

The May Letter

Dear Friends,

As Pentecost falls in the middle of this month, I've had an excuse, if I need one, to indulge in a bit of Old Testament research. The Feast is known by several names and all refer to the time when harvest was begun hence Feast of Harvest (Ex 23.16), of firstfruits (Num 28.26) and Feast of Weeks (Deut 16.10), being seven weeks after Passover, or 50 days - hence Pentecost. It is one of three festivals decreed to be observed annually by the people of Israel (Ex 23). In time, it became a commemoration of God's giving of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai. That's why there were Jews from all parts of the world in Jerusalem at that time.

In the New Testament account of Pentecost, we hear about the rushing wind and tongues of flame. Wind and fire are often signs of the presence of God or his envoys in the Old Testament. Moses and the burning bush comes to mind, as does the pillar of fire leading the Israelites through the desert at night. Wind or breath is found in the revival of 'dem dry bones' in Ezekiel 37, and both elements are brought together in Psalm 104 where we read 'You make the wind your messengers, and flames of fire your servants.' Peter's audience in Acts 2 would have been familiar with these references which would surely have added intensity to what Peter was telling them.

What does all this mean for us? We are unlikely to encounter the Holy Spirit accompanied by wind and fire, but more likely in a very low key situation. And if we don't experience anything ourselves, we may notice it in other people, if we keep our minds open to such a possibility.

Happy Whitsuntide,

Patrick

MAY PARISH DIARY

<u>SUNDAY 1ST</u>	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
	10.00 a.m. Holy Communion
Tuesday 3rd	10.45 a.m. Holy Communion at Crossley House
	12 noon Knit and Natter
	7.00 p.m. Standing Committee meeting
	7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 4th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's
	6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts
Thursday 5th	9.30 a.m. Morning prayer
	6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
	6.30 p.m. Ascension Day communion
	7.30 p.m. Scouts

<u>SUNDAY 8TH</u>	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
	10.00 a.m. Holy Communion
Tuesday 10th	12 noon Knit and Natter
	7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
	7.30 p.m. Churchwardens' service at Keighley
Wednesday 11th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
	11.30 a.m. Ing's Way Lunch Day
	6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts
Thursday 12th	9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer
	6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m. Scouts

<u>SUNDAY 15TH</u>	PENTECOST
	10.00 a.m. Parade Service and Holy Communion
	12 noon Jigsaw Challenge
Tuesday 17th	12 noon Knit and Natter
	7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 18th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's
	6.15 p.m. Cub scouts
	6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts
Thursday 19th	9.30 a.m. Morning prayer
	6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m. Scouts

SUNDAY 22ND

TRINITY SUNDAY

	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Tuesday 24th	12 noon	Knit and Natter
	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 25th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	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

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Tuesday 30th	12 noon	Knit and Natter
	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 31st	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's

Ascension Day

There will be a service of Holy Communion in Church on Ascension Day—Thursday 5th May at 6.30 p.m. Do please join us if you can.

For your Diary

The Summer Garden Party will be held in the church grounds (weather permitting!) on Saturday 16th July from 12 noon to 2.30 p.m. There will be lots of stalls, games, a raffle, tombola and refreshments. Please mark the date and come along to enjoy the fun.

50th Anniversary Celebrations

To mark the 50th anniversary of the dedication of our present building, we will be holding several events. A week-long **Festival of Crosses** will be launched with afternoon tea on Saturday 10th September; there will be a special service with The Rt. Revd. Toby Howarth, the Bishop of Bradford, on Sunday 18th at 10.00 a.m. and a concert by Steeton Male Voice Choir on Saturday 24th. More information in due course.

"The Faithful Annalist", 1666.

Ian Mc Alpine.

One day nearly 40 years ago I visited an antiquarian bookshop in St Anne's Square, Manchester. I'd been to Shaw's many times before and could usually find something interesting and affordable. That visit in summer 1978 was particularly worthwhile.

On the first floor of the building I discovered, in a glass display case, a small and very battered volume, minus its cover, entitled "The Faithful Annalist or Epitome of English History". Unfortunately no author was given and Shaw's staff had rather unnecessarily pencilled "with all faults" in tiny writing on the title page. The work had been printed in London for "Will Whitwood at the Sign of the Bible in Giltspur Street, Newgate". Most intriguingly the book had been published in one of the most terrible years in the Capital's history - 1666, the year of the Great Fire! Shaw's were asking just £4 for the little volume which needless to say soon had a new owner. A book binder in Manchester soon provided the dilapidated 17th century text with an attractive new tooled leather binding for another £5. My forlorn 300-year-old wreck had been given a new life.

