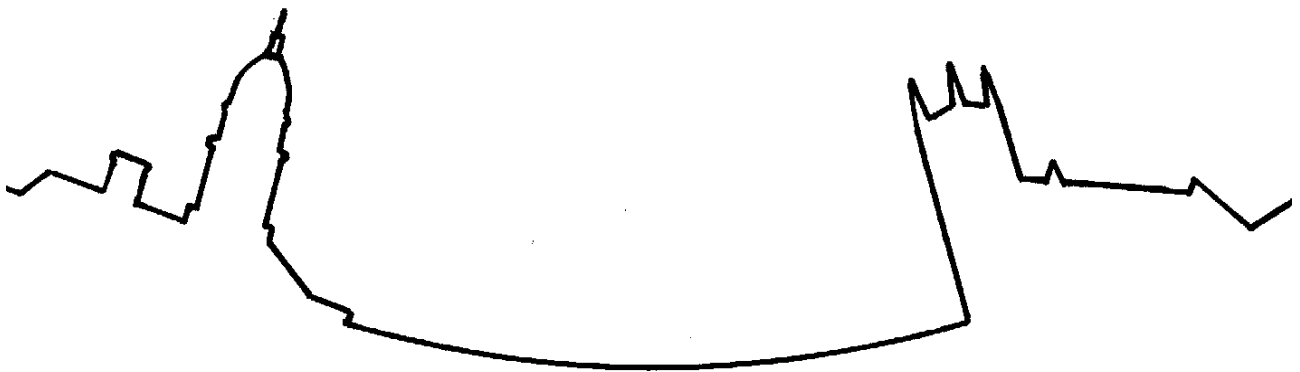
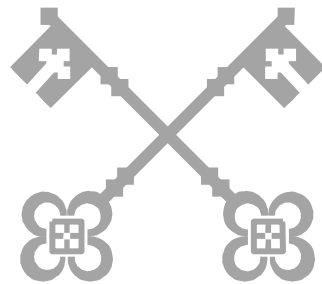


Christians Together in Bolton Town Centre

BOLTON PARISH CHURCH

St Peter, Bolton-le-Moors

Parish News
April 2010



Anglican Witness in the Heart of Bolton

50 pence

Dear Friends,

Happy Easter to you all! Christ is risen indeed!

What a joy it is to celebrate again the good news that what must have seemed a totally catastrophic event - the death of Jesus, the rabbi and teacher from Nazareth; instigated by the religious leaders of his own people and carried out by the occupying forces - ended rather differently than expected.

What looked like the end of the road for Jesus and his followers was actually the moment when new possibilities were opened up for them and for all who would follow - new possibilities of an intimate relationship with a loving God that began with the discovery of an empty tomb that first Easter morning.

Our own town has also faced a potentially catastrophic event over the past month, perhaps appropriately on the day before the Christian community began its annual observance of 'Passiontide' - the time when we particularly remember the pain and suffering that Jesus deliberately chose to undergo in order to win our freedom from all that would keep us from God.

The English Defence League assembly on Victoria Square on Saturday 20 March, with its attendant opposition, threatened to destabilise the good relationships that exist between communities of faith and all those who work for a better Bolton.

But wise leadership and effective strategic planning, along with the goodwill of the majority, has ensured that Bolton has actually gone from strength to strength rather than been diminished in any way through what happened on that day.

It was a privilege to stand in that same space a fortnight later on the Saturday before Easter and mark the celebration of Easter alongside civic leaders and representatives of the Christian, Hindu and Muslim communities in Bolton, and Bolton Interfaith Council, to proclaim to all that this is in fact 'One Bolton'.

During the week leading up to 20 March the 'One Bolton' pledge was signed by representatives of all the three main political parties, the Council's senior officers, faith community leaders and the entire Bolton Wanderers squad.

And ordinary citizens have been signing too - to date over 1,000 on the pledge website, with even more choosing to return the printed cards. The pledge states:

"We celebrate the diversity of Bolton and unite to create One Bolton, recognising differences, celebrating communities and commit to encouraging harmony."

