

Letter From the Vicar

Well, what happened to the New Year resolutions? Or is that a mean question? This year – and for a good few years - I have resolutely ignored the issue of New Year resolutions. There were only two issues that interested me – I won't bore you with them. Suffice it to say I have usually failed dismally in keeping up to my resolutions so now I just settle to doing the best I can each day.

This month, even whilst being in the middle of our resolutions (or not, as the case may be) we are faced with the rigours of Lent. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and runs for 40 days before Easter. Lent is an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. It is observed in spring, when the days begin to get longer. Purple is the symbolic colour and used for two reasons: firstly because it is associated with mourning and so anticipates the pain and suffering of the crucifixion, and secondly because purple is the colour associated with royalty, and celebrates Christ's resurrection and sovereignty.

In our Christian observation of this blessed season we hope to enter a period of serious reflection as we prepare for the spiritual rigours of Holy Week and the joyous celebration of Easter Day.

The first Sunday of Lent has the reading of Matthew's gospel Chapter 4, verses 1 to 11. This tells us of the withdrawal of Jesus into the desert following his baptism. At the end of his forty days of fasting, prayer and communing with his Father, God, Jesus is subjected to some severe temptations by Satan.

During Lent we will recall the events leading up to and including Passiontide and Holy Week. In our observance of Lent we try to replicate Jesus Christ's withdrawal into the desert and his sacrifice. It is a time when many people fast, abstaining both from food and festivities. The church is bare of flowers and various decorations, we don't say or sing the alleluia. Many people reflect this in their lives by giving up a particularly favourite food or pastime for the duration. So we continue some level of 'sacrifice' from our New Year resolutions.

Above all the season of Lent is a good opportunity to take time to think about the things in our lives that are not going so well; the hurt that we may be causing; the ill feeling that we may be creating among family or friends. It may be hurting others not so close who may not find it so easy to excuse our poor behaviour.

Lent is a time to pray reflectively saying sorry to God for what we have done wrong and asking Him to help us avoid doing these things again. The period of Lent is a great gift to us. It is a time to work things through. As we lament our sins we amend our ways by doing things that are good and right. The feeling of peace and oneness with God and our fellow humans can never be understated or under-estimated.

This Lent, try to find some special time to spend with God, spend time with people who need you including being in fellowship with your church brothers and sisters. I pray that God will ‘confirm and strengthen you in all goodness’.

I wish you every blessing for this season of Lent and a joyous Easter.

Dorothy

MARCH PARISH DIARY

Wednesday 1st	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James’s 6.15 p.m. Cub scouts 7.00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Communion
Thursday 2nd	9.30 a.m. Morning prayer 6.00 p.m. Beaver scouts 7.30 p.m. Scouts 7.30 p.m. Social Committee meeting
Friday 3rd	2.00 p.m. Women’s World Day of Prayer Service at St. Matthew’s Church, Saffron Drive

<u>SUNDAY 5TH</u>	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 9.30 a.m. Said Holy Communion 10.00 a.m. Refreshments in Hall 10.30 a.m. All Age Worship
Tuesday 7th	12 noon Knit and Natter 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 8th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion 11.30 a.m. Ings Way Lunch Day

Thursday 9th 6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts
 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer
 6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
 7.30 p.m. PCC meeting in Vestry
 7.30 p.m. Scouts

SUNDAY 12TH SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion *Rev. Gloria Hardisty*
 Tuesday 14th 12 noon Knit and Natter
 7.30 p.m. Adult Tap Dancing
 Wednesday 15th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's
 6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts
 Thursday 16th 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer
 6.00p.m. Beaver Scouts
 7.30 p.m. Scouts

SUNDAY 19TH THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (**NOT Parade**)
 11.30 a.m. Annual Parochial Church Meeting
 Tuesday 21st 12 noon Knit and Natter
 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
 Wednesday 22nd 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
 6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts
 Thursday 23rd 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer
 6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
 7.30 p.m. Scouts

SUNDAY 26TH FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT/MOTHERING SUNDAY

* **10.00 a.m. Parade and Family Communion***
 11.00 a.m. Messy Church
 Tuesday 28th 12 noon Knit and Natter
 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
 Wednesday 29th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's
 6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts
 Thursday 30th 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer
 6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
 7.30 p.m. Scouts

“An Ornament and A Safeguard.”

