

Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends

Easter is fast approaching, the commercial bandwagon has been trundling forward since just after Christmas but that is what commercialism does. It persuades everyone that the only way to celebrate something is to spend vast amounts of money joining an ever-increasing secular trend, which very few can actually afford.

As Christians, however, what we celebrate at Easter is far beyond monetary value and our celebrations take on a variety of emotions as we travel through Lent, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and finally that glorious Easter day. However hard we try to understand the Easter story it's almost beyond our comprehension that Jesus, God the Son, should sacrifice himself to such a cruel death on the cross of Calvary so that we can come forgiven into the presence of God. As we come before the cross on Good Friday with hindsight we know the resurrection is only three days away. Jesus' disciples, however, didn't have that insight to the future; at the crucifixion their world fell apart. For them Jesus was dead and all hope for the future was gone. Just imagine Mary's delight when she realized that the gardener she was talking to was actually the risen Lord Jesus. And the joy of the disciples when Jesus appeared to them over the next 40 days. They suddenly had a new prospectus on life; from deep despair they now had hope. The promises Jesus had given them during his earthly ministry were now unfolding and their excitement was plain to see, although until Pentecost the fruits of that excitement would be tempered with their human limitations.

Easter is a special time to reflect on the love of God for His people but what is even more wonderful is that his love is personalized, his love is for you and that is something to really get excited about. After Jesus was crucified his disciples felt lost, without a purpose in life and so many people now-a-days feel like that as well. Only through the resurrection power of Jesus did the disciples find hope for the future and that same resurrection power is available to us today. There are so many people who are living in fear and oppression without experiencing the love of another human being. Jesus brings hope into

lives full of despair, he renews damaged relationships and he heals broken hearts and he usually does it through the love and obedience of people like you and me. Please remember this Easter those who are in desperate need of the love of Jesus. Please pray that they will find his love and compassion in what ever situation they are in and that as we pray, God will reveal to us how we can help those who are suffering and in need.

As most of you know I will be retiring at the end of April and so I would like to say a huge thank you to you all for the love and support you have given Joan and myself over the last eighteen months. Unfortunately, as yet, there has not been an appointment of a new priest to serve at St. Saviour's but I pray that you will find someone in the very near future. Will you please remember Joan and I in your prayers as we start a new season in our lives. May God bless you all.
Yours in Christ

Ian Slater

APRIL PARISH DIARY

Tuesday 1st	7.00 p.m. Prayer meeting in vestry 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 2nd	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's 6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts 7.30 p.m. Lent course
Thursday 3rd	9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer 4.30 p.m. K:Ings Way Club 6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts 7.30 p.m. Scouts

<u>SUNDAY 6TH</u>	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (<i>Revd. Richard Bailey</i>) 2.00 p.m. Messy Church
Tuesday 8th	7.00 p.m. Holy Communion in chapel 7.30 p.m. PCC meeting in vestry 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 9th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

So, what is a bishop, you ask?

Bishops come in all shapes and sizes, with different roles and different areas of responsibility. But they all have in common the authority for leading the faithful and the responsibility for caring for their spiritual needs. This is known as the 'cure of souls' and bishops share it with their clergy.

So, when a parish gets a new priest, they don't have sole responsibility for all the souls in the parish. They share the 'cure' with the bishop: and hence the title curate, which, nowadays, is more often used to describe a new priest who is sharing the 'cure' with a vicar or rector, or learning it from them. Every diocese has a diocesan bishop to lead it administratively and pastorally. He (they are all men currently) is helped by other bishops who may be suffragan, area or assistant bishops. Suffragan and assistant bishops take on certain duties or roles on behalf of the bishop as agreed. Area bishops differ in that the diocesan bishop has given them a piece of the diocese where they carry out all the responsibilities.

Bishops license new clergy and other office-holders, confirm new Church members, preach at special services and take part in major festivals. They spend time with the people of the parish when they can, sometimes visiting church schools and other organisations. Diocesan bishops have oversight of all the clergy in their area, other licensed ministers, and lay workers. They hold ultimate control over the diocesan budget and its portfolio of assets. This is shared with the bishops and others in regular senior staff meetings.

