

The April Letter

Dear Friends,

Writing this letter as sunshine pours through the window does not fully compensate for the chilly air still with us, after an unfriendly winter season! Unprecedented floods, and a late burst of snow only a couple of weeks ago, remind us that, among other things, Easter is early this year, and by the time you get this letter, it is in one sense, behind us!

“In one sense”, because we are not as good at marking the days of Easter as we are in marking the days of Christmas. There is a sense that we have Easter Day, followed by a Bank Holiday on Easter Monday, and then most people are back full tilt into work again. Today, there will be many workers who won’t even get *that* much time off.

But in church terms, our major festivals are marked for weeks after their first celebratory day. It gives us time to live with, and dwell on, the change in this world brought about by Christ’s birth, presence with us and, on Easter Day, his Resurrection after the events of Good Friday. These are big issues to learn about and work through – even when we have been believers for many years – and time spent living fully through the Easter season is valuable and distinctive.

When Easter Day falls in late March, as it does this year, I have a very personal memory to remind me what a special time it is. On Maundy Thursday over 30 years ago, I was in hospital on the Maternity ward, as a snow storm raged against the windows outside. My daughter was due to arrive on Good Friday, but she didn’t put in an appearance until the early hours of Easter Day. As all parents know, every child changes our lives for ever, and as I had my Easter Communion in my bed on the ward later that morning, with the sun replacing the snow, it seemed a symbol of a truly new beginning for us all.

Some of you may be wondering how, if I’m suggesting thinking more about the change Easter makes, we do that in practice? I think we all can recall instances when we have been surprised to learn something new about a subject, or an interest, that we’ve been immersed in for many years. We could work through one of the many books produced each year for Lent and Easter. If books are not your enthusiasm, music,

pictures, walking in a beautiful corner of the natural world, can all provide the space for new thoughts and understanding to come to the forefront of our mind. Some of us find it beneficial to spend a day in quietness or study with a leader suggesting ideas to consider through stories, poems, challenging messages.

One of this year's new books in our collection is called "Sounding the Seasons" by Malcolm Guite.* Apart from private reading, the contents are also intended as a resource for wider use in churches, and so I'd like to leave with you a few of the lines from his poem for Easter dawn – the point in the story when Jesus appears to Mary in the garden after his release from the tomb – and she thinks he is the gardener.

*"She barely hears the gentle question, 'Why,
Why are you weeping?' or sees the play of light
That brightens as she chokes out her reply,
'They took my love away, my day is night.'
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day."*

Happy Eastertide!

Jean Bailey

Reference: * "Sounding the Seasons" by Malcolm Guite. Published by Canterbury Press, 2012.

APRIL PARISH DIARY

Saturday 2nd 11.00 a.m. Councillors' surgeries in hall

SUNDAY 3RD SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (*Rev. Richard & Mrs. Jean*

Bailey)

Tuesday 5th 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion at Crossley House

12 noon Knit and Natter

7.30 p.m. Adult Tap Dancing

Wednesday 6th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's

Thursday 7th 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 10TH **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Tuesday 12th	12 noon	Knit and Natter
	7.00 p.m.	Worship Committee meeting
	7.30 p.m.	Adult Tap Dancing
Wednesday 13th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.30 a.m.	Ing's Way Lunch Day - Super Soup appeal
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Thursday 14th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

SUNDAY 17TH **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

	10.00 a.m.	Parade Service and Holy Communion
Tuesday 19th	12 noon	Knit and Natter
	7.30 p.m.	Adult Tap Dancing
Wednesday 20th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Social Committee meeting
Thursday 21st	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

SUNDAY 24TH **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.30 a.m.	Annual Parochial Church meeting
Tuesday 26th	12 noon	Knit and Natter
	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 27th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Thursday 28th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	PCC Meeting

The Work is Done!



Supported by

The National Lottery®

through the Heritage Lottery Fund



At long last, the work undertaken with the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund is finished. The building has been unwrapped, the scaffolding dismantled and all the cabins, equipment and clutter removed from the car park and indoors.

