

The February Letter

Dear Friends,

As we all know, February 14th is St Valentine's Day. It is also the feast of St Cyril & St Methodius. Who? They are known as Apostles of the Slavs. They were siblings, born in the 9th century in Thessalonica, became priests and moved to Constantinople. From there they were sent by the Emperor as Christian missionaries at the request of a local ruler who wanted the people to be taught in the vernacular.

To achieve this, they translated parts of the liturgy and some of the Scriptures into Slavonic. In order to write it down they developed the Gogolitic alphabet, which was later enlarged by some of their followers using parts of the Greek alphabet, the result being called Cyrillic in their honour. They are thus known for founding Slavonic literature and their writing method is widely used in Eastern Europe and Russia to this day.

Valentine's Day will be widely recognised, though probably with scant reference to Valentine himself. Similarly, Cyril's legacy is in constant use but with little awareness of its origins outside a restricted circle of his devotees. We have much to thank the saints of old for; their example of piety, good works and discipleship is clear but their wider influence on culture and custom is there if we can only uncover it and celebrate it.

Find a saint to help you along life's crooked pathway!

Patrick

FEBRUARY PARISH DIARY

Wednesday 1st 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's
6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts
Thursday 2nd 9.30 a.m. Morning prayer
6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
7.30 p.m. Scouts

SUNDAY 5TH FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
10.00 a.m. Refreshments
10.30 a.m. All Age Worship
Tuesday 7th 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion at Crossley House
12 noon Knit and Natter
7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 8th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
11.30 a.m. Ing's Way Lunch Day
6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts
Thursday 9th 9.30 a.m. Morning prayer
6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
7.30 p.m. Scouts

SUNDAY 12TH THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion
Tuesday 14th 12 noon Knit and Natter
7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 15th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's
6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts
7.30 p.m. PCC meeting
Thursday 16th 9.30 a.m. Morning prayer
6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
7.30 p.m. Scouts

SUNDAY 19TH SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

10.00 a.m. Parade and Family Service
Tuesday 21st 12 noon Knit and Natter

	7.30 p.m.	Adult Tap Dancing
Wednesday 22 nd	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Thursday 23 rd	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer

SUNDAY 26TH SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.00 a.m.	Messy Church
Tuesday 28th	12 noon	Knit and Natter
	7.30 p.m.	Adult Tap dancing

Electoral Roll and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

As we mentioned in last month’s magazine, the annual review of the Electoral Roll takes place between 11th and 25th February, in time for the Annual meeting on 19th March. Being on the roll marks you out as a member of our church and enables you to vote at the meeting for the various officials and take part in the discussions. If you are not on the roll and would like to be, please contact our Electoral Roll officer, Ian McAlpine. The Annual meeting also appoints Churchwardens, PCC members and Sidespeople, so if you would like to apply for any of these positions, or need more information, please speak to Dorothy, the wardens or any member of PCC.

Nothing is opened more by mistake than the mouth. Anon

Thank You!

Christmas was tinged with sadness because we had been so happy at St. Saviour's and regretted having to leave. The gifts & cards were overwhelming. The Amazon voucher has bought a Roberts portable radio that Bob has wanted for a long time. The garden tokens are going towards summer bulbs which will remind us of you all. The wine & chocolates have already been enjoyed! and the picture of the church is hanging in the music room.

Thank you for your generosity, friendship and support during our years at St. Saviour's.

Bob & Margaret Baker.

The Children's Society

Thank you to everyone who returned their Children's Society boxes for emptying. The total monies received amounted to £347.81, which is an increase on last year's total, and this has been sent to the Children's Society to aid their valuable work. If anyone else would like to "provide a home for a box" please have a word with Val Muff, Tel 01274 560400.

Off to the vet

In his younger days our golden retriever Catcher often ran away when he had the chance. The vet's surgery was about a mile down the road, and Catcher would usually go there. The nursing staff knew him and would call me to come pick him up. One day I called the vet to make an appointment for Catcher's yearly vaccine. "Will you bring him," asked the receptionist, "or will he come on his own?"

And if love should die....

