

November Letter

Dear Friends,

During the last few months, I have been reminded frequently of the verse in 1 Corinthians 13 about ‘seeing through a glass darkly’ as the King James version has it. More modern translations refer to reflections or mirrors which makes sense as lenses (such as I have been using) didn’t exist in the 1st century, but the metaphor still works. While a glass may make some things clearer, at the same time it leaves a great deal obscured.

Of course, St. Paul wasn’t talking about optics but about faith, not as a general term for belief (as in ‘Defender of the Faith’) but the more specific trust, as in ‘Your faith has made you whole’. It is clarified a little in Hebrews 11.1, “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” This seems to be the great stumbling block for the likes of Richard Dawkins whose idea is that if you can’t prove it, it isn’t valid. Certainly, faith is very difficult to explain to someone who doesn’t share it (and someone who does, won’t demand an explanation), but it may not be straightforward to justify our faith to ourselves. I don’t think it’s necessary that we should; it could in itself be an act of faith!

‘Now abide these three, faith, hope and charity’, or shall we call them trust, hope and love. St. Pauls tells us that the greatest of them is love; the hardest to get your head round must be faith.

Yours *faithfully*,

Patrick

NOVEMBER PARISH DIARY

Tuesday 2nd	11.00 a.m.	Remembrance Service at Crossley House
	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 3rd	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Social Committee meeting
Thursday 4 th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

SUNDAY 7TH THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Junior Church
	6.30 p.m.	Jimmy's Youth Club at St. James's
Tuesday 9th	7.00 p.m.	Fairweather Green Neighbourhood Forum
	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 10th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.30 a.m.	Ings Way Lunch Day
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Thursday 11 th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

SUNDAY 14TH SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT/Remembrance

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Junior Church
	3.00 p.m.	Remembrance service in Ladyhill Park
Tuesday 16th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
	7.30 p.m.	PCC meeting in vestry
Wednesday 17th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Thursday 18 th	9.30 p.m.	Morning prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts
Saturday 20th	11.00 a.m.	Christmas Fair

SUNDAY 21ST CHRIST THE KING/Toy Service

	9.30 am.	Holy Communion
Tuesday 23rd	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 24th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Thursday 25 th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	6.30 p.m.	Scout group service in church

SUNDAY 28TH ADVENT SUNDAY

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Junior Church
Tuesday 30th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing.

Christmas at St. Saviour's

Sunday 19th December	9.30 a.m.	Nativity Service
	3.00 p.m.	Service of Readings & Carols
Monday 20th	6.00 p.m.	Carol singing at Allerton
Friday 24th	t.b.a.	Midnight Eucharist
Saturday 25th	10.00 a.m.	Family Communion
Sunday 26th	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion

Toy Service

On Sunday 21st November, we will be holding our annual toy service. We should be most grateful for gifts of new toys, games, books etc. which will be distributed to local disadvantaged children via Barnardo's and MASTS. You don't *need* to wrap the gift, but if you would like to, please label it with an indication as to the age of the child, and whether it is suitable for a girl or a boy.

Confirmation service

There will be a confirmation service at St. James's, Thornton, on Sunday December 5th at 6.30 p.m. at which several members of St. Saviour's will be confirmed. All are welcome to go and support them.

Bus Service Changes From 31 October

There are changes to several Bradford bus services with effect from Sunday, 31st October - many of these mean the withdrawal of some early morning, late evening and Sunday journeys.

Service 607 Bradford-Thornton will be affected by these withdrawals and in particular the Sunday daytime frequency will be reduced to hourly from every 30 minutes.

New timetables are available from Metro travel centres including the one at Bradford Interchange.

If you have any queries please contact me on Bradford 833424.

John Mawdesley

Dry

My minister friend put hot-air hand dryers in the toilets at his church and after two weeks, took them out. I asked him why and he confessed that they worked fine, but someone had scribbled on the dryer: "For a sample of this week's sermon, push the button."

Exam

In the examination paper, the professor wanted us to sign a form stating that we had not received any outside assistance. Unsure of whether he should sign the form, a student stated that he had prayed for the assistance of God. The professor carefully studied the answer page and then said, "You can sign it with a clear conscience. God did not assist you."

