

Letter from the Vicar

‘At the cross, at the cross, where I first saw the light...’

As I write this I am really looking forward to the Festival of Crosses at St Saviours over Passiontide and Easter. Patrick was in church this week (as usual) and was telling me that he had started to count all the crosses he could find in church even before the festival is set up. He stopped counting at twenty-odd. I'm really looking forward to seeing the crosses that have a special significance to people in church and reading the story behind them. I'm donating three crosses (well loaning them for the festival). One of them is a reproduction of an icon which is gold coloured and very ornate. The crucified Jesus is of course the central figure but above and surrounding him are other figures, some disciples (probably) and other followers. It's significant for me because it was given to me by two priests who were clergy in a group of parishes in the Durham diocese. I did a stint with them during my training and their 'tradition' which was very 'high' (they called it reformed catholic) was about as far away from my own experience of Christian worship as it could get. The church was filled with candles, incense, statues of Mary (our Lady of Walsingham), a monstrance, reserved sacrament, acolytes, much genuflecting, crossing one's self, you name it, they even read from the daily Missal (the Roman prayer book). It was a long way from my Brethren upbringing but those two priests were among the most caring, funny, respected in their community, sincere people I have ever met. The biggest thing I learned while I was with them was that God accepts all ways to worship so long as it comes from the heart with the right motives and that it's wrong to criticise our brothers and sisters just because they have differing styles of worship. When I left they gave me the Icon as a leaving present.

My second cross is quite a new cross. It was a gift from my son and daughter in law and is a group of people carrying a cross. It speaks of course of the passage in Luke 9:

[22] And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must

be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

[23] Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. [24] For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. [25] What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? [26] If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels."

It's a challenging instruction. Being a Christian demands our all if we are to be effective disciples of Jesus. When Jesus said these words he was travelling to Jerusalem with a rag tag crowd of followers. They thought he was about to claim the throne and rid them from their enemies once and for all in some great show of might and power. The last thing they expected was that Jesus was destined for death by crucifixion. The path Jesus was about to tread meant completely denying himself and literally taking up his cross. Taking up our own crosses can mean different things for different people, but for everyone it means walking the path with Jesus, whatever that may bring. And yes, it has even meant death for many.

My third cross can only be at the festival when I am, it's my newest cross and tattooed onto my arm. It also is there as a memento of Durham (St Cuthbert's cross and the cross of Durham Cathedral) . We spent 2 very happy years living on the river bank with Durham Cathedral as our next door neighbour and that cross (pictured) is now with me for the rest of my life. Permanent as it is, it is still not as permanent as the power of Christ's cross on my life. St Paul says in his letter to the Corinthians that *'the message of the **cross** is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.'* It is through the cross that we are saved and reconciled to God. It's by the cross our sins are rolled away. There's a great scene in Pilgrims Progress near the beginning of the story where Christian, laden down with his burden goes to the foot of the cross and as he does his burden falls from him and rolls away down the hill. That's just what the cross does, it takes our sin away.

The cross is the place where Jesus did win a great victory over sin, Satan and death. In Colossians Paul says, *'And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the **cross**.'*

And it cost him everything, even his life.

But the cross is only half the story. A few years ago a friend of mine was in a small Spanish town during the Easter period. He said that in this town Holy Week was amazing, events and meaningful services all week culminating in a grand procession on Good Friday when a figure of the crucified Jesus was lifted up and paraded through the streets that were lined with reverent townsfolk. But Easter morning seemed a bit of a let down. No great celebration, no parades through the streets, no music being played through the town, just rather understated church services.

We need to remember that the cross gives way to resurrection. Death could not hold Christ and our faith is not only based on the cross but on the empty tomb. The writer of Hebrews says, *'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the **cross**, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.'*

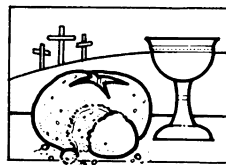
Andy

Steeton Male Voice Choir

This is advance warning that Steeton Male Voice Choir will again be coming to give a concert at St. Saviour's - on Saturday 2nd October 2010. More details will be given nearer the time, but please mark the date in your diary. Anyone who came to the last concert will remember what a wonderful evening this was last time - so spread the word!

Serenade Dance Band

The Dance Band which rehearses in our hall on Wednesday evenings would love to welcome some new members. If you are interested, or know someone who is, please contact Bob Lumb on 01274 484178.



