

The March Letter

Dear Friends,

Have you ever used the phrase, in describing some event or other, that it is “a moveable feast”? As we come into March, we are well and truly in the season for moveable feasts – in other words, special days moved about, because of the way the church calendar works.

Our biggest moveable feast is, of course, Easter. The date moves about from late March to late April, depending on the lunar calendar which governs its calculation. The date of Easter determines when Lent starts too, so Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and Mothering Sunday all become moveable as well.

This year, Easter falls on April 8th, but it can be much earlier than that. And when it falls in March, it can also bring about the moving of another feast – Lady Day, the Feast of the Assumption. Unlike Easter, Lady Day falls on a fixed date in normal times – March 25th. But it has to take second place to the great celebrations of Easter, and at those times, it is moved too.

Lady Day is an important day for Mothers’ Union members, as we mark our membership by celebrating a communion service on that day which members make a special effort to attend. This marks for us our recognition that we are primarily a society supporting Christian family life, and as a society within the church we take as our example the pattern of care set by Jesus and his earthly family. In Bradford Diocese, this day is specially celebrated with members coming from all parts of the Diocese to services in the Cathedral, and in Skipton.

For our family, March is always a busy and exciting month, regardless of what the weather has to bring us – in church, in Lenten observance, on Mothering Sunday, on Lady Day, and in some years, Holy Week and Easter too. Our close family celebrates three birthdays in March too, including our daughter’s on March 26th – born on Easter Day, and a birthday right next to Lady Day!

March brings for us all recollection, observance, ideally a spiritual discipline, and celebration. And when the weather is kind too – Spring on the horizon, daffodils galore, and a little warmth!

Good wishes to you all,

Jean Bailey

MARCH PARISH DIARY

Thursday 1 st	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
Friday 2 nd	2.00 p.m.	Women's World Day of Prayer Service at Allerton Methodist Church

SUNDAY 4TH SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	<u>11.00 a.m.</u>	<u>Annual Parochial Church</u>
		<u>Meeting</u>
Tuesday 6 th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion at Crossley House
	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 7 th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
	6.15 p.m.	Cub scouts
Thursday 8 th	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
Friday 9 th	7.00 p.m.	Fashion Show at St. James's

SUNDAY 11TH THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Tuesday 13 th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 14 th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.30 a.m.	Ings Way Lunch Day

Thursday 15 th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	4.30 p.m.	K:Ing's Way Club
	6.30 p.m.	Cubs' service

SUNDAY 18TH MOTHERING SUNDAY

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Tuesday 20th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 21st	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Thursday 22nd	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 25TH FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Tuesday 27th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 28th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	7.00 p.m.	Holy Communion in Chapel
	7.30 p.m.	PCC meeting
Thursday 29 th	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

Women's World Day of Prayer

As we reported in last month's magazine, services for the Women's World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday 2nd March. The Churches Together in Allerton and Fairweather Green service will be at Allerton Methodist Church, Greenbank Road at 2.00 p.m. The service has been devised by the Christian women of Malaysia, and all are welcome to the service - not just women!

Fashion Show

St. James's are holding a fashion show on Friday 9th March at 7.00 p.m. Tickets are £3 (£2.00 for children) to include refreshments.

Diamond Jubilee: Elizabeth - pt 2. The War Years

'Not Majesty, but Service'

Elizabeth was 13 when the Second World War began, and 18 when it ended - five years that undoubtedly influenced the rest of her life. Her father and mother, the King and Queen, decided to remain in London or at Windsor throughout the War, and were conspicuously present through the years of the blitz - not only in London, but visiting other cities which suffered from bombing, usually on the morning after the attacks.

There were many press and newsreel pictures of them standing in the ruins of bombed streets talking to those made homeless or to the tireless volunteer air raid wardens and the members of the emergency services. When eventually a bomb struck Buckingham Palace, the King remarked that his family was now truly one with his people, because they too had experienced their home being attacked.

The two young sisters shared all these experiences. They were not sent to safe hide-outs in the country, but endured the full horror of night after night of incessant air raids. Doubtless Elizabeth, knowing that she was heir to the throne, noted her parents' total identification with their people and learnt that royalty was primarily about service, not majesty.

