

The May Letter

Dear Friends,

Around the time this magazine appears, we will be into holidays in a big way; the schools' Easter break will be near its close, and those of us with no school connections will benefit from four Bank Holidays in less than a fortnight.

My dictionary tells me: holiday; originally a religious festival; a day or season of idleness and recreation. Well, in this case we can go along with the religious bit - Easter holidays and Good Friday Bank Holiday - and I like the idea of recreation, doing something enjoyable and perhaps something different from the usual day to day activities of life. I'm not so sure about the idleness; it sounds rather too near to sloth and we wouldn't encourage one of the seven deadly sins! And I for one don't need the excuse of a holiday to be idle. But maybe I'm confusing idleness with laziness.

Back to recreation. We take holidays for many reasons; a change of climate, chance to engage in activities not available at home, a change of scenery, the opportunity to relax. We enjoy holidays otherwise we wouldn't bother. Not that it's always good; there are anxieties attached - will the taxi to the airport/railway station turn up?, will the hotel be up to expectations?, will the cat be alright with the neighbours?, will the air traffic controllers go on strike again?

Between now and the Harvest Festival, most of us will spend some time away - and away from our usual place in the pew. And that's another change of scene, seeing how other congregations do things. I don't suppose any two churches have identical services. It may take us by surprise but won't do us much harm wherever we end up. And it may give us ideas for the next Worship Committee meeting.

Enjoy your break if you get one,

Patrick

MAY PARISH DIARY

SUNDAY 1ST

Tuesday 3rd

Wednesday 4th

Thursday 5th

Friday 6th

SUNDAY 8TH

Tuesday 10th

Wednesday 11th

Thursday 12th

SUNDAY 15TH

Tuesday 17th

Wednesday 18th

Thursday 19th

Friday 20th

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion & Junior Church
 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Crossley House
 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's
 6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts
 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer
 6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
 7.30 p.m. Scouts
 7.30 p.m. Churchwardens' service at Holme Wood
 7.00 p.m. Games evening and meal

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion & Junior Church
 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
 11.30 a.m. Ings Way Lunch Day
 6.15 p.m. Cub scouts
 7.30 p.m. PCC meeting in Vestry
 9.30 a.m. Morning prayer
 6.00 p.m. Beaver scouts
 7.00 p.m. Fairweather Green Neighbourhood Forum
 7.30 p.m. Scouts

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9.30 a.m. Parade Service & Holy Communion
 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's
 6.16 p.m. Cub Scouts
 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer
 6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
 7.30 p.m. Scouts
 7.30 p.m. Ladies evening at St. James's

SUNDAY 22ND 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion & Junior Church
Tuesday 24th 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 25th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's
6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts
Thursday 26th 9.30 a.m. Morning prayer
6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
7.30 p.m. Scouts

SUNDAY 29TH 6TH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion & Junior Church
Tuesday 31st 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing

Bradford Food Bank

The Food Bank is desperately short of goods at the moment, so if you would like to help, we are happy to receive items and take them down to the store. They only deal in non-perishable goods, and ask that they are in their original packaging so the contents can be identified. All sorts of packets are O.K. - including cereals, biscuits, crisps etc. They are especially short of:

Tinned meat, tinned fish, smaller jars of coffee, smaller packets of tea, long life milk, tinned fruits, baked beans.

There is a box at the back of church for any items you would like to donate.

FRIDAY 6th May at 7.00 p.m. - Games evening with 2 course meal

We are holding a Games Evening at St. Saviour's on Friday 6th May at 7.00 p.m. We will start with a home-made meal (choice of menu) and follow this with a beetle drive and bingo. Tickets are £7 from James or Val Muff, or the Churchwardens. You will need to be swift, though, if you wish to come as bookings must be received by 29th April to enable the caterers to prepare adequately.

May 1st: May Day

May is the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to all sorts! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli.

