



2021

Bolton Parish Church 1871-2021



Celebrating 150 years

Parish News

November 2021

£1

Dear friends,

One of the first things I did after moving to Bolton was explore the surrounding area in search of all the green spots I could find. It wasn't difficult, since the back of my house sits along Astley Brook. The sound of the water and beauty of the stream offered peace and tranquility, which was much needed during the turbulence of a house move.

Having my own little garden is a blessing, too. Once I've finished unpacking and furnishing, I'm looking forward to getting stuck into some gardening as it's looking quite overgrown. The animals don't seem to mind though, the garden is teeming with life. So far I've been greeted by many birds including magpies, robins, blackbirds, tits, pigeons and sparrows, not to mention squirrels and a few of the neighbours' cats.

For my birthday last month, my parents and brother bought me some house plants to keep Cecile (my succulent) company. I am now the proud owner of 3 Cacti, a *Maranta leuconeura* (also known as a prayer plant because its leaves close at night like hands closing in prayer) and a *Monstera deliciosa* (also known as a Swiss cheese plant). They are all still yet to be named, suggestions welcome.

So why all this talk of nature and the outdoors? As Christians, part of our calling is to guard and protect all living creatures with whom we share our world. Climate change is an important and urgent issue which threatens the flourishing of life on earth as we know it.

At the time of this magazine's release, the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26, will be starting. As the name suggests, this will be the 26th event of its kind which this year is being held in Glasgow from 31st October to 12th

November. The goal of the conference is to agree upon coordinated action to tackle climate change, by bringing together representatives from nations across the world, including heads of state, climate experts and campaigners.

I am by no means writing this as someone who is an expert in this field, but I am someone who is becoming increasingly convicted of the need to act. Recently, I watched an episode of the show 'Our Planet' narrated by David Attenborough. In it, a devastating scene unfolded in which walrus plummets to their death as a result of overcrowding due to the shrinking levels of ice. It can be easy to feel disconnected to the reality of the problem of climate change, but scenes such as these make it hit home.

Here at Bolton Parish Church, there are many opportunities to help support the flourishing of our environment, both locally and worldwide. Current initiatives being pursued include the sunken garden and the prospect of an oak tree being planted on our grounds.

One thing I found myself reflecting on is an appreciation for the fact that animal and plant life has just as much of a right to inhabit this planet as I do. I have only been living in my new home for 4 months, but its garden creatures have been living there far longer. In our fight against the negative effects of climate change, perhaps a good place to start would be to acknowledge our shared right to life on this planet. May we learn to seek God's wisdom in knowing what this looks like in everyday life.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Grace

**Forward planning
for Advent and Christmas 2021
a round-up**

Advent Sunday is 28th November when we will have our traditional **Advent Carol Service** at 18.30.

Rose-Marie Newport has a supply of **Real Advent Calendars** (from the Meaningful Chocolate Co.) for sale in aid of the Children's Society. You can make a donation of any amount, bearing in mind the retail price is £4.50. The pack includes a book with the Christmas story, and fair-trade chocolate.

Rose-Marie has also been in touch with the person who organises the **Rotary Shoeboxes**. They are not sure whether they will be able to deliver any this year, because of the Covid situation in eastern Europe. She will let us know if they are going ahead with filling boxes once the decision has been made.

St Philip's congregation invite us all to share in their **Christmas Dinner** on Saturday 4th December at The Old Links Golf Club. They will need our menu choices and full payment (£25) by 28th November at the latest. There will be an order form at the back of church from 7th November.

On Thursday 9th December the **Mediaeval Bæbes** are giving a concert in church as part of their 25th Anniversary Christmas Tour. There is a flyer at the back of church and tickets are available via their website, www.mediaevalbaebes.com.

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! Items can be brought to church any time from the start of November. The last day for collection will be Sunday 5th December.

All Advent and Christmas services and events will be fully detailed in the December magazine.

Remembrance Sunday

The Remembrance Sunday service on 14th November will be starting at **10.55 a.m.** in order to accommodate the two-minute silence at 11.00.