Towards the end of the War she joined the Women's Royal Army Corps, training as a driver, and was also appointed Counsellor of State, which would mean that she could assume public responsibilities in the event of her father being absent or incapacitated. She had undertaken her first public appearance in 1943, visiting the Grenadier Guards and being appointed their Colonel in Chief. All of this happened while she was still in her teens - a fast track to adulthood, indeed.

Her childhood and adolescence were in any case hardly 'normal', not only because of the way royal children were brought up in those days, but also because of the impact of the war. Those were strange times in which to be young. Bombs, food shortages, air raid shelters, evacuation

and conscription for National Service at eighteen were simply part of the growing up process. Even those not directly involved knew that these were day to day experiences for millions of young people.

Eventually the War in Europe came to an end, with massive celebrations all over the country, but especially in London. The princesses were given permission to slip out of Buckingham Palace anonymously and join the crowds in Trafalgar Square and the Mall. It was a memorable experience - as Elizabeth recalled, "linking arms and walking down Whitehall, swept along on a tide of happiness and relief". Somehow the two royal teen-agers went unrecognised, and were able to share in that extraordinary display of joy and thankfulness. Hostilities would continue in the Far East for a while, until the dark shadows of atomic bombs brought that conflict to an end as well.

When Elizabeth was 13 she had met for the first time a tall and handsome distant relative, Philip, the son of a Greek prince and princess, who was serving as a young officer in the Royal Navy. She was deeply smitten, we later learnt, and the seeds were perhaps sown in her thoughts of an alliance that would eventually prove one of the most enduring love stories of modern times.

For now, though, it was a new life of increasing responsibility. Her father did not enjoy robust health and his elder daughter, an attractive young woman who became the spotlight of what we would now call media attention, was quietly learning a role in life with which she would one day become totally familiar.

By David Winter ©Parish Pump

How high?!

Winging his way to America from Ireland, Father O'Leary asked a stewardess, "How high is this plane, Miss?" The stewardess replied, "About thirty-two thousand feet, Father." The priest's jaw dropped in amazement. "Who'd have believed it? And could ye tell me how wide it is?"

A Victorian Bible—From the Siege of Paris?

Ian Mc Alpine

Back in the summer of 1979 I found a small Victorian Bible for sale in Oxford where it had been published in 1861. It was quite ordinary and of little value. However, there was a very faded but strikingly beautiful picture - a carte de visite - of a young woman glued inside the flyleaf. Sadly she had no name but she obviously once had an admirer who over a hundred years earlier had written 'New sweetheart' beneath her image. 50p changed hands and the little Bible was mine.

Back at home I examined my purchase more carefully. Inside the front cover I read "T. Boydell From E West, sincerely hoping that our Church & Prayers may be heard. See Collect - Advent 2nd Sunday June 18th 1866". The Bible had been well-used and various Bible quotations appeared on the endpapers - "The fear of the Lord is the beginning [sic] of wisdom" (Proverbs 14 : 27) and others. Many lines, especially in Proverbs, had been underscored in pencil. The last page of Revelation inexplicably had "Malta 1871" written on it. "August 11th, 1870" and "March 26th 1871" were pencilled inside the front cover. Five small flowers, fragile, unrecognisable and brown with age, were pressed into the Book of Numbers. Not particularly interesting ... or was it?

However, the photograph was quite a different story! The lower edge which carried Boydell's 'New sweetheart' inscription was printed "CH REUTLINGER PHOT". Fortunately only the top edge had been glued to the book so I could easily read what was on the back. "CH REUTLINGER PHOTOGRAPHE, 21 Boulevard Montmartre, et 112 Rue Richelieu, PARIS". An inscription in French followed stating that negatives would be held indefinitely - I wonder if they still have the one for the girl's photograph!. Crucially, a date had been added by hand - "1871". One of the most violent years in the history of Paris since the French Revolution!

Later research revealed that Charles Reutlinger (1816 - 1880) was an eminent photographer born in Germany who had set up in business in Paris in 1850. "Modern" photography had been invented in England only about 35 years before the picture was taken in Reutlinger's studio.

