

Letter from the Vicar

FOLLOWING, GROWING, GIVING

Please read Matthew 25:14-30

You probably know the story of the talents very well. A man goes on a long journey and entrusts his possessions (money) with three people. Two of the trustees put the talents to work but the third buries his and waits. When the traveller returns he brings to account his trustees. Seeing that the first two have increased their share he rewards them accordingly but the third man is punished, he would have even lost the interest on his share – there's no increase to be had on money buried in the ground.

The principle is apparent, God has entrusted his people with talents, and it is up to us to exercise those gifts with the ultimate aim to produce increase for Him resulting in blessing for us.

This year we are encouraging everyone to review just what talents we have and whether we have buried them or whether we are using them giving them, for God's work here on earth.

So just what might those talents be for us at St Saviours?

TIME – FOLLOWING JESUS:

Just for a moment put yourself in the shoes of one of the disciples, Peter perhaps. There you are getting on with your job, Jesus comes along and asks (perhaps even commands) you to leave what you are doing and follow him. Peter didn't look at his watch to see if he had the time, consult his diary or wait for the fishing season to be over but, in obedience left what he was doing and followed him. How do we spend our time and how much of that is given to the work of the Kingdom? We often waste time like it's small change in our pockets, but as the saying goes, 'look after the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves.' Time is a great gift and all too often we are quite selfish with it. I don't just mean Sunday attendance at church (although that's part of it) but how we spend our time during the week. Perhaps as we consider what we give of ourselves to God we could make an extra effort to pray more, read our Bibles more, do more things for others and

the church, get involved in Godly projects – to offer our time to him.

Challenge: Spend a few moments thinking about what you did last week. Try to work out how much time you gave to yourself, your family, your work, anything else and God.

TALENTS: GROWING

I once knew of an elderly gent who was part of a church. He wasn't what you might call one of the movers and shakers within that community, he was never church warden or a member of the PCC. In fact he never did anything except every Sunday this man stood at the church door and with an engaging and loving smile welcomed people into the church. At his funeral the church was packed out, standing room only, and it was only then that it became evident that this man held the wonderful gift of being able to welcome people into church, make them feel relaxed and comfortable. He not only had the gift but wasted no opportunity to exercise it. 1 Corinthians 14:12 says, 'Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.' I believe that God has given us all gifts to use for the building up of the church and for God's glory. It's also very fulfilling to be able to serve god in whatever way he shows us and through whatever gifts he gives us. And there are loads of gifts that we can be eager for and that we have already. The gift of singing, talking, welcoming, reading, praying, cooking, listening, administration, organising, giving good counsel, being a shoulder to cry on, visiting the list goes on and on. We really need volunteers at St Saviours to get involved and share the work so that what we do builds up the church.

Challenge: What gifts do you have? Are you using them for God?

What gifts do you desire? Pray that God will give you gifts to serve him.

MONEY - GIVING:

Yes, I've mentioned the M word. Someone once said that God's got loads of money, it just happens to be in all our bank accounts. You may have read in the paper recently that the Church of England is looking at changing our Diocesan boundaries and merging us with Leeds and Wakefield. The over riding reason for making these changes is that the church is financially poor and if something isn't done soon, the future

may well be bleak. Now I know that times are hard financially at the moment, I wonder how well off those early Christians were who shared all they had in order to build Christ's church. Unlike those in the early church (and it was in the very early church) I don't believe we are all called to sell up and give everything we have to the poor. But we can't get away from the fact that giving is as much a Christian principle as anything else. Giving money is just a part of our worship as praying, and taking Holy Communion on a Sunday and Wednesday. It's been said that a person's pocket is the last place to be converted, but God wants all of us, including what we've been blessed to receive from him in the first place anyway, including our money. The hard reality is that we also have a church building that needs maintaining, heating and repairing from time to time as well as a share to the diocese to pay. This year we celebrate our 45th year at Ings Way and our building serves us very well, but if we are to bless those that come after us, as those who have gone before us have blessed us, we need to be cheerful givers. 2 Corinthians 9.7 *Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Challenge: Seriously pray about how much you give. Ask God to direct you in the matter.

