

The October Letter

Dear Friends,

It can be challenging to live as (allegedly) the Chinese people say, in “interesting times.” In that context, “interesting” seems to mean anything between horrible and appallingly difficult. It can also mean times of uncertainty, when old norms have died away, and no-one is quite sure what stability will look like, when events settle down again.

Examining events in history, on their anniversaries, can be a stimulus to reviewing the difference they made, if any, to the way we live now. Twelve months ago, I was writing this letter about the refugee crisis that was then all over the news. It makes the front page less often now, but it is still with us, and it is only three or four weeks since we heard of over 3000 refugees being rescued in a very short period of time as they attempted to cross the Mediterranean Sea. I write this now two days after the 15th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States, known for short as 9/11. The site of the twin towers’ collapse has been cleared and a memorial built. But 15 years later, over 2000 of the emergency services’ personnel who worked on that terrible day have developed cancer from the dust pervading the scene.

Not all bad...

There are good anniversaries too, of course. The Queen has been celebrating her 90th birthday, with special events through much of the year. Mothers’ Union celebrates 140 years since it was founded in 1876. Starting with a handful of mothers, meeting in the front room of the vicarage to see how they could help bring up their children in the Christian faith, it has grown to 4.1 million members in 83 countries around the world. Closest to home, we in St. Saviour’s have just celebrated 50 years since our church building was consecrated for worship in Fairweather Green.

In every context, large and small, it is good to take these opportunities to have a long, hard look at what we do, and how successful we are in doing it – whatever “it” is. Is the European plan for handling the refugee crisis working out? What can we learn from how we, as a nation or a government, handled an unexpected and murderous attack?

What can we as a church learn from the pastoral support we offer, and the worship we share, if we want to truly follow Christ's teaching, and take his message to those yet to hear it?

Looking ahead

I hope you have been able to take part in some of our special anniversary events, and even more importantly, been able to enjoy some of the new patterns of worship now happening on different Sundays of the month in our church. We all hear God's message in different ways, personalised to ourselves. What makes sense to one person can go over the head of another, or just not connect with the way our mind works. Whether we look for formal or informal worship, we all need to see God in our everyday lives, if our faith is to make a difference to how we live in his world. And if we are to have the courage and inner strength to work for a better world order for all peoples, we need God at our side.

With all good wishes,

Jean Bailey

OCTOBER PARISH DIARY

SUNDAY 2ND NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

- 9.30 a.m. Said Communion (*Revd. Richard Bailey*)
- 10.00 a.m. Refreshments in hall
- 10.30 a.m. All Age Worship
- Tuesday 4th 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion at Crossley House
- 12 noon Knit and Natter
- 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
- Thursday 6th 9.30 a.m. Morning prayer
- 6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
- 7.30 p.m. Scouts
- 7.30 p.m. Social Committee Meeting

SUNDAY 9TH TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

- 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (*Revd. Richard Bailey*)

Tuesday 11th 12 noon Knit and Natter
 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing

Wednesday 12th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
 11.30 a.m. Ing's Way Lunch Day
 6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts
 7.30 p.m. Bible Study Group

Thursday 13th 9.30 a.m. Morning prayer
 6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
 7.30 p.m. Scouts

SUNDAY 16TH HARVEST FESTIVAL

10.00 a.m. Family & Parade Service (*Rev. Richard*

Bailey)

Tuesday 18th 12 noon Knit and Natter
 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
 7.30 p.m. PCC meeting

Thursday 20th 9.30 a.m. Morning prayer
 6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
 7.30 p.m. Scouts

SUNDAY 23RD LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion
 11.00 a.m. Messy Church

Tuesday 25th 9.30 a.m. Archdeacon's Inspection
 12 noon Knit and Natter
 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing

Wednesday 26th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Thursday 27th 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 30TH ALL SAINTS' DAY

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

The Bible Texts From the Roof Beams of the Old St Saviour's *Ian Mc Alpine*

In the 50th Anniversary Special Supplement of the September issue I commented on the Bible texts which were once painted on the roof beams of the old St Saviour's in Jesse St . The texts had been painted in white on the beams when the church was built in 1883. Unfortunately they were all covered over and lost when the building passed into private hands fifty years ago.

