

Dear friends,

As I write this, I've got pancakes on my mind. One of my tasks this week has been to prepare our next café church at Bishop Bridgeman Primary School on the theme of Shrove Tuesday. Naturally, I'm taking it as an opportunity to decorate and eat pancakes, despite the service being a week before Pancake Day. As someone with a sweet tooth, I am a big fan of pancakes. My personal record for the number of pancakes eaten in one sitting is 10. Before you get too impressed (or horrified!), I should clarify that they were the mini American style pancakes that my mum makes.

Many of you will know that the reason for eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday is one rooted in the Christian tradition, as part of the preparation for fasting during the season of Lent. It is about using up the leftovers of ingredients which won't be consumed during the 40+ days leading up to Easter. Of course, most people don't give up milk, flour and eggs during Lent, but many choose to give something up — whether that be a consumable item, a practice, or otherwise.

I recently listened to a sermon that was live-streamed from my theological college in Durham. The preacher spoke on Matthew chapter 10, where Jesus sends out the 12 disciples to carry out his ministry. Among the instructions given by Jesus, he says this:

'Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts— no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep.' (Matthew 10:9-10)

Thankfully, the preacher assured us that this particular command was specific to the disciples and that we don't necessarily need to let go of all our belongings in order to share the good news of Jesus Christ. As someone who is a planner and likes to prepare well for journeys, this was music to my ears! However, her sermon was not without challenge, as she encouraged us to consider what we might need to leave behind for the sake of the gospel. To think of those things which might hold us back from being faithful to Christ's calling on our own lives.

Lent offers a unique opportunity to pause and consider what we really need and what might be holding us back from seeking God's kingdom here on earth. It may be that there are indeed material things that we hold on to too tightly, or behaviours which have become habitual and hinder our own spiritual growth. Perhaps, like me, you may need to let go of the need to plan absolutely everything and allow space for God to work in unexpected ways within your own life and ministry.

What are your equivalent of gold, silver, copper, bags and clothes? What might God be calling you to let go of? Our Lent course on Henry Martin's book 'Alongside', which begins on Wednesday 9th March and is open to all, offers a chance to ponder this as we reflect on what Jesus gave up for us on the road to the cross.

As we approach Lent, I pray that the season brings the peace, freedom and joy that comes with laying ourselves down for the sake of faithfully following Christ. But before that, I hope it brings lots of pancakes!

With my prayers and best wishes,

Grace

Christian Giving

On Sunday 20th February, the vicar preached about the importance of serving God through the gifts of our time, talents and money. Here is an extract from his sermon:

... What God asks of you and me is not £1, £4, £12 or £20 a week or month - or any other amount; it's not being on a rota weekly or monthly. All He asks for is honesty and that we spare Him the hackneyed excuses for not responding to generous giving that we and generations before us have become accomplished at coming up with. Honesty from us asks of us how much God matters to us, what our faith means to us. Do we truly believe that all we have is given to us by God in the first place? Do we believe that God wants us to be generous as He is generous to us? If the answer to at least one of these questions is "yes" then we need to look at honest giving in every respect – honest in terms of how what we give to God's work relates to the income we have.

Of course in terms of money I haven't exactly told you what to give yet, but I'm being no shrinking violet over this issue and would point you to the C of E's recommendation of 5% of disposable income being given to God's work through his church. If the church's income was 5% of the disposable income of its congregation in any church setting, we wouldn't know how to spend the money! And of our time.... Just imagine if those volunteers who do their various jobs now decided to give up all at once. The church building wouldn't be open and if it was, there'd be no books out, no candles lit, altar prepared, music led, flower, arranged, coffee made and so much else – for so much falls on so few. Is this really the best way forward? ...

Please consider prayerfully and carefully what more you can give to God.

Mission Communities:

You may already have heard Mission Communities spoken about and wonder what they are. Read on for more information form the document 'Transforming Manchester Diocese'.