Andy

Easter Walk

On Saturday 23rd April James and Val will lead a walk through Middleton Woods, Ilkley, calling in at Mount Calvary's Stations of the Cross. It's a 3 mile circular walk, starting at around 1.30 p.m. from the Parish Church in Ilkley (bring refreshments with you if you need some.) Please sign the sheet if interested, for late entries please phone Val on the evening before the walk to confirm numbers

Our Community Hero

Congratulations go to Betty Barnes for being awarded the Active Citizens Community Heroes award 2011 on February 17th. She was presented with a framed certificate down at the City Hall by the Lord

Mayor of Bradford. I was with her on the evening and it was a wonderful event. Well done!

Miriam Morgan

APRIL PARISH DIARY

<u>SUNDAY 3RD</u>	MOTHERING SUNDAY/4TH SUNDAY OF LENT
	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion & Junior Church
Tuesday 5th	7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
	11.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Crossley House
Wednesday 6th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's
	6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts
Thursday 7th	9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer
	6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m. Scouts

<u>SUNDAY 10TH</u>	5TH SUNDAY OF LENT
	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion & Junior Church
Tuesday 12th	7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 13th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
	11.30 a.m. Ings Way Lunch Day
	6.15 p.m. Cub scouts
Thursday 14 th	9.30 a.m. Morning prayer
	6.00 p.m. Beaver scouts
	7.30 p.m. Scouts

<u>SUNDAY 17TH</u>	PALM SUNDAY
	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion & Junior Church
Monday 18th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
Tuesday 19th	7.00 p.m. Holy Communion
	7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 20th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's
Thursday 21st	9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer
	7.30 p.m. Holy Communion & Stripping of the altar
Friday 22nd	1.00 p.m. Walk of Witness at Thornton
	4.00 p.m. Meditation

SUNDAY 24TH

EASTER DAY

6.30 a.m. Dawn Service at the Bell Chapel

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion & Junior Church

Wednesday 27th 9.30 a.m. **NO SERVICE**

Thursday 28th 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer

The Year Ahead

The Social Committees of both St. Saviour's and St. James' have been busy over the past few weeks and arranged various events throughout the year. Some are still at the planning stage, others are a bit more definite. More information will be given nearer each date, but please make a note of the dates:

St. Saviour's

- May 6th Games evening
- July 2nd Summer Fair
- July 16th Car Boot/Table Top Sale
- Sept 17th Dedication Festival
- Nov 26th Christmas Fair

The games evening will start with a 2-course meal (choice of menu) followed by a beetle drive and bingo. Tickets at £7 are available from James, Val or the Churchwardens; booking is essential as we need to let the caterers have numbers by 29th April at the latest.

If you have any unwanted gifts you would be prepared to donate for raffle prizes, Eric Heywood would be most grateful to receive them.

St. James

- May 20th Ladies' evening
- June 24th Magic evening
- July 23rd Garden Party
- Sept 9th Fashion Show
- Oct 8th Harvest Supper & Line Dance

In addition to the above there is a Book Sale and Coffee morning on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10.00 to 12 noon and a Social Afternoon on the 2nd Monday of each month from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. Both at St. James's.

A Collection of Church Anniversaries.

Ian Mc Alpine.

The 400th anniversary of the King James Bible this year made me realise how many other significant anniversaries in the Anglican Church and the history of Bible translation fall around this time. I could think of ten from between 2009 and 2011:-

2009.

450th anniversary of the Elizabethan religious settlement and revised Book of Common Prayer (1559) which re-established the Protestant Church of England after the death of the Catholic Queen Mary I.

2010.

450th anniversary of the complete Geneva Bible (1560) which in many ways influenced the King James Version. (New Testament was 1557). This Bible was originally published in Geneva by English Protestants who had fled to Switzerland to escape persecution by Queen Mary. Later editions were published in England.

