

The May Letter

Dear Friends,

This year, most of May falls in that period of forty days between the Resurrection and Jesus' Ascension into heaven. In the gospels and 1 Corinthians, 10 specific occasions are related where Jesus appeared in his risen form, and three times it is clear that Jesus was not, at first, recognized, – Mary Magdalene at the tomb, two disciples on the road to Emmaus and the fishing trip and breakfast on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Why? The people Jesus met would have known him well enough to realize who he was even if the encounter was unexpected. Clearly, his appearance was changed as recognition came by his subsequent words or actions. I wonder if they were somewhat embarrassed when the penny dropped.

Would we recognize Jesus if we met him in the street? Certainly not visually as we have so many varied images of him after centuries of artistic endeavour. But does it matter? Jesus said, 'Whatever you did for one of the least of these my brothers, you did it for me.' (Matt, 25.40), which surely means that any encounter with humankind should be met with patience, compassion and understanding. As if, but it's something we might to aspire to.

Finally, I must record our gratitude to Ian Slater, and Joan, who have provided stability and good counsel to us for well beyond the year he first committed to, during the interregnum. That continues, but watch this space.

Patrick

MAY PARISH DIARY

Thursday 1st 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 4TH 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER
 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (*Revd. Gordon Dey*)
 2.00 p.m. Messy Church

Tuesday 6th 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Crossley House
 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing

Wednesday 7th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's
 6.15 p.m. Cub scouts

Thursday 8th 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. Worship Committee meeting

SUNDAY 11TH 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (*Revd. Canon Denise Poole*)

Tuesday 13th 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing

Wednesday 14th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
 11.30 a.m. Ing's Way Lunch Day
 6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts

Thursday 15th 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 18TH 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
 10.00 a.m. Parade Service and Holy Communion
 (*Revd. Richard Bailey and Karen Wheelhouse*)

Tuesday 20th 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing

Wednesday 21st 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's

Thursday 22nd 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 25TH 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (*Rev. Sarah Siddique Gill*)
Tuesday 27th 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 28th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
Thursday 29th 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer
7.30 p.m. Said Communion for Ascension Day

Messy Church

Sunday 4th May

2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

Come along for games, crafts, songs, FUN
And food!

It's FREE!

Bishop Nick's message for the new Diocese

Welcome to the Diocese of West Yorkshire & the Dales. Born at Easter 2014, our new diocese confidently proclaims that Jesus Christ was not finished on the cross, but lives in us and through us, even today. We are here as part of the Christian Church to live out the life of Christ in the world of today. All of us. Together.

In the years ahead we face many challenges and exciting opportunities. Over the next few months our clergy and churches will continue to reach out to the people in our parishes with the love of God in Christ. Elsewhere we will be working hard to get the diocese on a sound operational footing as we shape our future organisation and mission. Area Bishops for Bradford and Huddersfield should be appointed and consecrated in the autumn – the archdeacons will serve their new episcopal areas from Easter Day. We will then be working on shaping a vision that can be tested as we create a new Diocesan Synod in late autumn. Posters and postcards for the new diocese will be available in all churches this month.

Please pray for – and encourage – those who are working hard to make it all happen. These processes are complex and demanding.

Our new diocese has at its heart God's compelling love and mercy. In worship, discipleship, nurture and service, we simply explore our response to God's love by taking the risk of loving God's world and its people. It is why we are here.

Holy Land Adventure

Revd. Ian & Joan Slater are running an 11 day trip to the Holy Land on 20th April 2015. This will be an exciting opportunity to walk in the steps of Jesus as we follow His ministry through Galilee, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem. Also includes a day at Masada and the Dead Sea. For further information and brochure please contact Ian or Joan on 01274 831437 or email; revianslater@gmail.com

Ascension Day

There will be a service of said Holy Communion on Thursday 29th May at 7.30 p.m. in the chapel to celebrate Ascension Day. Do please come and join us.

The story behind ‘Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son’

Here is a hymn that is so well known and loved that it has simply burst the bounds of Easter, and gets sung regularly at other times of the year. It has two stories behind it.