We are once again watertight, with functioning gutters and downpipes, clean and sparkling rooflights and heaters that work. It has been a long haul but, hopefully, will be worth it in the long run. We now have to clean and tidy a bit to get things looking spic and span.

As part of the process for getting the funding, we now need to show off our wonderful building and let people know how special it is. We have several projects planned, so please keep an eye out. We are inviting all visitors to our church to sign the visitors book so that we can see who has been to see us (and what you think about the church!) Please look out for it in the narthex as you enter.

Ing's Way Lunch Day

We will meet again on the second Wednesday of April, the 13th, to share together a free meal of homemade soup, sandwiches and tea or coffee and biscuits. As always, it will be completely free, but any donations you would like to give will be sent to Christian Aid to help with their vital work among those who are in need, both at home and abroad. All are most welcome to come and join us - and have a natter and maybe make new friends.

Councillors' Surgeries

The Councillors for the Clayton and Fairweather Green Ward will be holding surgeries in our church hall on Saturday 2nd April from 11.00 a.m. to 12 noon. If you have any concerns, questions or suggestions, this is your opportunity to discuss them.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Slightly later in the year than usual, because of the early date for Easter this year, we are holding our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 24th April at about 11.30 a.m. in the hall. There will be time to get a coffee after the service, of course!

This is the time when we elect our Churchwardens, sidespeople, PCC members and other officials for the year. We also hear about what has gone on in the church during the year, have a report on our finances from the treasurer and look forward to the coming year. All those who are on the Electoral Roll are welcome to come along and vote, hear the reports and put questions, points of view or ideas to the meeting. The Electoral Roll is revised each year and new members are most welcome. If you would like to be on the roll please have a word with Keith West, our Electoral Roll Officer, or the wardens before 9th April.

The 56: The Bradford City Fire: A Testimony By FYSA Theatre The Alhambra Theatre, Bradford 5-7 May 7:45pm

'Nobody dies in football matches in fires. It doesn't happen'

At 3.40pm on May 11th 1985, a small fire broke out in the main stand at Valley Parade football ground during the last game of the season. Within four minutes, the wooden structure was ablaze.

Adapted from over sixty real-life testimonies, this bold and pertinent piece of documentary theatre pays homage to the supporters who lost their lives in one of the darkest days in British footballing history. On the 31st anniversary of the disaster *The 56* examines strength, solidarity and community in the face of overwhelming tragedy. Tickets are £10 or £8 for concessions and all profits will be donated to the University of Bradford's Burns and Plastic Surgery Unit.

The York Mint, 1696 - 1698.

Ian Mc Alpine

Today our coins are produced at a single centralised mint, originally in London but now at Llantrisant in South Wales. However, centuries ago things were very different and there were sometimes dozens of mints scattered all over the country, besides the main one in London. This helped with the distribution of new coins in an age of poor communications when there were no banks. The most important of these provincial mints were at Canterbury, Durham ... and York. A mint was established at York well over a thousand years ago in Anglo-Saxon times. During the Middle Ages there were sometimes two mints in the city, one in the hands of the King, the other controlled by the Archbishop. The full history of the York mints is very complicated and impossible to cover in this short article so I shall concentrate on York's last venture into coinage production in the late 1600s.

Until 1662 when simple machinery was introduced almost all our currency was made by hand and was often very crude in appearance. People used to clip or file the edges of the silver and gold coins - made of almost pure metal in those days - and then pass them back into circulation. Even the death penalty did little to discourage this practice which cost the nation huge amounts of money every year. There was no policy of withdrawing old coins from circulation so that by the 1690s much of the money in use was well over 100 years old, some even dating back to the 1550s, worn almost flat and badly clipped. Some of it was almost unrecognisable and clearly something had to be done.