130th anniversary of the founding of St Saviour's at Crossley Hall (September 1880) where the congregation met until September, 1883.

40th anniversary of the publication of the complete New English Bible with or without the Apocrypha (1970). In its time this was a very significant new translation which is little used today. I still remember being issued with one at school a few days after it was published.

2011.

400th anniversary of the King James Version (1611).

150th anniversary of Hymns Ancient and Modern (1861) (See my article in the February issue).

130th anniversary of the Revised Version of the New Testament (1881). (Old Testament was 1885, Apocrypha - very rare today - was 1894). Revised Version seems largely forgotten nowadays and had limited success - basically an attempt to update and correct the King James Version.

50th anniversary of the New Testament of the New English Bible (1961). Still widely available in different formats from charity shops! Later editions were produced until 1977. Usually in a green cover.

45th anniversary of present St Saviour's building (September 1966).

2012.

350th anniversary of the Act of Uniformity and Book of Common Prayer (1662) which is still occasionally used in some Anglican churches. The Act and the 1662 Prayer Book, based on earlier versions including the 1559 edition, re-established Anglicanism as the Established Church in England after it had been disestablished during the Civil War.

Perhaps you can think of some others. And I wonder which new anniversaries from around 2011 the Church will be able to celebrate in 50 or 100 years' time!

Corby Bridge toll

A toll was levied at Corby Bridge just east of Carlisle on the line from Newcastle. The old North Eastern railway allowed pedestrians the use of its viaduct over the River Eden on payment of a halfpenny toll. Magnanimously, free passage was granted at church times on Sunday.

Free church train

For the spiritual welfare of North British Railway employees at the remote Riccarton Junction, the company ran a free church train on Sundays – to the Kirk at Hawick one week and to church or chapel at Newcastleton the next.

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Photos

Looking ahead to the 45th anniversary of the present church building, we would like to put on an exhibition of old photos of events at St. Saviour's and the people who have played a part in our church life.

Please have a look through your “archives” for anything you think may be of interest. Details of when and how to submit them will be given nearer the time.

Schools for Africa - update

FacilitAid Charity No. 1090057 Web Site address www.facilitaid.com
FacilitAid is the Charity which sells the knitted teddy bears in aid of schools for Africa. I am pleased to tell you that FacilitAid's 8th School is underway and the builders are doing an excellent job, under difficult circumstances, to get this school open and the children out of their temporary accommodation - a local church when it's wet and under a tree when it's dry!

The school is situated on a hillside, in an area where transport of materials has been very difficult. The six classrooms are being built following the contour of the site and so each one is stepped down into the hillside. This has increased costs slightly as the dividing classroom walls have needed to be sturdier.

Whilst the charity does not require any more bears at the moment, and I do thank you for supporting the scheme, you may be able to help in another way. The Charity has an excellent resources pack for schools which ties in with the National Curriculum, and has had excellent reports from schools who have supported the scheme. Do you have children or grandchildren at school and would you be prepared to ask them to consider the charity for their fundraising?

Lastly, what I find amazing is that 100% of each £1 given is used for building schools in Burundi. Facilitaid takes nothing out of the Burundi donations for administration.

I first became involved with the Charity a few years ago, when they were building their second school, and I am staggered at their rate of progress and dedication. For further details, without obligation, please have a word with Val Muff, or contact the Charity directly.

Thank you. *Val Muff*

46th Bradford North Cubs

The subject of our programme planning has been safety with the Cubs working towards various badges by engaging in numerous activities and games. There have been several focuses including knowing unsafe places to play including railways, river and canal banks and building sites; internet and chat room safety; how to contact Childline; road safety; having a fire escape plan in the home and identifying dangers in and around the house or meeting place.

We have had visits from a fire safety officer and three police constables who were able to share their knowledge and expertise on several levels. We also visited the Fire Station at Fairweather Green. Personal, Home and Road Safety badges will be awarded in due course, as well as a number of Community Challenge awards.