First, the music. The rousing music did not start out as a hymn, but was written by Handel for his opera ‘Judas Maccabeus’, first performed in 1746. Originally the words ran ‘See the conquering hero comes’, for Handel’s opera tells the story (found in the Apocrypha) of the leader of the Jews, Judas Maccabeus, who led an army against the Syrians and restored worship at the Temple. With its triumphant refrain after each verse, the music is easy to learn and sing, and can be (and has been!) played to great effect either by the trumpets, on an organ in a large resonant church, or even on guitars (!).

Secondly, the words. They were not written until 1884 – 138 years after the music. We owe them to the Rev Raymond Budry, a Swiss pastor from Lausanne. Ordained in the Free Evangelical Church in Vaud, he spent 35 years as the pastor of Vevey on Lake Geneva. Budry wrote the hymn in French (‘A Toi La Gloire!’) to console himself after the death of his first wife, and a year later (1885) it was published in Chants Evangeliques. Soon it found its way into English – translated by a Baptist minister from Kingston-upon-Thames, Richard Hoyle. By 1904 it had made the YMCA Hymn Book, and was being translated into other languages.

It is not clear who first had the happy idea of teaming words and music, but when they did, the hymn really took off. The theme of ‘battle’ is never far from this hymn, whether it was the battle of Judas Maccabeus, or the battle over sin which was won by Christ on the cross and in rising from the tomb. Easter, of course, marked the biggest victory over the biggest enemies of all time: sin and death.

What would Handel make of it, if he could know that his battle music had become one of the world’s most popular and well-known Easter hymns? He was a devout man, working for the poor, praying twice each day, and attending St Paul’s Cathedral. So it seems pretty certain that he would be delighted.

Battle of Towton Memorial Day

Ian Mc Alpine.

On Palm Sunday a friend kindly took me to the annual memorial of the Battle of Towton. Towton is a village between Tadcaster and Sherburn in Elmet and is close to the site of the greatest and bloodiest battle ever fought in England during the Wars of the Roses. My interest in this conflict developed when I recently discovered in the National Archives a slight family connection to the hostilities far back in the 1400s.

Today many people seem to think that the Wars of the Roses - a name invented in the 19th century - were between the counties of Yorkshire and Lancashire. Although this idea is totally untrue it has been supported by the "Roses" matches played between cricket teams from both counties. In fact the wars were fought between the supporters of two branches of the Royal Family - the Plantagenets - the House of Lancaster and the House of York. The Lancastrian King Henry VI was descended from Edward III's third son, John of Gaunt, the Duke of Lancaster, while the Yorkist claimants were descended from his fourth son, the Duke of York.

Very briefly Henry VI became King of England in 1422 when he was still a baby. Obviously he was too young to rule and for many years the work of government was taken on by the Duke of Bedford and others. However, as he grew older it became clear that Henry was seriously mentally unstable - he probably had some form of schizophrenia - was weak and ineffectual and totally unfit to be King of England. However, he was also scholarly and deeply religious and is best remembered today for founding Eton College and King's College, Cambridge. After about 1450 Henry's incompetent rule caused such serious unrest in the country that in 1455 his distant cousin, Richard the Duke of York, led an army against him. The Yorkist and Lancastrian forces met at St Albans in May 1455 and the Duke was victorious.

The history of the Wars of the Roses is extremely complex and beyond the scope of this short article. Between 1455 and 1461 several major

battles were fought, sometimes the Lancastrians won, sometimes the Yorkists. The rewards were extremely high as each side fought to gain control of England, the conflicts extremely violent. In 1460 the Duke of York was killed at the Battle of Wakefield, a Lancastrian victory. After further developments the Duke's young son Edward was proclaimed King Edward IV on 4th March, 1461. However, Edward's dukedom, York, was in the hands of King Henry so Edward marched with an army to claim the city. On Palm Sunday, 29th March, 1461 the Yorkist and Lancastrian forces, in all about 50,000 soldiers, met near Towton, with horrific consequences. The Lancastrians were led by Henry Beaufort, 3rd Duke of Somerset, the Yorkists by the newly-proclaimed King Edward IV, just 18 years old, an imposing and impressive figure nearly 6' 4" tall.

