



Parish News



May 2021

Dear Friends,

In all of the words written following the death of the Duke of Edinburgh, one piece stands out in my memory. This was an article in the Sunday Times recording the now well known fact that the duke wanted the minimum of fuss at his funeral, and that he had planned his funeral with characteristic attention to detail. The funeral was further curtailed because of Coronavirus restrictions, but anyone watching the service would agree that the duke got exactly what he wanted. Alongside this plan, the paper reported that the duke *'had jokingly been predicting his own demise for well over a decade'*. Bring together the recognition of one's own mortality (whether we joke about it or not) and the putting in place of plans for one's own funeral and what do we get? Not, as some would suggest, morbidity or (heaven forbid!) 'bad luck', but rather, a realistic, honest, and, I would argue, thoroughly Christian view of life.

At whatever age, and in whatever circumstances our life on earth comes to its end, it will definitely happen, and will be a shock to our loved ones. Recognising that life on earth is finite but that life with God is infinite is central to our faith as we seek to follow the One who is the Resurrection and the Life. Like many readers of this magazine, I have personal experience of bereavement resulting from the death of someone close and I don't underestimate its impact. Her Majesty the Queen, as always, summed this up poignantly: *'grief is the price we pay for love'*. Christians must be at the forefront of breaking the taboo of talking (even thinking) about death. In the risen Jesus Christ, we have a sure and certain hope and promise that death is not the end and is not to be feared.

Of the hundreds of funerals I've conducted over the years, few have been arranged following detailed plans left by the deceased. More often than not there are no plans at all, yet isn't it good stewardship of our lives that we leave for our loved ones some indication of our wishes for the one certain event before us? We might not plan to the level of the duke's detail but simple decisions on burial or cremation,

hymns, music, readings etc. can be very helpful in times of sorrow. I have to confess that I am guilty of this sin of omission myself. As someone who is generally an organised person, who plans in advance and with an attention to detail, this is uncharacteristic and as I write, I am resolving to address this matter! There is a serious note here though. Contrary to superstition, by planning for our funeral, we are not somehow hastening the day or bringing 'bad luck'. We are simply showing our care for those closest to us by helping them in what will be a difficult time. We cannot imagine another person's grief but in those difficult days following the duke's death, the Queen must have taken solace and found peace in knowing that she was fulfilling her beloved husband's wishes.

The Duke of Edinburgh was a man of strong Christian faith who died in the Easter season of resurrection hope. He recognised his own mortality and took great care of the life given to him even to the point of ensuring that the marking of the end of its time on earth was as he wished. He has left us a great example as we look at our own, finite lives immersed in the faith of the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

With love and best wishes

Chris

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



Sermon for St. Philip's Day

St. Philip's Day is May 1st. a date which he shares with St. James the Less or the Younger. There isn't a lot known about the patron saint, of one of our Churches, but a few words may refresh your memory of that which we do know about him.

Philip, like Peter, Andrew, James and John, came from Bethsaida on the northern shore of the Lake Genesareth, perhaps better to us as the Sea of Galilee and he seems to have belonged to a little group of earnest men who had already fallen under the influence of St. John the Baptist and could have been present, when John called Jesus the Lamb of God. In the synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke there is no mention of Philip, except in the list of apostles and he appears in them all, usually coming fifth in the list. St. John's Gospel, on the other hand, mentions his name several times, recording in particular that his calling was early, taking place shortly after the call of Peter and Andrew, James and John. Jesus, we are told, 'found Philip' and said to him, 'Follow me.'

From the account given by the evangelist, John, we should naturally infer that Philip responded without hesitation to the call he had received and he went at once to find his friend Nathaniel, sometimes called Bartholomew and tells him, 'We have found him of whom Moses in the law and the prophets did write.' At the same time Philip gives proof of his missionary zeal. He is fairly cautious in that he doesn't attempt to force his discovery on unwilling ears and when Nathaniel rather disparagingly replies, 'Can any good come out of Nazareth?' Philip is not indignant, but simply says, 'Come and see.'

At the feeding of the five thousand Philip figures again. When Jesus looks up and sees the great multitude coming he asks Philip where can they buy enough bread to feed them all and Philip says that two hundred pennyworth of bread would not be enough to feed so many. Here I sympathize with Philip as he takes a literalist point of view.

