

The February Letter

Dear Friends,

Have you noticed the odd ways by which we recognise the changes in the season? Unless your afternoons are spent in the further reaches of a shop, or in an office with no windows, you can see that the skies are already lighter longer following the solstice in December. Before New Year, the mince pie season was waning fast as the hot cross bun season took off, with chocolate eggs not far behind.

So where are we with the Church's seasons? We are leaving behind the excitement and joy of Christmas/Epiphany and entering that no-man's-land between Candlemas and pancake day when we have to change gear, mentally, in preparation for the rigours and discipline of Lent. As Easter is early this year, this transition is quite short so the sight of green service books will be brief before they give way to the purple ones.

So it's time to think about how we will mark the season of Lent. Whether doing something extra appeals more than giving something up (or both!) the goal must be useful, practical and achievable, no point in starting things which you can't sustain beyond the end of the month. A start might be to attend the Lent Reflections course, (see page 10,,,) instructive and providing food for thought.

Be prepared, enjoy the pancakes and keep to your discipline so making Easter even more joyful.

Patrick

FEBRUARY PARISH DIARY

SUNDAY 1ST

CANDLEMAS

	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
	2.00 p.m.	Messy Church
Tuesday 3rd	11.00 a.m.	Communion at Crossley House Care Home
	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 4 th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Thursday 5th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
	4.30 p.m.	K:Ing's Way Club
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

SUNDAY 8TH

SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Tuesday 10th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
	7.30p.m.	Social Committee meeting (venue tba)
Wednesday 11 th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.30 a.m.	Ing's Way Lunch Day
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Thursday 12th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
	4.30 p.m.	K:Ing's Way Club
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

SUNDAY 15TH

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

	10.00 a.m.	Parade Service and Holy Communion
Tuesday 17th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
	7.30 p.m.	PCC meeting
Wednesday 18 th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
Thursday 19th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 22ND

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Tuesday 24th	7.30 p.m.	Adult Tap Dancing
Wednesday 25 th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Thursday 26th 9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
4.30 p.m.	K:Ing's Way Club
6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
7.30 p.m.	Scouts

Electoral Roll and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Our Electoral roll is a list of people who have registered as members of the Church and so will be eligible to attend and vote at the Annual Parochial Church meeting. This year the meeting will be on Sunday 8th March, at 11.30 a.m. (yes, there will be time for a coffee after the service!) and we will hear about what we have done in the past 12 months both from the church and from the various organisations connected with us. We will choose the Churchwardens for the coming year, elect members to the Parochial Church Council, appoint sidespeople and have a general look at the year to come, put forward ideas and voice any concerns. We very much appreciate the support of all members at this meeting. If you are not on the Roll and would like to be, please see Keith West, our Electoral Roll Officer, before February 21st.

Big Issue Thanks

Following a further donation of knitted items for sellers of the Big Issue magazine, we have received a letter of thanks from the Trust. They are most grateful for the support we give and say that the sellers really appreciate the warm items in the cold, winter months. If you would like to find out more about the work they do, you can check out their website at bigissueinthenorth.com

17th Century Technology Riddle.

Ian Mc Alpine.

Back in February 2012 I published in "Parish News" an article about my ancestors the Markland family of Eccles near Manchester who were prosecuted for being nonconformists in the 17th century. In those days it was usual, if a person made a will, for an inventory and valuation of his property to be made after his death. Many thousands of these inventories have survived, some dating back as far as the mid-16th century and they often provide a vivid picture of the everyday lives of ordinary people in England three or four hundred years ago.

In July 1682 my relation Ellis Markland (1643 - 1682) whose brother Richard (born 1640) was my 9 x great-grandfather made his will at Eccles near Manchester, describing himself as a basket maker. He divided his property between his wife Sarah and their daughter Mary.

Ellis died from unknown causes about a week later and was buried at Eccles on 8th August, 1682. He was only 38 and left a wife and a daughter aged probably about ten. Sadly nothing more is known of Sarah and Mary but no doubt they both were helped and supported by Ellis's family.

An inventory of the estate was eventually made more than two months later and this still exists at the Lancashire Record Office in Preston. Ellis's property was worth a paltry £19 12s 6d (£19.62) and about 8% of this was made up by just one small item. It was worth £1 10s (£1.50) and was the most valuable thing in the house. To the Marklands this was an amazing and beautiful piece of technology which would have seemed as impressive to them as the latest I-pad or tablet seems to us. Very few ordinary people had one and it must have been a source of wonder to all the family and their friends even though it didn't actually work very well. I saw a genuine 17th century one for sale at an antiques centre in York once at about £5,000 and wish we'd kept ours! What do you think it was?

