

Letter from the Vicar

Easter

The recent arguments in the media and politics about the definition of marriage or the wearing of Christian symbols such as a cross highlight for me the strange place Christianity seems to have found itself in British culture and society. In times past 'the church' seemed to be nearer to or even slap bang in the centre of community. It was a place where most went to worship, most took their babies to be baptized, most were married and most trusted the church to make a good job in despatching their earthly remains to God's care. It seems also (looking back in my history books on social policy) the 'parish' was the place where immediate social aid was available and the church building often used as a central gathering point on secular as well as religious occasions. While this last point is still true in some respects, especially if a church has a church hall, we cannot really argue that the church is still seen as the hub of the community. We now occupy this strange place where we are relevant for some (a minority) and where as the vast majority of the communities we serve and pray for seem to pass us by without even the slightest thought.

While it is true that there are those out there, known as 'the new atheists' (Dawkins and others) who make it their mission to preach directly against religion and in favour of their own faith based assumptions - they invoke the word science and that seems to settle it all for them - most of the population seems to be ambivalent to what the church does and what it's about. They know we are here, particularly when the church building still declares itself to be the centre of all things by having a whacking great spire and coloured windows, but the point of church seems to have been lost somewhere along the way. Most aren't hostile towards us, they actually probably quite like the idea that we are here, we fill a role. Whilst training I did a short placement in a large area east of Richmond in North Yorkshire. Two and a half vicars looked after ten parishes that were all in small villages that spread from Northallerton to Scotch Corner. None of the churches were bursting at the seams with congregation, but I was told that if any of the churches were in urgent need of repair fund raising events in its village was really successful. People wanted the church, even though they hardly ever attended.

What's all this got to do with Easter? I think people perhaps don't want to take that step towards the church because ultimately we believe in some pretty weird things (that's Dawkins point, he cannot see the difference between believing in God or believing in fairies or Santa Claus). It's fine when the church is doing good things for charity, or baptizing babies or marrying couples or conducting funerals but to actually challenge people on the incredible fact that Jesus was actually dead - for three days - in a tomb and then rose from the dead, and more than that invites us to share in that resurrection, often is a step too far.

You see, following Jesus, as we are reminded in Lent, involves taking up one's own cross and treading a path that is distinctive and counter cultural. It sometimes feels like going to Ikea on a Saturday afternoon and choosing a path that is in the opposite direction to everyone else. Following Jesus is about living a holy life and not being ashamed of, or papering over some of the amazing things that make us what we are. Christ is risen, halleluia! we declare on Easter morning, we need to declare it all year round, it's what should define us as Christians, people around us should know that we're not playing at this, for us it is a living reality.

Andy

APRIL PARISH DIARY

SUNDAY 1ST

Monday 2nd

Tuesday 3rd

Wednesday 4th

Thursday 5th

Friday 6th

PALM SUNDAY

9.30 a.m.

9.30 a.m.

11.00 a.m.

7.30 p.m.

7.30 p.m.

9.30 a.m.

9.30 a.m.

7.30 p.m.

12 noon.

2.00 p.m.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion

Holy Communion at Crossley House

Holy Communion

Adult tap dancing

Holy Communion at St. James's

Morning Prayer

Holy Communion & Stripping of the altar

Walk of Witness

Meditation

SUNDAY 8TH

EASTER DAY

9.30 a.m.

Holy Communion

Wednesday 11th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.30 a.m.	Ings Way Lunch Day
Thursday 12th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer

<u>SUNDAY 15TH</u>	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	9.30 a.m.	Parade Service & Holy Communion
Tuesday 17th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 18th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Thursday 19th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

<u>SUNDAY 22ND</u>	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Monday 23rd	7.30 p.m.	Social Committee meeting
Tuesday 24th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 25th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Thursday 27th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

<u>SUNDAY 29TH</u>	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.30 a.m.	Film showing & faith lunch

The Way I See It: BACK FROM THE DEAD?

David Winter, former Head of Religious Broadcasting, BBC.

Christmas packs them in, but Easter, which falls this month, is undeniably the defining Christian festival. It was St Paul, no less, who set out the stark truth: 'If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile'.

Without the resurrection of Jesus, which Easter celebrates, the whole Christian story collapses. He would simply take his place with all the other great religious teachers of history who died and are buried somewhere. But

the Christian creeds are adamant: 'on the third day, he rose from the dead'. The resurrection is not an optional extra.

