

The May Letter

Dear Friends,

Happy Easter!

That was last month, wasn't it? Has he finally flipped his lid? We had our forty days and forty nights of Lent with all those different ways of marking the season like giving things up or even going on a diet. We commemorated Jesus' final few days up to the crucifixion in Holy Week. Then Easter. Alleluia!

But nobody burst the balloon on Easter Monday, or at least I hope they didn't. It must be said that St. Saviour's looked splendid on Easter morning with the usual Easter adornments and, this year, the Festival of Crosses still in place - what an inspired idea that was. When most of the crosses went back to their owners there did feel to be a sense of emptiness. But though the cross is an important Christian symbol, it was a means to an end, and it is that end which we are now celebrating.

We are still in the Easter season and will be until Ascension Day and Pentecost at the end of May. I suggest that eight weeks may scarcely be long enough to take in the full meaning and implications of the resurrection before we revert to consideration of other aspects of faith; before we get excited again as Advent and Christmas approach.

There are many lovely Easter hymns, and while 'Hail the day that sees him rise' concentrates on Easter Day, 'This glorious Eastertide' allows us a bit longer to shout Alleluia. And why not?

Patrick

MAY PARISH DIARY

SUNDAY 2ND 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Junior Church
Tuesday 4th	7.30 p.m.	PCC meeting
	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 5th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	8.15 p.m.	Serenade Dance Band Rehearsal
Thursday 6 th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

SUNDAY 9TH 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Junior Church
Tuesday 11th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 12th	9.30 a.m.	NO SERVICE
	11.30 a.m.	Ings Way Lunch Day
	8.15 p.m.	Serenade Dance Band rehearsal
Thursday 13 th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion for Ascension Day
	6.30 p.m.	Scout Group AGM
	7.00 p.m.	Open air Communion at Bell Chapel

SUNDAY 16TH 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

	9.30 a.m.	Parade Service & Holy Communion
	11.00 a.m.	Treasure Hunt
Tuesday 18th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 19th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	8.15 p.m.	Serenade Dance Band rehearsal
Thursday 20th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

SUNDAY 23RD DAY OF PENTECOST

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Junior Church
Tuesday 25th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 26th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Festival of Crosses.

From 24th March to 3rd April St Saviour's staged a Festival of Crosses, an Easter exhibition in the church showing as many types and varieties of the Christian symbol as possible, commenting on them and explaining their relevance and meaning today.

The idea had been brought forward by Mrs Kaaren Raistrick at a meeting of the Worship Committee several weeks earlier and members of the congregation were encouraged to bring in their own crosses, including ones they had made themselves.

The resulting display, opened four days before Palm Sunday, extended along three walls of the church, providing vivid insights into the significance of the Cross to modern Christians. Bishop David contributed a representation of a Celtic cross, and we also saw a cross made from candles from St Peter's at Allerton. The children of the church made a cross, fixed to the wall of the church in the form of their writings about its meaning to them. The cubs contributed a display about the development of the Union Jack from the crosses on the flags of England, Scotland and Ireland.

On the west wall James and Val Muff made an impressive cross from the names of all the 66 books of the Bible, the 39 of the Old Testament making the vertical post and the 27 of the New Testament forming the cross-piece.

Visitors were encouraged to identify images of 15 crosses in the church which weren't part of the exhibition. It was extraordinary to see how many crosses there were in and around the building including the consecration cross on one of the piers, crosses on banners and several large metal ones which were fixed inside and outside the building. The Lord Mayor of Bradford came to view the Festival on Maundy Thursday and took a great deal of interest in it.

Lack of space would not allow descriptions of all the rich variety of crosses we saw in the exhibition but we were all impressed by the wide range on display and by the depth of meaning the Cross had for all of us today.

Ian McAlpine,

Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who donated a cross to our Festival, came along to view, or helped to steward, the displays; we were amazed at the number and variety of crosses which appeared, and thrilled at the number of people who came along to view them.

People's generosity in donating has meant we raised a total of £103.70 for the Lord Mayor's charities.

13th May: More notes on Ascension Day

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands - and blessed them."

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with his return to his Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless his disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: "While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven." (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: "I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God..." (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have him look on you with love. No wonder, then that Luke goes on: "they worshipped him - and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God." (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! "I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

Genesis and politicians

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest.

Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation."

"Maybe," said the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job."

"But you forget," interrupted the politician, "somebody had created the chaos first!"

Already well connected

The telephone rang in the church office of the church that the MP attended when visiting his constituency. An eager voice inquired: "Do you expect the MP to be in church on Sunday? If so, I was thinking of coming along."