Christmas Messy Church: The Birth of Jesus

Karen, our Youth worker, led us in a warm and friendly December afternoon, assisted by enthusiastic helpers and enjoyed by parents and family members and fifteen happy children.

We began with an alphabet Christmas quiz followed by a quiz on our colourful parachute. Then the children (and adults) spent a sticky and tasty time icing star-shaped shortbread biscuits. They were spoilt for choice with five craft tables from which to choose - including making stable scenes, fir cone figures, animal masks, glitter angels and Christmas cards or calendars.

Hungry work! Cheese filled jacket potatoes with beans were devoured, followed by homemade cakes and lollies. Many thanks for your donations of food and drinks. They were much appreciated.

Worship and the Christmas story were told in Karen's inimitable, child-friendly manner, along with a short visual presentation.

Lastly, we sang Christmas carols and went home replete and happy.

Our next session in **SUNDAY 1ST FEBRUARY, 2.00 TO 4.00 p.m.** Any help is welcome, in any part of the programme, for all or part of the afternoon.

Next

Session!

Valentine Dreams

A young woman woke up one morning and told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace for Valentine's Day. What do you think it means?"

"You'll know tonight," he replied with a smile. Sure enough, that evening the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it, only to find a book entitled 'The Meaning of Dreams'.

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Recalling the founder of Amnesty International

The founder of Amnesty International, British lawyer and human rights activist Peter Benenson, died ten years ago, on 25th February, 2005. He was 83. Born into the Jewish Solomon family in London, he adopted his mother's maiden name as a tribute to his grandfather, the Russian gold tycoon Grigori Benenson. He became a Roman Catholic in 1958, when he was convalescing from illness in Italy.

Peter's army officer father died when he was nine, and he was tutored privately by W H Auden before going to Eton. At the age of 16 he helped to establish a relief fund with other boys for children orphaned by the Spanish Civil War.

From 1941 to 1945 he was at Bletchley Park, the codebreaking centre, where he worked on breaking German teleprinter ciphers. After the war he began practising as a barrister before joining the Labour Party and standing unsuccessfully for election.

In 1957, with a group of lawyers, he founded JUSTICE, an all-party human rights and law reform organisation. Then in 1961, he was so outraged by a newspaper report of two Portuguese students sentenced to seven years in prison for raising their glasses in a toast to freedom during the Salazar regime, that he wrote an article in the Observer, asking readers to write in support.

To co-ordinate such letter-writing campaigns, Amnesty International was founded in London that July. The response was so overwhelming that within a year groups of letter-writers had formed in more than a dozen countries. It is now a global movement of over seven million people.

Initially appointed general secretary, Benenson stood down in 1964 because of ill health. He then became involved in disputes within the organisation, and he resigned in 1967. In 2001 he received the Pride of Britain award for Lifetime Achievement.

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Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

Dozing in bed on the Feast of the Epiphany (Jan.6th), I was brought fully awake by Canon Angela Tilby's *Thought for the Day*.

In it she took the three gifts that the Magi offered to the baby Jesus, and spoke about their meanings (revealing, by the way, that in her childhood she had imagined that the three had journeyed from the Magical land of "Orientare"). We all know the traditional meanings – gold representing regal majesty, frankincense for divinity, and myrrh for death.

This, however, was not always the interpretation, as she revealed from the writings of Bishop Ignatius of the early 2nd century. Ignatius had a very different take on the story. He did not accept the idea that the Magi were astrologers or kings, but magicians, engaged in fraudulent deception for their influence. The laying down of the gifts before Jesus was their repudiation of their deceitful ways.

Finally, Canon Tilby gave her own interpretation, which she felt might reflect more closely situations we meet today. The gift of gold she interpreted as the refusal to be controlled either by the fear or the love of money. Frankincense would represent the refusal to be dominated by the cult of charisma, or celebrity. Myrrh stood for the refusal to be cowed by people who claim to have the power of life and death, either through violence or torture.