However, I was intrigued to see at our recent Festival of Crosses a copy of a photograph of the interior of the old church taken in 1905. Parts of four of the beam inscriptions were faintly visible and I decided to try to reconstruct and identify them. I'm used to this sort of thing in my professional work on ancient documents but this was a bit different!

They read as follows - In keeping with convention I have used square brackets and dots to indicate the missing words.

1. [.....] **TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED TOGETHER IN [.....] THERE AM I [.....]**
2. [.....]**Y EVEN UNTO THE END OF THE [.....]**
3. [.....] **WITH ME AND(?) [.....]**

The first two, even in this fragmentary state will be familiar to many of us. Reference to a concordance - a sort of index of whereabouts words are found in the Bible - and a simple internet search soon enabled me to find the missing words. I was delighted to reconstruct the first two texts in full and identify them in the King James Bible:-

1. **[FOR WHERE] TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED TOGETHER IN [MY NAME] THERE AM I [IN THE MIDST OF THEM]. (Matthew 18 : 20).**

How appropriate for a church setting!
and

2. **[LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWA]Y, EVEN UNTO THE END OF**

THE [WORLD], (Second half of Matthew 28 : 20). This is the very last verse of Matthew's Gospel. Again, very reassuring to the congregation.

3. The third text is possibly all that remains the first half of Daniel 9 : 22 - "And he informed me, and talked **with me, and** said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding". However, there is so little left that it is impossible to be certain.

4. The fourth text is completely illegible.

Does anyone remember the missing third and fourth texts? There were probably more on the other beams - these four were from the east end of the church - which are now completely lost. And the photograph also shows a pipe organ on the north side - does anyone know what happened to that?

Be like a pumpkin

A lady had recently become a Christian and been baptised. Curious, one of her colleagues at work asked her what it was like to be a Christian. The lady was caught off guard and didn't know how to answer. Then she saw the office 'jack-o'-lantern' on a nearby desk and blurted: "Well, it's like being a pumpkin."

Her colleague asked her to explain that one. And so she said: "Well, God picks you from the patch and brings you in and washes off all the dirt on the outside that you got from being around all the other pumpkins. "Then He cuts off the top and takes all the yucky stuff out from inside you. He removes all those seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc.

"Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside you to shine for all to see.

"It is our choice to either stay outside and rot on the vine or come inside and be something new and bright."

Are you something new and bright? Will you be smiling today, and shining with His light?

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46TH Bradford North Scout Group

All our young people have been engaged designing and creating crosses for the Festival of Crosses in church. Each group also enjoyed visiting the festival - the favourite crosses by far with the Cubs were (in order of preference) the knitted one, Egyptian and the candle cross.

From the 30th September to Sunday 1st October a District Badge Weekend is being held at Blackhills. 14 Cubs, 10 Scouts and 5 Explorers will join over 80 others for the camp. Cubs will be completing activities towards their Navigator, Emergency Aid, Entertainer and Air Activities badges. Everyone will have the opportunity to gain Swimmer staged awards at Bingley School pool and there will be the usual wide games, challenges, singsongs and general camp fun during the weekend.

Our Beavers are joining with others across the city at a Sleepover event at Blackhills to celebrate 30 years of Beaver Scouting later in the month.

We have purchased two flag stands in memory of our much loved and revered Cub Scout Leader, Val, and these will be blessed at our Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving on November 11th.

I do hope that you will be able to be with us all on this evening when refreshments will be served in the hall and there will be the customary quiz!

Bev Howard
GROUP SCOUT LEADER

Please join us for a service of
Remembrance & Thanksgiving

During which two new flag stands will be
dedicated in memory of our late leader, Val Ward
(Bagheera)

Friday 11th November 2016

Saint Saviour's Church
Ings Way, Fairweather Green

6.30pm

Refreshments in the hall afterwards

Operation Christmas Child

Our 2016 campaign gets underway in earnest this month as we get ready to start filling boxes.