A Deeper Problem

Young James started nursery and began bringing his drawings home. Each day his mother admired the pictures and hung them on the refrigerator. But one thing bothered her. James used only blacks and browns for his drawings. What did that mean? Fearing a problem, and not wanting it to get worse, she decided to take him to a child psychologist. The psychologist delicately went to work. He gave James a battery of psychological tests. Everything seemed perfectly normal. Yet every day, James continued to bring home drawings in only blacks and browns.

Frustrated and fearful that something was terribly wrong, the child psychologist finally decided to give James some paper and a box of crayons and simply observe what happened. James opened the box of crayons and cried! "Oh, cool! A new box! At school we only have old boxes. The only crayons left in mine are black and brown!"

Steeton Male Voice Choir Concert, 2nd October.

Steeton Male Voice Choir gave a concert at St. Saviour's about three years ago and we were all delighted when they returned for a repeat performance recently.

The choir was founded in Steeton over a century ago, in 1908, and continues to thrive although some other male voice choirs in the district unfortunately no longer exist. Very few of the choir now live in Steeton but their 80 or so members continue to hold rehearsals there.

After an introduction, the concert opened with a rousing performance of Vivaldi's "Gloria in Excelsis", almost as well known as his "Four Seasons", which put us in the mood for the rest of the evening. In complete contrast was a rendition of Roy Orbison's "Pretty Woman" from the 1960s which we all enjoyed and most of us remembered. Rather more familiar at St. Saviour's was a rendition of Howard Goodall's arrangement of the 23rd Psalm which impressed us a great deal. A religious theme was continued with "A Gaelic Blessing" , "The Lord's Prayer" and "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" after the interval.

However, the star of the evening was Miss Victoria Mulley, aged 18, who delivered beautiful solo performances of six pieces including "I could have danced all night" and "The impossible dream". We were amazed at the strength and purity of Miss Mulley's voice wish her every success in her future singing career..

The concert ended with a glorious rendition of "The Lost Chord", a well-known piece which I was surprised to learn was by Arthur Sullivan.

We all felt that the choir had treated us to a magnificent evening and hope they will return soon.

Ian McAlpine

Remembrance - 70 years on

This year is the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain – when the horrors of the Luftwaffe bombs were heavy over British skies. On this Remembrance Day we can only imagine the terror of living in Coventry, in Liverpool, in London during these months 70 years ago. It must have seemed like the beginning of the end of the world. It is a good time to stop and thank God that in the end, evil did not prevail. Hitler did not win the battle to dominate Europe. His expected ‘rule of a 1000 years’ lasted a mere 12 years (1933 to 1945). And we can thank God for the courage and endurance of our fathers and grandfathers, our mothers and grandmothers, in the midst of such towering darkness and destruction.

70 years on, the world is still at war. Man’s greed and arrogance and desire for domination have not gone away. There are still battles to be fought for our land, major problems to be solved. Economic uncertainty, terrorism, climate warming... the threats are different, but our need for courage, endurance and perseverance is the same. It is a good time to pray for our nation and ourselves, to turn to God in repentance and in faith, to ‘walk more nearly’ and ‘follow him more clearly’. It is a good time to be ready to serve our God and serve our neighbour in whatever way lies opens before us.

The Soldier’s Prayer

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve,
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for health, that I might do greater things,
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
I asked for riches, that I might be happy,
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men,
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life,
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I asked for –
But everything that I had hoped for,
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am among all men most richly blessed

Anonymous soldier from the American Civil War

Remembrance

This year Remembrance Sunday will fall on 14th November. All are welcome to join us for the 9.30 a.m. service, which will feature special prayers and a time of silence to remember those who have died or been injured fighting for their country. Later that afternoon, Churches Together in Allerton and Fairweather Green have organised a short service by the cenotaph in Ladyhill Park at 3.00 p.m. and invite anyone to go along.

The monthly service at Crossley House Care Home, 885 Thornton Road, will be on Tuesday 2nd November, when they will hold their act of remembrance and visitors would be most welcome to join them.