He would have used a large wooden-framed camera fitted with glass negatives requiring an exposure of several seconds. His equipment was probably similar to that on display at Bradford's National Media Museum. Reutlinger's work and that of his family was highly regarded. They even photographed Georges Haussman who redesigned much of Paris in the 19th century. Queen Victoria's coat-of-arms above the inscription suggested Reutlinger even had a royal appointment in England.

The date of the photograph - 1871 - was of special interest. France had recently lost the disastrous Franco-Prussian War during which the Germans had besieged Paris between September 1870 and January 1871 killing many citizens and causing terrible damage. A year of bloodshed, utter chaos and localised civil war, beyond the scope of this article, ensued during which Boydell's beautiful but anonymous girlfriend was evidently photographed by a leading Parisian photographer. One wonders how Reutlinger ever managed to carry on his profession under such dire conditions, especially in view of his nationality. I like to think Boydell was in Paris with his lady at the time but I'll never know. The date "March 26th 1871" on the flyleaf fits perfectly with the date of the elections which led the so-called Commune government which ruled the capital for a few months. And had Boydell or his sweetheart witnessed the Siege of Paris a few months earlier and had the Bible with them? And was she French or English?

And then the trail runs cold for another ten years until 1881. At Psalm 91 - a most significant choice after the horrors of Paris! - a hand-coloured card has been glued into the Bible. It shows a girl's hand holding out some white flowers and is printed:-

*"True love shall live through sorrow's wintry storm
and bloom afresh on this thy Birthday morn."*

And on the back is an inscription in elegant copperplate:- "With best love from his very own loving wife, 1881." So presumably Boydell and his lady eventually married and settled back in England where they may

have left descendants. Sadly so little of their story survives and I wish I knew more. And just who was that beautiful young woman in that faded image from war-torn Paris 140 years ago?

Holy Week and Easter

As usual, there will be a full range of services during Holy Week this year. In addition, Andy will set up the Labyrinth - a series of guided prayer stations - at St. Saviour's. This will be open after the service on Monday 2nd, before the services on Tuesday 3rd and Good Friday and all day on Maundy Thursday. Feel free to come whenever is suitable for you and spend as much time as you like at each station.

Details of services known so far:

Sunday 1st April Palm Sunday

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion with procession into church, Passion Gospel reading

Monday 2nd 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (said)

Tuesday 3rd 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion (said)

Thursday 5th 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion with Stripping of the Altar

Friday 6th 2.00 p.m. Good Friday Meditation

Sunday 8th 9.30 a.m. Easter Day Holy Communion

Lent Meetings 2012

This year's Lent Meetings will be held on the Thursdays in March (1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th) at Marjorie Grange's new home 23, Shelley Grove. We shall be using the York Course for this year entitled: "*Handing on the Torch.*"

The five parts of the course are:

1. A Christian Country?
2. A Secular Society?
3. A Beleaguered Church?
4. Competing Creeds?
5. Handing on the Torch.

The speakers are: Archbishop John Sentamu, Clifford Longley, and Rachel Lampard. Bishop Graham Cray will give his reflections on each

session. Marjorie feels that she is able to host ten people at the most. If you wish to take part in the course please notify Marjorie, Jean or me.

Richard Bailey

The campaign for The Real Easter Egg continues

Out of 80 million Easter eggs sold in the UK every year, the Real Easter Egg is the only Fairtrade charity faith egg to tell the Easter story on the box. Last year churches across Britain joined a campaign to try and convince supermarkets that the demand for an Easter Egg which celebrated the real meaning of Easter was real and significant. Congregations promoted the egg, took orders, money and placed a mail order delivery. Eventually four supermarkets ordered low numbers to trial the Real Easter Egg with their customers. They all sold out very quickly.

Despite last year's overwhelming demand the supermarkets still refuse to place large orders, not wanting mention of Jesus on their shelves, in a significant way next Easter. So to make the Real Easter Egg campaign a success in 2012, we still need to support it as a church through mail order. Each Real Easter Egg costs £3.99. Please help us make it a success and join the movement to put Jesus back into Easter.

