

## **Letter from the Vicar**

***For all that has been, thanks.  
For all that is to come, yes!***

Are you looking forward to 2010? What was your 2009 like? I was speaking to someone the other day that said she would like just a ‘normal’ 2010 after so many years of bereavement and illness. This year her daughter is preparing for marriage and the whole family hope and pray that 2010 will be a normal and peaceful year for them, crowned with the wedding just before 2011 dawns.

The truth is we never know what’s around the corner, which is why we need to rely and trust in Christ to be with us, to walk with us and to carry us through anything that comes our way and, not only that, to actively seek his will for our lives in the coming year and beyond. One of my favourite quotes, which I’ve probably quoted before in either a sermon or in the magazine is by Dag Hammarskjöld, he prayed, “ ***For all that has been, thanks. For all that is to come, yes!***“

Short and simple, this prayer is none the less profound. In just 13 words, it does everything that a prayer needs to do: praising God, thanking God, and offering up our lives and our service to God. It looks back to the past and forward to the future. Even more than that, this prayer, with its exuberant, emphatic concluding cry of “yes!”, speaks of a life of willing service both to God and to the world. (William Whyte Church Times Oct 2007)

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 8.30am a few of us gathered in the small hall to pray as we usually do. On our hearts was the coming year. Just a short time later Sue Bown, who was with us that morning, was suffering a heart attack. As she was recovering in hospital a day later she said to me, “it just goes to show, we just don’t know what’s going to happen and just when we’re going to need God.” Thankfully Sue is recovering well, but God was with her the whole time and Sue felt his presence.

It’s very hard when things go wrong and we get hurt to pray Dag Hammarskjöld’s prayer, ‘For all that has been, thanks’. It takes great

faith and a close walk with God to pray this. Thanks for the sunny weather, the food, the holiday, the family celebration, the worship in church, the birth of a new baby, well that's easy. But thanks for the times I'm feeling spiritually dry, for when my prayers seem to hit the ceiling and bounce back, for when church is hard work? Or even for when I've lost someone I love, for when I was ill? St Paul has a similar sentiment in Ephesians 5, *Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.* Learning to be thankful is an integral part of growing in our walk with Christ. It helps us not be bitter, resentful or even discouraged.

The second part of the prayer is just as challenging. For all that is to come, yes! It reads like a resounding yes at that. In other words, whatever plans you have for my life this year Lord (despite what I want to do or would like to happen) YES, I'll follow where you lead. For many of us that will mean pushing on in our Christian life, and church life, growing and following on as disciples. A big part of this is being really honest with ourselves. Imagine 12 months from now, I wonder if we could say that 2010 was a year when we grew closer to Christ and developed in our discipleship.

The challenge is, can you say Dag Hammarskjöld's prayer?

*Andy*

## FEBRUARY PARISH DIARY

Tuesday 2nd	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 3rd	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	8.15 p.m.	Serenade Dance Band rehearsal
Thursday 4th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

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SUNDAY 7TH 2ND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

9.30 a.m.      Holy Communion & Junior Church

Tuesday 9th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 10th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.30 a.m.	Ings Way Lunch Day
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	8.15 p.m.	Serenade Dance Band rehearsal
Thursday 11th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

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### SUNDAY 14TH SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

		9.30 a.m.
		Parade Service & Junior Church
Tuesday 16th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Ash Wednesday 17th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
	8.15 p.m.	Serenade Dance Band rehearsal
Thursday 18th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer

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### SUNDAY 21ST FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

	9.30 a.m.	Parade Service & Holy Communion
Tuesday 23rd	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 24th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	8.15 p.m.	Serenade Dance Band rehearsal
Thursday 25th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

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### SUNDAY 28TH 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

9.30 a.m.    Holy Communion & Junior Church

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## **Festival of Crosses**

The most visible symbol of Christ in our life is the cross. They are all around us and we possibly have one or more in our homes. A Festival of Crosses at our church will let us share with one another what the cross means in our lives.

If you have a cross you would like to see displayed in church for a couple of weeks during the Easter celebrations, or you have a job or hobby that would enable you to make one - get your thinking caps on. I visited a Festival at the Methodist church in Queensbury last year and some of the ideas included crosses made from hymn books, flowers, card, remembrance poppies, logs, twigs, nails, photos, crossword puzzles, embroidery, patchwork, Lego, cakes, Cadbury's cream eggs, boxes, holiday souvenirs, as well as brass and silver crosses. I'm sure we can add to that list!!

If you have ideas or questions please have a word with me.

