



# Parish News

June 2022

£1

Dear friends,

I'm quickly realising that one of the features of getting older is the increased frequency of medical appointments appearing in my diary. Thankfully, my health is very good but I've got to the age where the NHS offers several regular checks or screening programmes to detect possibilities of serious illnesses. I always knew that living within walking distance of the Royal Bolton Hospital would have its advantages! Like many others, I have very good reason to be thankful to the NHS for these and for so many other services that are offered to us, free at the point of delivery.

It's 74 years since, Nye Bevan inaugurated the National Health Service with a speech at the then Park Hospital, now Trafford General, only a few miles away from Bolton. Neither Bevan nor anyone else at the time could have foreseen the giant leaps forward which were to take place over the years in the world of health care. Transplants of almost every organ in the body, micro surgery and development of a range of medications, to name but a few were, in 1948, still in the future.

If Bevan were alive today, there is much in all facets of the NHS that he would not recognise. What I hope he would see is a service that is committed to the principles that he and many others held dear when the NHS was born. We are often told that the NHS cannot cope, that it is creaking under the strain and that resources are unacceptably scarce. Sadly, there is evidence that these and other complaints are true from time to time, but with a UK population in excess of 65 million, with average life expectancy rising and with inflation

at a 40-year high, surely we should marvel at what the NHS is able to achieve with its resources rather than bemoan that which it can't.

I was struck by these figures recently:

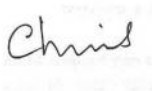
In the financial year 2020-21

- The Department of Health and Social Care spent £192 billion
- The NHS employed 1.2 million full time equivalent staff
- The average visit to A&E cost between £77 and £359
- The average ambulance call out cost £292
- The average GP appointment cost £39

It's all too easy to take for granted what is provided for us and be overly critical if it doesn't quite go the way we would like it to go. Next time we feel inclined to follow either of these courses, perhaps we should pause, and instead, offer this prayer: it takes about 25 seconds to pray and is a much better (and briefer) use of our time than that spent complaining.

God of healing and compassion, we thank you for the establishment of the NHS, and for the dedication of all who work in it: give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who care for the sick, and your wisdom to those engaged in medical research. Strengthen all in their vocation through your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With very best wishes.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Chris', is centered at the bottom of the page. The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

## **Ordinations in July**

Revd Grace Hart will be ordained priest by the Bishop of Middleton on Saturday 2nd July at 2.30pm in Manchester Cathedral. Often, newly ordained priests have presided at the eucharist on the Sunday morning following their ordination but as Gary Anderton is being ordained deacon in the cathedral that morning by the Bishop of Manchester, many of us will be at that service. Grace's first service as president will therefore be in the afternoon instead.

Gary will be leaving St Philip's to take up his curacy post at St Mary's Prestwich and Grace is remaining with us at Bolton Parish Church for about another two years.

Please support Grace and Gary with your prayers.

### **The arrangements for Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July are as follows:**

**8.00 a.m.** Holy Communion at the Parish Church

**No 9.15 a.m. or 11.00 a.m. services** at St Philip's and the Parish Church

**3.00 p.m.** Eucharist for both parishes at the Parish Church at which Revd Grace Hart will preside for the first time.

**No 6.30 p.m.** Evening Prayer at the Parish Church

We have already given Gary a gift from the benefice to mark the occasion of his ordination. If you would like to contribute to a gift for Grace, please give your donation to one of the wardens at either church.

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial  
Church Meeting  
Sunday 8 May 2022**

The following individuals were re-elected

**Churchwardens:** John Walsh OBE, Evelyn Weston  
*Churchwardens are elected to serve for one year. They are ex-officio members of the PCC.*

**Deputy Wardens:** David Eckersley, Alan Forrester, Esther Gelling, Andrew J Mitchell, David F Morlidge, Trevor J Whillas.  
*Deputy wardens are elected to serve for one year.*

The Archdeacon's Visitation is at Bolton Parish Church on Wednesday 15 June at 7.30 p.m. The service is open to all – Wardens must, and Deputy Wardens and PCC members should, attend.

**MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL 2022**

**Saturday 18 June 10.00am – 4.00pm**

**Church open for visits**

Musical events

Tower tours

Refreshments on sale in Church

**Collections and planned giving**

We no longer take a collection at of our services. Instead, a Collection Plate is put out at the back of church. Please place your offering on the plate as you arrive or leave. Better still, you could set up a Standing Order.

The account details are as follows:

Account Name: Bolton Parish Church PCC Stewardship.

Sort Code: 16-00-06

Account Number: 11816952

## Bell Ringers

### CELEBRATORY BELL RINGING

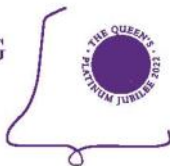
Lancashire Association

On Sunday, 5 June 2022 in 49m

Bolton, Greater

Manchester

St Peter



#### 1344 Plain Bob Major

- 1 Val A Andrews
- 2 Laura Robinson
- 3 Charlotte A Ferguson
- 4 Sam Brook
- 5 Andy Cope
- 6 Ryan A Battersby
- 7 Bob Moody
- 8 James B Andrews (C)

Rung to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen, immediately prior to Bolton town's Civic Service and parade.



Simon Linford  
President  
The Central Council of C.

Above and right:  
certificates awarded  
to mark the event,  
providing a  
permanent record  
of those who  
participated.

A selection of  
photos from the  
Thursday event is  
presented on the  
centre pages of the  
magazine.

Thanks to our bell-  
ringing team whose  
ringing added to the  
atmosphere of the  
Platinum Jubilee  
Beacon Lighting  
Ceremony and the  
Sunday service.

### CELEBRATORY BELL RINGING

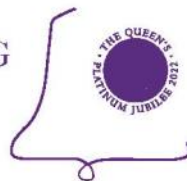
Lancashire Association

On Thursday, 2 June 2022

Bolton, Greater

Manchester

St Peter



#### Rounds and Call Changes

- 1 Sally-Ann Morgan
- 2 Rose Rees
- 3 Neil J Mort
- 4 Alan D Mort
- 5 Gill Smith
- 6 Linda Mort
- 7 Ann Warburton
- 8 Angela Foster
- 9 Mary O'Loughlin
- 10 Brenda Pickup

General ringing to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's  
Platinum Jubilee Beacon Lighting ceremony.



Simon Linford  
President  
The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers



## **Bolton Parish Church Online**

Website: **[www.boltonparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.boltonparishchurch.co.uk)**

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

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

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

**[www.facebook.com/MusicAtBoltonParishChurch](http://www.facebook.com/MusicAtBoltonParishChurch)**

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

**Twitter: @StPeterBolton**

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

*Photos of Bolton Parish Church*

Please send copy for the July  
issue by 22 June to John Walsh or  
[judy pain@gmail.com](mailto:judy pain@gmail.com)

or

[admin@boltonparishchurch.co.uk](mailto: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

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

**“There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate’s loot on Treasure Island.”   Walt Disney**

One of the very enjoyable tasks that has come my way for more than ten years now is to write book reviews for the national Reader magazine. This is a magazine predominantly, but not exclusively, for those who exercise the office of Reader in the Church of England. Writing a couple of reviews each year provides me with the discipline of reading books that I might not otherwise have thought of reading, thereby broadening my knowledge and understanding of a range of spiritual topics.

From time to time, we will be sharing a book review with you in this magazine. These aren’t necessarily the ones I’ve reviewed for the Reader magazine (and this first one isn’t) but ones which might be of general interest. You don’t need theology degree to read these books; all you need is an enquiring mind and an openness to learning.

Books can be ordered through the Isaiah 53 bookshop or downloaded onto Kindle.

*Chris*

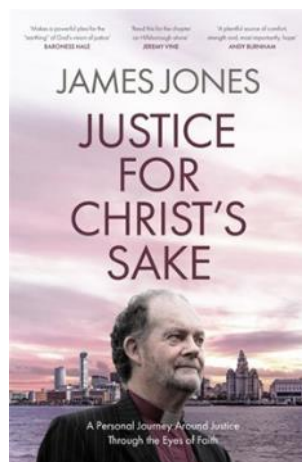
## **Justice for Christ’s Sake**

**James Jones.**

**Published by SPCK**

**ISBN number 9780281086252   £12.99**

James Jones, until retirement Bishop of Liverpool and formerly Bishop of Hull, writes with compete honesty, gentle reflection and great insight about his ministry seeking to bring justice in what he regularly found to be an unjust and