Bishops may be chairman, patron, governor or committee member of many regional organisations. Many are instrumental in formal, informal and confidential conversations between religious bodies, ethnic groups, the police and social services, commercial and development agencies and local government and regional forums. As community leaders, bishops are increasingly involved in debates about regional assemblies in the country.

26 diocesan bishops sit in the House of Lords: the two Archbishops and

the bishops of London, Durham and Winchester by right of their office, plus the 21 longest-serving diocesan bishops. At least one is present every day and others attend according to the subjects under debate. The two Archbishops and the Bishop of London are Privy Councillors.

All diocesan bishops and nine elected suffragan bishops are members of the House of Bishops, which meets three times a year. As a House, they also attend the two or three sessions of the General Synod each year.

Many bishops chair or serve on national and international Church boards and councils, as well as large charities, special commissions or public enquiries. They, with others, represent the Church of England in meetings and affairs of the Anglican Communion and other Church bodies. Most have personal or diocesan links overseas, including commitments on behalf of the Archbishops, or as leaders of mission societies.

The archbishops have the biggest roles and responsibilities. Theologically, bishops follow on from Jesus, the servant king, and are the servants of all in their dioceses. That makes the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is 'first among equals' among all the Anglican bishops, the greatest servant of all.

Buy a book and help church funds

The bookcase in the Narthex is proving to be very popular. The shelves are being refreshed regularly so there should usually be something new for you to look at. Please keep looking and when you find something of interest please put the money in the wall safe opposite.

As before the religious books can be borrowed free of charge, just return when finished with - or keep if you wish.

“A Song of the Stairs”

Ian Mc Alpine

Last July I discussed the life and work of Miles Coverdale (c.1488 - 1568) who published the first ever complete printed translation of the Bible into English.. In 1538 Thomas Cromwell (a distant relation of Oliver Cromwell) the main architect of Henry VIII’s Act of Supremacy, commissioned Coverdale to produce an improved Bible translation usually called the “Great Bible” which first appeared in 1539. Coverdale’s later translation of the Psalms was preserved in the 1662 “Book of Common Prayer”, still widely available today. Even new copies of the BCP still preserve Coverdale’s version of the Psalms with only minor alterations. Late in 1540 Coverdale produced a third translation of the Bible which contained further improvements.

For many years I wanted my own copy of one of Coverdale’s original Bibles but had to abandon the idea when I discovered that it would cost more than what I paid for my house! No affordable modern facsimile reprints appeared to exist. However, I was able to study a complete original 1549 edition of the “Great Bible” some years ago at Chetham’s Library in Manchester where I used to work. The Bible’s pages were printed in large, beautiful black letter type and were roughly A3 in size. After more than 450 years very few Great Bibles have survived. Their immense size and cost - though a few smaller and cheaper ones were printed - made them unaffordable and too large for domestic use and they were intended mainly for use in the pulpit.

However, a few years ago I managed to import from Boston, Massachusetts, at modest cost about 30 pages of an original 1541 copy of the “Great Bible“, which incorporated Coverdale’s improvements of the previous year. It was only the 14th edition of the Bible ever produced in English! It was printed on enormous pages measuring 10“ x 13“. The fragments contained several well-known stories from the Old Testament including that of Lot and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. The English is somewhat different from the King James Version, has a simple, almost agricultural quality about it and one feels that Coverdale was sometimes struggling to find the right words to convey his meaning at a time when our language was in

transition. His headings to some of the Psalms show this well. My fragments include Psalms 119 to 136. Both old and modern translations of some of these psalms show their power and drama increasing with each line, a sort of crescendo ending with a climax of praise to the Almighty. The particular nature of these psalms seems to have been indicated by a special title in the original Hebrew by the writer thousands of years ago. Unfortunately I can't read Hebrew so am unable to comment on this. In the King James Version of 1611 this title is translated as "A Song of Degrees". The 1885 Revised Version preferred "A Song of Ascents" which is copied by the NRSV we use at St Saviour's.