The proposals for mission communities arise out of the firm conviction that we need to organise ourselves differently on the ground so that we can lead and deliver the radical changes that are required to grow the church of the future. We believe that these proposed changes to local ministry are the next step on the road to growth and transformation in our diocese. The creation of mission communities will enable us to work closely together at the local level, developing the skills and talents of our ordained and lay leaders so that our parish system is able to flourish.

Set out below are the underpinning principles for mission communities, which we first shared in October 2020. Our proposed approach is to bring together the skills and talents of ordained and lay leaders in a particular locality in newly created mission communities across our diocese.

Our vision is for each of our mission communities:

- to have a mission community leader
- who is ministering and working with a diverse team with a range of skills
- made up of a number of stipendiary posts
- and other named focal leaders, including lay leaders, readers and self-supporting ordained ministers
- who are all supporting multiple congregations
- and a variety of expressions and traditions of church
- taking place at different times and in different venues and also virtually
- which are attractive to a wide range of people of all ages young children and their parents, and young adults, as well as older people
- all accountable to each other as well as their local congregations

- all sharing resources
- and all working to encourage and support our church members in deepening and sharing their faith
- as well as engaging with key local partners interfaith, ecumenical, schools and social action

Several aspects of mission community working will not be unfamiliar to us – we are doing it already! There will, naturally be some changes and I hope that we will do our best to be supportive of these, not as changes for change's sake but because they will further the work of God in this area.

The Deanery of Bolton is divided into four mission communities and the one in which we are placed – Mission Community 2 – comprises St Stephen and All Martyrs Lever Bridge, St Chad Tonge Fold, the West Bolton Team, St Peter Halliwell, Christ Church Heaton and St Margaret Halliwell, Bolton Parish Church and St Philip's.

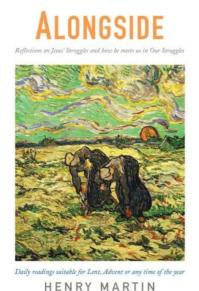
Chris

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

Lent Book Group 2022



Following the success of our previous reading groups, we are planning to hold a five-session Lent Book Group which, like our recent groups, will be meeting via Zoom.

This year's book is

Alongside by Henry Martin

ISBN:9780232534641

Some readers might remember that we read Henry's first book 'Eavesdropping' in our 2019 Lent group. This book, written in an

equally engaging style, invites us to reflect on the struggles that Jesus experienced – for example, frustration, competing loyalties and desire - and to view these alongside, our own struggles.

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

The group will meet online on Wednesday evenings

7.30pm - 8.30pm on 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th March and 6th April.

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

Topic: Lent Book Group 2022

https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/89029996718? pwd=aFJiUm96MHVaTGxnbjk3eDl6Z3FrUT09

Meeting ID: 890 2999 6718 Passcode: 020302

(If you would like us to send you the Zoom link by email, please contact us at admin@boltonparishchurch.co.uk)

Group Reports

If you haven't already submitted your report for inclusion in the Annual Report, please do so as soon as possible.

Email to admin@boltonparishchurch.co.uk

Tuesday Group

There is a provisional programme of topics for forthcoming Tuesday Group meetings, though this is very much depending on Covid, so please do keep your eye on the pew slip for more up to date information.

March 1st

There are two ecumenical Meditation Groups in Bolton belonging to the World Community of Christian Meditation. We shall have a taster of a WCCM session.

April 5th

We are hoping to have a talk from a local charity to which we are making a donation.

May 3rd

Come and have lunch at a local garden centre.