unequal world. The chapters of this short book are more than anecdotal stories from a retired bishop; they are insights into the life of someone who has sought to be a voice for the poor, the unheard and the unnoticed. For me, the highlight of the book is Bishop James's account of his chairing of the Hillsborough Independent Panel and of what he was able to offer and to learn through that experience. Other topics covered include race, the environment, prison and suffering – all treated with a level of honesty and challenge which left me wanting to read more. Each chapter ends with a transcript of Bishop James's Radio Four 'Thought For The Day' relating to that particular topic.

This book isn't heavy going and isn't long. It can be read in one go or not as you prefer. In my view, it will not fail to leave you moved and challenged.

### Hymn quiz

Previous hymn quizzes in the magazine have been based on the entire hymn book. This one uses words taken from hymns that do **not** appear in the following sections: General, Evening, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Passiontide. In other words, they are hymns from other sections and hymns for specific days or church seasons not mentioned above.

1. Transgression. 2. Vesture. 3. Glassy. 4. Grave-clothes. 5. Warriors.
6. Inextinguishable. 7. Diadem. 8. Invocation. 9. Tares. 10. Patriarchs.
11. Snow. 12. Dewfall.

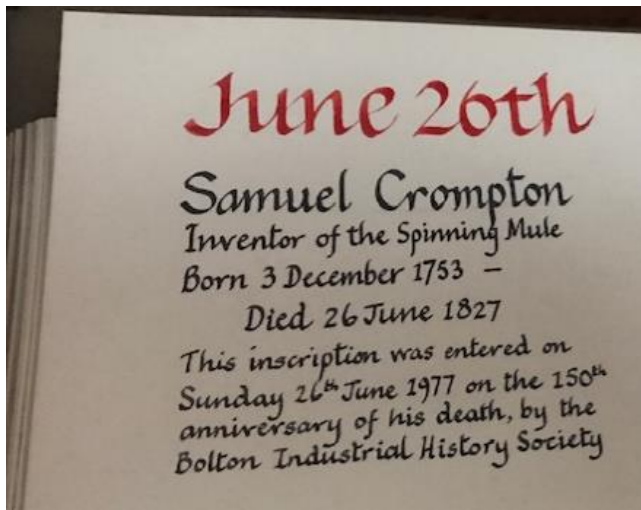
*Answers next time.*

### Support for others in need

Please continue to save and bring to church the following items:

- Used postage stamps
- Unwanted spectacles.
- Old working mobile phones, tablets and laptops.

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



## **FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE**

Tuesday 28 June at 7.30 p.m.

The Right Revd Chris Edmondson will deliver his final lecture in the series focusing on the voice of faith communities in public life.

Venue: Bolton Parish Church

Bishop Chris was Bishop of Bolton between 2008 and 2016 and continues to be a well-known and popular public speaker across the country.

## **The First Sunday after Trinity**

### **The Collect**

O God, the strength of all them that put their trust in thee, mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without thee, grant us the help of thy grace, that in keeping of thy commandments we may please thee, both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Flower News

During the first week in May, the Easter flowers were tidied and refreshed. The stones of hope prepared by members of Sunday school remained on the chancel steps next to a jug containing pussy willow. Brass vases of white roses were then placed on the Altar.

For Civic Sunday, pedestal arrangements of white carnations and lisianthus; yellow chrysanthemums, carnations and roses were placed by the lectern and by the west porch door. The Altar flowers were white carnations and roses. These were joined in church by arrangements from the Mayor making ceremony which were placed in the west porch and on window ledges.

A candle arrangement with 22 yellow roses, foliage and pussy willow was placed by the votive candle stand, to remember the fifth anniversary of the Manchester Arena terror attack.

On 11th May, Alison and Kath attended a 40th (+1) anniversary service for the Church of England Flower Arrangers' association at Birmingham Cathedral. We attended the midweek communion service at which special prayers were included for the founding of the association and its members.

