

Letter from the Vicar

You're not supposed to have feelings of hate as a Christian, especially if you're a vicar. We have said on a number of occasions to Ben, our youngest, when he says "I hate" when he's showing his dislike for something, "hate is not a word we like to use". "Hate is *not* a word we like to use" is what was going through my mind as I mowed the lawn this week and struggling with not hating the dandelions that have infested it this year. Trying not to hate them I have to confess I do dislike them intensely. The thing is with dandelions they seem to undo all your hard work in trying to make the garden look good. Those spiky yellow heads, horrible jaggedy leaves and worst of all those long reddish brown stalks that lie down when they see you approaching with the lawn mower and stand up to attention the moment you've passed by. They spoil your grass and characterise your garden. "Where does the vicar live?" someone may ask, "Oh... that place with all the dandelions" would be the answer. Not, "That place with the nice green lawn" which should be the answer.

As I trundled around the garden pushing the mower, fixating on just why God invented dandelions in the first place, I started thinking that actually we all have dandelions in our walk with God. I could, of course, get to like dandelions or at least just accept them and ignore them, but that wouldn't get the garden looking any better. I could try to argue with myself that dandelions were very pretty wild flowers and a benefit to my garden but I'd be kidding myself. The fact is dandelions spoil lawns, they're destructive and left unattended they would simply take over. What looked like a pretty array of yellow headed flowers at first would soon turn into unkempt wasteland if I weren't to try to get rid of them. I think that many people view the world in this way when it comes to their relationship to God and their responsibility to his creation. Some argue that sin (the thing that separates us from God and the thing that is hurtful to ourselves and others) is an illusion, something that we will evolve out of given time and the right social and economic conditions. But in 2 Corinthians chapter 4 we see a different picture,

¹Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. ²Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by

setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. ³*And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.* ⁴*The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

And in Ephesians 4,

¹⁷*So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.* ¹⁸*They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.* ¹⁹*Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.*

We are created beings, created in the image of God, everybody is! Therefore we have a responsibility to look to God and obey him, even more to love him – after all that’s one of the two golden commandments Jesus instructed us to do, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and strength’. To willingly do any less is to take on a world view that is human-centred and not God-centred. It’s hard work though, if we read Romans 7 we see that even the Apostle Paul struggled with his dandelions, *For if I know the law but still can't keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't do it. I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time.* ²¹⁻²³*It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.* ²⁴*I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question?*

At least Paul is tackling the problem of sin head on. He realises that he hasn't got the answer and there is only one place he can go,

²⁵The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different.

Sin is as patently obvious as a lawn full of dandelions, we can deny its destructiveness in our lives but like dandelions, ultimately we need to deal with it. And the only place we can go to do that is to God himself. This week I'm going to try some 'weed and feed' stuff I bought from Morrisons on my lawn, I guess that could be a good title for a bible, '*The Weed and Feed Version*', what do you think?

Andy

Bowls

Following the very popular crown green bowls evening last year, Fiona and Stuart Graham have been persuaded to arrange another event for us. This year it will be on Thursday 24th June at 7.00 p.m. at West Bradford Bowling Club, Prospect Place, Duckworth Lane, Bradford BD9 5EY. Tickets are £3.00 each to include a pie and pea supper; please see Stuart or Fiona to book tickets - or phone 01274 816686.

Table Top Sale

The PCC has committed St. Saviour's to giving 3% of its income to charitable causes and this can only happen if we are successful at raising funds. We have tried to think of new ideas where money might be raised and the table-top sale is one of them. We need gifts of clean, good quality clothing to sell on behalf of church at the forthcoming table top sale. Please do try to find something suitable – perhaps that skirt that no longer fits or those trousers which are too short, or a colour that doesn't suit! Good quality clothing usually sells at good prices so let's try to make this a success!

June Parish Diary

Tuesday 1st	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 2nd James's	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St.
Thursday 3rd	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer

SUNDAY 6TH FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Junior Church
Tuesday 8th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 9th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.30 a.m.	Ings Way Lunch Day
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Thursday 10th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

SUNDAY 13TH 2ND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Junior Church
Tuesday 15th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 16th James's	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St.
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Social Committee meeting
Thursday 17th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

SUNDAY 20TH 3RD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

	9.30 a.m.	Parade Service & Holy Communion
Tuesday 22nd	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 23rd	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Worship committee meeting
Thursday 24th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer

	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.00 p.m.	Bowls evening
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts
Saturday 26th	2.00 p.m.	Strawberry Fair

SUNDAY 27TH 4TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Junior Church
Tuesday 28 th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 29th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
Thursday 30th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer

St. Peter's, Allerton, 126th Anniversary

At the end of June, St Peter's Church, Allerton,celebrate 126 years since its consecration with a flower festival, exhibition, dinner and special service.

