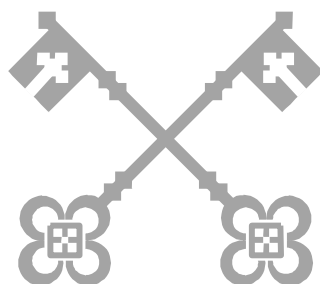


Christians Together in Bolton Town Centre

BOLTON PARISH CHURCH

St Peter, Bolton-le-Moors

Parish News
June 2010



Anglican Witness in the Heart of Bolton

50 pence

Dear Friends,

An exciting month lies before us at Bolton Parish Church.

Every year, 29 June is an important date for us as it is the anniversary of the consecration of our church and this year it will be the 129th anniversary. It is also the date of our Patronal Festival - St Peter's Day. This year we are delighted to welcome the Bishop of Manchester who will make a Bishop's Pilgrimage Visit to us on that day.

You will be able to read the details of that elsewhere in the magazine and on our weekly pew sheets but I want to extend my invitation through this letter for you to join us for what promises to be a very special occasion indeed. As part of his Pilgrimage, the Bishop will be visiting St Philip's Church and the Town Centre before joining us at the Parish Church for a Community Reception in the Parish Hall. The highlight of the day will come during a service in church at 7pm when Bishop Nigel will rededicate our organ and offer individual blessings to all who would like to receive them.

We hope to be joined by members of the Parish Church and our friends from St Philip's Church as well as by many people from the wider Bolton community and one way or another that certainly includes you, Dear Reader!

Just two days prior to that on Sunday 27 June in Manchester Cathedral, our good friend Barrie Gaskell will be ordained Deacon. Barrie will be known to many of you as he has become a part of the Bolton Parish Church family during his training. A regular leader of our services of Evening Prayer on Sunday evenings, Barrie has also been a server, lay assistant and Gospel reader on his monthly visits to us on Sunday mornings. Barrie will also be known to many who have visited the Royal Bolton Hospital or been a patient there in recent years as he is one of the Assistant Chaplains there. I know of several of our congregation who have benefitted from Barrie's gentle and prayerful care there.

After his ordination we will continue to benefit from Barrie's ministry. Due to one of those Church of England technicalities, Barrie will be officially the Assistant Curate of Bolton Parish Church, even though the primary focus of his ministry will continue to be at the Royal Bolton Hospital. We will see Barrie at least as frequently as we have done in the past and who knows perhaps a little more. I am very happy that this will be the case and honoured to be able to be with Barrie on the day of his ordination in the Cathedral. Please pray for him as he prepares to take this momentous step and for the beginning of his ordained ministry.

Last and certainly least in this list of events, I want to take this opportunity to inform you that the Bishop of Manchester has appointed me as Borough Dean of Bolton. The post of Borough Dean is a new one in the Diocese and Bishop Nigel has therefore appointed eleven clergy to the post across the cities and boroughs represented within the Diocese.

The role of the Borough Dean is to promote the civic role of the Church of England by engagement in partnerships with the public, private, voluntary, community and faith sectors within each borough. Here in Bolton, the role is a natural extension of the kind of ministry expected of the Vicar of Bolton. Nevertheless it is an honour to be appointed to the new post and I hope that it will be an opportunity to serve the Church and the Borough more effectively and to share Christian ministry even more widely with the people of Bolton.

There is to be a Licensing of the new Borough Deans in the Cathedral on 25 September at 3.30pm and I hope that there will be a good turn out from Bolton to support me and our Borough then. Watch this space for more details!

With my love and prayers

Matt Thompson

The sacred art of flowers

In July 2009, Bolton Parish Church flower arrangers took part in the flower festival at Manchester Cathedral.

During the days of preparation at the Cathedral, we noticed a number of arrangers wearing smart green aprons or tabards. These we discovered were the 'uniform' of the Church of England Flower Arrangers Association.