New Daylight - Bible Reading Notes

If you wish to have copies of this Bible Reading Scheme, cost £14.40, please would you have a word with Val Muff before the end of November. New Daylight is published 3 times a year through The Bible Reading Fellowship. It provides 4 months of daily Bible readings and comment, with a regular team of contributors drawn from a range of church backgrounds. It is ideal for anybody wanting an accessible yet stimulating aid to spending time with God each day, deepening their faith and their knowledge of Scripture.

Rooted in the rhythms of the Christian year, New Daylight is published in January, May and September and covers a varied selection of Old and New Testament, biblical themes, characters and seasonal readings. Each day offers a short Bible passage (text included), thought-provoking comment and a prayer or point for reflection.

Hats, Scarves & Gloves Needed

If anyone wishes to knit any of the above items these can then be passed on to the 'Big Issue in the North' Leeds office for their sellers to wear. Claire Dormund, at the office, said they are always happy to receive such items and they prefer neutral colours of navy blue, black or brown, because the sellers sometimes see them as 'part of a uniform' and like to blend in. If anyone wishes to donate spare knitting wool to this project this will be gladly accepted too. Val Muff will arrange to take the knitted items to Leeds.

46th Bradford North Cubs

The Cubs took part in the annual Clewer Trophy competition on September 25th. This was held at Blackhills Scout Camp and each team of Cubs had to complete tasks all based on a sporting theme. They had to earn points which were tallied at the end of the afternoon. We did not win but everyone seemed to enjoy the event.

On October 9th our 5-a-side football team participated in the District tournament held at the Goals Centre on Kings Road. They were unbeaten and crowned District champions. The team then played in the City finals and were placed third. Great sportsmanship from our younger members was a joy to see.

Two of our Cubs have auditioned for the Bradford Gang show which will be performed next March. They eagerly await their letters, hopefully confirming that they have been successful.

This month we will be fielding a team of Cubs in a City go-karting event to be held at Hipperholme & Lightcliffe school.

The theme for activities and games on pack nights during the next few months is going to be 'Jamboree - Sweden 2011'. The Cubs will be learning all about international Scouting, environmental issues and world faiths and peace.

Bev Howard GROUP SCOUT LEADER

Scout Group

Our Scout Group will be holding a celebratory service in church on Thursday 25th November from 6.30 to 7.15 p.m. - followed by a supper and quiz in the hall. All are most welcome to come along and join them.

Shoebox Appeal

Last month we gave details of Operation Christmas Child the shoebox appeal which is being organised by the charity Samaritan's Purse and which we have decided to support for the second year running.

The idea is to wrap a shoebox in Christmas paper and to fill it with small gifts for a child who would otherwise have no presents at Christmas. Details of suitable items for inclusion were given in last month's magazine and can be found on the Samaritan's Purse website (www.samaritans-purse.co.uk). Please make sure you indicate the age and sex of the child the goods are intended for, and include the donation of £2.50 to cover the cost of postage. Filled shoeboxes should be returned to church no later than **SUNDAY 7TH NOVEMBER**.

Volunteers are needed at the various depots to sort the boxes and get them ready to ship out. If you are interested, please have a word with Kaaren Raistrick.

Ings Way Lunch Day

Our monthly Lunch Day continues to thrive and the next one will be on Wednesday 10th November. It consists of a FREE (yes, really free!) lunch of homemade soup, sandwiches and a biscuit with a cup of tea or coffee and there is the chance to sit and have a chat - plus some musical entertainment from our pianist. Why not come and give it a try?

New Youth Group

A new Christian Youth Club, called "Jimmy's" is starting at St. James's. It will run from 6.30-7.30 p.m. each Sunday evening, with the special launch evening on Sunday 7th November - featuring a Fire Show, pizza, sweets and games.

All children in school years 6 - 9 are most welcome to go along.



Christmas Fair

To be opened by the Lord Mayor of Bradford

Saturday 20th November 2010

11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Entrance free

proceeds to Church funds

Gifts, Fancy goods, Cakes

Lunches

Refreshments, Games

Santa

Raffle, Tombola etc.

