



# Parish News

**Including news  
from St Philip's**



**August 2020**

*Welcome to another edition of our Parish Magazine, which now also includes occasional news and contributions from St Philip's.*

Please send material for the  
September  
issue to  
Sigrid Pain  
sigridjcp@gmail.com  
or  
admin@boltonparishchurch.co.uk

### **Parish Church Schools**

Canon Slade School, Bradshaw Brow BL2 3BP  
Headteacher: Karen Sudworth  
Tel: 01204 333343

Bishop Bridgeman Primary School, Rupert Street BL3 6PY  
Executive Principal: Jill Pilling  
Headteacher: Hafsha Hafeji

Bolton Parish Church Primary School, Chadwick Street BL2 1JN  
Headteacher: Angela Worthington  
Tel: 01204 333433

## Chris writes...

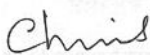
Dear friends

“What ordained ministry does the Church of England require?” This question was asked in a 1987 Church of England report, discussing the shape of the church’s ministry. The question was highly influential in shaping the training offered to those preparing for ordained ministry in the Church of England, marking a shift from individualism in the colleges and courses towards a concerted effort to equip clergy to lead a church that serves the mission of God in the world.

One of the consequences of this change for parishes was recognition that the whole ministry of the church belongs not to the clergy but to Christ, and that all of us, ordained and lay, have a part to play in that ministry. All baptised Christians are called to ministry; a few are called to ordained ministry. Returning to the opening question, an appropriate rephrase would be “What ministry does Bolton Parish Church require?” As you think about your answer, there are one or two aspects that I would like to offer from the vicar’s perspective...

1. As the ministry of the church belongs to Christ, then each of us has a privilege, not a right to share in it.
2. We are all called through baptism to share in Christ’s ministry – it is not an option but an integral part of our life of faith.
3. Christian churches are richly blessed with God given gifts; at the Parish Church we are no exception.
4. Christian ministry is far more than having a public role on Sunday – it is about serving the mission of God in the world.
5. Christian ministry is not about helping the vicar – it is **not a delegated ministry!** Each of us is called to use his/her gifts in our own right.
6. Christian ministry is **collaborative** – it involves working together to discern where, under God, we should be going and seeking to use all that we have in order to get there.

Enough thoughts from me! I am deeply committed to everyone at Bolton Parish Church being able to use their gifts and talents in the most effective way possible. This is one of my prime tasks as vicar – to maximise this potential, not for my own sake or to make the church look good, but in order to fulfil the mission of God in this place.



## Ian writes

I was speaking to a friend the other day who has recently been made redundant. In his latest interview he was asked this question by one of the interviewers: “What has the lockdown taught you?” He wasn’t expecting that question for a job in logistics management and his off the cuff reply was, “... That my children’s teachers don’t get paid enough!”

Indeed. Teachers, care workers, the list of unsung heroes in our communities, way beyond the period of COVID-19, goes on. Many of us have tried to learn a whole new skill set, whether in home-schooling (which we have had limited success with, to be honest) or new IT skills – change and new skills abound, but alongside that, a deep gratefulness for those who are properly trained and skilled in these areas.

As a society I think we are [re-]capturing some of that sense of thankfulness and awareness concerning the jobs that have sometimes gone under-appreciated, sometimes even un-noticed for too long. And real-life value of jobs like care work have been made more visible, though their remuneration and job security doesn’t yet match the responsibilities. Many people have found themselves courageously undertaking roles they weren’t expecting. I was pleasantly surprised the other day, when on a walk Lucy, Jessie and Ben said how attached they have become to the little family services we have been putting together for Sundays since Easter. When we talked about winding these services down over summer, they were quite disappointed until I told them there was plenty of scope for them helping out with some of the other things we are doing!

Looking back at my April magazine article, written near the start of lockdown, I had picked the theme of Peter walking on water. Peter, the man for every moment, the ‘swiss-army-knife’ of saints, and so often the spokesperson of the disciples embraced radical change in his life with faithful optimism and steadfast courage – from local fisherman to “I will make you a fisher of men”, to Cephas, the rock, and with each twist and turn of his discipleship journey he dared greatly. His courage reminds me of the ‘Man in the Arena’ speech by Theodore Roosevelt, “It’s not to the critic who counts; nor the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done

them better.....the credit belongs to the one who is actually in the arena... who strives valiantly, who errs... because there is no effort without error or shortcoming; ...who spends himself on a worthy cause..." (from *Citizenship in a Republic*, 1910). Peter could have been the poster boy for this section of Roosevelt's manifesto.

