

February Letter

Dear Friends,

I noticed recently that OFSTED is to drop the label 'satisfactory' following an inspection on the grounds that all too often, it could, more accurately, be 'could do better'. To me that sounds a very short step away from 'unsatisfactory'!

Then we get these customer surveys that ask us to rate a shop or product. The choices seem to be: excellent, very good, good, average, poor. What does average mean? Do we assess a shop on how it usually performs or on how retailers in general conduct their business? It often isn't very clear and average to some people means 'could do better'.

What do we say to someone who has been away on holiday if they ask "Were there many people in church last Sunday?" Average might be an acceptable reply. But "What was the service like?" and average by way of answer is rather off-putting. Even if *our* average performance lies somewhere between very good and excellent, average is hardly good enough. 'Average' implies sometimes better, sometimes worse and when we are talking about divine worship surely the aim should be 'one quality only - THE BEST'.

It isn't all dependent on the people taking the service, reading or leading intercessions. Everyone contributes in the course of a service to the special nature of serving our God as a group of believers. Having a familiar form of worship has its advantages, as we know what to expect, when to stand or sit, and how we expect everyone to behave, but it has its downside too; we are so used to what is happening that we do and say things automatically and let our minds wander. I'm as guilty as anyone else, and it requires much effort to keep focussed on the matter in hand and to give only the best.

Patrick

FEBRUARY PARISH DIARY

Wednesday 1st	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Thursday 2 nd	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
	4.30 p.m.	K:Ing's Way Club
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts
Saturday 4 th	2.15 p.m.	Visit to Robinson Crusoe Panto

SUNDAY 5TH 3RD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Tuesday 7th	11.00 a.m.	Communion at Crossley House Care Home
	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 8th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.30 a.m.	Ings Way Lunch Day
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Thursday 9th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
	4.30 p.m.	K:Ing's Way Club
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

SUNDAY 12TH 2ND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Tuesday 14th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 15th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
Thursday 16th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
	4.30 p.m.	K:Ing's Way Club

SUNDAY 19TH SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

	9.30 a.m.	Parade Service & Holy Communion
Tuesday 21st	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 22nd	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Imposition of
Thursday 23rd	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	4.30 p.m.	K:Ing's Way Club
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts

7.30 p.m. Scouts

SUNDAY 26TH 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Tuesday 28th 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing

Wednesday 29th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's

6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts

K:Ing's Way Club

This is our exciting new club for children of Primary School age. It runs each Thursday from 4.30 to 5.30 p.m. and there will be craft activities, games, songs, snacks and FUN!! All children of the relevant age are most welcome to come along - so see you there!

Ash Wednesday

At 7.30 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, 22nd February, there will be a service of Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes at St. Saviour's. All are most welcome to come along. Lifts are available for those who have difficulty coming out in the evenings. Please sign the sheets at the back of church, or have a word with the wardens.

Women's World Day of Prayer

'Let Justice Prevail'

On Friday 2nd March over 3 million people world wide will be praying and worshipping together during an annual day of prayer, using a form of service prepared by Christian women in Malaysia. **Churches Together in Allerton and Fairweather Green have organised a service at Allerton Methodist Church at 2.00 p.m.** to which everyone is welcome.

Jean Hackett, president of the National Committee of the WWDP movement in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, said: 'This is always an exciting day as a great wave of prayer sweeps the world, beginning when the first service is held in the Queen Salote Girls School in Tonga and continuing around the world until the final service takes place, some 35 hours later, in neighbouring Western Samoa. By then the day will have been celebrated in over 170 countries and more than 6,000 services will have been held in the British Isles alone.'

Malaysia is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country. Throughout its history it has attracted migrants from other parts of Asia and beyond and it is one of the wealthiest and most developed countries in South East Asia. Women have made important contributions to its social and economic development but, nevertheless, they still face discrimination and violence at all levels of society. Even today a girl child is seen as less valuable than a boy. Malaysia is now the most popular destination country in Asia for migrant workers and human trafficking has become a sophisticated and organised operation.

Although Malaysia's multi-ethnicity has added to the rich heritage of its land and people, it has also given rise to many problems. Those issues of concern are named and the women voice their hope for the future. Justice for all is their hope, and their prayer is "Let Justice Prevail".

Although organised and led by women, this is essentially a day of prayer for everybody.

