

The February Letter

Dear Friends,

Not for the first time, as I start this letter, I'm not sure what I should write about. As Ash Wednesday comes early during February, Lent seems the obvious subject but finding something new to say is a challenge. We've had all the stuff about giving things up (or not) in previous years. So I turn to the Lectionary to see what psalms were set for Ash Wednesday to find inspiration. I find psalms usually have something unexpected to tell us.

The one appointed for Morning Prayer is Ps38. This is one of seven psalms used in the Christian liturgy as Penitential psalms. At first reading it struck me as miserable; it is a lament and details the woes the writer is suffering as a result of illness which is not only painful, but keeps him away from friends and provokes derision from his enemies. The implication is that his illness has been inflicted on him as a result of past sin (not an idea we would recognise these days) and a plea for relief from his suffering.

At Holy Communion and Evening Prayer, the set psalm is 51, another Penitential psalm but a more optimistic one. Again it is a lament, deploring the writer's sinful nature, but this time more hopeful in that God will forgive those who know their misdeeds and are able to repent sincerely.

My conclusion is (and what do I know?) that Lent might be a less than happy season if we aren't careful, but with the right outlook, we will be forgiven from the Cross and be able to rejoice at Easter.

Think about it, and dig in to a psalm or two.

Patrick

FEBRUARY PARISH DIARY

- Tuesday 2nd 10.45 a.m. Communion at Crossley House Care Home
12 noon Knit and Natter
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
- Thursday 4th 9.30 a.m. Morning prayer
6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
7.30 p.m. Scouts

SUNDAY 7TH SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

- 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion
- Tuesday 9th 12 noon Knit and Natter
7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
- Wednesday 10th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion with Ashing
11.30 a.m. Ing's Way Lunch Day
6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts
- Thursday 11th 9.30 a.m. Morning prayer
6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
7.30 p.m. Scouts

SUNDAY 14TH FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

- 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (*Rev. Richard Bailey*)
- Tuesday 16th 12 noon Knit and Natter
7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
7.30 p.m. PCC meeting
- Wednesday 17th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's
- Thursday 18th 9.30 a.m. Morning prayer
7.00 p.m. Lent course in church

SUNDAY 21ST SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

- 10.00 a.m. Parade and Family Service
- Tuesday 23rd 12 noon Knit and Natter
7.00 p.m. Safeguarding training
7.30 p.m. Adult Tap Dancing
- Wednesday 24th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts

Thursday 25th 9.30 a.m. Morning prayer
 10.15 a.m. Environment sub-group meeting
 6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
 7.30 p.m. Scouts
 7.00 p.m. Lent course in church

SUNDAY 28TH **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**
 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

Lent, Holy Week and Easter

There will be a series of special services and events to mark Lent, Holy Week and Easter. We begin on **Ash Wednesday**, 10th February, with a service of Holy Communion with Ashing at 9.30 a.m. in the chapel. Dorothy has arranged a **Lent course**, to be held in church on Thursday evenings from 7.00 to 8.30 p.m.:

1. 18th February Led by the Spirit
2. 25th February Investing in God
3. 3rd March Love Unconditionally
4. 10th March Look Beyond

And a series of services for **Holy Week**:

Sunday 20th March	10.00am	Palm Sunday with procession of Crosses and Passion Gospel
Monday 21st	7.00 pm	Taizé Service
Tuesday 22nd	7.00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Wednesday 23rd	9.30am	Said Eucharist
Thursday 24th	11.00am	Service of Oils at Ripon Cathedral
	7.00pm	Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar, followed by Vigil till 9.30pm
Friday 25th	10.30am	Good Friday Young People's Service
	11.15am	Building Jesus' Tomb
	11.30 a.m.	Walk of Witness from Ladyhill Park
	2.30pm	Proclamation of the Cross
Sunday 27th	10.00am	Easter Day Family Communion

Men at Work!

Well, after three years in the planning, the work to fix our heating, flat roofing, gutters and other bits and pieces has finally begun. The church certainly looks different, clad in scaffolding, with assorted containers and machinery in the car park and a very big notice board on the grass.