*Kaaren Raistrick*

## **Women's World Day of Prayer**

A service for Allerton and Fairweather Green will be held on Friday 5th March at 7.00 p.m. at St. Peter's Church, Allerton. This year's service is written by the ladies of Cameroon and has as its theme "*Let everything that has breath praise God.*" All are welcome to the service—not just women!

## **Insanity**

Doctor: "Has there been any insanity in your family?"

Woman: "I'm afraid so. My husband sometimes thinks he's the boss."

## **Lights**

Halfway through a romantic dinner, my husband smiled and said, "You look so beautiful under these lights." I was falling in love all over again when he added, "We really should get some for our house."

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## **Know your spouse**

While attending a Marriage Seminar dealing with communication, Tom and his wife Grace were told by the instructor: "It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other." He addressed Tom. "For instance, can you name your wife's favourite flower?"

Tom leaned over, touched his wife's arm gently and whispered, "It's self-raising, isn't it?"

The rest of the story gets rather ugly, so I'll stop right here.

## **Work**

First friend: "Whom are you working for these days?"

Second friend: "Same people. My wife and four kids."

## **Hands**

A teacher saw a student entering the classroom with very dirty hands. She stopped him and said, "John, please wash your hands. My goodness, what would you say if I came into the room with hands like that?"

Smiling, the boy replied, "I think I would be too polite to mention it."

## **How it happened – in verse**

Slippery ice, very thin; pretty girl tumbled in. Saw a boy upon the bank -  
gave a shriek, and then she sank.

Boy on bank heard her shout, jumped right in and helped her out. Now  
he's hers – very nice; but she had to break the ice.

## **How lemon-scented cleanliness leads to godliness**

So , your grandmother was right – cleanliness IS next to godliness. Or - at least good surroundings lead to better behaviour. That is the conclusion of a recent study at Northwestern University, The Smell of Virtue, which found that even just making a room smell fresher with a few sprays of a lemon-scented cleaner can stimulate people into kinder behaviour towards each other. In a dirtier environment, they tend to be less charitable.

So next time you can sense domestic hostilities rising at home (or even the PCC meeting!), reach for the lemon spray.

## February 23rd: Polycarp c. 69 – c.155

Polycarp was one of the most important Christians in Roman Asia in the mid-2nd century, because of his link between the time of the Apostles and the earliest Christian Fathers. This disciple of John the Apostle became bishop of Smyrna and defended orthodox Christian belief against the heresies of Marcion and Valentinus, the most influential of the Gnostics. Irenaeus of Lyons, who as a boy had known Polycarp, praised his gravity, holiness and majesty of countenance.

Near the end of his long life, Polycarp paid a visit to Rome to discuss with the bishop there the possibility of agreeing a uniform date of celebrating Easter. When they found they could not agree, they amicably agreed to differ, and parted in good faith.

Polycarp returned to Smyrna, where a riot broke out at a pagan festival. The crowd suddenly turned on the Christians, whom they called ‘atheists’. Polycarp was on a farm nearby, neither provoking nor fleeing martyrdom. When his captors arrived, he invited them to eat a meal, while he prayed alone for an hour. Then calmly, he agreed to go with them to his interrogation. All the pagans’ threats and promises did nothing to shake Polycarp. When ordered to execrate Christ, Polycarp gave this dignified reply: “For 86 years I have been his servant and He has never done me wrong; how can I blaspheme my king who saved me?... I am a Christian: if you wish to study the Christian doctrine, choose a day and you will hear it.”

The crowd were outraged, and cried first for the lions and then for Polycarp to be burnt at the stake. He was bound, but an official killed him with his sword before his body was burnt. Later, grieving Christians collected his bones and buried them. They also wrote an account of his trial and martyrdom, which is the earliest authentic example of its kind.

In England there are no ancient and only a few modern churches dedicated to this deeply courageous saint of the Christian Church.

## **In Memory of Susan Robbins**

It was with great sadness that we learnt on the 23rd December of the death of Susan Margaret Robbins. Most of you will remember her as the embroidery lady who came to our fundraising efforts with her lovely cards. Cards for every special occasion! Susan was an accomplished artist and her cards and bookmarks were really out of this world. She worked hard and was most generous in supporting the church and our charities.

Most of us realised that she was not very well but we didn't expect to lose her at the age of 43. We would like to express our sympathy to Keith, her husband, and Joyce, her mother, whom we met regularly when Susan came to join us. Marjorie, Joyce and I attended the funeral service at Haworth Road Methodist Church. It was a beautiful service and the church was full, There were lovely hymns and two speakers who obviously thought a lot about Susan and her family. In his talk, the Revd. Ian Griffiths spoke about Susan being baptised at our church—the first girl to be baptised after the present church was built! Susan never told us that piece of information. We would have liked to share it with her; but it probably explains why we loved her so much.

