

The May Letter

Dear Friends,

The Easter season lasts almost to the end of the month and, as Andy recently pointed out in a sermon, we need a few weeks after the joys of Easter Day to absorb and appreciate the wonder of Easter. Easter isn't over in one day but liturgically lasts for forty days until Ascension Day or even the few extra days until Pentecost. But does it end there?

I hope we celebrate every Sunday of the year; I believe that we meet in church principally on Sunday because it is the day of resurrection and therefore a day of joy. While I understand 'Keep Sunday Special' campaigns, I can't agree with the puritanical attitude of suppressing all things enjoyable. The Fourth Commandment instructs that we remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy, but that doesn't equate with being miserable.

What it does go on to say is that it should be free from work - tell that to Andy! But enshrining in a religious code that everyone should have a day off each week, seems admirable to me, especially in an age where slaves or servants were common, i.e. Old Testament times. It becomes a bit awkward when one person's enjoyment means that someone else has to work, and given the choice some would prefer not to.

I would hate a return to the days when Sunday meant no playing out, no visit to the pub but just sitting quietly with an improving book, but rather to engage in something to enjoy be that a trip to Valley Parade (if that is enjoyment), a walk in the fresh air or even a visit to church.

And try to keep the joy for a day or two longer.

Patrick

MAY PARISH DIARY

Tuesday 1st	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion at Crossley House
	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 2nd	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Thursday 3rd	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 6TH

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	10.45 a.m.	Worship Committee meeting
Tuesday 8th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
	7.30 p.m.	Episcopal visitation at St. Wilfrid's
Wednesday 9th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.30 a.m.	Ings Way Lunch Day
	6.15 p.m.	Cub scouts
Thursday 10 th	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 11th		Ladies' Night at St. James's
Saturday 12th	11.00 a.m.	Lunch and coffee

SUNDAY 13TH

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Tuesday 15th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
	7.30 p.m.	PCC meeting in Vestry
Wednesday 16th	9.30 a.m.	NO SERVICE
	6.16 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Thursday 17th	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
	7.30 p.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's for Ascension Day

SUNDAY 20TH

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Tuesday 22nd

9.30 a.m. Parade Service & Holy Communion

Wednesday 23rd

7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing

Thursday 24th

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts

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 27TH

PENTECOST

Tuesday 29th

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Wednesday 30th

7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing

Thursday 31st

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's

6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts

9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer

6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts

7.30 p.m. Scouts

A cascade of prayer along with the Olympic torch

The Olympic Torch relay starts at Land's End on 19 May. It will be carried on a 70-day journey across the UK, arriving at the Olympic Stadium on 27 July for the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony. At the same time Christian leaders will launch a cascade of prayer at Land's End. They will then travel to the next main torch-stopping place (Plymouth) where they will bring prayers of blessing and hand on a symbolic prayer baton to Christian leaders there. This simple process will continue day by day through the 70 days. It is up to the churches in each place that receives the baton to decide when and how the prayer chain of blessing is moved on. For more information, visit www.morethangold.org.uk.

Diamond Jubilee: Elizabeth - pt 4. The King is dead, long live the Queen!

David Winter, Former head of religious Broadcasting, BBC.

In the year when she became 21, Princess Elizabeth, on a visit to South Africa, made a remarkable and solemn commitment. ‘I declare before you all,’ she said, ‘that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of that great imperial family to which we belong’.

I wonder, as she uttered those brave words, whether she could possibly have imagined that the service to which she was committing herself would involve no less than sixty years as monarch, during a period of vast change in the world and to that ‘imperial family’ which was to become the Commonwealth of nations. If she could, she might have been relieved to know that she and her ‘rock’, Philip, would still be together 64 years later, well into the next millennium.

It was on another visit to Africa in 1952, on their way to Australia and New Zealand, that the next momentous event occurred in her life. Her father’s health had deteriorated the previous year. In fact, on a visit to the United States in 1951 the Princess’s private secretary carried with him the documents of accession, so that she could be instantly declared the monarch should her father die while she was overseas. That visit passed without incident, but early in the following February, news came of the king’s death.