Tuesday Group

The next meeting will take place in the lower hall at 2pm on Tuesday 2nd November. A warm invitation is extended to everyone to join us for what promises to be a fun and creative afternoon amongst friends. There will be a short demonstration of simple table decorations to create for Christmas or any occasion, and then an *optional* opportunity to make one yourself!

Please bring a cereal bowl, a bunch of spray carnations (red or white if you want to be festive), a pair of scissors or secateurs if possible; all other essentials will be provided.

2021 CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS

BOLTON PARISH CHURCH

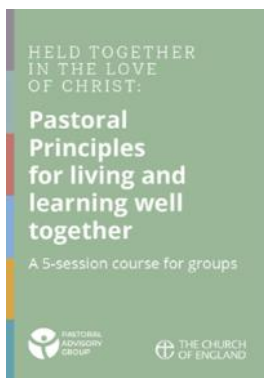
The Clergy and Wardens of Bolton Parish Church invite applications for CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS from September 2021, ideally from school-age pupils from years 11 to 13, although other applicants will also be considered.

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



Pastoral Principles Course

created in 2021
by the
Pastoral Advisory Group



This November we will be running the Pastoral Principles Course which was created to accompany the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) materials. We are running this via Zoom on the Wednesdays of November, 7.30pm-8.30 pm.

3 rd November	Introduction; addressing <i>Ignorance</i> paying attention to <i>Power</i> .
10 th November	Talking about confidence and casting out <i>fear</i> ; talking about respect and acknowledging <i>prejudice</i>
17 th November	Talking about openness and speaking into <i>silence</i>
24 th November	Talking about integrity and admitting <i>hypocrisy</i>

The sessions will end with the short service of Compline.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5943263893>

Meeting ID: 594 326 3893

Passcode: 617310

The ***Pastoral Principles for Living and Learning Well Together*** booklet we will be using is readily available (£3) and also downloadable free of charge from the Living in Love and Faith Online Hub, which you can sign up to at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith/living-love-and-faith-learning-hub>

Flower News

Once again this year, our Harvest preparations were made extra special as members of Sunday school created a wonderful display of their work studying the fruits of the spirit to decorate the Chancel steps. They had crafted colourful fruit to hang on the tree, and a beautiful display of their art work was also displayed.



A Harvest wreath of wheat and dried flowers was displayed on the pulpit with an accompanying dried arrangement next to the pulpit. Harvest flowers were bronze, gold and orange; using chrysanthemums, carnations, roses, and physalis. It was wonderful to be back preparing church for Harvest with a team of arrangers once again this year.

During the first two weeks of October, the altar flowers were cream carnations. These were then replaced with brass vases of white spray chrysanthemum for the second half of the month.

If you happened to be in church around 20th October, you may have been surprised to see the Advent wreath in place! This early

appearance was for the Children's Society service which was recorded in preparation for broadcast during Advent.

With grateful thanks for the many donations received for the Flower Fund during September and October, and for the interest and support shown which is very much appreciated.

A flower demonstration will be given in church by Paula Routledge on Saturday 20th November at 2pm, with tea and coffee available from 1.15, tickets £10. This promises to be a wonderful afternoon. Please see Alison or Kath for further details.

Flower team





Christ the King

Sunday 21th November

Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ.

Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.

When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man,

Thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.

When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,

Thou didst open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father.

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 December
issue by 22 November to John Walsh or
judypain@gmail.com
or
admin@boltonparishchurch.co.uk

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

**A new regular feature which replaces the
separate prayer diary we have been receiving:**

...for our prayers in November 2021

November is a month for remembering. The 1st is All Saints Day, when we thank God for saints through the ages.

For all the saints who from their labours rest,
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blessed, Alleluia.

The very next day is All Souls Day – maybe a day when we think particularly of our own loved ones departed, and pray for all who grieve for those who have died recently or long ago.

Then towards the middle of the month we come to Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday. We pray for all who serve in our armed forces and the individuals and organisations that support them during their active service and beyond, including:

Chaplains

The British Legion

Many individual charities

The clocks have gone back, daylight hours are short and the dark evenings can feel very long. We pray for all for whom winter is a difficult time and who long for the coming of brighter days.