Coverdale, however, has "*A Song of the Stairs*" in every case! No doubt he was doing his best but it doesn't really work and one suspects he didn't know what to do - he was in any case basing his work on Latin and Greek texts rather than the Hebrew. However, the Matthew Bible of 1537 which was based on the original Hebrew has the same "stairs" reading. Psalm 121, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills" well-known to all of us, begins "A songe of the steares" followed by the Latin "LEVAVI OCULOS". This is meant to be a translation of "I will lift up mine eyes" but Coverdale used the wrong tense and his Latin actually said "I have lifted up mine eyes".

Centuries later it is easy to be critical of Coverdale and other early Bible translators but this is highly patronising and grossly unfair. These extraordinary men were working in unbelievably difficult conditions - only a few decades earlier Tyndale was actually burnt at the stake partly because he had dared to translate parts of the Bible into English. They were the very early forerunners of the more accurate Bible translations we have today and we owe Coverdale and his associates an immense debt for their courageous efforts.

Messy Church

The first of our monthly Messy Church services was launched on Sunday 2nd March. Messy Church is a new and exciting way of experiencing church and is fun for all the family. It brings God's word to people of all ages and all backgrounds – church or none. There is a broad range of ways to join in and the hope is that everyone will take part in being creative and in learning about God.

We enjoyed an afternoon of games, crafts, songs, God's word and lovely food and everything was based around the theme of "Families". We celebrated what we love about our families and looked at what it means to belong to God's family, in the light of the Bible passage that tells us we are "...Adopted as sons and heirs of God". Some of us made wonderful play dough models and others made house prayers to hang up at home. We made Rock families and picture frames too. Everyone had great fun with the parachute games and good fellowship as we ate together.

If you've never been to a Messy Church service, I would encourage you to come along. It's different, it's fun and you end up learning things about God in a totally new way.

Our next Messy Church is on Sunday April 6th, at the same time of 2 to 4 pm. The theme will be "Our Wonderful World" and everyone is most welcome to come along.

Karen Wheelhouse

Holy Week and Easter

To celebrate Holy Week and Easter, a series of special services has been planned as follows:

Tues 15th April: 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Crossley House Care Home

Wednesday 16th: 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's

Thursday 17th: 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion with Stripping of the Altar

Friday 18th: 11.00 a.m. Service in Ladyhill Park, followed by Walk of Witness to Allerton Congregational Church for light lunch

Friday 18th: 2.00 p.m. An Hour at The Cross

Sunday 20th: 10.00 a.m. Family Communion (not Parade Service)

Please come along to as many as you can. You will be most welcome.

Easter Flowers

We look forward every year to being able to celebrate Easter with the church in full floral splendour! If you would like to contribute towards the cost of the flowers, Kaaren would be delighted to receive your donations. Throughout the year, she is happy to arrange flowers in church to commemorate a loved one, special anniversary or event if you would like to provide either the flowers or a donation towards them. Please have a word if there is a special date you would like to mark in this way.

Christian Aid Super Soup Day

At our Ing's Way Lunch Day in April – Wednesday 9th – we will again be supporting Christian Aid's "Super Soup Day", as we have for the past few years. The lunch of homemade soup, sandwiches, biscuits and tea/coffee will be completely free, as always, but any donations you would like to make will be donated to Christian Aid. It's also a great opportunity to come and have a chat with friends old and new, so come and give it a try.

The Society of Ordained Scientists

R.W. Bailey

Soon after I retired, I attended a meeting of Retired Clergy in Skipton. The main reason for my attendance was that the speaker was Bishop Frank Sargeant, who had conducted two confirmations in my last parish.

At the meeting, I discovered that the editor of the Retired Clergy Magazine had died, and there was a need for someone to take her place. I immediately rang Jean, because she had been involved in the editing and printing of literature with MU. She agreed to meet the committee, and was offered the post.

The chair of the Retired Clergy Committee, Mrs Jane Young, was also new to the post and it was through her that Bishop David Young, formerly Bishop of Ripon, who was a member (as was Bishop David James, I discovered later), suggested that I might be interested in the Society. I have never seen any incompatibility between science and faith, and regard science as the best tool we have for exploring and understanding the world we live in, and so became an associate member of the society.

