour of the sky and heaven.

WHAT'S ON THIS CHRISTMAS

Christmas Celebrations in Macclesfield Market Place

It would be great to have a strong turn-out for these two Christmas celebrations, so that we can show the community that there's a wonderful Christian Unity in our town. Please come along if you can!



Saturday 6th Dec, 1.15pm – Carols around the Crib
Organised by St Alban's Church.

Sunday 21st Dec, at 1pm & again at 2 pm
Treacle Market Shopper's Carol Service (20 minutes each)
To be held in the grounds of St Michael's Church.

Light Up a Life Services

*Celebrate the memory of loved ones,
& stay for mulled wine & mince pies*



Saturday 7th Dec, 4pm at Macc United Reformed Church
Thursday 11th Dec, 7pm at Knutsford Methodist Church

Chub update

Sandra Edwards reports

After another season of successful visits to the superb churches within our reach, it was time for our final event of the year, our Friendship Lunch in November at a local hostelry.

This year we went for the first time to the Springwood Park Restaurant next to the Premier Inn in Tytherington. There was general agreement afterwards that we could heartily recommend this restaurant.

We had plenty of room in an area set aside for us. The main courses were delivered promptly in a warm and friendly manner, and there was no delay for any of our choices. The chips were skinny and hot too! And then the second course arrived. The apple crumble with lots of custard available was highly praised and there were other choices that pleased us too. And all at a modest price.

We will be in touch again in the spring of 2026 and look forward to welcoming more church members to our visits to the ancient churches around us and listen to local historians guide us through their complicated histories, before relaxing together over a pub lunch.

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Taize prayers for peace - coming soon!

Come to a joint churches Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service of Taize prayers for peace. This year it will be held at St Christopher's Pott Shrigley on **Wednesday 21st January at 11.15am**, starting with a brew from 10.45am. All are welcome. Rev Nancy



Mighty Figures – how a humble £10 note turned into an annual figure of £5million

Richard Raymond looks back on how the Christmas tree collection began

Some 28 years ago there was a fundraising initiative at St Peter's Church Prestbury to raise money for a new organ. £10 notes were handed out to the choir members as an incentive to start something to make money, very much like the Parable of the Talents.



The Chapman family took the money and set out to collect real Christmas trees in January in return for a donation. Two years later, in 2001, Pete Chapman and I started the Hospice Christmas Tree Collection and for the last 26 years we have run this campaign every January as a fundraising and now recycling event.

Since those early beginnings when we collected a few hundred trees and took them to the tip, we now recycle over 7000 trees into biomass, and we do it all in one weekend. The last collection raised £160,000 for the Hospice.

Other hospices have seen this success and Pete and I are always pleased to help each one of them on their journey of 'recycling trees into hospice care'. In January 2026 we expect over 175 hospices nationally to be running their own collections, and they will gather in well over a quarter of a million trees whilst making upwards of £5million. Significantly, this effort will also save around 3,500 tonnes of CO₂e from going into the atmosphere making this fundraising a truly eco-friendly operation.

You too could be part of this by booking in your tree for a collection. Do this at www.echtrees.org.uk where you can also make a donation. Then we will collect your tree on the weekend of **10/11 January 2026**.

Recycle your tree and give the gift of hospice care....it all started with a £10 note.

**

Stronger

Statistics show we're getting stronger. 50 years ago, you needed an estate car to hold £50 worth of Christmas presents. 20 years ago, it took two people to carry £20 worth of groceries. Now a five-year-old can do it.

Oops!

A vicar gave his daughter a puppy for Christmas. An hour later, he found her in the kitchen, looking sadly at a puddle in the centre of the floor. "Look Dad," she said, "My pup runneth over."

Travels of a Church-O-phile

By Alan Wilson

Following my visit to St Oswald's, Ashbourne, in June this year my next destination was Melbourne, tucked away in the south-east corner of Derbyshire; Calke Abbey is a close neighbour.

The parish church here is *St Michael with St Mary*, and this year they are celebrating their 900th anniversary. This is a *substantial* church, a mini-cathedral which survives as one of the finest Norman churches of England.

King Henry I (1100 – 1135) was certainly involved in some way and because the church is so large and elaborate it is considered quite possible it was built as a royal church by Henry as part of his manor at Melbourne. The nearest relatives to the church in architectural style are to be found on the continent, such that the plan of Melbourne may point to a German architect.

It was definitely worth buying the church's 20-page booklet which gives a comprehensive history alongside plenty of full colour photographs. In outline the plan of the church is 'cruciform'; in other words, it is built in the shape of a cross. The chief symbol of Christian belief is thus used to good effect, since all worship takes place within the cross of Christ.