I focused on the panel of stained glass, depicting Peter stepping out of the boat and walking on water, but I could have picked from many other tales; stories of his willingness to follow Jesus as his disciple, even though it so often involved a step into the unknown. From the small amount of Bolton Parish Church's history that I know, there's something of that similar steadfast courage of Peter that has seeped into the walls and culture and lifeblood of St Peter's church, and as we plan for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary 2021, even in the midst of COVID-19, the drive to celebrate the past, rejoice in the present and equip for the future, is stepped in that steadfast courage.

That's one of the reasons I am so thrilled and honoured to be taking up the responsibilities as Lecturer and Associate Priest (actually, there really are so many reasons). I am thrilled to be associated with all those Lecturers (and Vicars) whose vision and courage have made that same commitment to the steadfast courage of Peter into a living reality in this church and beyond its walls throughout the town.

I and the family have loved spending these last two years (it really has flown by!) at St Peter's and St Philip's and are very much looking forward to this new venture. Ilona has already been measuring up for curtains and carpets at Wingate's Vicarage, which will be our new home, and I am looking forward to getting a decent bookshelf (and Ilona is quite pleased about this too, since the rising tide of my book collection has met with some flood defences on occasion!)

But frivolities aside, it's the adventure which I am looking forward to, in responding to that call of Jesus to follow him, to try to bear witness to his light and life, and to share that journey with you.

Best Wishes,

Ian

## **Ordination of priests**

As many readers will know, Ian was to have been ordained priest on 27<sup>th</sup> June and to have presided at the eucharist for the first time on 28<sup>th</sup> June. Like much else, the COVID-19 lockdown resulted in the ordination service being postponed.

Ordinations have now been rearranged and the priests will be ordained on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October in three different churches in the diocese, one of which is Bolton Parish Church. The time for the service is not yet known but it will be good for Ian to be ordained here in the church where he serves and where he is to continue his ministry as Lecturer.

We will hold a celebration service on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm at which Ian will preside for the first time. Again, we are still unclear about what form this service will take though at its heart will be a celebration of Ian's continued ministry amongst us.

## **Revd Roy Iddon**

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July marked the retirement of Revd Roy Iddon after 18 years as Associate Priest at St Philip's. Roy streamed a service from home that day and we were able to present Roy and Ann with gifts from St Philip's in thanksgiving for their dedicated years of service. When Roy went to St Philip's in 2002, it was, at the bishop's request, for a few months to help out – in fact 216 months in total! During that time, Roy has provided outstanding spiritual and pastoral care for the St Philip's church family and I know that my two predecessors were very grateful for Roy's ministry, as I have been.

Roy enjoyed a distinguished career in teaching, and was ordained in 1983 whilst head of St Andrew's, Livesey, Blackburn. It was there that Roy and I first met when I was curate in the parish in the mid 1980s. I was at Roy's retirement party at St Andrew's in 1995 yet here I am, 25 years later, still paying tribute to his great range of gifts and talents. This says so much about a teacher and priest who has given so much of himself in the service of others. I am grateful, as I know are many, many people, for Roy's enthusiasm, readiness to engage with a wide range of people and above all, for the way in which he lives out his own faith and priestly calling in the service of others.

In time, Roy and Ann hope to worship at the Parish Church and we look forward to that day. In the meantime, thank you Roy for all that you have given, and to you and to Ann, we send our love and prayers for the years ahead.

Chris

## **2021 update**

Like so much else, our plans for celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church's consecration in 2021 have needed to be revised in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2021 Steering Group reported to the PCC in July that, following careful consideration, we have decided to move the celebration from the calendar year 2021 to a year running from June 2021 to June 2022. This will allow more time for planning and, importantly, for the necessary fundraising for some of the events.

Some of the key events planned so far are:

### **10<sup>th</sup> January 2021 11.00am**

Bishop of Manchester to preside and preach

### **19<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

Music festival week featuring a range of concerts

### **27<sup>th</sup> June 11.00am**

11.00am Celebration Eucharist

### **29<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm**

St Peter's Day Service at which the preacher will be The Very Revd Matt Thompson, Dean of Birmingham.

### **25<sup>th</sup> September**

150<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner

### **29<sup>th</sup> April – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022**

Flower Festival

There are plenty of other events planned, though some still need dates to be fixed. We are determined that the difficulties of this year will not detract from our thanksgiving for the gift of our wonderful church building and community.

