

CLERGY LETTER

I am feeling excited. We have had our second meeting where we, as a church, have started to grapple with the major challenge of beginning the growth of our congregation. Together, and with representation from various age ranges, we are considering what we need to do and what we can do to add variety to our worship. Variety that will excite and draw our younger people, whilst still offering the reflective worship that gives spiritual sustenance to others. During a long interregnum, the faith, skills and strength of the laity maintain the church internally and externally, and are essential for the church's survival. When this period of intensive work comes to an end there may be many sighs of relief as some of the load is passed over.

Every aspect of work in the church is a vocation in which we exercise a gift from God. Working with our young people is helping to nurture them in their faith. Effective cleaning and flower arranging enhance the beauty of our church which was built for the praise and glory of God. The choir, readers, intercessors and servers contribute greatly to our worship. Those who welcome people each Sunday or offer refreshments after the service are offering family-like hospitality to all who enter God's house. The maintenance of the building is done with care and devotion. Care of the garden says something of our love and appreciation for all the beautiful plants that God created. Every action counts in the sight of God.

There are many times when we hide our gifts away, or we are so humble we can't believe they could be used for the good of God's kingdom. Jesus says we are his sheep. He calls us and those who hear his voice believe and follow him. God calls a variety of people to different work in his church giving each one a personal vocation, and what the Father has given no-one can snatch away.

Quite often the person being called may not hear it as such and, like the young boy Samuel, runs in the wrong direction. It was Eli, spiritually wise and experienced in God's work, who pointed Samuel in the right direction. It frequently requires the spiritual observance of wise members of the church to recognise that another member is being called. It is a blessing to see gifts in others and then support them in

exercising that gift.

The numerous demands on the average community-conscious church require a number of leaders that are able to identify and empower members to respond to their personal call. There should be no ‘them and us’ divisions, only a prayerful and effective discernment process that identifies what each one of us is being called by God to do. We then work together as a reflection of our faith and love for each other. Collaborative working does not mean that everyone becomes a minister in their own right but that we are all members of a company of disciples, committed to God’s mission and working to individual strengths. God has given us endless opportunities to work for him, the wellbeing of humanity and our salvation.

As we search and plan for the future building of our church we pray for the hand of God to guide all that we say and do. As we each try to play our part by offering our gifts and skills we start by standing still for a moment and saying ‘speak Lord for your servant is listening’.

With love and prayers,

Dorothy

JUNE PARISH DIARY

Wednesday 1st 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's

Thursday 2nd 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 5TH

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.00 a.m. Celebration Holy Communion (*Revd.*

Richard Bailey)

12.30 p.m. Lunch in hall

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. Ings Way Lunch Day

6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts

Thursday 9th 9.30 a.m. Morning prayer

9.30 a.m. Morning play
6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts

6:00 p.m. Beaver
7:30 p.m. Scouts

SUNDAY 12TH

10.00 a.m.

Tuesday 14th 12 noon

7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 15th 9.30 a.m.

6.15 p.m.

Thursday 16th 9.30 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Holy Communion (*Revd. Richard Bailey*)

Knit and Natter

Adult tap dancing

Holy Communion at St. James's

Cub Scouts

Morning prayer

SUNDAY 19TH

10.00 a.m.

Tuesday 21st 12 noon

7.30 p.m.

7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 22nd 9.30 a.m.

6.15 p.m.

7.30 p.m.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Parade Service (*Revd. Richard Bailey*)

Knit and Natter

Adult Tap Dancing

Going for Growth meeting

Holy Communion

Cub Scouts

PCC meeting in vestry

Thursday 23rd 9.30 a.m.

6.00 p.m.

7.30 p.m.

Morning prayer

Beaver Scouts

Scouts

SUNDAY 26TH

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

Tuesday 28th 12 noon

Knit and Natter

7.30 p.m. Adult Tap Dancing

Wednesday 29th 7.30 p.m.

Social Committee meeting

Summer Garden Party

From 12 noon to 2.30 p.m. on **Saturday 16th July**, we are holding the Garden Party in the Church grounds (weather permitting!) There will be the full range of stalls—cakes, books, tombola, raffle, plants, gifts, bottles etc. plus games and activities. Refreshments will be on sale throughout. Please come along and join in the fun, bring friends and neighbours as well as family.

