



Parish News

December 2021

£1

Dear friends

It's good to be able to write to you this month as a member of the clergy team at Bolton Parish Church, and may I begin by saying thank you to all those who have made me feel so welcome in my new dual role as Assistant Curate here, and as Area Dean of the new Bolton Deanery – and if I haven't met you properly yet, I look forward to doing so soon!

It's a truism in life that we should be careful what we wish for – because it might come true, only not quite as we expected. That's something I've certainly found to be true in my Christian life – from first feeling the prompting to ministry many years ago and praying 'No, Lord! Not me!' to the call to leave my old parish earlier this year to come to this new role here in Bolton, in the midst of this strange, uncertain time of the pandemic and all the upheaval it has brought to our lives.

'Be careful what you wish for,' was exactly what I thought when my family and I moved to Farnworth back at the end of May, when the infection rates were extremely high. The first knock on our new front door wasn't a neighbour or even a postman – it was the army, telling us to go and get tested!

Being careful what we wish for is also a helpful way for us to approach the season of Advent, especially if, like many of us, you find that Advent is all too easily swallowed up into a longer Christmas season for the majority of people these days.

The truth is, though, we miss out if we rush ahead to Christmas and don't take the time of Advent to prepare ourselves. Advent is the beginning of the new Church Year – and, as it marks a new year, it offers an opportunity for new beginnings and resolutions, a time when we are invited to ready ourselves for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. That's why being careful what we wish for – what we

pray for – in this season really matters.

The story of the first Christmas is one full of unexpected answers to prayer, of people for centuries before wishing for things that would eventually come true in ways they would never have expected. Through Advent we have a chance to remember all those who went before in prayerful expectation that one day God would fulfil his promises to his chosen people – from the patriarchs to the prophets and all the way through to John the Baptist. They looked for the Messiah, the Christ, to come – the Saviour and King from the line of David who would save God's people.

That prayer, that wish, came true – only not quite as they expected, with a child born to a lowly, loving mother in the middle and the mess of a stable, because there was no room at the inn, and who would one day die on a cross for the sake of us all.

So as we approach this Advent season, looking towards the joy of Christmas beyond, let's all take the time to be careful what we wish for – praying for our Carol Services and special events in Church to be opportunities for God to do unexpected and amazing things in the hearts and lives of people who don't yet know him, and haven't yet heard the good news of his love for us in Jesus. And let's be open to God surprising us too, and allow him to open our hearts and minds to what he has to say to us for this new Church year ahead and for our own walk with Jesus. And when the time comes, and not before, let us wish for each other and for all humankind a very joyful and peaceful Christmas!

Wishing you and all those you love and pray for every blessing from God for this Advent season and beyond,

Simon



Advent and Christmas 2021

Advent Carol Service

Sunday November 28th at 6.30 p.m.

Carols on the car park

Sunday December 12th at 4.30 p.m.

Finish your afternoon shopping by coming to
sing favourite Christmas carols.

Carols around the tree

13th, 15th and 17th December at 12.15pm

Town Carol Service

Sunday December 19th at 6.30 p.m.

Christmas Eve

Crib Service and pop up nativity at 3 p.m.

First Communion of Christmas at 11 p.m.

Christmas Day

Holy Communion at 9.30am

Celebration of John Walsh's birthday—7 November



And a cryptic clue for December — what do Chris and St Lucy have in common?

Flower News

On 31st October, a pedestal arrangement was placed in the nave for All Saints. The arrangement included white carnations, chrysanthemum and roses, with molucella and garden foliage. The following week, members of the Royal Artillery attended the morning service to lay a wreath at their memorial plaque. A pedestal arrangement of red carnations, roses, green chrysanthemums and eucalyptus was placed near to the memorial.

For Remembrance Sunday, the pedestal arrangement in red and green with additional poppies, was placed by the war memorial. An arrangement in red, white and blue, was placed in the nave.

A poppy fall was again created using the crafted poppies made by members of the congregation. This year it was displayed from the pulpit.

The final pedestal arrangement before Advent included red carnations and roses, green chrysanthemums, pink alstroemeria and deep pink roses.

The Flower Demonstration given by Paula Routledge on the 20th November, as part of the 150th birthday celebrations, was a wonderful afternoon much enjoyed by those who attended. Paula's arrangements and displays were amazing and inspirational.

