

Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends,

Well, Christmas is over for another year. The turkey's eaten, the decorations are stored away and the diets will start, maybe tomorrow. For many, Christmas will have been an expensive but meaningless holiday spending money that they can't afford on things that have no relevance to the true meaning of Christmas. To the Christian, however, Christmas is a wonderful time of year where we can celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and marvel at the sacrifice made and the humility shown by a God who loves us so much that He gave up the glory of heaven to be born in poverty on earth.

The ministry and ultimate death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus was a divine calling that only He could fulfil to bring us forgiveness and eternal life. The calling of Jesus, however, is divinely linked with so many other people. The extraordinary call of Mary by God to be the mother of Jesus; the call of Joseph to marry a girl who had suddenly become pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit; the call of the shepherds and the wise men all played a part in the coming of the Messiah.

Thirty years later when Jesus started His ministry many more people answered the call of God and were part of His eternal plan. The disciples answered the call and left their homes, families and employment and began the greatest adventure of their lives following this charismatic man who healed the sick, forgave sins and preached in a new and exciting way about the coming of God's kingdom. Throughout the gospels we read of ordinary men and women answering God's call on their lives and giving everything to follow Jesus. We then read of the crucifixion, the resurrection and the ascension and maybe the first reaction is to think, well that's that then, but then enter the Holy Spirit and Jesus' followers are empowered by the Spirit of God and we see again in the Acts of the Apostles that Jesus is alive and His ministry is the ongoing act of Almighty God working through His disciples.

God's call on people's lives didn't stop at the end of the bible. Down through the centuries, right to this present day, God has used millions of

ordinary people to continue the ministry of Jesus to reach a fallen world with love and forgiveness. The beginning of this New Year is an ideal time to look at our individual walk with God. So many Christians think that God will never call them to do anything. He may call other people but certainly not me, how could I ever do anything meaningful for Him. But at the first Christmas, God called just an ordinary teenage girl who, up until that time, probably never thought that God could ever use her, yet through her obedience, she was blessed beyond her wildest dreams.

I wonder what God has in store for you in 2014? Whatever it is, it will be something that He has chosen especially for you. God has a calling on each one of our lives but it's up to us whether we accept that calling or not. Whatever our age or ability, God will use us to further His Kingdom and glorify His name. In saying yes to God, He will not only use us to bless others but He will bless us in wonderful and powerful ways as well.

May you receive all God's blessing in this New Year.

Ian Slater

JANUARY PARISH DIARY

<u>SUNDAY 5TH</u>	THE EPIPHANY 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (<i>Revd. Ian Slater</i>)
Tuesday 7th	11.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Crossley House 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 4.30 p.m. K:Ing's Way Club 6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts 7.30 p.m. Scouts

<u>SUNDAY 12TH</u>	BAPTISM OF CHRIST 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (<i>Revd. Richard & Mrs. Jean Bailey</i>)
Tuesday 14th	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. Worship Committee meeting
 Thursday 16th 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 19TH 2ND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY/CHRISTINGLE

10.00 a.m. Parade Service & Holy Communion
 (*Rev. Ian Slater and Karen Wheelhouse*)
 Tuesday 21st 12.00 noon Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
 service & Lunch
 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
 Wednesday 22nd 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
 6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts
 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 3RD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (*Rev. Ian Slater*)
 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
 Thursday 30th 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



2nd January: Basil and Gregory – lives of costly discipleship

By David Winter, former Head of Religious Broadcasting, BBC

'Discipline' is now virtually a banned word, but when we do recognise and applaud its virtue, it's usually in the lives and activities of soldiers, police officers, dressage horses and the dog. But every year the Church remembers (on 2nd January) the lives of two outstanding leaders of the fourth century Church, Basil and Gregory. The hallmark of their lives was an iron self-discipline. Life-long friends since they were students together, they committed themselves to an almost ferocious austerity. In fact, both died early from the long-term consequences of extreme self-denial.

Bishops in the Eastern Church, they looked more to the new city of Constantinople than to Rome, but they both faced powerful opposition. Basil's unwavering commitment to the faith earned him many enemies, not only from secular sources (political and even imperial) but also from within the Church. Gregory, a less robust character, faced similar insults and even physical violence when he set out to reform the church at Constantinople. Eventually this opposition cost him his bishopric.

Basil was an activist, Gregory a contemplative, yet their lives followed a similar path of costly discipleship. Basil was born into a wealthy and influential family, but during a time of famine he felt it was his Christian duty to distribute the entire family inheritance in the form of food for the poor in his city. From then on he lived an austere, even frugal life, and died at the age of 49, worn out by disease and physical weakness. Gregory too had poor health, largely through self-imposed poverty.