To fill a whole box, it is good to have something from each category: Toys; School supplies; hygiene items; other items such as hat, scarf, gloves, sunglasses, hair accessories, jewellery set, wind up torch, wrapped sweets (best-before-date must be at least March of the following year). Please **DO NOT** include anything that is used or damaged, war related; chocolate or other food items; liquids or lotions; hand-made or knitted stuffed toys; anything of a political, racial or religious nature; sharp objects; glass containers, mirrors or fragile

items; playing cards of the 4-suit variety; clothing other than as listed above.

Filled boxes should be brought into church by Sunday, 13th November, please, and we should also be most grateful for donations towards the cost of transporting a box (cheques made payable to Samaritan's Purse).

If you are unable to fill a whole box, items from any of the categories will be gratefully received so we can fill up empty boxes with them at our Bring and Fill Day on **Tuesday 8th November from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m (ish!)** All are welcome to come and join us for this. Drinks will be provided - please bring your own lunch. It's great fun joining together to sort out items for the boxes, and imagining the joy they will bring to the child receiving them at Christmas.

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Celebration will take place as part of the Parade Service on Sunday 16th October. We should be most grateful to receive gifts of non-perishable, tinned, dried or long-life food which will be shared between the Bradford Metropolitan Foodbank and the Langley House Trust's Hostel for rehabilitating offenders at Box Tree Cottage. Monetary donations would also be most welcome.

The Waterfall

The noise and power of a waterfall is probably one of the most spectacular attestations of God's creative power that there is. It calls to mind the words of Psalm 66:

Shout for joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious. Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you. All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing the praises of your name. Come and see what God has done. (Ps 66:1-5a) Waterfalls bring out the poet in the onlooker:

We hear the roaring water
We see the foaming spray
The mighty pow'r of nature
Compels us all to pray
"O Mighty Lord, Creator
"O Maker of us all
"The finest work thou makest -
"The tumbling waterfall!"

The spray refracts the sunlight
Into the rainbow hues;
We feel the water shaking
The ground beneath our shoes!
We gaze into the torrents
Unto the Lord we call
"O Praise thee, God our Father
"For this, Thy waterfall!"

by Nigel Beeton

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Cheap at the price

A little boy was pestering his parents for a baby brother or sister. They kept telling him 'maybe one day, but we can't afford one yet.' Then one Sunday the little boy dragged his parents over to the noticeboard at the back of church. It was advertising a coming sale at the church, and announced: 'Children: free'

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The Golden Warp

History taps you on the shoulder or jogs your elbow at every turn. That was our experience when we holidayed on Orkney some fifteen years ago. The memory is still with us. A further lasting impression is that we now have a collection of George MacKay Brown's writings both in poetry and prose. He lived most of his life in Stromness, and a blue plaque to his memory was on a house near where we were staying.

Recently I was reading one of his collections of short stories, all of which conjure up the atmosphere of the islands. He weaves the stories of the ordinary crofters with the history of Orkney in a very evocative way.

One of his stories is called *The Three Islands* and tells of three fishermen as they haul in their lobster pots near Eynhallow, Gairsay and Egilsay. Their haul of lobster is not good, but as the author describes their efforts and disappointments, he interweaves their story with stories from the history of each island.

The story that he tells of Egilsay is of an old priest as he says Mass on Easter Monday. He has his usual (small) congregation, but they are joined by a magnificent stranger. As the Mass proceeds the priest continues to wonder who the stranger is. It is only at the end of the story that we realise that this is the year 1117, and the magnificent stranger is Earl Magnus Erlendsson, and that his treacherous rival, Earl Hakon Paulsson, is waiting outside with his men to murder him.