Although we all have our own particular political leanings and cherished beliefs, in this season of celebration, when we rejoice together in God's willingness to give us a new beginning and the opportunity to turn our lives around for the better, perhaps embracing those same opportunities for our own community is an appropriate response.

If you feel that becoming a 'One Bolton' signatory is something that you could do, then the pledge website can be found at:

<http://www.bolton.gov.uk/website/Documents/OneBolton/pledge.html>

Pledge cards are still available in church for anyone who would like to use one.

With my love and prayers

Judie Horrocks

News from the Social Committee

There are a variety of events happening over the next couple of months organised by the Social Committee.

- The next event will be a coffee morning on Saturday the 17 April in the Upper Hall of the Parish Church Hall from 10am till 2pm, with some lunch time refreshments also available, to raise funds for "Passion for Bolton".

"Passion for Bolton" has been set up to organise a Passion play in Bolton on 23 April 2011 which will take place in the Town Hall Square.

"Passion for Bolton" not only looking for help with fundraising but also for volunteers who will be able to help before, during and after the event.

At the coffee morning itself we will be showing a promotional DVD, have volunteer packs available for any willing volunteers and will be taking pledges of both time and talents!

Come and support us in what is going to be an exciting morning, with the usual fantastic coffee morning features. It's sure to be a super day.

Tickets for the coffee morning will be on sale before the event at a cost of £1.50 and a free raffle ticket on arrival is included in the cost of the ticket.

- On Saturday the 17th July Bolton Parish Church Choir will be travelling up to Carlisle for the day and singing Choral Evensong with at the Cathedral at 5.30pm in the evening.

A coach will be arranged and members of the congregation would be most welcome to join the choir on this exciting day out!

Prices and details are still to be arranged if you would be interested in this day out please speak to any member of the social committee who would be happy to answer your questions.

If you have any suggestions for events please don't hesitate to speak to a member of the Social Committee, all ideas and thoughts are gratefully received!

Watch this space for details of further social committee events....BBQ, Quiz Night and Christmas Party!

*Victoria Davis
on behalf of the Social Committee*

Wanted

Members of
the Bolton Parish Church family
willing to be interviewed by
the Associate Vicar
for a series of profiles
in Parish News:

"What do you do when it's not Sunday?"

How long have you been part of
Bolton Parish Church?
What does worshipping here
mean to you?
How does it connect
with the rest of your life?

You will have a chance to see
and discuss your 'profile'
before it's published.

Contact Judie on 01204 522226
or 01204 794477
or e-mail her at
lecturer@boltonparishchurch.co.uk
by the end of April.

Series begins May 2010.

The View from My Wheelchair

Easter can be a somewhat difficult subject to write about, as the spiritual discipline that surrounds it means different things to different people. For me, it is the whole picture that matters, starting in Holy Week with the series of steps that ultimately end in the celebration of the risen Christ on Easter Sunday.

The variety of Holy Week services that are provided by local churches in any given area can focus people's minds on the different ways that this week is celebrated and give a refreshing insight into this time in the Christian calendar. There are, of course, those who appreciate familiar patterns and also those who like to experiment. But I do not see that it matters, so long as at the end of the week we have all been helped to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the resurrection.

I have celebrated Easter in many different places here in England, and in many different ways, but the three that left lasting impressions are the ones I wish to share with you here.

The first was with a group of nuns down in Essex for whom the risen Christ was seen as providing new life and new steps on their spiritual journey. So new projects were always begun after Easter. Besides the important spiritual side to Easter, it was also a good break for many of them, as they were involved in teaching in both primary schools and at a boarding school, and the Easter break was a chance to reflect, unwind and then, after Easter, plan for the new term ahead. (They have now added work in prisons, university chaplaincy and work within poor local council communities to their projects, besides helping individuals on their Christian paths.)