In 1695 the Government finally took decisive action and called in all the old handmade coins. Branch mints were set up at Bristol, Chester, Exeter, Norwich and York to cope with the enormous task of replacing our worn out currency with new coins with milled edges made by machinery. No copper or gold was produced at the branch mints which minted only sixpences (2½p), shillings (5p) and halfcrowns (12½p) all dated either 1696 or 1697. There were no two shilling pieces until 1849. The branch mints operated from 1696 to 1698 and the one at

York, near the Minster, seems to have been the most productive. Although the scheme was successful it cost the Government an enormous amount of money. £1,200,000 of revenue for the project was raised by imposing a tax on the windows of houses. Crossley Hall on Thornton Old Road, rebuilt about 1655 where I have lived for more than 12 years has two blocked-up windows - could they be historic examples of tax evasion? The tax wasn't abolished until 1851! The new coins were marked with the letters B, C, E, N and small y beneath the portrait of King William III (1689 - 1702) to show their origin. (See illustration of a 1697 York halfcrown below).



The scheme is now known as the "Great Recoinage".

Coins from the reign of William III are still fairly common today. Those marked with a 'y' from York commemorate our county's last major contribution to the 2,000-year-long history of English coinage.

Sharing Hope in Crisis

This is a seminar being held at the Christian Life Church, 4 Manor Lane, Shipley on Saturday 21st May 2016 from 0930 – 1700 with registration from 0900. The event is free to attend (although donations are appreciated) and lunch is provided for a small donation to cover costs. It is being run by the UK Disaster Relief Ministry, in partnership with Samaritan's Purse.

It is intended for anyone and everyone in the church. All of us know a friend, neighbour, or colleague who is struggling with a life crisis. This seminar was developed to help you know what to say and what not to say when people endure challenging times.

Congratulations!

Most of you will know Bev Howard, our wonderful Group Scout Leader, who does such amazing work with the young people in the Scout Group - along with her co-leaders and helpers. You may not know, though, that in her “proper” job she is a primary school teacher, working at St. Luke’s C of E Primary School in Eccleshill. In the 2016 Telegraph and Argus Bradford and District Schools Awards, Bev was chosen as one of the 3 finalists for Best Nursery/Primary teacher of the year. This is a huge honour and although she was pipped at the post on the night, it is still a wonderful achievement and a great recognition of her special qualities.

Her Headteacher, Sarah Horsborough, who nominated her for the award, said in the *Telegraph and Argus*:

“She has been judged as outstanding by Ofsted, senior leaders, authority officers and external reviewers consistently. Her expectations of our children are high, but the expectation she places on herself is even higher.

Despite the longevity of her career, she never pulls back from new challenges, initiatives or procedures. She is a natural leader. Having started as a class teacher she has worked her way up to the role of assistant headteacher. She organises whole school events such as Remembrance Day, maths week sports day etc. She can always be heard singing as she walks through school, which can lift the mood no end.”

Well done, Bev! Is there no end to your talents?

Kisses

A husband and wife go to a counsellor after 15 years of marriage. The counsellor asks them what the problem is and the wife goes into an endless tirade listing every problem they have ever had in the 15 years they've been married. Finally, the counsellor gets up, goes around the desk, embraces the woman and kisses her passionately. The woman shuts up and sits quietly in a daze. The counsellor turns to the husband and says "that is what your wife needs at least three times a week. Can you do that?" The husband thinks for a moment and replies, "Well, I can get her here Monday and Wednesday.....but Friday I golf."

Commissioning of the MU Worldwide President

The Archbishop of Canterbury said he “praises God” for the Mothers’ Union during a service at Lambeth Palace last night (1st March) to recommission Lynne Tembey as worldwide president of the global Anglican women’s organisation.

The service was attended by the Very Revd Nigel Godfrey, Dean of Peel Cathedral; Mothers’ Union chief executive Bev Jullien; the Mothers’ Union board of trustees; and Lambeth Palace and Anglican Communion Office staff.

Lynne Tembey was reappointed to be the worldwide president of the Mothers’ Union from 2016 to 2018, having first been appointed three years ago.

During the service Archbishop Justin Welby said: “The Mothers’ Union in so many places is an organisation that listens to the voices of weeping. Whether it’s in Burundi, the Congo or South Sudan; whether it’s in homes in cities where when the local football team loses there is a 50 percent increase in domestic violence; whether it is in the loneliness of weeping by people who are not suffering physically but are spiritually empty and lost; it is the Mothers’ Union that exists in the vision of Mary Sumner to speak of those things that God has provided that bring hope, help and a future.