Val Ward—A Life Well-Lived

Sadly, our very much-loved and respected Cub leader, Val Ward, collapsed and died on Sunday 24th April. This followed a wonderful weekend when she had spent her birthday with family and friends and then attended the St. George's Day Parade and service with the Scout Group where she was presented with the Chief Scout's Order of Merit.

At her funeral, James Howard, son of the Group Scout Leader, gave the following tribute:

There are some people in life, that make you laugh a little louder, smile a little bigger, and just live a little better.

I've known Val all my life – a solid and comfortable presence forever within our family. When I was in church on Friday Rev Dorothy Stewart said that over time, if you're friends with someone long enough they become family and this couldn't be truer. Val, Alison and Steven and Ethan and Eryn were an extension of the Howards and us an extension of the Wards. And I wouldn't wish it any other way.

Val was one of the most intelligent, vivacious and strong women I know – she was also one of the most terrifying. In fact, the friendship she struck up with my Mum some 30 years ago is the reason why I'm standing here today- she's too upset to speak but I think a part of their attraction must not only have been their shared joy in working with children – a dynamic duo in the then 46th Bradford West Scout group for a remarkable 32 years - but also their strength and love of living life and it must be said their ability to terrify even the hardest amongst us. They also shared an ability to drink the hardiest of party animals under the table.

I knew Val as Auntie Val, Bagheera and, as an adult, as Val – a friend. When there was no room at the inn at Christmas, Val was the natural choice for additional bedrooms; when Mum was away Natalie would go round for dinner and a chat, and at my brother's wedding she was the natural choice to deliver a reading. I know those of you here today who attend or have attended this, Val's home church, will agree that she had a natural ability for reading – in fact a friend of my Mum's recently said that she could have read the telephone book and made it sound like

Shakespeare. She will be sorely missed.

However, I can take solace in the fact that she played such a central part in our lives - creating so many memories: holidaying with us and also with Mum from the glamour of Scarborough and Blackpool to California and Hawaii, sharing Christmases and birthdays, picking us up from the airport when we'd been away and most importantly being a role model for fairness, truth and honesty. I know when each of us had messed up and when life's difficulties came along she was also there to support my Mum.

Sometimes I wonder if she'd been born twenty years later, what great things she could have gone on to become. But then I'm checked by Val's grounded outlook on life. She had everything she wanted:

- a family and grandchildren she adored,
- her work at school that she talked about so excitedly
- a group of friends from all parts of her life
- a husband she had loved and lost too soon

And an ability to find joy from the world around her. Words can't even begin to express what a remarkable and impressive woman she was. She lived her life to the full. And all I can really say is "thank you and goodbye".

James Howard

Miscellaneous observations on life...

The measure of your real wealth is how much people would still value you, if you lost all your money.

Kindness is a language that the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

It is better to go straight than to move in the best of circles.

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50th Anniversary Celebrations

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the dedication of our present building, we are holding a series of events. Please mark the dates in your diary and do come along to support as much as you can.

The festivities start on **Saturday 10th September**, when we have an **afternoon tea** from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. to launch our **Festival of Crosses** which will run until Sunday 18th.

On **Sunday 18th** we are having our celebration communion service at 10.00 a.m., led by the Bishop of Bradford, the Rt. Revd. Toby Howarth, and at which we hope various civic dignitaries and other guests will be present. This will be followed by a Faith Lunch in the hall, to which all are welcome.

On **Saturday 24th** we once again welcome the **Steeton Male Voice Choir** who will entertain us with one of their splendid concerts. Tickets, at £7, to include a glass of wine, will be available soon.

Please keep an eye out for any unusual, special or favourite crosses which we can display in our festival. Every care will be taken of them during the week, but please don't bring in any crosses which have a large monetary value.

50th Anniversary

Ing's Way Lunch Day

Please remember our lunch days, which take place on the 2nd Wednesday of every month, from 11.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. The next one will be on June 8th when we will provide a free lunch of homemade soup, sandwiches, tea/coffee and biscuits. All are welcome!

Congratulations!

We offer our heartiest congratulations to the Revd. Richard Bailey, who will celebrate 50 years since his ordination to the priesthood, on 5th June. He has organised a special service for that day, with friends and colleagues coming to share in his special day.

50th Anniversary

A Victorian Musical Bible.

Ian Mc Alpine.