For centuries in 'Olde England' the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence and unbridled merriment. Philip Stubbes, writing in 1583, was scandalised: "for what kissing and bussing, what smooching and slabbering one of another, is not practised?" Henry VIII went 'maying' on many occasions. Folk would stay out all night in the dark rain-warm thickets, returning in the morning for dancing around the May pole, archery, vaulting, wrestling, and that evening, bonfires.

The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day - and in 1644 it was abolished altogether. Many May poles came down - only to go up again at the Restoration, when the first May Day of King Charles's reign was "the happiest Mayday that hath been many a year in England", according to Pepys.

May Day to most people today brings vague folk memories of a young Queen of the May decorated with garlands, streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, Morris dancing, and the intricacies of well dressing in Derbyshire. May Day is a medley of natural themes such as sunrise, the advent of summer, growth in nature, and - since 1833 - Robert Owen's vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but harmony and friendship. This is why, in modern times, May Day has become Labour Day, which honours the dignity of workers. And until recently, in communist countries May Day processions were in honour of the achievement of Marxism.

There has never been a Christian content to May Day, but nevertheless there is the well known 6am service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day.

Signs & Symbols: that Final Blessing

What do you say when you leave someone? 'Have a nice day!' 'Ta-rar' 'See you later' or just 'Bye'.

They all sound vaguely the same – but the last one is actually grounded in a hope and trust that far outweighs the simplest wish; for it comes from the word, 'Goodbye' which in turn comes from the much longer phrase, 'God be with ye'.

We say our farewells to each other by asking God to bless us, for there's nothing we can do for each other while we're apart except trust in God to look after and be with the other person. We only have to think of our family and friends living away from us to know the reality of that, never mind watching the news of places where people are in terrible conditions.

We see and hear this particularly in church at the end of a service where the person leading the service gives a 'blessing'. In many churches the words go like thisand the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always. And we reply, 'Amen' which means, 'I agree'.

We often quite literally see this blessing as the priest raises his or her hand to form the sign of the cross over the congregation. Some Christians like to incline their heads at that moment and imagine the minister is wrapping them up in a blanket of love and protection and that no matter what happens until they meet again, God will wrap each one around and hold them fast.

Ladies' evening

On Friday 20th May 2011 there will be a Ladies' Evening at St. James's, Thornton. Stalls will include:

Aromatherapy, Virgin V, Handbags, Hair and nails, Yankee Candles, Harmony and Chocolate. Calling all ladies to come and treat yourself !!!!! Tickets are £3, to include a glass of wine and light refreshments, and are available from Jonathan Kenningham 01274 835448.

The Martindale Yew Tree.

Recently I went to stay with my relations in the Lake District and we visited the remote and ancient church of Martindale near Ullswater, a few miles south-west of Penrith. There has been a church on the site since at least 1220 but the present stone building, dedicated to St Martin of Tours, dates from the late 16th century. It is a very simple structure with a low roof, is still used occasionally for evensong in the summer months and shares its vicar with the churches of Barton and Pooley Bridge. It is never locked and is always open to visitors.

In the churchyard stands a very old yew tree. Yew trees are quite often found in old churchyards, not because they were deliberately planted next to churches but because the churches tended to be established around the yew trees. In parishes where there was no church, the vicar or preacher would often preach under the yew tree. These trees can grow up to 90 feet high and because they have dense foliage and cast a deep shadow they offer a very sheltered area for parishioners while they listened to the preacher. Because of its role as a shelter for worship and its extreme longevity, the yew tree became associated in the Christian tradition with everlasting life and hence the association between tree and church was strengthened.

The yew at Martindale was clearly of immense age and at some time in antiquity its trunk had split into three sections, one of which spread out along the churchyard for many yards! Needless to say I took several photographs of it, stared at it and walked round it in disbelief. Of course as a historian I wanted to find out how old it actually was. Back home I investigated its history. Apparently the Martindale church archives recorded that in past centuries the men of Martindale, who were famous for their skills in archery, used the tree and other yews in the district to make their bows. And I was amazed to discover that the tree itself was estimated to be between 1,300 and 1,400 years old! It was probably the oldest living thing I'd ever seen or was likely to see. If it was a seed about 1,350 years ago it would have started life in about 660 AD, only 60-odd years after St Augustine's mission to England in 597, and would have been a tiny seedling when the Synod of Whitby was held in 664 which had such a decisive influence on the development of Christianity in England. It

would have been nearly 250 by King Alfred's time (871 - 899) and about 400 when the Battle of Hastings was fought. The foundations of my house go back to about 1280 and the tree would already have been over 600 by then! I was delighted to see it was evidently still in such excellent health - perhaps it's looking forward to its 1,500th birthday!

