

The Log



The Parish Magazine
April 2024
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VICAR'S NOTES

I'm not sure what the weather will be like as you read this edition of the Log but it seemed that the first properly sunny and 'warmish' day of Spring arrived on Palm Sunday. Early in the morning when I took my dog Barley for his walk along the footpaths near St Lawrence Church I was fortunate to see two beautiful Roe deer, which isn't such an unusual sight at this time of year, but even more impressive were the not one, but two, Barn Owls gracefully hunting for prey.

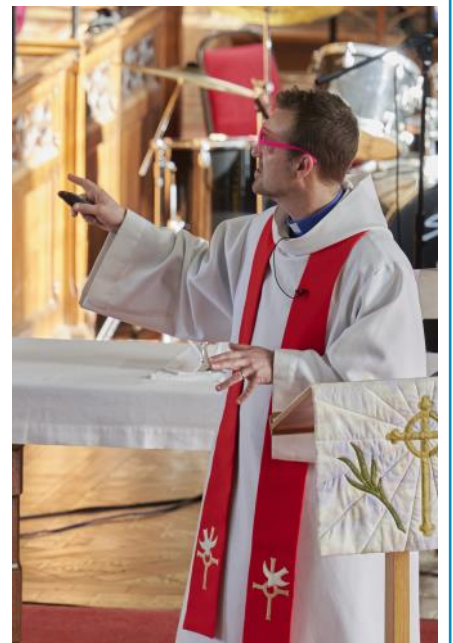
As I stood slightly mesmerised listening to the other songs of nature it was as if God's creation was out in force ready to welcome Jesus in as King. Hosanna indeed - Long may this continue!

Easter 2024

I must start this month's notes with a special thanks to all those who helped to make this year's Lent and Easter Services and activities both meaningful and suitably joyful. To the singers, flower arrangers, servers and everyone else who works so hard behind the scenes – Thank you!



Palm Sunday



GOOD FRIDAY



More Easter photographs will be in the May Log



VICAR'S NOTES – continued.....**Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Monday 22nd April.**

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) is where the church elects its officers, reviews its finances, reflects on the year that has been and has the chance to look forward to the year ahead. This year it takes place on Monday 22nd April at 7pm at St Paul's Church. In preparation for this year's meeting anybody who wishes to vote needs to be on the Church Electoral Roll so if you're not sure if you're on it, or if you would like to become a member of St Lawrence with St Paul then you have until Friday 5th April to fill in a form. Please email Michael Dawson: secretarystlandplongridge@gmail.com for more details.

Confirmation Course 2024

In the first half of the School Summer Term, Revd Simon and I will be leading our 2024 Confirmation Course and look forward to a Confirmation Service led by Bishop Tony Porter at St Paul's Church on Sunday 23rd June at 4pm. Please do put this important date in your diary so we can join in the celebration and show our support to this year's candidates. More details of some of the things we get up to on the course will follow in the May edition of the Log.

A reminder, if you're an adult who has not yet been confirmed but would like to explore this opportunity then it's not too late to speak to myself or Revd. Simon and we will be happy to help you.

Spring Fair – Saturday 11th May, 11am – 2pm

This year's Spring Fair has a fun farmyard theme, I'm not quite sure if that means there will be farmyard animals wandering around St Paul's Church and Car Park on the day but I'm sure a few of us will be dressing up a little. Suggestions (polite) welcome!

Summer Sabbatical

After seven years in post Clergy members are encouraged to take a sabbatical period in order to read, rest and recharge. For me this means during the period of June – August this year I'll be taking my own sabbatical. More details about what I plan to get up to will follow next month but during this period we're very fortunate to have our very capable Curate, Rev. Simon King acting in

New Bishop of Burnley Appointed.

It was announced on the 22nd March that the Reverend Dr. Joe Kennedy has been appointed Bishop of Burnley. His Consecration Service will be held in York Minster on Friday 19th July at 11.00am. This will be followed by his 'Installation Service' on Sunday 8th September at 4pm in Blackburn Cathedral.

Bishop Joe, who is 55, was educated at Edinburgh University and at St Hugh's College and Keble College, Oxford, and trained for ministry at St Stephen's House, Oxford. He served as a Curate in the Diocese of Oxford, at Stratfield Mortimer (St Mary) and Mortimer West End with Padworth, and at Abingdon, and was ordained priest in 2003. He is currently Vicar of Oxtan St. Saviour in the Diocese of Chester.