The work seems to be moving on apace, though not without a few hiccups judging by the frequent emails circulating between St Saviours, contractors, architects and diocese. The Christingle service in January became one of St Saviour's adventures, having to be held in the hall as the newly installed heaters could not be used because the flues needed bricking in. Dorothy reminded us of the poem about the battle being lost all for the want of a horse shoe nail! However the comments about the Christingle were all favourable, in my hearing at least.

The contractors, and their assorted equipment, are likely to be with us a little longer, but they have been very willing to keep the disruption to a minimum. Any concerns or questions please contact the vicar or churchwardens. Also if you live near the church and notice anything suspicious please make contact asap.

There will be regular updates about the work in progress on the new noticeboard in the narthex – so watch that space!!

Kaaren Raistrick

Knit and Natter

The Knit and Natter sessions have now got under way, amidst the clicking of needles and happy chatter! It has been decided to alter the times of the sessions by 30 mins, to 12 noon - 2.00 p.m., though all are free to come and go at any time during these times. As before, please bring any food you need; drinks will be provided.

Blessing

One Sunday when my grand-daughter was about two years old, her daddy and mummy made their Communion at my local church, and took her with them for a blessing. Arriving back in our pew she said in a loud voice: 'Granny, the man has said his prayers on my head, and he has a lovely dress on.'

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Happy Birthday to Mothers' Union!

This year will see Mothers' Union mark 140 years of faithful Christian outreach to families of all faiths and none. Since 1876, when Mary Sumner first brought together parents in her own parish to build their confidence in bringing up their children, we have grown to an organisation of over four million women – and men – in over 80 countries of the world.

Why celebrate 140th, rather than wait for 150th? In the Old Testament of the Bible, in the first book of Samuel, there is the story of Samuel marking an unlooked for victory against the mighty Philistines by erecting a stone between Mizpah and Shen, naming it "Ebenezer" meaning "stone of help" as a permanent reminder of the leading and guidance of God "Thus far has the Lord helped us".

Over the past 140 years, Mothers' Union has faced, and will continue to face, many challenges. Family life is under increasing pressure and the call on our resources is higher than ever. But we can look at how we are meeting these challenges and say, like Samuel, "Thus far has the Lord helped us."

This year over 500,000 people will benefit from Mothers' Union's support for family life. Many more will know the support of our membership without any tally being taken – because not only through our programme work but in their daily lives our members support families in prayer, in voicing their support for policy changes and in their practical support.

There has never been a more challenging, or more exciting time to be part of Mothers' Union. Our hope is to train more members to help more families; to encourage greater outreach across those countries and communities where family life is under greatest threat. To do this we need your help. Please support Mothers' Union in bringing positive change to family life through its work worldwide. Please contact Jean Bailey for more information and details of how to become a member.

Original 1611 King James Bible Just Discovered in Lancashire!

Ian Mc Alpine.

Readers may remember that in 2011 I published a couple of articles in “Parish News” to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the first printing of the King James Bible in 1611. Briefly, there were two different printings of the 1611 text, the main discrepancy being in the reading of Ruth 3: 15.

One version read (with modernised spelling) :

“Also he said, bring the veil that thou hast upon thee, and hold it. And when she [Ruth] held it, he [Boaz] measured six measures of barley, and laid it on her; and **he** went into the city”. (“He” would refer to Boaz, mentioned earlier in the chapter)

While the other read :

“Also he said, bring the veil that thou hast upon thee, and hold it. And when she [Ruth] held it, he [Boaz] measured six measures of barley, and laid it on her; and **she** went into the city”. (“She” would refer to Ruth herself)

The two printings of the 1611 KJV are for obvious reasons known as the “He” and “She” Bibles. Both editions are of course now extremely rare and only about half a dozen copies of the 1611 “She” Bible survive today. The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge have one as do the Salisbury, Exeter and Durham Cathedrals. Modern King James Bibles use the “She” text.

However, a totally unknown copy of the 1611 “She” Bible was discovered in a cupboard at the back of the village church at Gisburn in North Lancashire last year! Gisburn is on the A59 roughly half-way between Skipton and Clitheroe, within easy driving distance from Bradford. The Reverend Anderson Jeremiah and the Reverend Alexander Baker found the old book following their appointment at the church last August. The Bible, printed in glorious early 17th century black letter type, is one of St Mary’s greatest treasures and will be put on display in the church for everyone to enjoy.