Philip is a Greek name, so it is not surprising that it is to Philip that some Greeks come and say, 'Sir, we would see Jesus.' Philip seems reluctant to take the initiative without taking counsel with a more senior figure and he takes them to Andrew and Andrew takes them with Philip to Jesus.

In the Upper Room on the night before the Passion Jesus says to his disciples, 'No man comes to the Father except through me. If you know me you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.' Philip says to Jesus, 'Lord show us the Father and we will be satisfied.' Jesus has to say, 'Philip have I been with you all this time and you still don't know me.'

To me Philip seems to come across as rather shy and a bit naïve. Not brimming over with self-confidence. He also seems to find difficulty with the more abstract ideas of Jesus, he is much better with the concrete concepts and in that he is so much like so many of us, who are not easy with theology and philosophy, but feel better when we have something to do. We can't all be thinkers, some of us have to be doers.

The last thing we know about Philip is that he was with those disciples who spent days together in the upper room after the Ascension waiting for the Holy Spirit to come and he was there at that Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came and rested on the Apostles.

Nothing else is known about him with any certainty.

He is, therefore, best known, for bringing people to Jesus and being something of a practical person rather than a thinker. He is, perhaps, a good example for all in showing us that ,bringing people to Jesus is what we should all be about, but he is also a consolation to those of us who are not great thinkers, but find that our way of serving our Lord is in the more practical things of life. Take heart, there is room in God's kingdom for all kinds of people.

Fr. Roy

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.

Please send copy for the June
issue by 20 May to
sigridjcp@gmail.com

or

admin@boltonparishchurch.co.uk

As we normally publish on the last Sunday of the month, the deadline is particularly important.

150th anniversary year project update



You will remember from our March magazine that we have embarked on a project to redesign our altar frontals as part of our 150th anniversary celebrations. The Laudian drape that covers the altar is a temporary one but the red and white frontals have been redesigned and are now in use. The next stage of the project is to redesign the purple frontal and, as it isn't possible to re-use our green frontal, we will commission a new one.

Thank you for the generous donations to this project received so far. There is still plenty of time to make a donation (perhaps in memory of someone?) and if you would like to do so, please let the Vicar, Lecturer or one of the Churchwardens know.

Ascension Day Services

Thursday 13 May

12.15 p.m.

7.30 p.m.

The evening service will also include choral music and hymns sung by a small number of singers from the choir.



Thank you Certificate

This certificate acknowledges the 2020 Parish Share contribution of £55,000 made by Bolton le Moors, St Peter. This was 100% of the total asked for.

A message from the Bishop of Manchester

I thank God for all you give to your church, both in time and money. Your generosity, in being able to pay your parish share, means that the mission and ministry of God's church can happen in every community in this Diocese.

It is my prayer that you will be able to continue to support your church. Your giving has a vital role, and it does make a difference to your community.

Yours in Christ,

+ David

The Rt Revd David Walker

"For this service you perform not only meets the needs of God's people, but also produces an outpouring of gratitude to God."

Memorial Service for His Royal Highness The Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh



A memorial Service, arranged by Bolton Council, was held in Church on Friday 16th April 2021 6.00 p.m.

Attendees included the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Linda Thomas and her consort, the Deputy Lieutenant, Mrs Diane Hawkins and Mr Hawkins, the Leader of the Council and leaders of other groups, the Chief

Executive, Representatives of ex-servicemen and women's organisations and the three Bolton Members of Parliament.

Organ music included Elegy by George Thalben-Ball, Nimrod by Sir Edward Elgar and Prelude and Fugue in E minor (BWV 533) by J. S. Bach. During the service, which was conducted by Revd Canon Dr Chris Bracegirdle and Revd Ian Hepburn, a small group of singers from the Choir sang Psalm 139, vv 1-11, the hymn 'O God, our help in ages past', Henry Purcell's anthem 'Thou knowest, Lord, the Secrets of Our Hearts' (from his Funeral Music for Queen Mary, of 1694)* and the first verse of the National Anthem. The service was also livestreamed.

** Purcell died in the following year and the music was played at his own funeral.*

The Ascension Day

The Collect

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens; so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

Flower News

It was good to be back in church providing decoration for Easter. The Altar arrangements of white and cream carnations, white roses and arum lilies symbolized “He is risen”. Pedestal arrangements of white carnations, roses, and arum lilies were placed in the nave, and Lady chapel. The Paschal candle was decorated with white and yellow freesia, green spray carnations and bracts of pieris bells. Members of the Sunday school produced a lovely Easter display on the chancel steps, and decorated their tree with blossom, crafted items, and returning angels from Christmas. The angels marked the arrival of the Angels of Hope, which were joined by the rest of the displays the following Sunday.