After the festival, Joan Heys, Alison Smith, Jane Hampson and Kath Chapman applied to become members and were accepted.

On 20 June 2010 the Association will have a day when all members think of their colleagues throughout the country. We shall be taking part in the "Chain of flowers" with our arrangements on that day.

The Association Prayer:

O Lord, the creator of all things of beauty,
grant to those who serve you
with their gifts of floral art
a sense of your majesty and a desire
to heighten the worship of the Holy Church
by the dedicated use of their gifts.
This we ask in the name of Him who
with the Father is the Creator and Sustainer
of all good things,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kath Chapman

Reuben Kyte

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Pentecost comes to the Parish Church

On Thursday 27 May, the children of our two primary schools - Bolton Parish Primary School and Bishop Bridgeman Primary School - accompanied by staff and some parents, joined 'Father Matt' and 'Reverend Judie' in the Parish Church to celebrate the two feasts of Ascension and Pentecost.

The children of both schools told the story of the resurrection and the ascension of Jesus and of the coming of the Holy Spirit through readings, drama, songs and prayers.

Miss Bingham, Headteacher at Bishop Bridgeman, and some of her pupils brought a beautiful Ascension banner that they had made themselves. Year 2 at Bolton Parish performed two short pieces of drama – Mary Magdalene and Jesus in the garden on Easter morning, and the events of the day of Pentecost, complete with flames dancing to a Philip Glass cello concerto!

Bishop Bridgeman pupils read about Jesus and Thomas, and about the Ascension, and the music for the hymns was provided by staff from Bolton Parish.

It was a truly joyous occasion, as had been our congregational celebration of Pentecost the Sunday before. And how appropriate the joint working of the two schools, and of our choir, Director of Music, servers, sidespersons, wardens and clergy as a testimony to the life that we share in the Spirit.

Judie Horrocks.

“What do you do when it’s not Sunday?”

Elizabeth, from the 10.30 am congregation:

When it’s not Sunday, I sit on committees!

(a phrase that always conjures up strange images in the interviewer’s mind!)

I’m District Governor for Rotary District 1280 and thereby responsible for leading 49 clubs with 1,500 members. I’m the member for 2010 of the Rotary in Britain and Ireland International Committee; Chair of Bolton Arts Forum; Chair of Bolton Festival Choir and Orchestra; Chair of Bolton Toy Library; Chair of Friends of Little Bolton; a member of Bolton Little Theatre Finance Committee; a Lay Member of Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Group for Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council; and a member of the Adult and Community Services Policy Development Group.

(At this point the interviewer had to lie down for a rest!)

In my spare time (!!) I read, make costumes, talk (probably far too much), meet friends and see the family as much as possible, even if it’s by Skype!!

I have been part of Bolton Parish Church since 1983.

Worshipping here brings me peace, friendship, the opportunity to serve, to be cared for and to care for others.

It connects to the rest of my life by refuelling my energy through quiet contemplation and inner strength.

Something about yourself that most people don’t know is that I lived near a Roman Catholic convent and the nuns looked so serene and without any worries that I wanted to be a nun when I was nine. But then discovered I might have to have all hair cut off so changed my mind!

My favourite hymn is ‘How great thou art’ - just because it is!

I would like to be locked in church with Gordon Brown. I would really like to get to know the man, rather than the person we have seen on the TV and in the newspapers.

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Personal Service by the Relph Family

Dr. John Ellis – In memoriam

John Ellis, who died on 26th April, qualified in medicine at Manchester University and was a consultant paediatrician at the Royal Bolton Hospital and its predecessors for many years before retirement, and also led a second life as a musician and composer.

Having played the piano very competently since childhood, he later took to the organ and had lessons with one of our former organists, William Morgan, eventually gaining the Associate diploma of the Royal College of Organists.

Until mid-2009, he was organist at St Mary’s in Prestwich, and as this was Granada’s chosen location for *Coronation Street* weddings and funerals, John’s playing was no doubt heard in various episodes.