Green Christian

Green Christian is an organisation for Christians concerned about care of the environment.

Rejoice
in all that God has given us

Refuse
to believe the adverts

Reduce
buy less, travel less, worry less

Reuse
avoid single-use items

Repair
don't bin it, fix it

Rent, borrow and share
ownership is over rated

Recycle
as a last resort

let the Earth rest

Email: info@greenchristian.org.uk

Twitter: [@greenchristian_](https://twitter.com/greenchristian) (underscore at end).

Registered Charity No. 328744

Visit: greenchristian.org.uk

Finding joy in God's Creation

It has been said that the basics of reducing our environmental footprint are the three Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. But is this enough? To just cut down a bit, try to reuse the occasional plastic bag or bottle, and recycle when we remember to? The threats to our planet which scientists have been predicting for decades, can now be seen with our own eyes: the plastic in the oceans, the loss of our garden insects and birds and the climate change which is disrupting our own weather patterns.

As Christians, we know we should protect God's creation and we commit to living lives of loving service. And yet, we are continually bombarded with advertising, and with images on social media, which encourage us to buy more, or to travel to more exciting places. The pressure this can put on us can be a cause of emotional and mental strain as we often find ourselves busier than ever.

Almost everything we buy has a carbon footprint and much of it is packaged in un-recyclable plastic. Put simply – by buying less we can reduce the rate at which natural resources are used up and the earth is polluted. This is why Green Christian invites us to explore a few more Rs which may help us reduce our consumption and find joy in the free gifts God gives us.

Keep this list to hand as a reminder to live more simply and enjoy pleasures which cost us, and the earth, nothing.

Rejoice

Let's take delight in Creation - God's free gift to us. This is all that we need for our own fulfilment!

Tip: Say a prayer of thanks before each meal.

Tip: Enjoy your own local patch of nature.

Refuse

Refuse to believe what the adverts say. You are no less a person because you don't have this gadget or haven't been to that exotic place.

Tip: Always wait at least 24 hours before buying something you have seen in an advert.

Tip: Have regular off-line days to avoid the adverts and images on social media.

Reduce

By reducing our impact on the planet can we also reduce our levels of stress and anxiety? We can buy less, travel less, and put less pressure on ourselves to have that perfect home and ever-active life.

Tip: Have one day a week where you buy nothing.

Tip: It's ok to say you can't do something because you need a quiet day with the family.

Reuse

Replace the convenience of single use and disposable items with the love of something which can be reused for months or years.

Tip: Bring your own cup and teaspoon if you need a takeaway coffee.

Tip: Use charity shops and give-away groups like Freecycle.

Repair

Let's look after our stuff and keep hold of the old skills of sewing and repairing. Find out if there are workshops near you where you can get your electronic items fixed, and donate old furniture to charities which teach young people refurbishing skills.

Tip: Invest in a sewing kit and a good tube of super-glue.

Rent, Borrow and Share

Ownership is overrated. Tools in particular are often bought and used only once or twice a year.

Borrowing and sharing can be a great way of bonding with neighbours, and there are organisations which will rent tools and other rarely used items such as camping equipment.

Tip: before buying anything you won't use every day, ask your friends and neighbours, with a promise to lend them something in return.

Tip: book lovers – remember your local library.

Recycle

Recycling comes last on the list because it should be a last resort.

Recycling does reduce the rate in which we use natural resources but it still uses a lot of energy for transporting and processing the items.

The First Sunday in Advent

The Collect

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

Unveiling of the Busts

Bolton University commissioned five busts of significant people in the life of the town and of the Church in its 150-year history. The unveiling ceremony was held in Church on Monday 25 October.



Top, from left: Mr Peter Ormrod, Revd Canon James Slade, Dr Samuel Taylor Chadwick.

