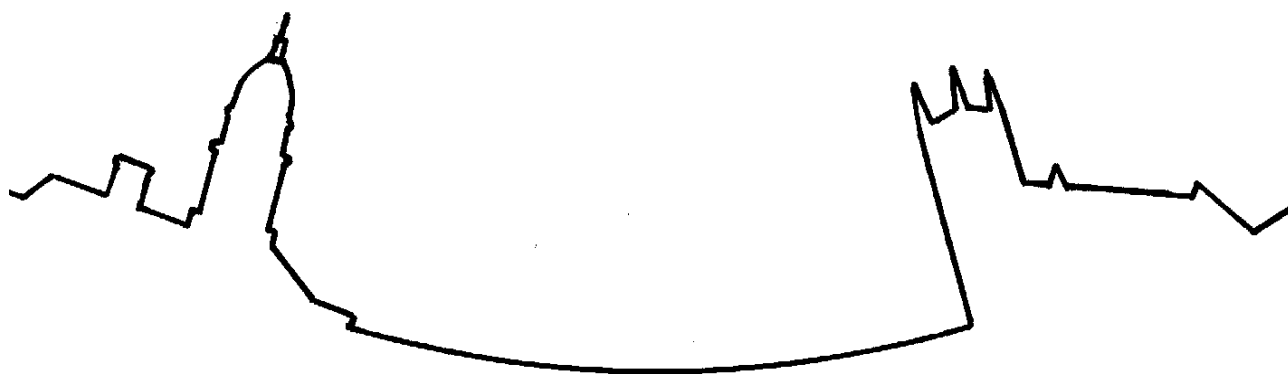
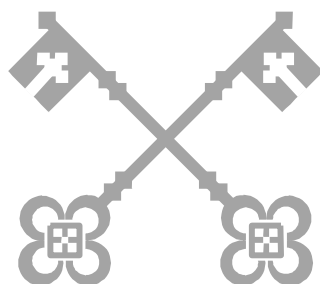


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Parish News
February 2010



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Dear Friends,

*In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone
Snow was falling, snow on snow, snow on snow
In the bleak mid-winter long ago.*

Given the unrelenting cold of December and January, it seems hard to believe that February will bring a new season in the Church's year, as we begin the countdown to Lent and beyond it Easter.

Candlemas brings an end to the season of Christmas and Epiphany - our celebration of God's unexpected gift of love wrapped in such humble beginnings - and paves the way for what we once knew as Quinquagesima and Sexagesima (amazingly, my computer spell-checker still copes with those terms!), now the Second and First Sundays before Lent.

This year Ash Wednesday falls on 17 February, and we will mark it together with a celebration of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes at 12:30pm and a Choral Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes at 7:30pm. The Rt. Revd Chris Edmondson, Bishop of Bolton, will join us at the evening Eucharist to offer prayers for people he has met on Bury Market that morning.

Lent itself is a season of preparation for the annual re-enactment of the great drama of Holy Week and Easter, and a time for critical examination of our own Christian discipleship. Both these strands come together in the tradition of Lenten abstinence, which is itself rooted in the ancient pattern of preparation through prayer and fasting for those who were to be baptised on Easter Sunday.

Judy Pain writes elsewhere in the magazine about Shrove Tuesday traditions and reminds us that originally pancakes were merely a convenient way of using up the rich ingredients that were going to be given up for Lent. No doubt people will ask you what you're going to give up this year.

I have, for many years now, made a point of 'taking up' rather than 'giving up' something for Lent - in part, no doubt, because I am contrary by nature but also because I believe that this kind of self-discipline can be effective too. I have, over the years, read a particular book, explored new ways of praying, spent extra time working with the children in our parish school, and even invested more time and energy in my relationships with my often neglected family and friends.

But within each of those choices I can now see at least an element of selfishness. Either the outcome was of direct benefit to me or the action itself was something that I actually already enjoyed doing and of which I was happy to do more. Aside from having to fit something more into an already busy life, there was no sense of sacrifice in what I was doing.

Sacrifice is, ultimately, the underlying theme of the road that took Jesus from Bethlehem to Calvary. The last words of the Gospel reading for Candlemas tell us that: 'The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.' From those beginnings, Jesus moved constantly onward toward the moment in the Garden of Gethsemane when he cried out in prayer, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.'