While we were working at a men's clothing store, a customer asked my colleague to help her pick out a tie that would make her husband's blue eyes stand out. "Ma'am," he explained, "any tie will make blue eyes stand out if you tie it tight enough."

A Priceless Find – by accident!

70 years ago this month a couple of shepherds in the hills above Qumran near the Dead Sea idly threw a stone into what they thought was an empty cave. When they heard the sound of smashing pottery they searched inside, and found the most important biblical discovery of the century.

Their stone had led them to what became known as the Dead Sea Scrolls, manuscripts of the entire Hebrew Bible except for the book of Esther, stored in clay vessels. The scrolls were the work of a religious community called the Essenes, who lived near that site before and during the life of Jesus.

As scholars slowly unravelled them – and that task took decades - they discovered that they were handling manuscripts of the Bible which were hundreds of years older than any we had previously possessed. Most of the biblical manuscripts on which our translations had previously been based were copies of copies, carefully crafted in monasteries over the centuries by people dedicated to preserving the sacred text. But inevitably, in the process, there were occasional slips in the copying, and at times it's obvious that those who were doing it didn't understand the words they were copying.

So, in February 1947, the world had access to a much older and therefore more accurate record of the Jewish Scriptures – the Bible of Jesus and the first Christians. The most remarkable thing is actually how few 'mistakes' there were, seeing the centuries of copying – and not one that seriously affects our fundamental understanding of the Bible.

Those two shepherds 70 years ago ensured that we today have a Bible text which is as close to the original as one could ever hope to get. I'm glad they threw the stone into the right cave!

More on Henry Bannerman's Bible

Ian Mc Alpine

In last month's issue of 'Parish News' I wrote about my discovery at Mytholmroyd Antiques Centre of a Bible printed in 1843 which had once belonged to Henry Bannerman, a relation of the Liberal Prime Minister Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman (1836 - 1908). The badly stained and faded bookplate with its Latin motto enabled me to identify the family of the original owner but I could not be any more specific.

However, I am very grateful to my sixth cousin, Mrs Valerie Poole, for recently finding a most helpful entry in the Yorkshire Electoral Register for 1861. The register lists Henry Bannerman of Hunton Court near Maidstone as being qualified to vote in West Yorkshire because he was the freeholder (owner) of 36 Green Lane, Halifax! Halifax is only about five miles east of Mytholmroyd! Surely, the Henry Bannerman in the 1861 register must have been the owner of the Bible! The modern A - Z map of the area lists two Green Lanes in Halifax in postcodes HX2 and HX3. Although I have not been to investigate, the one in HX3 seems to be little more than a farm track. The one in HX2, near the centre of Halifax seems a far more likely residence for Bannerman. However, the present Green Lane, near the centre of the town, seems from the map to be a shadow of its former self since it has been savagely cut through by the A58 and A646. Even if Bannerman's house does survive in the remaining fragment of Green Lane it has probably been renumbered and would be very hard to identify today.

Valerie then turned her attention to Hunton Court in Kent, Henry Bannerman's other residence, and discovered an online version of Desmond Morey's Hunton: A Kentish Village (c. 1995). After a brief account of the earlier history of Hunton Court which stretched back to the Middle Ages Morey went on to say that :-

“At the close of the 19th century, Hunton Court was the country home of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Liberal Prime Minister from 1905-08. Sir Henry inherited the property not from his father, Sir James Campbell, who lived at Strachathro in Scotland; but from his *mother's*

brother, Henry Bannerman. (my italics) The hyphenated surname arose because in his will Henry Bannerman made it a condition of his nephew's inheriting his property that he adopted too the name of Bannerman. Sir Henry and Lady Campbell-Bannerman left no issue. The present owner is a great nephew of the Prime Minister“.

And so I concluded that the Bible, now in such a forlorn and battered state had once belonged to none other than the maternal uncle of Prime Minister Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman!

Jane Austen – well worth her weight in coins and bank-notes!

The much-loved novelist Jane Austen is about to make history. 200 years after her death, she will appear simultaneously on a British coin and a British bank note. That means that only the Queen, who as head of state must be depicted on British currency, will be more prevalent.