*Margaret Holdsworth*

## **Shoe Boxes Appeal**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the appeal. During November and early December the depot in Yeadon processed more than 7,000 boxes to send to Eastern Europe.

Also, an e.mail from Samaritan's Purse – the charity concerned, early last week said they had been able to get 5 surgeons, an anaesthetist, and 3 nurses to the Baptist Mission Hospital in Haiti. They are doing great work all over and your donations will help in this.

## Treasures of Lambeth Palace Library Exhibition: Summer 2010

Lambeth Palace Library is one of the earliest public libraries in England, founded in 1610 under the will of Archbishop Richard Bancroft. In celebration of its 400th anniversary in 2010, the Library is opening a fascinating exhibition to the public in the Great Hall of Lambeth Palace.

The exhibition draws upon the Library's incomparably rich and diverse collections of manuscripts, archives and books, some of which will be on display for the first time. It reveals how the collections have developed since 1610 and explores the history surrounding the people who owned, studied or used them as aids to prayer and devotion.

*Highlights of the exhibition include:*

- The MacDurnan Gospels, written and illuminated in Ireland in the 9th century.
- The Lambeth Bible, masterpiece of Romanesque art
- 13th century Lambeth Apocalypse.
- A Gutenberg Bible printed in 1455, the first great book printed in Western Europe from movable metal type.
- Books owned and used by King Richard III, King Henry VIII, Queen Katherine of Aragon, Queen Elizabeth I and King Charles I as well as landmark texts in the history of the Church of England.
- An exceptionally rare edition of the Babylonian Talmud which survived a 1553 Papal Bull ordering all copies to be burnt, which was rediscovered in 1992.
- The warrant for the execution of Mary Queen of Scots.
- Papers of archbishops, bishops and leaders of church and state, ranging from the 13th century to the modern day, including papers relating to the rebuilding of St Paul's Cathedral after the Great Fire and physicians' reports on the illness of King George III.

The exhibition runs from 17th May to 23rd July (except Saturdays 22nd May and 12th June, and all Sundays) from 10.00 a.m. to 5.0 p.m. Admission costs £8 for adults (£7 concessions).

## **Lent Group**

The Revd. Richard and Mrs. Jean Bailey will be leading a Lent Group on behalf of Churches Together in Allerton and Fairweather Green at Marjorie Grange's house on Wednesdays February 24th, March 3rd, 10th, and 31st., with a possible final meeting on 7th April. The course is entitled "The Earth is the Lord's" and a booklet is available at £3.15.

## **The Christmas Party Lunch**

The party on Friday 25th December was wonderful; the lunch was fantastic and enjoyed by everyone who came. There were 10 of us and we all tucked into the meal, putting on the extra pounds. We had plenty of drinks, so we really got into the festive spirit. We danced some ballroom dances with Stan and Mary leading the way.

Maybe next year we may have a few more people. Thanks to everyone who helped with the preparing.

*Betty Barnes and Sue Lamb.*

## **Electoral Roll and Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

This year's Annual Parochial Church meeting will be held on Sunday 7th March following the 9.30 a.m. service (there will be time for a coffee first!)

The meeting is our chance to look at what we have done as a church during the past year - including the activities of the various groups and organisations who use our premises , to look at the state of our finances and the fabric of the building and to vote for the Churchwardens, PCC members and sidespeople for the coming year. To be eligible to vote in these elections you need to be on the Church's electoral roll. This roll is open to anyone over the age of 16 who has been baptised and is a member of the Church of England, or a church in communion with the Church of England, and either lives in the parish or has been a regular attender at worship during the past 6 months. If you are not on the roll and would like to be, please have a word with Keith West, our Electoral Roll Officer, the Wardens or Andy, the Vicar. The current roll will be open for new applications until February 13th.

## 46<sup>th</sup> Bradford North Cub Scouts

On an icy Friday evening, 15th January to be precise, sixteen Cubs, two Scouts, one Beaver, Akela's grandson and six leaders ventured to Bradley Woods Scout Campsite at Brighouse for a weekend stay.

Fortunately we were not camping outside but had hired the Charles Wilson Centre for the weekend. Once the children had been allocated a bunk and made up their beds we congregated in the hall to explain the theme: Winter Olympics. The Cubs were divided into four teams - Canada, Italy, Japan and USA (the last four venues of the Games) - and we then held a 'torch' relay race before holding our traditional Cub Grand Howl and flag break. Next, teams had to find out some information about their own country before we embarked on some Olympic games: Ice Hockey (indoor hockey without the ice) and the Biathlon (run down the hall (hobble as legs were tied together) then throw bean bags at Pringles tubes to simulate shooting! The kids loved it.

