

Parish News

Including news from St Philip's



January 2021

Dear friends

... and I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown". And he replied: "go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way". These words are well known, not so much because of their author who privately published the poem from which they are taken in 1908, but because they were used by King George VI in his wartime Christmas broadcast of 1939. Whether you are reading these words for the first time or whether they are very well known to you, they almost certainly provide an opportunity to pause for thought at the beginning of a new year.

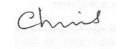
I'm sure that for all of us, 2020 will have provided plenty of surprises - happy and sad events in our own lives and in those of our families, colleagues and friends. There will have been changes of all kinds, expected and unexpected, welcome and unwelcome, minor and major. Overshadowing and surrounding them all has been the coronavirus pandemic and its awful impact with 68,000 deaths at the time of writing. Add to that the job losses, damage to the economy and enormous strain placed on our NHS, education system and community life and it's little wonder that it will be a year many want to forget.

However, if we were to spend too much time at the beginning of 2021 dwelling on these issues, we would become so absorbed with what *might* happen this year that we would be too scared to do anything. Clearly this is not an option for us and so we must decide how best to face another year. This is the year in which we had planned a range of events to celebrate the 150th anniversary of consecration of our parish church – plans which like much else have had to be rewritten and are still not able to be finalised. It is the year that we will welcome our new curate, Grace Hart, and it is a year when so many plans postponed in 2020 are re-made and hopefully realised.

One of my favourite texts from the New Testament is one that I take with me into this new year — "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" [2Corinthians 12:9]. St Paul had to learn that he faced all that came his way not in his own strength but in the strength of God, in whose strength he, Paul, had to rely to deal with everything that happened to him. Unlike St Paul, we may not have to face violence, ridicule, and danger in living out our faith but we do have to respond to all manner of challenges from day to day. Though vaccinations have now begun, we are a long way from being able to live safely and freely in the way we would like and challenge has become very much part of our normal way of living. Against this background, these words remind us that we live and face each day not in our own strength but in the strength of the God who created us, redeemed us and promised to be with us until the end of the age.

Back to my opening quotation, we may not have a light or a known way at our disposal but we have the grace of God – sufficient for all our needs even in the most difficult of times .

With every good wish for 2021.







Celebrating 150 years

2021 anniversary prayer

Gracious God, as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the consecration of this church, we give thanks for all who have made it a house of prayer. May we, like St Peter, proclaim with confidence, that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Saviour of the world. Bless the on-going work of Bolton Parish Church, as we give thanks for the past, live fully in the present and look with hope to the future. Amen



During 2020 we never had a suitable opportunity to take in the Children's Society boxes for counting. Nevertheless the work of the Society has continued, and the demands on their services have been as great as ever, if not greater.

We had a collection for them at the outdoor Carol Service, and people were generous. Sunday School are collecting too. I would like us to add to those contributions by collecting in the boxes in January. Please bring your box to church in a plastic bag and we will deal with them in a Covid-safe way.

If your box is anything like mine, there probably isn't much in it; we haven't been out and about spending cash and accumulating small change this year. Please consider topping it up either with cash or a cheque payable to the Children's Society. If you look on the bottom of the box, you will find a note of how much was in it last time it was emptied – maybe you could use that figure as a guide when you decide how much to contribute this time?

And you do not have to be a box holder to give to the Children's Society! All donations are welcome.

Thank you

Evelyn Weston

Please send copy for the February issue by 20 January to sigridjcp@gmail.com or admin@boltonparishchurch.co.uk

Material for inclusion may also be left at the back of Church

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: Canon Jill Pilling Headteacher: Hafsha Hafeji

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

Support for others in need

The Covid-19 pandemic has not removed the need for support for others – if anything, it has heightened it. Some things can be recycled to support various charities so please continue to save and bring to church the following items:

- Used postage stamps Christmas is the best time to collect these.
- Unwanted spectacles.
- Old working mobile phones, tablets and laptops.

We continue to collect items of food for the grub tub, supporting the work of Urban Outreach.

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on the evening of 4 January, public worship is permitted and we will continue to offer our full range of services.

Bishop of London's response to the new Covid-19 restrictions

Following the statement by the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, on Monday 3 January detailing new restrictions in England to control the spread of Covid-19, The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, who chairs the Church of England's Covid Recovery Group, issued the following response:

"The Prime Minister's words tonight underline the severity of the situation for the country, as the virus continues to spread rapidly. At a time like this, the Church is here to offer comfort and spiritual support to everyone. We have a duty to care for each other, but particularly those who are vulnerable or who may be most at risk.

"The Government has chosen not to suspend public worship in England at this time and we will continue to follow the guidance and ensure that churches remain as safe as possible. The Government guidance on the safe use of places of worship makes clear that those attending a place of worship must not mingle with anyone outside their household or support bubble.