Electoral Roll and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Each year in time for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting we revise our electoral roll. This is the list of people who “belong” to St. Saviour’s and are eligible to vote for the various officers of the church. It doesn’t cost anything to enroll, or commit you to anything; it just marks you out as one of our members. It is open to anyone aged 16 or over who is a baptised member of the Church of England (or a partner church) and who lives within the parish or regularly attends services. If you are interested, please have a word with Keith West, our Electoral Roll Officer, before 12th February. At the meeting we elect members of the PCC, Churchwardens and sidespeople. We are always glad to have new recruits for these, so if you are interested, have a word with the vicar or wardens, or sign the sheets at the back of church. This year’s meeting is on **Sunday 4th March at 11.00 a.m.** in the Church Hall. We also hear reports from the various organisations who use our hall, a summary of the church’s activities over the past year, plans for the year ahead and the vicar’s thoughts on how things are going. This is your chance to hear what is happening and put your forward your ideas for the future - so please come and join us.

THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER - ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE.

Ian Mc Alpine.

During the English Civil War in the 1640s the Church of England was disestablished and replaced by the Presbyterian system of church government. The Church of England was governed by a hierarchy of ordained clergy, a system dating back many centuries. However, the Presbyterian system was more modern and had developed during the Reformation in the 16th century. Each church was governed by a number of presbyters (elders) who sent representatives to local meetings known as *classes*. Naturally, the system strongly appealed to the Parliamentarians because it appeared more democratic and involved a simpler style of worship. The new system gained ground after the execution of Charles I in 1649 and throughout the Commonwealth period.

When the monarchy was restored in 1660 King Charles II understandably wanted to reinstate the Church of England. In 1662 an Act of Uniformity

was passed which required, among other things, that every ordained minister should use in church the forms of worship contained in the revised Book of Common Prayer which was published that year and whose 350th anniversary we celebrate in 2012. The 1662 prayer book had a long history dating back to the Reformation, had first appeared in 1549 during the reign of Edward VI and is still occasionally used in Anglican churches. The 1662 Act required every ordained minister to declare his "unfeigned assent and consent" to everything contained in the new prayer book. This caused serious difficulties for many clergy and lay people who still supported the Presbyterian form of worship which had been enforced since 1646 and throughout Cromwell's regime.

Rev. Edmund Jones (1624 - 1674), the Vicar of Eccles near Manchester since 1652, still had strong Presbyterian sympathies and refused to accept the new prayer book. Like some 2,000 other clergy all over England with similar views he was deprived of his living because of his beliefs and replaced by a conforming vicar. However, Jones had many supporters who over the next few years met illegally to worship at various houses and barns in the district. Like John Bunyan, the author of "The Pilgrim's Progress", Jones was imprisoned for his nonconformity at least once. In 1673 he was discovered preaching in the barn of Alexander Lever in Eccles "under pretence of religious worship". He and his congregation of 45 were all reported to the local magistrates and presumably fined. Jones himself died the following year aged only 49. The history of the congregation over the next fifteen years is rather obscure but there is some evidence that they continued to meet secretly.

The accession of William III and Mary II in 1689 brought happier times for most Protestant nonconformists in England. In 1677 William had married Mary, the daughter of the Duke of York who became James II after his brother Charles' death. William III came from Holland where there was a more liberal attitude towards religious nonconformity than there was in England. Consequently in 1689 the Act of Toleration was passed which allowed most Protestant nonconformists to worship freely provided they obtained licences for their meeting houses from the local magistrates. The Eccles Presbyterians made the most of the improved situation. A minister, Rev. Roger Baldwin, was appointed and between 1689 and 1696 no fewer than eight privately owned buildings in Eccles

were licensed for nonconformist worship and they built their first chapel nearby at Monton in 1698. The congregation, now Unitarian, still meets at Monton and I was christened in its fourth church building, a large Victorian structure, in 1957.

But more than 50 years later, now I live in Bradford and am an active member of the Church of England. I still sometimes think of the hardships faced by one member of Edmund Jones's congregation, a basket maker from Eccles called Ellis Markland (1643 - 1682). Ellis's family had originated in Wigan in the 13th century and had settled in Eccles in 1589. And he was one of those 45 people who attended the illegal service in Alexander Lever's barn back in 1673 and presumably refused to accept the Act of Uniformity and the 1662 Prayer Book. His elder brother Richard, born in 1640 was my 9 x great-grandfather . And their father, another Ellis, my 10 x great-grandfather (1611 - 1668), born the year the King James Bible was first published was another of Jones's friends and supporters. Edmund Jones witnessed Ellis's will in 1668.