The Bishop-designate is married to Emily who is Head of External Financial Reporting for Oxfam and the couple have two children David who is 13 and Mary 7.

In his first remarks, Revd. Dr. Joe Kennedy said:

"I am delighted and humbled to be announced today as the next Bishop of Burnley, and to be joining Bishop Philip's team later in the year. My family are thrilled to be coming here to Lancashire and to the Diocese of Blackburn. As I look to the future, my hope is to offer you a ministry which is confident in God, rooted in prayer, focused on pastoral care and on mission; and which offers a focus for unity across the diocese.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU - MOLLY HALLIWELL

I have attended St Lawrence with St Paul for a whole year! How that time has flown by. The congregation and both Mike and Simon have all made me feel very welcome. How I came to be in Longridge and attending the Church in my 87th year, the story lies below.

As a child and a young woman I attended Holy Trinity Parkfield which was in the town of Middleton, Greater Manchester, I say 'was in' as the church has now sadly closed its doors. I remember teaching the Sunday School Children for many years and was married at this church on 9th April 1959. My husband and I lived in Middleton for many years and then moved to Heywood, Greater Manchester. As I never learnt to drive, the distance to travel to Parkfield was too great, I then joined the congregation at St. John's, Heywood. This is a lovely church and very friendly and over the years I made lots of friends there, they had a club every other Tuesday in the afternoons and a get together after the Sunday morning service, which sometimes went on until 1.00pm!! Every so often I toddle along to the Sunday Morning Service when I visit my old friends, I often go over for a few days to meet up with them.

My whole life has been spent bringing up my family, my daughter Janette and my son Steven. I did work over the years, leaving school at the tender age of 15 I started work at one of the local Co-op Grocery stores, leaving there when I had my daughter in 1961, then working in a local newsagents whilst the children were young, eventually my last job was working as a packer in a Clothing Factory for Marks and Spencer's (got some good coats from there !!)

I have a small but very close family, even though my son has lived in Brisbane, Australia for the past 20 years, whom I am hoping to visit this Summer, I also have 4 granddaughters, 2 grandsons and 1 great grandson

Unfortunately I lost my husband Peter in 2020. He served as a Police Officer for 30 years in Greater Manchester Police Force, and we were married for 62 years. After my husband died I was then living on my own and my daughter and her husband asked me if I would consider moving in with them as the running of two homes seemed wasteful and obviously I am not going to be getting any younger and may need help in my dotage! This seemed like a good and sensible thing to do so we all sold up, upped sticks and moved to Longridge. We chose Longridge as I have a granddaughter living in Clitheroe, so we would be closer to her, also the shops are within walking distance of our new home, which is great for me and I am very lucky to have a beautiful view of Parlick Fell and Jeffrey Hill from my living room window.

Not forgetting our family dog Pateley a not so lively Springer Spaniel, who has just celebrated his 12th Birthday, although he still does love his countryside walks when he can be bothered walking any distance.

My daughter finished work when we moved to Longridge so that we could both enjoy our time together, I must say we enjoy all the cafés' in the Ribble Valley, but our waistlines don't.



The Log Team

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A Memorial Service for Florence.

Many parishioners will remember Florence Jackson with great fondness. The Longridge area was her home for 50 years before she made the decision in 2008 to move to Newbury to be nearer her daughter Sheilagh and family. That move proved to be the right one and Florence enjoyed many good years quickly getting involved with the church but more especially the Primary School where she regularly helped. She made some good friends and enjoyed being close to the family but Florence made that move knowing that in God's good time she would be brought 'home' to Longridge and to the Garden of Remembrance at St. Lawrence Church for her ashes to be buried next to her husband Bob who sadly died in 1990. That time has now come - Florence died on the 9th March, 2024.



Florence with Revd. Simon Aiken when she opened the Spring Fair in the year 2000

Although it is sixteen years since Florence left Longridge she kept in touch with a good number of people here and especially colleagues she worked with at Longridge C of E Primary School. People will remember Florence as a dedicated classroom teacher and someone with a tremendous gift for bringing the best out of young voices through her work with the school and church choirs. Many, now adults, will recall being in that tremendous school choir which took part in the televised Harvest Service and also the recording on Radio 4. Florence had a wonderful singing voice which not only enhanced our church choir but also gave pleasure to those who heard her as a guest soloist with the Rossendale Male Voice Choir, with Preston Opera and others. While in Longridge she served as a School Governor, was on the PCC and a member of both the Pastoral Care group and the Social Committee – she could always be found on the cake stall at the Spring Fair but those closest to her will tell you she liked nothing better than to enjoy a cup of coffee and a natter. How blessed we were.