For the memorial service for the Duke of Edinburgh; altar flowers, the nave pedestal and a pedestal by the chancel steps were created using white and cream shades of carnations and roses, and arum lilies.

With grateful thanks for donations received during April.

Flower team



The Angels of Hope have arrived!

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 made us smile.

Members of Sunday school and the Flower team then began an angel project from January – March 2021 looking towards Easter with hope. Members of the congregation, families and friends, were invited to join them in making angels of hope. The angels would then be part of a wonderful display in church from Easter.

The response has been amazing and by late March there were hundreds of angels in assembly or waiting to be assembled, and 100 of them were part of the Easter gift bags. The first angels appeared in church as part of the Sunday school display on Easter Sunday and the main display arrived on Sunday 11th April and will remain until Pentecost.

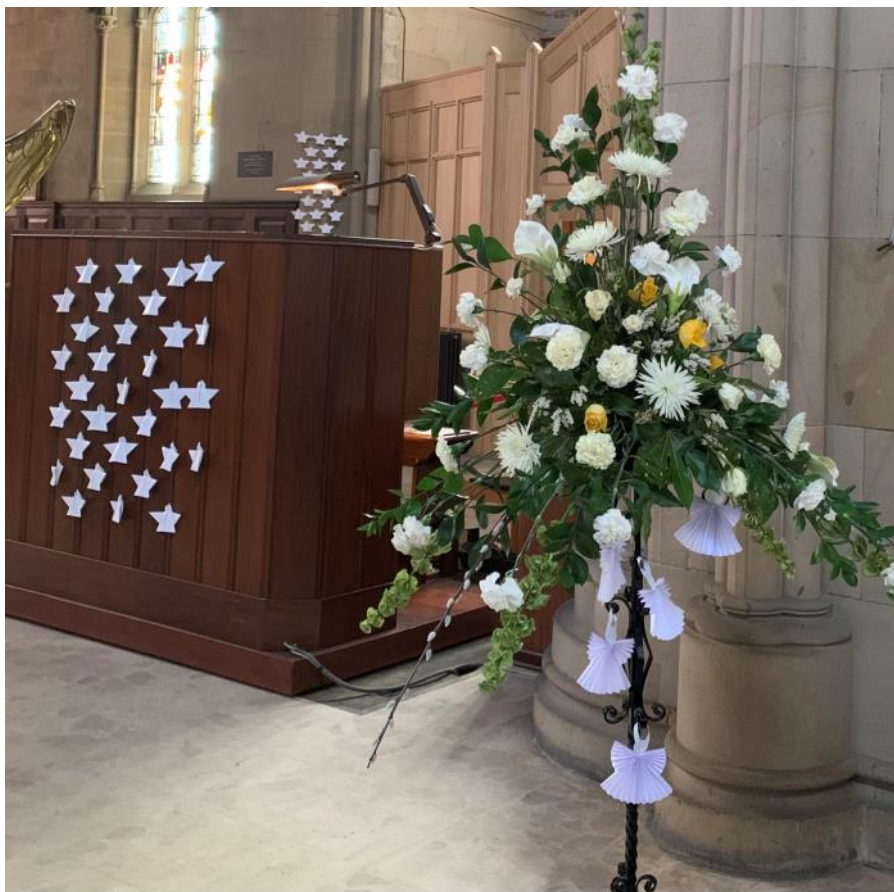
Many thanks to everyone who contributed to make such a wonderful display of Easter hope!

If your angel is still at home or not yet completed, it is not too late! Please bring it to join the display in the coming weeks.....there is still room on window ledges and the chancel steps.

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





Annual Parochial Church Meeting

As we are still unable to hold meetings in church, the Meeting will be held by Zoom on Sunday 9 May at 1 p.m. Electoral Roll members may join the Meeting by using the link below (although the link is presented on two lines, it is one continuous string of characters, with no spaces):

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81717849464?
pwd=RllxdXlDZEplTL3U4cUc5MTlIMytnZ09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81717849464?pwd=RllxdXlDZEplTL3U4cUc5MTlIMytnZ09)

Meeting ID: 817 1784 9464; Passcode: 701398

The nomination form for Churchwardens, Deputy Wardens and PCC members is in Church and copies of the Annual Report will be available there from Sunday 2 May.