In the current western atmosphere of scepticism, that claim is regarded as self-evidently ridiculous. We all know what 'dead' means, whether it's a dead bird or flower or person. Death is the termination of life - as people say now, 'end of'. Many people are attracted to the teaching of Jesus, but they simply can't accept as credible the claim that he rose from the dead. They assume that the whole idea is the product of gullible minds. His followers wanted to believe that he was alive again, and simply talked themselves into believing that he was.

However, this scepticism about the resurrection of Jesus is itself the product of preconceived assumptions. The sceptics don't believe that Jesus rose from the dead and assume that it is self-evident that he didn't. In fact, their position is not based on evidence, but on an assumption that it simply couldn't have happened. Yet strangely enough, what evidence we have suggests very strongly that it did.

We can, for instance, be pretty clear about a number of facts - well established, incontrovertible facts. One is that Jesus of Nazareth was a real person who lived in the early decades of the first century (as we call it). Another is that he was put to death by crucifixion during the period 26-37AD, when Pontius Pilate was the prefect of the Roman province of Judaea. Another is that by 70AD - within a life-time - Christianity was flourishing (though in places heavily persecuted) all over the Roman empire, and that its core belief was that Jesus had been raised from the dead after his execution, and had appeared alive to anything up to 500 different people, in various places and on various occasions over a period of about forty days. Many of these witnesses (listed by the apostle Paul in his letter to Corinth written in about 55AD, just twenty years or so after the event)) were still alive as he wrote - they could speak for themselves!

It shouldn't, surely, be hard for a regime as efficient and ruthless as the Roman empire to prove that a wandering Jewish preacher they had executed had remained dead. Yet it did prove impossible, to the point that Christianity eventually became the official religion of the empire.

Were those gullible times? No, they weren't. One of the two leading Jewish schools of thought, the Sadducees, didn't believe in the resurrection of the dead, and neither did one of the leading schools of thought in the Greco-Roman empire of the time, the Stoics. The characters in the Gospels, friends of Jesus or his enemies, reacted exactly as you or I would - it can't happen. The story of 'doubting' Thomas, one of the disciples of Jesus, is evidence that even among his closest followers there was a reluctance to believe the evidence of their own eyes.

No, they weren't gullible, but they became completely convinced. Ten of the twelve apostles probably died for that conviction. You've got to be pretty sure of something to do that. When we sing 'Jesus Christ is risen today' on Easter morning, it's a lot more than a pious wish!

Good Friday

I was standing in line at the bank when there was a commotion at the counter. A woman was very distressed, exclaiming, "Where will I put my money?! I have all my money and my mortgage here!! What will happen to my mortgage?! You can't do this to us!"

It turned out that she had misunderstood a small sign on the counter. The sign read: WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY.

Forthcoming Events

At a recent meeting of the Social Committee, a basic plan for the year was arranged. This is not definitive and other events may be added, but so far the dates are:

Sunday April 29th

11.30 a.m. Screening of the St. Saviour's DVD, faith lunch

Saturday 12th May

11.00 a.m. Lunch, with various stalls, picture quiz

Thursday 14th June

7.00 p.m. Crown Green Bowls evening at West
Bradford Bowls Club

Saturday 23rd June

2.00 p.m. Summer Fair

July (date to be arranged)

Table Top Sale

Sunday 16th September

11.00 a.m. Bacon butties, cake stall, books, raffle

Saturday 20th October

Jigsaw challenge with Cornish Pasty & Pea supper

Sunday 21st October

9.30 a.m. Harvest Festival

Saturday 10th November

11.00 a.m. Christmas Fair.

Please mark these dates in your diary and support us if you can. Whilst you are on your holiday travels, please consider bringing back a small **souvenir** for sale on one of our stalls; and if you have any items of **costume jewellery** which have been cluttering your drawers for years, Kaaren would be delighted to take them off your hands and sell them at one of our fundraising events.

Holy Week and Easter

As usual, there will be a full range of services during Holy Week this year. In addition, Andy will set up the Labyrinth - a series of guided prayer stations - at St. Saviour's. This will be open after the service on Monday 2nd, before the services on Tuesday 3rd, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Feel free to come whenever is suitable for you and spend as much time as you like at each station.