"However, some may feel that it is currently better not to attend in person, and there will be parishes which decide to offer only digital services for the time-being. Clergy who have concerns, and others who are shielding, should take particular care and stay at home.

"I would urge everyone in our churches to pray for those on the front line in our public services - the NHS and those working in social care, for schools and many others on whom we depend; and for parents and carers of children at this anxious and stressful time.

"There is hope. The vaccination programme is underway and, as Christians, we have a deeper hope in God that comforts us beyond fear itself. As we have been remembering this Christmas Season, even in the midst of our darkest fears, that hope brings light."

As a result of our moving into national lockdown and the emergence of at least two new strains of Covid-19, the Vicar and the Director of Music have decided to suspend Choir input into the services for at least the next two weeks, after which the situation will be reviewed.

New Year Covenant

I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.

Flower News

Advent is a time of preparation, and this year with its particular restraints and uncertainties, we decided to work towards a natural style of decoration for Christmas. Each week of Advent we added candle and foliage arrangements, with candles in lanterns on the window ledges. On the fourth Sunday the candles were to be lit. The Advent wreath was dressed in garden foliage of holly, ivy, skimmia and berries. Many thanks for the supply of beautiful holly!

For Christmas, angels created by Sunday school members over the last two months are to be a major part of the display. Altar flowers will be in white and gold and the candle arrangements will have hints of gold added.

Elsewhere in the magazine there is an article about angels (with an invitation for all) which follows on from the Sunday school article in the December magazine.

With grateful thanks from the flower team for interest and support shown and donations given in the past year. Our best wishes for 2021.

Flower team





Sunday School's Jesse Tree

Greater Manchester Holocaust Memorial Day Service

Wednesday 27 January 2021, 10.00 - 11.15

The Mayor of Greater Manchester, together with the ten councils of Greater Manchester, invite you to join them online for the Greater Manchester Holocaust Memorial Day Service.

The online event is an opportunity to commemorate those killed in the Holocaust and the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Those watching from home will be invited to take part in a minute's silence and collective candle lighting, so please have a candle ready.

The event will be available to watch at 10 a.m. on 27 January 2021 on The Mayor of Greater Manchester's Facebook page.

http://facebook.com/mayorofgm

Last month's quiz – Advent, Christmas and Epiphany hymns

If you didn't see it last month, feel free to have a go. Can you identify the hymns from the words?

Answers now on page 23.

1. Shout
2. Fountain
3. Dismay
4. Quail
5. Dear desire
6. Imparts
7. Prisoners
8. Obedient
9. Veiled
10. Salute

11. Wailing

12. Dreams of darkness
13. Lowing
14. Cure
15. Contemplations
16. Two thousand
17. Thither
18. Ever-blessèd
19. Line
20. Rude
21. Guest

22. Ransom





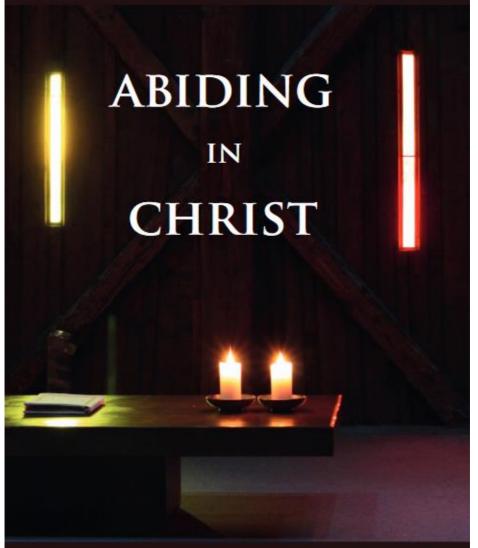
Above:

The Magi have arrived

Left:

Delivering Christmas Dinner on Jesus hampers

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021



Aros yng Nghrist / Ag maireachtáil i gCríost

18-25 January www.ctbl.org.uk/weekofprayer



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021

18-25 January

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2021 has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme that was chosen, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

Today, the community has fifty sisters, all women from different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity, the sisters are a living parable of communion. They remain faithful to a life of prayer, life in community and the welcoming of guests.

The sisters share the grace of their monastic life with visitors and volunteers who go to Grandchamp for a time of retreat, silence, healing or in search of meaning.

For 2021, the sisters are inviting churches across the world to enter into their tradition of prayer and silence that is rooted in the ancient traditions of the Church catholic.

You can show your support for Christian Unity by posting unity messages to the <u>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Twitter wall</u> – simply add the #wpcuwall hashtag to your Twitter post (note there is a delay before the posts appear).

You can also find updates about the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Twitter by entering #wpcu2021 hashtag in the search window .