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



LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2022



| Date | Church | Service | |
|--|-------------------------|---|--|
| 2 nd March 12.15 pm 7.30 pm | BPC BPC | Ash Wednesday Holy Communion with imposition of ashes Holy Communion with imposition of ashes | |
| 10 th April 8.00 am 9.15am 11.00 am 6.30 pm | BPC | Palm Sunday Holy Communion and distribution of palms Holy Communion and distribution of palms Holy Communion and distribution of palms Evensong and Passion music | |
| 11 th April 7.30pm | SP | Monday in Holy Week Compline | |
| 12th April 12.15 pm 7.30 pm | | Tuesday in Holy Week Holy Communion Compline | |
| 13 th April 7.30 pm | SP | Wednesday in Holy Week Compline | |
| 14th April 12.15 pm 7.30 pm | | Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Holy Communion and stripping of the altar | |
| 15 th April 10.30 am 2.00pm | BPC | Good Friday Christians Together in Bolton Town Centre Service at St Patrick's RC Church, Great Moor Street. An hour at the Cross | |
| 16 th April 8.00pm | BPC | Easter Eve Easter Vigil | |
| 9.15am | BPC SP BPC BPC | Easter Day Holy Communion Holy Communion Holy Communion Evening Prayer | |

Flower News

For Candlemas the chancel steps had arrangements of different sized candles and foliage. The candle arrangements in the nave were also refreshed with fresh foliage and foraged holly. At the Sunday morning service all the candles were lit; as well as tea lights on window ledges, the candelabra stands by the west porch and the candles and lanterns in the South porch. Many thanks are due for the lighting of the many candles!



The following week, all candles were removed. The nave pedestal arrangement contained white carnations and chrysanthemums with winter garden foliage. For the second part of the month the arrangement was changed to green chrysanthemums, cream carnations and spray carnations and cream roses.

Throughout the month, the altar flowers were white carnations, and chrysanthemums. The display in the lady chapel was created using winter foliage, berries and lilies.

We are now looking ahead towards planning for Easter and the Jubilee celebrations.

With grateful thanks for generous donations received during February.

Flower team







Vicars of Bolton

Thomas Chapman and his family

In last month's magazine article, extracts from the 1911 and 1921 census returns showed interesting information concerning the then Vicar of Bolton and his family.

The vicarage at that time was in Castle Street. The building is still there and is now the home of Bolton Sea Cadets.

In the 1911 census their eldest son was not at home. Alfred Reginald Bewes Chapman was born on 13th July 1895. Both he and their second son Cecil Anstis Bewes Chapman were educated at St John's College Cambridge.

In the Lady chapel there is a window dedicated to the two brothers as sadly they both died during World War 1 and are also both named on the church War memorial.

Reginald was a Lieutenant in the 5th Loyal Lancashire Regiment and was killed in action at Arras on the 6th June 1916. He is buried in a British war grave in France. Cecil died on the 26th June 1918 but there are no other details.

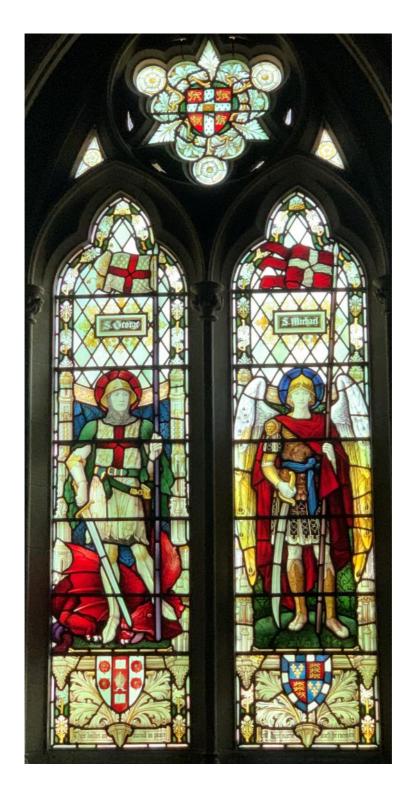
The stained glass window (see next page) depicts St George and St Michael and there is a plaque to each of the sons beneath. On Cecil's plaque it also states: "This window is erected by the Congregation and Friends as a memorial to the above sons of the Vicar of Bolton".