The second was at a community of brothers in Cambridgeshire who ran youth retreats. They did all the usual Holy Week and Easter services but involved the young people so that the Easter story meant much more to each of them. They are currently teaching new brothers what Easter means to those whom they will one day guide once they become priests, and also to look at what the Easter journey means for each of them.

The last one was a visit I made to the shrine at Walsingham in Norfolk where we took a

group of older young people for a long weekend. In the garden surrounding one of the churches, there were Stations of the Cross which we followed, and an replica of the tomb that you could enter and imagine just what it must have been like to find it empty.

As I celebrate this Easter these memories combine to help me reflect on its meaning and also what it means for my Christian journey.

As I write, my hope and prayer is that every one reading this will find something from the events and experiences of Holy Week and Easter to focus on and enhance your spiritual journey.

May your Easter be a deeply Christian one.

Lynn Marsden

William Hunt

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29 - 31 Churchgate, BOLTON BL1 1
Tel : 01204 - 524834 Fax: 01204 - 371682

Donations urgently required for VISION AID, the Bolton based charity for blind and partially sighted babies and children. This is the charity we support. Contact Lesley Green 01204 64265.

Around town...

The Art of Growing Older arts and media exhibition is a display of the creativity to local older people over the age of fifty from North-east Bolton.

It is on show at the Neoartists Gallery, First Floor, Market Place, Bolton from Thursday 18 March to Sunday 11 April.

I don't know when the Neoartists group was first formed, but it is a non-profit making organisation offering opportunities for people to express their creative abilities in the form of painting, collage, writing, poetry and photography.

More local arts-related activities for older people are being planned for local areas during the next year.

More information from:

A Better Bolton for Older People
Adult and Community Services Dept.
Freepost BL302
Bolton
BL1 1YZ

(See the poem from the exhibition in the next column.)

Freda Rothwell

'The Wheels of Life'

The wheels of life go round and round,
some brightness and some shade,
God gave us choice to make the most of
our talents, use them or lose them.

Also remember -

Whether old or young, we are all important
and need to be loved.

by M.R. of Harwood Writers

(By kind permission of Neoartists)

From Parish Records -

March 2010

Baptisms:

21 March Alfie Jones

Funerals:

4 March John Anthony Rossi

26 March Mabel Diggle

**Bolton Parish Church
Lunchtime Concerts**

2010 Season



Tuesdays from 1.15 pm to 1.50 pm

*Admission free
Tea and coffee served*

April 13th
BEN SMITH (Bolton School) – Piano

April 20th
STUDENTS FROM THE JUNIOR ROYAL
NORTHERN COLLEGE OF MUSIC

April 27th
NIGEL SPOONER (Longridge Parish Church)
– Organ

May 4th
BOLTON SCHOOL JOINT CHAMBER CHOIR
directed by Alistair MacKenzie

May 11th
BOLTON SCHOOL SENIOR AND ADVANCED
GUITAR GROUPS
directed by Jeremy Bleasdale

May 18th
BEN SMITH (Bolton School) – Piano
(Bach – Goldberg Variations)

May 25th
HELEN ANNE GREGORY – Mezzo-soprano

June 1st
DAVID WYNNE – Baritone

June 8th
ADRIAN VAN DER SCHANS
(Haslingden Parish Church) – Organ

June 15th
LINDA CARRINGTON (Lytham St. Anne's) –
Organ

June 22nd
PAUL GREENHALGH— Piano
(Mozart and Albeniz)

June 29th
STUDENTS FROM THE JUNIOR ROYAL
NORTHERN COLLEGE OF MUSIC

July 6th
"CHAMPAIN" – Sacred and secular trios
(Byrd, Weelkes, Henry VIII)

July 13th
GARY HULME (Oldham) – Organ

July 20th
STEPHEN MARTLAND
(St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe) – Organ