More than 40 years ago my grandfather told me about an extraordinary family Bible which had belonged to the family of his mother. Of course many Victorian families, even those of quite modest means, had family Bibles which were produced in vast quantities during the 19th century. Most of them were immense, heavy folios ornamented with hand coloured prints of Biblical scenes. Invariably they had deeply-tooled leather backs and brass clasps. Very often they included the well-known and copious commentaries of Rev. John Brown or John Eadie. Usually a special section was printed between the Old and New Testaments in which a family could record births, marriages and deaths. Most helpful to modern family historians! Family Bibles like this are still readily and cheaply available today, usually in poor condition. Most were produced between about 1850 and 1890. I bought an unusual Welsh one a few years ago!

However, our Victorian family Bible was rather special. Grandpa said it played music! When the front cover was opened it played a hymn tune although unfortunately Grandpa couldn't remember which one. Rather like a musical box. Evidently the workings of a musical box were somehow concealed within the spine. Sadly the Bible was lost or destroyed many years ago but I recently tried to find out more about Grandpa's strange story.

I was a little surprised to learn from the internet that small musical boxes did indeed exist in the 19th century and found a reference to one from as far back as 1849. Could one somehow have been fitted into a large folio Bible? Various internet searches revealed nothing until I came across the website of a firm called Unique Auctions. The company offered for sale a "Victorian musical box photograph album - working but album needs attention"! This, surely was somewhere near to what I was looking for. If the workings of a musical box could be concealed within a photograph album, surely they could be fitted into a large Bible? And so I concluded that my grandfather's story was entirely plausible! Have any Victorian musical family Bibles actually survived? How I wish we still had ours!

Notes from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

We gathered after the service on 24th April to hold our Annual Meeting, in which we looked at what had gone on in 2015 and elected various officers for the coming year.

We were delighted to re-appoint Patrick Preston and Kaaren Raistrick as our wardens for another year. They work enormously hard for us throughout the year and we greatly appreciate their hard work, good humour and commitment. Our retiring treasurer, James Muff, was warmly thanked for the tremendous job he has done for us and presented with a card and gift as a token of our appreciation.

3 members of the PCC come to the end of their term of office each year and must re-apply if they wish to continue. This year Grace Studholme, Keith West and Margaret Holdsworth were the 3 in question. Grace was happy to re-apply (and we to re-appoint her) but both Margaret and Keith have serious health issues which prevent them from continuing. Grateful thanks were expressed to both for the work they have done over the years. Particularly to Margaret, who worked tirelessly for us for so many, many years. Sadly, as yet there have been no volunteers to fill the vacancies.

We also re-appointed the existing sidespeople and were grateful to add Keretha Willis to their number. The welcomers perform a most important and valued role in our worship which is very much appreciated.

We heard reports from all the various groups and organisations and were able to express our thanks for all that goes on in church outside the standard worship. The time and effort that the leaders and helpers give are appreciated by all who take part in the activities.

At the first meeting of the “new” PCC, we appointed various officials - Patrick Preston as Lay Chair and Disability Rep; Ian McAlpine as Electoral Roll Officer; Eric Heywood as Safeguarding Officer; James Muff as Health and Safety Officer and I agreed to act as Secretary for one more year. As James stood down as Treasurer, we now have a Treasury team to look after our finances. This is still a work in progress!

Hilary Davis, PCC Secretary.

150 and Still Batting!

R.W. Bailey

“On Ascension Day 1866 the Order of Readers was re-inaugurated into the Church of England and in 2016 we celebrate 150 years since that historic event. The purpose of reintroducing Readers into the Church of England was intended to increase the effectiveness of the traditional parochial system by having a dedicated group of people who would do pioneering work on the boundaries between the church and the world. Today there are more than 10,000 active Readers in the Church of England. Most are licensed to teach and preach in a parish but others are chaplains in prisons, hospices and schools.”

Those words opened the service in Bradford Cathedral on May 9th which included the renewal of the Licences (and Permissions To Officiate) of the 400+ Readers in our new Diocese of Leeds. It was an impressive and uplifting service during which Bishop Nick spoke about names and their meanings. He pointed out the occasions when God gave people a new name. There is always a reason for it, and the reason derives from what God sees in us. In a very thought provoking aside, he reminded us that when Jesus called Simon “The Rock” on which he would build the church it is usual to think of a rock of granite, whereas when Jesus spoke they were in the district of Caesarea Philippi where the underlying rock is limestone. Bishop Nick asked us to consider what God called us as he looked at our life, character and talents.