I was profoundly impressed by the ancient yew of Martindale and urge people to go and see it, not just because of its size, beauty and immense age but because its strength and near immortality make it such a powerful and fitting symbol of our Christian faith.

Ian Mc Alpine

What it says...

On Sunday after church, a mother asked her very young daughter what the lesson in Sunday School had been about. Her daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt."

Needless to say, her mother was mystified. A few days later she ran into the teacher in town, and asked for details. The teacher smiled. "It was: 'Be not afraid, your comforter is coming'."

Christian Aid Week: 15 -21st May 2011

Christian Aid is active throughout the year providing help and support for communities in need. Each year, though, a week is set aside for a special effort to raise funds for and, awareness of, areas all over the world who particularly need help. This year that focus falls from 15th- 21st May. The aim is always to help people to help themselves out of poverty by funding projects suitable for the areas they live in.

As an example, the people of Jinotega, Nicaragua, have been helped to establish a profitable coffee growing co-operative with the involvement of Christian Aid partner Soppexcca. Five years ago, the community was a group of poor farm labourers. Soppexcca offered them credit to establish themselves as coffee farmers and supported them to work together as a co-operative. Even though they have only been working together for a short time, already their lives are changing for the better. The co-operative now has a community fund which will be used to achieve the dreams which the

farmers once thought were out of reach. They hope to establish a school, have clean water and latrines. They are heartened by the success of the nearby community at the Los Alpes co-operative, which has been supported by Soppexcca for 12 years and has managed to establish a school and a health centre for its community. Ten years ago, education would have seemed an impossible dream for these people, but with a little outside help, they have been able to make the dream a reality.

There will be the opportunity to distribute and collect Christian Aid envelopes in the area during Christian Aid Week - please look out for the list in church and sign against the areas you can cover - or find your own way to raise funds to help the cause.

Car Boot/Table Top Sale

This is advance notice of the Car Boot/Table Top Sale to be held on Saturday 16th July from 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Car spaces/Tables are £8 and must be booked in advance with James Muff (560400). We would also like to suggest that any businesses booking a space might like to donate a small prize suitable for a raffle. Refreshments will be available throughout the event.

A Forgotten Anniversary

Ian McAlpine has been reminding us of many anniversaries, not least that of the Authorised Version of 1611. But, listening to Radio 4 recently, I was reminded of another anniversary; this time unnoticed by almost everyone. The Battle of Towton, fought on Palm Sunday, March 29th, 1461, resulted in 28,000 deaths, the largest number of war casualties ever on English soil. This was the culmination of one phase of the Wars of the Roses, and established the Yorkist Edward IV on the throne. The wars were fought between the descendants of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and Edward III's 3rd son, and those of Edmund of Langley, Duke of York, Edward III's 4th son.

It was not a conflict between Yorkshire and Lancashire (as the cricket commentators fondly imagine); both dukes and their descendants had lands and supporters all over the country. I have seen the Wars described as a conflict between those who were "In" (and felt they deserved to be and ought to stay "In") and those who were "Out" (and felt they had more right to be "In")!

Towton was a vicious battle, fought on a bitterly cold day, with snow blizzards blowing into the faces of the Lancastrians, which meant that the Yorkist archers could send their volleys deep into the Lancastrian lines, while Lancastrian arrows, blown back by the wind, fell short, and were then used by the Yorkist archers.

The battle was a day-long slogging match, with piles of bodies heaped up all over the field. The Lancastrians, with greater numbers, slowly began to force the Yorkists back, until just as dusk was falling, John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, was able to bring his forces in on Edward's side.