'Bradford Let's Do it Again' was the title of the Bradford gang show which was held from the 3rd to 5th March. Three of our Cubs, Eryn, Jessica and Connor, starred alongside forty others at the Bingley Arts Theatre. It was a superb show full of music and dance, comedy and drama. Well done to all.

Our spring Pack Holiday is being held at Blackhills Scout Camp from 8th - 10th April when our theme is based on the Ancient Egyptians.

Bev Howard

GROUP SCOUT LEADER

Holy Week and Easter

There is a full range of services at the two churches.

SUNDAY 17th

9.30am St Saviours Palm Sunday Communion

11.00am St James Palm Sunday Communion

MONDAY 18th

9.30am St Saviours Holy Communion

TUESDAY 19th

7.00pm St Saviours Holy Communion

WEDNESDAY 20th

9.30 St James Holy Communion

10.00-12.00 St James Labyrinth open

7.00 - 8.30 St James Labyrinth open

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30pm St Saviours Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar

6.30 - 7.30 St James Labyrinth open

7.30pm St James Agape meal (booking required 883022)

GOOD FRIDAY

12.00pm St James Churches Together Walk of Witness (meet in St James Church Hall)

4.00pm St Saviours Good Friday meditation service

6.00pm St James Good Friday meditation service (Labyrinth)

SATURDAY 23rd

1.30pm Meet at The Parish Church, Ilkley, for a walk in Middleton Woods and Mount Calvary, around the Stations of the Cross

EASTER SUNDAY

6.30am St James Dawn Service in the Bell Chapel

7.30am Breakfast at The New Tyke (booking required 833424)

9.30am St Saviours Easter Morning Holy Communion

11.00am St James Easter Morning family Communion

Kids Letters to God

Dear God, On halloween I am going to wear a devil's costume. Is that all right with you? Marnie

Dear God, Do animals use you or is there somebody else for them? Nancy

Dear God I like the Lords prayer best of all. Did you have to write it a lot or did you get it right the first time? I have to write everything I ever write over again. Lois

Dear God In bible times did they really talk that fancy? Jennifer

Dear God, I would like to know why all the things you said are in red? Joanne

Dear Mr. God I wish you would not make it so easy for people to come apart. I had 3 stitches and a shot. Janet

Dear God, If you give me genie lamp like Alladin I will give you anything you want except my money or my chess set. Raphael

Dear God, Please send Dennis Clark to a different camp this year. Peter

Dear God, I want to be just like my daddy when I get big but not with so much hair all over. Sam

Dear God, If you watch in church on Sunday I will show you my new shoes. Mickey D.

We read Thos. Edison made light. But in Sun. school they said you did it. So I bet he stoled your idea. Sincerely, Donna

Dear God it is great the way you always get the stars in the right places. Jeff

Dear God, When you made the first man did he work as good as we do now? Tom

Why does the date for Easter move about so?

When's Easter in any given year? Easy – find the first Sunday after the full moon that follows the Spring Equinox (March 20th or 21st). If it all sounds a bit confusing, here's the history behind it all....

It all began with the ancient Hebrews. They based their calendars upon the rhythms of the moon. These lunar calendars worked well for them, and everything was fine. Then Christianity arrived – in the Holy Land, where the first century Jews were still using the lunar calendar. Fine. But then Christianity moved on to Rome, which was using a different calendar – one based upon the sun. (The Gregorian calendar, which we use today, and which is in widest use throughout the world, is based on the Roman sun calendar.) Now establishing certain days in the year became difficult. Especially Easter. The results were often confusing. Early church leaders, both Jewish and Roman, agreed that everything to do with the coming of Jesus Christ had been prepared, even the position of the sun, the moon and the stars. They could not agree, however, on how to fix the day for the yearly celebration of Easter.