"That," said the clergyman, "I cannot promise. But we do expect that God will be there, and we fancy that that should be incentive enough for a reasonably large attendance."

Garden produce

A toddler was found chewing on a slug. After the initial surge of disgust his mother asked,

"Well . . . what does it taste like?" "Worms," was the reply.

Angels

Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from Holy Cows!!! -Jack, age 6

Angels talk all the way while they're flying you up to heaven. The main subject is where you went wrong before you got dead. Daniel, age 9

When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when he lets out his breath again, somewhere there's a tornado.

-Reagan, age 10

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

46th Bradford North Scout Group

We all enjoyed the preparations for the Festival of Crosses and equally looking around at the various exhibits and completing the Quiz - albeit we still don't know all the answers! The Sixers, Seconders and Scouts enjoyed welcoming visitors, guiding them around the church and encouraging participation in the Quiz.

Our **Annual Open Evening** will be held on the 13th May - please see the invitation printed herein. We do hope that some of you may be able to come along on the evening and partake of the free supper at the end of the evening.

The District Cub Badge Weekend,

18th - 20th June, has proved to be a very popular event and we have more than seventy Cubs booked in from eight of the Districts ten Cub packs. The Cubs will be able to gain their Outdoor and Creative Awards, numerous activity badges and also the Partnership Environment Award.

The Scouts will be having a camp during the summer holidays. The venue has yet to be confirmed.

In September we are holding a Group weekend away at Bramhope Scout Campsite, Leeds. The Beavers will come along on the Friday for a sleepover and leave on Saturday after tea. Meanwhile the Cubs and Scouts will stay on until Sunday.

Bev Howard GROUP SCOUT LEADER

What is Christian Aid Week?

Christian Aid Week is seven amazing days of fundraising, action and prayer. It's a time when communities all over the country get together to raise funds to make real and lasting changes in the lives of some of the world's poorest people. This year it runs from 9th - 15th May.

The beginnings

The week started out as the churches' response to the horrors of the refugee crisis in Europe after the Second World War. The different churches in the UK and Ireland got together and started fundraising – sending the money through partner organisations who were best placed to make a difference on the ground.

The Christian Aid Week envelope

The little envelope gets everywhere. Hand-delivered by volunteers and landing on over 10 million doormats, it raises about £9 million each year – and nearly £1 million in Gift Aid alone. The envelope is an iconic symbol of the generosity of people in the UK and Ireland – giving money to those who need it most.

And now...

The week continues to go from strength to strength. This year Christian Aid hopes to raise over £14 million - enough to effect massive change. 300,000 people will go door-to-door in their local communities – making sure that the Christian Aid Week envelope reaches as many people as possible. Christian Aid supporters will also hold thousands of events - plant sales, book sales, sponsored walks, bridge crossings, talent competitions and much, much more. With 22,000 churches all working together, it's no wonder the week is such a success. And it's not just the churches who are involved – schools, workplaces and individuals are all getting involved – whether through fundraising or by giving directly.

Inspired?

At St. Saviour's we will again be going round our local neighbourhood - so the more collectors we have, the better. If you are able to help, please sign against the relevant areas on the list of streets in church.



Car Treasure Hunt

SUNDAY 16TH MAY

£5 per Car

**Leaving St. Saviour's Car Park, Ings Way
Between 11am and 11.30am**

**Follow the clues, answer the questions
and make your way to the:
Girlington & District Conservative Club,
Thornton Road**

**2-course lunch available at the Club:
Corned Beef Hash & Yorkshire Puddings
or Meat & Potato Pie & Vegetables
Choice of desserts
£3.50 (£1.50 children)**

**Treasure Hunt and/or lunches to be booked in advance please
Bev Howard: 01274 201889 / 07841534791**



46th Bradford North Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and leaders

invite you to their

Open Evening

Incorporating the Annual General Meeting of the Group Committee

Thursday 13th May 2010

In the church hall

From 6.30pm until 8pm

**Presentation of Awards & Badges
Investitures**

Raffle & BBQ Supper

Have you ever tried using Celtic Prayer to pray?

At one level praying is fairly straightforward. It is simply starting a conversation. But the problem is you are talking to a person you can't see with your eyes, nor touch with your hands, and whose voice you can't hear with your ears. No matter how real God may be to you, there is always a problem with the fact that God is so different from humans. So some people try to be very other-worldly and hope they can have a sensible conversation with God that way. But even they have problems.

The early Celtic Christians, who flourished in Britain and Ireland from the 6th century onwards, did it differently. They discovered that God made himself known to them through the creation around them. They saw him in the sturdy oak and the opening primrose; they heard him shouting through the storm and whispering through a silent moonlit night. They learned to sense his presence through this blessed earth.