Beneath the two plaques is a further one: "To commemorate the life and self sacrifice of Catherine Mary Chapman this record is placed in the church she loved, the centre of her work for many years. She was called to higher service on January 16th 1928. 'Her children arise up and call her blessed".

Both Catherine and her husband had left Bolton in 1922 when he was appointed Bishop Suffragan of Colchester.

Kath Chapman

More on this next month. We have discovered more interesting details and photos! Judy and Kath



Welcome to some visitors.....

In the coming months, we are looking forward to welcoming two visiting preachers at the 11.00am service:

On 27th March, we welcome **The Revd Judie Horrocks** to preach on Mothering Sunday. Many people will remember Judie who was Lecturer 2009 – 2014. Judie now lives in the Canary Islands where her husband Bob (formerly Team Rector of the Seven Saints Team Ministry) is priest-in-charge of Fuerteventura.

On 29th May, we welcome **The Right Revd Cherry Vann**, Bishop of Monmouth. Bishop Cherry was at the Parish Church 1992 – 1998 when she was chaplain to the (then) Bolton Institute of Technology – now the university. Significantly, Cherry was ordained priest in Bolton Parish Church in 1994 and she was consecrated Bishop of Monmouth in 2020.



FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE

Save the dates....

24th May 2022

31st May 2022

28th June2022

all at 7.30pm

We are looking forward to welcoming The Right Revd. Chris Edmondson to Bolton Parish Church to give three public lectures focusing on the voice of faith communities in public life in the

21st century.

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

More details to follow, but for now, please save the dates and circulate this information as widely as possible.

www.boltonparishchurch.co.uk



@boltonparishchurch



@StPeterBolton



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 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,

...for our prayers in March 2022

We have two Patron Saints' Days in March – St David on the 1st and St Patrick on the 17th. So we remember the people of Wales and Ireland in our prayers this month.

We are in Lent for almost the whole month, as Ash Wednesday is on the 2nd. And on the 31st we commemorate John Donne, priest and poet. Here is one of his best known poems, appropriate for the season.

A Hymn to God the Father

Wilt thou forgive that sin where I begun,
Which was my sin, though it were done before?
Wilt thou forgive that sin, through which I run,
And do run still, though still I do deplore?
When thou hast done, thou hast not done,
For I have more.

Wilt thou forgive that sin which I have won
Others to sin, and made my sin their door?
Wilt thou forgive that sin which I did shun
A year or two, but wallow'd in, a score?
When thou hast done, thou hast not done,
For I have more.

I have a sin of fear, that when I have spun
My last thread, I shall perish on the shore;
But swear by thyself, that at my death thy Son
Shall shine as he shines now, and heretofore;
And, having done that, thou hast done;
I fear no more.

News

Moira and Anthony have finally moved into their bungalow in Swindon. We have their contact details for anyone who would like them.

Joy Pope has left Horwich for Anglesey. She is in a temporary house for the time being until she is able to finalise purchase of a permanent home.

Contact details to follow. Also, see Joy's 'The Last Word' on the final pages of this magazine.



The Old Grammar School at Bolton Parish Church is available for hire

The Old Grammar School is set in the grounds of the Parish Church, ideally located for Bolton Interchange and the town centre.

Meeting facilities for up to 100 people in attractive and spacious rooms, good kitchen facilities and WiFi.

Ideal for occasional or regular bookings.

Car parking by arrangement.





For further information, please contact

01204 522226

admin@boltonparishchurch.co.uk

Bolton Parish Church, Silverwell Street Bolton BL1 1PS



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Cross country skiing



-



Ski jumping



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

Live Lent-Care for God's Creation

In 2020, the Church of England produced a 40-day challenge book for Lent, on the theme of caring for creation. With the pandemic, this probably didn't receive the coverage it might have done in a 'normal' year. The booklet contained 40 reflections, presenting each week of Lent as a theme based on the days of creation, as described in Genesis 1, plus a prayer based on a well-known hymn. In addition, the booklet contained daily reflections, with a short Bible passage, and a practical action. Some examples of the content for the first 4 weeks are reproduced below.