Jesus' whole life had been a journey toward the moment of sacrifice when he would give up his life so that we might live in the knowledge of God's love.

I still haven't decided what I will give up for Lent this year, but I promise you that it will be 'giving up' and that I will make sure that I 'feel the pinch'. And given the desperate need of so many in our world I'm also going to make sure that whatever financial benefit I get from 'giving up' will benefit someone else rather than line my own pocket.

So why not join me for a 'back-to-basics', sacrificial Lent this year and make an impact on our own lives with God, and on the life of the world?

With my love and prayers,
Judie Horrocks

EDITORIAL UPDATE:
I've decided that I'm going to give up TV for Lent!
Forty days without 'Neighbours' or 'Silent Witness'...!

From Lilian Rigby

The 3rd December 2009

I would like to share with all who read this Parish News an afternoon of pure joy I spent at Bishop Bridgeman School on Thursday 3rd December 2009.

Some of you may know that after over twenty years as a governor of Bishop Bridgeman School working along side four different head teachers, and in the early days with Mr Ted Iddon (Leslie's father), who was School Correspondent, I had decided to retire. I reached this decision reluctantly because the School had become an important part of my life, giving me much happiness and fulfilment as part of a vibrant and changing community.

On that dark, rainy afternoon in early December arriving for my final meeting with my friends, the small group of governors which formed the management committee, I felt a little gloomy. The gloom however, was soon dispelled.

As I crossed the threshold into the School, I sensed something was amiss. It was 3.30 and most of the children had gone home but the staff and the small group of governors were assembled in one of the classrooms – for a party. Yes, a party with wine and canapés – and as if that were not enough, there were flowers and a present to follow! Could you blame me for feeling ecstatic?

The members of Bolton Parish Church have every reason to be proud of the "orphan" school they took under their wing to be like a sister school to Bolton Parish Church Primary School. Bishop Bridgeman School is a very different place from the one I first knew.

It is now a school of many faiths and many nationalities. It has embarked on an ambitious building programme to enlarge the premises to accommodate the increasing intake. Phase one is almost complete. To make the School even larger, phase two will soon follow.

I admire the courage and dedication of the governing body and the staff under the leadership of our vicar, the chair of Governors.

All face the many challenges with confidence and enthusiasm, firm in maintaining the Christian Tradition which is the bedrock of education at Bishop Bridgeman.

I hope that you all will always keep Bishop Bridgeman in your hearts and minds as I indeed shall do.

So from a governor for over twenty years, and now friend of Bishop Bridgeman for time unlimited,

Lilian Rigby

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Pancakes and Shrove Tuesday Traditions

*Mix a pancake, Stir a pancake, Pop it in the pan.
Fry the pancake, Toss the pancake, Catch it if you can.*

Christina Rossetti

Shrove Tuesday was historically an opportunity for people to clear their larders of 'luxury' foods such as milk and eggs in preparation for Lent, and pancakes were the perfect solution.

Pancakes can be quite difficult to get right. Apart from horror stories about pancake tossing, there is also the danger of an undercooked pancake or one that is too thick. A perfect pancake needs perfect batter, which should be of a thin consistency – the trick is to use a mixture of both milk and water. It should be no thicker than single cream; otherwise the pancakes will be heavy.

(Makes approximately 8)

125 g flour	120 ml water
pinch of salt	2 large eggs
50 g melted unsalted butter	120 ml milk

If you are a neurotic like me, take those two horrible 'twiddly' bits out of the eggs. Sift the flour into a bowl and make a well in the middle. Break in the egg and add a pinch of salt and a splash of the milk/water. Mix in the eggs, gradually incorporating the flour, to make a smooth cream. Beat in the rest of the fluid and a little melted butter. If you allow the mixture to sit for half an hour or longer, you will achieve a lighter result.

Heat a non-stick frying pan (preferably with sloping sides) and add a knob of butter. Don't overload the pan – swirl some mixture around the pan and as soon as it is coated tip any unset mixture back into the bowl. Cook until golden on the underside. To turn the pancake, loosen it with a palette knife or wooden spatula and flip it over. Or toss the pancake. It's easier than you think – a quick jerk with the wrist is all that's needed.

The first pancake doesn't usually work. Any subsequent failures may be the result of the pan not being hot enough or the batter mix being of the wrong consistency. If you are making pancakes in batches, stack them between layers of greaseproof paper and keep them warm on a plate over a pan of gently simmering water.