Following feedback from customers, The Real Easter Egg has undergone a make-over. There is now a copy of the Easter story in booklet form inside the box. The Easter message on the outside is a colourful visual as opposed to last year's text only version. Heavier card has been used with brighter colours and the three crosses on the front are bigger. If you open the lid you will see 'Happy Easter' and there is a quote from the bible - the resurrection text from Mark. These improvements will make the Real Easter Egg an even more attractive gift and it remains a unique way to spread the Easter story in 2012.

In 2011 more than £26,000 was given away to charity from profits made from the egg, something the Meaningful Chocolate Company promised as a sign of the Easter themes of hope and new life. This year 15p from each egg will be donated to the charity Traidcraft Exchange.

Jean Bailey will be taking orders for the eggs, so please sign the list at the back of church if you would like some. If you want to place an order individually, visit www.realeasteregg.co.uk

News From the Cubs

54 children from across the city came together at Allerton Methodist church on Saturday 28th January for the District Games Tournament. Sixteen of our Cubs joined in too and were very successful, carrying off a host of certificates and trophies

8 YEAR OLDS:

Charlotte Lee came 2nd in Skittles and 4th in the Connect-4. Sebastian Merlin was 3rd in Darts and Lauren Ogier 3rd in the Skittles..

9 YEAR OLDS:

Owen Peacock was the Dominoes champion; Dylan Petty came 2nd and Harris Ambler 4th. Jack Myers-Allen was runner up in the Draughts.

10 YEAR OLDS:

Liam Thomas was both the Darts and Dominoes Champion and also came 4th in Connect-4. Joseph Lee was runner-up in Skittles and 3rd in Draughts and Connect -4.

Louis Fisher was 2nd and Isabel Thomas came 4th in the Darts contest. Joseph Hartley came 3rd in Connect-4 and 4th in the Draughts.

We have embarked on *Our Sporting Adventure*; this is an initiative whereby bronze, silver and gold points are earned by completing a variety of challenges, games and sports activities. So far we have learned about the Olympic and Paralympic values and thought about how we might reach our own 'goals'. 'What is a friend' was the theme of another evening; you can check out our *Friendship Tree* in the church hall.

We are all looking forward to a weekend away from the 30th

March - 1st April; we shall be located at Curly Hill Pack Holiday Centre in Ilkley. The theme for all our activities will be: "OUR SPORTING ADVENTURE".

Bev Howard

GROUP SCOUT LEADER

The Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Leaders of the

46th Bradford North Scout Group

Invite you to come and hear how the Olympic and Paralympic Values can help all of us live our lives the best that we can:

Thursday 15th March

At 6.30 p.m. followed by light refreshments in the hall

A collection will be taken in aid of SPORT RELIEF

Excellence

Courage

Friendship

Determination

Respect

Equality

Who's afraid of the Big Bad Dawkins?

You may not have heard that a man named William Lane Craig was in Britain towards the end of last year. Nor may you have heard also that he challenged Richard Dawkins, Polly Toynbee, and A C Grayling to debate with him and that they had all refused.

Craig is an analytical philosopher and a Christian, and has the reputation of being able to beat them in debate. On a personal level I don't much care for some of the things Craig says, but it is always remarkable that Dawkins only goes for soft targets such as fundamentalists from the southern states of America. I have never heard that he was willing to debate with a Jesuit professor of philosophy! So, in a recent series of debates, none of the leading atheist supporters was present.

Paul Valleley, who writes in Church Times and Third Way, was, in fact, present at, and gave an account of, the final debate in the series in which there was a real opponent in the shape of Professor Peter Atkins, a professor of chemistry, and an atheist. It appears that Atkins described Craig as a latter-day medieval scholastic, but this seems that that was the last point Atkins scored. Valleley records: "Atkins' lack of intellectual rigour became even more apparent. ... Craig is a cool customer. All his arguments were philosophical not religious, he pointed out. Even his thesis about the Resurrection was based on historical rather than theological criteria. By contrast Atkins' assertion that 'there is nothing in the universe that cannot be scientifically explained' was the only position being advanced on faith that evening."

Even more revealing is Valleley's comment towards the end of his piece when he commented: "Sadly Atkins' response was to move further onto the familiar New Atheist territory of insult and invective." Remember, here, that Atkins is an academic who should value reasoned argument in which there is no place for either insult or invective. There is a shrillness about much of the assertions of the New Atheists. St Paul was once accused of writing "Argument weak here, shout loudly!" in the margins of one of his letters. The same seems to apply to the New Atheists in spades.