The theme for the flower festival is 'The Life of St Peter's Church in our Community 1884-present' with 25 displays, eachan aspect of the church's life. The festival will be opened on Friday 25th June, at 7pm by the Lord Mayor of Bradford, Councillor Peter Hill, and will be followed by a dinner at the church hall. There will also be a historical exhibition of the church's history, 1884-present. flower displays will be open to the public Saturday 26th June, 10am-5pm.

A church service to mark the centenary will be held on Sunday 27th Juneam. with the Archdeacon of Bradford, the Ven. David Lee, as the preacher. Refreshments will be served in the church hall after the service. Public viewings of the flower displays will continue till 5pm that day and then on Monday 28th June, 10am-4pm, 6-7pm; Tuesday 29th June, 10am-4pm, 6-7pm; and on Wednesday 30th June 9am-12 noon.

Entrance to the church is free but donations will be welcomed.

If you would like tickets (£5)the dinner on Friday 25th June (7.30pm for 8.00pm) please contact the Revd Dr George Williams, 01274 541948. Places are limited, please book early.

Calling all Ladies

The Yorkshire Ladies Christian Conference at Westcliffe Road Chapel, Shipley, are hoping to arrange a Ladies' Weekend in March/April next year. The idea is to have a weekend away where ladies can relax, chat, meet new friends walk and enjoy the ministry of God's word and singing throughout the weekend. The proposed venue is the Ramada Hotel in Lytham St. Anne's/Southport and the estimated cost (all inclusive) is £130/140. As always, helpers are needed for planning and at the actual weekend. If you would either like to go or help, you can contact Georgina Lansdell on 01942 463590 or email at g.lansdell@claimar.co.uk

Mountain Story

A father and son were walking on the mountains.

Suddenly, the son fell, hurt himself and screamed: "AAAhhhhhhhhhhh!!!"
To his surprise, he heard the voice repeating, somewhere in the mountain:
"AAAhhhhhhhhhhh!!!"

Curious, he yelled: "Who are you?"

He received the answer: "Who are you?"

And then he screamed to the mountain: "I admire you!"

The voice answered: "I admire you!"

Angered at the response, he screamed: "Coward!"

He received the answer: "Coward!"

He looked to his father and asked: "What's going on?"

The father smiled and said: "My son, pay attention."

Again the man screamed: "You are a champion!"

The voice answered: "You are a champion!"

The boy was surprised, but did not understand. Then the father explained:
"People call this ECHO, but really this is LIFE. It gives you back everything you say or do. Our life is simply a reflection of our actions. If you want more love in the world, create more love in your heart. If you want more competence in your team, improve your competence. This relationship applies to everything, in all aspects of life; Life will give you back everything you have given to it."

Your life is not a coincidence, it's a reflection of you!

Flood

During a recent flood in the Lake District, one family sent its little boy to stay with an uncle in a dry part of the country, accompanied by a note repeating the reason for the nephew's sudden and unexpected visit. Two days later the parents received a message: "Am returning boy. Send the flood."

Churchwarden

Patrick Preston, our churchwarden for the past six years, has now completed his term of office and "retired" from the post on 24th May when the new wardens were sworn in for the coming year. During the service on 23rd May we had a chance to thank him for all his hard work and to present him with a gift as a token of our appreciation. In response he writes:

Dear Friends,

Thank you all very much for your generous gift to mark the end of my 6 years as churchwarden. The powers that be have bought me a Jessop's Giftcard, so I will buy something photographic or computer related. I have very much enjoyed serving as warden and am happy to pass the baton to Kaaren, whom, I am sure, you will all support as you have always supported your wardens.

Love and best wishes,

Patrick

Common English

Over 400 years ago, on 9th June 1549, the Book of Common Prayer was first issued throughout the Church of England. It was called 'Common' because it was in English, the language people used in their everyday lives instead of in Latin which only the priests understood. It underwent a couple of revisions before emerging as the 1662 version which is still used today at some services in some churches.

There have been lots of changes in church services over the years but few can have been as major as when our prayers suddenly became 'common', and the ordinary people could understand what was going on and take full part in the services.

Using Rest to Pray

Most of us think of prayer as a very demanding activity, but did you know it can be extremely restful?

One of the great verses in the Bible says this: 'Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10). It suggests we experience God most fully when we are still. When we cease rushing around, pausing for a moment of thought and recollection, we are becoming prayerful and God is very near. Even a break for a morning coffee can be a moment of prayer if we slow ourselves down and allow our thoughts to turn towards God.

An essential part of resting is to breathe slowly. Christian tradition has always made a connection between prayer and breathing. You can learn to pray to the rhythm of your breathing, using chosen prayer words to focus. As you breathe in, you might say 'Abba', and then as you breathe out, add the word 'Father'. Choose words which are meaningful to you, deliberately slowing your breathing so you become relaxed and peaceful.