Resources, such as booklets and daily reflections, are available for download at www.cte.org.uk

and

https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/

Angels of Hope

For Christmas 2020, members of Sunday school made angels which helped to decorate church. Each angel represented a prayer to say thank you for a special person who makes us smile.

Members of Sunday school and the Flower team are now beginning an angel project for January – March 2021. During this time we will be looking towards Easter with hope. The plan is to continue making angels, each one a prayer to say thank you, so that from Easter to Pentecost we will be able to create a wonderful display of angels in church.

Sunday school members have made a magnificent start, but from January 1st we are inviting members of the congregation, friends and families to join us in hope, by making angels for the display, with each angel representing a thank you prayer.

In 2018 the response to a request for crafted poppies was amazing.....from all ages, and with poppies created by knitting, crocheting, paper, crafting and so on. We are hoping for angels of all kinds in the same way, but please can they have white robes.

To get you started:

You can visit https://www.riponcathedral.org.uk/wing-and-prayer/ to download a template with step-by-step instructions for making an angel. On the same page, there is also a video of an angel being made from scratch. There are also other ideas and instructions for all levels of skill, and to suit your interests (knitted, crocheted, made with paper plates etc) easily available on the internet, but **please** contact Rose-Marie, Kath or Alison if we can help.

A prayer of hope:

Teach us good Lord, to pray in faith, and to live in hope, that we may go out into your world, confident in that same hope, and filled with the good news of Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, now and forever, Amen

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

Bolton Parish Church Online

Email: admin@boltonparishchurch.co.uk

Website: www.boltonparishchurch.co.uk

Details of services, events, newsletters, magazines, important updates etc.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/boltonparishchurch

Official Church Facebook page, with news, photos, and archive of online services and prayers

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MusicAtBoltonParishChurch

News about music, with photos, details of musical events and videos of choir and organ

Twitter: @StPeterBolton

Instagram: boltonparishchurchimages

Photos of Bolton Parish Church

Scots' Pride

There is a definite focus on Scotland at this time of the year. After the festivities of Hogmanay, the Scots have Burn's Night to look forward to. Here is a gentle Scottish 'swipe' at the English.

The average Englishman, sitting in his home which he calls his castle, puts on his waterproof clothing as he goes out; a raincoat patented by Charles Macintosh of Glasgow.

He drives a car fitted with tyres invented by John Boyd Dunlop of Dreghorn, Irvine.

At the office, he receives his mail with adhesive stamps which, although they bear the Queen of England's head, were invented by James Chalmers of Dundee*.

During the day, he uses the telephone, invented by Alexander Graham Bell of Edinburgh.

At home, he watches the news on television, which was invented by John Logie Baird of Helensburgh, and hears an item about the U.S. Navy, founded by John Paul Jones of Kirkbean, Dumfries.

He has now been reminded too much of Scotland and in desperation picks up the Holy Bible, only to find that the first man mentioned is a Scot: King James VI, the first king of both Scotland and England, who authorised the Bible's translation which was published in 1611.

Nowhere can an Englishman turn to escape the ingenuity of the Scots; he could take to drink but the Scots make the finest in the world.

He could take a rifle and end it all but the breech-loading rifle was designed by Captain Patrick Ferguson of Pitfour, Aberdeenshire.

If he escaped death, he could find himself on an operating table, being injected with penicillin, discovered by Alexander Fleming of Darvel, East Ayrshire, and given an anaesthetic, discovered by Sir James Young Simpson of Bathgate, West Lothian.

Coming round from the anaesthetic, he would find no comfort in learning that he was as safe as the Bank of England, which was founded by William Patterson of Dumfries.

^{*} We in England are claiming Sir Rowland Hill!!

A Story for Epiphany

As we celebrate Epiphany this month, it is worth re-telling Tolstoy's adaptation of a folk tale.

It was Christmas Eve and although it was still afternoon, lights had begun to appear in the shops and houses of the little Russian village, for the short winter day was nearly over. Excited children scurried indoors and now only muffled sounds of chatter and laughter escaped from closed shutters. Old Papa Panov, the village shoemaker, stepped outside his shop to take one last look around.

The sounds of happiness, the bright lights and the faint but delicious smells of Christmas cooking reminded him of past Christmas times when his wife had still been alive and his own children small. Now they had gone. His usually cheerful face, with the laughter wrinkles behind the round steel spectacles, looked sad. But he went back indoors with a firm step, put up the shutters and set a pot of coffee to heat on the charcoal stove. Then, with a sigh, he settled in his big armchair.

Papa Panov did not often read, but tonight he pulled down the big old family Bible and, slowly tracing the lines with one forefinger, he read again the Christmas story.