Central to this vision, he said, is “an extraordinary movement to support the family.”

“There has never been a time when the family was not a place that needed the light of Christ shining within it to become what God has called it to be. And you hold that treasure in your hands, and as we go to the reaffirmation that is part of the vision.”

He added: “But there is also such a need for global women’s groups. And you are among the most embedded, the most effective, the most widespread. There are few that can rival you – if any.”

Reflecting on United Nations research showing that no major civil conflict since 1945 has ended without the involvement of women’s

groups, the Archbishop said the Mothers' Union holds in its hands two aspects of "the most extraordinary treasure that God has brought together."

"You are one of the greatest of women's groups in the world, and you have the treasure of the gospel of reconciliation. What more could be needed to be transforming of the world in which we live?"

"So, nine-tenths of your work is hidden in the parishes and the dioceses, in the hills and the villages – doing the work of bringing hope and strengthening families, of supporting churches, of transforming communities.

"I pray that God will go on blessing you, and that your vision of the God who rises above all the fears, all the problems we face... will end with a vision of hope and confidence not in the Mother's Union and this great heritage, not even in this wonderful vision, but in the God who underpins and secures it all."

R. W. Bailey

Dawn chorus

If you sleep with your bedroom window open, you will know all about the dawn chorus around now! The birds are busy establishing their territorial rights, and the 'early birds' have probably already selected a nest site and started building.

The blackbird builds a solid cup of twigs, plant stems and leaves, lined with a thick skin of mud covered with finer grasses and leaves. The long tailed tit forms a soft hollow ball of mosses, hair and wool, with a tiny hole as entrance. The wrens do it differently, with the male wren sometimes building several nests before his finicky mate will accept one. He gets his revenge, though, because he sometimes installs a second wife in one of the rejected sites!

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Holy Wells – St Non’s Well of Pembrokeshire

From the sprinkling of Holy Water through to adult baptism by full immersion, in every Christian tradition, water plays an important symbolic role. Science teaches that water is at the very centre of life, and even pre-Christian traditions in Britain recognised its vital importance. Many places where springs emerged from the ground were considered sacred sites, and after the arrival of the Gospel these sites remained holy, only they were renamed after local saints and new stories came to be told about them.

Just outside St David’s in Pembrokeshire, Wales, there is one such well called after St Non, the mother of David the patron saint of Wales. David was born, it is said, during a violent thunderstorm. As David arrived, on a site overlooking the sea where the now ruined chapel is found, the legend goes that a spring came bubbling out of the ground nearby.

It is likely there was a spring there long before the legendary events of 500AD, but the story of the birth of David became a popular one and over many centuries the site has attracted thousands of visitors. At one time, the waters were said to have healing properties, especially for eyes and rheumatism, and babies were also dipped in the cold spring reservoir.

The well is found just outside the city via a small lane heading due south. At the end of the lane, near the modern retreat house, a short path leads down to the well and the ruins of the ancient chapel of St Non. The well is today covered with a stone arch and opposite, in a niche, is a statue of St Non. Visitors throw coins into the well and leave requests for prayers at the feet of the statue of David’s mother. Even in modern Britain, the Pagan and the Christian still converge in that St Non’s Well is both a wishing well and a holy place.

In keeping with its sacred reputation every year, around St David’s day, when the city and the cathedral hold special events to celebrate the national saint, there is a procession from the chapel to the city. The monk-bishop of history lived an austere and disciplined life of work,

prayer and abstinence. The magnificent cathedral called after him is a monument to his life, but so is the simple stream of clear water that flows from a cliff-top spring barely a mile away

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THE WAY I SEE IT : Stop the world, I want to get off

Canon David Winter, Former Head of Religious Broadcasting, BBC

At my age you start marvelling at the pace of change. It only seems yesterday that we started getting money from holes in the wall. Then it was dotcom, and emails, mobile phones and ‘going online’. Now it’s smart-phones, internet shopping and digital books. As one after another habitual feature of my adult life disappears, I start to wonder what will eventually be left.