To serve, it's hard to beat lemon juice and sugar - a perfect combination of tart and sweet.

Other ideas:

Sprinkle the pancakes with sugar mixed with spices - cinnamon, vanilla or cardamom, for example. Try experimenting with orange juice, sugar and Cointreau. Or if you have any bottles of fruit in liqueur, add some with a dollop of cream. Melt good-quality dark chocolate. Thin it with a little cream and add a dash of cognac. Children will appreciate golden syrup and cream or Nutella with crushed hazelnuts.

From the U.S. – Gingerbread Pancakes

Ingredients:

3 eggs	50 g brown sugar
130 ml buttermilk (<i>Main supermarkets have it. Or use plain yoghurt</i>)	
130 ml water	70 ml coffee (made)
280 g flour	4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
½ teaspoon baking powder	1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
1 teaspoon ground cloves	1 tablespoon cinnamon
1 tablespoon ginger	1 tablespoon nutmeg

Cream the eggs and sugar together. Stir in the buttermilk, water, and coffee and set aside. Sift together the remaining dry ingredients. Stir the egg mixture into the dry ingredients and mix in the melted butter. Add more water or buttermilk if necessary, but aim for a thick batter.

Cook on a lightly oiled pan (turn once when bubbles appear on upper side and start to break). These pancakes will be thick and cake-like in texture. Makes 8 to 10 five-inch pancakes. I haven't tried this yet, but am going to! I converted the 'cup' measurements to millilitres and grams (correctly, I hope).

Shrove Tuesday Traditions

Pancake processions were a frequent sight in towns and villages, with the participants demanding gifts of food from those better-off. In many areas, processional rhymes have been handed down.

From Somerset:

Tippety-Tippety-tin;
Give me a pancake and I'll come in.
Tippety-tippety-toe,
Give me a pancake and then I'll go.

From Wiltshire:

A-shrovin', a-shrovin',
Here I come a-shrovin',
a piece of bread, a piece of cheese,
A bit of your fat bacon,
Or a dish of doughnuts,
All of your own makin'!

Pancake races are held in many places in England. One of the most famous pancake races, at Olney in Buckinghamshire, has been held since 1445. According to tradition, an Olney woman was so engrossed in her pancake-making that when she heard the shriving bell, she ran to church in her apron, still clutching her frying pan.

Many towns throughout England held traditional Shrove Tuesday football (mob football) games dating as far back as the 12th century. A number of towns have maintained the tradition. These include Alnwick in Northumberland, Ashbourne in Derbyshire (the Royal Shrovetide Football Match) and Sedgefield (the Ball Game) in County Durham. At Poole in Dorset a ball is kicked along the road from one point to another in order to maintain an ancient right of way. In some areas the pancake bell still rings to announce the beginning of pancake races, football games and other activities.

On Shrove Tuesday, Scarborough's South Foreshore is crowded with people for the skipping festival. Shrove Tuesday 'Ball Day' events began there in 1853. Towards the end of the 19th century the South Foreshore on Shrove Tuesday was like a fairground. Stalls were arranged on the sea front offering gingerbread, liquorice, coconuts, and similar delicacies. A contemporary account relates that *'Baskets and balls of various qualities and colours were prominent and battledores and shuttlecocks were bought even by men and women. On this day grown-ups can skip and play without being thought childish'*. A report in 1903 carried a description of 'a few bairns skipping near the lifeboat' and this gave birth to the Scarborough Skipping Festival.

Another local tradition, the Pancake Greaze, takes place every year at Westminster School in London. A pancake, reinforced with horsehair, is prepared in advance and on Shrove Tuesday the cook tosses it over a high bar in the school hall. In a mad scramble, the boys fight for it, and the one holding the largest piece (by weight) wins a gold sovereign (which is promptly taken back for use next year). In days gone by, a cook who failed to get the 'pancake' over the bar would have been "booked" (pelted with Latin primers!).

Finally, in the part of Yorkshire where I grew up, there was a tradition of making snow pancakes if there was snow on the ground on Shrove Tuesday. Immediately before cooking, a tablespoonful of snow was stirred in. The idea was to fry it really quickly so that the batter set before the snow had melted, leaving holes in the pancake. If you have roaming tom cats in the vicinity, this one is best avoided!

