

## The November Letter

Dear Friends,

When were you last aware of complete silence? I suspect that it is a rare commodity these days. We live with noise and to some extent have become accustomed to it. There have been improvements; before the ubiquitous wheelie bin arrived, we briefly enjoyed the peace of a rubber dustbin lid, and the odds of being woken by the milkman (remember them?) were reduced with the advent of the plastic milk crate.

Not noise as such but often irritating, is the human voice. Why must people shout into their mobile phones at a volume more appropriate to the cocoa tin and string era? And even normal conversation can become prolonged for no good reason; the concept of 'companionable silence' seems to be vanishing. For guidance on whether to speak or not try Ecclesiasticus 20. One of my favourite bits of the Apocrypha. I realise that nobody is now going to engage me in conversation for a while!

But what do we make of the quiet times during worship? Time to reflect upon our shortcomings before the confession? I hope so. Or to prepare ourselves for what we are about to do, before taking communion? Again, we would like to think so. But for some, a silence of more than a very few seconds may feel uncomfortable or embarrassing, which could be a good thing in some circumstances. A recent study of visitors to St David's Cathedral in Wales, showed that one of the attractions was 'the quiet' or 'the sense of peace'. We don't get the chance to encounter silence very often, so let's enjoy it when we get the chance, and use it well.

*Patrick*

# NOVEMBER PARISH DIARY

Tuesday 1st	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion at Crossley House
	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
	7.30 p.m.	Social Committee meeting in vestry
Wednesday 2nd	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

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## SUNDAY 6TH 3RD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion and Junior Church
	3.00 p.m.	Service to Celebrate Life
Tuesday 8th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 9th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11.30 a.m.	Ings Way Lunch Day
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts

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## SUNDAY 13TH 2ND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT/REMEMBRANCE

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion, Junior Church and Baptism
	3.00 p.m.	Service of Remembrance in Ladyhill Park
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing
Wednesday 16th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Thursday 17th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts
Saturday 19th 1	0.30 a.m.	Christmas Bazaar at St. James's

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## SUNDAY 20TH CHRIST THE KING

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Junior Church
Tuesday 22nd	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing

Wednesday 23rd	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Thursday 24th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	6.00 p.m.	Beaver Scouts
	7.30 p.m.	Scouts
Saturday 26th	11.00 a.m.	Christmas Fair

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SUNDAY 27TH ADVENT SUNDAY

	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Junior Church
Tuesday 29th	7.30 p.m.	Adult tap dancing.
Wednesday 30th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. James's
	6.15 p.m.	Cub Scouts

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**Christmas Services**

Looking ahead to December, the following services have been arranged to celebrate Christmas and the New Year at St. Saviour's. Everyone is welcome to any or all of the events.

Sunday 18th December	9.30 a.m.	Nativity Service
	3.00 p.m.	Service of Readings and Carols
Monday 19th	6.30 p.m.	Carol Singing with Churches
Saturday 24th	11.30 p.m.	Midnight Eucharist with Revd.
Sunday 25th	<b>10.30 a.m.</b>	Family Communion
Sunday 1st January	<b>10.30 a.m.</b>	Family Communion

**PLEASE NOTE:** The services on Christmas Day and New Year's Day start an hour later than usual!

## **A Tale of two Memorials [part 1]**

On Sunday October 2nd, we stood in the middle of Broad Street in Oxford under blazing sunshine, looking at a cross in the road surface. It is a permanent reminder of another blaze, or rather two blazes, at that place just 450 years ago. It is, in fact, the place where Bishops Latimer and Ridley and, later, Archbishop Cranmer were burned to death for their Protestant beliefs and the practices they had brought into the English Church.

In those years, what is now Broad Street was the town ditch just outside the walls and the North Gate, which was itself the prison where Cranmer was held. (It was called "Bocardo" - a medieval scholars' joke - because it was as difficult to escape from as the argument known by that name in formal logic.) Cranmer was made to stand at the window of his prison to watch the deaths of Latimer and Ridley.

He then became the target of fierce theological attacks from Catholic scholars sent by Queen Mary to persuade him to recant. He was, at this stage, well over 60, and had been at the centre of events for more than 20 years. To be part of Henry VIII's court was to spend years treading a fine line between being in favour and being executed (as Wolsey and Thomas More knew only too well). All this had taken its toll. Cranmer cracked and signed a series of recantations.

But Mary was determined to make an example of him. He had, after all, declared her mother's marriage invalid, and, therefore, herself illegitimate. She was determined that Cranmer should pay the price.