He also composed music, chiefly songs, piano and organ pieces and some short choral pieces, one of which was sung by our own choir at the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols some years ago. His Festive Voluntary was played by Stephen Carleston at the opening recital on the rebuilt organ in March 2009.

Bolton Festival Choir will also miss him for his sensitive accompaniments at their rehearsals and concerts. John himself appeared as accompanist in one of last year’s Tuesday Lunchtime Concerts with the baritone John Powell, who included some of John’s songs in the programme.

Shortly after the organ rebuild was completed, a recording of some of John Ellis's organ pieces was made in the Parish Church by Robin Walker, a young and talented organist who was formerly an assistant at Blackburn Cathedral. (A CD of some of John's earlier organ pieces had already been made a few years ago by Ronald Frost at St Ann's in Manchester.)

The new CD recorded at Bolton includes John's four-movement Symphony for Organ, as well as a number of shorter pieces in various styles. Tragically, the CD was released only three weeks before John's death.

Although never a member of the Parish Church congregation, since he was usually occupied elsewhere, John and his wife regularly attended Carol Services, concerts and recitals here, and were known to many members of the choir.

A large number of John's former colleagues in the medical profession and many of his close friends in the world of music attended his funeral at Bury Parish Church on May 6th. We extend our deepest sympathy to John's widow, Tessa, and their family.

Geoffrey Dowling

(Editor's Note: At their concerts in the Parish Church on August Bank Holiday Weekend the Bolton Festival Choir and Orchestra will perform the specially commissioned Mass which John Ellis completed just a fortnight before his death. More details in the July and August magazines.)

TEAL ONE CALL

Plumbing - 24 hour call out

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DRAINS - RADIATORS
BATHS & SHOWERS**

Please ring Gordon
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'Bishop of Manchester travels the pilgrim way'

Since May 2006, the Bishop of Manchester has been busy visiting all 300+ parishes in the Diocese one by one to encourage us in our mission and ministry. On Tuesday 29 June, he will travel St. Peter's Way to make his visit to St. Peter's and St. Philip's, Bolton-le-Moors.

The event will begin at 4pm at St. Philip's with a special service of pilgrimage prayers for Churchwardens, PCC members and the whole St. Philip's congregation.

After the short service at St. Philip's, Bishop Nigel will travel to the town centre to meet with representatives of local businesses. Then, in cassock and with Bishop's crook in hand, he will walk down Deansgate and Churchgate to the Parish Church. At 6 pm he will attend a reception for community representatives and congregation members in the Parish Hall where light refreshments will be available.

The visit will culminate in a special service in Church at 7.00 pm to which everyone is invited and during which the Bishop will rededicate our recently refurbished organ. The service will be a celebration of our history as a place of worship, of our life together as a congregation, and of the good news of the gospel that we share and which brings hope to the community in which we're set.

We will be joined for the reception and the service by representatives of our three schools: Bolton Parish Primary School, Bishop Bridgeman Primary School and Canon Slade School. The joint choir of the two primary schools will sing during the service, and representatives of all three schools, Bolton School and our own Sunday School will have a special part to play.

At the end of the service, drinks will be served in church so that people have an opportunity to continue to listen to the organ.

Make sure you have the date in your diary and join us as we tell the Bishop 'our story' and celebrate the story of our faith together.

**Bolton Parish Church
Lunchtime Concerts**

2010 Season



Tuesdays from 1.15 pm to 1.50 pm

*Admission free
Tea and coffee served*

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 9th June at 7.30 pm

DAVID BRINDLE

(Preston)

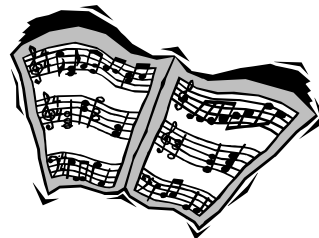
Admission £5, Concessions £3

Wednesday 8th September at 7.30 pm

PHILIP RUSHFORTH

(Chester Cathedral)

Admission £7, Concessions £4



**'Glory be to
God!'**

It is difficult to find new words to describe my thoughts about the choir.