THE ORGAN (AGAIN!)

By the time you read this Geoffrey Coffin of Principal Pipe Organs should have been to Bolton (weather permitting!) to make some final adjustments to the organ.

These involve:

- (1) moving the plug-in points in the pit below the organ console so that they are out of sight, and less susceptible to accidental damage;
- (2) revising the blower switch at the console, so that it incorporates a warning light (fortunately no-one has so far left the blower running, but this is an additional precaution!);
- (3) adjusting the slides for three stops which have been particularly affected by changes in humidity and have (frustratingly) stuck either on or off from time to time.

All these are relatively simple jobs, though the third item is quite time-consuming, as it will mean removing large numbers of pipes, and then checking the tuning once they are put back.

A slightly bigger change involves the stop controls for the Harmonic Trumpet stops so that they can be played separately from both the Choir and Great manuals rather than by the present system using a "transfer stop".

This is a return to the way these stops were controlled before the rebuild. Our appointed adviser felt that because of the three additional stops on the Choir, there was no longer room for these stops on the Choir "jamb". The organ-builders agreed with us that they *could* and should be accommodated there: the two extra draw-stops and the necessary micro-chip have in fact been stored in the organ since November.

The organ therefore will now have two additional speaking stops (making a total of fifty-five), though no additional pipes are involved! (There were fifty-two speaking stops before the rebuild.)

The Incorporated Association of Organists hold an annual Organ Day in London. This year it is on 6th March at the church of St Anne, Limehouse, in the East End of London, a fine classical-style building designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor in 1714.

There was a fire in 1850, and after rebuilding, an organ was commissioned from Gray & Davison and installed in 1852 - the same year that they provided a new organ for Bolton Parish Church. Furthermore, the specification of the Limehouse and Bolton organs were almost identical (ours was just two stops larger).

There are however, three major differences between the two instruments.

- At Bolton, Gray & Davison incorporated a large proportion of the pipes from the previous organ by Samuel Green (1795), whereas the Limehouse organ was entirely new (though it had first appeared at the Great Exhibition of 1851, winning a prize medal for the firm).

- Secondly, the acoustic of the building plays a large part in the effectiveness of any organ, and St Anne's has a much more generous acoustic than the old Parish Church of Bolton (the organ is also in a more open position than our present organ).

- And thirdly, the organ at St Anne's Limehouse remains virtually unaltered, whereas the Gray & Davison organ here was replaced by a new organ by William Hill & Sons in 1882 (though incorporating much of the Samuel Green and Gray & Davison pipe-work).

Furthermore, our organ was substantially rebuilt in 1953 and had more alterations in the 1970s.

Nevertheless, it will be interesting to hear what the Limehouse organ sounds like after its recent historic restoration. "Historic restoration" was not possible in our case because of the major changes in 1953 and the seventies, but perhaps this is just as well.

Historic restoration does tend to restrict the repertoire of pieces that can be played on an instrument. (This applies to other instruments, too: one cannot play Chopin, Schumann and Brahms - let alone later composers - on a piano of Mozart's time!)

Historic restoration can also be very expensive: quite near to Limehouse is Christ Church, Spitalfields, which contains a much older organ by Richard Bridge dating from 1731. It is now to be restored at an unrevealed cost - though figures in the region of £1,000,000 have been mentioned, and it is much smaller than our organ!

Geoffrey Dowling

Social Committee

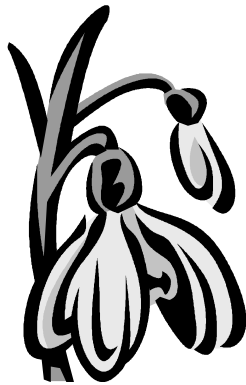
On **Saturday 27th February** at **7:00pm** there will be a **Parish Games Night**.

The cost is £2.50 per person with children free and supper included.

Again, an opportunity to have some fun with friends—do bring some with you.

If anyone has any ideas for future events, e.g. coach trips, away day to the seaside, please let a member of the Committee know.

David Morlidge



Snowdrops

Those small Winter wonders,
little white snowdrops,
Silently, valiantly they appear,
coming forth from deadened earth,
To cheer the Winter drear –
symbols of new life and hope.

Stalwart crocuses surprise us,
by an early flowering show,
Suddenly daffodils surround us,
bathed in sunshine yellow glow.