46TH BRADFORD NORTH SCOUT GROUP

WINTER CAMP

Ninety Scouts and Explorers camped at Blackhills over the weekend of the 4th – 6th December and despite the very wet conditions had a good time. There was archery and rifle shooting on offer, den building and a reindeer wide game. A competition took place to build Santa's sleigh from junk and wood found around the campsite. On the Saturday evening a three-course Christmas dinner was served with all the table trimmings including crackers. Delicious!

Explorers from the 46th and leaders from a number of groups helped to decorate the camp site in readiness for the arrival of hoards of little people in the afternoon. Buildings were decked with lights outdoors and indoors, trees were erected and decorated and snowman bunting added a seasonal flavour to the Eaton Centre.

WINTER WONDERLAND

At 2pm on the Saturday afternoon over 150 Beaver and Cub Scouts from Bradford North descended on Blackhills for a Christmas themed afternoon. They were welcomed to the event by our Explorers who wore a variety of Christmas outfits including reindeer, elves and Santas – they really got into the spirit of things!

The Cubs and Beavers visited seven activity bases: there was storytime in Mother Christmas's cottage; Christmas crafts in the Elves' Workshop; a Marshmallow Trail that led to the campfires where children could toast their mallows; The Santa Trail through the woods; receive yummy sweeties at the Candy Store; Snowman Beetle and the film *The Snowman*.

Ultimately the one destination everyone was really looking forward to was the Grotto where Santa and his elves awaited the eager youngsters with gifts and refreshment.

It proved to be, yet another, successful and most enjoyable experience.

CHURCH PARADE & CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Thirty two of our members attended the parade service on the 20th December and joined in the traditional nativity story. Following the service we ventured to Hollywood Bowl in the city centre for our Christmas party. We played one game whilst sharing chocolates and

then had lunch before wishing everyone all the best for the forthcoming celebrations!

THE WILDEST BIRTHDAY PARTY EVER!

It is 100 years since Cub Scouting began back in the austere years during World War I. Robert Baden-Powell had formed the Scout Association in 1907 but only boys aged over eleven were eligible to join. Their younger siblings were eager to be part of a new exciting world and so BP organised the Wolf Cubs for seven to eleven year olds. Rudyard Kipling, who was a friend of BPs, was asked if his characters from the Jungle Book could be used to name the leaders of the new Scouting section. Hence why we have Akela (father wolf), Bagheera (black panther), Kaa (snake) and Baloo (bear) in charge on Wednesday nights!

We are all sporting a special badge on our uniforms and there are numerous events taking place during 2016 to mark this occasion. The first major celebration is our District 'Thanks' Party which will be a visit to Flamingoland in North Yorkshire on March 19th. In May there are Cub 100 Camps taking place across the country and we are joining the County Cub Camp at Bradley Woods from Saturday 28th May to Monday 30th.

We have begun learning about the history of Cub Scouting at pack meetings on a Wednesday evening. The children are completing activities that Wolf Cubs 100 years ago would have experienced. We have started with the requirements of the 1st Star: Clean and polish shoes; know and sing the National Anthem; tying knots; growing cress and a physical challenge that includes walking upright with something weighing in the region of 2lb placed on their heads, throwing and catching a ball 6 times and leapfrog.

Next we will be trying out activities towards the 2nd Star.

On Saturday 6th February fourteen Cubs will be pitching their skills at the District Games Tournament to be held at Ebenezer Church at Dudley Hill. The children will compete at Connect-4, Darts, Dominoes, Draughts and Skittles.

AHOY ME HEARTIES

Our Beavers enjoyed a sleepover at Blackhills from Saturday 23rd to Sunday 24th January. With a pirate theme to excite the youngsters the sun shone all day enabling everyone to enjoy den building, a walk to the folly and a scavenger hunt. They also made decorative sails for their pirate ships which were bedecked with fabulous cannons. For tea the Beavers created their own pizzas. Following a sing song and story time it was bedtime and before the leaders had time to dream they were up and about full of fun on Sunday morning. After breakfast more games and crafts followed before they were picked up by their parents and whisked off for a good old scrub in the bath!

