

The March Letter

Dear Friends,

This month of March will be the last full month for the Diocese of Bradford. Next month, as most of us know by now, the diocese will cease to exist on Easter Day; after that, we will be part of the Diocese of Leeds, also to be known as West Yorkshire and the Dales. Most of us in our part of the world will see little difference – we will have the same Bishop at the head of our diocese, as we learned in early February, and the structures immediately round us will stay the same, under the same local leadership. But grumbles have been heard in some local quarters already around that old competitive inter-city rivalry – why should the Diocese of Bradford have to disappear into the Diocese of Leeds?

Local clashes are always more personal, aren't they? (And I lived for many years in Manchester, where United and City fans regularly had negative comments to offer about the other team!) And then there was Liverpool and Everton..... and no doubt many more within the football world, if not beyond. One of the more baffling ones from our Manchester days related to one of the nearby towns in which we lived – Oldham. An earlier reorganisation had draw seven small local towns together into the Oldham local authority, including Shaw, where we lived, and Royton, its immediate neighbour. Royton had quite a distinctive clock tower over the Town Hall, with three large clock faces, and a small one on the side facing Shaw – so small that you couldn't read it. And why? Because during the English Civil War, Royton was for the Parliamentarians, while Shaw was for the King!

There will be much reworking of relationships in church circles over the next few years, as we draw together into our new, large diocese. For many involved, I'm sure that will be a constructive and enlightening process, and an exciting pattern for the future. But it may mean having to leave some familiar and cherished links behind – not lost – friendships can and should still be maintained – but making space for new work, new mission opportunities, can bring the

possibility of placing our priorities differently.

There will be times when we disagree about what we do, and how we go about it, but that too is part of the Christian life, and where disagreement is expressed in love and charity, not something to be feared. Bringing people together will be part of this process, and is something we are all called to do as Christians. To quote David Smith, writing in the Guidelines Bible Reading Notes: “...if we are in Christ, we are not only reconciled but we have also been called to be reconcilers, ambassadors for the healing that has come in Christ.”

I pray that we can all take this message to heart as we move into the future. Tensions can drain energy out of us that can be used more constructively in building up new relationships and new directions for mission. As we observe Lent this year, it would be good to use it as both a preparation for celebrating, as every year, Christ’s Resurrection at Easter, and this year in particular, a preparation for playing our part in the building up of our new diocese. It is coming together to offer a more coherent Christian message to West Yorkshire and the Dales, including among other places, Bradford – and Leeds!

Jean Bailey

MARCH PARISH DIARY

<u>SUNDAY 2ND</u>	SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT
	10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (<i>Revd. Ian Slater</i>)
	2.00 p.m. Messy Church in hall
Tuesday 4th	11.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Crossley House
	7.00 p.m. Prayer meeting in vestry
	7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
Ash Wednesday 5th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James’s, with Ashing
	6.15 p.m. Cub scouts
Thursday 6th	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
Friday 7th	2.00 p.m. Women’s World Day of Prayer Service at Allerton Congregational Church

SUNDAY 9TH FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (*Revd. Richard and Mrs. Jean Bailey*)

Tuesday 11th 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing

Wednesday 12th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
11.30 a.m. Ings Way Lunch Day
6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts
7.30 p.m. Lent Group

Thursday 13th 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 16TH SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

10.00 a.m. Parade Service and Holy Communion (*Revd. Ian Slater*)

Tuesday 18th 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing

Wednesday 19th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's
6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts

Thursday 20th 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer
4.30 p.m. K:Ings Way Club
6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
7.30 p.m. Scouts

SUNDAY 23RD THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (*Revd. Ian Slater*)
11.30 a.m. Annual Parochial Church meeting

Tuesday 25th 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing

Wednesday 26th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts
7.30 p.m. Lent Course

Thursday 27th 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer
4.30 p.m. K:Ings Way Club
6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
7.30 p.m. Scouts

Saturday 29th 7.30 p.m. Jigsaw Challenge

SUNDAY 30TH FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT/MOTHERING

SUNDAY 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (*Revd. Ian Slater*)

46TH BRADFORD NORTH SCOUT GROUP

70 YEARS STRONG

In November 1944 the 46th Bradford North Scout Group was registered with the Association's headquarters. The Group comprised a Scout Troop that met down at Brownroyd. In the sixties the Group, which now boasted a large Cub Pack, moved to Fairweather Green School before transferring here to St. Saviour's and adopting the church's name as part of the Group title.

I came along in 1979 to help out 'Badger' (Sue Lamb's dad) with the running of the Cub Pack taking over the reins the following year.