The Royal Mint has chosen Jane Austen as the new image for its commemorative £2 coin. About five million will be released into mass circulation sometime this Spring. At about the same time, the Bank of England will release its new, plastic, unrippable £10 note, with Jane Austen replacing Charles Darwin.

Historians cannot recall the last time a figure other than the reigning monarch appeared on both coins and notes at the same time. The release of both coins and notes will be in step with the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's death, in the summer of 1817, at the age of just 41.

Give families in debt some space to breathe

The Children's Society's Debt Trap campaign aims to address the devastating impact that debt can have on children, which too often goes unseen. Many families try desperately to build normal lives for their children, but it only takes one setback or unexpected life event to become locked in a perpetual cycle of unmanageable debt.

Our latest research has found that children living in families struggling with debt are five times more likely to be unhappy than children in families without debt troubles, putting them at risk of developing mental health issues. With an estimated 2.4 million children in England and Wales living in families with problem debt, the potential for harm is staggeringly real.

We believe that children shouldn't have to pay the price of debt with their mental health. Every child deserves to flourish, and be all that God created them to be. The Children's Society is calling on the Government to create a 'breathing space' scheme for families, giving them time and space to repay their debts without the impossible burden of rising interest and charges, or visits from intimidating debt collectors.

This would protect families and ensure that young people are not affected by unnecessary stress and anxiety. It would allow young people the Sabbath rest that God promises to His people throughout Scripture.

As Christians we are called to make a difference to the lives of these vulnerable young people. At a time when some families are being forced to cut back on essentials like food and heating, your support could make a real difference to children's lives.

Please join us at www.childrenssociety.org.uk/breathingspace and take action today.

All Age Worship

10.00 a.m. Snacks and drinks

10.30 a.m. Short Service starts

Come and join us; everybody welcome

**First Sunday
of the Month**

Messy Church

11.00 a.m. in the hall

Games, Food,

Activities, Songs,

Stories

For all the Family!

**Fourth Sunday
of the Month**

Brightest and Best!

A lovely Epiphany Carol Service! All thanks to Dorothy and the choir who led us in a beautiful service of carols and lessons for Epiphany. The whole atmosphere was one of beauty and devotion. In particular the choir sang two carols unaccompanied - and sang beautifully.

The great pity was that there were so few to take part. But as I wrote that, some words of Giles Fraser came to mind. Writing in *The Guardian* just before Christmas he said: *The truth of God's existence does not depend on me filling my church with believers at midnight mass...God is not like a political party that lives or dies on its support or lack of it.*

In one way, it doesn't matter how many or how few are in church for worship. What matters is the quality of worship - the recognition that God is present, that there is beauty and devotion in what we do.

But there is another way in which it does matter. There is a common attitude that "going to church" is similar to "going to the football" or "going to the cinema". In other words, when we are in church we feel that we are an audience, needing to be entertained.

The Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard regularly annoyed his fellow residents of Copenhagen by criticising their self-satisfied mode of life, especially in their church life. He drew two pictures of church going in Copenhagen in the mid-19th century. His first picture showed an average congregation who felt that when the pastor was in the pulpit, God was the puppet masters pulling the strings, and the congregation was judging the pastor's performance.

But in his second picture (the real one) the pastor in the pulpit was the puppet master, pulling the strings of the congregation, and it was God who was judging their performance. These two pictures are still relevant. There are still people who feel that they come to church to be entertained, and go home unsatisfied if they feel they haven't.

When we were last in Oberammergau for the Passion Play (2010), I was

making a purchase in a shop when the lady in the shop said, "My daughter is in the Play." When I turned round there was a little dot beaming at me. She was only about seven years old, but she was in the Play. She would have been part of the crowd scene at the cleansing of the Temple, but that didn't matter. She was in the Play! And that mattered to her.

When we come to church we should have the same feeling as that little girl, that it is our privilege to be in God's presence, and that we must play our part, however big or small, to perfection.