During the 17th century history books were often written in the form of annals (Latin *annus* = year) which briefly summarised historical events year by year. For example, John Stow (c.1525 - 1605) had produced a better known book on similar lines entitled "A summary of English chronicles" as early as 1565. There was little attempt to explain or discuss the events and often quite trivial incidents are described next to those of national importance. The Annals begin in 1069 - unaccountably the Battle of Hastings was missed out completely! Later centuries are more detailed and there are lengthy accounts of the 1605 Gunpowder Plot and the trial and execution of Charles I in 1648 - 49, seen very much from a Royalist standpoint.

However, one of the most fascinating aspects of the book is its description of the Great Plague which broke out in London on 15th April, 1665 killing up to 100,000 people in the city before the end of the

year. It had followed a particularly hard winter from November 1664 to March 1665 in which the Thames had frozen over.

"This year [1665] was the City of London sadly visited with the Pestilence, and other Diseases; there being buried in the ninety seven Parishes within the Walls, from the nineteenth of Decemb. 1664 to the nineteenth of Decemb 1665: 15207 persons, whereof of the Plague 9887: In the 16 Parishes without the Walls 41351 .. [more death figures for different areas follow] ... so that in all there was buried 97306, whereof of the plague 68590. Many other places in the Land being visited [by the plague] at the same time".

In September the following year, 1666, London faced yet another tragedy which, curiously, was completely missed out of the book. On 2nd September the Great Fire of London began at Pudding Lane, lasted four days and destroyed the old St Paul's Cathedral. The date on the title page - 1666 - explained the omission. The fire had not yet taken place when the book was printed! By the end of 1665 the Plague had finally gone. Clearly the unknown author of the book had witnessed it and survived. And fairly soon afterwards he completed his little history book which was printed, I believe, between April and August 1666 at Giltspur Street. The street still exists, near to the site of the notorious Newgate Prison. And, significantly, only about a quarter of a mile from St Paul's.

Was the book still in store at the printer's shop by the time of the Fire? Evidently not because the shop and its contents were almost certainly destroyed by the conflagration which totally ravaged the nearby Cathedral on 4th September, 1666. Whitwood, the printer, had evidently lived through the 1665 plague but probably saw his workshop in ruins the following year. About 13,300 of London's buildings covering some 460 acres were burnt to the ground in just five days. And yet amazingly only nine people died!

By September 1666 the book must have been sold and probably escaped a premature end by finding a buyer outside the Capital. 312 years passed and somehow the Annals found their way to an antiquarian bookshop in Manchester - scarcely more than an overgrown village in

1666 - where I bought them. And here they are with me in Bradford!

Sadly the little book is anonymous. However despite his claims to impartiality its author was clearly an ardent Royalist who had a gentle sense of humour:-

"I have made truth my aim, and for those who will be always carping, and never satisfied, my request to them shall be, either to cease censuring or forbear reading" !

Churchwardens' Service

Our Churchwardens, Patrick Preston and Kaaren Raistrick, will be sworn into a new year of office at a service at Keighley Shared Church, Church Street, Keighley, BD15 5HT on Tuesday 10th May at 7.30 p.m. Anyone who would like to go along to support them would be most welcome.

The Way I See It : Three in One and One in Three

Canon David Winter - Former Head of Religious Broadcasting, BBC

A story is told of a Jewish man who collapsed in the street with a heart attack. A passing Roman Catholic priest rushed over and knelt beside him. "Would you like to have your sins forgiven?" he asked. The man nodded weakly. "Right," said the priest. "Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit?"

The Jewish man rolled his eyes and moaned, "I'm dying, and he's asking me riddles!"

Well, it's Trinity Sunday later this month, so if you go to church you may well hear the preacher trying to explain the riddle. Most church-goers know that it's part of orthodox Christian faith, and like singing about it in hymns, but haven't any idea why it's so important. Surely, they think, there's only one God, so why make it so complicated?

Yes, it is complicated, but not incredible. Over the last century

scientists have discovered that almost everything is more ‘complicated’ than we had thought. It seems, for instance, that pretty well nothing we know is a simple unity.

Think atoms, and then protons and neutrons. Energy and activity flow from dynamic relationships. So doesn’t it make sense that the Creator God is a Relationship – the source of all energy and activity – rather than a simple ‘unity’? Thought of like that, a God who is ‘Father’ (Source), Son (Action) and Spirit (Application) makes good sense. The Father made us, the Son loves us and the Spirit ‘sheds that love abroad in our hearts’. Makes sense to me.

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Marking Our Way

Anyone used to hiking and climbing mountains will be aware of cairns - collections of small stones heaped upon each other. Cairns are markers along a route and ensure that walkers don’t head off in the wrong direction or succumb to danger.

Cairns have been used as trail markers for thousands of years, and exist not only on mountains but also on many kinds of terrain. They can vary in size from a low pile of pebbles to elaborate stone monuments and large sculptures as memorials to some historic event.