Bottom: Mr Thomas Henry Markland CBE, Revd Canon Dr Christopher Andrew Bracegirdle

The sculptor was Professor Nadey Hakim FRCS, who has many sculptures on display around the world, including Pope Francis at the Vatican, President Macron at the Elysée Palace, Theresa May at Downing Street and Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un at the Pyongyang Museum in North Korea.









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

Music List – November 2021

Sunday 21st November, Christ the King

11.00 BCP – Shaw

Introit: Venite, vv 1-7

Hymns: 223, 232, 227
452, 277 (v 4 only)
486

Te Deum in F – John Ireland

Allegro maestoso and Fugue (Sonata 2)
– Felix Mendelssohn

Sunday 28th November, Advent

*11.00 CW with Confirmation –
Thorne/Appleford*

**Introit: Advent Matin Responsory
– G. P. da Palestrina**

Hymns: 45, 258, 715
50, 255
41

And the Glory of the Lord – G. F. Handel

Chorale Prelude “Sleepers, Wake!” – J. S. Bach

18.30 Advent Carol Service

Sunday 7th November, 3rd before Advent

11.00 BCP – Shaw

Introit: Venite, vv 1-7

Hymns: 593 (omit *), 324, 579
460
422

**Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake
– John Hilton**

“Giant” Fugue in D minor – J. S. Bach

Sunday 14th November, Remembrance

10.55 CW – Thorne/Appleford

Hymns: 357, 746, 814
459, 430
576

Greater Love– John Ireland

Prelude in B minor (BWV 544) – J. S. Bach

Organ Scholar:

William Martin

Choral scholars:

Anna Charles, Thomas Martin

Director of Music:

Michael Pain MA, FRCO, LRAM, ARCM

Royal Artillery Association

As is traditional, on Sunday 7th November, we will be joined by representatives of 216 Battery, the Bolton Artillery and the Royal Artillery Association for a short Act of Remembrance and wreath laying ceremony. This will take place as usual at the end of the 11.00 Parish Eucharist. Please support Bolton's own Battery for this important service.

Let's talk about..... Colours

You may have noticed that there are four different colours used in church throughout the year. From time to time, the vestments worn by the clergy, the altar frontal, the lectern bookmark, the pulpit fall and the burse and veil (the covers placed over the communion vessels) will be one of four colours:

Green:

Green is used on what are generally thought of as the ordinary Sundays of the year – mostly the weeks from Trinity Sunday to Advent and occasionally, two or three weeks before Lent.

White:

White is a festival colour, linked with celebration. You will see white used at Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, Ascensiontide Trinity Sunday and on some saints' days. For the major festivals, white is used not only on the day itself but for a number of Sundays afterwards.

Purple:

Purple signifies penitence and so it is used throughout the seasons of Advent and Lent

Red:

Focusing on the symbolism of fire and of blood, red is used for a range of festivals. Palm Sunday through to the Wednesday of Holy Week is red, as is Pentecost and the feast of Christ the King (the Sunday before Advent Sunday). Commemoration of saints' days for the apostles (except John) would also use red.

Colour is important to us as it adds beauty and variety to our worship. However, churches are not obliged to use colours in this way and you may encounter churches that do not follow this pattern.

Floral Demonstration

“Nature’s Treasure”

by Paula Routledge BEM

On Saturday 20th November 2021, Bolton Parish Church is hosting a Floral Demonstration with the theme of 'Nature's Treasure' by Paula Routledge.

Doors open at 1.15pm for Tea & Coffee

Free parking is available in the Church grounds.



Working in the horticultural sector for 30 years, Paula works along her husband Steven, run a countryside venue ‘Floral Media’ on the edge of the rural village of Caunton, Nottinghamshire. As a member of Flowers from the Farm, she is passionate about growing her own flowers and foliage for use in floral design.

Paula can also be heard as a gardening broadcaster on BBC Radio Nottingham and in 2021 she received the British Empire Medal for charitable services in

the Nottingham region. In 2019 she was awarded a Silver Medal at the Chelsea Flower Show.

To book, copy and paste the following link into your browser.
www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-flower-demonstration-with-paula-routledge-tickets-169272222775

or search Eventbrite by date and location

Tickets can also be obtained by contacting Margaret
on 07806 777 269.

