

Letter From the Vicar

Six weeks ago the feeling of nearly all children, the majority of teachers and maybe a few parents was “Yippee!! The summer holidays have arrived”. At the moment I think the secret feeling of the majority of parents is “Thank goodness it’s over for another year!” I confess that as a child I did not rejoice at the thought of six weeks off school. Going away for a holiday was something I had never heard of. Going on day trips was also unknown. Parents were far too busy working to put food on the table or caring for little siblings to consider such frivolity.

We were still in the days when children could spend hours playing outside without raising concern for the parents. Games were the usual simple ball games, skipping and hopscotch. Once each week funds might stretch to a session at the local swimming baths. That was entertainment.

When needed, I would spend time looking after my much younger siblings. At the age of eleven I was a dab hand at changing terry nappies and making up bottles of baby food. I quite enjoyed being Mum’s little helper. I remember being happy enough. What you never had you never missed!

The stress on most families these days is severe. Extra food is needed to replace the free school dinners. In many families both parents need to work to make ends meet. Where one or maybe both adults are unemployed funds are very tight. Not enough to stretch to days out at very expensive theme parks. If both parents work, or there is only one parent, there may have been major issues getting safe child care. Some parents dread the long summer holidays or even feel compelled to give up their jobs to keep their children safe. The feeling of relief when September arrives is understandable.

We should have been able to enjoy the simple blessings which God has given us. Good weather is an incredible blessing as it enables simple outdoor pursuits in the garden or park, which call for energy rather than money. The beauty of nature can be absorbed in our own back yards or the local park, meadows and woodlands. Everyone appears to be smiling, happy and friendly. The majority of us are at least reasonably

content. We have had a few good sunny days but many days have been rainy and keeping children occupied on such days can be a real headache.

Added to all this has come the terrible pictures and stories of wars, conflicts and hatred from around the globe. Human beings are seen inflicting terrible suffering on their neighbours. Why? There are enough natural disasters to keep all the voluntary organisations busy for years. Why is it that some people cannot see their brother or sister in the face of their so-called enemy? Why do they see the horror in the suffering of their own children, but still try to destroy their neighbour's children?

Jesus' two stage message was, and still is, so simple. Love God and love your neighbour as yourself. From this the very survival and eventual prosperity of humankind would flow. This message would stop us doing evil to one another. It would show us how to reach out in love and help those in need. Our prayers would be prayers of praise and thanksgiving, rather than desperate pleas to God to send us peace.

We cannot ignore these terrible happenings because the world is now a much smaller place and we too have been touched by all the evil. Only faith in a loving God keeps us smiling. Faith gives us hope for the future. Faith and God's grace will keep us in these times of trouble, but remember to love one another.

With love and prayers.

Dorothy

SEPTEMBER PARISH DIARY

Tuesday 1st 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion at Crossley House

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

6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts

7.30 p.m. Scouts

SUNDAY 6TH **FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

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

Wednesday 9th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
11.30 a.m. Ings Way Lunch Day
6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts

Thursday 10th 9.30 a.m. Morning prayer
6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
7.30 p.m. Scouts

SUNDAY 13TH CREATION TIME SERVICE

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion
12 noon Food Miles Lunch in hall

Tuesday 15th 7.30 p.m. PCC meeting

Wednesday 16th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's
6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts
7.30 p.m. Social Committee meeting

Thursday 17th 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer
6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
7.30 p.m. Scouts

SUNDAY 20TH DEDICATION FESTIVAL

10.00 a.m. Family and Parade Service
12 noon Lunch and quiz at Girlington
Conservative Club

Wednesday 23rd 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts
7.30 p.m.. Bible Study group

Thursday 24th 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer
6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
7.30 p.m. Scouts

SUNDAY 27TH SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

Wednesday 30th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's
6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts

Christmas Shoeboxes

As the holidays draw to a close, we come rapidly into the “shoebox” season. Empty, wrapped boxes will be available in church from Sunday **20th September** and we should be most grateful if you could take one away to fill with items from the following list:

Small toys - dolls, soft toys (with CE label), toy cars, yoyos, skipping ropes, balls, small puzzles etc;

Stationery items - Pens, pencils & sharpeners, crayons or felt pens, stamps & ink pad sets, writing pads or notebooks & paper, solar calculators, colouring & picture books etc.;

Hygiene items - Toothbrush and toothpaste, bars of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel.