Harvey A Crerar

For all your plumbing and building work

Telephone 01204 669170

Mobile 07759 19 44 78

1B Ansdell Road

Horwich

Bolton

A casualty of the national situation has been the series of Tuesday Lunchtime and Saturday Morning concerts. The enforced cancellation of the concert season is a terrific loss to our church life. However, emboldened by the improving situation, the clergy, wardens and I have felt able to contemplate putting on a short series of lunchtime concerts this September to make up for the loss of the usual Spring and Summer season; obviously, this is dependent on the national situation remaining stable, or indeed improving, but it looks likely that these will be able to go ahead.

It gives me great pleasure to let you know about the concerts listed below – we have lost so much of the music of the church, and I hope that this will go some small way towards moving back to some sort of “normal”.

MICHAEL PAIN.

TUESDAY LUNCHTIME CONCERTS 2021
September 1.15 – 1.50 p.m.

- Tues 7 **PAUL GREENHALGH** *piano*
Tues 14 **VIVIEN CHASEY** *violin*
 with **Robin Bowman** *piano*
 and **Claire Bowman** *soprano*
Tues 21 **REBEKHAH OKPOTI** *organ*
 (St. Lawrence with St. Paul’s, Longridge)
Tues 28 **MICHAEL PAIN** *organ*
 (Bolton Parish Church)

Hearing

A man went into a church and asked the vicar to pray for his hearing. Touched by his faith, the vicar agreed. “Kneel here,” he began in a loud voice. The man knelt, and the vicar placed a hand on each ear and bellowed out a prayer. “I hope that will help,” he finally shouted.

“Well, I won't know for a while,” the man replied. “It isn't until next month”.

If you DON'T use any or all of the Internet, Facebook or Twitter, this article is for YOU...

Approximately 78% of the population of the United Kingdom uses some kind of Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc.) and 95% of the population uses the internet. Accepting that it is usually an individual's choice not to engage with others in these ways, we cannot get away from the fact that the first point of contact with any individual or organisation is via a website, Facebook page or other similar medium.

With that in mind, it would be very helpful to the mission and ministry of Bolton Parish Church if you would share the following information with your family friends, colleagues etc. – in fact anyone who uses social media.

Our Church has a website **www.boltonparishchurch.co.uk** It contains lots of information about the church and its activities, and is kept up to date with things that are happening. The weekly notice sheet and this monthly church magazine can be found there.

We have a Facebook page **@boltonparishchurch** We use this to share news, forthcoming events and videos of services either live or recorded.

Our Twitter account **@stpeterbolton** is another channel through which we can share news, comment and information about the life of our parish.

All you need to do please, is to pass on these details to everyone you know who uses the internet, Facebook or Twitter...they'll do the rest!

If you DO use any or all of the Internet, Facebook or Twitter, this article is for you too! Please ensure that you 'follow', 'like' and 'friend' as appropriate so as to ensure that we get the breadth and diversity of coverage we need.

Further details of Bolton Parish Church's media presence can be found on the next page.

Online Organ Concerts at Bolton Parish Church

Although we are unable to hold concerts in Church at the moment, here is a chance to watch a superb recital, given on our organ by Jonathan Scott. The concert also includes stunning shots of the inside of Church.

The programme is shown below and the concert can be viewed on the following link: <https://youtu.be/Xc3r326g8jQ>

A few years ago, the Scott Brothers came to Bolton Parish Church and played Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 by Liszt, arranged by Jonathan for organ and piano. This is still available.

(Link: <http://youtu.be/orneY4K9YtQ>)

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

www.facebook.com/MusicAtBoltonParishChurch

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

Twitter: [@StPeterBolton](https://twitter.com/StPeterBolton)

Instagram: [boltonparishchurchimages](https://www.instagram.com/boltonparishchurchimages)

Photos of Bolton Parish Church

Joy Ryner at 100

Joy has been a member of our church family for an incredibly long time! Her daughter Elspeth remembers being brought to church as a little girl in the early 1960s before the introduction of Sunday School and refreshments after the service. The building itself would have looked very different too, before the major reordering at the end of that decade, when the stonework was cleaned inside and out, many pews were removed and the pale coloured floor was installed.