Cairns are mentioned in the Bible usually as ‘memorial stones’. Jacob made a small mound at Bethel and Moses ordered a more decorative construction on Mount Ebal. These were markers so that people would remember the blessings God had given them in the past. Joshua’s twelve stones at the River Jordan were a marker commemorating God’s miraculous demonstration, and in generations to come would make people stop and think about His almighty power.

Today, we have markers to remind us of God’s provision and love and these are presented as the Liturgical Year. This consists of the cycle of seasons, feast days and celebrations of saints. Alongside these some churches use distinct liturgical colours to cover the altar as a visual reminder of a season or a day on the Christian Calendar. Of course, not all churches use a liturgical calendar and perhaps miss out on seasons

such as Lent, to spend some time for personal reflection and spiritual growth. We may not all observe Maundy Thursday, Ascension Day or Trinity Sunday, but in one way or another we all observe Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.

In the Bible narrative, the Israelites and later the Jewish nation, were often forgetful of God's counsel and care. They needed visual markers and their year of festivals to constantly remind them that God was always with them. The principle is the same for us. We can be forgetful, neglectful and negligent of God as we go about our busy, daily lives. What then are our personal markers? What can we use to help us stay on the right path with Him? Let's identify our markers so we do not stray from God's guiding and protective hand.

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Christian Aid Week: the week we love every neighbour

Picture a young mother of four. Her husband has left. She has no land. No assets. No savings. And the only work she can get is backbreaking manual labour for as little as 74p a day. Her home has been flooded several times, and last August it flooded again. This is Morsheda. She's our neighbour, and she desperately needs our help.

From **15th-21st May**, our church will join with more than 20,000 others across the country for the sake of people like Morsheda. Across the UK and Ireland church people will deliver 7 million envelopes to their local neighbours to raise money for our global neighbours in need. It's an opportunity to reach out to our community, and to make sure some of the world's poorest people have enough to eat and a safe place to live.

A Home Safety Package from Christian Aid could raise Morsheda's home on an earth plinth, safe from the flood plain, and give her resources to invest in things like farm animals, seeds and a composting kit - giving her the tools she needs to build a better future. A new chance at life for Morsheda costs as little as £250.

If you would be willing to help the collections in our area, envelopes will be available nearer the time. Please sign the list at the back of church against any streets you are willing to cover. Thank you!

Richard and Jean Bailey

Invite you to join them
as Richard celebrates 50 years of ordination
on **Sunday 5th June at 10.00 am**
at St Saviour's Church
And for buffet lunch.

RSVP (for numbers) by 16th May 2016 to
jean_richard@btinternet.com
or to
41 Ley Top Lane
Allerton
Bradford BD15 7LT

Jigsaw Challenge

Sunday 15th May 2016

12 noon

Can you complete the puzzle?

Buy a bag of pieces for £1 and finish your section to go
together with others to make up the whole.

Bacon butties, tea/coffee/fruit juice available at £1.50

46TH Bradford North Scout Group

EASTER FUN

Over 200 Beavers and Cubs attended The Easter Egg Hunt at Blackhills on Sunday 20th March. Whilst one group were busily searching for eggs the others were competing in the Giant Egg & Spoon Obstacle races. The sun made a rare appearance too (for most of the day), which added to the event's ambience. A great time was had by all.

FLAMINGOLAND

Eighty Cubs and their leaders from across the district celebrated the 100th anniversary of Cub Scouting at the Flamingoland theme park on Easter Saturday. Despite rather cool temperatures (freezing!), the children had a superb time with as many as fourteen rides being experienced by them and their leaders.

EXPLORERS & SCOUTS

Our older members have been learning about different forms of communication used by people with disabilities. They have experienced makaton, braille and British Sign Language. The Explorers are having several weeks of further training in sign language; successful participants will be awarded the BSL level 5 qualification.

ST. GEORGE'S PARADE

We will be attending the City Scouts service at the Cathedral and parade into City Park on Sunday 24th April.

CUB 100

To mark the centenary of Cub Scouting a County Adventure camp at Bradley Woods, Brighouse, will be held at the end of the month. Around 1000 Cubs are attending and will have the opportunity to experience at least 100 different activities from Saturday 28th until Monday 30th May.

GROUP OPEN EVENING & AGM

This will be held shortly - the date will be announced. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Bev Howard, GROUP SCOUT LEADER

Holy Wells – St Madron’s Well, near Penzance

Cornwall is teeming with local saints, with some wonderfully evocative names: St Cuby, St Neot and St Guron - for example. Many of the wells named after them have survived and remain popular with visitors today.

St Madron, or Maddern, was a 6th century Cornish hermit. Very little is known of his life, but after his death local legends attributed many miracles to his intercessions. Stories grew up round the well near Penzance that is named after him and still today a steady stream of visitors walk to the well to pray and ask for healing. The well is known as a ‘cloutie well’ as the tradition grew up for petitioners to tie a ‘clout’ or ‘rag’ on a tree branch nearby to symbolise their request. The well itself is little more than a patch of boggy ground surrounded by trees and bushes covered, even today, with dozens of strips of coloured cloth.