In the first instance I believe our Director of Music, Michael Pain, is doing a splendid job of knotting all the voices into a coherent body, thus carrying on the good work done by Stephen Carleston.

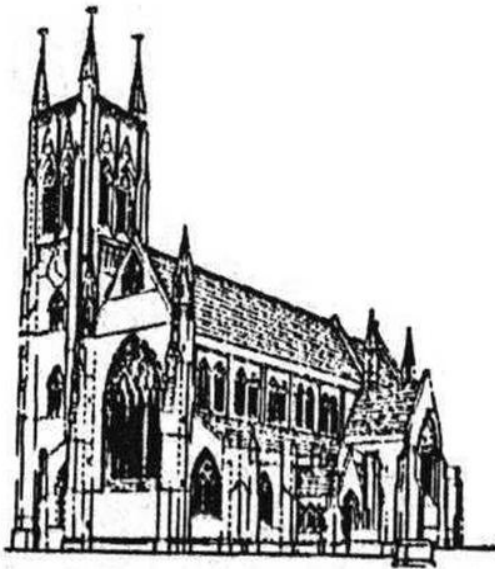
This "body" is splendid and I enjoy their contributions to our worship. There have been very few anthems which did not click with me. Ninety-five percent of them have filled me with much joy for which I want to applaud, only for my wife to prevent me and tell me to sit on my hands! I must confess that tears weren't far away either.

Special mention should be made of the rendering of the Hallelujah Chorus at Easter – this was first class.

(Editor's Note: The organ voluntary on the day of Pentecost - Sortie in E flat major, by Louis James Alfred Lefebure-Wely – brought joy and delight to every fibre of my being, as does so much of the worship offered by our choir and Director of Music!)

Churchgate Festival 2010

Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th June



- ◆ Church open for visitors
- ◆ Exhibition by Bolton Camera Club
- ◆ Programme of musical items on the hour
- ◆ Optional opening, midday and closing prayers in the Lady Chapel led by the Clergy
- ◆ Light refreshments available in the Parish Church Hall

Saturday 10 am to 5 pm

Sunday 1 pm to 5 pm

Display of vintage Rolls Royce cars
on the car park

Saturday 10 am to 4.30 pm

Sunday 1 pm to 4.30 pm



**Bolton Parish Church
Silverwell Street
Bolton BL1 1PS**

**passion²⁰¹¹
for Bolton**

Anglican Witness in the Heart of Bolton

Church Urban Fund

Tackling poverty together

'Answer the Call'

Church Urban Fund is calling on individuals and churches to join together on June 13th – Church Urban Fund Poverty Sunday – in praying for the people and communities most affected by poverty in this country.

The need:

One example of the level of need in this country, quoted recently in the London Evening Standard's series on 'The Dispossessed', is that GPs in some of the most deprived communities are seeing malnourished children with bloated stomachs, in scenes more like those from an African famine than a G8 country. At the same time there are increasing numbers of obese children, some as young as four, in these same communities. It all comes down to families and carers who lack the means and know-how to provide their children with a healthy, balanced diet.

The results are shocking: Vitamin D deficiency is now common, as children live indoor, sedentary lives. Many experience muscle aches and lack of sleep, inability to concentrate at school, and poor dental health, all symptoms of poor nutrition and a lack of outdoor exercise. This is the reality for many children in England's most deprived communities. It's a reality Church Urban Fund is committed to changing.

The 'Youth Project @ Apostles and Cuthberts' (YPAC) in Manchester is one of the many projects that are tackling the problems of deprivation with Church Urban Fund's support. YPAC aims to meet the needs of young people in an area of high deprivation. Youth workers build relationships with young people, encouraging them to take part in creative projects, such as photography and music, as well as sport. Young people are involved in organising events, helping them to develop a positive attitude to their future:



Fadil, one of their young volunteers, tells his story:

'I met Tracey (the Project Manager) in the library a few years ago, but didn't get involved for a long time. Eventually, she persuaded me to come and volunteer with the younger kids playing football. And things really began to change when I went away to Scotland for a weekend. I discovered strengths about myself that I never knew before. I hadn't realised you could care about yourself and others at the same time.