Joy has known seven vicars of Bolton – Greville Norburn, Harold Fielding, Christopher Hall, Alan Wolstencroft, Mike Williams, Matt Thompson and now Canon Chris, and countless other clergy, including 16 or 17 Lecturers! There have been five Directors of Music in those years: Bill Morgan, Kevin Morgan, Martin Bussey, Stephen Carleston and now Michael Pain.

Joy was an active member of the congregation until quite recently, sharing in the coffee rota, helping to run coffee mornings, harvest lunches and other events.

Joy is passionate about culture. She has always been a stalwart supporter of the Church's Tuesday Lunchtime Concert Series and on other days of the week has thought nothing of travelling to Manchester to enjoy plays, music and other cultural events. She has always been a firm believer in actively seeking out and enjoying what is locally available.

She now lives happily at the Old Vicarage Care Home where there were great celebrations on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

The home's caterers laid on afternoon tea in the garden for Joy and her family, and later the residents all enjoyed birthday cake together.

Pictured (on the next page) with Joy are her daughters Elspeth (in red) and Alison, and son Dave, together with the Mayor of Bolton, Councillor Linda Thomas, and her husband Len. Also, a picture evoking the times when we were able to enjoy events together in Church — Joy with former Vicar Mike Williams and Miranda Williams at the afternoon tea in 2018.



Climate Sunday, 9 May

**JOIN
OUR CLIMATE
SUNDAY
SERVICE ON 9
MAY 2:00pm** *from*
Manchester Cathedral

 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Manchester

 **CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD**

 **Climate
Sunday**

Please do join us live for the event. The service will be streamed on the Manchester Cathedral Facebook page and available to catch up later.

Picture Quiz

Can you identify where exactly in Bolton Parish Church these 15 photos were taken? Answers next month!

1



2



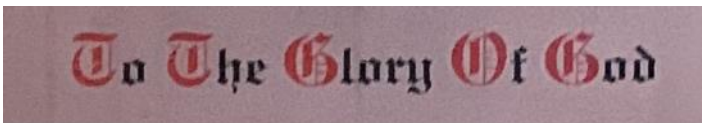
3



4



5



6



7



8



9



11



10



12



13



14



15



Answers to last month's Opera Quiz

1. The Barber of Seville 2. The Thieving Magpie 3. Madam Butterfly 4. Lulu
 5. Albert Herring 6. The Pearl Fishers 7. The Cunning Little Vixen 8. Lucia
 Di Lammermoor 9. The Silken Ladder 10. Ruddigore 11. Rheingold 12.
 Norma 13. William Tell 14. Aida 15. Tosca 16. Turandot 17. Il Trovatore 18.
 Carmen 19. The Magic Flute 20. The Flying Dutchman

Answers to the Einstein Quiz:

Water drinker: Norwegian ; Zebra owner: Japanese

House	1	2	3	4	5
Color	Yellow	Blue	Red	Ivory	Green
Nationality	Norwegian	Ukrainian	Englishman	Spaniard	Japanese
Drink	Water	Tea	Milk	Orange juice	Coffee
Smoke	Kools	Chesterfield	Old Gold	Lucky Strike	Parliament
Pet	Fox	Horse	Snails	Dog	Zebra

A story from across the pond

An old Italian priest lived alone in New Jersey. He wanted to plant his annual tomato garden, but it was very difficult work, as the ground was hard. A member of his church, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. So the old priest wrote a letter to his parishioner and described his predicament: *Dear Vincent, I am feeling pretty sad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. I know if you were here my troubles would be over. I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me, like in the old days. I remember you in my prayers! Fr Louis*

A few days later he received a letter from his parishioner. *Dear Fr Louis, Whatever you do, don't dig up that garden. That's where the bodies are buried. Thanks for your prayers. Vinnie*

At 4 a.m. the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologised to the old priest and left. That same day the old priest received another letter. *Dear Fr Louis, Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances. Vinnie*

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**

This month's quiz is a superb Towns Quiz, which was compiled by St Mary's Church, Sandbach who have kindly given permission for us to use it. After the first example, the answers run down in alphabetical order, starting with "A"s. Answers in due course.