In the declining years of the Roman Empire and in an atmosphere of moral laxity they believed that as Christian leaders they should set an example. Perhaps modern Christianity is a little too quick to see discipline in terms of subjection and punishment. But 'those whom the Lord loves he disciplines'. Basil and Gregory, whatever we think of their lifelong regime of self-denial, were clear that their life of discipline was motivated by love of the same Lord who in love disciplined them. Without going to the extremes that they did, perhaps a little godly discipline might help us to build a healthier relationship with the God we try to 'trust and obey'.

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Christingle Service - Sunday 19th January 2014

The Children's Society first introduced Christingle to The Church of England in 1968, and it has since become one of the most popular events for families and communities in the church calendar. The orange (the world), with its red ribbon (the love and blood of Christ), the lighted candle (Jesus, the Light of the World) and the sweets (the fruits of the earth) is a powerful symbol of our Christian beliefs.

Please come and join us and our Uniformed Organisations at the Parade Service on Sunday 19th January when we will also look at the work of the Children's Society. For a few weeks before this service, cardboard collecting boxes, in the form of a candle, will be available and can then be brought along to the 'Christingle Service', which will help the charity in the valuable work they do with young people.

Sunny day

An astronomer went to Darkest Africa to observe a total eclipse of the sun, when he was captured by cannibals. The eclipse was due the next day around noon. To gain his freedom he planned to pose as a god and threaten to extinguish the sun if he was not released. But the timing had to be just right. So, in the few words of the cannibals' primitive tongue that he knew, he asked his guard what time they planned to kill him.

The guard replied: "Tradition has it that captives are to be killed when the sun reaches the highest point in the sky on the day after their capture, so that they may be cooked and ready to be served for the evening meal."

"Great," the astronomer replies.

The guard continued: "But everyone's so excited about the eclipse, that in your case we're going to wait..."

Windows

A wife texted her husband on a cold winter morning: "Windows frozen."

He texted back: "Pour some lukewarm water over it."

The wife texted back five minutes later: "Computer's completely not working now."

A Bible From Barden.

Ian Mc Alpine.

Many years ago I discovered a small 18th century Bible on sale in Halifax. The shop owner had scrawled "DAMAGED 18C BIBLE £3.90" in pencil inside the front cover and this was certainly an accurate description! The pages were yellowed and dirty and the covers had been crudely stitched back after falling off completely. The use of the long 's' which looks like an 'f' with the crossbar missing was used throughout the book which had almost certainly been printed before 1800. The lower section of the title page of the Old Testament was completely torn away so that the date was missing. However, the title page of the New Testament was still intact and revealed that the Bible had been printed at Cambridge in 1791, during the reign of George III. An originally blank page separating the two Testaments contained a rhyming inscription in manuscript from 1823. I found several shorter inscriptions elsewhere and three loose pieces of paper fell out which yielded more details of the book's history. Needless to say the little Bible soon had a new owner!

The rhyming inscription which divided the Old and New Testaments was not divided into lines of verse but ran together in continuous prose (*see illustration inside front cover*). It read as follows - to make it easier to follow I have adjusted the lines and spacing:-

Ester Winterburn
Book 1823 xx

Steal not this Book for fear of Shame
For here is my Name
Give me grace on it to look
Not to look but understand
That lernning [sic] is better than House and land
When house is gon and spent
Lerning is most exetint.

The inscription is in rather childlike script as if written by a young girl.

Inside the torn title page Esther again indicated her ownership of the Bible adding an equally enigmatic inscription - "Friendship without Intrest Commerce Liberty and Trade".

Two loose scraps of paper, apparently of later date, revealed that the Bible subsequently passed to the Demaine family. One read "Mr George Demaine Barden Scale, By Mr Walker" in beautiful Victorian copperplate. This gave clear evidence that the Bible had once lived at Barden Scale, a small hamlet close to Barden Tower and not far away from Bolton Abbey. The other, written by Sarah Demaine was rather amusing and read:-

Sarah Demaine Book.

If thou art borrowed by friend
Right welcome shalt thou be
To read to study not to lend
But to return to me
Not that Imparted knowledge doth
Diminish learnings store
But books I find when often lent
Return to me no more.

I'm sure we can all sympathise with Sarah's problem!

Part of my work at the Yorkshire Archaeological Society in Leeds involves cataloguing the vast archives of Skipton Castle whose owners possessed a great deal of land around Barden Tower. I frequently find references to the Demains who had evidently lived in and around Barden since at least the early 16th century. Clearly they were still there by the 1800s. And a short faded inscription at the end of Revelation commemorated part of their family history.:-

George Demain
Sarah Pettyts Barden.