Meanwhile a group of our Scouts were camping overnight. One of their activities was learning about knife and axe safety so that they are able to chop wood and whittle without injuring themselves or others. Some of the girls also made bread and, when I visited, this was cooking on the fire outside along with some fish wrapped in foil. Delicious! The Scouts too enjoyed a walk in the winter sunshine to the folly, played wide games and did some team building activities.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

We are delighted that four of our Explorer Scouts have completed their Bronze D of E award. It has been hard work for all concerned with many who started out on the scheme having fallen by the wayside over the last few years! (not literally). Congratulations to: Ben, Sentu, Joe and Daniel.

CENSUS

We have started the year as the biggest group in Bradford North with sixty-six young people under our care. We must all be doing something right!

BEV HOWARD

Group Scout Leader

Dates for your diary

We have done some basic planning for the year and list some dates for you to mark in your diaries. More details of each will be given in due course, so please come t as many as you can—and bring your friends and neighbours!

Friday 4th March

2.00 p.m. Women's World Day of Prayer, St. Peter's, Allerton

Sunday 24th April

11.30 a.m. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 15th May

12 noon Jigsaw Challenge

Saturday 16th July

12 noon to 2.30 p.m. Garden Party

Saturday 12th November

Time to be arranged Christmas Fair

September: 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Times as announced - Festival of Crosses

Sunday 18th September

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion with Bishop Toby Howarth, followed by faith lunch

Saturday 24th September

7.30 p.m. Steeton Male Voice Choir Concert

Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Electoral Roll

Usually at this time of year we are gearing up for our Annual Parochial Church meeting and asking those of you not already on the Electoral Roll to think about signing up. Because Easter is early this year, however, we thought it would be better to wait until after the Easter holidays and so have organised the meeting for **Sunday 24th April**. We will have time for a cup of coffee after the service, and then start the meeting. All who are on the Electoral Roll are warmly invited to attend to elect various officers for the year, hear about what has gone on in church during 2015, and have a chance to air views about church matters. Keith West, our Electoral Roll Officer, will be happy to receive applications for inclusion on the Roll at any time.

Jericho

I watched the opening episode of *Jericho* and found it rather better than the rather sniffy review in the *Radio Times* gave it credit for. The series is set around the building of the Ribbleshead viaduct (thinly disguised as "Calverdale") and the life in the shanty towns set up on the moors for the navvies (a shortened form of "navigators"). After watching the programme I went to my bookshelf and found Terry Coleman's book *The Railway Navvies*, which I bought and read sometime in the 1970s.

I had read that book for two reasons. The first was my interest in engineering, and the second that my grandfather was an engine driver on the LMS, regularly driving the Liverpool to London expresses throughout the war years. He had started out on the old London North Western Railway where his father, my great-grandfather, was a driver. (My father started his working life on the railway, but gave it up after a year - but that's another story.)

As we all know, the Liverpool and Manchester line was the first commercial passenger line to be built. The journey from Liverpool Lime Street, after climbing up the tunnel to Edge Hill, enters the amazing Olive Mount cutting, where the line was cut through sheer rock, until it comes to Broadgreen where an embankment some three miles long takes the line through the villages of Roby and Huyton.

It is even more amazing to realise that this was done before there was a reliable road between the two cities, and yet the biggest problem of all was still to come. At the Manchester end of the line lies Chat Moss, an area of bogs where solid ground is only found 40 feet below the surface. Terry Coleman describes the conquest of Chat Moss like this: "On overlapping hurdles made of branches and of the heather and brushwood that grew there, he (i.e. Stephenson) laid sand, earth, and gravel, thickly coated with cinders, until at last he got a firm but elastic road to carry the railway." (p.42)

The great age of the railway navy lasted until the 1880s when, as Terry Coleman wryly comments, "the Great Central ... was to be the work not of the navy alone but also of the mechanical excavator, which was only at this last moment to be used in Britain as extensively as the Americans had used it for forty years and more."