## Calendar for August 2020

- 2 Sunday Eighth Sunday after Trinity**  
07.45 Prayer Locker — online  
8.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) online later in the day  
11.00 Parish Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
18.30 Evening Prayer (Common Worship)
- 4 Tuesday Jean-Baptiste Vianney, cure d'Ars, spiritual guide, 1859  
12.15 Holy Communion (Common Worship)
- 6 Thursday **Transfiguration of Our Lord**  
12.15 Holy Communion (Common Worship)
- 9 Sunday Ninth Sunday after Trinity**  
07.45 Prayer Locker — online  
8.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) online later in the day  
11.00 Parish Communion (Common Worship)  
18.30 Evening Prayer (Common Worship)
- 11 Tuesday Clare of Assisi, founder of the Poor Clares, 1253  
John Henry Newman, priest, 1890  
12.15 Holy Communion (Common Worship)
- 13 Thursday Jeremy Taylor, bishop, teacher of the faith, 1667  
Florence Nightingale, nurse, social reformer, 1910  
12.15 Holy Communion (Common Worship)
- 16 Sunday Tenth Sunday after Trinity**  
07.45 Prayer Locker — online  
8.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) online later in the day  
11.00 Parish Communion (Book of Common Prayer)  
18.30 Evening Prayer (Common Worship)
- 18 Tuesday 12.15 Holy Communion (Common Worship)
- 20 Thursday Bernard, abbot, teacher of the faith, 1153  
William and Catherine Booth, founders of the Salvation Army, 1912, 1890  
12.15 Holy Communion (Common Worship)
- 23 Sunday Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**  
07.45 Prayer Locker — online  
8.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) online later in the day  
11.00 Parish Communion (Common Worship)  
18.30 Evening Prayer (Common Worship)
- 25 Tuesday 12.15 Holy Communion (Common Worship)
- 27 Thursday Monica, mother of Augustine of Hippo 387  
12.15 Holy Communion (Common Worship)
- 30 Sunday Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**  
07.45 Prayer Locker — online  
8.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) online later in the day  
11.00 Parish Communion (Common Worship)  
18.30 Evening Prayer (Common Worship)



### **New Lecturer and Associate Vicar appointed**

On 12<sup>th</sup> July, we were able to announce that the Revd Ian Hepburn has been appointed as the next Lecturer and Associate Vicar at Bolton Parish Church in succession to Revd Moira Slack.

The Lecturer is nominated jointly by the Vicar and Hulme Charity Trustees and presented to the Bishop to be licensed to this post. All involved were unanimous in the view that Ian should be invited to take up this post and we are delighted that he has accepted. He will be licensed and welcomed by the Bishop of Bolton and Archdeacon of Bolton on Monday 30th November at 7.30pm.

The Royal British Legion county service recorded by Chris last month can still be viewed online. Chris conducted the service, with Michael Pain providing the hymns and organ music. The opening and closing organ pieces, Elgar's Nimrod and Widor's Toccata, are played against spectacular filming featuring the standards in the south aisle and aerial footage of the church.

**[www.facebook.com/boltonparishchurch](https://www.facebook.com/boltonparishchurch)**

(scroll down to the posts for 19<sup>th</sup> July)

or follow the direct link to YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/gXzCQ-KWC1I>

Roy and Ann Iddon have sent a thank you message for the gifts and good wishes received on the occasion of Roy's retirement as Associate Priest at St Philip's.

You can see the message on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/CCiy8OpCHEQ>

and on the St Philip's Facebook page.

## **Flower News**

It was wonderful to be back in touch with our florist at the beginning of July with an order for church flowers. The altar arrangements for the 12<sup>th</sup> were created using garden foliage and white carnations. There was also an arrangement by the pulpit which included hydrangeas from the church grounds, pink alstroemeria and garden foliage: ferns, alchemilla, spotted laurel, rubus, and skimmia.

As members of the Church of England Flower Arrangers' Association the Flower Team should have been attending the AGM in Birmingham at the beginning of June, but of course this was cancelled and rebooked for June 2021. Usually in the middle of June, the Association celebrates the link and friendship between all our members by having a chain of flowers in churches across the country. This will now take place on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August when it is hoped that as many members as possible will be able to take part.

### **The Church of England Flower Arrangers' Association prayer.**

O Lord the creator of all things of beauty, grant to those who serve you with their gifts of floral art, a sense of your majesty and a desire to heighten the worship of the Holy Church by the dedicated use of their gifts.

This we ask in the name of Him who with the Father is the Creator and Sustainer of all good things, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Flower Team

## **The Tenth Sunday after Trinity**

### **The Collect**

Let thy merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of thy humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## **Dancing under the Dome**

It would never have occurred to me that I should one day be dancing under the dome of St Paul's Cathedral during a Eucharist! However, nearly two years ago an invitation came from a circle dance teacher to join a group of dancers to dance a suite of dances that had been choreographed by Nanni Kloke using the Creation story in Genesis 1 as her inspiration, set to various pieces of classical music. There would be three days of learning the 15 dances, and then on the Sunday we would dance some of the dances during a Eucharist at St Paul's Cathedral, and the following day we would dance the whole of the suite in the chapel of King's College. It would be a challenge, but such an opportunity doesn't often come one's way! So my fellow circle dancer Miranda Williams and I set off last November for Teddington where we should be spending the hours of learning.