Not far from the well are the ruins of a chapel where coins are left or candles lit. Some folklorists say that the chapel was originally the site of the well and there is evidence that it dates back at least 600 years. Cures resulted from both washing in the waters of the well and also lying on the saint’s bed, once found by the altar.

One famous cure in the 17th century, that of John Trelille whose limbs were restored to enable him to walk, was investigated by the then Bishop of Exeter who concluded it was indeed a miracle. The bishop’s reason for taking an interest may well have been to refocus the minds of the local people on the miraculous healing powers of God, rather than on local superstitions.

St Madron’s well is a quiet and tranquil place. Many visitors go there to ponder and pray. Some still go seeking cures, perhaps when conventional medicine offers little hope. Some Christians might view it as a pagan site. There is little overt evidence of Christian practice. Perhaps it is best described as a place of folk faith. Like so many holy wells it serves as a reminder of God within nature and within history. People go there to leave the modern, secular world behind and reconnect with the innate trust their forebears had in the power and love of the Almighty.

Woman in Gold

Have you ever had the feeling of absolute stiffness and a total failure to get your muscles working? That happened to us recently, after watching the film “Woman in Gold” at Pictureville in the Media Museum. As the credits finally rolled up the screen, we realised that we had been sitting absolutely still for two hours, we had been so absolutely absorbed.

“Woman in Gold” is a powerful, gripping and moving account of the struggle of Maria Altman to regain possession of the portrait of her aunt, Adele Bloch-Bauer. I have long had an admiration for this portrait by Gustav Klimt. A print of it hangs in our sitting room, balanced by Klimt’s portrait of Margaret Wittgenstein, marvellous in its own, different, way.

Adele’s portrait had hung in the living room of Maria’s childhood home in Vienna. Measuring 54” square, it was the focus of attention. Along with four other Klimt portraits, it was looted by the Nazis after the Anschluss, in which, to the delight of the majority of Austrians, Nazi Germany took over Austria. Maria and her husband escaped by the skin of their teeth to the US, where they lived for the rest of their lives. After the war the portrait was taken into the collection of the Belvedere Gallery in Vienna, the Austrian government justifying this by claiming that Adele had willed it to them when she died.

Maria was already widowed and in old age when she conceived the determination to regain possession of her aunt. Together with a young lawyer, himself a descendent of the composer Schonberg, she set out to challenge the Austrian government.

Every obstacle was put in their way, with the Austrian government determined not to give the portrait back, and it seemed a forlorn hope. But they persisted, and finally, after appearing before the US Supreme Court, they won their case before the Austrian arbitration process.

This is the climax of the film which had enthralled, absorbed, angered, elated, disappointed by turns, until we were moved to tears, and then finally overjoyed. The portrait of Adele is now on permanent public display in New York, according to Maria’s wish.

If you have the good fortune to see this film, you will not only learn the story of the restoration of the portrait to the family, but you will also see the behaviour of Austrians towards the Jews. Maria Altman and her family were, of course Jewish. (Klimt had painted a number of wealthy Jewish women.)

The behaviour of the Austrian populace during WWII has largely been airbrushed out of history, but the film shows that there is a number of younger Austrians who are ashamed of Austria's actions during the war. But this is a minor theme. That being said, "Woman in Gold" is a very powerful film which draws you right into its action, and sends you home deeply moved.

R W. Bailey

Share

There are only two things a child will share willingly - communicable diseases and his mother's age.

Grin

Keep smiling - it makes people wonder what you've been up to.

Barbershop evangelism

There was a barber who felt he should share his faith with his customers more. So the next morning he decided: "Today I am going to witness to the first man that walks through my door."

Soon after he opened his shop the first man came in for a shave. The barber sat him down and then fled to the back of the shop to pray. "God, please give me the wisdom to know just the right thing to say. Amen." Then the barber approached the man with his razor knife in hand. "Right then, sir... I presume you are ready to die?"

Just the man

Small boy: "Please, sir, my Dad says you are a Doctor of Music."

Famous pianist: "That is quite right, my little man."

Small boy: "Then I wonder if you'd be so good as to mend my trumpet?"

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The capital of england

What is the capital of england?
As someone e-mailed me
I said, “The capital of our land,
“Is a lovely, great big ‘E’”

Now you may call it pedantry
Sometimes, you see, I sigh,
To see a town spelled ‘coventry’
Or ‘i’ instead of ‘I’

A word on screen, not written down
A moment, not a gift
Today, no name or proper noun
Is even worth the ‘shift’.

By Nigel Beeton

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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)
16th	Arnold Bower	(1994)
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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