The Settle to Carlisle line was built between 1869 and 1875, and the Ribbleshead Viaduct is an amazing feat of engineering, depending entirely on the muscle power of the navvies. The opening sequences of *Jericho* give a picture of how it was done. It was no easy job. "The two horrors of Settle and Carlisle were bogs and boulder clay. To carry supplies the navvies used bog carts, which ran on barrels instead of ordinary narrow rimmed wheels, which would have sunk hopelessly up to the axles. In Ribblesdale the clay was so hard that it had to be drilled and blasted, yet after rain it turned into a thick, gluey mess, that when a navvy stuck his pickaxe into it he could hardly get it out again; and when he did he would not have loosened a small teaspoon of the stuff." (p.221f)

The navvies and, often, their families lived in the shanty towns depicted in the programme. These were built in such a way that they could be dismantled and moved on as the work progressed. In spite of the fact that up to 1000 people lived there, there is almost no trace of them on the moors.

My only criticism of *Jericho* is that everything and everyone is so clean! No doubt efforts were made by some, but Coleman records the appalling conditions with 120 navvies crammed into huts designed for 80. Coleman says this: "Each shanty was looked after by an old crone who was expected to cook, make beds, and wash and mend the clothes of her masters, who beat her fearfully, mostly for entertainment. These women took part in all the obscenity and blasphemy, and lent a hand in the fighting. Their features were disfigured, their heads and hands cut and bandaged, and they were quite at home." (p.80f) Not a pretty picture! Yet it is to these people we owe our railway network. I shall be interested to see how the plotlines of *Jericho* work out.

R. W. Bailey

Don't die

A vicar announced: 'I'm sure you won't wish to overwork our visiting priest while I'm on holiday, and will keep funerals to a minimum.'

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Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Day – 9th February

It's odd, really, that confessing one's sins to God should ever have involved making pancakes. And yet the beginning of Lent brings us both – Shrove Tuesday is Pancake Day, and is followed by Ash Wednesday, and so Lent begins.

In centuries gone by, the pancakes were made to use up the milk and eggs before the fasting of Lent. More recently, many readers will have childhood memories of the wonder of watching our mothers break an egg, mix it with milk and flour – and out of that gooey mess, to produce a light and delicious pancake.

These days more and more of us buy pancake mix, or even ready-made pancakes. It seems we prefer the certainty of ending up with pancakes - to the risk of having made nothing BUT a mess of the kitchen.

In many parishes they used to hold pancake races on the day. Why anyone would want to run around a field while holding a pancake is not clear, but in Olney, Bucks, they have held a pancake race almost every year since 1445.

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Ing's Way Lunch Day

The Lunch Day continues to operate on the second Wednesday of the month from 11.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. We serve up a menu of homemade soup, sandwiches, tea/coffee and biscuits - all completely free - so please come along to join us. It's a good opportunity to have a natter with old friends - and, hopefully - make some new ones! We look forward to seeing you on February 10th.

Notes from the PCC

At our meeting on 19th January, we were able to discuss progress with the HLF work - which has got underway at long last! It did feel at times that it would never happen, but patience has been rewarded and things have started. Kaaren has given more details elsewhere in the magazine - but we remain open for business as usual throughout the works.

We are still uncertain about what will happen when James steps down as Treasurer at the APCM. Dorothy has been in touch with the Diocese and has got details of a comprehensive financial management package which will simplify the accounting process, and which the PCC agreed to buy. If anyone feels they could cope with this, or knows someone who may be interested, we should love to hear from you. We remain immensely grateful to James for all he has done, and continues to do for us.

The Diocesan Synod asked us to look at two areas of concern - blood and organ donation and the refugee crisis. We were asked to encourage as many people as were able to consider giving blood or registering as an organ donor - with emphasis being placed on the necessity to inform close relatives of any decision. The Diocese is trying to find ways parishes can help refugees in their local area and we will see how we can follow any advice they give.

Dorothy has arranged for a training session for all who are involved with us in work with children or people deemed to be at-risk, in church on Tuesday 26th February from 7.00 to 9.00 p.m. Anyone who takes part in any capacity is warmly encouraged to come along. Refreshments will be available.

We are most grateful for a generous bequest from the estate of Stan Brooksbank. Throughout his long association with us, he was a generous benefactor and we are looking at ways we can enhance the church in a way we feel would be an appropriate testament to his memory.

Hilary Davis, PCC Secretary.

Laid to Rest

Margaret Graves

26th January 2016

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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