Prince Philip broke the news to his young wife and immediately they flew back to London where she signed the papers of accession and was declared Queen Elizabeth II. It was her choice to retain her given name - that, of course, of the great Elizabeth I of Tudor times. She became Queen on February 6th 1952, at the age of 24. She and her husband moved immediately into Buckingham Palace.

The royal family name had already been something of an issue. Senior members of the royal family were strongly in favour of the retention of the name ‘Windsor’, but as a concession to Philip’s paternal role, a few years later, after the death of the widowed Queen, some members of the family

were permitted to use the name ‘Mountbatten-Windsor’.

It was a hugely significant time for a new monarch to take her place as head of the Commonwealth. The Cold War was at its height, and had indeed become rather hot in several places. Britain was still recovering from the effects of the War, there was rationing of many items and bomb sites were still visible in our cities (though redevelopment was well under way). Nevertheless there was an air of hope, some of it centred on the new Queen. There was no doubt that the nation intended to enjoy to the full her coronation, which was planned for the following Summer. When it was revealed that it would be televised live and in full, excitement knew no bounds.

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My Shadow

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.
He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head;
And I see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.

The funniest thing about him is the way he likes to grow--
Not at all like proper children, which is always very slow;
For he sometimes shoots up taller like an india-rubber ball,
And he sometimes goes so little that there's none of him at all.

He hasn't got a notion of how children ought to play,
And can only make a fool of me in every sort of way.
He stays so close behind me, he's a coward you can see;
I'd think shame to stick to nursie as that shadow sticks to me!

One morning, very early, before the sun was up,
I rose and found the shining dew on every buttercup;
But my lazy little shadow, like an arrant sleepy-head,
Had stayed at home behind me and was fast asleep in bed.

Robert Louis Stevenson

Betty Barnes remembers learning this poem when she was about 4 years old, and she can still recite it word for word today!

Dr Richard Richardson, (1663 - 1741) - Fairweather Green's Most Famous Resident?

Ian Mc Alpine.

Well, perhaps he isn't very well-known today but 300 years ago he was associated with Fairweather Green and did a lot of good work in the area. Richardson was born into quite a wealthy family who lived at Bierley Hall (long since demolished) to the south-west of Bradford and was related to John Sharp, the Archbishop of York. He matriculated at University College, Oxford in 1681 where he is thought to have taken a Bachelor of Physic degree, soon afterwards developing an interest in science, especially botany. In the late 1680s he went to Leyden in Holland where he studied under the direction of Paul Hermann, Professor of Botany at Leyden University. During the 17th century great advances were being made in many areas of science - for example John Ray had developed a system to classify plants in the 1650s and Sir Isaac Newton put forward his theory of gravity and investigated the nature of light in his Principia (1687) and Opticks (1690). These developments no doubt inspired Richardson's scientific career which eventually earned him a place in the Dictionary of National Biography.

On 16th December, 1699 a marriage settlement was drawn up between Dr Richardson and Sarah, the daughter of John Crossley. Crossley owned a property called Kirshawhouse in Midgley near Mytholmroyd as well as Crossley Hall (Thornton Old Road) in Fairweather Green. He gave the eastern section of Crossley Hall, part of which I have owned since 2003, to Richard and Sarah who were married at Luddenden Chapel on 9th February, 1700. The foundations of Crossley Hall are thought to date back to the 13th century when a preceptory (local headquarters) of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem stood on the site but the present building including my house was mostly constructed around 1655 with an 18th century west wing and Victorian additions.