The weather was absolutely dreadful - high winds with snow and hail. The Yorkists and more numerous Lancastrians were about to fight a battle in conditions which most people would find hard even to walk through! The opening move of the battle was made by the Yorkist archers who fired their arrows from the maximum range of their longbows. Cannon were first produced a century earlier but were not used at Towton. Small hand-held guns had not yet been invented. With the wind behind them, the Yorkist arrows travelled farther than usual, plunging deep into the Lancastrian forces. The response from the Lancastrian archers was ineffective as the wind and hail blew in their faces. They found it difficult to judge the range and pick out their targets and their arrows fell short of the Yorkists. Unable to observe their results, the Lancastrians shot until they had used up most of their arrows, leaving a prickly carpet on the ground in front of their opponents.

After the Lancastrians had ceased firing their arrows, the Yorkist archers stepped forward again to shoot. When they had exhausted their own ammunition, they plucked the enemy arrows off the ground in front of them and fired them back at the Lancastrians. Coming under fire without any response of their own, the Lancastrians tried to engage the Yorkists in close combat. Seeing the enemy advancing, the Yorkist archers shot a few more volleys before retreating, leaving thousands of arrows in the ground to hinder the Lancastrian soldiers.

The fighting continued but was indecisive until the Duke of Norfolk brought Yorkist reinforcements. The Lancastrians continued to fight bravely but Norfolk finally brought victory to Edward. By the end of the day, the Lancastrians had broken up and fled for their lives. After about ten hours of fighting more than 10,000 men - perhaps as many as 28,000 - lay dead.

Recent excavations shed more light on the battle. In 1996 workmen at a construction site in Towton uncovered a mass grave which obviously contained the remains of men who were killed during or after the conflict. The skeletons showed horrific injuries; arms and skulls were cracked or shattered by swords, halberds, pole-axes and maces. The scene at Towton must have been absolutely terrifying.

When he heard of the total rout of his army Henry VI knew his cause was lost and fled to Scotland with his wife Margaret of Anjou, leaving Edward as king in his place. Henry was briefly restored to the monarchy in 1470 but was again deposed and later murdered in the Tower of London in May 1471. Edward IV then remained king until his death in 1483. Towton had changed the course of English history. (*To be continued next month*).

Foodbanks: Benefits, Work, Poverty

- 1) Perhaps you know a household where two generations have never been in work? Do you know their circumstances? Do you conclude that such families are widespread? What percentage of households do you think fit this category?
a) 0.3%; b) 1.3%; c) 3%; d) 13%
- 2) Perhaps you know someone claiming benefits to which (so far as you know) they are not entitled. What percentage of social security spending was overpaid due to fraud (2011/12)?
a) 0.7%; b) 1.7% c) 7.1% d) 17%
- 3) “We are spending too much on benefits”
Take the figures for August in various years. Which year do you think had the highest percentage of working-age people receiving “out-of-work” benefits?
a) 1995 b) 2001 c) 2008 d) 2011

46th Bradford North Scout Group

CUB SCOUTS

The County Gang Show, which was held at the Victoria Theatre in Halifax from the 3rd to 4th April, was superb. Nine of our young people were members of the cast and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

On Pack nights we have been focusing on the Home and Personal Safety Activity badges together with the Emergency Aid awards. Two Community Constables joined us for an evening and explained their job roles, as well as reinforcing safety awareness.

At the District Swimming afternoon on April 13th nine of our Cubs gained a total of 18 Staged awards, although they can only sport the highest staged badge on their uniforms. Three Beavers also joined us and practised some water skills, afterwards enjoying playing in the shallow end.

Cubopoly begins this month and lasts throughout the summer. This is a County Cub initiative whereby each pack has a board (similar to the Monopoly one) and a set of playing cards. Cubs roll a dice and whatever space they land on determines the activities that can be pursued. For example should we land on BRADFORD SOUTH these are the choices:

Visit Bradford Bulls.