The Group has had its ups and downs since then with membership fluctuating quite remarkably at times. For me the lowest point came about ten years ago when we had half a dozen Beavers, 4 or 5 Cubs and a struggling Scout Troop. However, just as Val and I were imagining retiring into the wooded gloaming, an influx of children from St. William's school suddenly saw our numbers rocket into the high teens and thus our plans of sitting home with our feet up were thwarted.

Membership now is at the highest ever with fourteen Beavers, twenty-six Cubs, sixteen Scouts and seventeen Explorers.

The trend for Scouting nationally is on the up and certainly in Bradford North membership is the highest it has been for ten years.

We plan to celebrate our seventieth anniversary in several ways

and hope you may be able to join us at one or more of the events already planned (there may be additional functions added later in the year- watch this space):

FRIDAY 9TH MAY
70TH REUNION

Girlington & District Conservative Social Club
Entertainment & Supper

SUNDAY 10TH – FRIDAY 15TH AUGUST
SUMMER CAMP

Birch Hall, near Scarborough

FRIDAY 26TH – SUNDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER
70TH BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

(Party on the Saturday evening)
Blackhills Scout Camp

THE WEST YORKSHIRE COUNTY GANG SHOW

VICTORIA THEATRE, HALIFAX

THURSDAY 3RD – SATURDAY 5TH APRIL

Let me know if you'd like tickets

7 of our Cubs and Scouts are taking part this year.
It's usually a great experience and most enjoyable.

Bev Howard
GROUP SCOUT LEADER

A Translation of Genesis From 1,200 Years Ago.

Ian Mc Alpine.

Recently I bought a book published in 1916 entitled *The Caedmon poems translated into English prose* by Charles W Kennedy. Since only one poem by the 7th century writer Caedmon of Whitby, whom I discussed in an article last April, is thought to survive I was intrigued. I soon realised that the title was very misleading since the book actually contained translations of the single poem attributed to Caedmon and summaries - not strictly translations - of the books of Genesis, Exodus and Daniel and a much later work called "Christ and Satan" originally written in Anglo-Saxon, a remote ancestor of modern English, in the 9th and 10th centuries. The original manuscript was discovered in about 1630 and is now in the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

Unfortunately nobody knows who wrote these poems over a thousand years ago which were based on St Jerome's Latin translation of three books of the Old Testament. Certainly it wasn't Caedmon. The original Anglo-Saxon text, written perhaps in the time of Alfred the Great, (871 - 899) is impossible for most of us to read and understand today. However, I reproduce below parts of Kennedy's beautiful translation of the first chapter of Genesis. Unless we can read Anglo-Saxon this is perhaps the closest we can come to an understandable version of part of a 9th century English Bible.

"Then in radiant glory God's holy spirit moved upon the waters with wondrous might. The Lord of Angels, Giver of life, bade shine forth upon the spacious earth. Swiftly was God's word fulfilled. Holy light gleamed forth across the waste at the Creator's bidding. Over the seas the Lord of victory divided light from darkness, shadow from radiant day. The lord of life gave both a name. By the word of God the gleaming light was called day. And in the beginning of creation was God well pleased. The first day saw the dark and brooding shadows vanish throughout the spacious earth"

"Then came a second day, light after darkness. And the Lord of life ordained a pleasant firmament amid the waters. Our Lord sundered the seas and established the heavens. By His word the King, Almighty God, raised them above the earth. The waters were divided under the heavens by His holy might: the waters were sundered from the waters, under the firmament."

"It did not seem good to the Lord of heaven that Adam should longer be alone as warden and keeper of this new Paradise. Wherefore the King, Almighty God, wrought him an helpmeet; the Author of life made woman and brought her unto the man whom He loved. He took the stuff of Adam's body, and secretly drew forth a rib from his side. He was fast asleep in peaceful slumber: he knew no pain or pang; there came no blood from the wound, but the Lord of angels drew forth from his body a growing rib, and the man was unhurt. Of this God fashioned a lovely maid, breathing into her life and an eternal soul. They were like unto the angels. The bride of Adam ... was a living spirit. By God's might both were born into the world in the loveliness of youth. They knew no sin nor any evil, but in the hearts of them both there burned the love of God".

"Then the Gracious King, Lord of all human kind, blessed these two, male and female, man and wife, and spake this word:

Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the green earth with your seed and increase, sons and daughters. And ye shall have dominion over the salt sea, and over all the world. Enjoy the riches of earth, the fish of the sea, and the fowls of the air. To you is given power over the herds which I have hallowed, and the wild beasts, and over all living things that move upon the earth; all living things, which the depths bring forth throughout the sea, shall be subject unto you."

Jigsaw Challenge

Saturday 29th March 2014

7.30 p.m.

£2.50 - to include supper of jacket potatoes,
with fillings

How to play:

- Buy a bag of pieces for £1.
- Each bag will make a rectangular section
- Carefully carry your completed section over to the main jigsaw table and pop it in place.