We found we were in a group of 33 women and one man, with fellow dancers from all parts of England, Sweden, Belgium and France and one who had come from Brazil just for the five days. Miranda and I were in the minority as not having danced any of these dances previously, so were facing a very steep learning curve, though Judy King our teacher assured us that we would know the dances by the time we came to dance them on Sunday!

Our learning took place in St Mark's Church in Teddington, where the vicar, Karen Wellman, is a circle dancer and had organised the whole venture with Judy King. We were made to feel very welcome in the church and, despite its limited facilities, were comfortable and provided with excellent lunches and refreshments at breaks. St Mark's was built in the 1930s, and it has recently raised money for some modernisation of their facilities.

Karen very sympathetically talked to us about the Creation story. She also talked to us about the Eucharist itself, emphasising the choreography of the movements of the priest at the altar as well as the standing, sitting and walking of the congregation during the service.

On Sunday morning we all joined the congregation of St Mark's for their

communion service, at which Karen presided; it was good to be with them as we had been sharing their church. There was a small choir and the music was supplied by a CD player.

Most of their church members stayed on after coffee to watch one or two of the dances. During the afternoon we were taken by coach to St Paul's Cathedral. Karen and Judy had written a service booklet which gave explanation of the dances which would be at the beginning and end of the service and three dances where a sermon would have been, with suggestions for reflection during the different dances. Most of the several hundred members of the congregation may have been surprised at the dancing, but the circular space beneath the dome is perfect for it. As circle dancing is participative rather than a spectator activity it felt strange to be dancing in front of a congregation (which included Miranda's long time friend, my school friend and my daughter), but what an experience it was.

The service was so different in so many ways from the morning's Eucharist at St Mark's, though the liturgy was the same, and the strength of impact of them both was intense. The president invited the congregation to join in the final dance, the Amen, and many did so, and there were two large tight concentric circles swaying to Arkadi Dubenski's Grand Liturgie Orthodoxe Slave to finish the service. The following day we made our way to the Strand and King's College chapel where we danced the whole suite of fifteen dances in an amazing space, a remarkable piece of Victorian architecture, coincidentally where both of my parents had been students in the 1920s.

At the end of our dancing it was lunch time and we joined throngs of students leaving the building (how different it would have been for my parents a hundred years ago!) and found ourselves on the busy pavement surrounded by a wealth of incredible modern buildings which dominate the skyline, and the 50 or so churches in the city alone still holding services today. An overwhelmingly rich and unforgettable experience indeed.

***Lesley Easterman***

To learn more about circle dance or participate in one of Judy King's courses, contact Judy at [www.judyking.co.uk](http://www.judyking.co.uk)

To find out more about dance as contemplative prayer, contact Revd Karen [revkarenwellman@btinternet.com](mailto:revkarenwellman@btinternet.com)



Above: Sunrise

Below: Dancing the Circle

Photos by Steve Warr



## **Bolton's Humanitarian Food Hub**

Bolton's Humanitarian Food Hub led by Bolton Council and supported by many organisations including Urban Outreach, Bolton at Home, Seddon's and Bolton CVS are still feeding many families each week so they are continually in need of many food items. Please would you would be able to support by providing food donations of these items:

### **Current Priority Items**

**Baby wipes  
Size 5, 6 and 7 nappies  
Tinned fruit  
Tinned custard**

### **Also needed**

**Tinned meat, veg, chopped tomatoes, fruit,  
500g boxes of breakfast cereal,  
Cordial, Long life milk, Custard powder,  
1kg bags of rice, Pasta (500g),  
Baked beans, Tinned soup, Jars of pasta sauce,  
Tinned pulses, Tinned vegetables  
(sweetcorn, peas, carrots and potatoes),  
Biscuits,  
Tea,  
Tinned fish,  
Jars of baby food (different ages),  
Incontinence pads,  
Male toiletries,  
Nappies, Wipes.**

If you are able to purchase any of these items please leave them in the grub tub in church or take to Unit 4, Trinity Retail Park, Bradford Street, Springfield, Haulgh, Bolton, BL2 1HY (in the old 'Staples' unit at the bottom on the far right opposite where Toys R Us used to be) on weekdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

**For further information please contact Sam Bagley at**

**[samuel.bagley@urbanoutreach.co.uk](mailto:samuel.bagley@urbanoutreach.co.uk)**

### **Prayer of preparation for 2021**

*The prayer below has been produced to help us to prepare for the 2021 celebrations. Card copies of the prayer are available on request.*

Lord God, we give you thanks for the church in this place.

For the building which for almost 150 years has stood in faithful witness, being founded on rock which has been a site of Christian worship for centuries past;

And for your people who meet here, grounded in the faith of your Apostle Peter, whom Christ called to be the rock on which He would build His Church.