Lancastrian spirits fell, and their resistance crumbled. As they ran from the battle, many died in the freezing waters of Cock Beck, while others escaped over their dead bodies. Edward was left in possession of the field and the throne, though the war rumbled on for another ten years.

Not a pretty story!

R W Bailey

Cubs go Egyptian!

Seventeen Cubs, two Beavers and two Scouts had a splendid weekend at Blackhills from 8th - 10th April. The weather was absolutely glorious - more like flaming June than early spring!

After a game of the 'Vanishing Post-box', everyone went on a night hike from Blackhills down to Harden, through Goit Stock to the waterfalls and back to camp arriving just after 10.15pm. After supper and a game of beetle the little treasures trotted off to bed - alas though, it was several hours later before they all succumbed to sleep!

The theme for some of the games and activities was the Ancient Egyptians and we started off on Saturday with the 'mummy' game (i.e. using toilet rolls to make team leaders into a 'mummy!'). Following this the teams had to create a pyramid using natural materials. This was a little challenging as there wasn't much bracken to hand for filling in walls etc. However all succeeded with some being more waterproof than others.

After lunch it was time for some target practice on the archery and shooting range - there are some budding experts in the group. Crate climbing was another activity the children engaged in.

'The Egyptian Games' took place before tea: 3-legged races, relays, egg & spoon and skipping on the agenda.

Following a hearty tea the children needed to visit the tuck shop to stock up on goodies in case of a sudden food shortage!

They then enjoyed playing in the woods before we had a campfire singsong and toasted marshmallows - just to ensure starvation wasn't an issue.

Fortunately all the youngsters were asleep by eleven, leaving the leaders time to relax before they too were tucked up in bed.

The Great Easter Egg Hunt took place on Sunday morning as Blackhills was invaded by nearly 200 Beavers and Cubs from across the city all eager to find the fifty plastic eggs hidden around the camp. Following this manic search, teams of six Beavers or Cubs competed in the giant egg and spoon obstacle race. What a marvellous site - great fun too and a bonus as the 46th Cubs were the champions!!

We then played non-stop cricket until our BBQ lunch was ready with everyone departing camp by 3pm.

.....

46th Bradford North

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Leaders & Parents

On Sunday May 1st we are, again, taking part in the Ilkley Moor Baht 'at Sponsored Walk. Younger members are tackling the 10km (6 mile) walk whilst the more robust amongst us are going for the 20km (12 mile) trek.

If anyone would like to sponsor us please visit www.justgiving.com/46thbradfordnorthcubscouts where you can read all about our plans and donate by PayPal or credit / debit card and also enhance sponsorship with gift aid.

The District Nordjam BIG camp is to be held at Fan Wood from 27th - 30th May. So far we have 7 Beavers, 11 Cubs and 3 Scouts taking part plus 8 leaders and number of parents are joining in too.

Bev Howard

GROUP SCOUT LEADER

What is God calling you to do? Now's the time to find out.... Vocations

Sunday 15 May

Stephen Ferns

What is your vocation? You may think that you don't have one, that vocations are the sort of thing that only clergy have. But if you think that, you're wrong. God calls each one of us. The question, though, is to what?,

First and foremost, God calls us to change: to become more Christ-like. We are called to live our lives in response to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That process began in our baptism, but it continues through prayer, through the reading of the scriptures and through the receiving of Holy Communion. One of the constant themes in the New Testament is that lives touched by Christ were changed. What is true for the characters of the New Testament is true for us. As we encounter and respond to Christ we cannot help but be changed.

But while we are called to change, we are also called to be more deeply ourselves. God never calls us to be something or someone we're not. God always calls us to what we are capable of becoming. It may be that there are parts of us which are underdeveloped or which rarely see the light of day which need to be allowed to flourish so we can be our true selves.