Even a church as solid-looking as this one is, needs time and money spent on it. Fittingly, the Victorians changed this one a lot!

However, the Rev Deans, Vicar from 1831 until 1888, was a Tory whereas Melbourne as a town was Liberal, so he faced much opposition and an uphill struggle to raise the necessary funds for a restoration which began in 1859 by Sir Gilbert Scott. Owing to his commitment the town grew to respect Deans who'd played an active part of Melbourne life for 57 years.

The bells are rung to full-cycle change ringing from the crossing floor. The oldest four date from between 1610 and 1732 and were recast in 1882 with the addition of two more, and a further two in 1887 to mark the queen's Golden Jubilee. The organ dates from 1860 and was completely rebuilt in 1981.

In case you were wondering – Melbourne *is* the origin of its namesake in Australia, the capital of Victoria. A well-to-do local family, the Lamb's, produced Queen Victoria's first prime minister, Lord Melbourne, whose wife Lady Caroline famously described Lord Byron as *mad, bad and dangerous to know*. Travel buffs may be interested to know Thomas Cook was born here in 1808.

There is plenty to do here as the church is sited within the grounds of Melbourne Hall. There is a tea room, gardens and a large lake which makes for a lovely stroll on a fine summer's day if you have the time, and a number of small gift shops; even an air-conditioned one selling antiques. An excellent nearby public house, *The Spirit Vaults* offers comfortable accommodation where I based myself for the visit.

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Nativity set

A man visiting his daughter and her family for Christmas was admiring the beautiful nativity set in her hallway. His young granddaughter came up to him, and he asked her if she knew what it was. "Sure I do," she replied. "It's breakable."

Did the Old Testament expect Jesus to come?

Yes indeed! The Old Testament contains many prophecies about a coming Messiah which were fulfilled by Jesus. Here are just some examples:

He would be born of a virgin.

Isaiah foresaw: 'Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and will call Him Immanuel.' (Isaiah 7:14)

He would be born in Bethlehem.

Micah wrote: 'But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins

are from of old, from ancient times.' (Micah 5:2)

His lineage would be of the line of David.

Jeremiah prophesied: 'The days are coming,' declares the Lord, "when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Saviour.' (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

He would bring healing

Isaiah looks forward to: 'Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.' (Isaiah 35:5-6) And the Psalms add that He will be the one who 'forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.' (Psalm 103:3)

He would be betrayed

The Psalms prophesy: 'Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me.' (Psalm 41:9)

Zechariah even prophesies the price of that betrayal: 'So they paid me thirty pieces of silver.' (Zechariah 11:12)

He would be crucified

Psalm 22 foresees the horror of His crucifixion: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?... All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. "He trusts in the Lord," they say, "let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."... I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me. My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death... Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.'

And Isaiah explains this suffering: 'Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.' (Isaiah 53: 4-5)

He would rise from the dead

Malachi declares: 'But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays.'

And the Psalms put it this way: 'Therefore my heart is glad ... because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay. ... You will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.' (Psalm 16: 8-11)

Finally, in Acts, Peter uses the Old Testament to explain Jesus to the crowd at Pentecost:

"Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew

that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne.

“Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that He was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did His body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.... Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” (Acts 2: 29 – 36)

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Why does Christmas begin at midnight with Holy Communion?

The hour was first chosen at Rome in the fifth century to symbolise the idea that Christ was born at midnight – a mystical idea in no way hindered by historical evidence! No one knows the real hour of His birth.

Certainly, in recent times, Holy Communion at midnight on Christmas morning has proved popular with modern families. One British writer pointed out its “domestic convenience” in 1947: “for where there are children and no servants, husband and wife may be unable to communicate at any other time.” (So things don’t change, then!)

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Mistletoe’s smelly history

Did you know that the word ‘mistletoe’ means dung on a tree? The Anglo-Saxons thought that mistletoe grew in trees where birds had left their droppings. Mistel means dung, and tan means twig.

Why the world was ready for Christmas

Ever wonder why Jesus was born when He was? The Bible tells us that “when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son...” The Jewish people had been waiting for their Messiah for centuries. Why did God send Him precisely when He did?

Many biblical scholars believe that the ‘time had fully come’ for Jesus because of the politics of the time. The Roman Empire’s sheer size and dominance had achieved something unique in world history: the opportunity for travel from Bethlehem to Berwick on Tweed without ever crossing into ‘enemy territory’ or needing a ‘passport’.