With grateful thanks for donations received during November. Plans for Advent and Christmas are now underway and donations towards the cost of flowers for Christmas and the weeks beyond would be gratefully received by Kath, Alison or the wardens.

Flower Team









Advent Book Group 2021

FOLLOW ME
Living the
Sayings
of Jesus

Ian Black



Following the success of our previous reading groups, we are planning to hold a four week Advent book group which, like our recent groups, will be meeting via Zoom. This year's book is **Follow Me: Living the Sayings of Jesus by Ian Black**

ISBN: 9781910519448

The bible is full of instructions for how we ought to behave if we want to be a follower of Jesus, but these often seem to belong to a bygone age, far removed from our busy 21st century lives. 'Follow me' helps us uncover how Jesus's words are still relevant. Using true stories to bring us closer to scripture, Ian Black draws connections between what Jesus said and how we live today in all its messiness and complexity.

The book is available at the Isaiah 53 Bookshop in Bolton (01204 532384), or to order online and as a Kindle edition.

Ian Black is the Dean of Newport in the Diocese of Monmouth. He has written several popular books.

Turn over



The group will meet online on **Monday evenings**, 7.30pm – 8.30pm on 29th November, 6th, 13th and 20th December

To join, please use the Zoom link below and feel free to share this with others.

Topic: Advent Book Group

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89632434141?pwd=Z1VRNkNhSUxURDdPd1pFVFQ1UVREQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 3243 4141

Passcode: 846200

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To celebrate our 150th anniversary
and Year of Charities

Fieldings Porter
Solicitors since 1871

150

Saturday 11 December 2021
at 6pm, Bolton Parish Church

**Annual Charity
Christmas Carol Concert**

With special guests:
Corus Brass

Silent Night! Holy Night!
and Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

TUESDAY GROUP

A warm invitation is extended to everyone as Michael and members of the Choir present a selection of music for Advent and Christmas. An opportunity not to be missed!

This will be followed by mince pies, tea and coffee.

2021 CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS

BOLTON PARISH CHURCH

The Clergy and Wardens of Bolton Parish Church invite applications for CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS from September 2021, ideally from school-age pupils from years 11 to 13, although other applicants will also be considered.

The value of each scholarship will be £500 p.a., and the successful candidates will have the opportunity to sing in an expert adult choir, with a large cathedral-style repertoire.

For further details, and to apply, contact

Michael Pain, Director of Music, c/o Bolton Parish Church Office,
Silverwell Street, Bolton BL1 1HX,

or email michaelpain18@gmail.com

Who said it?

From this year's 'Dear Friends' – a mixture of Ian and Chris, but look out for one from Grace in there. Answers after The Last Word

1. What a joy it was to announce the first hymn that we could sing together, both congregation and choir – and what a hymn - Angel Voices, which sets prayer alongside the celebration of the industriousness of craftsman's art and music's measure.
2. 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.
3. Not being in school would, for me, have brought the added benefit of not having to take part in PE and games lessons – subjects I detested!
4. What have we lost that needs to stay lost? What has been lost that we need to regain?
5. Heritage is very much alive and kicking!
6. 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.
7. As Christians, part of our calling is to guard and protect all living creatures with whom we share our world.
8. But, of course, the church is more than the building. It's made up of the welcoming, worshiping and spirit-filled community of you all, both past and present.
9.being asked to pray through the fence for a stranger's poorly dog!
- 10.— not a route that even an optimist like me would describe as remotely picturesque.
11. Christian ministry is far much more than a set of clergy.
- 12 The Collects for Epiphany recognise that “the times they are a changing”, and they also encourage us to never lose sight of our hope in Christ.

...for our prayers in December 2021

The schools are coming to the end of a long, hard term.

We thank God for the return to something much closer to normal experience for pupils, parents and teachers, and pray for a restful holiday when it comes.

For many families the struggle to cope continues. We pray for Urban Outreach and all the organisations whose purpose is to make life better for them, and give thanks for all whose generosity in giving produce, time and effort enables Christmas Dinner on Jesus to help so many.

We think of those for whom the celebration and excitement all around them just serves to emphasise their own sadness or loneliness, and we pray for them.

At the beginning of the liturgical year we look forward to all that is to come.

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
By thine own eternal spirit, rule in all our hearts alone:
By thy all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Concert in Church Mediaeval Bæbes

Thursday 9 Dec 2021 7.30 p.m.