After supper of hot dogs, soup, hot chocolate and biscuits we had games of bingo and play-your-cards-right. Finally it was bedtime - though alas not sleep! The last little person still being awake at 1am.

The following morning, after breakfast, the Cubs tackled the outdoor high ropes course. This was very challenging but many managed to scale the 30 foot pole and take the leap of faith from the top whilst others managed to climb Jacobs's ladder - some feat for little eight year olds. More Olympic activities followed lunch before the challenge of the low ropes course beckoned. Team work was tested on this low level assault course consisting of tyres, tight rope walks and log walks. Then it was off to the Cresta Run! This is a great activity for youngsters who can speed down a man made track in a specially designed cart -it was covered in ice too a little bit like the real thing.

After warming up and having a snack we played "Snowman" - a version of the Beetle game where you have to throw a six for the Snowman's body, a five for his head, four for his hat etc...

Team members then had to make an Olympic Poster for their display board and also be a reporter thinking up questions they might ask Olympians about their sports.

The leaders meanwhile were busy creating displays from the children's activity sheets - they were most innovative indeed!

Once tea was over it was back to work and this time the challenge was to build a Crestar Run from Pringle tubes. This done each team was given six ice cubes and straws and their task was to get their bobsleighs (ice cubes) along the table and down the 'run'. It was marvellous and taken so seriously especially by the leaders (kids at heart).

Curling was next on the agenda - well our version which involved throwing a bean bag and then trying to knock the opponent's bean bag out of their 'house'! We played a few energetic Cub games prior to supper and then it was off to bed as everyone looked extremely tired and some were becoming rather agitated and grumpy too!

A good night's sleep was had by all - except the leaders who are really nocturnal creatures. The Cubs were off next morning, after breakfast, to tackle the indoor climbing wall. Lunch, tidy up and three o'clock came all too fast and it was time to say our thanks and goodbyes. It was a most successful weekend for us all and enjoyed by Cubs and leaders alike.

Look out for photos of our weekend, in the hall!

*Bev Howard*

## **Some miscellaneous observations on life**

I don't bother getting even. I just get odd.

Every day is a gift; that's why they call it the present.

Everyone else my age is an adult, whereas I am merely in disguise.

In the cookie of life, friends are the chocolate chips.

Worry is the darkroom in which negatives can develop.

If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.

The real reason you can't take it with you is that it goes before you do.

A luxury on which you can make the first payment becomes a necessity.

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### **Signs & Symbols: Ashes**

Many churches offer a service on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, where ashes are used to mark each person's forehead with the sign of the cross – known as the Imposition of Ashes.

It's a strange feeling; first the grittiness when they are first placed, then a tingling sensation, then a time of self-consciousness of knowing they are there like a dirty smudge. Lastly comes the 'Decision'. Should I wipe them away before leaving the church or later?

But what is the point of it all?

There are many references in the Bible to people using ashes as signs of either penitence or preparation for an important event (Jeremiah 6:26). In church records, ashes are used for penitents by the sixth century, but it is not until the beginning of the eleventh century that the faithful took part in a ceremony on the Wednesday before Lent that included the imposition of ashes. It is only later that this came to be called Ash Wednesday.

At first clerics and men had ashes sprinkled on their heads while women had the sign of the cross made with ashes on their foreheads.

In the twelfth century the rule developed that the ashes were to be created by burning palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday – and in most churches this is still how they are made today.

Over the centuries the emphasis of meaning for the imposed ashes has changed, from a preparation for baptism, a renewal of baptismal vows, to an understanding of a community's preparation for the event of the Paschal mystery of rebirth at Easter.

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### FEBRUARY ROLL OF REMEMBRANCE

1st	Sydney Shewan	(1978)
4th	Mabel Holgate	(1981)
9th	Annie Varley	(1983)
10 <sup>th</sup>	Harold Blackburn	(1984)
	Nellie Curtis	(1986)
12 <sup>th</sup>	Janie Jackson	(1990)
14 <sup>th</sup>	Doris Smith	(1979)
	Doris Butterfield	(1994)
18 <sup>th</sup>	Edward Chater	(1982)
	Mabel Barraclough	(1984)
19 <sup>th</sup>	Clara Coplin	(1985)
	May Surtees	(2002)
21 <sup>st</sup>	May Ashton	(1979)
22 <sup>nd</sup>	William K. Naylor	(1977)
	Minnie Brett	(1984)
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Billy Fawbert	(1979)
24 <sup>th</sup>	George Hayhurst	(1984)
28 <sup>th</sup>	Charles Exley	(1980)
29 <sup>th</sup>	Sarah Ellen Firth	(1979)

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