He read how Mary and Joseph, tired by their journey to Bethlehem, found no room for them at the inn, so that Mary's little baby was born in the cowshed. "Oh, dear!" exclaimed Papa Panov. "If only they had come here! I would have given them my bed and I could have covered the baby with my patchwork quilt to keep him warm."

He read on about the wise men who had come to see the baby Jesus, bringing him splendid gifts. Papa Panov's face fell. "I have no gift that I could give him," he thought sadly. Then his face brightened. He put down the Bible, got up and stretched his long arms to the shelf high up in his little room. He took down a small, dusty box and opened it. Inside was a perfect pair of tiny leather shoes

Papa Panov smiled with satisfaction. Yes, they were as good as he had remembered – the best shoes he had ever made. "I should give him those," he decided, as he gently put them away and sat down again. He was feeling tired now, and the further he read the sleepier he became. The print began to dance before his eyes and he closed them, just for a minute.

In no time at all Papa Panov was fast asleep. And as he slept he dreamed. He dreamed that someone was in his room and he knew at once (as one does in dreams) who the person was.

It was Jesus. "You have been wishing you could see me, Papa Panov." he said kindly. "Then look for me tomorrow. It will be Christmas Day and I will visit you."

When at last Papa Panov awoke, the bells were ringing out and a thin light was filtering through the shutters. "Bless my soul!" said Papa Panov. "It's Christmas Day!" He stood up and stretched himself, as he was feeling rather stiff. Then his face filled with happiness as he remembered his dream. This would be a very special Christmas after all, for Jesus was coming to visit him. How would he look? Would he be a little baby, as at that first Christmas? Would he be a grown man, a carpenter- or the great King that he is – God's Son?

Papa Panov put on a special pot of coffee for his Christmas breakfast. took down the shutters and looked out of the window. The street was deserted - no-one was stirring yet. No -one except the road sweeper. He looked as miserable and dirty as ever. and who could blame him! Whoever wanted to work on Christmas Day and in the raw, cold and bitter freezing mist of such a morning? Papa Panov opened the shop door, letting in a thin stream of cold air. "Come in!" he shouted across the street cheerily. "Come in and have some hot coffee to keep out the cold!" The sweeper looked up, scarcely able to believe his ears. He was only too glad to put down his broom and come into the warm room. His old clothes steamed gently in the heat of the stove and he clasped both red hands round the comforting warm mug as he drank. Papa Panov watched him with satisfaction, but every now and then his eves straved to the window.

"Expecting someone?" the sweeper asked at last. So Papa Panov told him about his dream. "Well, I hope he comes," the sweeper said. "You've given me a bit of Christmas cheer I never expected to have. I'd say you deserve to have your dream come true." And he actually smiled.

When he had gone, Papa Panov put on cabbage soup for his dinner, and went to the door again, scanning the street. He saw no-one. But he was mistaken. Someone was coming. The girl walked so slowly and quietly, hugging the walls of shops and houses, that it was a while before he noticed her.

She looked very tired and she was carrying something. As she drew nearer he could see that it was a baby, wrapped in a thin shawl.

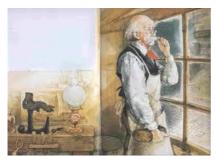
There was such sadness in her face and in the pinched little face of the baby that Papa Panov's heart went out to them. "Won't you come in," he called, stepping outside to meet them. "You both need a warm by the fire and a rest." The young mother let him shepherd her indoors to the comfort of the armchair. She gave a big sigh of relief. "I'll warm some milk for the baby," Papa Panov said.

He took the milk from the stove and carefully fed the baby from a spoon, warming her tiny feet by the stove at the same time. "She needs shoes," the cobbler said. But the girl replied, "I can't afford shoes, I've got no husband to bring home money. I'm on my way to the next village to get work."

A sudden thought flashed through Papa Panov's mind. He remembered the little shoes he had looked at last night. But he had been keeping those for Jesus. He looked again at the cold little feet and made up his mind. "Try these on her," he said, handing the shoes to the mother. The beautiful little shoes were a perfect fit. The girl smiled happily and the baby gurgled with pleasure.

"You have been so kind to us," the girl said, when she got up to go. "May all your Christmas wishes come true!" But Papa Panov was beginning to wonder if his very special Christmas wish would come true. Perhaps he had missed his visitor. He looked anxiously up and down the street. There were plenty of people about but they were all faces he recognised. He saw neighbours going to call on their families. They nodded and smiled and wished him Happy Christmas! Beggars occasionally passed by, and Papa Panov hurried indoors to fetch them hot soup and a generous hunk of bread, hurrying out again in case he missed the Important Stranger.

All too soon the winter dusk fell. When Papa Panov next went to the window he strained his eyes and could no longer make out the passers-by.



Most were home and indoors by now anyway.