Tickets, adults £25, children £10

The unique, classical choir Mediaeval Bæbes was conceptualised and formed in 1996 by musical director, composer and producer Katharine Blake. The group have released 10 studio albums, won an Ivor Novella Award for their performance on the BBC serialisation “The Virgin Queen” and received two Emmy nominations and a Royal Television Society award as the featured artist alongside composer Martin Phipps for the theme tune of ITV’s hit TV show “Victoria”.

Parish Church Schools

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

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

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:

Account Name: Bolton Parish Church PCC Stewardship.
Sort Code: 16-00-06
Account Number: 11816952

Support for others in need

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 Urban Outreach.

Please send copy for the January
issue by 28 December to John Walsh or
judypain@gmail.com
or
admin@boltonparishchurch.co.uk

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

Typo Trouble

Starting with one from a Bolton newspaper

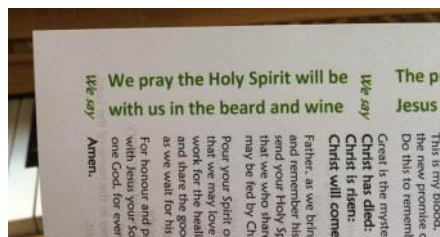
This was followed by the hymn All People That on Earth Do Well before the Act of Commitment and the National Anthem.

The hymn below has a typo in every verse

- 1 Alleluia, sing the Jesus!
His the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluia, his the triumph,
his the victory alone:
hark, the songs of peaceful Sion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of every nation
hath redeemed us by his blood.
- 2 Alleluia, not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
alleluia, he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how:
though the cloud from sight received him,
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promised,
'I am with you evermore'?
- 3 Alleluia, bread of angels,
thou on earth our food, our stay;
alleluia, here the sinful
flee to thee from day to day:
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.
- 4 Alleluia, King eternal,
thee the Lord of lords we own;
alleluia, born of Mary,
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne,
thou within the veil hast entered,
robed in flesh, our great High Priest:
thou on earth both Priest and Victim
in the eucharistic feast.

Hymn

The Day They Gave us has Ended



Father in heaven, hallowed by your name,
kingdom come, your will be done,
rth as in heaven.
us today our daily bread.
ve us our sins as we forgive those who sin against u
us not into temptation but deliver us from email.
ie kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
nd for ever. Amen.

O measureless Might,
Ineffable Love,
While angles delight
To hymn thee above,
Thy humbler creation,
Though feeble their lays,
With true adoration
Shall sing to thy praise.



he provides food for flocks and / herds *
and for the young ravens when they / cry.

He is not impressed by the might of a / horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a / man;

But the LORD has pleasure in those who / fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.

Halle / loofah!

Spirit wells up within your Church:
the gospel of Christ and make us eager
with the whole creation the joys of external life;
our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
God, now and for ever.

WORD

4-12 or Hebrews 5: 1-10

the love of Jesus, what it is
none but his loved ones know.

Jesu, our only job be thou
as thou our prize wilt be;
in thee be all our glory now,
and through eternity.

6:30pm - Choral Evensong

Responses: *Samson*
Psalm: 119 v 73-80
Canticles: *Brewer in D*
Anthem: *Locusts*
Hymns: 237, 207 *Bruckner*

In lonely suffering on the cross,
For all He loved, His life He gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter moon,
Empty the tomb, for He was free.
He broke the power of death and hell
That we might share His victory.

until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes,

and the busy world is hushed,

and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.

Then, Lord, in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and pea

3. Thou, O Christ, art all I want,
More than all in thee I find:
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name,
I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am,
Thou art full of truth and grace.

4. Plenteous grace with thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound,
Let me sink into thy hand.

5 - For This Purpose Christ was revealed:
to destroy all the works of the Evil One.
Christ in us has overcome, so with gladness we
sing and welcome his kingdom in.

12:10: Noon Intentions of Yolanda Cerrato
Sat. 10/23/21 ST. ANTHONY MARY CLARET
4:00PM Thanksgiving Mass
7:00PM + Arturo Hernandez Arroyo
Sun. 10/24/21 THIRSTIEST SUNDAY IN OT
8:00AM + Joan Iannaccone
10:00AM + Lindsey Goldstein
12:00 Noon Intentions of the People of the Parish

Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;
here would I touch and handle things unseen,
here grasp with firmer hand th' eternal grace,
and all my weariness upon thee lean.