July 27th
MICHAEL PAIN
(Bolton Parish Church) – Organ

**Bolton Parish Church
Organ Recitals 2010**

Wednesday 5th May at 7.30 pm
PETER MORRISON
(St. Mary's, Chorley)
Admission £5, Concessions £3

Wednesday 9th June at 7.30 pm
DAVID BRINDLE
(Preston)
Admission £5, Concessions £3

Wednesday 8th September at 7.30 pm
PHILIP RUSHFORTH
(Chester Cathedral)
Admission £7, Concessions £4

'Run the Race'

'Run the Race' is the name for Bishop of Manchester's pilgrimage to all parishes in the diocese. It began in May 2006 with his first visit to St Clements, Chorlton and St Mary, Davyhulme.

Under the banner 'Run the Race, Look to Jesus', Bishop Nigel set out to encourage every parish to pass on the baton of faith to the next generation. His aim is to pray in each place and encourage congregations in their faith, discipleship and mission.

On Tuesday 29 June, he will make his pilgrimage visit to Bolton Parish Church. We will be sharing the event with the people of St. Philip's, and with our two primary schools - Bishop Bridgeman School and Bolton Parish School.

The event will include a reception for community representatives and a service in Church at 7.00 pm. Please book the date in your diary and watch out for further details.

Gift aid (again!)

The new financial year has just begun, and what better time to make a resolution to ensure that St. Peter's gets maximum benefit from every pound you give.

The Bolton Parish Church bank account number is 11816952 and the sort code is 16-00-06.

Why am I telling you this? So that you can set up a standing order! You now have all the information you need to arrange a standing order with your bank on-line, by phone or in the branch. Then fill in a gift aid form and the job's done.

Isn't it annoying when there isn't a pen in the pew to fill in the details on a pink envelope?

The solution: a set of envelopes of your own

- You don't have to use them all;
- You don't have to put the same amount of money in each time;
- No-one other than the treasurer will know how much you choose to give.

Again, gift aid is the final piece of the jigsaw. Gift aid adds 28% to the value of your gift, without costing you any more or adding any paperwork beyond the initial declaration.

Anyone who pays tax really should be gift-aiding all charitable donations – I can't think of any good reason not to.

Thank you.

Evelyn Weston

Reuben Kyte

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BOLTON PARISH CHURCH

PARISH STAFF

Telephone

Vicar:	Revd Matt Thompson	01204 522226
Lecturer:	Revd Judie Horrocks	01204 522226
Associate Priest:	Revd Prof. Kenneth Newport	
Reader Emeritus:	Mr David Bevis	
Church Wardens:	Mr David Morlidge Miss Evelyn F Weston	
Deputy Wardens:	Mr Graham C Burrows Dr Michael Collier Mr John Doyle Mr Alan Forrester Mr Ken G Jones Mr Andrew Mitchell Mr John Walsh Mr Trevor J Whillas	
PCC Secretary:	Mr Graham C Burrows	
Treasurer:	Mr Andrew J Mitchell	
Director of Music:	Mr Michael Pain	
Verger	Mrs Jean Tofalos	
Parish Administrator:	Mr Stephen J Mort	01204 522226
PARISH CHURCH SCHOOLS:	Bolton Parish Church Primary School Kestor Street BL2 2AN Head Teacher: Mrs Jackie Bunyan	01204 333433
	Bishop Bridgeman Primary School Rupert Street BL3 6PY Head Teacher: Miss Jill Bingham	01204 333466
	Canon Slade School Bradshaw Brow BL2 3BP Head Teacher: Mr Phil Williamson	01204 333343

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
10.30 a.m.	Parish Communion
6.30 p.m.	Evening Prayer
Tuesday 12:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Wednesday 12.30 p.m.	Healing & Wholeness
Thursday 12.00 p.m.	Holy Communion

Other Holy Days - Holy Communion as announced

For Baptisms and Weddings please contact the Parish Administrator on 01204 522226.

For funerals please contact the Vicar on 01204 522226.

Church is open from Tuesday to Saturday between 10.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. for private prayer and visitors