He walked slowly back into his room at last, put up the shutters, and sat down wearily in his armchair. So it had been just a dream after all. Jesus had not come.

Then all at once he knew that he was no longer alone in the room. This was not a dream for he was wide awake. At first he seemed to see before his eyes the long stream of people who had come to him that day.

He saw again the old road sweeper, the young mother and her baby and the beggars he had fed. As they passed, each whispered, "Didn't you see me, Papa Panov?"

"Who are you?" he called out, bewildered.

Then another voice answered him. It was the voice from his dream – the voice of Jesus.

"I was hungry and you fed me," he said. "I was naked and you clothed me. I was cold and you warmed me. I came to you today in every one of those you helped and welcomed."

Then all was quiet and still. Only the sound of the big clock ticking.

A great peace and happiness seemed to fill the room, and flow into Papa Panov's heart until he wanted to burst out singing and laughing and dancing with joy.

"So he did come after all!" was all that he said.

From the Lectionary

21 January, Agnes, child martyr, 304

Agnes of Rome was born in 291 AD and raised in a noble Christian family. She died a martyr at the age of 12 or 13 on 21 January 304.

Agnes was a beautiful girl and her hand in marriage was highly sought after, with a number of high-ranking suitors pursuing her. However, Agnes had made a promise to God to remain pure. Her love of God was great and she claimed to hate sin even more than death.

To those who wanted to marry her, she would say that Jesus Christ was her only Spouse.

According to legend, the young men she turned away became so angry and insulted by her purity and devotion to God that they began to mention her to the authorities as a Christian follower.

In one incident, the Governor's son became furious when she turned him down. He tried to win her over with lavish gifts and promises, but the young girl refused him saying she was already promised to the Lord of the Universe.

In great anger, he accused her of being a Christian and brought her before his father, the Governor. The Governor promised Agnes wonderful gifts if she would only deny God, but Agnes refused. He tried to change her mind by putting her in chains, but her love of God shone out from her face.

Next he sent her to a place of sin, but an angel protected her. Finally, she was condemned to death. Even the pagans cried to see such a young and beautiful girl going to her death. However, Agnes appeared as happy as a bride on her wedding day. She did not pay attention to those who begged her to save herself. She told them that the Lord had chosen her first and she would be His. Then she prayed and bowed her head for the death-stroke of the sword.

Other accounts of Agnes's life hold the Prefect Sempronius responsible for her martyrdom. It is said he condemned the young girl to be dragged naked through the streets to a brothel. Some versions of the legend state that Agnes's hair grew instantly to cover her entire body and that all the men who attempted to attack her were immediately struck blind.

The stories go on to explain that there was a trial, but Sempronius withdrew, allowing another figure to preside and sentence Agnes to death.

At first, Agnes was tied to a stake, but either the bundle of wood would not burn or the flames parted away from her, whereupon the officer in charge drew his sword and beheaded her, or, in some other texts, stabbed her in the throat. It is also said that her blood poured out to the stadium and was soaked up with cloths by other Christians.

Agnes was buried beside the Via Nomentana in Rome. Her bones are currently conserved beneath the high altar in the church of Sant'Agnese fuori le mura in Rome, which was built over the catacomb that held her tomb. Her skull is preserved in a separate chapel in the church of Sant'Agnese in Agone in Rome's Piazza Navona.





The relic of the skull of Saint Agnes in Sant'Agnese in Agone

Agnes is depicted in art with a lamb, evoking her name which resembles the Latin word for "lamb", agnus (the given name is Greek, from hagnē ἀγνἡ "chaste, pure"). She is also often shown with a martyr's palm.

Composer Quiz

A fiendishly difficult quiz to keep us occupied during the month.

The answers are surnames, all single words

Solution in the February magazine.

- 1. Koko had a little one
- 2. Wealth acquired from maize
- 3. BBBBBB...A
- 4. Thrust and
- 5. From Seville perhaps?
- 6. Half full or half empty?
- 7. Ulster, Duffel and Mackintosh
- 8. Mr Bacharach, you'll need this to referee.
- 9. On the Naze?
- 10. Aries O
- 11. He's not a witch
- 12. Besmirch a Transit
- 13. Dorsal, pectoral and caudal E
- 14. Gore hive-dweller with missing leg joint
- 15. Lionel, all right?
- 16. VDoonicanD.
- 17. Perfect happiness
- 18. Cobbler
- 19. Cornish Saint
- 20. Maggots, garden tool, diagram
- 21. Beg a loan of a racket
- 22. In solitary confinement, so just one.....
- 23. Whose cream crackers?
- 24. A blemish on Italian coffee
- 25. Naked Tolstoy and McKern