Grant, we pray, continuing blessing on the work of your church in this town. Amen

### **Happy 358<sup>th</sup> birthday to the Book of Common Prayer on 24th August**

The Dictionary of English Church History notes that: "...The Prayer Book now remained unaffected by Parliamentary action till 1645, when its use was forbidden by the ordinances of the Long Parliament. A Bill for Uniformity passed the Commons in July 1661, but this was then delayed by the revision which was in progress. This was completed, and adopted by Convocation in December, and in 1662 the Bill was again considered in Parliament, and also in Convocation. The revised book was not discussed by either House of Parliament, though the Commons asserted their right to discuss it if they pleased. They also threw out a clause, introduced by the Lords, giving the Crown power to dispense with obligations of the Bill. It received the royal assent, 19th May. It orders the exclusive use of the book, which is annexed to the Act, in all places of worship from St. Bartholomew's Day (24th August) 1662, before which all ministers must publicly declare their assent to it on pain of deprivation..."

**From the Lectionary: 5 August: Saint Oswald**  
**- a king of faith, courage and humility**

Oswald was the son of the pagan King Aethelfrith, a fierce warrior who laid the foundations of the great kingdom of Northumbria. Oswald was born in AD 605 at the height of his father's power, just after he had invaded Deira, which with Bernicia formed the kingdom of Northumbria, and forced its rightful heir, Edwin (who would also become a saint), to flee.

King Aethelfrith was killed at the Battle of the River Idle and Oswald was only twelve years old when he was driven into exile with his sister and two brothers as Edwin became King of Northumbria. For their own safety, all were taken to Irish territory in the West of Scotland. The three brothers were educated by the Christian monks on Iona.



Edwin's Kingdom of Northumbria was constantly beset by war and skirmishes and in October 633, Edwin was killed by the joint army of Cadwallan of Gwynedd and Penda of Mercia at the Battle of Hatfield Chase.

Oswald's brother Eanfrith took the opportunity to return home, and became king of Bernicia. Eanfrith was determined to make peace with Cadwallan, and Bede reports that Eanfrith went to Cadwallan "with only twelve chosen soldiers" in an attempt to negotiate peace, but Cadwallan had him put to the sword. Oswald himself now had to decide whether to remain in safety or move south to claim his kingdom.

In 'The Ecclesiastical History of England', Bede tells us that Oswald prepared to meet his enemies Cadwallan and Penda in battle on a December night at a place which is now called Heavenfield. His small army was likely to be outnumbered and victory seemed impossible. However, that night, Oswald had a vision of St Columba, the founder of Iona.

Adomnán, in his *Life of Saint Columba*, offers an account of the vision, which Abbot Ségéne had heard from Oswald himself. Oswald, he says, was told by Columba:

*Be strong and act manfully. Behold, I will be with thee. This coming night go out from your camp into battle, for the Lord has granted me that at this time your foes shall be put to flight and Cadwallan your enemy shall be delivered into your hands and you shall return victorious after battle and reign happily.*



Oswald described his vision to his council and all agreed that they would be baptised and accept Christianity after the battle.

Before the battle, Oswald made a rough cross from two young trees and held it upright until soldiers were able to fill in the hole around it. Then he led his army in a prayer that God would bring victory and deliverance to his people. He also promised that if they survived, he would send for missionaries from Iona to bring the Christian faith to Northumbria. In the battle that followed, the enemy were routed despite their superior numbers and Cadwallon himself was killed.

Oswald was crowned King of Northumbria. His victory has become part of the region's folklore, commemorated by the name of that battlefield and the more permanent cross which now stands at Heavenfield. Many leaders would have regarded such a triumph as the high point of their career, advanced to the royal palace and quickly forgotten their promise to God. But Oswald remained faithful, and in due course St Aidan arrived in the new kingdom and decided to make Lindisfarne the centre of his ministry.

Oswald spent many uncomfortable weeks on the road acting as Aidan's interpreter. His willingness to lay aside his kingly privileges and follow a spiritual leader ensured that the Gospel spread quickly through the new kingdom and transformed many lives.

Within a few years, dark times returned to Northumbria. Oswald was killed at the Battle of Maserfield and his brother Oswin succeeded him as King. Penda continued his marauding raids. On one famous occasion, Aidan watched him attack the royal fortress as he prayed on the Farne Islands, and it is written that his intercessions caused the wind to change direction and beat back the flames from the castle gates.

But through it all, the light of Christianity continued to flourish and grow. Aidan is rightly remembered as the missionary who brought the good news to Northumbria, but he could not have succeeded without Oswald, the man who was brave enough to claim an earthly kingdom, yet obedient enough to play a humbler role in advancing a heavenly one.