It may be that we have hidden gifts which need to be discovered or it may be that there is something that we have secretly always wanted to do but have not had the courage or the time to try. Whatever it may be we need to find an outlet which will allow us to feel more excited about life or indeed to feel more alive. St Irenaeus wrote that 'the glory of God is a human being fully alive'. Through the dual process of becoming more fully ourselves and of becoming more fully Christ-like, the will of God is fulfilled and the glory of God seen. That is what Vocations Sunday is about. You have one life. For God's sake and for your own, live it.

Churchwardens

Our "new" churchwardens, Eric Heywood and Kaaren Raistrick, will be sworn into their new term of office at a service at St. Christopher's, Holme Wood, on Thursday 5th May at 7.30 p.m. Anyone who would like to go along to support them would be most welcome.

Forthcoming Bus and Train Service Changes

From Sunday, 1 May there will be many changes to bus services including:-

Route 607 Bradford-Thornton - the Monday-Saturday daytime frequency will be increased to every 10 minutes but some late evening journeys will be withdrawn.

Routes 615/6 Bradford-Allerton-Cottingley/Bingley - evening and Sunday morning journeys will be revised.

Also from 1 May there will be an hourly service (737) from Bradford to Harrogate via Shipley and Leeds/Bradford Airport - this is something that people have been requesting for a long time. There are quite a lot of other bus service changes from 1 May and a booklet containing details of all the changes over the Easter period and from 1 May can be obtained from the Metro Office in Bradford Interchange. If there are any queries please contact me on 833424.

John Mawdesley

Who's been good?

A father of five young children won a toy at a raffle. Back home, he called his children together to let them determine which one should have the present. "Who is the most obedient?" he asked. "Who never talks back to Mother? Who does everything she says?"

Five small voices answered in unison: "You, Daddy!"

Short-staffed

Two men were working for the town council. One would dig a hole and the other would follow behind him and fill it in. They worked up one side of the street, then down the other, then moved on to the next street, working furiously all day without rest, one man digging a hole, the other filling it in again.

An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing. So he finally approached the hole digger, "I'm impressed by the effort you two are putting in to your work, but I don't get it - why do you dig a hole, only to have your partner fill it up again?"

The hole digger wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, I suppose it probably looks odd because we're normally a three-person team. But today the guy who plants the trees called in sick."

Notes from the PCC

The “New” PCC met for its first session after the APCM, on Tuesday 29th March, when we warmly welcomed Sue Lamb as she starts her first 3-year term with us.

The first item to be decided was the appointment of the various officers to serve in 2011/12. James Muff and I were re-appointed as Treasurer and Secretary respectively, and Patrick Preston replaced Keith West as Lay Chairman, but Keith remains as Electoral Roll Officer. Patrick also continues in his rôle as Disability Representative, Eric Heywood as Child Protection Officer and James Muff as Health and Safety representative. Joyce Ashton was appointed as our Fair Trade Representative.

We also elected the conveners for the various Committees which advise the PCC on matters pertinent to them. With the exception of the Standing Committee, which has a fixed membership, all committees are open to all congregation members, so if you are interested in Fabric, Finance, Social Events or Worship, you are most welcome to attend any of the meetings. The dates are advertised on the notice sheet and magazine as appropriate.

It was again decided to donate 3% of the church’s income to charity and we agreed to support Christian Aid through ad hoc collections in response to natural disasters as appropriate, the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, the Marie Curie Hospice in Leeds Road and the Children’s Society.

Looking forward to September 17th and the present building’s 45th Anniversary, we made some preliminary plans to celebrate this - including a visit from the new Bishop of Bradford, the Rt. Revd. Nick Baines - but there will be a general meeting after the service on Sunday 5th June for people to put forward their suggestions - so put your thinking caps on and bring your ideas to the meeting !

Hilary Davis
PCC Secretary.

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)

ST. SAVIOUR'S PARISH CHURCH FAIRWEATHER GREEN

Website: www.stsavioursfwg.org.uk

Church Phone (In Kitchen) 487084

Priest-in-Charge Revd. Andy Greiff 833200
The Vicarage, 300 Thornton Road, Thornton
e-mail: Andrew.greiff667@gmail.com