From Ash Wednesday to Lent "Beginnings"

The first reflections remind us that God is our creator

Remember you are dust

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens ...the Lord formed man from the dust of the ground... — Read Genesis 2. 4b-8

Action: Choose something to give up eating, buying or using this Lent that will help you care for creation.

Week 1 "Light and energy"

Let there be light

In the beginning... darkness covered the earth ... Then God said "let there be light" — Read Genesis 1. 1-3.

Action: As you notice the light around you — from the sun, a lightbulb or a candle — become aware of God's presence in the world.

Week 2 "Water"

Pollution and poverty

Then Moses ordered Israel to set out from the Red Seawhen they came to Marah they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter — Read Exodus 15. 22-27

Action: Look in your kitchen/bathroom—is there one thing from each you could switch to a product that does not contain harmful chemicals?

Week 3 "Land and plants"

God's Good Earth

The earth brough forth vegetations: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind... and God saw that it was good — Read Genesis 1.9-13

Action: Let the words of former Archbishop Rowan Williams inspire you: "Receive the world God has given you. Go for a walk. Get wet. Dig the earth."

Week 4 "Stars and Seasons"

God of Sun and Moon

The Lord determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names — Read Psalm 147, 1-11

Make time this evening (or the next clear night) to gaze at the night sky. Pause to reflect on how everything is interconnected, and bound to God.

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,

we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at-risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

Bolton Parish Church Online

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, musical events and videos of choir and organ

Twitter: @StPeterBolton

Instagram: boltonparishchurchimages

Photos of Bolton Parish Church

Please send copy for the April issue by 23 March to John Walsh or judypain@gmail.com or admin@boltonparishchurch.co.uk

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

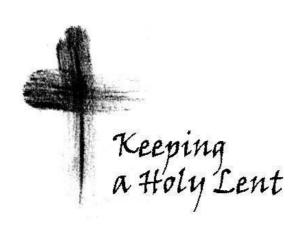
From the Lectionary....

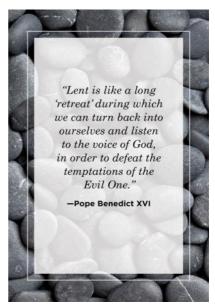
7th March

Perpetua, Felicity and their Companions, Martyrs at Carthage, 203



Perpetua was a young noblewoman and Felicity was a slave imprisoned with her. Felicity gave birth to a daughter while in prison but was not released. They were among a group of Christians thrown to wild beasts. Although attacked, the men and women were spared a mauling to the death and were dispatched with the sword. Perpetua and Felicity had formed an unlikely friendship, and supported each other through their trials. The story is sometimes used to illustrate that God's love does not discern between rich and poor, noble and slave, or man and woman.





Concert Season

The usual series of Tuesday Lunchtime and Saturday Morning concerts will take place in the Parish Church this year, starting on 10th May; you will find the full programme on the following pages of this magazine. There is a welcome return for some popular "old faces", as well as a goodly number of newcomers, adding variety to the season.

There will be a list at the back of church for those who would like to assist with refreshments at these concerts – there is a band of regulars who keep this going (to whom I am deeply grateful), but it would be wonderful to welcome new faces to the team – no special experience is required, and training can be given in pouring a cup of tea or coffee, if this is needed! Please do consider signing up, even if only for one concert; these concerts give a rare opportunity for parish "outreach", since the audience may sometimes include people who may never have set foot in this church before, so this is your chance to enhance the public face of Bolton Parish Church!