Other items - Hat, cap, gloves or scarf, sunglasses, hair accessories, jewellery set, wind up torch, wrapped sweets (best-before-date must be at least March of the following year, and NOT chocolate).

Of course, not everyone is in a position to fill a whole box, so if you feel able to bring in one or two items from the above lists, we will be having a “Bring and Fill Day” on **Tuesday 20th October**, from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. when we will assemble all the items that have been donated, and fill empty boxes with them. All are welcome to come and join us for all or part of the day. Please bring your own sandwiches (or whatever) - drinks will be provided and cakes will be on sale to raise funds towards the cost of sending the boxes.

Please ensure all boxes are returned to church for Sunday **1st November**, when Dorothy will bless them, ready for them to go off on their journey.

Bible Study Group

The Bible Study Group will meet on the following Wednesdays – 23rd September; 28th October and 25th November at 7.30 p.m.. Marjorie Grange is kind enough to offer her home as the meeting place. This is 23 Shelley Grove (opposite the Church).

R.W.Bailey

Operation Christmas Child launches search for everyone who has ever packed a Shoebox

As part of this year's Operation Christmas Child campaign, the charity Samaritan's Purse is launching a nation-wide search for anyone who has ever packed a shoebox with them. It wants to hear from them.

Samaritan's Purse UK Executive Director Simon Barrington explains: "Where and when did they pack it,? What did they include, was there something particularly special they remember about their experience? We want to hear their stories of the impact it's had on them and why they got involved."

In the two decades since Operation Christmas Child began, 124 million children have received shoebox gifts in Jesus' name. "It's a great way for all of us to make a difference in a child's life, to share God's love, to let them know they are not forgotten."

Samaritan's Purse plans to capture and share stories and photographs of everyone who's ever been involved, and to bring to life online and through social media what Operation Christmas Child has meant to so many people.

There is also encouragement for everyone who has ever done a shoebox to get involved in this year's campaign: "Last year we were able to distribute more than 10 million shoebox gifts to children all over the world, some of whom live in the darkest of places. This year we want to reach a million more precious children with a simple shoebox gift. With your help and prayers, we will."

Tell us your story and help us to find everyone who has ever packed a shoebox! Go to www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/yourshoeboxstory

What goes into the box is fun, what comes out is eternal

Thank You!

Our grateful thanks go to the anonymous donor who has contributed £2000 towards the refurbishment work we are currently undertaking. We truly appreciate this act of generosity which will ease the burden of trying to raise the necessary funds to cover our expenses.

Our Consecration Cross.

Ian Mc Alpine.

Consecration crosses are sometimes found on the interior walls and exterior architecture of a church or cathedral showing where the bishop has anointed the building with chrism or holy water in order to consecrate it. There is often a place for a candle in front of each cross which is lit on the anniversary of the consecration. The crosses vary in form and signify the sanctity of the church. For example, the 13th century Trinity Chapel in Salisbury Cathedral contains a painted consecration cross dating from 1225.

In medieval churches, there were usually twelve interior crosses which may be painted on plaster or manufactured in an indestructible material and affixed to stone walls. The crosses tend to be placed high on the walls and to have a candle sconce fixed beneath. The crosses could be painted, engraved, carved or made of a different material and fixed to the walls of the building. Consecration crosses tend to be associated with mediaeval churches but the Sacred Heart church at Bushey, consecrated as recently as 1977 by Cardinal Hume, contains twelve commemorative crosses.