But suddenly it burst upon Cranmer that, however many recantations he made and however abject they were, he would still be burned, and his courage kindled once more. The stage was set for Cranmer to make his most abject recantation in St Mary's, the University Church. He was dressed in a mocked up version of an archbishops official robes, so that they could be torn off him in a ceremony of degradation. He was then thrust into the pulpit to make his recantation.

But Cranmer turned tables on them. He threw away the text of his recantation and turned on his persecutors with a powerful denunciation. In vicious anger, they dragged him down from the pulpit, out of the church

and through the streets to where the stake was waiting. Cranmer steadfastly held his right hand in the flames, declaring that it should burn first for having signed the recantations. It was soon over, but Queen Mary's great triumph over Cranmer and Protestantism had been ruined!

*Richard Bailey*

*(To be continued next month)*

### **Verse Numbers in the Bible**

The books of the Bible were not originally divided into chapters as they are today but were continuous lines of text. However, Stephen Langton (d. 1228) , a lecturer at the University of Paris who later became Archbishop of Canterbury, invented the system of chapters which with a few modifications is still in use today. This would have made it a lot easier to find individual incidents in the Bible.

This situation was improved much further by Robert Estienne (1503 - 1559) who in 1551 published at Geneva a Greek and Latin edition of the New Testament with the chapters divided into the verses we know today. Estienne was one of a family of French printers, became printer to the French King Francis I and produced works in Latin, Greek and Hebrew. He fell from favour when he became a Protestant and was forced to move to Geneva to escape persecution. His Latin Vulgate of 1555 was the first complete Bible to have numbered verses. The earliest complete Bible in English with Estienne's verse divisions was the original Geneva edition, first published in Geneva in 1560 and in London in 1576. Modern translations often rearrange verses slightly to give translations which are easier to read but they still owe much to Estienne's scheme of 1551.

I illustrate an extract from the Psalms from my remains of a 1541 Great Bible printed in black letter, one of the very earliest produced in England. (*See inside front cover*). This clearly shows the absence of verse numbers and shows how much we are indebted to Robert Estienne who is largely forgotten today.

*Ian Mc Alpine*

## **Burundi Schools Update**

I am delighted to share with you the recent Newsletter I received from the charity Facilitaid. This is the charity which many of you kindly supported by knitting the little ' Burundi bears.'

Work started in September on Facilitaid's 9th School at Kinani in Burundi, and hopefully by early January they will be ready to fulfil the dreams of another 600 children.

Kinani is in a rural area of the eastern province of Bururi. The local community consists of subsistence farmers and returning refugees from Congo and Tanzania. Family sizes are large and school places are few. Most children have to wait until they are 10 or 12 to have the chance of a school place and then they have a 6 km walk to get there! The local officials, community leaders and parents (in their own words), "welcome the offer of a school at Kinani with both hands and great joy because our children will finally have a chance."

If you wish to see photographs of the site and children and have access to a computer, their website address is [www.facilitaid.com](http://www.facilitaid.com) , alternatively have a word with me and I can show you printed copies.

Gren Burgess, Trustee, writes "We are really grateful for your continued interest and help in transformation that we are part of in Burundi and should you wish to help with Kinani, then we would love to hear from you! Remember every £1 raised puts another 4 bricks into the school."

I have been told that the charity has sufficient stocks of the knitted bears for the moment; however should you wish to knit some to sell to your friends, then they would be happy to receive your donation from the sales. Also, if any one knows of a school who might be interested in taking part in their excellent Schools project, please let me know. Many schools are now involved, some for the second or third time, and the feedback from both staff and pupils has been brilliant.

The knitted teddy bears will be on sale at our Christmas Fair on Saturday November 26th, to offer an opportunity to purchase one or more for Christmas gifts. (A possible "stocking filler?")

*Val Muff*

## **New Daylight Bible Reading Notes**

Subscriptions are now due for the Bible reading notes at a cost of £14.70 per annum. If anyone else would like to receive these Notes, I would be pleased to order them.

New Daylight provides daily Bible readings and comment, (split into 3 4-monthly booklets), 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 with a thought-provoking comment and a prayer or point for reflection. It is published by The Bible Reading Fellowship.

If anyone would like to look at a past edition, without obligation, please have a word with me.

*Val Muff*

## **Perfect Christmas 'Stocking Filler'**

We are selling smart ballpoint pens emblazoned with 'St Saviour's Church' on the cap. These are on sale at £1.35 and are one way of helping church 'balance the books.' The pens would make ideal "stocking fillers" for family/ friends at Christmas, as an extra pen is always useful. (You can't see the legs on pens, can you, but I am sure they must have them!) If you wish to purchase any, please see Val or James, or your magazine distributor.



