

Letter from the Vicar

INDESCRIBABLE

I make no apologies for this times article being based on Louie Giglio's talk on DVD of the same name, Indescribable. If you've not seen the film it really is worth watching. I've based this article on the first half of his talk only, not wanting to spoil the second half for those who haven't seen it.

You just have to go outside on a clear evening (I know they are rare in Thornton but there have been some beautiful nights recently) and to look up to the sky to see the glory of the God we serve. When we look up we see the evidence that speaks of HIS glory.

*The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands. (Psalm 19)*

We have an amazing God who spoke words and creation happened, all that we see!

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1)

And we don't know just how big the universe is, every time we build a bigger and more powerful telescopes we discover more and more. The universe is just vast, beyond our comprehension. When God created the universe the first thing he said was 'let there be light'. Now light travels at 186,000 miles per second. Just so you can get a picture of that, it would take a beam of light just one second to circle the earth seven times - and this light came from God, he spoke and it happened.

*By the word of the LORD were the heavens made,
their starry host by the breath of his mouth. (Psalm 33)*

In this vast universe we live in the Milky Way sub division, a universe so big we can't measure it in feet, yards, meters or even miles, they're just not adequate to measure such an enormous thing as the universe or even the Milky Way. So we measure distance in 'light years'. A light year is how far light travels (don't forget at 186,000 miles per second) in one year. For those who haven't got big enough calculators that's 5.88 trillion miles per

year. Our sub-division of the universe, the Milky Way, which by the way is only one of billions of sub-divisions called galaxies is 180,000 light years across, if you set off now travelling at 186,000 miles per second, you'll get across to the other side in about 100,000 years. The Milky Way alone has so many stars that if we were able to count them one at a time, one per second it would take us 2,500 years to do it. God knows each and every one intimately, he calls them by name,

*"To whom will you compare me?
Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.*

*Lift your eyes and look to the heavens:
Who created all these?
He who brings out the starry host one by one,
and calls them each by name.
Because of his great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing. (Isaiah 40)*

Within the Milky Way, sort of out between the spiral arms of the galaxy sits a very insignificant, quite standard star that we call the sun and circling this our solar system in which we live on our earth. To get a scale of size here, if our solar system (that is the sun and all the planets, Mercury, Mars, Earth, Venus etc) were the size of a penny, the Milky way would be the size of the North American continent.

Do you feel small? Maybe we're not so important as we thought we were. When Neil Armstrong was returning on one of the Apollo missions he glimpsed an amazing view of our planet through the space craft's window. He says that if he shut one eye he could cover the earth with one of his thumbs. It didn't make him feel like a giant he says, quite the opposite, it made him feel very very small.

*When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,

what is man that you are mindful of him,*

the son of man that you care for him? (Psalm 8)

Compared to the vastness of the universe we are tiny and insignificant. But it is significant insignificance because although we are so tiny compared to the physical universe we are known and prized by majesty who loves us. This great creator of the heavens and the earth knows us all individually by name, everything about us, our thoughts, feelings, joys, struggles and more than this, much more than this, he has come to us to invite us into a relationship with him that will never never end.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Andy

Theatre Visit - the Music Man

Keighley Amateurs are giving the show entitled "The Music Man" in October. We are happy to arrange a group booking for Thursday 21 October. The show will commence at 7.15 p.m. and the venue will be Victoria Hall, Keighley.

The Music Man is a story of a con artist, Professor Harold Hill, whose scam is selling band instruments with a promise of forming and instructing a boys' band using his revolutionary 'think' system. The story continues as he travels to River City, Iowa, USA where he convinces the townspeople of his so called abilities.

The Music Man is a lively colourful musical, set in America in 1912. There is a large cast of people and it includes the famous 'Seventy Six Trombones'. There will be lively dancing and a humorous script. If you are interested please have a word with Val or James Muff. Group transport can be arranged, ticket price information will be advised

AUGUST PARISH DIARY

SUNDAY 1ST NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Tuesday 3rd	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 4th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
Thursday 5th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 8TH TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	1.00 p.m.	Quiet afternoon
Tuesday 10th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 11th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.30 a.m.	Ings Way Lunch Day
Thursday 12 th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer

SUNDAY 15TH BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Tuesday 17th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 18th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
Thursday 19th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer

SUNDAY 22ND 12TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	2.00 p.m.	Visit to Bolton Priory
Tuesday 24th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 25th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Thursday 26th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer

SUNDAY 29TH 13TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Tuesday 31 st	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing

From a speech by Nelson Mandela

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, "Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?"

Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us, it's in everyone.

And as we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we're liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

Quiet Afternoon

The Rev. Richard Bailey and his wife, Jean, are arranging another Quiet Afternoon for Sunday 8th August. The proceedings will start with a lunch at 1.00 p.m., followed by the addresses and quiet time from 2.00 to 5.00 p.m. The theme will be "The Four Maries". Everyone is most welcome to come along.

Bolton Priory

As mentioned in last month's magazine, we will again be visiting Bolton Priory to lead the service of Choral evensong, on Sunday 22nd August, with folks from St. James's. We will all make our own way there and join up with our picnic lunches at about 2.00 p.m. There will then be time to explore, before the service at 4.30 p.m. It was a really enjoyable experience last year; the chance to worship and sing in such magnificent surroundings is something special, so do go along if you can.

46TH Bradford North Cubs

Eighty one Cub Scouts from across the District descended on Blackhills on the evening of June the 18th. The occasion was our first ever District Badge weekend.

When I initially suggested the camp last November I had envisaged maybe 20-30 children taking part from a few groups. What ensued was brilliant with all but one of the ten Bradford North Cub Packs taking part.

Pitching tents was the first priority on the Friday evening before the Cubs, guided by their leaders, got down to hard work. Some were engaged in tasks for the Astronomer badge and others were labouring down at the pond. Meanwhile the rest enjoyed a wide game - the Vanishing post box: taking part in wide games being part of the Outdoor award requirements. After supper and settling the Cubs in their tents the leaders gathered to watch a recording of the England v Algeria match. This proved to be somewhat less than heartening so we cheered ourselves up with a few quizzes and social chit chat.

We had an early start on Saturday - Cubs suffer from insomnia at these events - with breakfast done and dusted by eight thirty.

During the morning and afternoon every Cub completed two of the Activity badges on offer: Artist; Chef; DIY; Emergency Aid; Map Reader, Naturalist or Scientist.

Following a hearty tea, cooked by Chef Valerie, the Cubs ventured off to the tuck shop and afterwards we all enjoyed a campfire singsong.

Sleeplessness seemed to have set in and some of the little cubs were still awake at 1am!! However the leaders were busy exercising what was left of their brain cells with another quiz night.

We hardly seemed to have hit the pillow when the dawn chorus began - not the birds though - eight to ten year olds yelling through tent walls at each other!

During the weekend everyone was engaged at some point working towards gaining the Environment Partnership Award. We had chosen to clear out the pond on site - what a task! Over the years boulders, logs and general rubbish had been thrown into the murky waters and the reeds were very overgrown. However the pond itself and the surrounding banks were cleared by Sunday lunch time - a remarkable undertaking by children so young.

After badge activities on Sunday morning we enjoyed a short worship celebration in the outdoor chapel followed by the closing ceremony.

Once lunch was over everyone started to strike camp (i.e. take down the tents) and tidy up the site before departing for home. Verdict: An excellent camp - an event to be repeated in the near future.

Bev Howard

Our Group Open Evening held in May was attended by over 100 adults and proved to be yet another success. During the proceedings children were invested into the Cubs and Scouts, badges were presented and the annual inspection trophies and certificates awarded. Following the business of the Annual General Meeting everyone feasted at the BBQ and the evening ended with the raffle draw.

We have held a couple of our weekly meetings up at Blackhills this summer. The children have enjoyed, archery, rifle shooting, tracking, building shelters and wide games.

At church parades we would like to have the children more involved. Short of bribery and corruption it is difficult to inspire most members to come along to church but having the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts lead prayers and readings, and take the collection among other jobs may just encourage them to attend.

After church parade in July we are walking up to Blackhills, via Chellow Dene, and Sandy Lane. On arrival we will build and light fires before cooking lunch. The children will also play some wide games and build a shelter using natural resources.

The Scouts were winners of the recent Archery competition that was held at Blackhills, however their Air Rifle shooting skills were less than impressive as they finished 5th place! Can't win them all!