Prayer from the liturgy for St Oswald's day (5 August), written by the Northumbria Community:

*"I place into your hands, Lord, the choices that I face. Guard me from choosing the way perilous of which the end is heart-pain and the secret tear. May I feel your presence at the heart of my desire, and so know it is for Your desire for me. Thus shall I prosper, thus see that my purpose is from You, thus have power to do the good which endures."*

## **Planned giving**

When you come to church, please remember to bring your filled planned giving envelopes. If you would like to make your regular giving by standing order (and thank you so much to those who have recently set up standing orders and those who have been doing it that way for years) the account details you need are:

### **Parish Church**

Account Name: Bolton Parish Church PCC Stewardship.

Sort Code: 16-00-06, Account Number: 11816952

### **St Philip's**

Account Name: St. Philip's Parochial Church Council.

Sort Code: 77-02-04, Account Number: 00017505

## **Wearing of masks**

You will know by now that we are required to wear masks in shops and various other places. The Church of England and Manchester Diocese have advised that masks should also be worn during church services, and at BPC and St Philip's we will follow that guidance.

Certain people are exempt from mask-wearing. If you come in without a mask, we won't be asking any questions but we may guide you towards a seat in a designated area of the building where you can be comfortably separate from other worshippers.

We will have a supply of masks for anyone who forgets!

Many of us find it more difficult to hear if we can't see the speaker's mouth. For this reason, the clergy will not wear masks when they are presiding or preaching, but they will for the rest of the time.

If in normal conversation – with a church officer before the service, for example – you need one of us temporarily to remove a mask, please say so.

**A scheme to refurbish the north west entrance to Bolton Parish Church has been approved by the PCC. (This is the main entrance under the tower.)**

**The plans will be displayed in Church on Sundays until 2 August.**

## Sunday School back in business

Sunday School resumed last month, with the leaders having worked hard to create a safe space and an enjoyable experience for the families.





## August 29th – The Beheading of John the Baptist



For Herod had sent and seized John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife; because he had married her. For John said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and kept him safe. When he heard him, he was much perplexed; and yet he heard him gladly.

But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and the leading men of Galilee. For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will grant it." And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom."

And she went out, and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the baptizer." And she came in immediately with haste to the king, and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

And the king was exceedingly sorry; but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. And immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard and gave orders to bring his head. He went and beheaded him in the prison.

Mark 6: 17-28

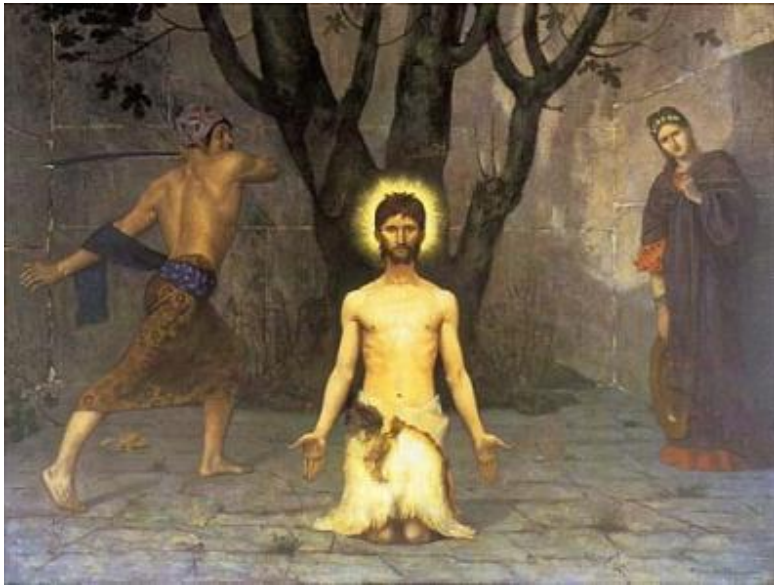
## Herodias – authoress of the death of John the Baptist

Herod the Great's execution of Alexander and Aristobulus IV (his sons by his wife Mariamne) in 7 BC for plotting against him left Aristobulus's daughter Herodias orphaned, and she eventually became engaged to Herod II (Philip), her uncle. After the executions, the king had named Herod II second to his eldest son Antipater III in succession to the kingship. However, Herodias's ambitions were frustrated when King Herod disinherited her husband, so when Herod II's half-brother, Antipas, who was tetrarch (a ruler appointed by Rome) of Galilee, later persuaded Herodias to divorce her husband and marry him, she agreed. The union was censured by John as unlawful. Herod's birthday celebration offered an opportunity for Herodias to gain revenge for John's rebuke. Salome, her daughter by her first husband, performed a dance that so pleased Herod that he offered to grant any wish she expressed. Salome was told by her mother to ask for John's head on a platter – a wish the reluctant Herod was bound to fulfil.