The Society had come into being in 1986 following thirty years of discussion, under the leadership of Dr Arthur Peacocke, who had written an article for *Church Times* in 1962 entitled '*The Church in an Age of Science*'. Dr Peacocke later expanded his work in the Bampton Lectures at Oxford in 1975, and those lectures formed the basis of his book *Creation and the World of Science: the re-shaping of beliefs*". His arguments can be found early in his book:

"... creation is regarded as proceeding from the inner life of God as Love, and his creating and sustaining beings other than himself as an outreach of that more-than-personal inner life." (P.45)

"... today the 'glass of vision' through which we might discern, however obscurely, cannot but be that ground and polished by science." (p.48)

I was very glad to see the item from *Church Times*, which we now

reprint with permission from the Editor, in which Lee Rayfield examines the prayer that members of the Society use every day for each other.

Pray for all scientists, suggests Lee Rayfield, Bishop of Swindon

Almighty God, Creator and Redeemer of all that is, source and foundation of time and space, matter and energy, life and consciousness: Grant us in this Society [especially your servants . . .], and all who study the mysteries of your creation, grace to be true witnesses to your glory and faithful stewards of your gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE collect of the Society of Ordained Scientists (SOSc) is used by its members and associates as part of their belonging to a community of prayer. Written in 1987 by the Revd Dr John Keggi, a founder member, it simply and yet majestically embraces the breadth of the created order and God's sovereign place within it.

Despite the presence of some scientists and theologians of renown, the society is not filled with those who have doctorates, but with men and women from across the Churches who share a desire to hold the spheres of Christian faith and scientific endeavour together. Membership involves commitment to a Rule of Life that is designed to serve the Church and the world in relation to science and technology.

This prayer begins with the all-encompassing statement that God is "Creator and Redeemer of all that is", and focuses on the themes of being true witnesses to God's glory, and faithful stewards of God's gifts. The pointers in the opening lines of "time and space, matter and energy, life and consciousness", however, recollect the scope of God's creative and redemptive activity, and provide a deep well to draw from.

To begin doing this, it would be helpful to read the collect slowly a couple of times, preferably aloud, with pauses, noting which words and images catch the attention. Try giving some time to exploring these - with their associated thoughts and feelings - recognising that you are

doing so in the presence of God, and with the aid of the Holy Spirit.

The disciplines of science and technology are taken as a given for Western industrialised societies, and provide an aspiration for many developing nations, but Christians often relate to them ambivalently. It is worth reflecting on when you last heard these disciplines opened up in sermons or Bible-study groups.

We can also ask ourselves how often those involved in science or technology are prayed for in our public or private intercessions. If these disciplines are part of God's gift in creation, then part of our stewardship can be expressed in prayer with them and for them.

The collect recognises that God redeems as well as creates. All of God's gifts in creation are capable of misuse, abuse, or neglect, and sometimes that can lead us to focus more on the negative. In the field of genetics, for instance, anxieties around advances that seem to be driven predominantly by commercial interest, or that appear to violate the integrity of creation, may generate suspicion of the whole enterprise.

When we engage in arenas that are contested within the Church, as well as outside - for example, in energy-production, and assisted reproduction - praying for God's grace is a vital discipline. In our prayers, beneath the broad umbrella of God's gracious provision, we could all try to name those qualities that will bring blessing.

In praying for those "who study the mysteries of your creation", the collect invites us to seek blessing and redemption - that which is a true witness to God, and the faithful stewardship of God's gifts. Clarity and courage are required for this wisdom, and the collect subsumes these qualities in seeking grace.

The SOSc collect is a prayer that could well be enriched by having a newspaper - or web news pages - open before you. I hope you will find the Spirit of God making connections that deepen your prayer life in unexpected ways.

For a free sample copy of Church Times, contact subs@churchtimes.co.uk

The Church Times

The Church Times's 150th anniversary draws to a close, but we continue to combine old-fashioned news values – accuracy, even-handedness, and a bit of humour – with the latest technology. We now break news stories regularly on the website, as well as providing thoughtful analysis in the weekly paper. And watch out for the Church Times app. Over the coming months we'll be taking the Church's temperature in the wake of predictions about its imminent extinction, and pooling resources from some successful churches and projects. Then there are running stories, not least what might be the concluding chapters of the women bishops saga.