But there's nothing quite like
snowdrops,
on a bitter Winter's morn,
Proof beyond all doubt,
that our land shall be re-born.

Freda Rothwell

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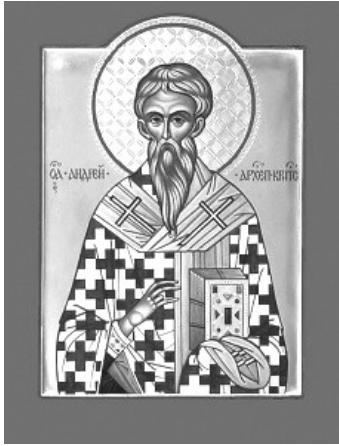
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My favourite Lent hymn

Why do our favourite hymns or verses of hymns get axed from modern editions? I note with great disappointment and annoyance that my favourite Lent hymn, *Christian, Dost Thou See Them?*, has also fallen victim to modernising trends within the Church of England.

Three men – one hymn

There are three names associated with this hymn.



The first of these is Andrew of Crete (born in Damascus 660), who is accredited with authorship of the Greek words. Andrew became one of the monks at Mar Saba, a rocky monastery in the wilderness of Judea, where many Christians sought solitude and refuge. It was here that Andrew is said to have written the words to *Christian, Dost Thou See Them?*. Andrew, later served at the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, and was sometimes referred to as Andrew of Jerusalem. He was also a hymnographer and writer of homilies. In 692, he became Archbishop of Gortyna on the island of Crete. Andrew of Crete died around 732. The burning question is, was it really he who wrote the words of my favourite Lent hymn?

The second name is John Mason Neale (born in 1818), who penned the English words. The name might not be familiar to everyone, but his translations of Latin, Greek and Eastern hymns certainly are – *O Come, O Come Emmanuel, All Glory, Laud and Honour, The Day of Resurrection, Blessed City, Heavenly Salem, Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence, Light's Abode, Celestial Salem*, to name a few. Neale studied at Cambridge, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1842. He was offered a parish, but chronic ill health, which was to continue throughout his life, prevented him from taking it. In 1846 he was made warden of Sackville College, a position he held for the rest of his life. Sackville College was an almshouse and charitable residence for the poor.



Neale claims a Greek original for the hymn. Where is it?



Prolific composer in the English hymn tradition

John Bacchus Dykes was born in Hull on 10 March 1823, five years after Neale's birth. By the age of 10, he was assistant organist at St. John's Church in Hull, where his grandfather was vicar. He studied at Wakefield and St. Catherine's Hall in Cambridge. He was Precentor of Durham cathedral from 1849 until 1862, when he became Vicar of St. Oswald's. Dykes is best known for composing over 300 hymn tunes, some of the most well-known being Nicaea (*Holy, Holy, Holy!*), Melita (*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*), Gerontius (*Praise to the Holiest in the Height*), Dominus Regit Me (*The King of Love My Shepherd is*) and Rivaux (*Father of Heaven, whose Love Profound*). In addition to composing, he played the organ, piano, violin, and horn. Dykes died on 22 January 1876, and is buried at St. Oswald's in Durham.

I am pretty sure no-one would dream of placing the tune St Andrew of Crete in the Dykes Top Ten. It has been described as having obsessive monotony, while a certain Richard Dawkins has described it as being in a grim minor key. How can he have missed the switch to the brilliance of C major half-way through each verse? In my opinion, the tune fits the words perfectly. The temptation, danger and toil of the first half of each verse are replaced by the promise of victory, peace and freedom from sorrow.

The drama of the text

This hymn first appeared in Neale's *Hymns of the Eastern Church* (1862) and was published in his *Parish Hymn Book* (1863), where he described it as a translation of a Greek hymn by St Andrew of Crete. However, no Greek original has ever been found. Many scholars now believe the text was purely the work of Neale, but I have often wondered why he would ascribe authorship to Andrew of Crete. Was it that he felt safer with 'translated by' above his name? Was he so interested in ancient hymns that he invented his own text's authorship? Or did he actually see the Greek original, only to lose it? However, as no-one else appears to have lost much sleep over this, I shall confine my tossing and turning to matters such as terrifying tax bills.

