

## February Letter

Dear Friends,

New Year now seems like a fading memory. Are your New Year resolutions also forgotten? It is so often the case. We start off with good intentions but are either too ambitious or over-confident to sustain them for more than a few days or weeks.

Don't worry. After that experience of failure, maybe we have learnt enough to try again and be more realistic and successful. On 13<sup>th</sup> February, it's Ash Wednesday - the start of Lent, a traditional season of fast and abstinence.

I suggest that 'doing something for Lent' could be less arduous than a New Year resolution. For one thing, it only lasts for forty days and as Sundays don't count (you can't fast and feast at the same time) it's easier to establish a rule for ourselves with a realistic time limit. And although fasting usually means going without food (or at least cutting down) a Lenten rule doesn't necessarily mean giving something up but could involve doing something extra like visiting a neighbour more often, doing a few more favours for people or even spending a few additional minutes in prayer or reading the Bible.

The point of it all must be self-discipline. Nobody need know if we cheat on our rule and sneak an extra biscuit, it's up to us to make the rules and keep them. Not that there's any virtue in being smug come Easter because we managed to stick to it, but perhaps a pointer to being a little more strict with ourselves next year because this time didn't test us enough.

Lent can be an experience. Enjoy it.

*Patrick*

## FEBRUARY PARISH DIARY

### SUNDAY 3RD

#### CANDLEMAS

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion ( <i>Revd. Ian Slater</i> )
Tuesday 5th	11.00 a.m.	Communion at Crossley House Care Home
	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
	7.30 p.m.	Airedale Deanery Synod
Wednesday 6th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Thursday 7th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

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### SUNDAY 10TH

#### SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer ( <i>Mrs. Jean Bailey</i> )
	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Paul's, Manningham
Tuesday 12th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 13th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion and Ashing for Ash Wednesday
	11.30 a.m.	Ing's Way Lunch Day
Thursday 14th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

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### SUNDAY 17TH

#### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

	9.30 a.m.	Parade Service & Holy Communion <i>(Revd. Ian Slater)</i>
Tuesday 19th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 20th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	7.30 p.m.	Lent Group
Thursday 21st	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer

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### SUNDAY 24TH

#### 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion ( <i>Revd. Ian Slater</i> <i>and Revd. Dominic Moghal</i> )
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Tuesday 26th	7.30 p.m.	Adult Tap Dancing
Wednesday 27th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Lent Group
Thursday 28th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

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**The K:Ing's Way Club is coming soon—details on the website !!**

### **Ash Wednesday**

At 9.30 a.m. on Ash Wednesday, 13th February, there will be a service of Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes at St. Saviour's. All are most welcome to come along.

### **Bookcase (and books) Required**

If anyone has a bookcase they no longer require, would they be willing to donate this item to church? We are planning to have a bookcase in the narthex on a permanent basis for the sale of books in aid of church funds. Please have a word with Va Muff if you are able to help. We should also be grateful for donations of second-hand **Christian** books. We have plenty of secular books, but if you have any Christian ones you have finished with, we should be happy to recycle them for you!

### **Life in a spin**

*Rev. Dr. Gary Bowness, vicar of Henbury, near Macclesfield*

Many years ago, at the Pleasure Beach at Blackpool, there was a 'ride' or amusement that was strictly for the physically fit. It consisted of a flat wooden disc about 20 feet in diameter and set at an angle of 45 degrees in the floor. When it began to rotate, the aim was to get to the centre where there was a pole. As the disc rotated faster and faster, everyone who failed to get to the pole got flung off. Nowadays there's probably a European Community regulation banning it as far too dangerous! The principle of the game was a basic law of physics. When any wheel rotates, the outer rim moves fastest of all. Half way to the centre and you are moving a lot more slowly. And, at least theoretically, at the absolute centre will be a point which is totally still. That's why

anyone who reached that pole could stand there quite comfortably.

We have just started the Church's season of Lent. It's generally thought of as being a time for giving up chocolate, wine, whatever. But it's really a time to remind us that in our own rapidly spinning world, God is the still centre. All around God is motion, sound, change and decay – galaxies circling, seasons and years rotating, life developing and decaying. And at the still centre, where there is no variability, is God, the same yesterday, today and forever.

Only about seven weeks ago Christians worldwide were thinking of God getting involved in a special way in the ever moving and changing life of the world. And one great characteristic of Jesus was his stillness. Busy, harassed, injured people found someone with neither clever chat nor idle gossip, neither vulgar boasting nor loud opinion. His life always seemed to rotate round a still central point, which gave him balance and authority.