MICHAEL PAIN

Bolton Parish Church



Tuesday Lunchtime Concerts 2022 From 1.15 p.m. to 1.50 p.m. Admission Free

ORGAN PUPILS FROM BOLTON SCHOOL

May 10

| September 2011 September 2011 | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| May 17 | VIVIEN CHASEY (Violin), with ROBIN BOWMAN (Piano) and CLAIRE BOWMAN (Soprano) | | | |
| May 24 | ILONA HEPBURN (Cello), with KATH CHAPMAN (Piano) | | | |
| May 31 | PAUL GREENHALGH (Piano) | | | |
| June 7 | ORGAN PUPILS FROM BOLTON SCHOOL | | | |
| June 14 | "LUCIA STRINGS" Octet in E flat major - Mendelssohn | | | |
| June 21 | STUDENTS FROM THE JUNIOR ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE OF MUSIC | | | |
| June 25 | SATURDAY MORNING ORGAN RECITAL* | | | |
| 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 16 | SATURDAY MORNING ORGAN RECITAL* | | | |
| July 19 | REBEKAH OKPOTI (Organ), Longridge Parish Church | | | |
| July 26 | JUDY and MICHAEL PAIN "American Dream" Songs with piano and organ | | | |

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



Revd Canon Chris Bracegirdle BEd, MA, PhD Vicar

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

Revd Barrie S. Gaskell

Revd Grace Hart BSc, BA

Area Dean of Bolton and Associate Priest Revd Simon Cook MA

Hymns: 584, 116, 621

Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake

11.00 BCP - Merbecke

Ave Verum Corpus

- William Byrd

Hymns: 121, 127, 116

424, 595

Thou Knowest, Lord - Henry Purcell

Hymns: 827, 25, 10

Canticles: Stanford in B flat

Hymns: 812, 702, 629

Sunday 6th March, Lent 1

Music List - March 2022

11.00 BCP - Merbecke

Hymns: 121, 131, 135

459, 463, 652

Agnus Dei (Mass for Four Voices) - William Byrd

Sunday 27th March, Mothering Sunday 11.00 All Age Worship - Murray/Appleford

Fantasia in C minor (BWV 562) - J. S. Bach

Sunday 13th March, Lent 2

11.00 CW – Murray/Appleford

Toccata (Suite Gothique) - Léon Boëllmann

18.30 BCP Choral Evensong

Responses: Smith Psalm 30

Ave Maria - Jacques Arcadelt

Hymns: 533, 692, 712

454, 818

447, 476

- John Hilton Wednesday 2nd March, Ash Wednesday

19.30 Choral Eucharist - Merbecke

Fugue (from Sonata no. 2) - Mendelssohn

Sunday 20th March, Lent 3

460,663

Lord, Let Me Know Mine End - Maurice Greene Theme and Variations - Hendrik Andriessen

Michael Pain MA, FRCO, LRAM, ARCM

Director of Music: Anna Charles

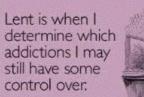
William Martin

Organ Scholar:

Choral Scholar:





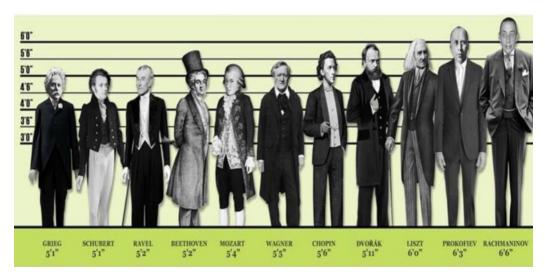






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HOW TALL WERE THE GREAT COMPOSERS?



The First Day of Lent commonly called Ash Wednesday

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BOOK BLURBS - GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Enchanting there's a dog in it Heart-warming a dog and a child

Moving child dies Heart-rending dog dies

Thoughtful mind-numbingly tedious

Haunting set in the past Exotic set abroad

Audacious set in the future
Award-winning set in India

Perceptive set in north London

Provocative infuriating

Epic editor cowed by author's

reputation

From the pen of same old same old

a master

In the tradition of Spare and taut under researched over-researched Disturbing shamelessly derivative under researched author bonkers

Stellar author young and photogenic author hanging in there

Vintage author past it

The Last Word This month: Joy Pope

Do you come from Bolton? Or from where? And what's your backstory? Born and bred in Withington, South Manchester, I'd always wanted to be a doctor. Having qualified at Manchester Uni and got general experience I did GP training in Horwich. A year in Africa followed but ended in illness and I came back to England, first to recuperate and then to help Dad look after Mum who now had Alzheimer's Disease. I was offered a job back in Horwich, moved there, and my parents came to live nearby.