Sermon given by The Right Revd. Chris Edmondson

Bishop of Bolton 2008-2016.

Sunday 17 October 2021

Isaiah 53: 4-end. Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

Thank you Chris for the invitation to preach as part of the 150th anniversary celebrations of the consecration of this building, set within the context of 1200 years of Christian presence on this site – an honour and a privilege to be here in Bolton once again!

I wonder what, or maybe even who, might come into your mind, if I were to say the word ‘serve’ or ‘service’?

Perhaps you’ve been out for a meal recently, and you tell someone about it and say, ‘it was really good service there’. Or if it wasn’t such a great experience, ‘I wouldn’t go there again, the service was really slow and poor’.

Or, to illustrate another way the word is used, if you’re a tennis fan, maybe a few weeks ago you enjoyed the amazing achievement of 18 year old Emma Raducanu winning the American Open, the first time a British woman has done that since Virginia Wade in 1977. One of the many positive comments made about her was the quality and accuracy of her serving.

And in some churches, including here today, there are people in the sanctuary who are called servers, lay assistants to the clergy, with particular parts to play in the liturgy. I think I made my debut in that role aged about 8!

Or maybe you think of a particular person who you would describe as ‘servant-hearted’, or an organisation here in the town that is marked by its commitment to serving some of those who are most vulnerable.

And this ‘serving’ word is also found on the website of Bolton Parish Church. There your priorities are described as : ‘Worshipping God...loving one another...and serving our town’. Great that the ‘ing’ part of those words speaks of action in the

present tense!

So serving is clearly a word that can be used in a variety of ways, but as both today's Old Testament reading from Isaiah, and the Gospel reading from Mark make clear, when it comes to serving others, while it is a privilege to do so, true service is counter-cultural, especially in our very self-focused society, and can prove costly. We have seen a lot of wonderful examples of this over last 18 months of the Pandemic.

From our Old Testament reading, the words of the prophet Isaiah speak of the Messiah who would one day come to God's people, as a rescuer and saviour, but as we have been reminded in these haunting words from Isaiah 53, he would be despised and rejected, he would be the suffering servant. And those prophetic words as we know, were fulfilled in precise detail in the person of Jesus, as he suffered on the cross for the sins of the world, taking on himself your sins and mine.

Who would have thought that God would choose to save the world through a humble, suffering servant, rather than through some more dramatic and powerful Tom Cruise 'Mission Impossible', or James Bond kind of character.

But it's certainly true in my experience, and I imagine many of you would echo this, that God so often works in ways we don't expect. He is unpredictable. A God of surprises!

And mistaken expectations of what kind of a messiah would one day come, was part of James and John's problem, when, as we've heard in today's Gospel reading, they came to Jesus with not so much a request, as a demand:

'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you'.

No wonder we hear a few verses later that the other 10 disciples were indignant!

Matthew tells us it was their mum who put this request in, but Mark in his usual blunt and no nonsense way, tells us it was James and John themselves who made this astonishing request, and, when Jesus asks 'what **do** you want me to do for you?', their

response is ‘to sit with Jesus in your glory, one on the right and the other on the left’.

It seems that, as human beings, we can sometimes be unaware of, or not in tune with, not only what’s going on around us, but also within us. We call them blind spots. We see what we choose to see. We hear what we want to hear. We make assumptions or fail to make connections, so we get things wrong, sometimes badly wrong.

Three times in Mark’s gospel before this demand from James and John, Jesus has spoken plainly, you might say ‘in words of one syllable’, about the fact that he was headed for Jerusalem, where he would fulfil those words of Isaiah, betrayed and unjustly condemned to death.

Despite that, James and John, who had been with him from the beginning, couldn’t see, didn’t get it! Maybe they were still basking in the glory moment they had shared with Jesus at the Transfiguration. It seems that the two brothers were now wanting to turn sharing in that glory into an opportunity for personal career advancement!