"Be still then and know that I am God" wrote the Psalmist. Lent is a time for us to try and get a feel of what that still centre in our own lives may be like. Being still doesn't mean being silent. We're all very much in the world and live our lives in all of its busyness. But it may do none of us any harm to be a little more silent than we often are – quick to listen and slow to speak. And the more silent spaces we give ourselves, the more we'll give that still, small voice within each of us the chance to be heard. Of course, being still doesn't mean that we should become passive spectators, doing nothing. God's stillness is full of energy. That still centre of the spinning disc is also the point which drives the rest of the rotating circle. Equally, when we're in touch with that still centre, we'll be able to give strength and support to those who feel they're spinning at the edges.

Being still does mean that we need to take time to pause, to take stock, to take a critical look at our lives. That's what Lent is about. On the spinning discs of our own lives, we need to remember that there is a still centre, calm and yet full of energy – which is where God is.

### **Listen**

Young Jimmy was in the infants class. There was another little boy in the class who wasn't listening to the teacher. In exasperation, the teacher said to the restless boy: "Since you don't want to listen, you sit at that table by yourself."

After a few minutes, Jimmy raised his hand and said, "I don't want to listen either. Can I sit with him?"

### **Coins**

A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, 'No change yet.'

### **Yummy**

It was when cannibals ate a missionary, that they first got a taste for religion.

### **Don't sleep on it**

When I asked a friend the secret to his 52 years of marriage, he replied, "We never go to sleep angry. The longest we've been awake so far is five days."

### **Solved?**

My former vicar used to do a lot of marital guidance counselling, and was well known for it in our town. So he was a little surprised when a letter from a prisoner serving life for murdering his wife arrived in the parish office. "What does he need me for?" he mused. "He appears to have solved all his marital problems by himself."

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## **An Unusual 17th Century Bible From Oxford.**

### *Part 2 (Continued from last month)*

More than 200 years ago my 1680 Bible and metrical psalms described in the last issue belonged to Jane Trivett of London who died in 1814. "My Dear Aunt Jane Trivett Departed this Life June 30 - 1814 between 12 and 1 O Clock in the Morning this here is her bible given to me before her Death She was buried July 6 - 1814 Mary Ann Bowron [her signature]. Mr Thomas Treble Departed this Life October 22 - 1784 My Dear Father John Treble Brother to the above Departed this Life October 21 1814 5 minutes after 12 O Clock at noon Buried October 26 - 1814 at St John Wood". (*See illustration inside front cover*) Further family details followed. The same hand recorded on the previous page that "My Dear Husband Michael Bowron Departed this Life on Wenesday [sic] Morning April 4 - 1832 at a Quarter past 4 O Clock in the Morning". From this I deduced that Mary Ann Treble had married Michael Bowron who had died in 1832. The Bible was already well over a century old when Mary Ann acquired it and was probably a treasured family heirloom.

Research in the IGI soon revealed that the couple had married at St Marylebone in London, not so far from St John's Wood, on 14th April 1804. Mary Ann had been born on 27th September 1785 and was baptised at St Marylebone on 3rd November. She was only 18 when she married and was the fourth of the seven children of John Treble and Mary Trivett, married at St Marylebone on 2nd November, 1774. Jane Trivett who gave the Bible to her relation Mary Ann Bowron was probably Mary Trivett's unmarried sister. Although the IGI gives no details of occupation or social status the families lived in expensive areas of London so were presumably quite wealthy. The original parish registers upon which the IGI is based would supply more information.

And in 1822, eight years after her aunt Jane's death Mary Ann Bowron decided to have the Bible lavishly restored. It was already over 140 years old. It was expensively rebound in tooled and gilded black leather with a new (1821) edition of the Book of Common Prayer. Brass clasps were fitted, the edges of the pages were gilded and the endpapers and

inside covers were covered in red shot silk and more tooled black leather. A black leather label was added inside the front cover - "MARY ANN BOWRON 1822" in yet more gold leaf. One feels that Mary Ann, then about 37, had more money than taste and that she rather overdid it. Certainly she kept the Bible for at least another decade when she recorded her husband Michael's death in her usual obsessive detail. She appears to have had no children. The book's history after 1832 is lost but it evidently found its way to York at some time where I found it in 2005.

Mary Ann's Bible is now 333 years old and I've been able to uncover just a fraction of its long history. I wonder where else it has been and what stories it could tell!

*Ian Mc Alpine.*

### **Lent Course**

On behalf of Churches Together in Allerton and Fairweather Green, the Revd. Richard and Mrs. Jean Bailey and the Revd. Ian Slater have kindly agreed to run a Lent Course at St. Saviour's on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 p.m. starting on February 20th. They will again be using the York Course material and this year's title is "Glimpses of God."

There are five sessions:

The God who hears our cry  
The Shepherd who guides and guards his people  
The Son who is the Way, the Truth and the Life  
The God who shares our pain  
The God who calms our fears

All are most welcome to come along to all or any of the sessions.