So I try to imagine a world without things: without the daily newspaper or printed magazines; without clothes shops or banks; without cricket (baseball has taken over the ‘franchise’) or football (NFL has won the hearts of the young generation). Evensong is distant history, and so is radio. Even TV is only used by the very old, everyone else ‘streams’ their programmes online from all over the world. No one reads paper books, though they are stored somewhere in academic libraries. Oh, and what were coins, banknotes and cheques?.

If you think any of those things can’t possibly happen, just reflect (if you’re old enough) on the world of fifty years ago: black and white television, gramophones, tape recorders, Woolworths, bookshops on every high street, a nightly ‘epilogue’ on the BBC, and five million readers a day for the Sun. It wasn’t better (actually, a lot was worse), but it was massively different.

Only God is changeless, the same ‘yesterday, today and for ever’. Change is an inescapable element of human life. It’s just that it’s got so fast! Could someone please slow it down a bit?

© *Parish Pump*

Franklin D. Roosevelt's Four Freedoms:

The first is freedom of speech and expression, everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way, everywhere in the world. The third is freedom from want, everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear, anywhere in the world.

© *Parish Pump*

The Queen is 'very grateful' for the nation's prayers

In a strong statement of faith, the Queen has said that she is 'very grateful' to the nation for its prayers for her and that she has felt God's 'faithfulness' during 64 years on the throne.

The comments – rare insights into the Queen's personal thoughts and Christian faith – came in the foreword to a new book, *The Servant Queen and the King She Serves*, published by Bible Society, HOPE and LICC.

Her Majesty said, 'I have been – and remain – very grateful to you for your prayers and to God for His steadfast love. I have indeed seen His faithfulness.' The book was published to mark the Queen's 90th birthday. In her comments, the Queen referred to the changes she has seen in her life, which has made her the longest-reigning monarch in British history.

'The extent and pace of change has been truly remarkable,' she said. 'We have witnessed triumphs and tragedies.' And she alluded to the current problems in the Middle East saying that the world is now experiencing 'terrible suffering on an unprecedented scale'.

The Queen's Christian faith is well-known. In recent years, Her Majesty has referred to her beliefs in public statements, including Christmas broadcasts.

The Servant Queen and the King She Serves highlights the Queen's faith and how it has shaped her personal life and service to the nation. A 12-page schools version has been published by Scripture Union. Copies are available in packs of 10 at £1 a copy (plus p&p).

Visit www.hopetogether.org.uk/thequeen to order copies. © *Parish Pump*

Notes from the PCC

The meeting on Tuesday 15th March was the last one before the Annual Parochial Church meeting in April, so we reviewed the report from the PCC which will be presented to the meeting, and also the annual accounts for 2015. These two in combination are quite a good guide as to where we are in our plans for the future. Although we don't seem to have done an awful lot (apart from prepare for the HLF grant!) in the past year, when we look in detail, quite a lot has gone on, and we have been active in most areas of parish life. Do please come along to the APCM to support the work we are doing. New faces are always welcome on the PCC, as sidespersons or on any of the rotas. Please consider if you could help in any of these ways.

The safeguarding session held in February was a very worthwhile and productive meeting. Jenny Price, the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer for our area, was very impressed with the attendance, the knowledge and commitment of those there. It was good to have a sizeable contingent from the Scout Group and several members of the congregation, some involved with work with vulnerable groups and others who just wanted to be aware of the issues.

As you will read elsewhere, the current phase of work undertaken with the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been completed and we are more or less back to normal. As a follow-up to this, we are looking at the possibility of having some additional work done on the heating, lighting and electrical sockets - if we can find more funding. We have also had leaks in the roof, caused by winter storms, mended and the fence in between the church and our neighbour in Shuttleworth Lane replaced. There is always something which needs to be done!

The Environmental Sub-Group is busy considering how we can function in a more environmentally-friendly way and have been looking at ways to interact with the congregation, including films, quiet times, study sessions and - of course - shared lunches. More information will be available soon.

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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