Fortunately there are cooler heads involved in the debate. One such is Professor Davis Fergusson of Edinburgh, whose book "Faith And its Critics - a Conversation" brings a more calmly dispassionate mind to the discussion. One reviewer described this book as "an exemplary model of reasoned discussion of religious issues."

A footnote - our son once read one of Dawkins's books and gave up half way through because he found errors of argument and logic on every page. That says it all!

R.W. Bailey

Robinson Crusoe Pantomime

On Saturday 4th February we set off at 1.25 p.m. to go to the pantomime to see Robinson Crusoe. The weather was not good, but we all had a wonderful time at a very good show. At the interval, we all had to vacate the building as there was a suspected fire and we were all outside getting covered in snow. We went back inside to see the second part of the show, which was very entertaining. Thanks to James and Val for arranging it, including transport.

It was snowing very heavily when we arrived back at the church. I rang for a taxi to take Miriam Morgan and Sue Richardson home, but we waited a while and nothing arrived. Then a police van came round the corner and stopped to ask if we ladies were o.k. I asked if they could take Miriam and Sue home - which they did! Miriam said she had never been in police van before -I said, there's always a first time! Anyway, they got her home safe, right to her door; thanks to the police. So, all in all, we had an exciting time.

Betty Barnes.

On the road

A teenager was always asking his parents if he could borrow the family car. Pushed to the limit one day, the father demanded of his son why he thought 'The Almighty' had given him two feet. Without hesitation, the son replied: "That's easy, one for the clutch and one for the accelerator."

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Notes from the PCC

The PCC met on Tuesday 21st February—the final session of this PCC's current term. James Muff presented the annual accounts for 2011 for our approval and gave us an overall view of the church's finances. His report will be published for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 4th March, so do come along and hear what he has to say. Our grateful thanks are due to James for the huge amount of work he puts into managing our finances, finding the best deals for us and ensuring we maximise our resources.

We have been greatly encouraged by the initial success of the K:Ing's Way Club for primary-school aged children. Over 40 came to the launch party at the end of January and between 10 and 20 children have attended the regular Thursday sessions that followed. Please pray for the continued success of the project and spread the word amongst children of the relevant age.

As reported in last month's magazine, we have had the Quinquennial inspection of the building. The architect identified one or two urgent issues, which have been dealt with, but we will have to wait for the full report to see the full picture. Ours is a relatively new building in church terms, but there are always maintenance issues which make demands on our limited finances.

We are grateful to Kaaren Raistrick for the welcome and direction signs on the new doors in the narthex. They will hopefully make it easier for visitors coming for the first time to work out which way to go.

We are hoping to plan fundraising and social events for the coming year.

The extra funds these functions bring in is vital for our survival, but they also give us an opportunity to mix in an informal way with each other and are an excellent way to attract new people into the building. Everyone is most welcome to attend any of these meetings; we welcome new ideas, enthusiasm and help!

Hilary Davis, PCC Secretary.

March Roll of Remembrance

1st	Eric Cooper	(1995)
2nd	George Ridgway	(1988)
3rd	Jim Hannay	(1981)
4th	Ellen Milton	(1982)
5th	John Smith	(2001)
6th	Thomas Swales	(1983)
9th	William Henry Willis	(1972)
	Edith Gaygen	(1983)
	Alison Jane Parkin	(2004)
10th	Amy Wilkinson	(1945)
16th	Maurice Cheetham	(1997)
17th	Amy Dennet	(1981)
	Sadie Marlow	(2006)
19 th	Elsie Saville	(1982)
21st	Martha Marlow	(1948)
24th	Gordon Spence	(1988)
25th	Bernard Hugh Preston	(1959)
	Albert Edward Jacques	(1981)
	Edith Sutcliffe	(1980)
	Thomas Flood	(1997)
26th	Ethel Eales	(1980)
28th	Cynthia Smith	(1975)
29th	Robert Errington	(1976)
31st	Chris Gibson	(2008)

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