Archdeacon Anne Dawtry was appointed Warden of Readers as were Assistant Wardens for each of the five Episcopal Areas. The Cathedral choir sang two beautiful pieces, Benjamin Britten’s “Jubilate in C” and Elgar’s anthem based on Isaiah 61 which I had never heard before, but was a beautiful rendering of the words Jesus read from the scroll in the synagogue.

I have to declare an interest in that I was Chaplain to Readers in the Rochdale Archdeaconry for seven years. It was a most satisfying ministry, and has left me with a permanent love for Readers and a huge appreciation of their ministry. I am particularly pleased that Jean is Reader, and that we have been partners in ministry for so many years.

46TH Bradford North Scout Group

ST. GEORGE'S DAY SERVICE & PARADE

We had a splendid turn out (60 from our group alone) for the City Scouts parade on April 24th. The sun shone as we marched from City Park to the Cathedral for our annual service during which several leaders were presented with awards. Natalie Howard received a special commendation for her dedicated reign as District Commissioner for Bradford North.

The Chief Scout's Award of Merit was presented to Val Ward our Cub Scout leader of 32 years. She was absolutely amazed (got you!) and thoroughly delighted to receive this from Steve Brownless, the Assistant County Commissioner. There was definitely a 'spring in her step' as we marched back to City Park for the Lord Mayor's salute.

The mood was very jolly as we celebrated in style - not only Val's accolade but my birthday too. With family and friends we enjoyed a sumptuous lunch followed by a 'few' beverages before heading off to our usual quiz night at the club. Tragically, however we never did make it to the quiz ...

As my grandson, Rohan, wrote in Val's memory book, "Our Scout Group is now like a cake but with a slice missing."

A group update:

FIRE SAFETY

The Beavers enjoyed an evening at the Fire Station last month. They learned about fire safety at home and how smoke alarms are essential. The leaders tried on fire-fighters uniforms which proved to be very amusing (check out our group Facebook pages). The children were also able to climb aboard the fire engines and had a go at using the hoses.

Our Cubs hope to visit the station later in the summer term.

EXPLORERS & SCOUTS

Meetings are being held at Blackhills whenever the weather permits so that basic outdoor skills can be learned and practised prior to the busy summer camping season.

CUB SCOUTS CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

To mark the centenary of Cub Scouting a County Adventure camp at Bradley Woods, Brighouse, will be held from Saturday 28th until Monday 30th May. Around 1000 Cubs are attending (17 of ours) and will have the opportunity to experience at least 100 different activities.

BLACKHILLS CELEBRATION CAMP

From the 1st to the 3rd of July Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers from across the city and beyond will come together for a special camp to remember several important events including 30 years of Beaver Scouting, Blackhills' 70th birthday and 100 years of Cub Scouting. There will be a range of activities for the young people to enjoy including: climbing; caving; laser quest; shooting & archery; survival skills; a spider mountain and Zorbing. There will also be the site's biggest birthday campfire and a firework display.

Bev Howard
GROUP SCOUT LEADER

Langley House Trust

The Trust is a national Christian charity which delivers offender rehabilitation services across England. It supports adult male and female offenders and those at risk of offending - enabling them to make positive life changes and live crime-free. Every day they see lives transformed, addictions broken and families restored. To find out more about the work of Langley House Trust, or become a prayer sponsor, visit www.langleyhousetrust.org.

At our service on 10th July, a speaker from the Trust will come to talk at our 10.00 a.m. service. Please come along if you would like to learn more.

Elizabeth our Queen

Through hope and trial, peace and strife
For ninety years she's been
A vital part of national life
Elizabeth our Queen.

The language that I'm writing
Our hills of vibrant green
Our pealing bells, delighting
Elizabeth our Queen.

Old houses, thatched, appealing
Old England's rural dream;
A Royal house, revealing
Elizabeth our Queen.

The guards' red coats are glorious
Their horses are pristine
They cry, "Send her victorious!"
Elizabeth our Queen.

Our country, land of beauty
Would be half of what it's been
But for ninety years of duty
So sing, "God save our Queen!"

By Nigel Beeton

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Life in the Circus?

A couple who worked at the circus wanted to adopt a child. Social workers had doubts about their suitability, but the couple produced photos of their large motor-home, which was equipped with a beautiful nursery. As for education, not only was there a nanny, but also a full-time tutor to teach the child all the usual subjects along with French, Mandarin and computer skills. Finally, the social workers were satisfied, and had only one last question. "What age child are you hoping to adopt?"

"Oh, we don't mind at all," the couple assured them. "As long as he fits in the cannon."