But before we’re too quick to think or say ‘how could they get things so badly wrong when they were so close to Jesus?’, let’s just stop and think about ourselves. Some of you here like me have been on the Christian journey for a long time. Others have maybe embarked on it more recently. Are we actually any different? But despite this, Jesus didn’t write them off. Jesus’s first friends were as mixed a bunch as we are, but we are all he has got to build his church...and if like James and John we learn and move on from our blind spots, there is hope for us and those we serve.

What I see in them, which I can also see in myself if I’m really honest, is – maybe unknowingly – they wanted Jesus on their own terms, not on his. ‘We want you to do whatever we ask’. Their terms were selfish: what’s in it for me, along with notions of status, being noticed, having prestige and power; things which Jesus challenges them with when he says:

‘You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles Lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.

NOT SO WITH YOU! Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all...' NOT SO WITH YOU.

And Jesus more than anyone else in history has the right to say this is what true greatness looks like. Why? Because as the apostle Paul puts it in his letter to the Philippians, Jesus left the glory of heaven, made himself nothing, humbled himself, took on the very nature of a servant, was made in human likeness'.

This is the one who, if anyone deserved it, didn't come expecting to be served, but rather to serve, and to give his life for you and me – a ransom for many.

To truly respond to Jesus, to be in his company, to journey with him, is I believe to pray each day – 'Jesus, would you please show me my blind spots, things I'm not aware of or would rather not acknowledge, would you help me with my motivations. Help me to let go of my agendas, my assumptions, my wanting to be noticed, the wrong ambitions and self-promotion that are shaped by worldly forces. I want to take on your agenda, the Kingdom agenda, the agenda of your truth and righteousness. I want to take whatever opportunities I can to witness to you and serve and support others'.

And while that's personal, I believe we need to apply these challenges too as church – every church, and a significant anniversary such as you are celebrating is a great opportunity to recommit to the same kind of self-examination, to ensure your priorities are God's priorities. That you're listening to him, and joining in with him where he's already at work.

One of the many things I loved and valued about my time as Bishop of Bolton was the way in which so many individuals and organisations were committed to serving the needs of this town and borough. Often particular agendas, political and other, were set aside, in order to work together in partnerships, and for the sake of the most vulnerable and marginalised. I hope this continues to be the case, and how vital and literally life-giving and life-saving this will have proved to be over these last 18 months of the pandemic!

I said near the start that, not only is true service counter-cultural in today's world, it can also be costly. Ultimately for James, as we read in Acts 12, faithfulness to Jesus would mean him being martyred for his faith. And for his brother John, it would mean exile on the island of Patmos, but from where he wrote some of the most important books of what we call the New Testament.

As time went on, they did show they were able to 'drink the cup, and were baptised with the baptism with which Jesus was baptised'.

I end with some words of theologian Donald Juel:

'In the shadow of the cross we get a brief glimpse of a new community in which relations are not governed by power and status, but by service and hospitality for those without any status; a community in which those who have been ransomed live for others'. Pray God that this may be ever more true of the people and priorities of Bolton Parish Church, both now, as you celebrate 150 years of this building and all it represents in and for the town, and as you go on playing your distinctive part in worshipping, witnessing and serving in all the years that lie ahead.

The Right Revd. Chris Edmondson
Bishop of Bolton 2008-2016.

Bolton Parish Church Online

Email: **admin@boltonparishchurch.co.uk**

Website: **www.boltonparishchurch.co.uk**

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

Facebook: **www.facebook.com/boltonparishchurch**

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

www.facebook.com/MusicAtBoltonParishChurch

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

Twitter: @StPeterBolton

Instagram: [boltonparishchurchimages](#)

Photos of Bolton Parish Church

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**



Above: Harvest lunch



Oak



Sycamore

Elm



Ash

Horse chestnut



Harvest Quiz answers

My apologies —Sycamore wasn't listed as one of the five options. I wrote Hawthorn for some unfathomable reason.