For the first time ever, it was possible for ‘common’ people to travel wide and far, and quickly spread news and ideas. And all you needed were two languages - Greek to the east of Rome, and Latin to the west and north. You could set sail from Joppa (Tel Aviv) and head for any port on the Med. And the Roman roads ran straight and true throughout the empire.

So, the Roman Empire achieved something it never intended: it helped spread news of Christianity far and wide for 400 years. After that, the Empire crumbled, and the borders shut down. Not until the 19th century would people again roam so freely. The time for Jesus to be born, and for news of Him to be able to travel, had indeed ‘fully come’.

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The world’s oldest fake tree

Did you know that it is a family in Wiltshire, the Parkers, who claim to own the world’s oldest artificial Christmas tree? It was bought in 1886, and it is still put up every year.

How Father Christmas got where he is today

One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is Father Christmas. If he looks tired, just remember that he has been around a long time and gone through a lot of transformations.

Father Christmas wasn't always the red-suited, white-bearded star of the retail trade that he is today. He began life as Nicholas, born way back about AD260 in Patara, an important port on the southern coast of what is now Turkey. When his parents died and left him a fortune, Nicholas gave it away to the poor.

He became a bishop of the nearby city of Myra, where he almost certainly suffered persecution and imprisonment at the hand of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

Nicholas was a serious theologian: he was a participant at the First Council of Nicaea, which formulated the Creed which we still say today. He even, reportedly, slapped another bishop in a squabble over the exact nature of the Trinity.

Nicholas died in Myra about AD343, but the stories of his generosity and kindness were just beginning. One enduring tale tells of the three girls whom he rescued from certain



Image by [HoggyArt](#) from [Pixabay](#)

prostitution by giving them gold for their dowries. When the father confronted him to thank him, Nicholas said he should thank God alone.

In the UK, Nicholas became the basis for Father Christmas, who emerged in Victorian times as a jolly-faced bearded character. Meanwhile, Dutch and German settlers had taken him to America with them as Sinter Klaas and Sankt Nicklas.

It was in America that Nicholas received his final two great breaks into real stardom. The first was when the Rev Clement C Moore, a New York Episcopal minister, turned from his life's work of writing a Hebrew/English lexicon, to write a fun poem for his children one Christmas. His 'The Visit of St Nicholas' is now universally known by its first line: 'T'was the Night Before Christmas'.

From Clement Moore we discovered that St Nicholas is round and pink-cheeked and white-bearded, and that he travels at night with sleigh, reindeer and a sack of toys on his back. It was Clement Moore who also revealed that St Nicholas enters houses down chimneys and fills children's stockings with toys and sweets.

So how did we find out that Father Christmas wears red? That was the US Coca-Cola advertising campaign of 1931, who finally released the latest, up-to-date pictures of Father Christmas: wearing a bright red, fur-trimmed coat and a large belt.

These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get around all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he will have to travel 221 million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound. For all those of us who are already exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.

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A cheerful giver does not count the cost of what he gives. His heart is set on pleasing and cheering him to whom the gift is given. - *Julian of Norwich*

All in the month of December

It was:

250 years ago, on 16th Dec 1775 that Jane Austen, novelist (*Sense and Sensibility, Pride and Prejudice, Mansfield Park, Emma, Northanger Abbey, Persuasion*) was born. Over 30 million copies of her books have been sold.

150 years ago, on 6th Dec 1875 that Evelyn Underhill, writer and pacifist was born. Best known for her books on religion and Christian mysticism.

80 years ago, on 27th Dec 1945 that The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development were founded.

75 years ago, on 25th Dec 1950 that the Stone of Scone, the coronation stone of British monarchs, was taken from Westminister Abbey in London by four Scottish students. They transported it to Scotland but broke it. It was later returned to London and used in the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

70 years ago, on 1st Dec 1955 that African American civil rights activist Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white man in Montgomery Alabama. This led to the birth of the modern American civil rights movement.

Also 70 years ago, on 20th Dec 1955 that Cardiff was made capital city of Wales.

65 years ago, on 9th Dec 1960 that the first episode of the TV soap Coronation Street was broadcast on ITV.

60 years ago, on 22nd Dec 1965 that Richard Dimbleby, journalist and radio-television broadcaster, died. The BBC's first war correspondent, he was one of the greatest figures in British broadcasting history.

40 years ago, on 7th Dec 1985 that Robert Graves, poet, novelist, critic,

translator and classical scholar died. Best known for *I, Claudius*, and *Goodbye to All That*.

30 years ago, on 22nd Dec 1995 that the British 'rogue trader' Nick Leeson was jailed for six and a half years in Singapore for fraudulent financial dealings which had led to the fall of Barings Bank.