Sunday 1st April Palm Sunday

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion with procession into church, Passion Gospel reading

11.00 a.m. Palm Sunday Service at St. James's

Monday 2nd

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (said)

Tuesday 3rd

7.30 p.m. Holy Communion (said)

Wednesday 4th

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

Thursday 5th Maundy Thursday

7.30 p.m. Holy Communion with Stripping of the Altar

7.30 p.m. Agape meal at St. James's

Friday 6th Good Friday

12 noon Walk of Witness from Ladyhill Park to Allerton
Congregational Church

12 noon Walk of Witness at Thornton

2.00 p.m. Meditation

6.00 p.m. Meditation at St. James's

Sunday 8th Easter Day

6.30 a.m. Dawn Service at Bell Chapel, followed by cooked breakfast

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

11.00 a.m. Easter Communion at St. James's

Easter Flowers

As always, we love our church to look at its best for Easter. Kaaren Raistrick would be most grateful to receive donations towards the cost of the flowers, so we can do justice to the wonder of the season. If you would like to help with arranging the flowers, please have a word with Kaaren.

Bradford Food Bank

As an ongoing project, we have a box at the back of church for people to leave donations for the Bradford Food Bank, which are collected from time to time by their drivers. We have received the following letter of thanks:

"I am writing on behalf of Bradford Metropolitan Food Bank to thank the congregation of St. Saviour's Church Fairweather Green very much for your generous donation of several carrier bags of food you gave our representative Frances Atkins recently. We are aware that you also donated to us back in October, so we are pleased you have been able to help us again so soon. As an entirely volunteer-run charity - we rely on donations such as yours to keep the supply of food to vulnerable people going.

We thought you might like to hear about one of our sorting evenings we had at the food bank recently. A couple celebrating a special wedding

anniversary kindly asked for donations to the food bank in lieu of presents and brought boxes of donations. On the same evening, a lively group of 8 boy scouts had come to learn about the work of the food bank. They helped us sort the food that the couple had brought onto shelves and then make them up into a further 60 food parcels. Later that night workers from the Bridge project arrived to take 15 parcels away to people who are recovering from drug addiction, as did the leaders of Shipley Youth Café who had come to collect items of food that they will use to teach vulnerable 16 to 25-year-olds how to make a nutritious meal for themselves. The Scouts really got to see the food bank in action and we hope this gives you some small flavour of what we get up to with donations such as yours.

Gradual and stable support like yours is just the sort of thing that we are sure will help us avoid running out of food, keeping our stocks high throughout the year, which will, of course, ensure the food bank helps more people in need.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Bradshaw, Secretary, Bradford Metropolitan Food Bank.”

Diamond Jubilee: Elizabeth - pt 3. ‘To love and to cherish’

The marriage of Prince William to Catherine Middleton was the celebrity event of 2011- and not just in Britain. The world-wide television audience was numbered in hundreds of millions and the media coverage bordered on the hysterical. It may be hard for people under seventy to believe, but the engagement and marriage of Princess Elizabeth to Lieut. Philip Mountbatten attracted a similar level of public interest 65 years ago, though the celebrity scene was somewhat more restrained in those days.

People had known for some time that love was in the air. The dark and petite princess was often to be seen with her tall, fair-haired escort. Speculation in the popular press was rife. Was the heir to the throne about to be engaged to this handsome young naval officer, despite his Greek and Danish family background - and even family connections with Germany? Eventually the engagement was announced, to be followed by the information that Philip would renounce his Greek and Danish titles. Indeed, when they married he even gave up his family name, Mountbatten, though not without regret. ‘Am I the only married man’, he asked, ‘whose

children will not bear his name?' He became Philip Windsor - a more reassuringly British surname, I suppose.

The wedding was eagerly anticipated. Britain was in the middle of long years of post-war austerity. Food was still strictly rationed, and the first months of 1947 saw a cruelly cold Winter, when the temperature refused to climb above freezing for weeks on end and coal was in short supply because trucks full of it were stuck in ice-locked sidings. People were wondering - if this was how it was for the victors, how were the vanquished faring? (The answer was, about the same, as it happens.)

So the prospect of a glamorous and splendid public occasion lifted the spirits. Thousands of people camped out on the streets of London on a damp November day to watch the royal carriages on their way to Westminster Abbey, to catch a glimpse of the bride, and then the married couple on their way back. Even in black and white photographs one could see how happy they were and the depth of their love for each other. There was more public rejoicing the following year when their first child, Charles, was born, to be followed by Anne in 1950, Andrew in 1960 and Edward in 1964. The House of Windsor was truly in business again!

46TH Bradford North Scout Group

The Scouts enjoyed a weekend away at Bradley Woods in February completing a number of activities towards *Our Sporting Adventure*. For a change they weren't camping outdoors but enjoyed the relative luxury of indoor accommodation.