Messy Church

Our Messy Church sessions start on Sunday 2nd March in the church hall from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. and will continue on each first Sunday of the month. It's fun for ALL the family. There will be crafts, games, bible stories, songs and a light meal—and it's free! This first session will be based on the theme of "the Family". The next one, in April will look at "the Creation". Do please come and find out what it's all about—you'll be MOST welcome.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 7th March, 2.00 p.m. Allerton Congregational Church (NOT BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH AS REPORTED IN LAST MONTH'S EDITION)

The Women's World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the voices of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is extensive. An international committee works from New York and each participating country has its own national committee. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, on Friday March 7th, women and men will gather to celebrate using a programme offered this year by the women of Egypt.

The theme of the service is "Streams in the Desert" and we are asked to reflect on our Christian role of being a 'stream in the desert' for those who experience spiritual drought.

One of the oldest civilizations in the world, Egypt has long been home to Coptic Christians. Since the uprising in 2011 there has been conflict between religious groupings. Political change affects lives and we pray with the women of Egypt for peace.

It is hoped there will be a great wave of prayer, rising with the sun over the island of Samoa and sweeping across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas, coming to rest in American Samoa some 36 hours later. By then, WWDP services will have been celebrated in over 170 countries .

- All are welcome to attend - men, women and children, so please go
1. along to the Congregational Church to join in the wave of prayer.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The time has come again for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which will take place in the Church Hall on Sunday 23rd March at 11.30 a.m. following the morning service (and, coffee, of course!) All members on the Church's Electoral Roll are welcome to come along and vote for the various officers for the year (Churchwardens, Deanery Synod Representatives, Members of PCC, Sidespeople etc.) If you are not on the Electoral Roll and would like to be (there is no obligation attached to this, it just marks you as a member of our church) you have until 2nd March to enrol to be able to attend the meeting. Applications can be accepted after the meeting for the coming year. We are always looking for new applicants for any of the above posts (and, indeed for any of the rotas for church jobs). If you are interested, please see Kaaren, our Churchwarden. At the meeting, we also hear reports from all the organisations connected with the church, a report of what we have been doing over the past year, a report of our financial position, and the Vicar's thoughts on the parish as a whole. Do please come and join us if you can and have your say.

Dates for your Diary

The Social Committee met in February to plan a basic programme for the year. Some of the dates are provisional, but more information will be available nearer the time. The dates so far are:

Saturday 29th March,	7.30 p.m.	Jigsaw challenge
Thursday 19th June (provisional)		Crown Green Bowls evening at West Bradford Bowling Club
Saturday 19th July	2 to 4 p.m.	Summer Fair
September		Barn Dance
Saturday 25th October	7.30 p.m.	Talk & Film Show by Revd.
Saturday 15th November	11 to 4	Winter Fair

In addition to this, we are looking at the possibility of a trip to Bempton Cliffs, followed by a service at Bempton Church in May or June.

Watch this space!!

A Dog's Tale

My owner is a chubby lass
Who has a sling she uses
To help her effortlessly throw
My ball to where she chooses.

The exercise I get is great!
I wish she'd get some too,
But biting hands that feed you is,
In doggy lore, taboo.

She's got herself addicted –
Eats chocolate by the ton.
And such a couch potato!
I've never seen her run . . .

But I've a plan to make her fit,
A plan that cannot fail:
I'll make a chocolate launcher
And fit it to my tail.

Next time we're out for walkies,
I'll wag my tail with zest
And watch her chase the chocolate –
It'll all be for the best . . .

She'll run and puff and pant and grunt,
And work up quite a sweat.
I hope, when she recovers,
She'll thank her thoughtful pet . . .

Burundi School extension

We have been following the progress of the initiative to build and maintain schools in Burundi for the past few years – particularly by knitting small “Burundi” bears for sale to support the project. Below is the latest update from the charity.

We're excited to report that the primary school at Muzye is finally getting the extension it so desperately needs and a further 300 places will be provided. Currently, there are over 900 children using the 6 classrooms and we are certain that we'll be bursting at the seams again soon, even with this new extension (which is due to be completed within the next two months).

We heard recently that two of our students who have gone through Muzye Primary and Secondary schools have been awarded scholarship places to study at universities in the capital, Bujumbura. Both of these students returned as refugees from Tanzania and would not have had this opportunity for education without your help and support. As you can see, the two FacilitAid schools in this area are having a huge impact on education in the local community.

This extension is the fourth of six primary school extensions and we have just been asked if we could return to Muzye again after completing these projects, to add further classrooms to the secondary school which is running with 880 pupils in classrooms designed for only 500!