# Women's World Day of Prayer

**Friday 1st March 2013**

*"I was a stranger and you welcomed me".*

Women's World Day of Prayer is a unique organisation: truly international and truly interdenominational. It speaks with the voices of women from all corners of the globe. Involvement in WWDP creates a network of Christian women on a worldwide scale which also reaches into our local community. Preparations go on for months in advance. Finally, at a service here at **St. Saviour's on Friday 1st March at 2.00 p.m.** women and men will be gathering to celebrate using a programme of worship this year prepared by women in France.

When the women of the French committee met to work on the material for 2013, the theme chosen for them became close to their hearts. **I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME.** The service they have written has a strong French feel and flavour.

France, like other European countries, receives many asylum requests. In 2011 51,900 people applied for asylum in France. The presence of these people in the country both enriches the culture and can cause social difficulties. Behind each request, each statistic, is the story of a life. Some of those stories will be shared in the service.

A great annual wave of prayer is envisaged, rising with the sun over the island of Samoa, and then sweeping across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas, until it comes to rest in American Samoa some 36 hours later. By then, services will have taken place in over 170 countries.

The services are open to all - men and women - so do please come along to support this worldwide wave of prayer. And then, join us for a cuppa afterwards!

## **46<sup>TH</sup> BRADFORD NORTH SCOUT GROUP**

20 of our older members enjoyed the Winter Camp held at Sconce at the beginning of December. Although it was rather cool (freezing at night brrrr) the sun shone during the day and spirits were high throughout the weekend. Our older Cubs thoroughly enjoyed the experience and can't wait to leave the pack and transfer up to the Troop! Several badges were gained during the camp.

We visited the Synagogue on Bowland Street on December 5<sup>th</sup> to learn a little about the Jewish faith and their place of worship. Our host was very amenable, although having to engage 30 youngsters aged between 6 and 14 was clearly not his vocation. Nevertheless we did find out more facts about Judaism and were able to see some of their religious artefacts and sacred treasures at close hand.

Our fund raising at the *Toys R Us* and *Asda Living* stores in Bradford proved a very fruitful affair and has helped to swell the coffers before we have to pay our headquarters annual fees that total just over £2000 this year.

Three of our Scouts and five Cubs are taking part, along with fifty others, in the Bradford City Scout Show which is to be held at the Bingley Arts Centre from the 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> March at 7.15pm. There is a matinee on Saturday at 2.15pm. Tickets are £8 each. If anyone would like to book a seat please let one of the leaders know or telephone June Cropper 01274 410413. Alternatively email [junecropper@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:junecropper@yahoo.co.uk) to reserve your seats. If you like a variety show do come along - it's just the thing to lift your spirits!

**Bev Howard GROUP SCOUT LEADER**

## **Half of All Food Produced is "Thrown Away"**

How do you feel when you are cleaning out your fridge and come across something which should have been eaten weeks ago, and is now fit for nothing but the dustbin? I feel guilty and annoyed with myself for the waste, and also for the waste of money it demonstrates. I wonder if you share the same feeling, or whether you are good at making sure that nothing is wasted. As far as possible, we try to make sure that we don't waste food in that way, but now and again something slips through the net. (Note to self: *must get better organised!*)

These thoughts were sparked off by the news that the Institution of Mechanical Engineers has recently produced a report about the waste of food across the world. The staggering conclusion was that somewhere between 30% and 50% of all food grown was wasted. This was attributed to poor storage and distribution, the use by Supermarkets of strict "sell-by" dates, the fussiness of customers over the physical appearance of some foods (usually vegetables and fruit). All this contributes to 1.2 or 2 billion tonnes (in their calculation) of food that is never eaten but thrown away.

In addition to this, a vast quantity of water is wasted in food production. For example, it is said that 20 to 50 times more water is used to produce a kilo of meat than a kilo of vegetables. Water is going to become a problem in the future for a number of reasons, global warming being one.

Dr Tim Fox, who is head of energy and environment at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, is quoted as saying: *This is food that could be used to feed the world's growing population - as well as those in hunger today. It is also an unnecessary waste of the land, water and energy resources that were used in the production, processing and distribution of food.*

This is, or should be, of concern to all Christian people because it raises the question of our understanding of the relationship between humanity and the created world. There are some people who think (or at least behave as though) the world is here to be used in a profligate way without any regard to the future. There are others who feel that

humanity has the responsibility of caring for the creation.

For Christian people, it all hinges on the interpretation of two verses early in Genesis. In Genesis 1:28 God gives man the command: "... fill the earth and subdue it .." Again in Genesis 2:15b "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it." Both those verses have a sense of devolved responsibility. In others words, humanity will be held to account for its use of the creation.