The Cubs and Scouts are taking part in some water sports at Doe Park reservoir on the 21st July. They will be able to have a go at rafting, canoeing and kayaking.

On Wednesday 28th July have planned to visit Bradford Cathedral to complete the church trail. Following this there will be a picture quiz around the Little Germany area.

Our Group weekend is to be held at Bramhope Campsite, Leeds from 17th - 19th September. The Beavers will join the Cubs and Scouts and have a sleepover from Friday until Saturday teatime. Our theme is King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table and many games, crafts and activities will be based around this story.

Bev Howard
GROUP SCOUT LEADER

Bus service to Halifax

Following several years of campaigning, a bus service (505) started last December running from Four Lane Ends, through Thornton and Illingworth to Halifax. There is one bus in each direction Monday to Friday (except Bank Holidays). It was introduced for a 6 month trial period on a 'use it or lose it' basis. I have been advised that the service is to continue for the time being - certainly for a few months - but passenger numbers have been quite small.

The service starts at Four Lane Ends at 09.05 and passes through Thornton Village just before 09.15. The return journey leaves Halifax at 13.30. Despite the early start time, Metro has agreed that CONCESSIONARY PASSES CAN BE USED THROUGHOUT on this service. May I ask people to use this service if they can? It allows plenty of time in Halifax for shopping etc. or may be used for onward connections to Huddersfield, Hebden Bridge, Burnley, Brighouse or Dewsbury.

Please let me know if you have any queries about this service or any suggestions as to how it could become more popular

John Mawdesley (833424)

Crown Green Bowls

On 24th June, nearly two dozen of our congregation and friends met at West Bradford Bowling Club for an entertaining evening of bowls, followed by pie and peas. Ability varied from seasoned club players to outright beginners but lack of skill didn't seem to curb anybody's enjoyment. The sun shone brightly all evening and the deep shadows and dazzle as sunset approached gave a good excuse for the less gifted. Thanks are due to Fiona and Stuart Graham for organising the event and to all those who had some fun while supporting them.

Farewell David James, Bishop of Bradford

Accompanied by a vuvuzela fanfare, the Dean assured us the service would last an hour or so and we would be home in time for the second half of the World Cup Final. Fortunately the England team were not represented, so the services of any David James were not required. (David James is also the name of the England goalie)

Instead we spent a wonderful couple of hours celebrating the service of our David James, Bishop of Bradford for the past eight years, in the company of his wife Gill and their family, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Bradford, the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, the family of the Diocese of Bradford, representatives of other faith communities, and the 'great and good' from near and far.

The celebration, in the packed cathedral, was lively, moving and informal. There were film clips with link dioceses in Northern Sudan and South Western Virginia. Film, too, of the Bishop's work at home and abroad, and of course, a clip of him 'baptising' a whole congregation! A sacred dance group performed. Awais Moghal read from Revelation and there were interviews with the newly ordained Gloria Hardisty, Curate at St. James's and St. Saviour's, and our friend and neighbour Chris Howson. These interviews formed part of the presentation about how the diverse community work of the diocese affects people's lives on a daily basis.

Rather than use the £4,000 presented to him as a farewell gift from the people of the diocese to furnish his new home in Beverley, David and Gill have asked that the money goes to the Church in Northern Sudan. There

was also a presentation from the Muslim community. Bishop David thanked people for the gifts, for their friendship, support and prayers. There was a special thank you too from him and many others to his wife Gill for her 'gentle ministry of hospitality and care'.

When asked how he would like to be remembered Bishop David said "At heart I am a parish priest and what I want people to remember is not me but Jesus and the way he can change our lives for the better"

Burundi Schools Update - Regarding the Charity called FacilitAid

I am sure you will all remember a while ago I encouraged folks to knit Burundi teddy bears for the schools project. Now I would like to share with you the recent news that they hoped to have the 7th school project in Karuzi completed by the end of summer as well as finalising plans for the school at Kiri, where 500+ children are currently using a one room church for school! Teaching staff are already allocated here, so as soon as building can take place, the children can relocate and start to reap the rewards of a much more 'learning conducive' environment.

Gren Burgess, FacilitAid's Chairman, writes: "Our passion for making a difference to the children of Burundi is undiminished even though the current economic climate had caused us all to 'tighten our belts.' We really appreciate all you have done and are doing to help!"