The service was conducted by the Dean of Birmingham, Matt Thompson, who then joined Association members for a celebratory lunch. It was good to catch up with Matt, hear news of Michelle and Ellie, and pass on news about Bolton Parish Church. We had a most enjoyable day meeting up with fellow flower arrangers and discussing flower related matters.....particularly the Jubilee.

At the time of writing, final preparations are being made for the Jubilee flowers. This promises to be a mini flower festival of celebration!

With grateful thanks for donations received during May and for the continued interest and kind comments which are much appreciated.

Flower Team



## **Tuesday Group**

The July meeting of the Tuesday Group will take place in the Lower hall at 2 p.m. on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

Please note that this is one week later than usual.

There will be a flower demonstration given by Joan Johnson which will be followed by an opportunity to create a simple arrangement of your own if you so wish.

All welcome.

More details on the pew sheet in the coming weeks



On 5 June, a special service was held in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen



We were delighted to welcome Cherry Vann, Bishop of Monmouth, back to Bolton Parish Church on 29 May. Cherry was on the staff here 1992-1998.

# Harvey A Crerar

*For all your plumbing and building work*

Telephone 01204 669170

Mobile 07759 19 44 78

1B Ansdell Road

Horwich

Bolton

## 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



# Platinum Jubilee Beacon-lighting Ceremony

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Photos: Henry Lisowski



















## **Famous births and deaths in June**

- 1st *Born* 1926 Marilyn Monroe. *Died* 1941 Sir Hugh Walpole, 1968 Helen Keller.
- 2nd *Born* 1857 Sir Edward Elgar. *Died* 1937 Louis Vierne, 1990 Sir Rex Harrison.
- 3rd *Born* 1865 George V. *Died* 1899 Johann Strauss, 1963 John XXIII.
- 4th *Born* 1738 George III, 1910 Sir Christopher Cockerell. *Died* 1942 Reinhard Heydrich, 1989 Ayatollah Khomeini.
- 5th *Born* 1718 Thomas Chippendale. *Died* 1625 Orlando Gibbons, 2004 Ronald Reagan.
- 6th *Born* 1799 Alexander Pushkin, 1956 Björn Borg. *Died* 1968 Robert F. Kennedy.
- 7th *Born* 1848 Paul Gauguin, 1940 Tom Jones. *Died* 1329 Robert the Bruce, 1861 Patrick Brontë, 1994 Dennis Potter.
- 8th *Born* 1671 Tomaso Albinoni, 1829 Sir John Everett Millais. *Died* 1376 Edward the Black Prince, 1889 Gerard Manley Hopkins.
- 9th *Born* 1891 Cole Porter. *Died* 1870 Charles Dickens.
- 10th *Born* 1921 Prince Philip, 1922 Judy Garland. *Died* 1934 Frederick Delius, 1993 Les Dawson 2004 Ray Charles.
- 11th *Born*, 1572 Ben Jonson, 1776 John Constable, 1864 Richard Strauss. *Died* 1727 George I, 1979 John Wayne.
- 12th *Born* 1897 Anthony Eden, 1924 George Bush, 1929 Anne Frank. *Died* 1980 Sir Billy Butlin, 2003 Gregory Peck.
- 13th *Born* 323 BC Alexander the Great, 1865 William Butler Yeats. *Died* 1231 Saint Anthony of Padua, 1986 Benny Goodman.
- 14th *Born* 1928 Che Guevara. *Died* 1936 G. K. Chesterton.,
- 15th *Born* 1843 Edvard Grieg. *Died* 1996 Ella Fitzgerald.
- 16th *Born* 1890 Stan Laurel, 1912 Enoch Powell. *Died* 1752 Joseph Butler.
- 17th *Born* 1945 Ken Livingstone. *Died* 1719 Joseph Addison.
- 18th *Born* 1942 Sir Paul McCartney. *Died* 1928 Roald Amundsen.
- 19th *Born* 1566 James I, 1623 Blaise Pascal. *Died* 1937 Sir James Barrie.
- 20th *Born* 1909 Errol Flynn, *Died* 1597 William Barents.
- 21st *Born* 1905 Jean-Paul Sartre, 1953 Benazir Bhutto. *Died* 1908 Rimsky-Korsakov.
- 22nd *Born* 1856 Sir H. Rider Haggard, 1949 Meryl Streep. *Died* 1956 Walter de la Mare, 1969 Judy Garland, 1987 Fred Astaire.
- 23rd *Born* 1894 Edward VIII. *Died* 1980 John Laurie, 1998 Maureen O'Sullivan.
- 24th *Born* 1895 Jack Dempsey, 1912 Brian Johnston. *Died* 2007 Derek Dougan.
- 25th *Born* 1900 Louis Mountbatten, 1st Earl Mountbatten. *Died* 1876 George Armstrong Custer, 1997 Jacques-Yves Cousteau.
- 26th *Born* 1943 Georgie Fame. *Died* 1830 George IV.
- 27th *Born* 1880 Helen Keller. *Died* 2001 Jack Lemmon.
- 28th *Born* 1491 Henry VIII, 1926 Mel Brooks. *Died* 2001 Joan Sims.
- 29th *Born* 1980 Katherine Jenkins. *Died* 1861 Elizabeth Barrett Browning,
- 30th *Born* 1966 Mike Tyson. *Died* 1973 Nancy Mitford.