Also 30 years ago, on 15th Dec that the European Council announced that the new European currency would be called the Euro.

Also 30 years ago, on 21st Dec 1995 that the city of Bethlehem passed from Israeli to Palestinian control. On 26th Dec Israel also passed dozens of West Bank villages over to the Palestinian authority.

25 years ago, 13th Dec 2000, that George Bush finally claimed the US presidency, 36 days after the election was held. The results were delayed by disputed votes in Florida.

20 years ago, on 27th Dec 2000 that British pharmaceutical companies Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham merged, to create the world's largest pharmaceutical company, GlaxoSmithKline.

10 years ago, on 19th Dec 2015 that Jimmy Hill, football player, manager and host of the BBC football TV series *Match of the Day* (1973-88) died.

**

Actual children's versions of Christmas Carols:

"...sleep in heavenly peas"

"Joy to the world, the Saviour rains!"

"Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plane..."

"While shepherds washed their socks by night..."

"Deck the Halls with Buddy Holly..."

"We three kings of porridge and tar..."

"On the first day of Christmas my tulip gave to me..."

All in the month of January

It was:

250 years ago, on 1st Jan 1776 that George Washington raised the first American flag, the Grand Union Flag, at Prospect Hill in Massachusetts.

200 years ago, on 30th Jan 1826 that the Menai Suspension Bridge was opened. Linking Anglesey to mainland Wales, it was the world's first suspension bridge.

150 years ago, on 12th Jan 1876 that Jack London, American novelist and journalist was born. Best known *The Call of the Wild* and *White Fang*.

125 years ago, on 22nd Jan 1901 that Queen Victoria died, and was succeeded by her son, Edward VII.

Also 125 years ago, on 27th Jan 1901 that Giuseppe Verdi, Italian composer died. Best known for his operas *Aida*, *Requiem*, *Otello* and *Falstaff*

100 years ago, on 13th Jan 1926 that Michael Bond, children's writer, was born. He created the characters Paddington Bear and Monsieur Pamplemousse.

Also 100 years ago, on 26th Jan 1926 that Scottish inventor John Logie Baird first demonstrated his TV system to members of the Royal Institution.

90 years ago, on 18th Jan 1936 that Rudyard Kipling, writer and poet, died. Best known for *The Jungle Book*, *Kim*, *If*, and many more.

Also 90 years ago, on 20th Jan 1936 that King George V died and was succeeded by his son Edward VIII, who abdicated that December.

80 years ago, on 3rd Jan 1946 that William Joyce, Lord Haw-Haw, British fascist politician died. He broadcast Nazi propaganda from Germany during WW2.

75 years ago, on 9th Jan 1951 that the UN headquarters in New York City was officially opened.

70 years ago, on 8th Jan 1956 that five American evangelical Christian missionaries were killed by the savage and isolated Huaorani tribe in Ecuador.

Also 70 years ago, on 31st Jan 1956 that AA Milne, writer, poet, humourist and playwright died. Best known for his stories about Winnie the Pooh.

60 years ago, on 17th Jan 1966 that the album *Sounds of Silence* by Simon and Garfunkel, was released.

50 years ago, on 12th Jan 1976 that Dame Agatha Christie, crime novelist, short story writer and playwright died. Best known for creating Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, and for the world's longest running play, *The Mousetrap*.

40 years ago, on 28th Jan 1986 that the US space shuttle Challenger exploded shortly after lift-off from Cape Canaveral, Florida. All seven astronauts died.

30 years ago, on 22nd Jan 1996 that a mass grave was discovered near Brcko Bosnia with the bodies of nearly 3,000 victims of Serb ethnic cleansing.

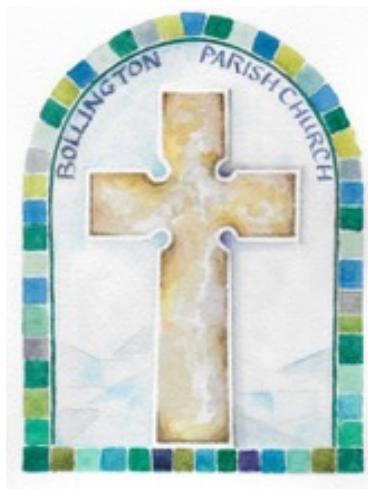
Also 30 years ago, on 27th Jan 1996 that the first Holocaust Remembrance Day was observed in Germany. It became International Holocaust Remembrance Day in 2005 when it was adopted by the United Nations.

25 years ago, on 12th Jan 2001 that Swedish football manager Sven Goran Eriksson became the first non-British coach of our national football team.