Since that point involvement in YPAC has helped me to develop self-confidence, trust in people and to make good friends with people who will always be there for me. This year, I am a full-time volunteer on the V-Talent Programme. I work with college students and am taking a Level 2 course in youth work. if it wasn't for my time with YPAC I would never have done this or even wanted to be a youth worker.'

'YPAC is a place to chill, have a laugh and know you are cared for. You feel safe – it's like a second family'.

All over the country, CUF-supported projects are helping to plant seeds of hope in the lives of people living in England's most deprived areas, building the capacity of these communities to bring about lasting change.



The call:

Christian writer David Rhodes sums up the essence of Church Urban Fund's call to tackle poverty: "Jesus commands us to do something definite. Something demanding. Something dynamic. He commands us to love our neighbour ... This means to value and respect them, and to actively oppose any injustice which condemns marginalised and vulnerable individuals to suffering and humiliation; to tackle the cause as well as the symptom."

The response:

Our response at Church Urban Fund is to support the work of truly remarkable churches that are putting the heart back into this country's poorest communities; churches who put their faith into action to improve the lives of the people around them.

Your response is to pray, act and give. Church Urban Fund has produced a number of resources for churches and individuals to assist them in their focus on poverty, including reflections, readings, prayers and worship materials. All of the resources are available as downloads from our webpage: <http://www.cuf.org.uk/poverty-sunday.aspx>

You can also go to www.cuf.org.uk and make a donation to support our work directly. Through your continued prayer and financial support, we can help to transform the passion of local churches into the reality of serving vulnerable people and those living in disadvantaged communities.

**CUF Poverty Sunday
for 2010 is
Sunday 20 June
Please remember!**

From the Parish Records -

May 2010

Baptisms:

9 May Emma Louise Storey
16 May Isaac Andrew Hadfield

Weddings:

8 May Paul Barnes and
Denise Merga

21 May **Canon Slade
School Founder's
Day Service**

23 May **Civic Service**



'Thank you for a very special day'

Mrs Margaret Gelling would like to thank all the members of the Parish Church congregation who sent her cards, flowers, presents and other good wishes on her 100th birthday. A special thank you to whoever made the lovely card signed by so many of her friends at church.

William Hunt

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'Called to "higher" things'

Imagine my surprise when on Saturday in the early evening our Associate Vicar phoned to ask me if I would do the Verger's duties for the Civic Service last weekend. After unsuccessfully trying to persuade her to ask the next person on her list, I reluctantly agreed.

After the morning service on Sunday, an erstwhile Church Warden talked me through what I should be doing. It came as quite a surprise to me, as in the past I have only seen that part of the event that takes place in church. The Vicar then gave instructions to the Church Wardens and me, and I wrote the key points of the Verger's duties on the back of an envelope to keep with me.

The Verger's robe is splendid: ankle length, trimmed with deep red velvet, and very cosy on the hottest Sunday of the year – and with no pocket for my hastily written notes!

The Vicar, Church Wardens and I were magically transported to the Town Hall in the Mayor's limousine, and made our way to the Mayor's Parlour to be formally introduced to our new mayor – Councillor John Byrne. We drank a refreshing glass of orange juice whilst waiting to form into the procession.

The Chief Constable led the procession, and I followed him with the Church Wardens, behind me, followed by the Vicar and Mayor's Chaplain, representatives of faith communities and then the Mayor and Chief Executive and former mayors.

We walked out of the main doors of the Town Hall and down the steps between the lions (this was a new experience for me) and after a general salute from those assembled we fell into the parade, following the Lancashire Artillery Volunteer Band and the Hoover Bolton Band. Walking through Bolton following the band and police Superintendent was good fun, and we passed spectators and rather bemused shoppers on the way.