Using the International Genealogical Index which I have mentioned in earlier articles I soon discovered that George Demaine, born in 1802 had married Sarah Petyt at Bolton Abbey in 1834. After Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries part of Bolton Abbey (properly called Bolton Priory) was converted for use as a Protestant church. Presumably the Bible had some special significance to George and Sarah during their courtship 180 years ago. They would no doubt be pleased that the book still survives, though in very poor condition. Demaine was perhaps related to Esther Winterburn who owned the book in 1823. I found that an Esther

Winterburn was baptised at Bolton Abbey in 1811, the illegitimate daughter of Elizabeth Winterburn. She'd have been about 12 when she wrote the inscription in her Bible which is consistent with the style of her handwriting.

Although I can never hope to reconstruct the Bible's full story going back more than 200 years, careful examination of its contents has brought part of it back to life. Ancient books, houses, furniture and even cars will usually reveal at least some of their secrets if only we know how to read and interpret them.

The Children's Society

Thank you to everyone who returned their Children's Society boxes for emptying. The total raised amounted to £147.30, which is up on last year. The boxes will be emptied again in November 2014 and it is quite surprising how a small donation of loose change from time to time can add up to a significant donation. If you wish to have a box, please have a word with Val Muff.

Cards and Stamps

As we approach 12th night and the traditional dismantling of our Christmas decorations, please remember to save your Christmas cards and bring them down to church where they can be recycled for use in the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes for next year.

There is also a box for used stamps which are sent to help in leukaemia research. Please ensure there is a border of about ¼” around the stamp.
Thank you!

His Glorious Day

He's the Ground of all being,
The Spirit of life,
The Father of faith
And the Mother of love,
He's the Christ-child within
Who fills darkness with light,
He calms our worst fears
With the peace from 'above'!
He's the giver of comfort
When our spirit is low
And source of all courage
When faith calls out – 'Go:
Go tell all the nations
That peace truly comes
When God's voice is heard
And God's will is done.
So follow the Christ-man,
Hold fast on his way,
Then one day we'll all share
His glorious day'! by *Sam Doubtfire*

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The Silver Line

At last there is a UK-wide, 24 hour umbrella organisation which links older people to the support services in their local communities. Founded by Esther Rantzen CBE, The Silver Line will connect lonely elderly people with a variety of their local services and activities. In the same way that ChildLine helped abused children, The Silver Line will support older people who are experiencing abuse or neglect, making sure they are protected.

There are 10 million older people (65+) in Britain today. Many living alone. Sadly, isolation and loneliness shorten life, creating depression, hastening the onset of dementia, and causing physical effects such as malnutrition. 40% of older people, according to a 2011 survey, do not know where to turn for help. For more details, please email info@thesilverline.org.uk or go to www.thesilverline.org.uk The number to ring is: 0800 328 8888

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A hymn for Epiphany

Epiphany, 6 January, is also known as 'Twelfth Night', or the last night of the Christmas festival. According to the song, it is also the day when that over-enthusiastic 'true love' of yours dumps no less than 78 presents on your doorstep, among them a dozen leaping lords of the realm and a final partridge – to go with the 11 you have already been given.

In many parts of the world 6 January is celebrated as Christmas Day. As we Western Christians are packing away our tree, the Greek Orthodox world and Catholic Spain are giving presents and celebrating the wise men, or magi. For what better time to give presents to each other than on the day the wise men presented gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant Jesus?

As the famous carol 'We Three Kings of Orient Are' puts it:

Born a king on Bethelam plain
Gold I bring to crown him again –
King for ever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all are raising,
Worship him, God most high.

Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb...

What do we make of these presents? Gold is for kingship, proclaiming a royal child. Frankincense carries a feeling of worship about it: it was used in the temple, and indicated access to the presence of God. Frankincense is thus for worship and incarnation. The third gift, myrrh, finds its place at Calvary. After the crucifixion, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea prepared Jesus' body for burial, using myrrh as an embalming fluid. (Thus when the wise men visit the baby Jesus, the shadow of the cross falls on the crib.) But myrrh is also symbolic of love, so you could say that the

third gift is about adoration as well as death. Christ's death on the cross is for love of the Church, his bride.

As for the magi, they were NOT Jewish grandees, but foreign Gentiles. And so it was clear, even as early as the manger in Bethlehem, that Jesus was not just the Messiah for the Jews, but the Saviour of the whole world.

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Congratulations!

Many congratulations to Joshua Ellis, who was confirmed at St. Mary's, Wyke, along with several other candidates, on Sunday 1st December.

Joshua writes: "I feel that I have always known that God is watching over me in every aspect of my life. The last four years I have attended faith school and it's amazing the presence you feel when you attend services, which I do, daily. Whilst being a practising Christian, I have found a whole new family who give me the support and confidence to help others. I currently help run St. Saviours' K:Ing's Way Club. It involves stories about Jesus, activities etc.; this gives me a chance to help younger children develop teamwork and friendship techniques."