However, I wonder how many people know about the consecration cross we have at St Saviour's! The square-section concrete pillar near the Choir has a cross carved into it. Rather an unusual cross, as broad as it is tall which has small circles in its four angles. I talked to Mrs Norma Hartley about the cross since I thought she may have attended the consecration service 50 years ago. And sure enough, Norma remembered Bishop Michael Parker marking a cross in chalk on the pillar when he consecrated the building back in 1966! And Miss Joyce Ashton remembered the consecration service too! Later the chalk cross

was replaced by the more elaborate carved one which we see today, a tangible link with the very beginning of worship in our present beautiful building.

Celebrating God's Good Creation!

Sunday, 13th September 2015, at 10.00am.

You are warmly invited to celebrate with us, as we remember and give thanks for all that is good in our natural world. Today's service of Holy Communion will have special elements within it - prayers and reflections - to help us focus on Creation Time, which is marked by Churches Together across the UK.

After the service, please join us for a "food miles" lunch in the Hall, and if you can, spend some time looking at the exhibition set out there, to support our theme of Care for Creation.

We would love to see you!

J.A.Bailey.

Balaam's Donkey

A prophet called Balaam one day
Took his donkey away from its hay.
When Balaam said "Go!"
The donkey said "No!"
"There's an Angel of God in the way!"

by Nigel Beeton
© Parish Pump

46TH Bradford North Scout Group

Other than a bag packing fund raiser at Morrisons, Westgate, we haven't been 'Scouting' during the summer holidays! However, it has been a time for us all to recharge our batteries and get organised for the new term:

LEADER and YOUNG PERSONS FORUM

Leaders from across the District will meet to discuss how the introduction of the new badge scheme will affect the programme for each of our sections. It will be a chance to share ideas and do some planning together. There will also be an opportunity for young members from each section (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers) to have their say. Each Group is asked to send two representatives to the forum.

During the afternoon, Wayne Bulpitt, Chief Commissioner for UK Scouting, will be joining us. He is keen to listen to the ideas of our leaders and young people. He will also open the new Warden's building which houses a new reception area and accommodation for those who carry out warden duties at weekends and in the holidays.

DISTRICT BADGE WEEKEND

From Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th October Cubs, Scouts and Explorers will be able to earn several activity and Challenge badges at a District camp which is taking place at Blackhills Scout Camp in Cottingley. Beavers are attending for the day on Saturday.

WINTER FOREST FUN

There will be a Winter Camp from the 4th to 6th December at Blackhills for all Scouts and Explorers. On Saturday afternoon, Beavers and Cubs will attend the *Blackhills Christmas Bonanza*. There will be a Marshmallow Trail, creative fun in the Elves Workshop, story time with Mother Christmas, a Fairy Light Trail to Santa's Grotto, Carol Singing around the tree and so much more to enjoy.

BEV HOWARD *Group Scout Leader*

**Come along to our
Sunday Social**

20th September

12 noon until 2pm

Quiz and Lunch

**Pie and peas/beans, hot dogs
& choice of desserts**

**Girlington Conservative Club,
Thornton Road, Bradford**

**Tickets available from Kaaren
£4 adults, £2 children.**

Hope to see you there.....

The Other Charter: The Charter of the Forest

Edwin was a magnificent looking Zulu, who was married to a Xhosa lady. She had been chosen to be one of those who welcomed me into the parish at my Induction in Chadderton. They had moved from South Africa during the apartheid years so that their children could be given a good education in this country. Edwin and Patricia were both doctors working in local hospitals. Over the years we became friends, and I was privileged to give Edwin communion at home when he contracted the cancer which ended his life. During my visits we discussed many things, but one of his stories has stayed in my mind. As a young man in South Africa his family had owned a small plot of land. He was told that he must surrender the land so that it could be "improved" in white ownership. He described going to the police station to hand over the deeds, and there was bitterness and anger in his voice when he said, "it has never been touched!" I replied by telling him that a similar anger had been felt by many people here in England a couple of centuries before when the landowners had enclosed the common lands in order to "improve" them.