Ian Mc Alpine.

Have you ever noticed the strange words “*Decus et tutamen*” around the edges of many of our pound coins? They are Latin for “An ornament and a safeguard” and have an interesting history.

Until 1662 most of our coins were made by hand rather than with machinery and were hardly ever perfectly round. Often small pieces of metal - silver and gold in those days - would be squeezed out between the dies used to make the coins which often had ragged edges. Consequently unscrupulous people used to file or cut bits of valuable metal off the coin edges and then pass on the mutilated coins. Although filing and clipping carried the death penalty, the practice went on for centuries and badly damaged the economy.

However, in 1662, early in the reign of Charles II, machines like large fly-presses were developed which could make perfectly round coins every time. To begin with only crowns (five shilling pieces - 25p) were produced by this new method. A circular metal brace or collar was fitted around the blank coins before they were struck which prevented the metal from being squeezed out. And it was inscribed with the words “*Decus et tutamen*” - “An ornament (because the edge lettering looked attractive) and a safeguard (against clipping and filing)” so the crowns carried an inscription round their edges. Whether many people understood what it actually meant is very doubtful - but it worked ! Clipping of the new coins was almost unheard of. “*Decus*” gives us the English word “decorate” and “tutor” is derived from “*tutamen*“. All the old, worn out, badly clipped coins dating back to the 1550s were called in during the 1690s.

From 1663 and 1668 the inscription appeared on the edges of the smaller halfcrowns as well as the beautiful gold five guinea pieces which are extremely rare today. From 1663 “*Decus et tutamen*” was followed by a statement, also in Latin, of how many years the monarch had reigned. The last British silver coin to carry the inscription was the 1935 silver crown commemorating the Silver Jubilee of George V.

However, it was for some reason revived in 1983 when the modern pound coins were introduced to replace pound notes. Quite why the inscription was used again is a mystery since the coins were made from a cheap alloy of copper, nickel and tin. Filing or clipping them would produce just a few grams of worthless base metal. However, British coinage designs have often been rather old-fashioned so perhaps the intention was simply to revive a long tradition. After 33 years the nickel-brass pound coins are to be replaced by bimetallic ones (like the £2) on 28th March 2017 to discourage counterfeiting and I wonder whether *Decus et tutamen* will be continued after 354 years. Although it is irrelevant today, somehow I hope it will.

How many words does it take?

Pythagorean Theorem:	24 words.
Lord's Prayer:	66 words.
Archimedes' Principle:	67 words.
Ten Commandments:	179 words.
Gettysburg address:	286 words.
US Declaration of Independence :	1,300 words.
US Constitution with all 27 Amendments:	7,818 words.
EU regulations on the sale of cabbage:	26,911 words.

Puts things into proper perspective, doesn't it?

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Holding

Little Johnny asked his Grandma how old she was. Grandma answered, "39 and holding." Johnny thought about that and then asked: "And how old would you be if you let go?"

Angels

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his son, who's a very good carpenter. - Jared, aged 8

All angels are girls because they gotta wear dresses and boys don't go for it. - Antonio, aged 9

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Lent, Holy Week and Easter

As we move into Lent, Holy Week and Easter, we have a full programme of events, to which everyone is most welcome. Please come to as many as you feel able.

A series of Lent Reflections will be held with dates and times to be announced.