What did you do on Mondays? Surgeries morning and evening with visits after morning surgery and antenatal clinic in the afternoon although the pattern changed slowly over the years. In between were prescriptions to sign, results to read and act on if needed, and the day's letters to be read.

How long have you been coming to Bolton Parish Church? Almost 20 years now!

What (or who) first brought you to Bolton Parish Church? Some years after Mum died I went through a major depression and landed in hospital. My Vicar from Horwich visited and we discussed the fantastic support I had from friends in the church and yet there were others who were baffled by it and I found that hard. Stephen recommended attending a large, central church such as Bolton or Chorley Parish Churches where I could be more anonymous for a while. So I came, and stayed.

What kept you coming? The people. And the music. I was welcomed to coffee after church by David Bellis and then taken under the wing of Brenda, Hilary, Val and others. Sitting with them for coffee one week I noted they were chatting about an

upcoming coffee morning. I volunteered to make a cake, and help on the day – and discovered later that I had got myself on the Social Committee without knowing! A few years later Ken Jones asked if I would be a server – but my church background meant I didn't know what one was. And there were certain aspects of the job I wasn't sure about. What was 'Processing the Gospel' about? But once I tried taking on that simplest of serving tasks I was captivated by taking part in the drama of the service and of the Holy Communion liturgy, which would culminate, in other serving duties, in sharing the wine with the congregation. That was the greatest of privileges, even if I never did remember the names of all the different cloths and other items we used. Welcome, friendship and being trusted with sacred things kept me involved. And the style and quality of music bowled me over, enabling worship in a new way.

What's your favourite (piece of) music? Hmm. That's difficult. Can I ask for three?

- 1 Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No 4 with its lilting first movement, joyful and lifting.
- 2 Beethoven's Symphony No 6 (Pastoral) describes life from its height to its depths: just a short extract from the first movement can calm the mind.
- 3 Handel's Messiah. Something for any day: to be stirred or challenged; to find forgiveness or otherwise be consoled; to meditate or to hang on in with; to spend time with God.

What book(s) are you reading at the moment? Moving house doesn't give much time for reading though I'm trying to read Mark Oakley's book *My Sour-Sweet Days* (SPCK) on George Herbert's poetry. A fabulous combination of faith and poetry, two of the things I am passionate about, though I came

late to the poetry. At night I'll usually read something light and which I know well so if I start drifting it doesn't matter.

Who inspires you? Try Jesus! His birth and life; his teaching and attitudes to others (not always gentle!) and of course, his death and resurrection. Above all, his love which shines out from everything.

Is there one thing you have learned from people which stands out in helping you on your journey? Three very different women showed me how faith without laughter can be very dead.

Is there a book of the Bible which keep coming back to, which grabs you, or encourages you? Mum had a deep love of the Psalms which she passed on to me. Praising psalms (some even happy-clappy in style), psalms of waiting, of encouragement, of real dark days. Then psalms bringing feeling of hatred, self-righteousness or painful, unresolved grief to God ... all human life is there!

If you could live in any place in the world, where would that be? Hmm, it would need to be near my sister, be better even than Bolton or Horwich, with a church, walks, lots of sun, somewhere to maintain hobbies, yet with opportunities to give something back, ... sounds like Anglesey to me! Oh, that's where I am! Then that's good! I've sold my house, braved storm Eunice to get here and am currently housesitting until owners of my chosen property are in a position to move, if possible. Otherwise it will mean looking for another house.

Thanks to all for friendship and fellowship over the years.

With love and prayers,

Joy

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