This last has a huge relevance when we consider the events in Paris on January 7th, with the murder of journalists and cartoonists working for *Charlie Hebdo*. The laying down of myrrh in tribute to Jesus means that we must neither be cowed by them, nor provoked in counter violence.

R. W. Bailey

There is a net of love by which you can catch souls. - Mother Teresa
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46TH Bradford North Scout Group

BEAVER SCOUTS

Our younger members are due to attend a District Sleepover from the 14th to 15th February at Blackhills Scout Camp. The theme is the Chinese New Year and consequently there will be a variety of games, arts and crafts based on this topic.

CUB SCOUTS

We currently number thirty (haven't had so many for 15 years!) and desperately need some new leaders; therefore we have begun a recruitment drive - although I am not overly optimistic that this will yield anyone. Keep your fingers crossed as we seek out potential 21st Century adults to take the movement forwards here at St. Saviour's.

Meanwhile we have begun activities that will lead to the award of the Disability Awareness badge. Some of what we have learned to date has been most interesting and very inspirational.

Additionally the children have been learning how to play dominoes and draughts (properly – as their rules/perceptions are many and varied!). They have also been practising their darts and skittles accuracy. This will ensure that our young people have an advantage at the District Games Tournament to be held at Ebenezer Church, Dudley Hill this month.

SCOUTS AND EXPLORERS

The District Winter Camp (brrrr) is to be held over the weekend of the 27th February – 1st March at Blackhills. Indoor accommodation has been booked but many have chosen to sleep outdoors (madness!). During the weekend the young people will be able to enter a cooking competition, practise their archery and rifle shooting skills and also develop their survival skills: knife security; water purification; fire lighting and den building. Additionally there will be indoor activities: Scalextric and remote control cars; lego modelling; a scrapheap

challenge; creating electrical circuits and Wii sport and dance fun in the evenings.

BRADFORD NORTH DISTRICT GANG SHOW

Fourteen of our members will appear in the above which is scheduled to take place at the Bradford Playhouse from the 19th to 21st March.

BIG CAMP

Thousands of young people and leaders will descend upon Harrogate Showground during the weekend of 1st to 4th May. There will be hundreds of activities operating from dawn until dusk. Whether the children like adventurous or challenging experiences or prefer a more creative time via arts and crafts, there will be something for everyone. There will also be evening entertainment ranging from live bands, puppet shows, a fairground, camp fire singsongs and discos. So far forty of our members are booked on.

JAMBOREE

Two of our Explorers, Dominic and Tamara, will be jetting off to Japan in the summer to join the World Scout Jamboree. There will be more information on this *once in a lifetime* opportunity in subsequent issues of the Parish News.

BEV HOWARD Group Scout Leader

Answer to Technology Problem

It was a little clock! This must have been a 17th century brass lantern clock, so-called from its design. (See illustration). It seems quite amazing that the Marklands possessed one of these prestigious items and knew how to use it. Perhaps it was an old one which Ellis's father Ellis (1611 - 1668) had somehow acquired on his travels as a chapman or dealer. I like to imagine little Mary Markland constantly being told not to touch it ! It was driven either by weights or a spring and certainly had only one hand to indicate the hours. The earlier weight-driven models were accurate to within only about 15 minutes a day and would have little practical use in today's world. How I wish I could have seen it!

Lent Reflections 2015

Walk Through This World With Me: Walking With Christ

**Led by Revd Dorothy Stewart at
7pm to 8.30pm**

Week 1 Wednesday 25th February

Preparing to say Goodbye – Jesus anointed and the Last Supper
- Mark 14: 1-9 and 12-25

Week 2 Wednesday 4th March

Loss of a Loved One – The Denial of Peter - Mark 14: 26-31, 66-
72

Week 3 Wednesday 11th March

Being Alone – Jesus in Distress – Mark 14: 32-52

Week 4 Wednesday 18th March

Justice Denied – Jesus Stands Accused - Mark 14: 53-65, 15: 1-
5

Week 5 Wednesday 25th March

Walking a Road of Pain – Jesus is Crucified – Mark 15: 6-37

**Worship, the study of scripture and our reflections will be
applied to the world and our local community today.**

*You are welcome to all or any of the sessions. Refreshments
available.*

For further details – **Revd Dorothy Stewart Tel 01274
777701**

The strange story of the Chaplain's Pennant in the Royal Navy

During the Dutch Wars in the 17th Century, when the English and Dutch fleets were engaged in a series of battles in the English Channel, both fleets were commanded by devoutly religious officers; Admiral Blake for the English and Admiral Tromp for the Dutch. They both ensured that every ship's company, before battle commenced, paused for prayers before the mast-head at the start of each day. The worry was that one side would steal an advantage over the other.