Florence's funeral will take place in Newbury on the 3rd April but it would be a fitting tribute to see St. Lawrence Church full for the Memorial Service on Monday 8th April at 11.30am joining Sharon, Sheilagh and their families as we give thanks for Florence's life, prior to her being laid to rest.

The Log and Log Distributuon

Thank you very much to Colette Sargent for delivering the magazine for several years, we are most grateful to all the people who do this month in month out. Colette has moved on and so if there is anyone who feels they could take on this task it would be much appreciated. The deliveries are to the Lower Lane area of Longridge, and it would involve dropping the copies off each month and collecting the subscription once a year. If you could help with this, please contact Judith Kaye – judithkaye@sky.com, 07769 663 156 or 785114.



Clergy & Church Officers

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Retired Clergy:	Rev. John Ball		07754 771220	
	Rev. Adrian Mairs	8 Hacking Drive	01772 356015	adrian.s.mairs@gmail.com
			07899 905768	
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	Dorothy Laver	19 The Pastures, Grimsargh	07719 389529	dorothy.laver@gmail.com
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PCC Secretary	Barbara Burton	7 Chaigley Road		brbrbrtn6@gmail.com
PCC Treasurer	Graham Kelsall			graham@oaktreehouse.net
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Parish Administrator	Michael Dawson	See hours below	01772 783281	secretarystlandplongridge@gmail.com
Health & Safety Officer	Chris Martin			
Electoral Role Officer	Michael Dawson			

Parochial Church Council

Chairman	<i>Rev. Mike Barton</i>
Hon. Secretary	<i>Barbara Burton</i>
Hon. Treasurer & Stewardship Recorder	<i>Graham Kelsall</i>
Members:	Clergy and Churchwardens Karen Boardman, Rob Bretherton,, Helen Clements, Michael Dawson, Andrew Filder, David Hartley, Philip Jones, Vernon Kinrade, Rosemary Lyons, Chris Martin, Barbara McCormick, Ali Ng, Annamarie Rogers-Waterman, Wendy Smyth, Val Wardley, Stephanie Willan.

Organisations

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Michael Dawson
Parish Office Monday and Wednesday 9:30—12:30
Friday 9.30—15.30 01772 783281

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Hon. Sec. St. Lawrence *Dot Little* 01772 783998
JudithKaye 01772 785114

Hon. Sec. St. Paul *Donna Rowe-Green* 07880 348597

Choir
Organist and Choir Director *Paul Warren*
paulbionicears@gmail.com

Church Lads & Church Girls Brigade
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Martins 6 pm, Young Members 6.30 pm JTC/Seniors 7.00 pm
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janetredding@clcgb.org.uk

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Contacts *Helen Bailey* 01772 783178
Bev Keating
Jean Saunders 01772640146

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www.longridge-ce.lancsngfl.ac.uk

Headteacher
Mrs Catherine Parkin
head@longridge-cofe.lancs.sch.uk

Clerk to the Governors
Val Morris 01524 581136 c/o the School Office
School Office 01772 782378
bursar@longridge-cofe.lancs.sch.uk

Pre-School 01772-780078
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Handbell Ringers
Leader *Judith Kaye* Park View, Fleet Street, PR3 3ED
judithkaye@sky.com 01772 785114

Children's Church
Carolyn Barton carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk

Mothers Union 7.30pm on 1st Tuesday
Enrolling Member *Judith Kaye* Park View, Fleet Street, PR3 3ED
judithkaye@sky.com 01772 785114

Prayerline If you would like our prayer team to pray for you e-mail
Muriel Anderson

Tuesday Club 7.30pm on 2nd Tuesday
Chairman *Fred Little* 26 Hoghton Road 01772 783998
Hon. Sec. *Adrienne Atkinson* 01772 783091
adbil1959@gmail.com

Walkie Talks
Hannah Green 20 Darwen Close 01772 783558

Sidesmen and Sideswomen

Karen Boardman, Bev Keating, Janet Heap,
Peter Turver, Lib Turver, Graham Kelsall, Yvonne Ball,
Val Wardley, Muriel Anderson, Phil Walker, Marina Walker,
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BREAKFAST IS SERVED – Saturday 20th April.