**The Choir of Bolton Parish Church** is always on the look-out for new members. We are an adult choir who provide an anthem and other choral music at the Sunday morning Parish Communion, and at important civic services. There is also a monthly full Choral Evensong. We have made regular visits to various cathedrals, including Ripon, Chester, Lincoln and Lichfield, to sing Evensong. There are also Choral Scholarships (£500 p.a.) available for suitable candidates.

If you think you might be interested in joining us, please contact the Director of Music, Michael Pain at [michaelpain18@gmail.com](mailto:michaelpain18@gmail.com) for a discussion and short informal audition, or come to a Sunday morning service at 11.00 a.m. and have a word afterwards.

## **CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

### **BOLTON PARISH CHURCH**

The Clergy and Wardens of Bolton Parish Church invite applications for CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS, 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,



## **Remaining Tuesday Lunchtime Concerts 2022**

**1.15 – 1.50 p.m.**

**June 14** “LUCIA STRINGS” *Octet in E flat major – Mendelssohn*

**June 21** STUDENTS FROM JUNIOR ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE  
OF MUSIC

**June 28** JOHN POWELL (Baritone), with ELIN REES (Piano)

*Including Song Cycles: “A Shropshire Lad” – George Butterworth  
and “An die ferne Geliebte” – Beethoven*

**July 5** NIGEL SPOONER (Organ), Bolton School

**July 12** ROSE McCLACHLAN (Piano) *Preludes, Book II – Debussy*

**July 19** REBEKAH OKPOTI (Organ), Longridge Parish Church

**July 26** JUDY and MICHAEL PAIN

“American Dream” – popular songs through the decades

### **IMPRESSIVE CONCERT GIVEN BY YOUNG ORGANISTS**

On 7<sup>th</sup> June we were treated to a concert given by organ pupils from Bolton School, as part of our annual Tuesday Lunchtime Concert series. Four boys and two girls played an engaging and interesting array of pieces ranging in date from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Among the players was our own current Organ Scholar, William Martin.

For many organists, it is necessary to go into schools to attract young people to the organ; having recently retired from thirty-four years of teaching young students of piano and organ at Bolton School (Boys' Division) I have had constant contact with promising young players, some of whom have gone on to achieve great things! The really good news is that Nigel Spooner, my successor in the position of School Organist (who, as a result of reorganisation at Bolton School, teaches organ in both the Boys' and Girls' divisions), keeps a close connection with Bolton Parish Church by his frequent appearances to play for our monthly Choral Evensong (on the fourth Sunday of each month), which is regularly enjoyed by an impressive number from our congregation! Thus, potentially, a goodly supply of young talent should be available for the foreseeable future.

MICHAEL PAIN.





Above: the Organ pupils who recently played in the Tuesday concert series.

Below: From the magazine archive. June 2017.