The “Birth date” of St. Saviour’s—a Mystery Solved.

Recently while working on the earliest records of St. Saviour’s, deposited at the Diocesan Record Office in Bradford, I came across a document which shed some light on the church’s rather obscure beginnings. We all know that until 1966 when the present church was constructed the congregation met at a chapel in Jesse Street, off Thornton Road. The foundation stone records that this chapel was opened in 1883. It served the congregation extremely well for more than 80 years and is now a small factory for making roller-blinds. But exactly when did the congregation meet for the first time, before the chapel was built? No record seemed to exist.

The document at the Record Office (BDP 7/19/18) appears to date from soon after the opening of the chapel and is reproduced here in full. In those days Fairweather Green was part of the Diocese of Ripon since Bradford Diocese did not come into existence until 1920. Fairweather Green was part of the parish of Allerton. To a large extent the document speaks for itself and is a testimony to the determination of the working people in a “miserably poor” area of Victorian Bradford to have a local place of worship that was more accessible than St. Peter’s in Allerton or St. James’ in Thornton.

Crucially, the document tells us that “This mission has been carried on since September 19th, 1880”. St. Saviour’s “birthday”! And so the congregation met for the first time at Crossley Hall, part of which I have owned since 2003, just 130 years ago when the district was very different from what it is today. Much of Crossley Hall on Thornton Old Road was built in about 1655 incorporating the foundations of a preceptory (headquarters) of the Knights Hospitaller of St. John of Jerusalem dating back to about 1280. Almost everything about St. Saviour’s has changed since then including its people, church building and forms of worship. But how amazed and delighted would the congregation of 1880 be to see the St. Saviour’s of today!

Ian McAlpine

The Railway Children

We are proposing to have an outing to Keighley Playhouse on Saturday 11th December to see 'The Railway Children.' This will be a matinee performance. This is a play based on the book and, of course, well-known film. We need to know if anyone is interested in coming along, before we can make a block booking, so please have a word with Val or James Muff as soon as possible.

Keighley Playhouse is situated on Devonshire Street which is a short walk from Keighley Bus Station, and whilst we will endeavour to book seats in the stalls, there are quite a lot of steps involved.

Keighley Playhouse is a well-established theatre company and if their previous productions are anything to go by, it should make for an enjoyable experience. We might be able to arrange transport, depending on numbers.

Christmas Fair - Charity Calendar

As the Lord Mayor, Councillor Peter Hill, has kindly agreed to 'open' our Christmas Fair on Saturday 20th November 2010, we have decided to have a stall for charity calendars in aid of the Lord Mayor's appeal. Proceeds from the sale of the calendar will go towards the Nell Bank Centre in Ilkley, which offers day and residential outdoor education to schools and community groups. The aim is to make the centre fully inclusive, so it is open to all regardless of ability, and renew some of the 'much used' outdoor play equipment.

The calendar, called Celebrate Bradford, lists 50 things to do in Bradford district. It features the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway and Haworth's Black Bull pub amongst its images. The Lord Mayor said: "I am a great believer in being a tourist in your own district and I think this colourful calendar demonstrates just how glorious the district is." The calendar will be on sale for £4.50 at our fair and can be reserved for collection on the day if required. (Please have a word with Val Muff.)

November Roll of Remembrance

1st	Frank Whitham	(1997)
2nd	Alice Stead	(1975)
3rd	Joseph Hill	(1958)
	Thomas Henry Ulley	(1983)
4th	Norman Rhodes	(1950)
5th	Marie Whiteley	(1985)
8th	Mabel Brooksbank	(1977)
	Doris Errington	(1978)
	Ethel Dixon	(1987)
11th	Edgar Wilkinson	(1974)
12th	Ada Lunnon	(1983)
15th	Violet Pearson	(1981)
17th	Florence Munby	(1980)
20th	Thomas Watson	(1972)
24th	Frank Ferguson	(1981)
26th	Martha Brocklehurst	(1985)
27th	Willie Stead	(1978)
	Blanch Grange	(1987)
30th	Roland Munby	(1980)

**ST. SAVIOUR'S PARISH CHURCH
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