George MacKay Brown was a strong Catholic, and echoes of the words of the Mass, its ritual and ceremonial, and its calendar often appear in his writings. So the words which stopped me in my tracks and opened up a new train of thought are words which I learned when I first became an altar server, and which are found in this story are: *I will go unto the altar of God [Introibo ad altare Dei]*. This is followed by: *He (i.e. the old priest) went up the three steps of the altar. Then, as always, he wove his mortal thoughts into the heavy golden warp of the Mass.*

The heavy golden warp of the Mass: these are the words of a poet, but they speak of the frame of mind we should have when we take part in

the Eucharist. The preparatory prayers of the Eucharist are still with me sixty years later, and when I come into church and sit in my place, the first words that come to mind are: *I will go unto the altar of God : even unto the God of my joy and gladness* and they are followed by the Psalm, and some of the prayers of the Preparation.

The beautiful, poetic words of George MacKay Brown reminded me that the words of the Eucharist are not simply words we say, but are brim-full of meaning. Our task as a congregation is to listen attentively so that they bury themselves deeply in our hearts and minds.

Take, for instance, the prayer we now call *The Prayer of Preparation* (though the old name *The Collect for Purity* is a better description of the purpose of the prayer): *Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hidden* sets out exactly our relationship with God. We can't deceive Him, and can only let Him see us as we are - flawed and inadequate

We do not grovel, but instead ask that God will *cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit*. That word inspiration means "breathe in" and we need to feel, if only dimly, that when we are in church, the air we breathe in is laced by the Holy Spirit.

This, I am sure, is what George MacKay Brown meant when he wrote *he wove his mortal thoughts into the golden warp of the Mass*. The Eucharist comes alive when we weave our mortal thoughts into the thoughts and attitudes expressed in the Eucharist

R. W. Bailey

Christmas Fair

This is advanced warning that our Christmas Fair will be next month—on Saturday 12th November. Details are still in the melting pot, but please put the date in your diary so you can come along to support us. There will be usual mix of stalls, raffle, tombola, games and refreshments—something for all the family.

“1066 and All That”

Ian Mc Alpine.

As we approach the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings, fought in Sussex on 14th October, 1066 we remember one of the most decisive conflicts ever fought on English soil. Many of us learned at school how the English King Harold II was killed in the Battle by an arrow in his eye. I dimly recall being taken by my parents to the site of the Battle in 1962 when I was just five years old and being horrified by Harold's dreadful injury. Duke William of Normandy claimed a decisive victory and was crowned the first Norman King of England on Christmas Day 1066. But was King Harold really killed in this way?

The “arrow in the eye” story, perpetuated by Stanley Holloway and countless others, is based mainly on the image of a man who may be King Harold in the famous Bayeux Tapestry. However, it is unclear whether the man shown in the tapestry really is King Harold and the part of tapestry showing him has been repaired on several occasions. A near contemporary writer Guy, Bishop of Amiens, in his Latin *Carmen de Hastingae Proelio* (“Song of the battle of Hastings”) gives an alternative account of Harold's death.

The Bishop reported that during the Battle Duke William spotted Harold with a small pocket of housecarls (elite soldiers or royal bodyguards) defending his position. William, who boasted earlier that he would beat Harold in single combat, was wary of Harold's great strength which he has seen first hand during an earlier battle. William therefore dispatched a "hit squad" of four of his best knights, referred to in later sources as “*Les Quatre*” (“The Four”). Their names were Walter Giffard, Hugh de Montfort-sur-Risle, Hugh de Ponthieu and Eustace de Bologne. The names of only about twenty men - “The Companions of the Conqueror” - who definitely fought at Hastings are known today. The Bishop's details of The Four's savage butchery of King Harold are too horrific and explicit to include in a parish magazine. Suffice it to say that he was left for dead and according to another account was so badly mutilated that the only person who could recognise his remains was his mistress, Edith Swanneck, by whom he had several children.

So what really happened? Obviously we'll never know the full story after 950 years but the story of the four knights is remarkably detailed and to my mind is very convincing. And years after the Battle "The Four" were amply rewarded for their services by King William. For example, around 1067 the King appointed Hugh de Montfort (c.1020 - 1088) - no relation to the more famous Simon de Montfort - as Hereditary Constable of England, a Regent who would govern the country while William was abroad in France. Hugh had provided many ships and men for the Norman invasion. And the Domesday Book records that by 1086 he had been granted an incredible 136 manors in Norfolk, Suffolk, Kent and Essex! Hugh had a daughter called Alicia who married Gilbert de Gant (Ghent) from Flanders, (c.1048 - 1094) another wealthy landowner who was a relation of King William's wife, Queen Matilda (c. 1032 - 1083) and was involved in the burning of York in 1069. Through his mother, Gisela of Luxembourg, Gilbert was also a direct descendant of Charlemagne (c. 745 - 814) who had united much of Western Europe in the 8th century.