So let us remember when we rightly celebrate this special anniversary how fortunate we are in 2012 to live in a far more enlightened and tolerant society in which Anglicans live in harmony with other denominations and other faiths. 350 years ago things were so very, very different.

(See inside front cover for illustration of a pamphlet highlighting the tensions of the period.)

Bibliography:

Ian Mc Alpine, The origins of Monton Chapel, 1662 - 1715, Monton Church, 1985.

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46th Bradford North Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

The 46th Cubs Bistro opened for business at 7.30pm on Thursday 23rd November and proved to be a huge success. The Cubs had spent four weeks practising their culinary skills making garlic mushrooms, omelettes, pancakes, shepherd's pies and cheesecakes. Our fifty guests all seemed to enjoy their meals and left satisfied and impressed with our young people's skills. All Cubs gained their cooking activity badges as a result.

On December 10th twenty Cubs and Scouts were raising money at Asda down in Forster Square. Some voluntarily singing Christmas songs and carols to the unsuspecting shoppers. We raised over £400.

We held a Group party on the 22nd December at The Conservative Club. Mr. McWhitty came along to entertain the Beavers and Cubs with his magic show and our older members enjoyed playing on the Wii and singing on the karaoke. A number of parents joined in with the quiz in the lounge.

Due to the sudden departure of our three Beaver leaders in December we now have a new leadership team in place and hope that parents will also be willing to help out. Jennifer Kitson and John Ratnik are now in charge of our youngest members who meet each Thursday from 6pm until 7.30pm.

The Cubs will be taking part in the District Games tournament to be held at the end of January. This month both Cub and Scout sections will send representatives to the County Cooking competitions.

Bev Howard GROUP SCOUT LEADER

Hats, Gloves and Scarves

We are grateful to everyone who donated hats, gloves and scarves for the Big Issue sellers. Val Muff has received the following letter of thanks from the Big Issue in the North Trust.

Dear Val

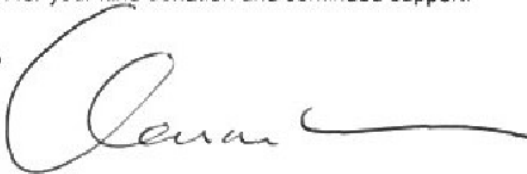
I'm writing with thanks for the kind donation of hats and scarves to the vendors of The Big Issue in the North.

Your donation will really help our vendors stay warm while they are out on the street trying to improve their lives by selling the magazine.

I'd really like to keep you updated with the latest news from The Big Issue in the North offices in future and plan to send you out a newsletter in the spring, which will include a piece about the kind donations of clothing that we've received this winter. Please do let me know if you'd rather not receive any further mail from us.

Thank you again for your kind donation and continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christian Lisseman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christian Lisseman
The Big Issue in the North Trust

The Seven Wonders of the World

Author Unknown

Junior high school students in Chicago were studying the Seven Wonders of the World. At the end of the lesson, they were asked to list the things they considered to be the Seven Wonders. Though there was some disagreement, the following received the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. The Taj Mahal in India
3. The Grand Canyon in Arizona
4. The Panama Canal
5. The Empire State Building
6. St. Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall

The teacher noted that one student, a quiet girl, hadn't handed her paper in yet. So she asked her if she was having trouble with her list. She replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many." The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help." The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

1. to touch...
2. to taste...
3. to see...
4. to hear... (She hesitated a little, and then added...)
5. to feel...
6. to laugh...
7. and to love.

The room was so quiet, you could have heard a pin drop.

May this story serve as a gentle reminder to all of us that the things we overlook as simple and ordinary are often the most wonderful - and we don't have to travel anywhere special to experience them. Enjoy your gifts!

Diamond Jubilee: Elizabeth - Child of Destiny

In 1926 a baby girl was born to the younger son of King George V. She was named Elizabeth and was joined a few years later by a sister, Margaret Rose. Growing up in royal circles, in the custom of the time they were privately educated at home. Elizabeth knew from an early age that her father was a royal prince, but it would probably never have occurred to her that he might one day be the King nor, even more improbably, that she would one day be Queen. After all, the Prince of Wales and heir to the throne was the very popular and personable Edward. Her father was altogether of a more retiring nature and - as the whole world now knows - was handicapped by a serious stutter.