- 1 Colourful girl REDRUTH
- 2 Carry on with the drama
- 3 Birth of a tree
- 4 Get rid of the crossing
- 5 Home of the special duck
- 6 Cook ably for this this tart
- 7 In Norse 'a bare island'- off the headland
- 8 The Romans called it Aquae Sulis
- 9 Inky water
- 10 The door is locked
- 11 Somewhere to keep Jack
- 12 Brilliant weight
- 13 Inter
- 14 Site of a monastery, burial place of a martyr king, 90
- 15 Ride quickly to get blue/black fruit
- 16 Vehicle with a cotton thread
- 17 You will find 700-year-old rows here
- 18 A certain large couch
- 19 Noviomagus Reginorum
- 20 A group of witches attempt
- 21 Ship's company
- 22 A Roman century and a rambler
- 23 The saviour and the minster
- 24 Beloved weight

- 25 A type of hat
- 26 500 too much
- 27 English breed of shorthorns
- 28 The name of a very messy sweet
- 29 The first lady is a fake
- 30 Someone leaving a restaurant
- 31 Moggy's appendage
- 32 Taken away followed by a compass point
- 33 Several five-barred with a principal
- 34 Beatrix Potter wrote about a tailor from here
- 35 The Iron Lady was here
- 36 1066 and all that
- 37 Not there, with a car
- 38 Sounds like dry grass is feigned
- 39 Dwellings by a place of worship
- 40 Home of the otter
- 41 Part of a ship
- 42 Home of the mint cake
- 43 Jester with a place of worship
- 44 Squirrel's meal crossing the stream
- 45 Symbol for a metal with a male bird
- 46 Detectives need these
- 47 Join to the next one
- 48 Body organ for swimmer
- 49 A young girl and Mr Walsh
- 50 Fellow plus a word from Latin meaning 'camp'
- 51 Mother's walk
- 52 Found on hands and feet with a body of water
- 53 Grandma with a coarse grass

54 Noah's vessel rebuilt
55 Current fortification
56 Sounds like an up-to-the-minute black fruit
57 Unused after-dinner drink
58 Shoemakers here made much footwear for WW1 troops
59 Neither poor

60 Sister joins well known school
61 Do not eat this pork
62 Adult male cattle at water crossing
63 Cushion put away
64 The sound of tiny feet in the valley
65 Choose a call?
66 Work at the estuary
67 Sounds like a game; give us a cue!
68 Bear down from above
69 Thrusts the portal
70 One of the basic 'r's
71 Colourful vehicle
72 Carry on tearing
73 Has a school founded in 1567 by Lawrence Sheriff
74 Hasten grain
75 Usually held in January
76 A girl is - wanting to hide
77 Found on the seashore with a composer
78 Silicon dioxide query?
79 Sounds like the cook's grassland
80 Headquarters of Cunard are here
81 This man was killed for his Christian beliefs

- 82 Cattle sanctuary
83 Famous for the first Stephenson's railway line
84 A thoroughfare
85 A bird era
86 Carry on teasing!
87 A small openingI don't think so!!
88 Angry reverend
89 Sounds like meteorology beside
90 Pale harbour
91 Sounds like a hairpiece is worn
92 Industrial lift with film star swimmer
93 Comes in first and gets a car
94 The 'Wanderers'
(NB—not us!!)
95 Area of trees with animals raised on a farm

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

Vicars of Bolton – Zacharias Saunders

Zacharias Saunders graduated from St. John's, Cambridge, where he received his M.A. degree in about 1589. Evidence shows that he was a clever, honest and faithful student; and it appears to be on that account that the Masters and Seniors looked upon him with favour. There was a link between the College and the Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth, at Rivington, which was founded in 1566 by James Pilkington, who at the time was Master of St. John's College, Cambridge. Among the records of the College is a letter dated 1589, headed "A letter for Mr. Saunders to be schoolmaster of Rivington". It sets forth that the College authorities, "hearing that the school has remained long destitute of an able, honest, and sufficient scholar since the departure of the last Incumbent, request the trustees to admit the bearer, Zach. Saunders, now to be M.A., student of the College, known to the College for seven years as of honest and Godly conversation and sufficient learning." The selection was accepted by the Governors of the School, and Mr. Saunders became the headmaster.