And so much Celtic prayer refers to Creation. Thus a prayer by the great St.Columba was written on a beach, probably on the island of Iona, and there he 'hears the waves chanting a tune to God' and they in turn inspire him to worship God. He says prayers that rise from his soul, and everything he sees – the golden beaches, waves, rocks, seaweed - all become images that he uses in his prayers.

They also knew that creation could be very disturbed, and whilst it could be so beautiful, it could also be violent. We are told that when there was thunder and lightning around, the great St.Chad at Lichfield would turn to prayer, for such outward disturbance made him aware of inner disturbance in his own soul and he confessed all that he felt was wrong in his life which caused harm to others.

Jesus said that it was the 'pure in heart' who could see God. The way to see and hear God is to start with our normal human experience of this world, but then allow that seeing and hearing to touch our hearts. The Celtic Christians were people of the heart, and creation in all its moods, is a great way to allow our hearts to become open. Then with an open or 'pure' heart we will find ways of having conversations with God.

Face difficulties positively

This parable is told of a farmer who owned an old mule. The mule fell into the farmer's well. The farmer heard the mule praying or whatever mules do when they fall into wells. After carefully assessing the situation, the farmer sympathized with the mule, but decided that neither the mule nor the well was worth the trouble of saving. Instead, he called his neighbours together, told them what had happened, and enlisted them to help haul dirt to bury the old mule in the well and put him out of his misery.

Initially the old mule was hysterical! But as the farmer and his neighbours continued shovelling and the dirt hit his back, a thought struck him. It suddenly dawned on him that every time a shovel load of dirt landed on his back, HE WOULD SHAKE IT OFF AND STEP UP!

This he did, blow after blow. "Shake it off and step up...shake it off and step up...shake it off and step up!" He repeated to encourage himself. No matter how painful the blows, or how distressing the situation seemed, the old mule fought panic and just kept right on SHAKING IT OFF AND STEPPING UP!

It wasn't long before the old mule, battered and exhausted, stepped triumphantly over the wall of that well! What seemed like it would bury him actually helped him . . . all because of the manner in which he handled his adversity.

THAT'S LIFE! If we face our problems and respond to them positively, we refuse to give in to panic, bitterness, or self-pity.

Table Top Sale

On Saturday 17 July we are holding a Coffee Morning and Table Top Sale from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tables have to be booked (and paid for) in advance at a cost of £5 per table (non-refundable). If you wish to book a table please see either Val or James Muff as soon as possible as this will be on a first come first served basis.

There will also be stalls on behalf of church, eg cakes etc.

Notes from the PCC

The PCC met on Tuesday, 23rd March, its first meeting after the Annual Parish Meeting. As the membership of the PCC remained unchanged from last year, there were no significant changes when officers were appointed.

Child Protection Policy was discussed, but as the rules are to change later in the year, it will be a matter of vigilance to comply with the rules as they are produced. Apparently, fines can be imposed for non-compliance, not only if we fail to act but also if we comply too thoroughly!

You might not expect the destiny of a tree to take up much time, but the eucalyptus tree near the Vicarage garden is getting out of hand and to prune or to remove provoked a lively discussion. If you have a view, please talk to one of the wardens soon, as a decision is to be made before the car park is resurfaced.

Another hot topic was our charitable giving. How should we raise money for charitable causes? How should we calculate how much we would hope to give? Again you are asked to consider and tell us what you think as no decisions have yet been made. We try to be democratic so make your views known.

What has been decided is that later this year we shall be having another stewardship campaign so the Finance Committee will be considering how best to approach this task.

Patrick Preston

Refurbishment

As we reported in last month's magazine, we have finally received the grant money to enable us to go ahead with work on the toilets, screen in the narthex and the car park. Work was due to start on 19th April and will take a few weeks to complete. Whilst the toilets are out of commission, there will be a portaloo in the car park and, of course, the works will cause some disruption. We hope to be able to keep this to a minimum and activities should be able to continue throughout the period. We are sure it will all be worth it in the end and we can at last have facilities we can be proud of.

May Roll of Remembrance

6th	James Hewitt	(2000)
10th	Arnold Bower	(1994)
11th	Jayne Ashley Stockman	(1985)
	Craig Albert Stockman	(1985)
	Trevor John Stockman	(1985)
13th	Ken West	(1997)
17th	George Marlow	(1944)
21st	Eric Pincott	(1985)
22nd	Clara Jackson	(1991)
26th	Edith Lumsden	(1985)
27th	Edna May Land	(1987)
28th	Arthur Ainsworth	(1974)
	Doris Lilian Hutson	(1978)
29th	Margaret Rhodes	(1980)

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