When Elizabeth was ten an event occurred which shook the nation and was destined to change the whole course of her life. Edward, Prince of Wales, had become king on the death of his father in 1936. However, before his coronation he made it known that he wished to marry an American woman, Wallis Simpson, who was divorced. That would probably not seem an insurmountable problem today - after all, the current heir to the throne is married to a divorced woman - but in 1936 it provoked a constitutional crisis. The Archbishop of Canterbury was opposed to the marriage. The Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, and his cabinet came to the conclusion that despite Edward's popularity it was unlikely that the people would ever accept Mrs Simpson as his Consort, let alone their Queen.

The newspapers had a field day, the nation was in uproar, and a new ditty was added to children's playground repertoire:

Hark the herald angels sing, Mrs Simpson stole our king.

Of course, she hadn't 'stolen' him. Far from it. Everything he said indicated that - as he put it in his last broadcast speech to the nation - he could not achieve anything 'without the support of the woman I love'. The final outcome was inevitable. Edward signed an Act of Abdication, and as he did so his younger brother George automatically became king - and the young Elizabeth (though she may not at that moment have realised it) became heir to the throne.

A story was told at the time of the two sisters, Elizabeth and Margaret, being challenged in Windsor Great Park, where they were playing, by a security guard who didn't realise who they were. 'Now then, you two, what are you doing here? Who are you?'

Elizabeth, taking responsibility for her younger sister, replied, 'Oh, we're nobody. But our daddy is the King'. So he was - somewhat reluctantly. But he had an almost painful aversion to the public spotlight that now inevitably followed him, his strong and dedicated wife (another Elizabeth) and the two small girls.

Storm clouds were gathering over Europe. Hitler was demanding more territory in which to build his Arian dreamland. Already Jews were being rounded up and labelled in Germany and Austria. The new King and his family, together with the people he was pledged to serve, were about to face a monumental test of courage, character and resolve.

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Forgiveness

A Sunday School teacher had just concluded her lesson and wanted to make sure she had made her point. She said, "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?" There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up. "Sin," he said.

The boss

My boss was complaining in a staff meeting the other day that he wasn't getting any respect. Later that morning he went out and got a small sign that read, "I'm the Boss".

He then taped it to his office door. Later that day when he returned from lunch, he found that someone had taped a note to the sign that said. "Your wife called, she wants her sign back!"

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Notes from the PCC

The meeting on January 18th looked forward to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 4th March. As we have a "rolling programme" of PCC membership, three members stand down each year and must apply for re-election if they wish to continue on the Council. This year, we also have a 4th vacancy, so if you think you would like to join us, please have a word with the Vicar, Wardens or any member of PCC. We are always glad to have new blood!

It would be excellent if we could attract more people to come to our church. Andy is keen to get together a small group of people to discuss ideas, so please have a word with him if you are interested.

Four new Communion Assistants have been licensed by the Bishop to administer the chalice at Communion services - so congratulations to James Muff, Kaaren Raistrick, Sue Lamb and Elaine Strowger. We are delighted to have them as part of the team.

Although ours is a relatively new building, there are always maintenance issues. The recent bad weather brought to light several leaks which need urgent attention, and we have asked for quotes for pruning work on the trees in the church grounds, which have become quite overgrown. We are also to have a Quinquennial Inspection in the next few weeks, which may highlight other issues.

We are very much looking forward to the start of our new K:Ing's Way Club for primary-school aged children, on Thursday 2nd February from 4.30 to 5.30 p.m. The launch party is on 28th January and we hope it will be a big success. All children of primary school age are welcome - the more the merrier!

The Worship Committee has made plans for a full programme of services for Holy Week and Easter as we have had in previous years. More details in next month's magazine

Hilary Davis - PCC Secretary.

Laid to Rest

Doreen Lee

16th January 2012

FEBRUARY ROLL OF REMEMBRANCE

1st	Sydney Shewan	(1978)
4th	Mabel Holgate	(1981)
9th	Annie Varley	(1983)
10th	Harold Blackburn	(1984)
	Nellie Curtis	(1986)
12th	Janie Jackson	(1990)
14th	Doris Smith	(1979)
	Doris Butterfield	(1994)
18th	Edward Chater	(1982)
	Mabel Barraclough	(1984)
19th	Clara Coplin	(1985)
	May Surtees	(2002)
21st	May Ashton	(1979)
22nd	William K. Naylor	(1977)
	Minnie Brett	(1984)
23rd	Billy Fawbert	(1979)
24th	George Hayhurst	(1984)
28th	Charles Exley	(1980)
29th	Sarah Ellen Firth	(1979)

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