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Hymn/Carol Quiz answers

Hills of the North , rejoice 2. We Three Kings 3. God rest ye merry gentlemen 4. Silent night 5. Come, thou longexpected Jesus 6. O little town of Bethlehem 7. Hark the glad sound 8. Once in royal David's city 9. Hark, the herald angels sing 10. Christians, awake 11. Lo. He comes 12. Hark, a thrilling voice 13. Away in a manger 14. A great and mighty wonder 15. Angels from the realms of glory 16. It came upon the midnight clear 17. O come, all ye faithful 18. See, amid the winter's snow 19. While shepherds watched 20. As with gladness, men of old 21. On Jordan's bank 22. O come, o come, Emmanuel (also A great and mighty wonder)

Walsh's



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

Bolton Green Umbrella

Bolton Green Umbrella supports groups and like-minded individuals in forming a network that promotes making Bolton a cleaner and greener town for all its residents.

You can find out more at https://boltongreenumbrella.org.uk

where you can also sign up to receive newsletters by email.

Bolton's churches are invited to play their part in cleaning the streets, as well as the planet, with the support of a new group, the Environmental Task and Finish Group, which was set up during the middle of the first national lockdown and tasked with helping Bolton's churches become greener. The group's activities embody the aims of Bolton Green Umbrella, which is keen to support and promote their activities. The new group particularly wants to encourage church members to join forces with existing voluntary groups, especially litter-picking groups. The following article was written by the group:

The Environmental Task and Finish Group, set up during the middle of the first national lockdown, was tasked with helping Bolton's churches get greener. Now, as their title suggests, they are out to finish what they started. Or, rather, they are encouraging churches to do what Christians already believe is their responsibility: to care for creation. The group is part of Passion 2030 which is the churches' arm of Bolton 2030: a partnership between key local organisations supporting the people of Bolton in becoming

The six-person team have been finding a number of practical and prayerful means to assist churches in helping their members care for the environment. One such way is through litter picking which, with care, can be done safely throughout lockdown restrictions. Currently, established church litter picking groups across Bolton are not only regularly cleaning-up their neighbourhoods, but adding another dimension through prayer.

Other groups described on the Bolton Green Umbrella website include

Community Gardens

Conservation Groups

Community Groups

Groups maintaining Parks

Schools who have set up environment groups

and the intriguingly-named "Men in Sheds".

1	Group Name	Area	E-mail	
2	Tottington Litter Pickers	Bolton Wide	tottingtonlp@gmail.com	
3	Bolton Rivers Clean Up	Bolton Wide	boltonriverscleanup@yahoo.com	
4	Westhoughton Dog walking club	East Bolton	jill.blaxter@gmail.com	
5	Little Lever & Darcy Lever Litter Pickers	East Bolton	litterpickersofthelevers@gmail.com	
6	Haulgh Litter Pickers	East Bolton	iqbalhussain1516@googlemail.com	
7	Great Lever Litter Pickers	East Bolton	buya123@hotmail.com	
8	Sam N Frans canal clean up	North Bolton	woodrowsam73@yahoo.co.uk	
9	Litter Pickers of Tonge Moor	North Bolton	pp@staugustinestm.org.uk	
10	Litter Pickers of North Bolton	North Bolton	emcrowe2@icloud.com	
11	In the Bag	North Bolton	p.spurling@live.co.uk	
12	Harwood Litter Pickers	North Bolton	janeholt53@mail.com	
13	Enviromental Pickers	North Bolton	www.connorgillard13@hotmail.com	
14	Breightmet Litter Pickers	North Bolton	adelekay79@gmail.com	
15	Astley Bridge Litter Pickers	North Bolton	andycapy25@gmail.com	
16	The Sevensaints Eco Team	South Bolton	rachelcowling.sevensaints@gmail.com	
17	Sylvia's Community Clean-ups	South Bolton	crossleysylvia@gmail.com	
18	Over Hulton Litterpickers	South Bolton	d.syddall@talktalk.net	
19	Newbury clean up	South Bolton	liamblakebailey@icloud.com	
20	Moses Gate litter pickers	South Bolton	mary.scott22@hotmail.co.uk	
21	Friends of Longfellow	South Bolton	longfellowavenue@gmx.com	
22	Farnworth NORTH Litter Pickers	South Bolton	owenpandb@sky.com	
23	Farnworth and Kearsley Litter Pickers	South Bolton	canty.tony@yahoo.co.uk	
24	Dwyers Litter Busters	South Bolton	johnspex@mac.com	
25	Litter Pickers of Queen's Park	West Bolton	litterpickersofqueenspark@gmail.com	
26	Litter Pickers of Bolton West	West Bolton	hberrymba@gmail.com	
27	Johnson Fold Litter Pickers	West Bolton	always_confused@talktalk.net	
28	Horwich Clean-Up Brigade	West Bolton	horwichcleanupbrigade@hotmail.com	

Churches Count on Nature: 5-13 June. Save the date!