Quiet

A mother who took her fidgety seven-year-old to church finally had an idea: about halfway through the long sermon she leaned over and whispered: “If you don't be quiet, the minister is going to lose his place, and he will have to start all over again.” It worked!

Drive

Never drive faster than your guardian angel can fly.

Patch

This is not my bald patch; it's a solar panel for brain power.

©Parish Pump

Scout Expedition Camp

This month, members of our Scout Group undertook two expeditions as they continued to work towards some major awards. This came after weeks of careful planning and learning the skills needed to complete the challenge they had been set, ensuring they were fully prepared for the journey ahead.

The Scouts - aged 10-14 - hiked to Blackhills Campsite at Cottingley on Day One, following a planned route using maps and a compass. There they were met by the Explorer Unit - for 14 to 18 year olds - who had set up camp and had warm drinks waiting for them, a welcome site on arrival! They then spent the following two days cooking for themselves on an open fire and learning the basic skills which will be used during their time as Scouts.

On Day Two, the older group left on foot for Sconce, a seven mile trip which took in parts of Shipley Glen and Baildon Moor, truly testing their skills. Regularly checking in with the leadership team, they carried all their own kit, including tents, cooking equipment and the food they would eat over the two day trip. Once there, they cooked their first meal and camped overnight as they continued working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

The final day saw the Explorers prepare breakfast before packing up and returning to Cottingley via a completely different route. With much of the other requirements already completed, they took a giant step towards this achievement by passing with flying colours.

Their efforts towards these nationally recognised qualifications is credit to them, and the team work and effort displayed over the weekend left the leadership team very proud indeed! With a similar event planned for May, you can expect to be hearing much more about our intrepid young people in the very near future.

Adam Digby, Scout Leader

Notes from the PCC

At the church's Annual Parochial Church meeting on Sunday 23rd March, we elected various officials to run the church, heard about what we have done in the past year and looked ahead to the future. Kaaren Raistrick agreed to serve for another year as Churchwarden, and she is joined this year by Patrick Preston, who returns for a second spell of duty. We are most grateful to Kaaren for acting on her own for the past year—and to all who have ably supported her. The two wardens will be officially sworn into office in May. We also needed to elect two people to represent us on the Deanery Synod. After many years of service, Joyce Ashton decided not to stand again, and we are grateful to Jean Bailey for volunteering and to Ian McAlpine for agreeing to continue. Our representatives do a great job in diligently attending meetings and keeping us all informed of what goes on.

This year James Muff, Val Muff and Eric Heywood came to the end of their term of office as PCC members. James and Eric both wished to continue, but Val decided to stand down. We are grateful to her for her contribution to the PCC over the years. Joyce Ashton applied for the resulting “spare” place and these three were duly elected.

James Muff, our treasurer, reported that, despite fears we would be struggling, we have managed to meet all our financial commitments. This is largely due to some generous donations, and to the efforts of all who have worked hard to raise money. We are delighted to have been able to substantially increase our charitable giving—something we feel is an important part of our work here at St. Saviour's.

The good news James was able to impart was that we have passed the first stage of the application process for a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to help with the long list of repairs detailed by the last Quinquennial Inspection report, and some other works. A lot of work is still needed to secure the money, but all is looking hopeful.

Sadly, the advert for a new incumbent for St. Saviour's didn't bring forth any firm applicants, so we continue with our efforts and would appreciate your prayers.

Hilary Davis, PCC Secretary.

April Roll of Remembrance

1st	Alfred Lunnon	(1966)
8th	Kenneth Blackburn	(1958)
11th	Maurice Howard	(1975)
	Jean Collins	(2001)
	Reginald Sollis	(2003)
12th	Percy Wigglesworth	(1975)
14th	Frank Size	(1962)
18th	Annie Ingham	(1986)
20th	Ernest Holroyd	(1984)
21st	Elizabeth Chater	(1966)
	Bertha Hayhurst	(1994)
22nd	Clifford Thorpe	(1980)
	James Hester	(1984)
23rd	Kathleen Walker	(1983)
	Evelyn Chater	(1983)
24th	Richard Woodyet	(1984)
26th	William Albert Went	(1956)
28th	Sophia Kay	(1980)
	Edith Heatherington	(1983)
29th	David Spence	(1996)
30th	William Perkins	(1958)

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