Sadly, Richard and Sarah's marriage was short-lived. Sarah died from childbirth complications in 1702 and her baby son soon followed her. Richard subsequently married Dorothy Currer in 1705 and they had 12 children. His scientific and medical career prospered. Although he was unable to save Sarah he treated many patients around Bradford and

Halifax, often without charging for his services, some 250 years before the advent of the NHS. He was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1712 and made many contributions to its Philosophical Transactions. These included "On subterraneous trees, or fossil wood at Youle, near York" written long before the true nature of fossils was widely understood. He formed a friendship with Hans Sloane (1660 - 1753) whose extensive collections formed the basis of the British Museum. Sloane once sent him a seed from a cedar tree which grew to an enormous size on Richardson's Bierley estate. Richardson is thought to have built at Bierley the second greenhouse ever constructed in England. Dillenius, the Professor of Botany at Oxford, said that Richardson was "one of two men who had most enlarged the number of plants [known] in England and fixed where they lived" and Linnaeus, the great Swedish botanist who did much important work on the classification of plants once named a plant after him. A large collection of Richardson's manuscripts is preserved at the Yorkshire Archaeological Society where I work and I am grateful to the Society for allowing me to publish this portrait of him from their collection.

The true extent of Richardson's association with Crossley Hall will never be known and it seems likely that he spent most of his time at Bierley Hall, his larger and grander property which sadly has long gone. However, he must surely have stayed at Fairweather Green a few times around 1700. Certainly the Richardsons owned half of Crossley Hall until at least 1765. My garden wall which I think dates from around the late 17th century neatly divides the property into two sections - was it perhaps built in 1699 in connection with Richardson's marriage settlement? It has been enjoyed by countless generations of cats!

Whatever the case there's no doubt that Richardson was born near Bradford and should be remembered for his extraordinary scientific achievements and voluntary service to the community.

13th – 19th May brings Christian Aid Week

This year Christian Aid Week tells the story of change within a community in Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is a place with vast natural resources of fertile land and mineral wealth, but in spite of this abundance, its turbulent past has left the country with deep challenges. These challenges have meant that many people's lives are defined by hunger, and their prospects limited by the urgency of finding enough to eat. In a society where women and young people are widely marginalised, decision-making can be weighted against people who are naturally more vulnerable in society, and the cycle of hunger and poverty continues.

A group of three Christian Aid supporters – Mike, Peter and Llinos – travelled to Gbap (pronounced Bap) in rural Sierra Leone in summer 2011. There, they saw first-hand the work of Christian Aid's partner, the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone (MCSL), who encouraged the people of Gbap to set up a village development committee. MCSL also gave local farmers some simple tools that hugely increased the amount they could grow. Now that the community is free to think beyond their immediate hunger, their lives have changed beyond measure. We will again be carrying out house-to-house collections in our area, so if you can help, please sign the list against the streets you are able to cover - or for more details, and to give, please visit: <http://www.caweek.org/>

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Ascension Day

On Ascension Day, 17th May 2012, there will be a service of Holy Communion at St. James's at 7.30 p.m. Everyone is most welcome to come along. **Please note: There is no service at either church at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday 16th May.**

The Seaman Wins!

Author Unknown

Through the pitch-black night, the captain sees a light dead ahead on a collision course with his ship. He sends a signal:

"Change your course 10 degrees east."

The light signals back: "Change yours, 10 degrees west."

Angry, the captain sends: "I'm a navy captain! Change your course, sir!"

"I'm a seaman, second class," comes the reply. "Change your course, sir."

Now the captain is furious. "I'm a battleship! I'm not changing course!"

There is one last reply. "I'm the lighthouse. Your call."

COFFEE MORNING AND LUNCH

SATURDAY 12TH MAY

11.00 A.M. TO 1.00 P.M.

Lunches

Books

Cakes

Raffle

Jewellery

Entrance free

46TH Bradford North Scout Group

From Friday 30th March to Sunday 1st April, twenty-five children and six adults enjoyed a fun packed weekend at Curly Hill Scout Camp, Ilkley.

Friday evening saw the children designing medals and an athletes kit for the Olympic Games. There were also several themed quizzes and, after supper, bingo - it's quite amazing how they all enjoy this game!