Herodias continued her wicked ways. She also urged her husband to attempt to discredit her brother Herod Agrippa I, who had recently received the tetrarchy of Batanaea and Trachonitis, to the east of the Sea of Galilee. She persuaded Antipas to go to Rome in search of the royal title, as his claim to it was far greater than that of her brother. However, instead of a crown, he found a charge of treason awaiting him, with the chief accuser Agrippa himself, who had sent messengers in advance to defeat the plans.

The Emperor Caligula banished Antipas to Lugdunum (Lyon) in Gaul. Herodias was not banished, and in perhaps one of the few noble acts of her life, she turned down the offer of a life of splendour in the palace of her brother, and followed Antipas into exile. Herodias herself was of venerable Hasmonean lineage on her father's mother's side; the more noble side of her nature must have come from her Hasmonean blood, while she almost certainly inherited her cruelty from her grandfather Herod the Great.





Through his birth, preaching and baptizing, he bore witness to the coming birth, preaching and baptism of Christ, and by his own suffering he showed that Christ also would suffer. Such was the quality and strength of the man who accepted the end of this present life by shedding his blood after the long imprisonment. He preached the freedom of heavenly peace, yet was thrown into irons by ungodly men; he was locked away in the darkness of prison, though he came bearing witness to the Light of life and deserved to be called a bright and shining lamp by that Light itself, which is Christ. John was baptized in his own blood, though he had been privileged to baptize the Redeemer of the world, to hear the voice of the Father above him, and to see the grace of the Holy Spirit descending upon him. But to endure temporal agonies for the sake of the truth was not a heavy burden for such men as John; rather it was easily borne and even desirable, for he knew eternal joy would be his reward.

(From a homily by the Venerable Bede)

## Hymns and Hymnwriters

### O Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness' was written by Revd John Samuel Bewley Monsell in 1860 and was published in 1863 in Hymns of Love and Praise for the Church's Year. The tune with which we are familiar, Was lebet, was schwebet, was introduced in the English Hymnal of 1906 and comes from a German manuscript of 1754, *Choral-Buch vor Johann Heinrich Reinhardt*.

The first line of the hymn is taken from 1 Chronicles 16:29, *Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness*.

Psalm 29, v. 2 contains similar wording, *Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness*, and the hymn's subject matter is also derived from Psalm 96, v. 9, *O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth*.

Although the hymn is classified as an Epiphany hymn, it can be used at other times during the year.

Monsell was born in 1811 in St. Columb's, Londonderry. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, graduating in 1832. After holding a number of ecclesiastical positions, he became rector of St Nicholas's Church, Guildford, Surrey, and Chaplain to Queen Victoria (1870-1875). He was a prolific poet and hymnist, publishing eleven volumes of poetry and approximately three hundred hymns, many of which have fallen by the wayside. The main ones currently sung are *O Worship the Lord*, *Fight the Good Fight* and *I Hunger and I thirst*.

He experienced a few personal tragedies in his life. He lost his eldest son Thomas in 1855 – Thomas was only 18 and died on the way to the Crimean War. His eldest daughter Elizabeth died at the age of 28 in Torquay.

There are various versions of how Monsell met his own death. What is certain is that it was during his inspection of the re-building work he had initiated at St Nicholas's Church. Some stories say that he was hit by falling masonry,



while others say that he fell from the roof while inspecting the work. Both versions agree that he died a few days later from a broken arm that became infected. I have long wanted to get to the bottom of this, and am no nearer.

A plaque at St Nicholas's states:

*On this spot Dr John Monsell rector of St Nicolas & hymn writer fell and injured his arm, which led to his death in 9th April 1875 during the building of this church. This plaque was laid here by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey Lord Hamilton of Dalzell to commemorate the extension to the church 27th November 1977.*

This would suggest the 'fall' version. Or maybe he fell after being struck from above? Whenever we sing *O Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness*, I always think 'killed by his own Church!'.

Sigrid



Left: the plaque at St. Nicholas's

Above: Revd Dr. John Monsell's resting place at the Mount Cemetery in Guildford

# Harvey A Crerar

*For all your plumbing and  
building work*

Telephone 01204 669170

Mobile 07759 19 44 78

1B Ansdell Road

Horwich

## Walsh's



## De Olde Pastie Shoppe

Open: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.  
Closed: SATURDAY and SUNDAY

We are the little shop with the big reputation. We have served generations for generations, and the family has run the business since 1898. We sell fresh and frozen pasties and meat pies, along with pasties, whist pies and mini sausage rolls which are great for parties. Our uncooked frozen pasties, which can be baked at home for that 'fresh from the oven' taste, are well worth a try.