APRIL PARISH DIARY

Thursday 1 st	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	10.00 a.m.	Festival of Crosses
	7.30 p.m.	Agape meal at St. James's
Friday 2 nd	1.00 p.m.	Walk of Witness at Thornton
	2.00 p.m.	Meditation
	2.00 p.m.	Festival of Crosses
	7.30 p.m.	Meditation at St. James's
Saturday 3 rd	10.00 a.m.	Festival of Crosses

SUNDAY 4TH EASTER DAY

	6.30 a.m.	Dawn service at the Bell Chapel
	7.15 a.m.	Breakfast at The Tyke
	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wednesday 7 th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
	8.15 p.m.	Serenade Dance Band Rehearsal
Thursday 8 th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer

SUNDAY 11TH 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Junior Church
Tuesday 13 th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 14 th	9.30 a.m.	NO SERVICE
	11.30 a.m.	Ings Way Lunch Day
	8.15 p.m.	Serenade Dance Band rehearsal
Thursday 15 th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 18TH 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

	9.30 a.m.	Parade Service & Holy Communion
Tuesday 20 th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 21 st	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's

	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	8.15 p.m.	Serenade Dance Band rehearsal
Thursday 22nd	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

SUNDAY 25TH 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Junior Church
Tuesday 27th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 28th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	8.15 p.m.	Serenade Dance Band rehearsal
Thursday 29th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

Easter Hot Cross Buns

As you indulge in your Easter hot cross buns this year, pause to consider that really, a hot cross bun is a symbol of the Resurrection which refuses to go stale. A hot cross bun is a sermon in itself.

The shape of the bun reminds us of the stone that rolled away early on that first Easter morning – not to let a living Lord out, but to allow his disciples to discover an empty tomb. And the special spices used in the baking process bring to mind the gifts of love brought by faithful women to anoint their Master's body. The fruits of the Spirit of Jesus in the lives of his followers are represented by the sultanas and currants that make the bun so delicious, and the cross is the triumphant emblem of Christ's work completed on earth.



© Parish Pump

Ings Way Lunch Day

On Wednesday 14th April, there won't be the usual service of Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m. The Lunch Day, however, will take place as usual so you are invited to come along for a free lunch of homemade soup, sandwiches, sausage roll, biscuits and tea/coffee. There is usually some music to which you can sing along, dance or just sit and listen.

Miscellaneous observations on daily life...

I can't remember the last time I forgot something.
Why remember quotes when you can make them up?
Monday is an awful way to spend 1/7th of your life.
Oh, I'm sorry, were the voices in my head bothering you?
Failure Is Not An Option. It Comes Bundled With The Software.
Heredity: every parent believes in it until their children act like fools.
I think my family tree is a few branches short of full bloom.
Grandchildren are God's reward for not killing your own children.

Both sides of the coin....

Lancelot Fleming, Dean of Windsor, is credited with the following:—

O, Lord, grant that we may not be like porridge,
(stiff, stodgy and hard to stir):
But may be like cornflakes -
Crisp, fresh and ready to serve

Amen.

BUT there was this Scottish Grace as a riposte:

O. Lord, grant that we may not be like cornflakes
(lightweight, brittle and cold):
But may be like porridge -
Warm, comforting and full of natural goodness.

Amen. © Parish Pump

To wash—or not to wash?

While on holiday in Spain, Eric, one of our Churchwardens, treated himself to some new shirts. The washing instructions were as follows:

- You can hydrograph machinery washing in 40.
- You can't using bleach and launder powder of inclusion bleach.
- You can wield micro therm smoothing in 110.
- You can fumifator it dry in wield microtherm scrolling.

He and Wendy are still scratching their heads !

Do you get cross with your computer?

Go on – admit it – you have threatened your computer with mayhem at sometime or other. Apparently we spend almost eight days a year on fighting some problem or other on our computers. What annoys us most is waiting for computers to load, our laptop battery running out of power, and searching for files. Other irritations include frequent pop-ups, installing new printers and dealing with internet security threats.

One in five of us take our frustration out on our mouse or keyboard by battering it. One third of us literally shout at our computer. Others hand the problem over to someone else and go and relax with a cup of tea. A full 40% of us say that we don't want flashy updates, but a computer that 'just works!'

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Easter and Crosses

The Festival of Crosses continues until Easter Day, with a variety of crosses on show which people have donated. There are all sorts on display - those people have bought or had given which mean something special to them, or ones people have made. The church will be open for visitors as follows:

Thursday 1st April 10.00 - 11.00 am

Friday 2nd April 2.00 - 4.00pm

Saturday 3 April 10.00 - 12.00 noon.

Refreshments will be available, so do come along.