Its over a year since we have managed to find a suitable date in the diary to invite the parish to a Saturday morning breakfast so we are very much looking forward to welcoming you to St. Paul's Centenary Room between 9am – 11am on the 20th April.

Ann Golding will have the oven and frying pan poised for action so do join us if you can – the atmosphere will be relaxed and you can choose to have a full English or a bacon or sausage bap either as a Breakfast or early Brunch.

Planning is underway for this year's Spring Fair.

The Fellowship and Fundraising Committee are meeting on the 8th April at 7.30pm in St. Paul's Centenary Room to plan this year's Spring Fair which will take place in St. Paul's on Saturday 11th May from 11.00am - 2pm

Following on from the success of the Christmas Fair and the Santa's Grotto, we have decided to go with a theme of Old Macdonald's Farm.. At the front of church there will be Old Mcdonald's barn complete with farm animals greeting you (obviously human sized onesies ones 😊). Inside the barn children will be able to partake in a craft activity, plant some seeds and play count the chicks. This theme will run through church with stalls having farm themed names. Hopefully making this a fun filled family day.

If you would like to be involved with one of the stalls or have some other animal themed ideas then do please come along to that 8th April planning meeting. The annual Spring Fair has been one of the main parish fundraising events going back to the days when it was held upstairs in the main Co-operative Building and has evolved from very much a 'Sale of Work' event to more of an opportunity for the church family and wider community to come together to support the stalls but importantly to enjoy some fellowship and social time together. Certainly the money raised for the Church's General Fund is as important as its always been. Full details will be in the May Log but do make a note of the date in your diary and as we perhaps all start to think about having a Spring Clean do put to one side suitable items for the raffle, tombola etc..

Fabric and Eco Group

Managing our two busy, historic church buildings and the land which surrounds them is a demanding job. Our clergy, church wardens and other members of the congregation spend a great deal of time organising repairs and improvements to our places of worship. As our churches are such busy places, we also create substantial carbon emissions, and because of this, we have been asked by the diocese to make every effort to reduce this and generally adopt a more environmentally aware way of doing things. The diocese plans to become carbon neutral by 2030, and this will be our way of helping this to happen. The PCC talked about the importance of both of these aspects of our church life at the March meeting, and it was decided that a sub-committee should be formed to discuss and work on these two areas. We are currently a team of six, but would be delighted to welcome more people onboard.

If you are interested in how we care for our buildings and land, or in environmental issues, please come to our first meeting at **St. Paul's Church at 7.30pm on Tuesday 16th April.**

MEN'S GROUP

john.keating.jk10@gmail.com

NEXT EVENT

Sat 13th April - Breakfast at Longridge Golf Club 9.00am

After last summer's successful inaugural breakfast at the Golf Club, we are doing it again. Please let John K know if you are coming and he will then be able to give the Golf Club an indication of numbers.

MAN ALIVE (a message from Blackburn Cathedral)

The date is now set for this year's event and we look forward to welcoming you to Blackburn Cathedral for Man Alive 2024.

See the Poster here on the right.

You can book your tickets from the website or, like last year when a big group of us attended, let John K know and he will book tickets and organise transport.

**MEN'S RESIDENTIAL
WEEKEND AT RYDAL HALL
IN THE LAKES
(Fri 4th Oct - Sun 6th Oct)**

A fantastic opportunity to deepen faith, have fun and forge new friendships among men in Lancashire, in the beautiful surroundings of the Lake District. The teaching is designed to be accessible, moving hearts as much as minds with plenty of application. There is a range of accommodation available to suit most budgets and prices are very reasonable, including meals as well as accommodation.

For more information, please speak to Reverend Mike.

The schedule for the weekend is shown here on the right

Thursday 6th June
7.30-9.30pm



Man Alive
An evening to encourage, celebrate and inspire men from across Lancashire.

Hosted by Peter Howell-Jones, Dean of Blackburn

Featuring guest speakers: Mark Mitchell, Group MD at Mitchell Group - *who will help us think about men and faith in the workplace* - and Bishop Tony Porter.