Perhaps you have a favourite chair where you are able to unwind easily. For a few moments sit and do nothing. Simply become aware of the present moment, reminding yourself you are in the presence of God. As you feel yourself relax, bask in the knowledge of God's love and acceptance of you. Sense his smile of approval upon you. You don't have to do anything, just 'be' for a moment. This too is prayer.

Sometimes we are forced to rest by circumstances... illness, disability, growing older and so on slow us down and we can't rush around like we used to do. Never mind. Don't fight against your circumstances. Enter in to the place of rest that God is giving you. He loves you for who you are, not for what you do. Turn your thoughts into prayer and offer them to God. You don't need to advise God as to what He should do; simply hold people before Him, leaving the outcome to Him.

Prayer should be a natural expression of our relationship with God. Sometimes we have words, sometimes silence is enough. We don't need to impress God with our fervour. We can relax and be rested, even as we pray.

Ready or not?

There is a knock on St. Peter's door. He looks out and a man is standing there. St. Peter is about to begin his interview when the man disappears. A short time later there's another knock. St. Peter gets the door, sees the man, opens his mouth to speak, and the man disappears once again. "Hey, are you playing games with me?" St. Peter calls after him. "No," the man's distant voice replies anxiously. "They're trying to resuscitate me."

Black death

An elderly parish priest was tending his garden near a convent when a passerby stopped to inquire after the priest's much-loved roses. "Not bad," said the priest, "but they suffer from a disease peculiar to this area known as the black death."

"What on earth is that?" asked the passerby, anxious to increase his garden knowledge.

"Nuns with scissors."

New news

"Anything new in the newspaper today, George?"

"No, my dear - just the same old things, only happening to different people."

Home is...

Teacher: Sam, give me a definition of 'home'.

Sam: Home is where part of the family waits until the others have finished with the car.

Roads

In speaking of the song 'The Bonnie Banks o' Loch Lomond' a teacher asked his pupils for an explanation of the line, 'Yu'll tak' the high road and I'll tak the low road.' "That's easy," said one boy, "One was going by air, and the other by train."

Practical romance

"Something's wrong with me, Grannie," sighed the young lady. "I've been a bridesmaid twice; I even caught the bouquet once, but I'm still single."

"Next time," advised her grandmother, "forget the flowers, and reach for the Best Man."

Hunting the Treasure

Following the Parade service on Sunday 16th May, several teams set out in search of treasure. The route had been kindly organised by the Chef at the Girlington and District Conservative Club and we were set on our way at 2 minute intervals to avoid traffic jams.

As some of the directions, as well as the clues, were cryptic, navigating round the route was not straightforward. In the immediate vicinity with the benefit of local knowledge it wasn't too difficult to work out what we were looking for, but when we ventured further afield outside our comfort zone, it became a little more challenging. However, most people seemed to manage to trundle round, writing down the relevant phone numbers, dates, opening times etc. as they went, with a certain degree of triumph. Fortunately, as we had been given the finishing point, everyone made it back to the Club in time for a refreshing drink and the hearty lunch.

Never known to miss the opportunity for a quiz, Bev and Val had enlisted the services of one of the parents to test our little grey cells; a welcome addition to the day's activities. Copious amounts of badge work obviously paid off, as the Scout leader and his team walked off with the bottle of wine first prize.

A slight hiatus occurred as the Chef had been chef-ing rather than marking the papers, so an impromptu game of bingo filled in the gap until he caught up. Our illustrious Group Scout Leader and her trusty Cub Leader were victorious in the treasure hunt – Bev's homing instinct for the bar obviously giving her super powers!

All in all a very enjoyable and stimulating event, with the added bonus of making £150 for church funds, and smaller amounts for the Scouts and the Club. Thanks to all who put such a lot of time and effort into the planning.

Hilary Davis.

June 20th: Father's Day turns 100 in the UK, USA and Canada

In the UK, USA and Canada, the third Sunday in June is Father's Day. And 2010 is the centenary of the first ever Father's Day. Ever wonder how the idea of Father's Day came about? Well....

It all started way back in 1909 because of a woman in Spokane, Washington, named Sonora Louise Smart Dodd. That year she heard a church sermon about the merits of setting aside a day to honour one's mother. Mothers' Day was just beginning to gather widespread attention in the United States at this time. But Sonora Louise Smart Dodd knew that it was her father who had selflessly raised herself and her five siblings by himself after their mother had died in childbirth. So the sermon on mothers gave Sonora Louise the idea to petition for a day to honour fathers, and in particular, her own father, William Jackson Smart.