Above:

The Roman Catholic
Church also has its
share.

'Hike the Pike'

2021



in aid of Bolton Hospice

Would you like to Hike the Pike with friends?

Bolton Hospice are running their Hike the Pike fundraising walk this December, and Bolton Parish Church will be leading a group on the 5 mile set route (from Georges Lane to the Pike and back) at 1.30pm on Sunday 5th December.

We will be leaving church at 1.00pm (please let us know if you would like a lift from church - car spaces permitting) to meet on the corner of Chorley Old Road by Curley's Dining room, Wallsuches, Horwich, BL6 6PP. The 5 mile walk will start from here at 1.30pm. There will be a refreshments stop at Dudley's (by the Two Lads) on the way back down.

If you would like to raise some money for Bolton Hospice please take a sponsor form (register online *OR* take a form from the back of church) and raise what you can, but please don't let this put you off joining us if you are unable to find sponsorship.

Looking forward to seeing you there....

For any further information, please contact Ian; lecturer@boltonparishchurch.co.uk



Hike the Pike

Intercessions (Margaret Haughton)

November 14th 2021

Let us pray.....

A time to remember

All those who have ever worshipped on this site, all who worship here now.....and to give thanks for the help and support offered from this place to the people of this town through the ages.

“One church, one faith, one Lord”

A time to remember

And to think about our world, and to wonder at its many intricacies of design, variety, species, beauty and colour. We would hope that all of the world's peoples might treasure, value and respect their surroundings. We all need to consider how best we can nurture this wonderful planet and accept our own responsibility for the well-being of future generations. Help us, we pray.

One world

A time to remember

All the blessings of this life and to pray for our families and friends who support us when life is difficult.

We give you thanks for harmony, kindness, thoughtfulness and for acts of generosity to others less fortunate.

And a time to remember those now living under the rule of the Taliban: all those who have been plunged back in time, trapped in a misogynistic world where girls are denied an education and women are unable to work despite their qualifications and financial need.

One life

A time to remember

when we stand so still in the silence: we who are lucky enough to have no personal experience of the horror of war.....

We bring to you all who return with broken, disfigured bodies, and damaged minds. We pray for all peacekeepers: for the armed forces and the emergency services who arrive first at scenes of carnage and tragedy. We pray too for those offering help and support including The British Legion, The Red Cross, Help For Heroes and many other smaller charities.

One body

A time to remember

That life is wonderful but can be frightening in its fragility. Give us the strength to protect the vulnerable and those exposed to risk and danger.

A time to remember

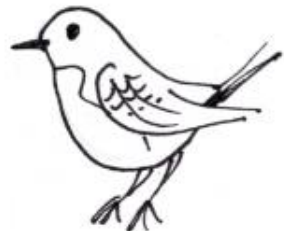
Those whose last moments were filled with terror; the tortured, the terribly injured, the fatally wounded and all who have died at the hands of cruel and violent individuals.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, Amen.

We have pledged to provide 500 packets of savoury crackers (size: 200-300g) for this year's **Christmas Dinner on Jesus**.

The support last year was amazing – let's see if we can do the same again!

There is still time to bring a contribution. The last day for collection will be Sunday 5th December.



Some thoughts for Advent

Here we are again at the beginning of a new Church Year. Advent has come around again. Advent, a time of preparation, of recollection, a time for thought and a time for reflection.

Advent is also a time of expectancy. The word Advent comes from two Latin words 'ad' meaning 'to' and 'venire' the Latin verb meaning 'to come'. Hence 'to come to' and we are thinking of Jesus coming to us.

We are looking forward to Christmas and remembering the time when, as our collect for Advent Sunday says, Jesus came 'to visit us in great humility'. He came as the One who had been looked forward to for many generations.

We are preparing to celebrate the coming of someone in the past. Preparing to remember one of the greatest happenings in the history of the world, 'The Incarnation', God taking human form and living amongst us.

We are also preparing ourselves and others to accept fully Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, as the old hymn says and I think that this is a lovely Advent prayer for everyone,

'O come to my heart Lord Jesus
There is room in my heart for thee.'

We are continually asking God to come into our lives and into our hearts to rule there as King, as each week we say the collect for purity at the beginning of our Communion Service and we ask God to breathe his Holy Spirit into our hearts and our lives, that they may be cleansed and made a suitable place for Christ to dwell, now here in the present.