This is one of the few hymns which take the form of a dialogue. The effect is dramatic, and the singer (or reader) is engaged throughout. The verses depict the struggle of flesh against spirit, and of tempter against victim. The last verse must have given countless individuals courage and comfort in times of sorrow, and the strength to stick to their Lenten commitments. No further commentary is needed – you read it and you know!

Christian! Dost thou see them on the holy ground,
How the troops of Midian prowl and prowl around?
Christian! Up and smite them, counting gain but loss:
Smite them by the merit of the Holy Cross!

Christian! Dost thou feel them, how they work within,
Striving, tempting, luring, goading into sin?
Christian! Never tremble! never be downcast!
Smite them by the virtue of the Lenten Fast!

Christian! Dost thou hear them, how they speak thee fair?
"Always fast and vigil? Always watch and prayer?"
Christian! Answer boldly: "While I breathe, I pray:"
Peace shall follow battle, night shall end in day.

"Well I know thy trouble, O my servant true;
Thou art very weary,- I was weary too:
But that toil shall make thee, Some day, all Mine own:
And the end of sorrow shall be near My Throne."

Common Praise contains just five hymns in its Lent section. Of these, only *Forty Days and Forty Nights* has a direct link with Lent. There is apparently no place for a hymn that is one of the most effective aids for getting us through Lent.

Judy Pain

Editorial Comment:

Judy's observations about the demise of certain hymns may reflect changing theological understanding as much as attempts to be relevant in today's society. Having said that, the words of the first verse neatly illustrate both issues.



A NEGLECTED FEAST DAY

"Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen" - or so the carol says. Churches dedicated to St Stephen must find it very difficult to celebrate their patronal festival on December 26th.

Having been brought up in a parish dedicated to St John the Evangelist, whose Feast Day is December 27th, I know that we hardly ever marked our Patronal Festival. Of course, because of his status as the first Christian martyr, one can see why the early fathers of the church must have thought it appropriate to commemorate Stephen immediately after Christmas Day.

When I worked for Manchester Music Service, one of the Music Centres advertised a concert by our Youth Wind Band to be held at Holy Innocence church! (This sounds a bit like the kind of dedication one might expect in the United States, such as the Church of the Heavenly Rest, Gethsemane Cathedral, and so on - both examples are Anglican churches, by the way!)

The Music Centre secretary claimed she was a member of the Church of England, but clearly was not familiar with the Prayer Book calendar! Holy Innocents Day falls on December 28th, and like St Stephen and St John the Evangelist, tends to be forgotten, or neglected altogether.

Who were the Holy Innocents? Judie touched on this briefly during her Epiphany sermon on January 3rd: the story of the Wise Men or Magi is well-known. They sought advice from King Herod, but after finding the Christ-child, they were "warned by God in a dream, and returned to their own country by another route", without reporting back to Herod.

Herod's eventual reaction was to massacre all male children under the age of two, or as another carol puts it: "all the little boys he killed at Bethlehem in his fury". *These* are the Holy Innocents we remember on December 28th, but perhaps we should add to them all other murdered children, and young people who have been forced into slavery or have otherwise suffered for political reasons.

Now a question or two for our younger readers.

King Wenceslas of Bohemia was eventually canonised: can you find when St Wenceslas' Day falls?

The poor man in the carol (or "yonder peasant") lived "right against the forest fence, by St Agnes fountain": who was St Agnes, and when is her Feast day?

Answers next month!

Geoffrey Dowling

From Parish Records -

January 2010

Baptisms:

4 January
Dion Gladys Taylor
Daley Taylor
Hudson Nicholas Hamer

17 January
Abigail Morgan Smethurst

Funerals:

14 January Ivan Davies
20 January Norman Fort
29 January Alan Openshaw

**"In his master's steps he trod
Where the snow lay dinted
Heat was in the very sod
Which the Saint had printed
Therefore, Christian all, be sure
Wealth or rank possessing
Ye who now will bless the poor
Shall yourselves find blessing"**

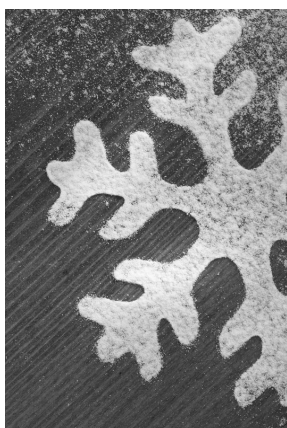
Words by John Mason Neale, 1853

“Take time to dream –

it is hitching your wagon to the star.
Take time to love and be loved –
it is the privilege of the gods.
Take time to look around –
it is too short a day to be closed in.
Take time to laugh –
it is the music of the soul.”