After breakfast on Saturday we held our 'Olympic Games' starting with events from the Ancient Games: javelin, discus, sprint and relay, moving onto the 3-legged race, skipping and tug-o-war. Creative activities followed in the afternoon: making telephones with cans and string; using pioneering skills to construct a flag pole; painting the Cistine Chapel! We then walked down to the Ilkley Lido which we had booked for our exclusive use - the indoor bit of course! All had such fun playing on the floats and with the various balls. Afterwards we ate our fish and chips by the river even though the temperature was on the cool side - absolutely freezing! The children then played in the park before returning to camp for puzzle time, bingo and play-your-cards-right.

We managed to trick a number of our youngsters with an April Fool joke on Sunday morning - bless! Having had a hearty breakfast everyone set off for a two mile walk through Middleton Woods and down to the shop in Ilkley (money by this time was 'burning a hole' in their pockets!). We played one of our favourite wide games after lunch - the Vanishing Postbox - and then, after a quiz, began the process of cleaning and packing.

Bev Howard GROUP SCOUT LEADER

Death in Paradise

Although it is many years since we last visited the Cotswolds, I have happy memories of the towns and villages of that area, Burford in particular. Burford stretches down from the ridge which carries the A40 from Oxford to Gloucester into the valley of the Windrush. There are many fine buildings in that town which speak of its days of prosperity in the 13th and 14th centuries, a prosperity which came from the wool trade. At the bottom of the main street, the parish church of St. John the Baptist is found situated in an idyllic spot near the river. Restful, peaceful, you might think. But, no! This is the spot of a judicial murder, carried out on the morning of 17th May 1649.

In 1649, the country was coming to terms with a different order of things. Two civil wars had been won by the Parliamentary armies, Charles I had been executed, Parliament had passed acts abolishing the Monarchy and House of Lords (which are still on the statute book!), and everyone was looking for a clear path forward. The "Irish problem" had risen again, and Fairfax and Cromwell were determined to send the Army into Ireland to restore order. This was not to the soldiers' liking. Ever since the end of the first Civil War in 1646, their pay had been in arrears, some regiments being badly behind in paying their troops. The soldiers regarded this expedition into Ireland as a way of getting out of paying their arrears, and mutinies began to break out.

Ever since 1647, the soldiers had had an interest in the political settlement of the country. Their attitude was that they had marched up and down the country, risking their lives, and they demanded a say in the settlement of the country's future. The regiments affected had taken on board many of the views of the radical political group known as the Levellers. This added to the soldiers' grievances over pay. The regiments which had refused to be drafted to Ireland began to march, intending to rendezvous with other dissatisfied regiments. Fairfax and Cromwell quickly gathered loyal troops and followed them at a distance. The mutineers had the impression that Fairfax and Cromwell would keep their distance, so that, when they arrived in Burford, they fell into an exhausted sleep without setting proper sentries.

Cromwell took advantage of the darkness and after a forced march, divided

his troops into two and attacked from both ends of the main street about midnight. The mutineers were trapped; many escaped across the fields, but some 300 were captured and locked in the church for the night. One of the prisoners left his name "Antony Sedley prisner" scratched into the lead lining of the font, where it can still be seen.

The mutineers were convinced that Cromwell had broken faith with them, and scholars still argue whether this was true; "You kept not covenant with us," they muttered, and this may well have fuelled Cromwell's anger. A court-martial was held, and four were designated as ringleaders and tried for their lives. One of them, Cornet Denne, clowned about in a winding sheet expressing abject apologies for his actions (though some sources claim he was actually in the pay of Cromwell and Fairfax). He was reprieved. The other three were sentenced to death by firing squad. The mutineers were forced to line the parapet of the Church, while the execution of Cornet Thompson and Corporals Church and Perkins was carried out.

All this was largely forgotten, until in 1975, when members of the Oxford Workers' Educational Association held a commemoration of the event at Burford Church. It was a very low key affair, but this changed in 1976, when Tony Benn was invited to be the speaker at the commemoration. This aroused the fury of the Burford Conservative Association (no surprise there) and efforts were made to prevent the commemoration from going ahead.