Arriving at the Parish Church we were greeted by the playing of our splendid organ; the Vicar led the Mayor and Chief Executive to their seats; and the service began. I had the best seat to enjoy every aspect of the service – on the front row alongside the standard bearers who had presented their standards at the be-

ginning of the service and would form a guard of honour as the Mayor left at the end of the service.

Our wonderful choir sang the anthem 'How lovely are thy dwellings' by Johannes Brahms, and later in the service we listened to the singing of the choir of Leverhulme Primary School who were really enjoying themselves, and knew all the words of their songs. Members of different faith communities, including the Interfaith Council Junior Ambassadors, expressed their good wishes to the Mayor for his time in office.

The Hoover band accompanied the congregation's hymn singing, and it felt as though we 'raised the roof'.

At the Parish Church we enjoy taking part in town events, including this particularly formal one. Afterwards I felt grateful to have been asked to be Verger for the day, and to take a different part from my usual one on Civic Sunday.

Lesley Easterman

Bishop Bridgeman School reaches for the sky!

At Bishop Bridgeman we have an 'Aspiration Week' planned for 14th - 18th June. This will include a range of activities for children throughout school. The aims of the week are:

Theme - Flying High: 'The Sky's the Limit!'

Aims -

- To raise aspirations for the children within school about their goals for the future.
- To provide experiences, through work shops, visitors and discussion about what the children can aspire to be.
- To enable the children to set themselves goals that may take them beyond their immediate community, through further education and training and perseverance.

The timetable for the week includes an Enterprise Day, Careers Fair and Business Enterprise Market and Medical workshop. We have invited a number of visitors from the local community to share the experiences of the world of work and help us in our aim to create aspirations amongst the children - enthusing them to follow their dreams for a successful future.

The View from My Wheelchair

This month I have been inspired by the words "annual review" and what they mean for us as Christians on our journey with God.

The subject cropped up with my doctors surgery who refuse to prescribe regular medications without seeing their patients at least once a year for an annual review. Personally I like the idea and the chance to sit down and discuss how my illness affects me, the medications I need to get me through each day and if these need changing, and whether things have got better or worse in the last year.

There are added bonuses. I can chat to my son and my close friends and get their observations and thoughts before I go. They may pick up on or see things that may be different to what I see or feel. And whilst with the GP I can have basic checks done for things like blood pressure and ear wax. Thankfully there was nothing worrying to report which was a relief. And the observations of my friends are that since moving here I seem to be coping a lot better than I was.

Many Christians try to focus on the weeks of Lent and Easter as a time for reflection. But for me the month of June has always been my chosen one to think about things and where God my Father is leading me. Looking back I think this had a lot to do with the final term in our school year. It was a time for preparing to move up to the next year in the following

Christmas term providing the yearly exam results were good enough.

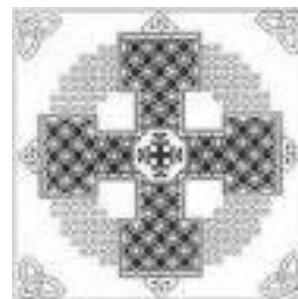
Later when working in central London June was always one of our busier months and time to devote to myself outside work was grabbed avidly for relaxing. In more recent years, there has been my big step to being received into the Church of England which took place in June 1999. I view this as one of the most important decisions I ever took in my life.

Each year I try to spend some time in June reflecting on my Christian journey. Am I where I want to be and, if not, how do I obtain that goal in the year ahead? And is this where God my Father wants me to be? Am I living the kind of life in which others can see the God I follow? Am I caring for others in the way that God my Father cares for me?

This process certainly helps me. Perhaps each of you might want to build a similar annual review – a 'spiritual health check-up' - into your own year at a time that has special meaning for you.

Until next time...

Lynn Marsden



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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.

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	
Vergers:	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