Alternative name of rowan tree - Mountain ash

The Womping Willow is a tree in Harry Potter

The National Trust symbol - Oak leaf

Tree in Constable painting *Salisbury Cathedral from the South-West* - Elm

UK equivalents of US foods

Eggplant (aubergine) Lima beans (butter beans) Zucchini (courgette) Chips (crisps)

Confectioner's sugar (icing sugar) Garbanzo beans (chickpeas) Maize (corn) Squash

(marrow) Cilantro (coriander) Rutabaga (swede)

"Whatever a man — he will also — ." sow reap

Tree in *Luke 13:6-9* - fig

Hymn: *The winds and waves obey him* - We plough the fields and scatter

'Potato Harvest' and 'The Sower' paintings - Van Gogh

UK's most widely grown arable crop - Wheat

Hymn: *Praise him that he gave the rain to mature the swelling grain* - Praise, O praise our God and King

"They neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns" - Birds of the air

The reapers are the Angels

Greek goddess of grain and the harvest - Demeter (Roman equivalent: Ceres — cereal!!)

Combine Harvester hit in 1976 - The Wurzels



2017



2010



2019

The Last Word

Michael Pain – Director of Music

Where are you from?

I'm originally from Bristol, where I went to the Cathedral School – which was then Direct Grant – and was lucky enough to have organ lessons from the Cathedral Organist, Clifford Harker. I was a choirboy in my local parish church; indeed, there exists a photograph of me in that role in 1959, which means that I have now been active in church music for 62 years.



After three years at Oxford, where I was an Organ Scholar, I “fell into” schoolteaching; I never felt it really suited me, and after eleven years doing that, I went freelance, moving North with the help of a friend of mine from Oxford days, and got the job as Piano and Organ Teacher at Bolton School (Boys’ Division).

I held a variety of church positions, and it was while I was Organist at Clitheroe Parish Church that I met and married my wife Judy. Strangely, neither of us actually proposed – it just became obvious that we were meant for each other! (Also, as I was a premature baby, and she was a trifle late, it emerged that we were probably due to have been born on exactly the same day!)

For how long have you been coming to Bolton Parish Church?

I succeeded Stephen Carleston as Director of Music here in 2009, which means I have now been here for twelve years. One of the most

remarkable features about this church is the atmosphere in the Choir – I have experienced many parish choirs in the past, and few of them have been free of “awkward” characters and undercurrents of subversive politics; here, on the contrary, probably because of the professionalism and dedication of its members, everyone is simply committed to doing their very best for the good of the music which we produce week by week. The church is very fortunate to have such a superb group within its walls – unfortunately, people of this calibre are increasingly difficult to find in today’s basically entitled and selfish society, which sometimes makes me wonder about the future.

What’s your favourite piece of music?

That’s a difficult one for a musician to answer, and my reply is usually something along the lines of “the piece I am involved with at the moment”. However, there are a small number of pieces which will always mean a lot to me, for instance Vaughan Williams’s “London” Symphony, his portrait of the capital, first performed in 1914; the combination of the heroic and the wistful (particularly considering the times during which it was composed) is very engaging and moving. Also, Rachmaninoff’s Symphony number 2 – its lush harmonic language, together with the composer’s unerring ear for a great melody, make for an intense listening experience – especially in the slow movement.

In terms of church music, it’s difficult to pick out single pieces, but, if I were to be asked to choose music for my last ever Evensong, for instance, I would probably go for Stanford in C, and Edgar Bainton’s “And I Saw a New Heaven” (I am a “musical grandson” of Bainton, as my first organ teacher, Clifford Harker, was taught by him. He was also taught by Vaughan Williams, so I feel doubly blest).

In terms of organ music, after Bach, who must always be the first choice, I tend towards the French Romantics and post-romantics – so

César Franck, Louis Vierne and their company are the composers who mean the most to me. I always feel sorry for Henri Mulet, who, after a brilliant start (and some brilliant organ music!), lost hope in the Parisian musical scene, sold his piano, burnt much of his music, and retired to obscurity in the South of France in 1937, aged 59.

What books are you reading at the moment?