Ash Wednesday 1st March 7.00 p.m. Holy Communion
with Ashing

Holy Week

Sunday 9th April 10.00 a.m. Palm Sunday with Passion Reading

Tuesday 11th April 7.00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Wednesday 12th April 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel

Thursday 13th April Maundy Thursday

11.00 a.m. Service of Oils at Bradford Cathedral

7.00 p.m. Holy Communion and Watch

Friday 14th April Good Friday

10.30 a.m. Youth Service

11.15 a.m. Build the Tomb

11.30 a.m. Walk of Witness from Ladyhill Park
to Allerton Congregational Church

2.30 p.m. Proclamation of the Cross

Sunday 16th April Easter Day

10.00 a.m. Easter Day Eucharist

Women's World Day of Prayer 3rd March – Philippines

On Friday 3rd March over 5,000 services will be held in the British Isles on the theme of 'Am I Being Unfair to You?' The Christian women of the Philippines wrote the service and it has been translated into 1,000 different languages and dialects, to be used, throughout the whole world on that day. .

Setting the scene.

The Philippines comprises a group of islands located on the Pacific Ring of Fire close to the equator. This contributes to the high incidence of typhoons and earthquakes (around 20 per year.) Climate change has led to an increase in storms, droughts and severe typhoons.

Politics

The Philippines is a constitutional republic with a democratic government led by the President. However, the predominantly Muslim island of Mindanao has its own autonomous regional government. 17% of elected government posts are filled by women. There have been two women presidents – Corazon Aquino and Gloria Arroyo, both of whom come from families with a long political.

Women

Before Spanish colonisation in the 16th, women occupied some status in the community. However, the Spanish introduced feudalism, leading to the subordination of women throughout the archipelago.

Today many Filipino women take on the role of breadwinner, often working abroad as service crew, domestic helpers or skilful professionals in the medical field.

The Philippine Constitution provides for equal rights, yet in practice Filipino women are often discriminated against and treated as subordinates in the home, in the church and in society.

Education

Public education is sponsored by the government but there are also private schools. Children start school at age 4 and elementary public schools are free.

In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan – named locally as ‘Yolanda’ – struck the Philippine islands. This is mentioned in the service but you will also hear the stories of a girl, a mother and an older woman, recounting their situations and their hopes and fears.

The service focuses on the Bible story of the workers in the vineyard: Matthew 20 v 1-16. There is a reflection on the artwork designed by Rowena ‘Apol’ Laxamana-Sta.Rosa. It is very thought provoking and illustrates contrasting scenes.

The service in our area will be at St. Matthew’s Church, Saffron Drive at 2.00 p.m. on Friday 3rd March. ALL are welcome (not just women!)

Our new diocese – how's it going?

A message from Bishop Nick

So much has been achieved since the Diocese of Leeds was created just two and a half years ago. Bringing together three very different dioceses was a hugely complex procedure, but we are all now part of a large, coherent body, whose benefits are being increasingly revealed.

The bishops and archdeacons are working closely with their areas, and the combined spiritual wealth of 656 churches, over 240 church schools and three cathedrals has brought increased creative energy.

We now have a central office in Leeds (complete with a charitable coffee shop that's open to all), a new parish share system, new governance and further delegation of authority from the diocesan bishop to the area bishops.

Some of the challenges we face include: getting the right balance between one diocese and the five episcopal areas, tackling the fall in clergy numbers, growing our churches and maintaining parish share. And it remains vital to reach children and young people with the Gospel in order to build future generations of strong Christians.

At the heart of all we do are the values captured in our diocesan strap line, 'Loving, Living and Learning'. It's a useful list to check against everything we do. What does that mean for you and your church?

+Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds

Loving, Living, Learning

We aim to:

Love God, the world and one another.

Live in the world as it is, but, drawn by a vision of something better, we want to help individuals and communities flourish.

Learn when we get things wrong, by listening and growing together.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting **Sunday 19th March, 11.30 a.m.**

The Church's Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday 19th March after morning service, in the hall. It is a time when we take stock of where we are, where we would like to be and how we can get there. Churchwardens for the coming year are selected, as are PCC members, Sidespeople, Deanery Synod representatives and other officials. We hear reports on what we have done in the past year, the state of our finances, the state of the building, what has happened in the Deanery and Diocese, how we have worked with the other churches in the area, and what activities have been enjoyed by the various church and external organisations who use our premises. It is a chance to ask questions, put forward ideas and help to shape the future of our church. All are most welcome to come along. If you are on the electoral roll, you will be able to take part in the voting.