It was, however, to no avail. "Levellers' Day" has been commemorated ever since. The three executed soldiers are now commemorated by a plaque on the wall of the church. Oddly enough, the church itself stands as a reminder of the deep divisions caused by the Civil war. While Antony Sedley's name remains at one end of the church, Lucius Cary, Viscount Falkland, a leading Royalist, born in Burford, and killed at Newbury in 1643, has his monument at the other.

RW Bailey

Catching oysters

A story is told of Wesley and one of the early Methodist lay preachers, a man with little formal education. On one occasion, the lay preacher took as his text Luke 19:21, "Lord, I feared thee, because thou art an austere man."

Not knowing the word 'austere', the simple lay preacher thought that the text spoke of "an oyster man." So he spoke about the work of those who retrieve oysters from the sea-bed. He described in detail how the diver must plunge down from the surface, cut off from his natural environment, into cold water. He gropes in the dark, cutting his hands on the sharp edges of the shells. When he has the oyster, he kicks his way back up to the surface, up to the warmth and light and air, clutching in his torn and bleeding hands the object of his search.

So Christ, declared the lay preacher, descended from the glory of heaven into the squalor of earth, and sinful human society. His purpose was to retrieve humans, and bring them back up with him to the glory of heaven. His torn and bleeding hands were a sign of the value he has placed on the object of His quest.

Twelve men were converted to faith in Christ that evening. Afterwards, someone complained to Wesley about the inappropriateness of allowing preachers who were too ignorant to know the meaning of the texts they were preaching on. Wesley simply said, "Never mind, the Lord got a dozen oysters tonight."

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Notes from the PCC

At the first meeting of the "new" PCC on Wednesday 28th March, we needed to choose the various officers for the coming year. It is very much the status quo with James Muff as Treasurer, Patrick Preston as Lay Chair and Disability Representative, Eric Heywood as Child Protection Officer, Keith West as Electoral Roll Officer and me as Secretary. Conveners for the various committees - Standing, Fabric, Finance, Social and Worship were also chosen. With the exception of the Standing Committee, these committees are open to anyone, so if you would like to become involved in any of them, you will be most welcome to attend meetings, which are advertised in the weekly notice sheet, in the magazine and on the web.

We were delighted to be able to approve a request from Jean Bailey to be licensed to St. Saviour's as a Reader. Since leaving St. Peter's, Allerton, Jean has had a general licence, but as she and Richard have made St. Saviour's their "home", she would like to be licensed to us. The fact that Andy is leaving us shortly muddies the waters a little, but events will be set in train to bring this about in due course.

Many of you will know Bob Baker, who has visited us many times as part of the organists' deputising service. Bob became aware that we were looking for a permanent organist, and applied for the post. The PCC was delighted to be able to approve this application and we welcome Bob, and his wife Margaret, as members of our church family and wish them a long and happy association with us. The wonderful organ music is a great asset to our worship and will greatly enhance our services.

We have received the Quinquennial Inspection report from the Architect, which outlines the work that needs to be done in the next few years. In all £36,000-worth of work has been identified, with varying degrees of urgency. The Fabric Committee will meet to discuss how this can be managed and work out a strategy of priorities. The immediate requirement seems to be for roof repairs to the tune of £500-£600 per year for the next 2 years - but obviously we need to keep the bigger picture in mind and much prayer and thought will be needed to try to manage this.
Hilary Davis, PCC Secretary.

Hilary Davis - PCC Secretary

May Roll of Remembrance

6th	James Hewitt	(2000)
10th	Arnold Bower	(1994)
11th	Jayne Ashley Stockman	(1985)
	Craig Albert Stockman	(1985)
	Trevor John Stockman	(1985)
13th	Ken West	(1997)
17th	George Marlow	(1944)
21st	Eric Pincott	(1985)
22 nd	Clara Jackson	(1991)
26th	Edith Lumsden	(1985)
27th	Edna May Land	(1987)
28th	Arthur Ainsworth	(1974)
	Doris Lilian Hutson	(1978)
29th	Margaret Rhodes	(1980)

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

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