We are also continuing our range of services for Holy Week and Easter:

Maundy Thursday (1st April)

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at **St. Saviour's**

7.30 p.m. Agape meal (booking required) at **St. James's**

Good Friday (2nd April)

1.00 p.m. Thornton Walk of Witness (from Sacred Heart)

2.00 p.m. Meditation at **St. Saviour's**

7.30 p.m. Meditation at **St. James's**

Easter Day (4th April)

6.30 a.m. Dawn service in the Bell Chapel

7.15 a.m. Breakfast at The Tyke (Booking required through John Mawdesley 833424)

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at **St. Saviour's**

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion at **St. James's**

Enjoy your Easter Egg

For anyone with an Easter Egg, here is some good news: chocolate can at least help you prevent a stroke. Just a bar a week will cut the risk of a stroke by more than a fifth. It seems that the food is rich in flavonoids, a health antioxidant. On the other hand, chocolate is rich in saturated fat.... you can't win.



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46th Bradford North Cubs

Every year the Cubs collect money for the 'District Good Turn'. We have a collecting box and if our children bring a minimum of 10p each week they earn points towards the inspection award. We do hope though that from time to time they think about the cause for which they are collecting money too! This year Andrea's Gift is our chosen charity.

This charity was formed after the death of Andrea Key, aged just 42, in 2002. She died as a result of an aggressive brain tumour. The charity was set up by her friends and family.

At the District Quiz, held on 6th March, our two teams were placed 2nd and 3rd. They all enjoyed the afternoon and certainly proved that their brains were working very well indeed.

We have been busy thinking about symbols of Easter including the cross as we prepare for the Festival of Crosses.

The Annual St. George's Day Parade will take place on Sunday 25th April. The service will be held at the Cathedral with a parade into Centenary Square at about one o'clock.

We are all looking forward to a District Badge Weekend that takes place from 18th - 20th June at Blackhills Scout Camp. So far twelve of our Cubs will join fifty more from across the District who will be aiming to gain as many as six badges during that weekend.

Bev Howard GROUP SCOUT LEADER

Time Out

The 'Time Out' Scheme is a service organised through Bradford Council. This original Sitting Service was set up in 1984 following extensive research which highlighted the need for a service designed to be of direct benefit to the family carer. Bradford was a pioneer in this field and consequently became a role model for other authorities up and down the country setting up a similar service. Originally, the service catered for people over the age of 65 and was known as the Elderly Sitting Service.

In November 1999 the scheme was expanded to include younger people with a physical disability. In 2008 it was extended again to include people with a learning disability and the name was changed to Time Out. Central to the success of this service is the recruitment of high calibre sitters, who have the commitment to provide ongoing support to family carers and service users. Ongoing support and training is given to registered sitters to develop standards of care which family carers and service users have a right to expect.

The following poem appeared in their Winter 2009/10 Newsletter and is reproduced with kind permission of the author Gwen Fieldhouse

Time is precious, we know that to be true,
But also at times it can go slowly for you.
When caring for a loved one starts to take its toll,
Even though in your heart you know it's your role.
A little knowledge of what's out there,
With help and friendly services from the people who care.
Time Out could be the answer to give that vital break,
A shopping trip, walk in the park, a course, are all available to take.
So don't be shy and let the days pass you by,
Give us a ring and give Time Out a try.

If anyone would like further details regarding the Time Out Service,
their telephone number is 01274 437934.

Val Muff

Incredible and stark reminder

“Why would God want to come close to someone like me” said the young man. He felt full of rubbish. He had done so many terrible things there was no way Jesus could possibly like him, let alone want to come into his life. “Why would he want to do that?” he said out loud.

“Because he loves you,” said a woman softly. She herself had only just begun to experience God in her life in a significant way.

And that’s what Easter is all about: God loves you and me.

The Christian cross is an incredible and stark reminder that Jesus died there for you and me – because he loves us. That was Good Friday; hanging there almost naked with nails through his hands and feet. He was doing it because of his father’s love. His father could not bear seeing the world in such a mess. He sent his only son to sort us all out. That was his last hope: to send his son. Surely people would respect him and turn to him? Some did, but powerful people felt threatened by this man’s brilliant effectiveness. People were turning to him instead of them. They had to do something to get rid of him. They were very jealous. They crucified him.