In other news, we have launched our new website this week, complete with a Facebook page and Twitter account. Please do check out our new website for more news on what we're doing, and consider liking us on Facebook, following us on Twitter and sharing our updates with colleagues, friends and family who might be interested in the work of FacilitAid in Burundi!

Thanks for your ongoing interest and support,
The FacilitAid Team

Lent Course

As we reported in last month's issue, Richard and Jean Bailey have kindly agreed to lead a Lent course for us "Throughout All Ages, World Without End- Understanding the Eucharist". The sessions will be on Wednesday evenings and will start at 7.30 p.m. and finish at 9.00 p.m.

March 12th – "Throughout all ages world without end."

March 19th – NO meeting

March 26th – The Ministry of the Word

April 2nd – The Ministry of Intercession

April 9th – The Ministry of the Eucharist

April 16th – Communal Celebration of the Eucharist.

Marjorie Grange has generously agreed to host the sessions at her house - 23 Shelley Grove. Please have a word with Richard, Jean or Marjorie if you would like to go.

The Way I See It: Mine's Bigger Than Yours

by David Winter, Former Head of Religious Broadcasting, BBC.

125 years ago this month the Eiffel Tower was opened. It was actually the entrance arch to the 1889 World Fair and named after its builder, Gustave Eiffel. At 324 metres it was then the tallest structure in the world. Indeed, it kept that title until 1930, when the Chrysler Building in New York marginally eclipsed it. However, very few buildings no matter how tall have eclipsed its global appeal. Its 250 millionth visitor clocked in three years ago. As a cultural icon of France and as a defining image recognised world-wide it is unsurpassed.

Of course since 1930 there have been many taller buildings erected in various parts of the world - America, Europe, the Far East and the Middle East. We've got some pretty big ones in London, for that matter (though 'pretty' is perhaps not the right adjective for many of them). We're still obsessed with size. Human beings of the male gender still like to claim that they've caught the biggest fish in the lake (even if it got away). . 'Mine's bigger than yours' is a standard

playground claim, be it a conker, gobstopper or bruise on the shin.

It's a trait beautifully captured in the story of the Tower of Babel in the Bible (Genesis 11:1-9). It probably relates to a period when men in the Middle East were very keen to build ziggurats - great rectangular stepped buildings, sometimes topped with a temple. In the biblical story human beings (men, I'm sure) had the bright idea of building one so big that it would have its top in the heavens. Thus, they hoped, they would 'make a name for themselves'. Their plan was thwarted by the Lord, who 'confused their language', leaving the would-be builders at odds with each other and the project hopeless. 'They left off building the city', Genesis wryly observes.

It's a strange story, but it neatly captures a familiar human ambition, the desire to be 'top'. Over the centuries, it has caused enormous suffering - jealousies, wars, plots, revolutions and assassinations. In the long term it cannot bring happiness or satisfaction. When Jesus caught his disciples arguing about rank and status, asking 'who is the greatest?', he soon put them right: 'Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all' (Mark 10:33,34).

Lent starts early in March. A time, perhaps, for reassessing our ambitions - including any lurking desire to be the 'greatest' or own the 'biggest'. Small is beautiful, and so is the role of the faithful servant. I must admit, however, that I still love the Eiffel Tower (and secretly wish I'd built it).

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Breakdown

Yesterday I broke down on the M1. I was charged £200 for one of those emergency recovery vehicles to pull me off. I think he was the abominable towman!

Labour

Curate: I can always tell when I am going to give birth to an idea for a sermon. My writer's cramps start coming two minutes apart.

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Christmas Cards

Margaret Baker would like to say a huge “thank you” to all who donated their used Christmas Cards for use with the Operation Christmas shoeboxes next year - and there were a lot! They will either be used to send Christmas greetings to the children or as pictures they can use in sticker books etc. Nothing is wasted!

March Roll of Remembrance

1st	Eric Cooper	(1995)
2nd	George Ridgway	(1988)
3rd	Jim Hannay	(1981)
4th	Ellen Milton	(1982)
5th	John Smith	(2001)
6th	Thomas Swales	(1983)
9th	William Henry Willis	(1972)
	Edith Gaygen	(1983)
	Alison Jane Parkin	(2004)
10th	Amy Wilkinson	(1945)
16th	Maurice Cheetham	(1997)
17th	Amy Dennet	(1981)
	Sadie Marlow	(2006)
19th	Elsie Saville	(1982)
21st	Martha Marlow	(1948)
24th	Gordon Spence	(1988)
25th	Bernard Hugh Preston	(1959)
	Albert Edward Jacques	(1981)
	Edith Sutcliffe	(1980)
	Thomas Flood	(1997)
26th	Ethel Eales	(1980)
28th	Cynthia Smith	(1975)
29th	Robert Errington	(1976)
31st	Chris Gibson	(2008)

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