She soon set about planning the first Fathers' Day celebration in Spokane in 1910. With support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA, her efforts paid off, and a 'Fathers' Day' was appointed. Sonora Louise had wanted Fathers' Day to be on the first Sunday in June (since that was her father's birthday), but the city council didn't have time to approve it until later in the month. And so on June 19, 1910, the first Fathers' Day was celebrated in Spokane.

Gradually, other people in other cities caught on and started celebrating their fathers, too. The rose was selected as the official Fathers' Day flower. Some people began to wear a white rose to honour a father who was dead, and a red one to honour a father who was living. Finally, in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Fathers' Day - a permanent, national holiday.

Today, Fathers' Day is a great time to celebrate any sort of male role models, like uncles or grandfathers, as well as dads. Certainly Fathers' Day has become a day for greeting card companies to rejoice, and sales of the most popular gifts for Dad (shirts, ties, and electric razors) increase considerably. Perhaps most telling of all, though, is how children continue to see their fathers: more 'collect calls' to home are recorded on Fathers' Day in America than on any other day of the year!

Strawberry Fun Facts

Strawberries are the only fruit with seeds on the outside.

The average strawberry has 200 seeds.

The ancient Romans believed that strawberries alleviated symptoms of melancholy, fainting, all inflammations, fevers, throat infections, kidney stones, bad breath, attacks of gout, and diseases of the blood, liver and spleen.

To symbolize perfection and righteousness, medieval stone masons carved strawberry designs on altars and around the tops of pillars in churches and cathedrals.

In parts of Bavaria, country folk still practise the annual rite each spring of tying small baskets of wild strawberries to the horns of their cattle as an offering to elves. They believe that the elves, are passionately fond of strawberries, will help to produce healthy calves and an abundance of milk in return.

Madame Tallien, a prominent figure at the court of the Emperor Napoleon, was famous for bathing in the juice of fresh strawberries. She used 22 pounds per basin. Needless to say, she did not bathe daily.

Strawberries are the first fruit to ripen in the spring.

Notes from the PCC

The PCC met on Tuesday, 4th May and continued discussions on various items.

Progress on the refurbishments is now advanced. After much waiting and several teething problems at the start of the work, the toilets are now virtually finished and we can then move ahead with the installation of the screen in the narthex, before having the car park re-surfaced. The difference the new toilets have made is amazing. We now have facilities we can be proud of and it should make the hiring out of the hall a much more viable proposition.

The eucalyptus tree has been severely lopped so as not to be a danger to the telephone wires. We are hopeful it will sprout again - but it will be kept under control this time.

More discussion was held as to charitable giving. Whilst we are conscious we must pay our way and not put the future of the church in jeopardy, we feel, as Christians, we should also support those less fortunate than ourselves. Accordingly, a decision was taken to donate 3% of the church's income to charity, and to review the situation regularly. A decision as to which charities we are to support will be made at the next PCC meeting. If you have any suggestions about this, please see the Vicar, Churchwardens or any member of PCC.

The Scout Group leaders are anxious to involve the children in church as much as they can. They have put forward proposals for more involvement of the children in existing Parade Services, and also the possibility of organising a service now and then during a regular meeting of the Cubs or Scouts, to which all members of the congregation would be invited. We all felt this was an excellent idea and Andy is to talk it through with the leaders to see what can be arranged,

Hilary Davis
PCC Secretary.

Holy Baptism

Ellie Olivia Kennedy

16th May 2010

June Roll of Remembrance

2nd	Thomas Varley	(1975)
3rd	June Love	(1978)
	Jessie Trigg	(1979)
4th	Jack Hartley	(1980)
5th	Herbert Vivian Bamford	(1985)
6th	Joyce Whitham	(1971)
10th	Horace Dixon	(1956)
	Margaret Lee	(1983)
13th	Winifred Deacon	(1983)
14th	Lily Hodgson	(1994)
17th	Alfred Ainsworth	(1971)
	Alicia Booth	(1978)
18th	Laura Shewan	(1977)
19th	Annie Whittle	(1981)
22nd	Edna Stubbs	(1984)
	Dorothy Ward	(1985)
	Ronald John Critchley	(1996)
24th	Thomas Brocklehurst	(1958)
25th	Kath Pasterfield	(2001)
26th	Sidney Lake	(1981)
29th	Ada Fox	(1980)
	Ethel Cromley	(1982)
	Frances Teale	
	Walter Teale	
	Emily Holmes	

**ST. SAVIOUR'S PARISH CHURCH
FAIRWEATHER GREEN**

Website: www.stsavioursfwg.org.uk

Church phone (in kitchen)

487084

Priest- The Revd. Andy Greiff

833200

In- Charge: The Vicarage, 300 Thornton Road, Thornton

E-mail: thegroof@hotmail.com