OLD ENGLISH PRAYER

(Words given to Freda Rothwell by Enid Sutcliffe, a member of the Thursday congregation at Bolton Parish Church.)



YOUR HAPPY TAX COLLECTOR

I am your TAX COLLECTOR
And this year I’ve made a mint
The Government’s very pleased with me
Though the population’s skint.

I send you lots of letters
You know, the warm and friendly sort
And I want a reply rapido
Or it’s a one way trip to court.

I’ve many kind assistants
They’re squat and mean and gruff
But should I find resistance
One look from them’s enough.

So, support your local TAXMAN
Let’s hear those shekels chink
Or I’ll send round the axemen
And you’ll end up in clink.

Fred Partington,

(inspired by a study of tax collectors in the Bible)

PRAYER:

“Heavenly Father,
please help ... *(name)*
this day, this hour,
May he /she feel
Thy healing power.
A friendly word,
a loving touch,
The little things of life
which mean so much.
Calm their fears,
restore their peace –
Thy love for us will
never cease.”
Amen.

Freda Rothwell (written in 1999)



**Sermon by the Venerable Cherry Vann, Archdeacon of Rochdale
at the Funeral of Norman Fort**

18 January 2010

"A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance."

Today is a time when, in a sense, we do all those things.

We weep with those who weep at the sadness of losing someone very dear and much loved – a husband and a brother, a father and a grandfather. But there's laughter as well (and certainly will be later) as stories are shared and incidents recalled of happy, carefree times, and of Norman's Peter Kay-like humour which never left him, even on his hospital bed.

We mourn the loss of someone we all knew and respected and have cause to thank God for. But there's also celebration, not just of a life well lived, but for the unique and special person that Norman was; for all that he gave and shared, and for the ways in which he touched each of our lives.

At the heart of it all – for Norman and for us who gather here in the church that he loved – is God; God who holds all time and eternity in his hands; God who holds both life and death in his everlasting arms.

Norman's faith was very important to him and, although he wore it quite lightly, it nevertheless shaped his adult life. It was Doreen who drew him in to the Church. Recognising, both in terms of Church and dancing that, "if you can't beat them, join them", Norman took to going dancing with Doreen and coming with her to Church on a Sunday. They knew each other for over 55 years and he remained utterly devoted: proudly telling one of the nurses only the other week that that day, January 5th, was 55 years to the day that he had first asked Doreen out. As Doreen herself has said, it was a real partnership right from the start – they were right for each other and have had a wonderful life. What more could you ask.

A hugely significant part of that wonderful life was, of course, the three boys and, later, their partners and the grandchildren. We've just heard some of the very many memories and stories that the family will treasure, as I did when I was with some of them last week. Norman the sportsman, the Wanderer's fan and the love of bats and balls of all shapes and sizes. Norman the maker of marmalade and jam. Norman the brewer of beers and wines. Norman the mathematician...and much more besides. But also, Norman the man totally committed to his family, as he was to whatever he was involved in. And Norman, the father, who played with his children and supported not just them but their friends; was not just a tremendous father, but a true friend.

Norman was a friend to many in his working life too: the kind of bank manager who put the customer before the organisation and bent the rules for people when he could. There will be people here today who will be forever grateful for the way he dealt with them and their affairs. A man of great integrity and discretion, he was both highly respected and held in great affection. In many ways he was a pillar of the community – well known and much loved.

It was those qualities and gifts that Norman brought to his work in the church. He was confirmed in March 1961 and from then on his commitment to his faith and to this church was total. He served the church for over 40 years, for part of that time as treasurer and as churchwarden; looking after the finances of the church with care and diligence, as he would his own affairs. Stewardship, charities, tax returns, restoration funds – he loved it all.

He didn't suffer fools gladly and his honesty and firmness didn't always go down well. But he was always fair and was admired for his sense of prudence which ensured that the church finances

were always on a sound footing.

It was entirely true to character that he wanted to leave everything in order, and that the last e-mail he sent (and this was the day before he died) was the charities' accounts, done up to the year end.