So it is all thanks to Dorothy, the choir, the readers, and all present at the Epiphany Carol Service, who created such a beautiful and devotional atmosphere. We were all there, in the Play, playing our parts to perfection (or as close to it as we could get). We were in it, not just watching it.

R. W. Bailey

God, our Creator

O shout for Joy across the Earth!

O shout the glory of the Lord!

Come, praise Him now for all He's worth!

Come join our praise in one accord!

Great are the deeds the Lord has done!

Great are the works that He has made!

He made the earth, the sky, the sun;

The mountain and the woodland glade.

The mighty, roaring waterfalls

The wondrous clouds that bring us rain

The birds, the beasts, He made them all

So let us praise His holy name!

He gave us life, He gave us breath,

He bids the beating of our heart;

And, when He bids it cease in death

Then we shall never be apart! *By Nigel Beeton*



We recently held a joint meeting when all our children came together over the course of an evening. It was a very hectic occasion with 8 Beavers, 16 Cubs, 14 Scouts and 10 Explorers in attendance. We played several energetic games including *Shoot the Rapids* followed by 'getting to know you' activities so that all our members from the youngest six year old to our oldest eighteen year old Explorers were able to join in.

Our Beaver Scouts have been doing a spot of cooking at colony meetings and have gained their badges for their efforts. They have also been learning about the phonetic alphabet which is part of the Communication Badge.

The Cubs have been using their scientific knowledge and have now completed activities, including making circuits, balloon rockets and other physics challenges, to gain their Science badges. Several Cubs have recently been awarded their Chief Scout Silver award including Luca Digby, Niklas Helfer, Jackson Laing and Brandon Rawlinson. Three Cubs have begun their link to the Scout Troop.

Our Scouts and Explorers are attending the Viking Camp which is being organised by West Yorkshire County for all Scouts, Guides and Explorers in the region. It is jam-packed with activities for our older members who are brave enough to camp in rather cooler conditions (rather than me I say).

The annual Easter Egg Hunt at Blackhills (for Cubs and Beavers) takes place on the 2nd of April. The following weekend Cubs and Scouts from across the District will enjoy an outing to Flamingoland theme park.

Ten children from our group are taking part in the Bradford Scouts show at the Bradford Playhouse. Let us know if you'd like a ticket.

30th March – 1st April

CITY OF BRADFORD SCOUTS

presents

THE BEST OF TIMES

**a variety show packed with singing and
dances, sketches and humour**

at the

**NEW BRADFORD
PLAYHOUSE**

Starts 7.15pm

Saturday matinee from 2.15pm



Bev Howard
GROUP SCOUT – 46th Bradford North Scout Group

Notes from the PCC

The PCC met on Tuesday 17th January after the Christmas break.

As the result of a visit by the Archdeacon last year, we have looked at the various policies we have for Dealing with Complaints, Health and Safety, Equal Opportunities and Volunteering. We are satisfied they are now up to date and will keep them under regular review, along with our Safeguarding policy.

We continue to be grateful to James Muff for his assistance in helping us sort out the new financial management program we have received from the Diocese. It has been a steep learning curve, but we feel we are now making progress and are ready to submit the figures for the year to the Diocese for checking. Once we have completed the process, it should be easier in future as we will have a template to follow.

We are also looking at replacements for the various administrative roles I have carried out for several years. There is no one person willing to take everything on, so the tasks will be split among several people. We may have to change the way things are done - and this will also give a chance to have a think about what we do.

Three groups of children from Crossley Hall Primary School paid us a visit before Christmas. They made Christingles, looked round the church and asked lots of interesting questions. It is great to have re-established contact with them again and we are keen to arrange further visits at appropriate times during the coming year.

The splendid sum of £139 was raised via the Christmas pillar box. This will be divided equally between the Candlelighters and Help for Heroes charities. We also heard from the Cancer Support charity who came to our Carol service, that, as well as being able to promote their work, they also raised £164 for their funds, for which they are most grateful.

Hilary Davis, PCC Secretary.

February Roll of Remembrance

1st	Sydney Shewan	(1978)
4 th	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)

**ST. SAVIOUR'S PARISH CHURCH
FAIRWEATHER GREEN
BD8 0LU**

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