29 - 31 Churchgate, BOLTON BL1 1  
Tel : 01204 - 524834 Fax: 01204 - 371682

**We support Royal School for the Blind, Church Road,  
Wavertree, LIVERPOOL L15 6TQ**

## Hymn Quiz answers

1 Flourish (Immortal, invisible), 2 Honey (Jerusalem the golden), 3 Drudgery (Teach me, my God and king), 4 Purge (Lord Jesus, think on me), 5 Prophet-bards (It came upon the midnight clear), 6 Scorching (forty days and forty nights), 7 Chide (Praise my soul the king of heaven), 8 Mingled (When I survey the wondrous cross), 9 Contemplating - apologies; this should have been 'contemplations' (answer at the very foot of the page if you want another try), 10 Noon-day (Light's abode, celestial Salem), 11 Eclipse (Love's redeeming work is done), 12 Chaos (Thou whose almighty word), 13 Purple-headed (All things bright and beautiful), 14 Aching (O for a closer walk), 15 Glassy (Holy, holy, holy), 16 Foot -marks (O Jesus, I have promised), 17 Inspired (Lord for the years), 18 Murderer (My song is love unknown), 19 Refreshing (We plough the fields), 20 Ever-rolling (O God our help in ages past), 21 Cloy (Lead us, heavenly father, lead us), 22 Stablished (O worship the king), 23 Trump (This joyful Eastertide or Disposer supreme), 24 Frowning (God moves in a mysterious way), 25 Heats (Dear Lord and father of mankind), 26 Slippery (Be thou my guardian and my guide), 27 Schooling (For the healing of the nations), 28 Seemly (All people that on earth do dwell), 29 Prostrate (All hail the power of Jesus' name or My God, how wonderful thou art), 30 Hobgoblin (Who would true valour see), 31 Theme (Ye holy angels bright), 32 Crafty (Creator of the starry height), 33 Organs (O praise ye the Lord), 34 Tracts (Rock of ages), 35 Ponder (Praise to the Lord, the Almighty), 36 Verge (Guide me, O thou great redeemer), 37 Successive (Jesus shall reign), 38 Perplexed (Now thank we all our God), 39 Falter (I vow to thee, my country), 40 Wreaths (At the name of Jesus)

Part Two: 1 Mirrored here, may our lives tell your story (Shine, Jesus, shine), 2 I delivered thee when bound (Hark my soul, it is the Lord), 3 Thrice holy! Father, spirit, son (Father of heaven, whose love profound), 4 Not one in seven (King of glory, king of peace), 5 In our wanderings be our guide (Father, hear the prayer we offer), 6 Hell's foundations quiver (Onward Christian soldiers), 7 Weak is the effort of my heart (How sweet the name of Jesus sounds), 8 He speaks (O for a thousand tongues to sing), 9 The king of glory passes on his way (For all the saints), 10 The cross he bore is life and health (The head that once was crowned with thorns), 11 God is our strength and song (Stand up and bless the Lord), 12 Should flesh and blood refine (Praise to the holiest in the height), 13 Above the thorns of choking care (Forth in thy name), 14 From utmost east to utmost west (God is working his purpose out), 15 From hell's devouring jaws (Ye choirs of new Jerusalem), 16 O Holy spirit, who didst brood (Eternal father, strong to save), 17 Fading is the wordling's pleasure (Glorious things of thee are spoken), 18 Come, let us follow where our captain trod (Lift high the cross), 19 Glad is the praise, sweet are the songs (Happy are they, they that love God), 20 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth (Great is thy faithfulness).

## BOLTON PARISH CHURCH CONTACTS

Vicar:	Revd Canon Dr. Chris Bracegirdle vicar@boltonparishchurch.co.uk	01204 396298
Associate Priest:	Revd Canon Prof. Kenneth Newport	0161 764 4361
Associate Priest:	Revd Barrie Gaskell	07512782297
Curate:	Revd Ian Hepburn curate@boltonparishchurch.co.uk	01942 814045
Authorised Lay Minister:	Evelyn F Weston	01204 594123
Church Wardens:	Canon John Walsh OBE	01204 840188
	Evelyn F Weston	01204 594123
Deputy Wardens:	Mr Graham C Burrows      Mr David Eckersley Mr Alan Forrester          Mr Anthony J Slack Mr Andrew J Mitchell      Mr David F Morlidge Mr Trevor J Whillas        Miss Esther Gelling	
PCC Secretary:	Mr Graham C Burrows	01942 550404
Treasurer:	Mr Andrew J Mitchell	01204 840633
Director of Music:	Mr Michael Pain michaelpain18@gmail.com	01204 491827
Administration	admin@boltonparishchurch.co.uk	01204 522226

## ST PHILIP'S CONTACTS

Vicar:	Revd Canon Dr. Chris Bracegirdle vicar@boltonparishchurch.co.uk	01204 396298
Church Wardens:	Mrs Pauline Dewse	01204 772276
	Mrs Jill Pilling	07977 933010