Join us during the second week of June and get to know the nature on your church doorstep. A Rocha UK, in partnership with Caring for God's Acre and the Church of England, will be piloting a nature recording project called Churches Count on Nature. Participating churches will be encouraged to act for wildlife by recording nature in their church yards, spaces and burial grounds or nearby land. This will complement our Church Demo Days on our reserves and help churches with the land management and building management sections of the Eco Church programme. Registration details will be released shortly.

Tips provided by Bolton Vision 2030 Environmental Task and Finish Group, which they received from their Quaker friends.

Five ways to give the future a hand

It's a big challenge to do something about the damage we're causing to the Earth, but it is absolutely essential if we are to lessen the devastating impact of global warming for future generations. It requires actions at every level: by the government, the local council, businesses, and organisations - and by individuals. You can enjoy a good life, spend less money and have less impact if you think carefully about your choices.

1. Food and drink

<u>Bottled water</u> creates a huge amount of plastic waste. Using your own re-useable water bottle will reduce the amount of plastic waste. Tap water in Bolton is some of the best in the country.

<u>Reducing food waste</u> would save the lives of many plants and animals and it could save you money as well. Be creative when you cook and start with the food that needs using first.

<u>Eating local and seasonal.</u> Air miles significantly inflate the carbon footprint of foods. Look at food labels and try to buy tasty food from the UK. Seasonal fruit and veg are much tastier.

<u>Meat and dairy products</u> You may not want to go completely vegan, but we can all reduce our red meat intake. Sheep and cows produce greenhouse gasses when they digest grass. Meat from these animals is the most harmful. Dairy products also cause global warming.

2. Travel

When it comes to short distances, jumping in the car quickly racks up your carbon output. It's often more fun, healthier and friendlier to walk, cycle or use public transport. Consider lift sharing as well. Flights are extremely damaging and can be very stressful.

3. Clothes

Fast fashion does a huge amount of damage. The production process itself expels 1.2bn tonnes of CO2 a year (more than the aviation and shipping industries combined). Throw-away clothes are harming the Earth. Enjoy wearing your favourite comfy clothes many times. Find a second-hand shop you like or have the fun of swapping clothes with your friends.

4. Reuse and reduce

Single use or throw-away items, have a major impact on our climate. Think about what you really need and avoid the expense and hassle of buying more. Pass on to others what you don't need. Give and receive to help your neighbours and the planet.

5. Saving energy at home

The most important is making sure your home is well insulated. Trapping heat effectively saves on fuel bills and reduces the release of carbon that is destroying our climate. You can wear warm clothes, draught-proof your house and consider replacing your boiler for a heat pump.

Do what you can and let others know

We're all in this together. It's much easier if everybody cares about our future and acts to reduce the harm we do. Share these ideas with your family and friends and enjoy a simpler life.

These organisations can help you find out more:

https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/

https://www.wwf.org.uk/

https://www.climateemergency.uk/

https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx

The Last Word

A new monthly feature where we get to know each other a little better through a series of questions during a chatty interview. We start with Sigrid Conder-Pain.



Do you come from Bolton?

No. Yorkshire born and bred! I come from Ossett in West Yorkshire.

What brought you to Bolton?

Bolton wouldn't have been high on my priorities for somewhere to live. I came because Michael needed to be here because of his work at Bolton School. However, I must say that the village of Barrow Bridge is a delight.

Your name is Scandinavian? What's the connection?

I was called Judy (short for Judith) Pain, but three years ago I stole the name Sigrid from my Norwegian Forest Cat and changed my name by deed poll. I loved the name and thought it would suit my Swedish work. I kept Judy as a middle name so I still answer to both. The Conder bit is a name on my mother's side – I have a Conder family tree going back to 1485. Many of the later Conders were Non-Conformists, and hymnwriter George Conder was my great-great-great-grandfather.

What is your main occupation? What attracted you to it?

I work as a translator from Swedish to English. I was originally a teacher (French and German), but in the mid-1990s I realised that translating might be more linguistically rewarding. Aware that there are numerous French and German translators offering services, I decided to learn a more unusual language and went through all the levels of the Institute of Linguist's exams in Swedish right up to the Diploma. This paid off; I've never been short of Swedish to English work!

January to May is a really hectic period, with about a dozen enormous annual reports (some of them 75,000 words) needing to be translated into

English. I often have to work right through the weekends, but I love my job – particularly the creative element.

What (or who) first brought you to Bolton Parish Church?

I first saw the inside of Bolton Parish Church when I happened to be in Bolton and visited the Church for a look round. It felt like a cathedral and I was particularly impressed by the artefacts in the museum corner and the 'magic' light that came on when you stepped in!