Saturday 26th November 2011

# Christmas Fair

Santa  
Gifts  
Lunches

11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Entrance Free

Games  
Raffle  
Tombola  
Cakes

## **Communion**

Three of our young people, Lucy Heywood, Joshua Ellis and Jessica Allen, have been following a programme of preparation for taking Holy Communion before Confirmation during September and October. On Sunday 6th November, they will have finished this training and will be admitted to their first Communion during the 9.30 a.m. service. They would be glad of your prayers at this important time, and would welcome support at the service.

## **Shoebboxes**

Thank you to everyone who has brought in a filled shoebox, or items to go in a shoebox, for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child appeal which sends out boxes filled with goodies to children in need all over the world. If you haven't yet managed to complete your box, the absolute deadline for bringing them into church is 6th November - or, from 1st November, it's possible to select and pay for various items online at [www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk](http://www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk) and they will pack and send the box for you.

## **Celebration of Life**

On Sunday 6th November, we will be holding a service at 3.00 p.m. to remember those who have died and to give thanks for their life. It is an informal but reverent service of readings, hymns and reflection, with the chance to light a candle in memory of someone - whether the bereavement is recent or more long-standing. All are most welcome to join us, and refreshments will be served in the hall afterwards.

## **St. James's Christmas Bazaar**

St. James's Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, 19th November from 10.30am to 3.00pm in the Church Halls. The Café will be open all day for lunches and afternoon teas. School choirs will attend and there are lots of stalls for your Christmas presents. The grotto will be open each week night from Monday, 21st to Friday, 25th November between 4.00pm and 5.00pm, although Santa will be on his travels elsewhere.

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## **A once-in-a-century Remembrance Day – 11-11-11-11**

At 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month of 2011, the nation will pause to remember those who have given their lives in fighting for this country.

This year is doubly special: 2011 is The Royal British Legion's 90th anniversary, and also this is a once-in-a-century Remembrance Day.

At 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month in 2011 -11-11-11-11 - we will be remembering those who were willing to lay down their lives for their country.

The British Legion is inviting people to be a special part of this unique occasion, by leaving a message to go on a poppy to be planted at Wootton Bassett. That is the town where thousands of people have paid their respects during repatriations in recent years - you may have seen this on TV.

The British Legion explains: “Many people associate Remembrance Day with heroes of D-Day or the Battle of Britain's Spitfire pilots. Some people think of the deeds of the SAS during the Falklands conflict or, of course, Flanders Fields from World War I, carpeted in poppies growing where so many men lost their lives. But in the last few years it's also been about the nation showing its support for the soldiers returning injured and traumatised from current conflicts.” So if you would like to put your name to a poppy, please visit: <https://donations.britishlegion.org.uk/RBLDonation/>

### **Remembrance Day**

On 13th November, the service at here at St. Saviour's 9.30 a.m. will include a time of reflection and remembrance. Churches Together in Allerton and Fairweather Green have also arranged a service at 3.00 p.m. in Ladyhill Park, Allerton Road, by the cenotaph. Everyone is invited to join in either or both of these services.

## **Diocesan Day: 8th October**

The latest Diocesan Day on the theme of Discipleship was held on 8th October at Bradford Grammar School. There were about 450 people there from all over the diocese and it was a good opportunity to meet old friends, make new ones and enjoy fellowship and worship together. As on previous occasions, there was a keynote speech at the beginning, on this occasion by Bishop Nick, and a Eucharist at the end, with a choice of two out of about two dozen workshops/seminars in between.

I went to 'Living Stones and the Forgotten Faithful' which explained the plight of Christians living in Israel/Palestine. The non-Jewish people in Israel ('Arabs' for short) comprise both Muslims and Christians who co-operate a great deal more than we might expect as they face adversities in common. Those living on the Palestinian side of the divide are probably in a worse condition as they have restrictions on their movements and suffer loss of their lands by 'The Wall' and the building of illegal settlements. A sorry plight indeed. It was stressed, however, that many Israelis are pro Arab and very few Palestinians are terrorists.

We, at St Saviour's, sing several hymns written by John Bell and other members of the Iona Community so the session on 'Music from Iona' held few surprises but we were taught a number of songs/hymns written for congregations to sing so the tunes were easy to remember and the words modern and often poignant.

Bishop Nick's talk highlighted some rather unexpected examples of discipleship from scripture, Zebedee - father of James and John - was cited as an unsung character, who permitted his sons to leave his fishing business to follow Jesus and probably causing a manpower crisis in the boats. A huge sacrifice for both family and business. I'd never thought of that aspect either.