Take part in fitness training.

Hold a curry cooking/tasting evening/international evening.

Visit Blackhills (100 plus points)

BRI visit or Health visitor talk.

I'm not sure what happens if we *Go to Jail* - better read up on that! Once we have completed an activity we have to upload photos and details onto the web page and points are thus awarded. There is to be a County Cubopoly Fun Day at Blackhills on the 21st June with a host of adventurous and exciting activities on offer.

On 3rd May we are taking part in a Sponsored Walk Challenge. Young people from across the district will meet at church and then walk via the Wetlands and Chellowdene to Blackhills Scout camp. En route they have to complete a quiz and also collect various items. On arrival at the campsite there are several challenges to complete eg pitching a tent, tying knots or following a trail.

70th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Our Group 70th Birthday reunion takes place on the 9th May at the Girlington Conservative club. Do join us if you can. There will be entertainment, supper and a tombola. Plus quizzes and time to chat to friends old and new. From 7.30pm.

SCOUTS & EXPLORERS

Following the highly successful practice expedition in March, our older members will be completing another hike, carrying all their kit from Curly Hill at Ilkley to Sconce at Baildon. They should then be ready for the official Duke of Edinburgh Expedition in the summer.

Bev Howard, Group Scout Leader

Congratulations!

We heartily congratulate Bev Howard, our Group Scout Leader, who has been awarded the Silver Acorn award at a ceremony at Windsor Castle in April. The Award is one of the highest in Scouting and is awarded at St. George's Day to those who have had at least 20 year's service which, according to the Scouting website, "should be specially distinguished and appreciably better than outstanding."

We at St. Saviour's have long been aware of the fantastic job Bev does with the Scout Group, and it is good to know this is recognised nationally. In fact, the whole of the Scouting team do an amazing job in offering varied, stimulating and challenging activities for the children in a Christian environment. We are indeed fortunate to have such a thriving and vibrant group associated with our church.

Answers to questions on foodbanks: Benefits, work, poverty, : 1: a); 2:a); 3:a)

Those memorable school reports...

What did your teachers say about your progress at school? The following were sent into the Daily Telegraph some years ago....

~ One of my French reports simply said: 'Sheila attended the lessons'. - Sheila Blow, Surrey

~ My housemaster wrote: 'He has an overdeveloped unawareness.' - Ian Jones, Wirral

~ A friend's son's report said: 'By the time he has mastered French, he will be too old to cross the Channel.' - M Knaggs, Dorset

~ My teacher observed: 'The improvement in his handwriting has revealed his inability to spell.' - Colin Sutherland, Switzerland

~ My teacher was a realist: 'I am sorry to have to tell you that he is doing his best.' Stan Proctor, Surrey

Found

On the noticeboard: Contact lens found in church. See vicar. If you can.

War tears lives apart: Love can help piece them back together

'The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer... in whom I take refuge.' 2 Samuel 22:2-3

For a growing number of people across the world, the horror of war is a part of daily life. Right now, fuelled by the devastating violence in both Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the number of people driven from their homes by war is on the rise. It stands at 42 million people – an appalling statistic and a stain on the conscience of humanity. We can't turn our backs. We must act now to make a difference. Last year, a magnificent 20,000 churches across the country helped raise over £12m for Christian Aid Week.

This Christian Aid Week (11–17 May 2014) we want to go even further. Together we can send people living in fear this message: you are not alone. We're with you, helping you to rebuild your lives, and working for peace. Imagine what such an expression of love would mean to people searching for the strength to cope with the devastation of war, and how it could help to drive out their fear. We can demonstrate God's love for those living in poverty and show how much good the church is doing in the world this Christian Aid Week. Together we can reach the 42 million people caught up in conflict and help them live a life free from fear.

At St. Saviour's, we will again be organising house-to-house collections in our area. There will be a list of streets at the back of church for you to sign against any you think you could cover. The more people we have, the more streets we can cover.