Director of Music Michael Pain pictured with three of his Bolton School organ pupils, who gave a lunchtime concert on Tuesday 23 May 2017



Vicar  
Rev'd Canon Chris Bracegirdle  
BED, MA, PhD  
Lecturer  
Rev'd Ian Hepburn BSc, BA  
Associate Priests  
Rev'd Canon Professor Kenneth  
G. C. Newport  
BA, MA, MSt, DPhil, DD (Oxon)  
Rev'd Barrie S. Gaskell  
Curate  
Rev'd Grace Hart BSc, BA  
Area Dean of Bolton and  
Associate Priest  
Rev'd Simon Cook MA

Organ Scholar:  
William Martin  
Choral Scholars:  
Vacant

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

Hymns: Ancient & Modern, 2013

## Music List – June 2022

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June, Whitsun

#### 11.00 BCP – Shaw

##### *Introit: Venite vv 1-7*

Hymns: 238, 236, 258, 241, 255, 641

View me, Lord – Richard Lloyd

Postlude in D – Healey Willan

#### *15.30 Platinum Jubilee Service*

##### *Introit: I was Glad – Sir Hubert Parry*

Hymns: 357, 291 (pt. 1 + dox.), 579, 739

In Our Service – Thomas Hewitt-Jones

Toccata in F – Charles-Marie Widor

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June, Trinity Sunday

#### 11.00 CW – Murray

Hymns: 276, 603, 277,  
629, 462, 589

Hymn to the Trinity  
– Peter Illich Tchaikowsky

Plainsong Prelude “Urbs Hierusalem  
Beata” – Healey Willan

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June, Trinity 1

#### 11.00 BCP – Shaw

##### *Introit: Venite vv 1-7*

Hymns: 765, 691, 619 (omit \*)  
755, 726, 476

O Lord, Increase our Faith  
– Henry Loosemore

Fugue in C minor (from BWV 537)  
– J. S. Bach

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June, St. Peter

#### 11.00 All Age Worship

Hymns: 296, 664, 766, 299, 294, 309

O How Glorious – Basil Harwood

Toccata and Fugue in D minor (BWV  
565) – J. S. Bach

#### 18.30 BCP Choral Evensong

Responses: Smith

Psalm: 60

Canticles: Sumsion in G

O Lorde, the Maker – John Joubert

Hymns: 813, 294, 24

# Bolton Parish Church

## Saturday Morning Organ Recitals 2022



**Saturday 21-May at 11.00 a.m.**

**TIM HARPER**

(Assistant Director of Music, Ripon Cathedral)

*Admission £8 (concessions £6)*

**Saturday 25-June at 11.00 a.m.**

**PHILIP RUSHFORTH**

(Director of Music, Chester Cathedral)

*Admission £8 (concessions £6)*

**Saturday 16-July at 11.00 a.m.**

**MICHAEL PAIN**

(Director of Music, Bolton Parish Church)

*Admission £8 (concessions £6)*

Free parking available on the Church car park  
(for Saturday morning concerts only)

*Silverwell Street, Bolton, BL1 1HX*

## A NOTABLE ORGAN CONCERT

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June we are privileged to have one of the country's foremost organists to come and play for us at Bolton Parish Church; Philip Rushforth, Director of Music at Chester Cathedral, will give a concert starting at 11.00 a.m., and preceded as usual with tea, coffee and cakes (available from 10.30 onwards).

Admission is by programme on the door £8 (conc. £6, under 16s and students free).



Philip Rushforth has had a long association with Chester Cathedral, having begun his musical career there as a chorister, then as Organ Scholar, Assistant Director of Music, and now Director of Music.

After graduating from Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was Organ Scholar, he was Assistant Director of Music at Southwell Minster for eight years, before returning to Chester in 2002. He is very active as a recitalist, having played at many churches and concert halls throughout the UK, including Westminster Cathedral, St. Paul's Cathedral, and King's College, Cambridge. This will be his second visit to Bolton Parish Church. His many CD recordings of organ music have received great acclaim from the critics, and his DVD "The Grand Organ of Chester Cathedral" received first-rate reviews in a number of international musical journals.

His programme on the 25<sup>th</sup> will include music by Bach, Purcell, César Franck, as well as more popular works, such as Elgar's "Salut d'Amour", Alfred Hollins's "Song of Sunshine" and the rumbustious Grand Choeur in D by Alexandre Guilmant.

I often feel that it is a shame that more members of the congregation do not take advantage of the wonderful music available at these concerts – for those who perhaps tend to regard the organ as some kind of "hymn-machine", a concert such as this, played by one of the finest players in the land, could be (and indeed I hope, will be) a considerable revelation!