*Patrick Preston*

## **Children of Israel**

In Sunday School one morning young Joseph raised his hand and proceeded to ask a question that had perplexed him for some time. "There's something I can't figure out. According to the Bible, the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?"

"Right," said his teacher.

"And the Children of Israel beat up the Philistines, right?"

"Er, right."

"And the Children of Israel built the Temple, right?"

"Again you're right."

"And the Children of Israel fought the Egyptians and the Children of Israel were always doing something important, right?"

"All that is right, too," agreed the teacher. "So what's your question, Joseph?"

"Well what were all the grown-ups doing?"

## **Praying for a brother**

A small boy badly wanted a baby brother, so his dad suggested he pray every night for one. The boy prayed earnestly, night after night, but his prayers seemingly weren't answered. After a few weeks, he didn't bother to ask any more.

Some months later, his dad said they were going to see Mum in the hospital and he was going to get a big surprise. When they got to the room, the little boy saw his mother holding two babies. "Well, what do you think about having twin brothers?" his dad asked.

The little boy thought for a moment and replied, "It's a good thing I stopped praying when I did."

## **Which man won?**

Little Charlotte was at her first wedding and was enthralled by the entire ceremony. When it was over, she asked her mother, "Why did the lady change her mind?"

Her mother asked, "What do you mean?"

"Well, she went down the aisle with one man, and came back with another one."

## **Signs & Symbols: paying attention**

Have you ever tried to talk to someone and had the feeling they weren't really listening or taking much notice? What was it about their behaviour that made you think that? Or, put it the other way, what tells you that people are listening and paying attention? Well, it's the same in church. No, it's just not those who chatter or nod off! It's much more subtle than that.

Sometimes in a church service you see people moving their position and turning to face a different way. Now, of course, it could be that something has caught their eye, but if they regularly do the same thing at the same place in the service then the chances are it is intentional.

There was once a curate who always took one step to the side during the Eucharistic prayer (the prayer of consecration at Holy Communion). Why? Simply because the old priest who had trained him always did that. So why did the priest always sidestep during that prayer? Well, during World War II the priest had been saved from being hit by a shell when he stepped to the side to pick up the service prayer sheet that had been blown there by a gust of wind at that precise moment. So the action of remembrance and thankfulness made perfect sense for him, but completely inappropriate for the curate!

In some churches the Gospel Book is carried into the centre of the Church, and this movement teaches us that it is our responsibility to carry the Good News of Jesus Christ into all the world. We turn to face the Gospel, (not the cross if that is being carried) wherever it is read from, to indicate that we are paying attention to the words of and about Jesus.

This month:- Have a close look at the conscious movement of the congregation and the leaders during a service. If your normal church stays still, then visit another one and see what they do. At what specific points or prayers does this happen and what do you think underlies each of them?

## **Notes from the PCC**

Members of the PCC met on Wednesday 19th October.

There seems to have been a lot of activity with the fabric of the church recently and we continue to put the finishing touches to the hall refurbishment and are grateful to Graham Pickard for repairing the windowsills. We are also concerned about the trees in the grounds and have been making enquiries about having them lopped for safety.

For some time now it has been difficult to find sufficient leaders and helpers to run Junior Church efficiently. We feel ministry to children and young people is of great importance, so we are looking at alternative ways of delivering this. Details will appear in next month's magazine.

We looked ahead to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in March next year when Eric Heywood will have served 6 years as Churchwarden. Under the Church Representation Rules, this is the maximum term of office in one spell, so we need to find a replacement. Please pray that someone will come forward willing to undertake this important role. There will also be vacancies on the PCC, so if you feel you would like to help in running the church, please think seriously about standing. Have a word with the vicar, churchwardens or any PCC member if you would like more information.

We have had a good period for hall bookings, which has brought in some much-needed revenue, but we are still concerned about finances in general. We are most grateful to James Muff for all the work he does in trying to find us the best deals for all the services we use.

The church website is there for all to use ([www.stsavioursfwg.org.uk](http://www.stsavioursfwg.org.uk)) and we now have the facility of a Google calendar on there which details all events at St. Saviour's, including hall bookings. Of course it is only effective if it is kept up to date, so please let me or James know of any changes to regular meetings, or church events you would like to publicise.

*Hilary Davis, PCC Secretary.*

## Holy Baptism

Jason Brearley  
2011

2nd October

Jamie Brearley

2nd October 2011

Jacob Brearley

2nd October 2011

## 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)

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