That was the end - they thought. He would die and his followers would give up. Just before he died, Jesus cried out in agony: “It is finished!” Some thought he was saying: “I am finished.” But no. He was saying: “IT - my work on earth- is finished!” He had done what he was called to do. He died and was buried with soldiers guarding the tomb, so the body would not be stolen by his followers. But his enemies were totally outwitted. For Jesus did not stay dead. He came alive again. Three days later on the first day of the week – Sunday, the first Easter Day - people began seeing him walking around alive. Over 500 people saw him alive after this amazing resurrection.

And the point of it all? To show us that God loves us, whatever rubbish we have inside of us. And his promise? That if we turn to him and forsake our old, sinful, ways, than we can have life. Indeed, you can find abundant life, and one day – life eternal! Forever! © *Parish Pump*

Newes

The sheep upon a thousand hills
Tell of their joys and of their ills
By bleating one unto another
Of each news item they discover.

You may well hear, upon the air,
A high-pitched bleat that sounds like 'bair'!
But sometimes their signals deeper are;
A much maturer, richer, 'baah'!

Maybe the news will be quite dull -
"Poor Meg's got mud upon her wool!"
But, on occasion, news is deep -
"Old Bertram's been hit by a jeep!"

"A jeep you say, a 4 x 4?"
"Ah, yes, but with a dented door,
"The driver swore, he said, 'Oh, bleep!' -
"His car is worse off than the sheep!"

And so the news goes far and wide,
From top of hill to riverside,
From bleat to bleat, and baa to baa,
They tell how Bertram wrecked a car!

So, if you drive on moor or dale,
Hear the sheep, and without fail,
Slow down as you cross the grating:
The sheep are bleating, 'Bertram's waiting'!

By Nigel Beeton

Signs & Symbols: Seating

Where does the minister sit in your church? Often there will be a special chair or 'stall' set aside for them. If you have a look in old church buildings you'll see in the chancel area some seats (sedilia) set into the wall. These vary from being a single plain seat for the priest alone, to being quite ornate holding up to four people. They even come stepped, so that the people are sitting at different heights.

In Medieval times, during Mass, the priest was the celebrant, the deacon read the Gospel and the sub-deacon read the Epistle. They would be seated in the sedilia while the Creed and Gloria were being sung, giving them a time of rest during a long ceremony. Where the seats are at different heights the priest would have sat on the highest one, nearest the altar. Later when Chantry endowments provided some churches with several clergy in full orders, the seats were all made at one level. Where there are four seats the last would have been for the clerk.

In many churches you have to look very carefully for these seats as over time they have been rearranged, and sometimes even the floor around them has been raised so they no longer look like seats.

More modern churches also need somewhere for the priests and deacons to sit and often you will find very fine chairs placed near the altar for them.

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Dates for your Diary

In addition to the Steeton Male Voice Choir, the following events are being planned for the coming year. Details will emerge nearer the time, but please make a note of the following:

Sunday 16th May—a Treasure hunt, after the morning service finishing with lunch at the Girlington & District Conservative Club.

Thursday 24th June—A bowls evening at the West Bradford Bowls Club

Saturday 26th June—Strawberry Fair

Saturday 16th July—Coffee morning and Table top Sal

Notes from the PCC

Report from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

After a stint of 6 years, Patrick Preston comes to the end of his term as Churchwarden and he was warmly thanked for all his hard work in this time and especially for helping Andy as he settled into his new role. Eric Heywood is to continue as Churchwarden and was also thanked for all he has done so far and we were delighted to welcome Kaaren Raistrick as our new warden. There will be a short period of handover before Kaaren takes over from Patrick. The official date will be some time in May when all the wardens in the Diocese are sworn into their new office.

The three “retiring” members of the PCC - Margaret Holdsworth, Keith West and Hilary Davis - all applied for re-election and were duly reinstated and Patrick and Kaaren swapped places as ex-officio and elected member. We also appointed the sidespeople for the coming year and Andy stressed what an important role they fulfil in welcoming people into the church and making sure they have what they need for the service, where to go, where to sit etc. The sidepeople will be officially welcomed into their role during a service in the next few weeks.

James Muff presented the accounts for 2009 and reported that we just about broke even, but income as a whole is down. This is something we need to look at in the forthcoming Stewardship campaign. Warm thanks were expressed to James for all his efforts over the year.

We heard a report from all the groups and organisations which meet at the church. Considering we are a relatively small church, an awful lot of things go on and we owe a big debt of gratitude to all who give so generously of their time to run the various activities - not just during the meetings themselves, but for the preparation and planning that is needed.

Andy summed up the meeting by thanking everyone for their efforts over the year and looked forward to 2010, with the exciting news that we have finally received the grant money and can at last go ahead with

the works on the toilets, car park and screen in the narthex.

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	(19
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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