March 21st: Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, Reformation Martyr

Thomas Cranmer was the first ever Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury, following King Henry VIII's decision to pull away from Rome, and set up the Church of England.

Born in Nottingham in 1489, Thomas Cranmer became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1533. He was adviser to both Henry VIII and Edward VI. He helped Henry with the annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, and along with Thomas Cromwell, supported the principle of Royal Supremacy (where the king is sovereign over the Church in his realm).

Under Edward VI, Cranmer made major reforms to the CofE. He put the English Bible into parish churches, compiled the first two versions of the Book of Common Prayer, and worked with continental reformers to change doctrine on everything from the Eucharist and veneration of saints. But kings and queens, like American presidents, change and the Catholic queen Mary I was determined to wipe out Protestantism. Thomas Cranmer was imprisoned for two years, found guilty of heresy, and burned at the stake on 21st March, 1556.

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The Nature of Anglicanism - a Personal Reflection

During the autumn, we had the privilege of attending a talk by Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch at the Ilkley Literature Festival. It was, of course, an opportunity to purchase his most recent work - *All Things Made New: writings on the Reformation*. After the talk I took the opportunity of asking him to autograph my collection of his books, which he graciously did.

This latest work is a collection of essays containing further reflections on the subjects he has written about. The final essay is short. Little more than three pages, and in it he reflects on the nature of the Church of England.

He shows that the name "Anglican" only slowly came into use until the growth of British colonialism spawned churches which it was convenient to gather under the name "Anglican". MacCulloch comments: *And so the 'Anglican Communion' was born, in the happy unplanned fashion which has characterised the history of this now global form of the Christian Faith, ever since its birth in the Reformation.*

He describes Anglicanism as a peculiar form of the Reformation. Across Europe there were two types of Protestant church - Lutheran and Calvinist. The one thing that distinguished the Reformed Church in England from those on the continent was that it retained the cathedrals with all their medieval staffing and the regular round of choral services. This was largely due to Elizabeth I who enjoyed music. Yet, as MacCulloch says, *Cranmer would have been underwhelmed by it.*

He goes on to describe the Church of England as a double helix, intertwining two mutually antagonistic strands of Christianity, which elsewhere bitterly clashed in the Reformation: Catholic and Reformed.

The contrast between these two strands was further sharpened by the Oxford Movement, which in the view of MacCulloch brought a *combination of seriousness, artistic sensitivity, and deft humour to the Anglican worship of God.*

In an insightful conclusions, he describes the satisfaction of being an Anglican: *Anglicanism is a trial-and-error form of Christianity; it has*

made mistakes in the past.....and it can feel honestly rueful about them. Anglicanism is an approach to God which acknowledges that he is often good at remaining silent and provoking more questions than answers. Anglicans are not afraid to argue in public.

I have learned a great deal from the writings and TV appearances of Diarmaid MacCulloch, and his summary, quoted above, reminds me of why I value the Church of England. The dear old Church of England, creaky as it is, gives me the room to think for myself, with no obligation to follow any party line. Its *trial-and-error* method is the way in which we learn anything - whether it is in life, science or faith.

There is no expeditious road to pack and label men for God! (Francis Thompson). No, there isn't. Anglicanism gives us the freedom to learn from our mistakes as well as our successes.

R. W. Bailey

Leave it Alone

Canon David Winter, Former Head of Religious Broadcasting BBC

In my tiny front garden I have a shrub. I don't know its name, but it has won a place in my life-long affections. Recommended about six years ago by a horticulturalist friend, it has produced every summer a magnificent array of splendid red blooms, much admired by my neighbours. They always ask what it is, but I can't remember – I must find out the next time I'm in touch with her. In the Autumn it's an absolute mess for a couple of months, dead leaves, stalks and trailing branches everywhere. However, 'just leave it alone' I had been told, and very willingly I have.