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally celebrated from 18th to 25th January. This year's theme comes to us from the Churches of French Canada.

Canadians live in a country that is marked by diversity in language, culture, and even climate, and it also embodies diversity in expressions of Christian faith. Living with this diversity, but being faithful to Christ's desire for the unity of his disciples, has led them to a reflection on Paul's provocative question in 1 Corinthians, "Has Christ been divided?" In faith we respond, "No!" but the Canadians invite us to think about what our divisions say to the world and to each other about the Christian faith.

Churches Together in Allerton and Fairweather Green have again organised a series of services and events to consider this challenging topic. The programme so far is:

Sunday 19th January Allerton Congregational Church

Tuesday 21st St.Saviour's

Thursday 23rd Bethel Baptist Church, Sandy Lane

The service at the Congregational Church will be at 1.00 p.m., PRECEDED by lunch at 12.30 p.m. At the other churches, the service will be at 12 noon, followed by lunch at 12.30 p.m. Please come along and join in as many as you can - and please pray for better weather than last year when the snow virtually wiped out the whole programme!

Friday

Nothing ruins your Friday more than realising it's only Wednesday.

New Year's Resolutions

- by *Bruce Lansky*

Last year I did some rotten things.
This year I will be better.
Here are some resolutions
I will follow to the letter:

I won't make dumb excuses
when my homework isn't done;
when the truth is that I did no work
'cause I was having fun.

I won't fly paper airplanes
when the teacher isn't looking.
I won't sneak in the kitchen
just to taste what they are cooking.

I will not twist the silverware
to see how far it bends.
I will not take the candy bars
from lunch bags of my friends.

I will not skateboard down the hall
or skateboard down the stairs.
I won't run over teachers,
and I won't crash into chairs.

I will not do these rotten things;
my heart is full of sorrow.
But I have got some brand-new tricks
to try in school tomorrow.

Notes from the PCC

At the PCC meeting on Wednesday 4th December, we learnt of the new plans for a vicar for St. Saviour's. After much discussion between the Archdeacon and the Bishop, it has been decided that the post can be upgraded from a House-for-Duty Priest to a half-time stipendiary post - to be shared with another half-time post. The initial stage will be to see if there is anyone currently applying for, or fulfilling, a part-time role to ascertain if they would be interested in our post - and if they are suitable for us. If nothing is forthcoming, the post will be advertised next year. Your prayers, as always, would be appreciated.

We are concerned that since the last APCM, Kaaren has been on her own as Warden. We have tried to support her as much as we can, and she has done a magnificent job, but we do need to find someone to share the tasks. Please consider prayerfully if this could be for you.

We have submitted our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to cover the cost of the major repairs outlined in the last Quinquennial report. The result will not be known until March, so please keep it in your prayers. Urgent, temporary repairs have been carried out on the flat roof to ensure it is watertight throughout the winter, but we would be unable to fund the long-term work needed without help. Many thanks to James Muff for all the work he has done on the application.

The Light Party organised by Karen Wheelhouse for Hallowe'en was a great success and was seen as a practice for full-scale Messy Church sessions. Now we have seen what can work, we are hopeful we can start the sessions in February - so look out for details.

The last Deanery Synod focused on how churches welcome visitors to their church. Although we feel we are basically a welcoming church, there are definitely areas we can improve on. Ideas will be discussed at the next Worship Committee meeting on Wednesday 15th January at 7.30 p.m. in the vestry. If you feel you could make a positive contribution, please come along and share your ideas.

Hilary Davis, PCC Secretary.

January Roll of Remembrance

1st	Grace Barnett	(1972)
2nd	Sarah Jane Tonge	(1953)
3rd	Tony Hayes	(1997)
4th	Frances Dare	(1969)
	Clarence Cooper	(1969)
5th	Elsie Davis	(1984)
	Charles Edward Cooper	(1945)
	Alice Robinson	(2001)
6th	John Hodgson	(1957)
	Rebecca Wigglesworth	(1968)
7th	Donald Arthur Jackson	(1986)
11th	Walter George Hartley	(1961)
14th	Arthur Jones	(1960)
17th	Edith M. Jones	(1951)
18th	William Sadler Stannard	(1978)
19th	Harry Butterfield	(1968)
20th	Gladys Gwendoline Richards	(1980)
21st	Alice Ferguson	(1981)
	Winifred Dare	(1985)
22nd	Bernard Norton	(1992)
23rd	Ritty Hill	(1966)
	Jack Blackburn	(1996)
26th	John William Barratt	(1939)
	Albert Hammond	1970)
27th	Harold Potts	(1982)
29th	John Ayres	(1971)
	Hilda Dennett	(1978)
	William & Emily Spence	(1998)
30th	William Dennett	(1978)
31st	Doris Gibson	(2001)

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