MICHAEL PAIN.

## **The Last Word: Steph Ives**

### **Do you come from Bolton?**

I was born in Birmingham but moved to Rotherham in South Yorkshire when I was 6 due to my dad getting a new teaching job in Maltby. I crossed the Pennines to Music College at the age of 18 and have never regretted the change of rose colour!



I first moved to Bolton (Farnworth) in 1982, moved away in 1991 with my first husband who was a Methodist minister and back in 2012.

### **What will you be doing on Monday?**

I retired from my job as Head of Music at Bolton Boys' Junior School in July 2021 so now my main task on a Monday is the housework and the washing! However, my husband has recently gone down to a 3-day working week at the age of 65 and has Mondays off so you may see us walking along the canal in Adlington or wandering round Rivington. As my middle son is a chef and has Mondays off I am over in Dodworth once a month visiting him. This coming Monday I will be down in Chesterton, Bicester, visiting 2 of my grandchildren who will be on half term holiday.

### **What is/was your job and what attracted you to it?**

I left Music College as a member of the BBC Northern Singers which was a fantastic opportunity but not a 'living wage' earner of a job! In 1987 I started teaching individual piano and singing lessons at Bolton School 2 days a week which soon became full time and then in 1994 I was employed as a class teacher teaching music, RE and English. I never wanted to be a teacher (both of my parents were teachers), I wanted to play the viola in a professional

orchestra so I sort of 'fell into' the job at Bolton School where I stayed for 34 years! However, since retiring I have thoroughly enjoyed playing in both the Bolton Chamber Orchestra and the Bolton Symphony Orchestra.

### **How long have you been coming to BPC?**

I have been a member of the choir at Bolton Parish Church for 8 years having been brought up in the non-conformist tradition, first in the United Reformed Church and then as a Methodist.

### **What or who brought you to BPC?**

Michael Pain, who was a colleague of mine at Bolton School for many, many years, asked me to join the choir when I first moved back to Bolton. After trying various Methodist churches in the area I eventually took him up on his offer and have thoroughly enjoyed learning a new tradition of worship. My dad was an organist in an Anglican Parish Church and my eldest son had been a choral scholar at Clare College, Cambridge so it was not completely unfamiliar to me.

### **What is your favourite piece of music?**

As a former professional musician I do not have a favourite piece of music. Depending on my mood I will listen to Classic FM for hours or put on my brass band CDs. ( I discovered brass band music when 3 of my 4 children began playing in bands around the country. I play the viola and piano and dabble on flute and guitar but have never played a brass instrument.) I love Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Sibelius and Mahler and prefer listening to orchestral rather than vocal music. I do, however, enjoy listening to Queen, Michael Jackson, Robbie Williams and The Beatles!

### **What books are you reading at the moment?**

I am halfway through the book that accompanies The Crown series but am also reading Jilly Cooper's Pandora for light



reading. My favourite author is Danielle Steel, I have over 100 of her novels, but I also enjoy John Grisham and many authors of crime dramas.

### **What is your favourite hymn?**

My favourite hymn is Summer Suns are Glowing Over Land and Sea. I remember singing it as a child and love both the words and the tune. It appears to have gone out of fashion these days but I still love it.

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

My parents always went to church and so I have attended since being a small child. Mum was always very involved in the United Reformed Church, singing in the choir, becoming an Elder and at one time taking on the role of Treasurer. Dad was organist and choir master at Rawmarsh Parish Church and organist at Rotherham Crematorium and my gran was a staunch Methodist (the sherry in the cupboard was for medicinal purposes only!!).

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

I am lucky enough to have travelled widely with my job at the BBC and subsequently with my children. I have sung in Brisbane, Bangkok, Barcelona and Brussels, toured Poland and Hong Kong as well as singing at the London proms on several occasions. As a tourist I have visited New York, Washington, Boston, Orlando and Las Vegas in the USA, many European countries including France, Germany, Austria, Spain, Turkey and Italy and have spent a lot of time in Singapore as my eldest son lived there for 5 years. I would like to visit New Zealand as I am told the scenery is amazing and travelling around the country is easy.

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