He afterwards accepted the living of Bolton Church, being presented during the latter part of 1594 or early 1595, which event suggests the probability of his predecessor, John Albright, having resigned within a few months of his acceptance by proxy. However, Saunders was certainly here on 10 July, 37 Elizabeth (1595), which is the date on which he paid his first fruits. After just under four years' residence in Bolton, he resigned his benefice in the following terms (translated from the Latin): – *In the Name of God, Amen. Before you, the Reverend father and Lord in Christ, the Lord Richard [Vaughan] by Divine permission Bishop of Chester. I, Zacharias Saunders, Vicar of the Parish Church of Bolton in le Moores, of the Diocese of Chester, wishing and endeavouring, for certain true, just and lawful causes, myself and my mind in this behalf specially moving, to be divested of, and discharged from, the burden of the care, and from the rule of my said Vicarage of Bolton, into your sacred and reverend hands, not being seduced or in any way circumvented by force, deceit, fear, or fraud, but purely of my own will, simply and absolutely, and of my own motive, leaving the same my Vicarage vacant, yielding up the same, and totally and expressly withdrawing from the same in these writings.*

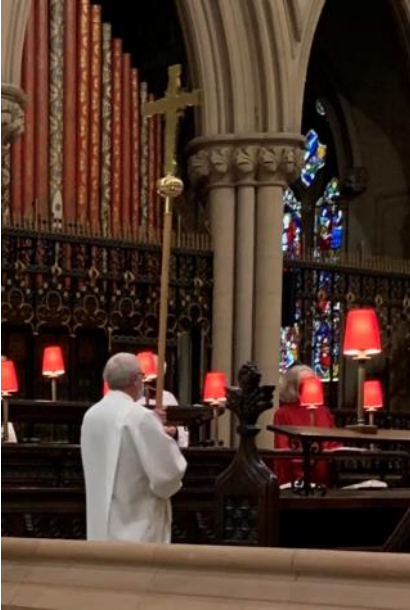
By me, Zacharias Saunders.

The Last Word

A new monthly feature where we get to know each other a little better through a series of questions .

This month:

John Hilton



Do you come from Bolton?

I am a Boltonian by birth but in truth more like Farnworth as I was born in what was then Townley's Hospital. Always living here except for a period between 1973 to 1979 when I moved to Stretford to be closer to work. Here I must make a confession – as Old Trafford football ground was just around the corner, I went to watch Manchester United play.

Bolton, when I was younger, was a thriving shopping and market

centre. I remember the herbalist stall in the Market Hall (Hools) and buying a glass of sarsaparilla – just heavenly.

It's a pity that the thriving town centre has changed latterly. Let us hope that Bolton recovers its top spot for shopping.

What will you be doing on Monday?

Mondays are like any other day now as I have retired, but that doesn't mean we have much spare time. Before retiring, I worked for the largest Mail Order Company in the UK in the I.T. department. I started at their computer department in Bolton in 1972, then moved on to Manchester in 1973. I was there until 2005

when headquarters moved to Liverpool where I worked until 2015. A long time with one company, 42 years, but it's the people you worked with you really miss.

How long have you been coming to Bolton Parish Church?

I have been attending services from February 1988.

What first brought you to Bolton Parish Church?

We wanted to get married at the Parish Church in June 1989. So just after getting engaged on Valentine's Day 1988, we went to see Canon Hall to pencil in the date for the wedding. Agreement was arrived at, but on condition we attended Sunday Services and we are still here 32 years later.

What's your favourite piece of music?

Handel's Messiah is my favourite with the following choral pieces being at the top of my list:

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in.

The Hallelujah Chorus.

Worthy is the Lamb.

The Great Amen.

Beautiful music and words that lift the spirit and make you feel that there is more to the world than the usual humdrum.

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

At the moment, I'm reading a trilogy, "The Echoes Saga", by

Phillip C. Quaintrell, which is a Fantasy genre. With Elves, Humans, Dwarfs, Dragons and Mages, the author has a brilliant story to weave and I'm captivated.

What's your favourite hymn?

One of my favourites is "Thine be the Glory", a perfect Easter hymn which was sung out in the car park to celebrate the Risen Christ this Easter. Very special for all of us this year as we can't sing as a congregation inside the Church.

Who inspires you?

I have been inspired over the years by the Clergy at the Parish Church. Each one seems to have helped expand my religious journey in different ways.

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

Perhaps as a young lad it was Pope John XXIII calling the Second Vatican Council that started change within the Catholic Church, highlighting that the Christian community should work together to come to a better understanding and closer relationship.

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

Australia would be that place and the why, well my brother's family are there so no contest really. A close second would be Hawaii, which is a beautiful group of Islands.

Did you know?

John shares his name with Tudor Composer John Hilton, whose anthem "Lord, For Thy Tender Mercies' Sake" the choir will be singing on 2 May.

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