The reward has been the astonishing sight of new shoots in early Spring, and eventually, in late May, the return of my beautiful bush and its glorious flowers.

'Just leave it alone' – Oh, the joy of that advice to a non-gardener. I could be an expert at just leaving things alone, like little Bo-peep in the nursery rhyme: 'Leave them alone, and they will come home, bringing their tails behind them'. Sometimes the Creator really does know best.

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46th Bradford North Scouts

Eighteen of our Scouts and Explorers enjoyed the Viking Camp. After pitching camp on Friday everyone walked up to the Jubilee Centre to watch the movie 'How to train your dragon'. For supper yummy hot dogs and hot chocolate were consumed.

After a good night's sleep and breakfast various exciting activities were on offer: Caving in the Cave Bus; Survival Skills – plucking a pheasant, skinning it and then cooking it; archery and fencing. Lunch of a pasty and crisps was followed by free time. During the afternoon the youngsters had to travel in their viking boats around the activities – night line; low ropes course; 'portal'; obstacle course and crafts. All these were for team points. Viking boat races followed then tea, a wide game, a huge campfire singsong before supper and bed.

On Sunday there were more activities including judo. Some children left after lunch to rejoin the show rehearsals whilst the rest broke camp and tidied everything away before departing camp at three o'clock. Verdict: 8.5 out of 10 from one Scout – 'the food could have been better including the service'. Clearly the way to a Scout's true happiness is through his stomach.

At the Cub District Games Tournament on the 18th, forty Cubs competed for trophies in darts, draughts, dominoes, Connect-4 and skittles. Five of our Cubs had a great afternoon.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt at Blackhills (for Cubs and Beavers) takes place on the 2nd of April. The following weekend 16 of our Cubs and Scouts will join others from across the District to enjoy an outing to Flamingoland theme park. It is expected about 160 young people will attend.

Ten children from our group are taking part in the Bradford Scouts show at the Bradford Playhouse at the end of the month.

Let us know if you'd like a ticket.

30th March – 1st April

CITY OF BRADFORD SCOUTS

present

THE BEST OF TIMES

a variety show packed with singing and

dances, sketches and humour

at the

NEW BRADFORD

PLAYHOUSE

Starts 7.15pm

Saturday matinee from 2.15pm

Bev Howard

GROUP SCOUT – 46th Bradford North Scout Group

Notes from the PCC

Our meeting in 15th February looked forward to the Annual Parochial Church Council meeting in March. We approved a report of our activities to be presented to the meeting—and realised just what a lot we had done in 2016! The accounts are still in the process of being sorted out, with the Diocese's help, so we will need to approve these before the meeting. The revision of the Electoral Roll was still ongoing as we met, but it is looking as though we may need to reduce the numbers on the PCC. This will be something we need to discuss at the March meeting.

We will again be ordering some Real Easter Eggs to give out at Easter. We think it is important that we share the Easter message with as many people as we can, and this is an excellent way to do it!

Efforts are continuing to obtain the necessary permissions, quotes and plans to replace the lighting tubes in church, put in some extra sockets, a screen and projector, an extra heater and upgrade the heaters in the chapel and vestries. We have the finances in place to cover the cost, so we are hopeful we can soon move ahead with the work and improve our facilities further.

The Diocese has asked us to look at our stewardship so we are to ask someone to come and talk to us on the subject to see if there is anything we could usefully do.

Suggestions were put forward for services to mark Lent, Holy Week and Easter. A Worship Committee meeting was arranged to finalise plans and the results are published elsewhere in the magazine. We do hope as many people as possible will give their support.

One or two volunteers have come forward to take on some of the administrative tasks, but further help would be appreciated. If you feel this is something you could do, or know someone else who may be interested, please have a word with Dorothy or the Wardens.

Hilary Davis, PCC Secretary

March Roll of Remembrance

st	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)
19th	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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