When I gave Edwin Communion for the last time, it was obvious from the news that apartheid was coming to an end. We also realised that it was the last time we would meet, and at the end of the service Edwin sat up in bed and we hugged each other as brothers.

In medieval times the common lands were very important to the serfs and others who had low status in society. They were allowed to forage on the common lands for fuel and edible herbs, and their animals were also allowed to forage for food on the common lands. (I remember that there was a patch of land between our village and the neighbouring town which we called "the common".) This all became codified in the Charter of the Forest of 1217.

These thoughts came to mind as we celebrate the anniversary of Magna Carta, which has an iconic status in our national self-image. It is rarely recognised that a second charter was issued a year or so later, in 1217, which is known as the Lesser Charter or the Charter of the Forest.

By this time King John had died and had been succeeded by Henry III,

with William Marshall acting as his advisor. (William Marshall was a major figure in Plantagenet England and Europe. His life had spanned the reigns of Henry II, Richard and John. He was at this time Regent of England. At his burial in the Temple Church in London, Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, said: *Behold all that remains of the best knight who ever lived.*)

In spite of the fact that we are celebrating the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, that was not the last word, merely the first. We have been working away at the refinement of our laws ever since. William Marshall, and the members of the council who were acting for Henry III during his minority, set about tidying up matters which had not been touched on by the provisions of Magna Carta. This tidying up was the subject of two fresh charters: the *Charter of Liberties* and the *Charter of the Forest*. This second charter set out to provide real rights and privileges for the common people, and to provide protection from those (barons) who might wish to take them away.

The new king was required to give up possession of certain "Royal" forests (mainly those areas which had been claimed by Kings Richard and John) and to return to the arrangements which had existed in Henry II's time. This meant that those free men resident in such areas, mainly depending on small holdings, were able to find pasture for their pigs, collect firewood, allow their animals to graze the common land, and to cut turf for fuel. The Charter set this out in robust terms: *Henceforth every freeman, in his wood or on his land that he had in the forest may with impunity make a mill, fish-preserve, pond, marl-pit, ditch or arable in cultivated land outside coverts, provided that no injury is thereby given to any neighbour.*

The death penalty and the "lesser" penalty of mutilation for capturing deer in the forest were abolished, and fines were to be imposed instead. Special courts were set up to oversee the forest areas, one of which still operates in the New Forest.

Magna Carta had set up the principle that no-one, not even the king, was above the law. But it was basically a charter to protect the barons against the king. To my mind, the Charter of the Forest is a far more

important document because it recognises that ordinary people also have rights that can be enforced and protected, as well as the barons. That, in my view, is where our Common Law began.

R. W. Bailey

Patriotism is Not Enough – A Tribute to Edith Cavell

In September 1915, at the height of the battles in Belgium and Flanders, a British nurse working in a Belgian hospital was arrested by the Germans and charged with treason. Edith Cavell had resided and worked in Belgium for seven years after training at the London Hospital in Whitechapel (now the ‘Royal London’) and working in several hospitals in England. Now, as the brutal conflict raged around her and the German army occupied most of Belgium, she determined to do all she could to save the lives of those caught up in the fighting, whatever their nationality.

She provided shelter and medical care for Germans, Belgians, French and British troops. In the latter two cases she also – and this was the core of her offence – assisted them in escaping from areas occupied by the German forces and making their way back to their homelands.

Her motivation for this was entirely Christian. The daughter of a vicar, she had enthusiastically embraced the faith for herself, and now saw that the time had come to put the principles of the gospel to practical effect. Her own home became a secret staging post for escapees, but she did this not to ‘take sides’ but out of concern for the young men involved. She took a high view of her vocation as a nurse, seeing it as a calling that transcended racial and national barriers. For her, healing and rescue were simply part of the calling to be a good neighbour.

Those arguments didn’t, of course, carry much weight with the German occupying power. As a Belgian resident, she was charged with treason, an offence which carried a death penalty. Her trial was widely reported, and there were many diplomatic moves made on her behalf, especially by the Americans (then neutrals in the conflict), but they fell on deaf ears.