Our church service on Thursday 15th March was a great success; our chosen theme was the 'Olympic Values'. The Cubs shared their individual 'Goals' - about what they wanted to achieve whilst in Cubs - and explaining how they would do this. Some also explained who had inspired them towards their goals. The Scouts told us about a game they had developed called 'The 'A' Frame Challenge'; they also read out the prayers. Our Beavers and Cubs entertained the congregation with the song '*Be Bold*'

and the vicar summarized with his talk about how the Olympic Values are basically all about how we live our lives. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported us.

Fifty five members of our group are taking part in *The Big Camp* which is to be held at the Yorkshire Showground from the 4th - 7th May. Already there are over 4000 participants who will enjoy activities in a number of zones. Here are a few examples of what we'll all be up to: Red Zone: Laser Tag; Trampolining; Spider Mountain; Quad Biking and Ice Skating. Pink Zone: Mud Slide; Holy Water (mmm) ; Paddling Pools and Viaduct Abseil. Blue Zone: Water Activities and Pioneering Zone: Assault Course; Monkey Bridge; Scramble Net and Aerial Runway. It will also be a great opportunity for us all to make new friends and experience camping on a larger scale than normal.

Bev Howard GROUP SCOUT LEADER

Girlington & District Conservative Social Club

Monday 9th April

Easter Monday

From 1 p.m. Club open all day

**Craft
Bingo**

**Easter egg hunt
Penalty shoot out**

Local area Quiz—you have to be prepared to walk.

A Detective Story.

Ian Mc Alpine.

Recently Andy showed me a very old copy of the Book of Common Prayer and wondered how old it was. The problem was that the book was very battered, had obviously had a very hard life and had lost the title page which would have given the date, probably in Roman numbers. A few other pages near the front were missing as well and 'the Kalendar' giving details of religious feast days no longer existed for January to June. However, there were quite a few clues as to when the book was printed.

For a start it included three prayers, one giving thanks for the preservation of King James I on the anniversary of the 1605 Gunpowder Plot, one honouring the memory of King Charles I on the anniversary of his execution on 30th January, 1649, and one celebrating the anniversary of the restoration of the monarchy on 29th May, 1660. All three prayers were removed from the BCP in 1859. The flyleaf was inscribed 'Joshua Sanderson Book 1811'. The long 's' which looks like an 'f' without a cross-bar was used throughout and the paper was obviously hand-made. This meant that the prayer book was almost certainly produced before 1800.

A Book of Common Prayer usually has a 'Table of Moveable Feasts' near the front showing the dates of the first day of Lent, Easter Sunday and other important dates in the church calendar from a few years before and after it was printed. Fortunately this table had survived in Andy's copy. It ran from 1700 to 1739 - early 18th century! The final clues lay in the Orders for Morning and Evening Prayer which always name the reigning monarch and members of the Royal Family. There were prayers for 'GEORGE our King and Governour' and 'his Royal Highness GEORGE Prince of Wales, the Princess, and their Issue and all the Royal Family'.

George I reigned from 1714 to 1727 and his son George II from 1727 to 1760. So we were down to 1714 to 1739. Which George was king when Andy's book was printed? George II's eldest son who became Prince of Wales in 1729 was called Frederick Louis - not George. So George II can be ruled out. However, George I's eldest son was indeed called George and he became Prince of Wales in 1714, succeeding to the throne on his

father's death.

And so I concluded that the prayer book was printed sometime between 1714 and 1727, nearly 300 years ago, almost certainly in London, Cambridge or Oxford since these were the main centres for Bible and prayer book manufacture at that time.

So often ancient books, buildings, pieces of furniture and even cars have fascinating stories to tell if we're prepared to spend time investigating them. It's just a matter of knowing what to look for.

Walk of Witness

Churches Together in Allerton and Fairweather Green have organised a Walk of Witness for Good Friday, April 6th, starting at 12 noon from Ladyhill Park. A short service in the park will be followed by the walk to Allerton Congregational Church, where refreshments will be available.

A richly-deserved Award

In her report from the Scout Group, Bev Howard has mentioned the wonderful service the Group put on for us on 15th March when the children focused on Olympic and Paralympic values. Not only did they raise over £100 towards Sports Relief, but they were also able to make a generous donation towards Church funds, for which we are most grateful.