We are looking forward to a time in the future when God will come to judge the world. Advent is a time when we should think of the end times and of Jesus' promise to come again, to think about the second coming and if it were to come tomorrow are we prepared, are we in a state of grace.

The world, especially in the secular West has decided to forget Advent and to get on with celebrating Christmas, especially this year. It is,

however a purple season, not until the Midnight celebration of Communion on Christmas Eve do we change to white.

Advent is a season of watching and waiting, a time to think about Christ in the past, the present and the future, a challenging season, a time to think about the significance of Christ coming to judge and save.

Advent is also a season of hope. The hope of the Kingdom. Hope based on faith and trust in God. If we did not have these then we would not be preparing for Christmas in quite the same way.

So, let us approach Advent as a time of prayer and preparation, getting ready for the coming of the Lord.

There are special days in Advent which help us to prepare. The Sundays are special and many of us will have an Advent Crown or Ring to help us, by focusing on the Old Testament Prophets and Patriarchs, the New Testament Evangelists, St. John the Baptist and the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Our Lord.

There are other special days during Advent to help and remind us of the significance of the season.

December 6th. St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas was a fourth century saint and bishop, famed for his kindness and generosity, for helping the poor and giving gifts to the needy.

O Lord, come to us this Advent and give to us the kindness and generosity shown by St. Nicholas, that we may always care for others as you care for us.

December 8th. The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On this day we remember Mary's own conception by her mother, St. Ann. We remember Mary's own pregnancy, as she patiently awaits the birth of her own Son, Jesus, as she yearns to cradle him in her own arms.

O Lord, like Mary, the Mother of our Lord, we wait for the coming of your Son. May we have patience and generosity of Spirit to care for others as Mary cared for her son Jesus.

December 9th. 11th. and 12th. Ember Days.

Ember Days are days at the beginning of each season for fasting, abstinence and prayer, especially for God's gifts in nature and the care of the environment and of all God's gifts to us.

O Lord, we pray that your gifts may flourish within us, that we may show forth the light of your presence in our lives by in the love and care that we show for others.

December 13th. St. Lucy

St. Lucy was a fourth century Christian martyr. Her name means "light". The most common story told about her is that she secretly brought gifts of food to persecuted Christians living in hiding. She wore a crown of candles, so that her hands were free to carry her gifts.

O Lord, may the Light of Christ shine in our hearts and minds this Advent as we welcome you again into our lives when Christmas comes. We pray that during these uncertain times, we may, like St. Lucy, strive to bring help and hope into the lives of those who troubled and in need.

December 17th. O Sapientia (O Wisdom)

O come, O come O Wisdom from on high
To rule our hearts and minds and guide our ways,
To lead us on by knowledge of your love,
That we may live by love for all our days.

December 18th. O Adonai (O Lord God)

O come, O come to us Lord God of Might,
Just as you came to those in ages past.
You came to Moses on the mount in fire.
O may your power for ever hold us fast.

December 19th. O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)

O come, O come, O Root of Jesse come
To be a sign to rulers and to kings.
A sign to all the nations of the earth,
That you are Sovereign Ruler of all things.

December 20th. O Clavis David (O Key of David)

O come, O come, O Key of David come
And open up the door of every heart,
The spirit and the life of every soul
And cause your loving rule to come and start

December 21st. O Oriens (O Morning Star)

O come, O come and shine O Morning Star.
Eternal Son of righteousness and light.
Enlighten all who dwell in depths of dark,
That we may live and walk within your sight.

December 22nd. O Rex Gentium (O King of Nations)

O come, O come, O King of all the earth.
O Cornerstone, O come without delay.
O come to us and save the human race.
Come to us soon, O Lord and with us stay.

December 23rd. O Emmanuel (O God with us)

O come, O come to us Emmanuel
Saviour and King of all the human race.
O come and save us from our faults and sins
And fill all souls on earth with love and grace.