10 years ago, on 31st Jan 2016 that Terry Wogan, Iris radio and TV broadcaster, died. Known for his long-running BBC Radio 2 show, and for presenting TV's *Wogan*, *Blankety Blank*, *Come Dancing*, *the Children in Need*, and for his commentaries on the Eurovision Song Contest.

Book of Remembrance for December

3rd Dec - Kathleen Bamford
4th Dec - Alice Lea
4th Dec - Jack Fidler
5th Dec - Noel Mayers
6th Dec - Diana Kathleen Reader
6th Dec - Derek Joseph Moss
6th Dec - Marion Holmes
7th Dec - Ida Bowden
8th Dec - Jane Hannah Oldfield
9th Dec - Wilfred Whitehurst
10th Dec - Ann Taylor
12th Dec - David Albert Allen
12th Dec - Ewen Cameron
13th Dec - Edith Pye
14th Dec - Harry Needham
15th Dec - Alfred Goodwin
17th Dec - Maud Sutton
18th Dec - John Graham Kershaw
18th Dec - Evelyn Mear
20th Dec - John William Greensmith
21st Dec - Emily Horrox
22nd Dec - James M Glass
23rd Dec - Gordon Coley
25th Dec - William Osbaldiston
26th Dec - Harold B Dixon
27th Dec - Stella W Glass



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

Funeral - 29th October - Sandra Kershaw

Book of Remembrance for January

2nd Jan - William King
2nd Jan - Jean Hatton
3rd Jan - Ronald Hugh Wilson Smith
3rd Jan - Elsie Clayton
3rd Jan - Vera Marie Parry
4th Jan - Joan Ottley
6th Jan - Isabella Alderson
7th Jan - William (Bill) Bowden
8th Jan - Claire Whyte
8th Jan - Raymond Fisher
9th Jan - Jean Lawson
10th Jan - Carole Elizabeth Bell
11th Jan - David Worthington
11th Jan - Ruth Spooner
12th Jan - John Peter Williams
13th Jan - Harry Whitworth
14th Jan - Arthur James Molineux
15th Jan - Arthur James Henson
19th Jan - Ethel Heathcote
20th Jan - Margaret Cumberbirch
22nd Jan - Geoffrey Hunt
24th Jan - Thomas Edward Heaps
(Organist & choirmaster at St John's Bollington)
24th Jan - Eleanor Cooper
24th Jan - Norah Wallworth
24th Jan - Walter James Hargreaves
25th Jan - John Heathcote
26th Jan - Alan Roy Clarke
27th Jan - Allen Oldfield
27th Jan - John Neville King
28th Jan - Stephen Wellington
28th Jan - Stuart Michael Hatton
31st Jan - Emily White



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Bollington Church News

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Giving to St Oswald's:

Our bank account name is '**The Anglican Parish of Bollington PCC**'.

Our account number is **39536416** and the sort code is **01-05-41**.

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

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

Deadline: Material for the February issue to reach Anne by 22nd January.

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True story

The nativity play was going as planned and Joseph and Mary were going from 'house' to 'house' knocking on the doors and asking if there was any room for them. As they continued to get 'no room' answers, a little voice called from the back of the church: "You should have booked!"

Weird Christmas

Christmas is weird – at what other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat sweets out of your socks?

Worship in December & January

Sunday 7 th Dec	10.30am - Celtic Communion
Sunday 14 th Dec	10.30am - Parish Communion 3.00pm - Carol Service with Bollington Festival Choir
Sunday 21 st Dec	10.30am - Parish Communion
Sunday 28 th Dec	10.30am - Parish Communion
Sunday 4 th Jan	10.30am - Celtic Communion
Sunday 11 th Jan	10.30am - Parish Communion
Sunday 18 th Jan	10.30am - Parish Communion
Sunday 25 th Jan	10.30am - Parish Communion

Special Christmas Events

Monday 1 st Dec	7.00pm - Carols at the Cock and Pheasant
Wednesday 10 th Dec	7.00pm to 8.15pm –

An Evening for Advent Reflection – Journeying with Mary: Walk a spiral to experience beauty, stillness and space this Advent, as we look forward to the coming of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. The spiral is a simple labyrinth, an ancient spiritual practice updated for the 21st century. All welcome.

Thursday 11 th Dec	10.30am - Sing a Long Carols with mulled wine & mince pies
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Christmas Eve	10.30am - All Age Nativity Crib Service with Carols 11.15pm - First Communion of Christmas
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Christmas Day	10.30am - Christmas Day Family Communion
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New Year's Day (Thurs 1 st Jan)	10.30am - Holy Communion 11.30am followed Bring & Share Lunch all welcome!
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