On the Today programme recently it was suggested that rather than blaming supermarkets, we should look at our own habits of consumption and our own demands and expectations of the supermarkets. There is a lot of truth in that. Do I really need to buy every "bogoff" (buy-one-get-one-free) I see when I am shopping?

For many years now Christian Aid and Oxfam and other aid organisations have been saying that we could feed the world if we distributed food properly, yet we are still living in a world where obesity is becoming a problem in this country and the USA, while huge numbers of people in other countries starve or scrape an existence by scavenging from rubbish bins. Perhaps now that a professional society of engineers has joined in people will begin to listen!

This prayer, from the prayer book of the Episcopal Church of the USA, is used by the Society of Ordained Scientists expresses the Christian outlook:

*Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from abuse of them, and generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

*R.W. Bailey*

## **Visit to St. Paul's, Manningham**

To show our support for St Paul's, Manningham, we are planning to join them at their Eucharist on Sunday 10th February. The service at Manningham is at 10.30 a.m. and we shall meet here at St Saviour's at 9.30 a.m. For those who do not wish to or cannot go to St Paul's, Jean Bailey will conduct morning prayer at 9.30 a.m. at St Saviour's.

### **Archbishop – older people ‘are still participants in society, not passengers’**

In his final appearance in the House of Lords as Archbishop of Canterbury late last year, Dr Rowan Williams led a debate about the place and contribution of older people in society.

Dr Williams argued that instead of society seeing older people as ‘a burden’, they should instead be recognised for the enormous amount of work that they do in their communities. "More than half the over-60 population are involved in some sort of formal and structured voluntary work... a majority of the older population are ready to do what they can, unpaid, to support the fabric of society; they are doing exactly what we expect responsible citizens to do. "

Though older people may well find their physical independence reduced, the Archbishop urged that they should be supported so as to allow them to continue making their valuable contribution to their communities. Dr Williams also stressed the importance of different generations engaging with one another, and said that the Churches and other faith communities have a key role in facilitating this at grass roots level.

"We tolerate a very eccentric view of the good life... as one that can be lived only for a few years between, say, eighteen and forty. The ‘extremes’ of human life, childhood and age, when we are not defined by our productive capacity.... these are hard for our society to come to terms with."

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## **Middle Age**

Middle age is when you lean over to pick something up off the floor, and you ask yourself if there is anything else you need to do while you are down there.

## **Simple maths**

The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.

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## **24th February: Matthias the Apostle - the chosen one**

Have you ever been in the position where someone is desperately needed – and you fit the bill perfectly? It is almost as if all your miscellaneous qualifications that never made much sense before now make PERFECT sense. And you sense that you have been chosen by God for the task....

If so, then Matthias is definitely the patron saint for you! Matthias came into the picture shortly after the suicide of Judas. The early church was missing an apostle, and so the remaining 11 apostles prayed for guidance on who to choose as a replacement for this key role. The qualifications for the job were specialised: the person had to have been a follower of Christ from his Baptism to his Ascension, and a witness of the Resurrection. There were two possibilities: Joseph Barsabas and Matthias. How to choose?

The decision was out of Matthias' hands, and up to others. In this case, the apostles drew straws – and the 'lot' fell to Matthias. He had been chosen to replace Judas! The tragedy of Judas' betrayal had led to an opportunity for service by Matthias – and he was well prepared for the task. Are you prepared for any task that God might suddenly open before you? Like the other apostles, Matthias had been in Jerusalem and had received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and he went on to do a good job. It is said he preached the Good News first in Judea, and then maybe in Cappadocia and by the Caspian Sea. It is thought he was martyred by the axe or halberd, and his relics eventually ended up being taken to Rome by the empress Helen.

Matthias is an encouragement to us to be faithful in small things - because you never know what the future might hold!

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### **Operation Christmas Child**

Thanks to everyone who has brought in their used Christmas cards for use with next year's boxes. There is no longer a box in the narthex for them, but Margaret Baker would still be happy to take any you care to bring in.

### **Electoral Roll and Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

On Sunday 17th March, after the 9.30 a.m. service, we will be holding our Annual Parochial Church Meeting at which we elect the officers for the next year and hear about what we have done in the past year and some plans for 2013. To attend this meeting and vote, you need to be on the Electoral Roll of the church. Every 6 years this Roll is completely revised and to remain on it, you must fill out a new form. 2013 is such a year and forms are available for everyone who is currently on the Roll. If you are not on and would like to be, please have a word with Keith West, our Electoral Roll Officer— to qualify you need to be over 16, a baptised member of the church of England (or a partner church) and either worship with us regularly or live in the parish.

### **Magazine Subscriptions**

Thank you to everyone who has paid their annual subscription. Please could anyone wishing to pay hand the money to the treasurer, their distributor or a member of the PCC— preferably in a marked envelope.

<b>February Roll of Remembrance</b>
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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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