And Gilbert and Alicia had a daughter called Agnes who became my 25 x great-grandmother! So I have a special interest in what really happened to the last Anglo-Saxon King of England!

Wear out

Three little boys were bragging about how tough they were. "I'm so tough," said the first boy, "that I can wear out a pair of shoes in a week." "Well," said the second little boy, "I'm so tough, I can wear out a pair of jeans in a day."

"That's nothing," said the third boy. "When my parents take me to see my grandma and grandpa, I can wear them out in just one hour."

Lost in translation

Sign on a door in Istanbul: American dentist – 2nd floor. Teeth extracted by a new Methodist.

Who is God?

During a youth service, the minister asked if anyone could tell her who God is. One youngster waved a hand, and ventured: "Isn't God the man who saves the Queen?"

Notes from the PCC

We had an extremely full agenda at our meeting on 20th September—payback for a rest in August!

We have been encouraged by the start to our new programme of services. The All-Age Worship on 4th September was a lovely service with songs, bible reading, prayers, activities and talks. Most of the people who came to the 9.30 communion stayed on, and were joined by some new faces. The celebrations for the 50th Anniversary have also been much enjoyed by all who came—there will be a report in next month's magazine.

We were really sorry to receive a note from our organist, Bob Baker, tendering his resignation on health grounds. We have greatly enjoyed having Bob, and his wife, Margaret, with us for the past few years. They have both thrown themselves whole-heartedly into the life of St. Saviour's and will be very much missed. They will be with us until the end of the year when we will have a chance to say goodbye properly.

In the reorganisation of the new Diocese, it has been decided there will be 4 deaneries, in the Bradford Episcopal Area and we have been granted our request to be included in the Outer Bradford Deanery with St. James's, Thornton, and St. Peter's, Allerton. The Diocesan office at Steeton has now been closed and staff transferred to the new offices in York Place in Leeds.

We have submitted our figures for the working out of each parish's Share according to a new system adopted by the new Diocese. We hope it will more accurately reflect our ability to pay.

A grant of £5,000 has been received from the Garfield Weston Foundation towards the cost of an extra heater in church, replacement heaters in the vestries and chapel, replacement low-energy LED lighting tubes in church and extra electric sockets. We are so grateful for these grants which enable us to update and maintain our building, which we would struggle to do on our own. We hope we can have the work completed by the winter and we should—at last—have a warm church!

As Kaaren comes to the end of her term of office as Churchwarden, we

are working towards the handover of duties to Grace Studholme.
Hilary Davis, PCC Secretary

Laid to Rest

Sharon Bower

9th September 2016

Holy Baptism

Phoebe Alison Patricia Sergeant

11th September 2016

October Roll of Remembrance

1st	George Singleton	(1945)
	Albert Edward Nichols	(1967)
2nd	Ethel Butterfield	(1979)
	Bernard John Lowde	(2003)
3rd	Ethel Rhodes	(1981)
4th	Ivy Sollis	(2001)
5th	Francis Garbutt	(1978)
	Arthur Marlow	(1942)
8th	Lucy Alice Holdsworth	(1973)
9th	Tommy Smith	(1981)
10th	Ronald Brown	(1990)
12th	Dorothy M. Larking	(1974)
13th	Doris Hester	(1984)
14th	Betty Presland	(2000)
	Josephine Lowde	(2003)
16th	William Preston	(1980)
20th	Sidney Holgate	(1980)
21st	Alice Hartley	(1979)
26th	Ida Emsley	(1987)
28th	Win Brooksbank	(1999)
31st	Arthur Chilvers	(1982)

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