I tend to go for fairly intense modern novels, and recently re-read Pascal Mercier's "Night Train to Lisbon", and his terrifying "Lea" (which deals with the intense stresses of musical performance at the highest level), both translated from the original German. His investigation of psychological matters in each character is fascinating, and his writing also raises the existentialist question of what to do with one's life! I have read Hugo's Notre Dame de Paris twice now – a great book! – but found Les Misérables rather hard going; I think it's actually too long (I did finish it!) All in translation, as my rusty A-level French wouldn't do for such a task.

As I never had to study English literature at school, I actually enjoy reading some of the great English novelists for pleasure – I have read all the Brontë sisters' big novels at least twice (and periodically go over to Haworth to pay homage), and have also enjoyed (if that is the right word!) the works of Dickens, especially recently A Tale of Two Cities.

What's your favourite hymn?

There have been a lot on the way (Howells's "All my hope on God is founded" is one obvious choice), but at the moment, and for a long time now, I am convinced that "How shall I sing that majesty" to that wonderful tune Coe Fen by Ken Naylor, is the greatest hymn I know.

Who inspires you?

Obviously, my various music teachers have all inspired me in various ways – latterly, the late great Roger Fisher (Organist of Chester

Cathedral), whose no-nonsense approach to performing made a deep impression on me. At Oxford I was very impressed by the example of Simon Preston, whose organ playing was brilliant and immaculate, and who presided over one of the finest cathedral choirs in the land.

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

No-one who has really been heard of, I think! When as a teenager I was organist at the local Anglican convent, I was very impressed by the lives of the sisters who had given up life in the world for an obscure life of prayer, work, and devotion; I suspect that the most effective Christians are people not necessarily in the public eye.

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

The office of Evensong is a great favourite, and I always try to get to Choral Evensong if I am in a Cathedral city. My approach to religion tends to be instinctive rather than intellectual, and I find that the numinous atmosphere generated by a properly regulated act of worship can be very powerful – a fact unfortunately ignored by many modern clergy (not at Bolton Parish Church, of course!).

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

I can't get enough of Paris! There it was that the giants of the organ world (Franck, Widor, Vierne and the rest) worked and produced their music, and the atmosphere of the great catholic churches there (Notre Dame, St. Sulpice etc.) draws one in irresistibly.

I have also in the past enjoyed visiting Northern Norway (influenced by my wife's job – she is a translator from Swedish and Norwegian to English); I like the breathtaking wildness of the scenery (glaciers, fiords etc.), and the absence of too much human influence on the surroundings, but probably couldn't cope with trying to live there – I expect it's very hard!

BOLTON PARISH CHURCH CONTACTS

Vicar:	Revd Canon Dr. Chris Bracegirdle vicar@boltonparishchurch.co.uk	01204 396298
Associate Priest:	Revd Canon Prof. Kenneth Newport	0161 764 4361
Associate Priest:	Revd Barrie Gaskell	07512782297
Lecturer:	Revd Ian Hepburn lecturer@boltonparishchurch.co.uk	01942 814045
Curate:	Revd Grace Hart curate@boltonparishchurch.co.uk	07840 236851
Area Dean of Bolton and Associate Priest:	Revd Simon Cook	
Authorised Lay Ministers:	Evelyn Weston Ilona Hepburn	01204 594123 01942 814045
Church Wardens:	Canon John Walsh OBE Evelyn Weston	01204 840188 01204 594123
Deputy Wardens:	Mr Graham C Burrows Mr Alan Forrester Mr David F Morlidge Miss Esther Gelling	Mr David Eckersley Mr Andrew J Mitchell Mr Trevor J Whillas
PCC Secretary:	Mr Ian Darbyshire	
Treasurer:	Mr Andrew J Mitchell	01204 840633
Director of Music:	Mr Michael Pain michaelpain18@gmail.com	01204 491827
Administration	admin@boltonparishchurch.co.uk	01204 522226

ST PHILIP'S CONTACTS

Vicar:	Revd Canon Dr. Chris Bracegirdle vicar@boltonparishchurch.co.uk	01204 396298
Church Wardens:	Mrs Pauline Dewse Canon Jill Pilling	01204 772276 07977 933010