FacilitAid have provided schools in Ntobwe, Muzye, Mabuga, Kagongo, N'tanga, Karuzi, and 100% of the donations they receive are sent to their designated project. Their admin costs are covered through specific donations, and make up less than 2% of their operating costs.

If you wish to read further their website is www.Facilitaid, and the site has interesting photographs of the children together with the building work of the schools.

Val Muff

New Daylight - Bible Study Notes - (published by The Bible Reading Fellowship)

New Daylight provides four months of daily Bible readings and comment, with a regular team of contributors drawn from a range of church backgrounds. Rooted in the rhythms of the Christian year, New Daylight is published in January, May and September and covers a varied selection of Old and New Testament, biblical themes, characters and seasonal readings. Each day offers a short Bible passage (text included), thought-provoking comment and a prayer or point for reflection.

Subscriptions beginning with the September 2010 issue are £14.40 per annum. Some members of our congregation already subscribe to this publication, and if you wish to be included please have a word with Val Muff. Copies of earlier editions of New Daylight are available for your perusal if you would like to check it out without any obligation.

I quote below the BRF Prayer which is reproduced with their kind permission.

The BRF Prayer

Almighty God,

you have taught us that your word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path. Help us, and all who prayerfully read your word, to deepen our fellowship with each other through your love. And in so doing may we come to know you more fully, love you more truly, and follow more faithfully in the steps of your son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for evermore. Amen.

Notes from the PCC

The PCC met on Tuesday 6th July to discuss various matters.

Most of the work to the toilets and the screen in the narthex is now complete and the car park will be re-surfaced in due course. The difference this work has made is amazing and we now have facilities we can be proud of. We hope, in the not too distant future, to give the hall a bit of a clean and tidy and generally spruce up the building so it can be seen to its best advantage. It is a community asset and we are anxious to promote its use to local people and groups. So much hard work, planning, form-filling and co-ordinating have gone into this project and we must thank everyone involved for their perseverance - especially James Muff and Eric Heywood.

At the Away Day we had last year, we formulated a 5-year plan, based on the Bishop's 4 principle areas of concern - Going for Growth; Spiritual Heart; Yes to Young people and the Church in the Community. We have made progress in some of these areas - such as forging links with Crossley House and promoting the Lunch Day, but there is still much to do. We are anxious to build up work with young people and are hoping to join with St. James's in doing something in this area.

The Scout Group leaders are keen to involve the children more in worship at Parade Service, so we are looking at ways this can be done - and they would also like to organise a service on a pack night to which members of the congregation would be invited so more children can be involved; it is not always easy to get the children to come on a Sunday morning!

We are planning to run a stewardship campaign after the holidays to look at both financial giving and time and talents. We need help in all areas to ensure we can maintain our Christian presence in Fairweather Green.

Andy will shortly be running courses for those over 13 wishing to be confirmed, and those under 13 wishing to take communion. If you are interested, or know someone who is, please contact him for more information.

Hilary Davis, PCC Secretary

Laid to Rest

Anne Softley
Judith Butterfield

6th July 2010
21st July 2010

Holy Matrimony

John Donald Michael Henry and
Julie Ann Kelly

24th July 2010

August Roll Of Remembrance

2nd	John Brooksbank	(1935)
4th	Clara Willis	(1979)
	Stanley Percival	(1984)
	Elsie Spencer	(1988)
8th	Davina Roberts	(1987)
	Norman Morgan	(2007)
9th	Florence Jenkinson	(1985)
11th	Herbert Wilkinson	(1952)
	Norman Wilkinson	(1985)
	Lena Place	(2003)
12th	John William Teale	(1947)
	Winifred Jennings	(1978)
14th	Edgar Hudson Jones	(1992)
15th	Russell Stead	(1982)
16th	Emily Robertshaw	(1982)
17th	Alice Newsome	(1992)
18th	Dorothy Williamson	(1971)
20th	Haydn Alpin	(1989)
24th	Emily Size	(1975)
	Herbert Curtis	(1984)
	Josephine Singleton	(1984)
26th	Dorothy Smith	(1980)
	Hilda Mary Jones	(2004)
27th	Amy Ridgway	(2010)
29th	Jane Marsh	(1981)

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