Fr. Roy

**The Nativity of our Lord, or the Birth-day of Christ,
Commonly called Christmas-Day**

The Collect.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

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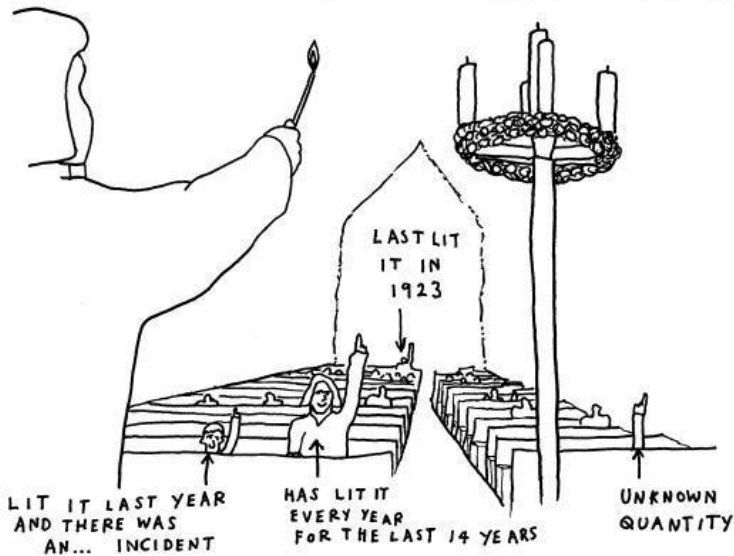
We are the little shop with the big reputation. We have served generations for generations, and the family has run the business since 1898. We sell fresh and frozen pasties and meat pies, along with pasties, whist pies and mini sausage rolls which are great for parties. Our uncooked frozen pasties, which 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**

ADVENT

DURING THE SUNDAYS IN ADVENT THE VICAR MUST CHOOSE SOMEONE TO LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE. IT IS ONE OF THE YEAR'S MOST DIFFICULT DECISIONS



The Guest of Honour

The mayor of a small town had brought in many improvements to local life which, over several years, had transformed the town. And so the community decided it was high time to pay him tribute. The party was held at the local town hall, and all agreed it was a great celebration. The decorations were superb, the music was loud and the room was crowded and noisy. The food was delicious and the wine flowed. It was the best party the town had ever had.

Over coffee the next morning in the local café, someone wondered aloud if the mayor had enjoyed it. No one knew. In fact, as the day wore on, people began to realise that actually, no one had even seen the mayor there that night. Later, they discovered that the mayor had been waiting at home all evening, waiting for the lift that he had been promised into town. But people had been so busy preparing for the party that no one had remembered him. He had missed the party in his honour and it appeared that no one attending it had even noticed his absence.

It sounds a lot like Christmas. People get together to celebrate - but has anyone remembered the guest of honour?

Last December's magazine included an Advent and Christmas hymn quiz to keep readers occupied — here's another!

Quiz – Advent and Christmas hymns

Can you identify the hymns from the words below? There will be plenty of opportunities to look out for these on Sunday mornings and the Advent and Town carol services.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1.Smiles | 11.Earth-bound |
| 2.Rapture | 12.Abiding |
| 3.Troubled | 13.Isles |
| 4.Err | 14.Seer and sybil |
| 5.Fuel | 15.Fetters |
| 6.Dead of night | 16.Astray |
| 7.Accord | 17.Cure |
| 8.Lamps | 18.All-sufficient |
| 9.Moan | 19.Wondering |
| 10.Exile | 20.Late |



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

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

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Vicar
Revd Canon Chris Bracegirdle
BED, MA, PhD

Lecturer
Revd Ian Hephburn BSc, BA

Associate Priests
Revd Canon Professor Kenneth G. C. Newport
BA, MA, MSt, DPhil, DD (Oxon)

Revd Barrie S. Gaskell

Curate
Revd Grace Hart BSc, BA

Area Dean of Bolton and Associate Priest
Revd Simon Cook MA

Sunday 5th December, Advent 2

11.00 BCP – Merbecke

Hymns: 36, 46, 99
441, 463
811

How Beautiful upon the Mountains – Sir John Stainer

Postlude in D – Healey Willan

Organ Scholar:
William Martin

Choral scholars:
Anna Charles, Thomas Martin

Director of Music:
Michael Pain MA, FRCo, LRAM, ARCM

Music List – December 2021

Sunday 12th December, Advent 3

11.00 CW – Appleford

Hymns: 38, 50, 39
439, 440 (vv 1,2)
584

This is the Record of John – Orlando Gibbons

Trumpet Tune in A – David N. Johnson

Sunday 19th December, Advent 4

11.00 All Age Worship

Hymns: 45, 51, 75
777
41

The Angel Gabriel – Old Basque Carol, arr. Pettman

Grand March (Aida) – Verdi, arr. Colin Hand

18.30 Town Carol Service

Friday 24th December, Christmas Eve

11.00 Midnight Eucharist

Bethlehem Carol Sheet:
14, 7, 8
6, 13
12

Saturday 25th December, Christmas Day

9.30 CW – Thorne/Appleford

Hymns: 79, 89, 66
81
78 (vv 1, 2, 6, 7)

Sunday 26th December, St Stephen

11.00 CW – Appleford

NO CHOIR

Bethlehem Carol Sheet:
1, 11, 5
2
18

The Last Word

Canon John Walsh O.B.E.