And his life was in order too. He made his last communion, with Doreen, that Sunday afternoon before he died and was able to say with confidence that he had no fears, no qualms and no regrets. It was as if he knew, and he was ready to go. What a gift, both for him and for us!

So, with that same confidence, faith and hope, we entrust Norman to God's mercy and love with grateful hearts for the gifts that he was and always will be. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Amen.

Lent Lectures for 2010

'A Passion for Bolton' Lent Course 2010

Thursdays from 12:45pm - 1:30pm

Lunch served from 12noon

Characters from the Passion

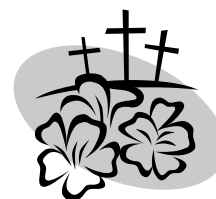
25 February 'Mary the Mother of Jesus'

4 March 'The Centurion'

11 March 'Nicodemus'

18 March 'Thomas'

25 March 'Peter'



**Thursday 25 February, 4 March and 25 March at
Bolton Parish Church Hall.**

**Thursday 11 March and 18 March at
Friends' Meeting House.**

Walsh's



De Olde Pastie Shoppe

Open: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.
Closed: SATURDAY and SUNDAY

We are the little shop with the big reputation. We have served generations for generations, and the family has run the business since 1898. We sell fresh and frozen pasties and meat pies, along with pasties, whist pies and mini sausage rolls which are great for parties. Our uncooked frozen pasties, which can be baked at home for that 'fresh from the oven' taste, are well worth a try.

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.

LOST CATHEDRAL

In the exhibition of photographs of Anglican Cathedrals round the world which was displayed in church last year, it was not possible (with over 700 dioceses world-wide) to show them all. One which was omitted, simply because a good picture could not be found on the internet, was Holy Trinity Cathedral, Port-au-Prince, in the diocese of Haiti.

This was a building dating from the 1950s, and was particularly noteworthy for the paintings by local artists which decorated the walls. It also had a very fine organ by the Austrian builder, Rieger, and a congregation numbering around 2500.

Needless to say, Holy Trinity Cathedral and the adjacent diocesan offices and bishop's house were all destroyed in last month's earthquake. Several pictures of the Roman Catholic cathedral, which was also ruined, appeared in news reports on television. Such is the destruction in Haiti, it will be a very long time before either church is replaced.

There has been devastating loss of life, and at the time of writing the number is still rising. Homes, schools, hospitals, the basic infrastructure of roads, electricity and water supplies, communications and even family life will all have to be rebuilt from scratch. Industries, shops and other businesses need to be quickly reconstructed to provide jobs for the surviving population, and all these things have a greater priority than church

buildings. It will perhaps reinforce the view that churches are the people that belong to them: the buildings themselves are merely meeting places and, in the current crisis, non-essential luxuries.

The response of the British people, and for that matter many other nations across the globe, to this disaster has, however, been heartening to see. On visiting my bank to make a donation to the Appeal, I was certainly not the only person during that brief time doing exactly the same.

Equally, we can take pride that among the first volunteers from this country offering practical help in Haiti were members of the Fire Services of both Lancashire and Greater Manchester, who were instrumental in rescuing several survivors from the rubble of collapsed buildings within hours of their arrival in Haiti.

But the total destruction of the city and the small size of the airport have both hampered distribution of aid to the victims, and the people of Haiti will need our support and prayers for a long time to come.

Geoffrey Dowling

Editor's Note:

The total amount raised for the relief work in Haiti through the retiring collections on Sundays 31 24 and 31 January and 7 February will be reported in the March Edition.

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 February
if you think you might be interested.

Evening Choral Services - February 2010

Ash Wednesday 17 February

7.30pm *Sung Eucharist*

Byrd Mass for 4 Voices
(*Kyrie, Sanctus, Benedictus, Agnus Dei*)

Ave Verum Corpus - Byrd

Sunday 28 February

6.30pm *Choral Evensong*

Tomkins Responses

Batten, Fourth Service

Lord, Let Me Know Mine End - Greene

Quiz Nights Results

First prize for the 2009 Quiz
(held on Saturday 30 January)
went to:

‘The Philips-tines’

(no prizes for guessing where
they were from!)

The booby prize went to ‘The Odd Bods’.

Thanks to the dozen or so teams who participated and to the Social Committee whose organisational skills ensured an enjoyable evening was had by all.

The 2010 Quiz will be on
Saturday 20 November.
Make sure you put it in your diary!

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