It was not until the fourth century, with the help of astronomers who took into account the position of both the moon and the sun in relation to the earth, that a decision was finally made. At last it was accepted that Easter would always be celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon that follows the Spring Equinox (March 20th or 21st). That is why Easter falls any time between 22nd March and 25th April.

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The Maundy Thursday service will be the very special traditional evening service which begins as a joyful and colourful celebration of the Eucharist to give thanks for its institution by our Lord at the Last Supper. There will be the moving ceremony of foot washing to recall to us the dramatic last teaching of Jesus to his followers. Finally, the altar and sanctuary will be stripped of all artefacts and adornment and we are invited to accompany Jesus in mind and spirit to the garden of Gethsemane, and to stay for a while in watching and prayer before we leave quietly.

Joyce Ashton

Easter Reflection: 'There was a Garden'

David Winter - Former head of BBC's Religious Broadcasting

We were looking at the snowdrops in the churchyard. It's been a bitter, frozen kind of Winter hasn't it? But now the sun was shining, the temperature had climbed above freezing, and those little bulbs buried in the soil had responded. A few weeks ago, all looked dead. But now, all around us, were the signs of Spring.

'Makes you think,' said my companion. 'Death and resurrection - it's simply part of the way things are.' I agreed, and pointed out that in a few days time we'd be celebrating a man who rose from the dead and said, 'Because I live, you will live also'.

This idea, of life blossoming in the place of death is right there in the Gospels, too. 'In the place where Jesus was crucified,' St John tells us, 'there was a garden'. And in that garden was a new tomb, in which, after his crucifixion, he was buried. But within three days the tomb was once again empty. Like the Easter flowers blooming in the graveyard, life had conquered death.

In Jerusalem, you will find the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built on the probable site of the tomb of Jesus, which you can just about find underneath all the pious artefacts. Less than a mile away is the Garden Tomb, which General Gordon thought was the tomb of Jesus, located beside a craggy hill and set in a garden. It was, in fact, inside the city wall in the time of Christ, which means it can't be the actual place of his crucifixion and burial, but there is no doubt that if you want to feel and see what it would have been like, and even peer into a genuine first century tomb, this will probably quicken your pulse more than the Holy Sepulchre.

As Jesus himself said, the seed has to die before it can produce fruit. 'In the place where he was crucified there was a garden'. The seeds and bulbs are buried, and at the right time they burst into life. As my friend said, it's the way things are, and it is the heart of the Easter message.

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Notes from the PCC

We all met after the service on 6th March for our Annual Meeting.

The first item on the agenda was the election of the Churchwardens. Eric Heywood and Kaaren Raistrick agreed to stand again and they were duly elected for another term. Both were thanked for their hard work over the year - and thanks were expressed to Patrick Preston for deputising for Kaaren during a very difficult time for her. This is Eric's 6th and final term and we need to consider carefully a replacement over the coming months.

We also needed to appoint two representatives to the Airedale Deanery Synod, to serve for the next 3 years. We were grateful to Ian McAlpine and Joyce Ashton for agreeing to represent us again and thanks were expressed by Jean Bailey, the Airedale Deanery Secretary, to them both for their faithful attendance at meetings in their previous terms.

Members of PCC serve for 3-year terms on a rolling programme, so 3 people "retire" each year. James and Val Muff and Marjorie Grange came to the end of their current stint. James and Val were re-elected, but Marjorie decided that after about 23 years on the PCC (many of those as Churchwarden) it was time for a rest. She was thanked warmly for all she has contributed and presented with a card and flowers as a token of our appreciation. Sue Lamb was elected and we warmly welcome her.

Reports from our various groups and organisations were presented and thanks were expressed to all who do so much to provide such a varied programme of activities.

During 2010 we have seen a huge amount of improvement work done on our premises. Grants were received to cover much of this, but we still had to fund part of the work and meet other expenses. In his report on the accounts, James Muff reported that although we had managed to pay our Share in full and contribute the agreed amount to charity, our finances will need a boost in the coming months to ensure we can pay our way in 2011. *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)
23rd	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

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