She was found guilty and sentenced to death. On 12th October 1915, at the age of 49, she was executed by a firing squad, to world-wide condemnation. Nor was Edith Cavell's death to be forgotten. After the War her body was brought back to Britain and a service of commemoration held in Westminster Abbey. Her body was reburied in the grounds of Norwich cathedral, near the village of her birth.

A statue which stands in St Martin's Place, Trafalgar Square, London commemorates the life of this woman who gave herself totally to her calling – a pioneer of modern nursing methods as well as an heroic war-time figure. The statue records her most famous saying, words which capture the heart of her commitment: 'Patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone.'

*Edith Cavell is commemorated in the Anglican Church Calendar on December 12th.

Courtyard

While visiting a theological college one autumn, a lady visitor noticed several students on their hands and knees assessing the courtyard with pencils and clipboards in hand. Intrigued, she asked the guide what they were doing.

"Each year," he replied with a grin, "the final year students ask the new students how many bricks it took to finish paving this courtyard." When they were out of earshot of the new students, the curious lady asked the guide to tell her the answer. He replied simply: "One."

In common

I was the supply teacher for a class that was learning about groups. In one exercise, pupils were asked to label a group of items according to their common characteristics. Pictured were onion rings, doughnuts, and party biscuits. The correct answer would have been that all the items have holes in the centre.

But one health-conscious boy pointed out: "All of those things contain too much cholesterol."

© *Parish Pump*

September 29th: All the angels, led by Michael

by David Winter, Former Head of Religious Broadcasting, BBC

What is an angel? Easy, people think. A shining figure with glorious wings, who appears to do some mighty work for God or bring a very special message from him. Well, that's right in one sense (apart from the wings, which owe more to stained glass windows than the Bible). But the fact that not all 'angels' in the Bible are 'glorious' or 'shining' should make us hesitate to categorise them in this spectacular way. After all, the three apparently ordinary men who visited Abraham and Sarah to tell them that she would have a son even though long past child-bearing age, had none of those outward embellishments. Nevertheless Abraham recognised them as divine messengers.

The Bible is full of angels and often they had a key role in crucial events. It seems, from just two instances, that Michael was their leader, an 'archangel'. In stained glass he's often seen with a sword, because in a vision in Revelation he led the angelic host who fought and defeated Satan and his army. In the Gospels an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah, to tell him that his elderly wife was to have a son, the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. An angel (Gabriel) appeared to Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the Son of God. An angel appeared 'in a dream' to Joseph, the village carpenter in Nazareth, to tell him to marry his fiancée, Mary, and later, also in a dream, warned him not to go back to Bethlehem. A 'young man', presumably an angel, was in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus had risen (Mark 16:5).

These are only a few examples, but should be sufficient to show that the word covers an enormous diversity of experience. So the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of those who practise hospitality as sometimes 'entertaining angels unawares'. Sometimes people recognised angels and sometimes they didn't. Angels, quite simply, are God's agents or emissaries, messengers and ministers of his will - sometimes human; sometimes spiritual beings. Perhaps we could even say that anyone who is God's 'messenger' to us, or serves us graciously, is an 'angel'. So phrases such as, 'Oh, be an angel and pop up to the chemist for my prescription', may be nearer the heart of the matter than we think!

September Roll of Remembrance

6th	Doris Cooper	(1987)
7th	Mabel Holdsworth	(1978)
9th	Laura Dare	(1982)
	Bill Holdsworth	(2004)
10th	Lynton Ward	(1995)
12th	Beatrice Marshall	(1991)
13th	Annie Bell	(1983)
	Margaret Alexandra Watson	(1986)
17th	Walter Jennings	(1974)
	Dorothy Lloyd	(2005)
23rd	Philip John Chater	(1988)
	Albert Bateman	(1992)
24th	Fred Ingham	(1981)
28th	Harry Wilkinson	(1962)

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