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Holy Wells – Buxton in Derbyshire

Derbyshire is celebrated around the world for its wells. The annual tradition followed in many villages of ‘well dressing’ attracts sight-seers from miles away. Tissington is at the heart of Well Dressing country, and on Ascension Day the largest crowds gather to see the wells blessed. After a service in the church, a procession wends its way around the village and at each well a hymn is sung and a prayer of blessing given.

By ancient, centuries-old tradition, five wells are decorated. Boards are covered in clay which is then impressed with thousands of colourful flower petals to create pictures and tableaux. Often the stories illustrated are from the Bible, others are topical references to royal occasions, historical or sporting events. It is thought the practice may date back to the 14th century and may have started as an act of thanksgiving when the community escaped the devastation of the Black Death. Over the years, and before piped water became available, it also became an act of thanksgiving for the village’s supply of clean, clear water. Today Tissington is one of over 100 villages to follow the tradition. The season extends through the summer and while some communities decorate a single well others dress several in amazing and elaborate designs.

Generally the Derbyshire wells are not considered holy, or named after saints with miraculous cures attributed to them. Most were just the original village water tap. However, the Derbyshire town of Buxton not only enjoys a well dressing festival but also has a celebrated holy well where people regularly line up to collect its special waters.

Buxton mineral water is bottled and available in supermarkets, but in the town, at St Anne’s well, it is free. In medieval times there was a chapel on the spot and pilgrims came to seek cures and leave offerings. Henry VIII put an end to the practice, but later the town became a spa and patients heard of the therapeutic reputation of the waters and came to bathe and drink, much as the ancient Romans had done. Today the free Buxton water emerges from a pipe set in a modern plinth containing a statuette of St Anne, the mother of Mary and Jesus’s grandmother.

Notes from the PCC

The PCC met on Tuesday 17th May with another full agenda.

We were greatly encouraged by the number of people who attended the meeting to look at ways we can attract new people into church. It is a very delicate balancing act to try to provide services which younger people and those who are perhaps new to church will enjoy, whilst at the same time making provision for the more traditional, seasoned worshipper. From September, we are to try a new rota of services which will hopefully provide something for all. On the 1st Sunday of the month, there will be a said communion at 9.30 a.m., followed by coffee and fellowship. Then, at 10.30 a.m. there will be an all-age worship service. Everyone is welcome to come to either or both. On the 2nd Sunday we will accommodate any baptisms in a standard communion service. The 3rd Sunday will remain as our Parade and Family Service; the 4th Sunday will see a shortened sung communion, with a Messy Church or similar family-type worship. When there is a 5th Sunday in the month, there will be a special service to be arranged as appropriate to the season. There is a further meeting in church on June 21st at 7.30 p.m. to look at this. Do please go along if you would like to discuss it.

As the new Diocese continues to develop, we have been asked to look at proposals for how deaneries will be organised. We gave our preliminary thoughts on Tuesday, but will look at it further and make our final decisions at the next meeting.

We are also approaching the 50th Anniversary of the dedication of our present church building. We made more plans for how we will celebrate this (details elsewhere in the magazine) and we also looked at the ways we can showcase the wonderful building we have to meet the terms of the Heritage Lottery Fund Grant. We are well on the way with this and are confident we can meet the deadline.

*Hilary Davis,
PCC Secretary*

Laid to Rest

Valerie Ann Ward

6th May 2016

Eileen Mary Hart

26th May 2016

June Roll of Remembrance

2nd	Thomas Varley	(1975)
3rd	June Love	(1978)
	Jessie Trigg	(1979)
4th	Jack Hartley	(1980)
5th	Herbert Vivian Bamford	(1985)
6th	Joyce Whitham	(1971)
10th	Horace Dixon	(1956)
	Margaret Lee	(1983)
13th	Winifred Deacon	(1983)
14th	Lily Hodgson	(1994)
17th	Alfred Ainsworth	(1971)
	Alicia Booth	(1978)
18th	Laura Shewan	(1977)
19th	Annie Whittle	(1981)
22nd	Edna Stubbs	(1984)
	Dorothy Ward	(1985)
	Ronald John Critchley	(1996)
24th	Thomas Brocklehurst	(1958)
25th	Kath Pasterfield	(2001)
26th	Sidney Lake	(1981)
29th	Ada Fox	(1980)
	Ethel Cromley	(1982)
	Frances Teale	
	Walter Teale	
	Emily Holmes	

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