She omitted to report that in recognition of her long and devoted service to the Scouting movement Bev was awarded her Assistant District Commissioners Wood Beads, by Sharn Race, the District Commissioner. This means she will now support the District Commissioner in all things to do with scouting in the district.

We are truly fortunate to have Bev and all the other leaders and helpers to run the Scout Group at our church. They provide outstanding opportunities for the youngsters and their enthusiasm and imagination never seem to wane.

Well done!

Naughty mummy

A mother asked her young son, as they waited for the bus, to tell the driver he was five years old, because then he would ride for free. As they got into the bus the driver asked him how old he was. "I am five years old," said the little boy proudly.

The driver had a son of his own that age, and smiled. "And when will you be six years old?" he asked.

"When I get off the bus," answered the boy.

Church DVD

During one of our tidying exercises, we came across an old reel of film which no one seemed to recognise and we were unable to play. Curiosity as to what was on it spurred us on to find someone who could transfer it onto DVD for us so we could see what it was. We are most grateful to the Yorkshire Film Archive for their splendid work in achieving this and supplying suitable soundtracks to cover silent moments. The film is of St. Saviour's events from the 1970s and 80s and we have been able to make copies onto DVDs. If you would like one of these at a cost of £4.50 (cash with order, please) please sign the list at the back of church, or contact James Muff (details on the contacts page at the back of this magazine). Copies will be available on Sunday 29th April, when we will be having a showing of the film after the morning service, followed by a Faith Lunch in the hall. Items of food for this will be most gratefully received.

Polished Piety

"My soul is like a rusty lock,
Lord, oil it with Thy grace;
And rub it, rub it, rub it, Lord'
Until I see Thy face. (*Old Puritan hymn*)

Notes from the PCC

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 4th March, we were delighted to be able to re-appoint Eric Heywood and Kaaren Raistrick as our Churchwardens for 2012/13. This was only possible after we had passed a resolution to overturn the rule which limits a warden to 6 consecutive terms of office as , without it, Eric would have been unable to stand again, having already completed his full quota. We were most grateful to Eric for agreeing to stand again in the absence of any new candidate, and to Kaaren for continuing. Thanks were expressed to them both for their work over the past year and to Patrick Preston for his support.

Three members of the PCC reach the end of their term of office each year. This year it was the turn of Fiona Graham, Wendy Heywood and Patrick Preston. They all successfully applied for re-election and, as there was a 4th vacancy this year following the resignation of Sue Lamb, Paul Ellis was also elected and we were delighted to welcome him onto the PCC.

James Muff presented the accounts for 2011 and reported that we had had a difficult year, with lower income from collections, hall hire and fundraising. We were able to pay our Share, but only because we got a grant from the Diocese, and this is unlikely to be available again. He predicted 2012 would be no easier, so we need to think carefully about ways of raising much needed funds. James was thanked for his excellent work.

We heard about the main events and achievements of 2011 and had a brief report from the various groups and organisations who use the hall. Thanks were expressed to all who lead or help with the various activities for the great contribution they make to the life of the church and community.

Andy concluded with his report - following directly on his announcement that he would be leaving us at the end of May. He was thanked for all that had been achieved in his time with us, but we have a time of big decisions ahead, for which much prayer is needed.

Hilary Davis - PCC Secretary.

April Roll of Remembrance

1st	Alfred Lunnon	(1966)
8th	Kenneth Blackburn	(1958)
11th	Maurice Howard	(1975)
	Jean Collins	(2001)
	Reginald Sollis	(2003)
12th	Percy Wigglesworth	(1975)
14th	Frank Size	(19
18th	Annie Ingham	(1986)
20th	Ernest Holroyd	(1984)
21st	Elizabeth Chater	(1966)
	Bertha Hayhurst	(1994)
22nd	Clifford Thorpe	(1980)
	James Hester	(1984)
23 rd	Kathleen Walker	(1983)
	Evelyn Chater	(1983)
24th	Richard Woodyet	(1984)
26th	William Albert Went	(1956)
28th	Sophia Kay	(1980)
	Edith Heatherington	(1983)
29th	David Spence	(1996)
30th	William Perkins	(1958)

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

Website: www.stsavioursfwg.org.uk

Church Phone (in Kitchen) 487084

Priest-in-Charge: Revd. Andy Greiff 833200
The Vicarage, 300 Thornton Road, Thornton
e-mail: Andrew.greiff667@gmail.com

Honorary Curate: Revd. Gloria Hardisty 833280
1 Wembley Avenue, Thornton
E-mail: john-hardisty@sky.com