A solution was found when the two Admirals agreed that in both fleets the English and Dutch national flags would be sewn together and raised and lowered simultaneously at the start and finish of masthead prayers. A century later, when Rear-Admiral Richard Kempenfelt devised a signalling system with flags for the Royal Navy, a Church (or Chaplain's) Pennant was created. Continuing the experience from the Dutch Wars, the Cross of St. George and the Dutch Tri-Colour were combined in a single pennant. During divine service or a burial at sea the pennant was to be flown from the Starboard outer yardarm. By this time peace had been established between the English and the Dutch, so the pennant was now a more positive symbol of reconciliation. It has remained the Church Pennant in the Royal Navy to this day.

Every time the Church Pennant is raised, during ship's company prayers, the pennant is, in one sense, an uncomfortable reminder of the ambiguity of war, on sea or on land. Many on both sides of a conflict devoutly pray that God will give them victory, assuming God is on their side. Can God be on both sides at once?

Jesus has shown us where God is. He is alongside anyone caught up in the turmoil and agony of life's experience, redeeming us by his love, whichever side we are on, deserving or not. Like the woman being stoned by self-righteous Pharisees for being caught in the act of adultery; Jesus rescued her by his redeeming love. And God's love redeems in every human conflict. Enemies become allies. This is what the Royal Navy's Church Pennant ultimately came to demonstrate.

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14th February: Saint Valentine's Day

Saint Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.

The first recorded association of Valentine's Day with romantic love (1382) is from Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote, 'For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.' This poem was in honour of the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia. Valentine's Day is referred to by Ophelia in Hamlet (1600-1601).

To-morrow is St Valentine's day
All in the morning betime
And I a maid at your window
To be your Valentine.

The modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784): The rose is red, the violet's blue; The honey's sweet, and so are you. Thou are my love and I am thine; I drew thee to my Valentine.

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Traffic Lights

It fills me with dread
It makes me irate
That lights are all red
When I'm running late!

But when I'm on time
(You'll know what I mean)
The journey is fine!
The lights are all green!

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Miscellaneous observations on life...

It's easy finding reasons why other folks should be patient.

Families are often like fudge - mostly sweet, with a few nuts.

Some cause happiness wherever they go. Others, whenever they go.

I sat up all night thinking about the sun. Then it dawned on me.

It is said that if you line up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to overtake them.

You can't have everything - where would you put it?

Latest survey shows that 3 out of 4 people make up 75% of the world's population.

If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.

The trouble with referees is that they just don't care which side wins.

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Notes from the PCC

The PCC met on Tuesday 20th January to look at various matters.

Have you seen the wonderful new sign to the church on Thornton Road, at the corner of Olive Grove? It is something we have been trying to achieve for years, but numerous approaches to various council offices to replace the original sign that disappeared a few years ago, have all met with refusal. That is, until Councillor Michelle Swallow became involved. Within weeks, it was all sorted and the sign up! So we offer Michelle our heartfelt thanks and hope it makes a difference.

We also have a new external noticeboard, which has been sited at the corner of Ings Way and Bullroyd Lane. This will hopefully be a bit more visible and alert people to the fact we are a church, and what goes on here.

We are making progress with the Heritage Lottery Fund procedures and have successfully completed the first stage, which was getting full reports about exactly what work is needed and estimates for the cost. These have now gone to English Heritage for their approval. Once this is obtained, work can begin. The heaters in church have developed

major faults (not good in this cold weather!) and we will need to replace them within the year. We are looking at sources of funding for this as our finances are severely stretched at the moment.

Dorothy is planning a reflective Lent Course (details given elsewhere in the magazine) and a full programme of services for Holy Week and Easter. Details of these will appear in the next magazine.

We have again been contacted by Crossley Hall Primary School about the exciting plans they have for their school grounds. These are to be for the use of the whole community, not just the school and we have been asked to look at ways we could use them, and suggest other possible groups that might benefit. Dorothy is keen to re-establish links with the school which have slackened a little in the past few years.

Hilary Davis, PCC Secretary

February Roll of Remembrance

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

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