Bread

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

Cats

A Cheshire vicar has two cats. Their names are Ancient and Modern – because they are both him.

Song

The curate often broke into song because he couldn't find the key.

The Way I See It : An attitude of gratitude

David Winter, Former Head of Religious Broadcasting, BBC

I remember as a young student of English listening with fascination with how the bus conductor sold tickets to the passengers. (I should explain, for readers of a younger generation, that once upon a time buses often had a staff of two, a driver who steered the vehicle, and a conductor who sold the tickets.) What intrigued me was the ubiquitous usage of the phrase ‘thank you’. It was ‘thank you’ to let you know that you had to buy a ticket, then ‘thank you’ again as you handed over the fare, and finally a third ‘thank you’ from the passenger on receipt of the ticket and the change. At three ‘thank you’s’ to each transaction, and with perhaps thirty people on the bus, that made no less than ninety ‘thank you’s’ every half hour or so, adding up to nearly six hundred of them in the course of the conductor’s working day. Perhaps as his or her head hit the pillow at night there might be one final ‘thank you’ to mark the close of day.

‘Say thank-you to grandma’, children are told - and learning to say it is part of becoming a nice polite person. ‘It costs nothing to say thank you’, I remember being told. And that’s the problem, really. Saying thank you and actually meaning it are two very different things - a difference we can all detect. True gratitude shows itself in the eye, in the voice, in the body language. It does cost something, because true gratitude actually alters our relationship with the one we thank.

I grew up in an era when many families habitually said ‘grace’ before meals. The same criteria apply. The two longest graces I ever heard were one in Latin at an Oxford college, gabbled so fast that even Vergil would have had a job understanding it, and another at a Christian guest house where a long and rambling grace preceded a meal which was no longer hot. The shortest, incidentally, was ‘Ta, Pa’, a sort of ungracious grace. A genuine grace comes from a grateful heart, which recognises that all we have, including the food on the plate before us, is a gift. An attitude of gratitude, rather than an assumption of entitlement, is a true conversion of heart. It transforms mere politeness into a genuine blessing. It’s so much more than saying words. It’s actually meaning them.

Notes from the PCC

We met on Tuesday 8th April as the “new” PCC, following the recent Annual Parochial Church meeting. Our first task was to nominate the various officers for the year and things stayed much as they were. Patrick Preston is again Lay Chair and Disability representative, James Muff Treasurer and Health and Safety Officer, Eric Heywood our safeguarding officer and Keith West the Electoral Roll Officer. I was appointed secretary for another year.

We heard exciting reports from the two Messy Church sessions that have happened since we last met. The numbers attending have been very encouraging and the feedback is that all have thoroughly enjoyed themselves and look forward to future sessions. We are most grateful to Fiona Graham for organising and leading the last session as Karen Wheelhouse was away.

We have met with the architect and representatives from the Heritage Lottery Fund about the next steps in securing the loan to enable us to carry out necessary repairs. We have so far been awarded £12,000 to enable us to get surveys done and receive quotes for the work. The Architect will oversee most of this and we will then have a clearer idea of the actual costs and what HLF will allow us.

Crossley Hall Primary School have exciting new plans for developing their grounds with imaginative and interactive areas for the children which will be available to the community. We will support these when we can and hope to be able to make use of them for children’s work.

We continue to look for a new incumbent for St. Saviour’s and we understand interest has been expressed, so we ask for your prayers that it brings the right person to us. The meeting was Ian’s last with us and we expressed to him our heartfelt thanks for the amazing job he has done. We have greatly valued his support, care and enthusiasm, which have gone far beyond the terms of his contract.

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)
16th	Arnold Bower	(1994)
17th	George Marlow	(1944)
21st	Eric Pincott	(1985)
22nd	Clara Jackson	(1991)
26th	Edith Lumsden	(1985)
27th	Edna May Land	(1987)
28th	Arthur Ainsworth	(1974)
	Doris Lilian Hutson	(1978)
29th	Margaret Rhodes	(1980)

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Priest-in-
Charge: Vacant

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