How long have you been coming to Bolton Parish Church?

Since January 1997. Michael had covered for Stephen Carleston for six weeks in autumn while he was on an examining tour and I was mega impressed by the choir – I asked Stephen if I could join, and after a short audition I was admitted as a member. The first anthem I sang was the magnificent 'Blessed Be the God and Father' by Samuel Sebastian Wesley.

How long have you been singing in choirs?

I began singing in choirs at school. I've sung in six Church choirs: St John's, Read, St Leonard's, Downham, Clitheroe Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin, Gisburn, St Peter's, Chorley, and Bolton Parish Church.

What's your favourite piece of music? and can you explain why?

Cardinal Newman compared music to an electric current that passes through the body and then into the mind and heart. A piece that has this effect is Elgar's Nimrod (especially when played by Michael on our Church organ). It's a noble and stirring piece of music that can channel your thoughts in any direction, depending on the occasion. We've heard it played for remembrance services, funerals, memorial services and services to mark the centenary of the beginning/end of the First World War. It's one of those pieces that can make you sad and happy at the same time.

What book(s) are you reading at the moment?

I'm re-reading C.J. Sansom's Dissolution, set in 1537. Thomas Cromwell has sent a team of commissioners to investigate the monasteries, the ultimate aim being their dissolution. At a monastery on the Sussex coast, Cromwell's commissioner has been found dead. His horrific murder is accompanied by equally sinister acts of sacrilege. Lawyer Matthew

Shardlake has been sent to uncover the truth behind the dark happenings. This is a great series of books (seven in total) and Shardlake is one of those characters that become your best friend.

Next on the reading list is Buddenbrooks by Thomas Mann.

What do you like to watch on TV?

I tend to go for fantasy/escapism, such as Game of Thrones, the Walking Dead and His Dark Materials.

What's your favourite hymn? Why?

I already mentioned Cardinal Newman in an earlier question — I love his 'Praise to the Holiest in the Height'. It's a section of a longer hymn contained in The Dream of Gerontius, which refers to the whole human story as described in the Bible, from fall to redemption. It's a hymn that can suit different services - it's exhilarating to sing it on 'grand' occasions, but when we sing it at the end of the Maundy Thursday service, it takes on a heart-rending poignancy. There are a few available tunes but it has to be 'Gerontius' — no contest.

I also love 'Who Would True Valour See', with its talk of giants, hobgoblins and foul fiends! Although I'm supposed to be singing the tenor line, I always sing alto in this one as I love it.

Who inspires you and why?

Although there are plenty of living figures of inspiration such as Sir David Attenborough, I've opted for German industrialist and Nazi Party member Oskar Schindler. Rather than doing nothing, he placed himself in danger to save over a thousand Jews. His story shows that we can always become better people and help others. Schindler is a particular inspiration because he wasn't perfect to start with - he gambled, drank and broke the law, but he had a heart of gold and followed his conscience — and in doing so made a difference. A lesson for us all.

Who have been the key people in your past who have encouraged your journey of faith?

In the 1980s, I moved to the village of Read, living a stone's throw from

the church there. After much effort, Revd Alan Reid finally persuaded me to join the tiny choir. All services were conducted according to the Book of Common Prayer, and there was a choral Evensong every week. This is where my Church attendance began and my love of the BCP was born. Revd Alan Reid has been a key figure in the Prayer Book Society, holding a number of offices, and his sense of humour and sharp wit also make him a popular after-dinner speaker. After retiring, he continued to take the Friday Communion service at Whalley Abbey, where he celebrated his 60 years of ministry a couple of years ago.

Is there a passage of scripture or liturgy which you keep coming back to, which grabs you, or encourages you?

I find that the words of the Psalms are brought to life and more meaningful when we sing them. My favourite is Psalm 139 "O Lord, Thou hast searched me out and known me...". The psalmist talks about an omnipresent, all-knowing God, but the message is clear. Not only does God know everything; he knows me. Not only is God everywhere; he is still with me while everywhere. Not only did God create everything; he created me ("I am fearfully and wonderfully made"). The psalm lets us know that we are understood right down to the tiniest, hidden detail and that we're never alone, even though it might appear otherwise. It also has the memorable verse: "Yea the darkness is no darkness with thee, but the night is as clear as the day: the darkness and light to thee are both alike".

I also have a soft spot for this psalm as it's the one I sang in the psalm section of the RSCM Gold examination.

If you could visit any place in the world, where would that be? And why?

I'd love to spend time in the Arctic region. We once went on a cruise up the coast of Norway, continuing to Spitsbergen and beyond - towards the Polar ice cap. There's a serenity and beauty about it, as well as an 'other world' feel.

It would be more difficult to get there now, as cruises there have (rightly) been discontinued for ecological reasons.

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