Do you come from Bolton?

I am unquestionably a true son of Bolton. Born at Townleys, Bolton is my home town.

What will you be doing on Monday?

No two Mondays are alike. On the first Monday of the month I chair the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches, the DAC. We are in effect the planning authority for all the churches in the Diocese and no two meetings are alike. Another Monday of the month normally I attend the Council's Cabinet meeting.



How long have you been coming to Bolton Parish Church?

It is well over 50 years ago that I first attended services at Bolton Parish Church but we have only really worshipped at BPC on a regular basis for the past 25 years.

What first brought you to Bolton Parish Church?

I was brought up at St George's, encouraged by the parents I attended Church and Sunday School each week.

When the United Benefice was created in the early 1970's joint services at Bolton Parish Church became the pattern of worship. As regular services at St George's reduced in number I attended BPC more often, such as at evensong.

What's your favourite piece of music?

Without doubt it has to be a quintessential piece of English Music and that would have to be Nimrod.

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

I am not a great reader of fiction, perhaps because of the large number of papers for the various meetings I attend. I do, however, love first editions and have a collection, mainly volumes like James Scholes 'History of Bolton' or Edward Baines 'Lancashire'. I frequently dip into these and other similar books to refresh my local knowledge.

I am, however, currently reading a fascinating book by Ian Robinson titled 'The Town that Vanished - The Rise and Fall of Lancashire's Biggest Mill Town'. It brings back so many recollections of the Bolton of my early years including reminiscences of the Burnden Park I knew so well.

What's your favourite hymn?

Again going back to my upbringing at St George's on the Sunday nearest St George's Day and on Sermons Sunday one hymn was always sung, 'Blessed city, heavenly Salem'. In particular part two, with the opening verse 'Christ is made the sure foundation', has real resonance.

Who inspires you? Why?

At each stage of life different influences have encouraged and inspired. My parents often told me that when we walked past Bolton School when I was only 5 or 6 years old I declared my intention to "go there". They gave me every encouragement to ensure I did.

At School the then Head F. R. Poskitt was both an imposing and inspirational figure. Later at St George's I was inspired to a career in accountancy and more by an old friend known to some at BPC as a bellringer, Harold Owen. There I also was inspired into local politics by a then Councillor Brian Allanson who remained a guide and mentor for many years.

Nationally, it would have to be Margaret Thatcher, whose premiership led to me being a parliamentary candidate in 1983.

Above all these, for almost 50 years my wife Christine has both attempted to keep my feet on the ground and has proved an enormous support in driving me to much of what I have achieved.

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

Without question, my early faith journey was directed by Rev James Henderson who, as Vicar of St George's, involved me as a server and prepared me for confirmation.

When St George's closed for worship in 1975, my faith was severely tested and it was the then recently inducted vicar of St Bede's, Rev John Smith, who as a curate at Christ Church had frequently conducted services at St George's. John actually conducted our wedding in 1977 and we remain in contact despite him, as he frequently reminds me, being a Nottingham Forest supporter.

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

It would have to be either the words of psalm 15, Lord who shall dwell in thy tabernacle, or the collect for the Sunday before Advent, Stir up, we beseech thee O Lord.

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

Neither Christine nor I have a great desire for international travel, preferring to explore the United Kingdom, in particular Scotland which we have visited for more than 40 years.

We particularly enjoy the area around Brora, a small village about 60 miles north of Inverness. We have visited Brora so often I know the exact mileage from home to the cottage we take.

Who said it?

1. Ian. 2. Chris, 3. Chris, 4. Ian, 5. Ian, 6. Chris, 7. Grace, 8. Ian. 9. Ian, 10. Chris. 11. Chris, 12. Ian.

BOLTON PARISH CHURCH CONTACTS

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