Find out more and book your free ticket:

blackburncathedral.com/man

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

Day	Time	Activity
Friday 4th Oct	5-5.30pm	Flexible arrival with tea, coffee and biscuits
	5.30-7pm	Free time and settling into rooms
	7-8pm	Dinner
	8-9pm	Session 1 - A Courageous Heart
	9pm onwards	Free Time, bar available until 11pm
Saturday 5th Oct	8.30-9.30am	Cooked Breakfast
	9.45-10.45am	Session 2 - A Trusting Heart
	10.45-11.15am	Refreshment break
	11.15-12.15pm	Session 3 - A Humble Heart
	12.15-1pm	Lunch, soup and sandwich
	1-6pm	Free time, two walks of shorter or longer length planned
	(3pm)	Optional afternoon tea and coffee
Sunday 6th October	6-7pm	Dinner
	7.15-8.15pm	Session 4 - A Confessing Heart, with testimony
	8.15 onwards	Free time, with pub quiz and bar available until 11pm
	8.30-9.30am	Cooked Breakfast
	9.45-10.45am	Session 5 - A Loyal Heart
Sunday 6th October	10.45-11.15am	Refreshment break
	11.15-12.30pm	Session 6 - A Worshipping Heart, with Holy Communion
	12.30-1.30pm	2 Course Lunch
	1.30pm	Departure

MEN'S GROUP continued.....

Men after God's heart

Friday 4th to Sunday 6th October 2024

A residential weekend for men at Rydal Hall



The weekend

The beautiful landscape of the Lake District offers the perfect space to deepen faith, have fun and forge new friendships with men from churches across Lancashire.

The weekend will include relevant teaching that will challenge us to lead lives that honour Jesus. With engaging worship, opportunities to pray and to be prayed for. As well as the chance to walk, chat and unwind in a relaxed atmosphere (including the bar in the evening).

The venue

Rydal Hall is set near to Ambleside with views of the surrounding hills and within easy walking distance of Rydal Water and Grasmere. There is nowhere better – to consider life's biggest questions and challenges than in this stunning setting.

There are 50 spaces available with a range of accommodation available to suit most budgets (see over).

For more details or to book on, scan the QR code:
or contact revalex.colne@gmail.com
or revmikebarton@gmail.com



Mothers ' Union

Over the years I have written several times about the MU Literacy programme, which has developed into much more than teaching people to read as shown in the piece below taken from a recent MU news letter.

"They would steal my money because I couldn't count..."



"Now [thanks to the literacy programme], I can spend my money wisely because of what we have learned. With the knowledge we got, we are doing many things."

Despite the challenges of illiteracy, conflict and war, Grace can now grow her own vegetables and build her own businesses. Now her family's nutrition has improved and she can send her children to school whilst saving for the future - outcomes that will positively influence Grace's family for the generations to come.

To me, this is one of the really practical ways Mothers' Union helps ordinary people and is a reason for me to continue as a member.

Dates

April 6th Marjorie Pitcher – Easter Musings

May 7th Topic to be confirmed

JAK

Tuesday Club

Tuesday Club

For our March meeting we welcomed Linda Sawley who gave an interesting presentation entitled 'Growing Old Disgracefully'. Her poems and stories made us laugh but also reminded us of some of the silly things we all do as we get older. Probably the one we could all relate to was thinking about doing a specific task but then getting constantly sidetracked so that looking back on the day you wonder what you've done – certainly not the task you set out to do – never mind it will wait for another day that's if we don't get distracted!! Judging by Linda Sawley's multi coloured boots she is determined to grow old disgracefully and why not.

On the 9th April we are looking forward to our 'party' night when we will enjoy a buffet prepared for us by Tim Slater and then be entertained by Lynne & Jeff Hoyle bringing us a touch of Northern Humour and hopefully an opportunity to sing along to some well known Lancashire songs. Tickets are £11 and this is an occasion when we invite the wider church family to join us. Tickets are still available from Adrienne Atkinson 783091 or Fred Little 783998. It will be a lovely evening with the buffet served at 6.30pm in St. Paul's Church and the entertainment in the Centenary Room. Why not get yourself a ticket and join us.



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Brigade News



During March we have been embracing the run up to Easter, focusing our games and craft with an element of the Easter Story where possible. The Martins and Yteam started the month off by creating some wonderful Mother's Day cards using cupcake cases, followed by making Easter weaving baskets. They have played lots of fun Easter themed games like balancing the eggs, egg rolling, Easter egg hunt and a jigsaw game. They then took part in a fabulous exercise which was created and run by Amii where the members got to learn all about different Countries and how they celebrate Easter- they created a passport and visited each country where they made a different craft. The JTC and Seniors started the month with making parachutes to carry an egg which was dropped from various heights- we had a couple of broken ones- they had to be imaginative and work together to protect their eggs. They've taken part in numerous Easter themed crafts including making mini egg nest cakes and playing in the giant's house with Easter themes. They also did a walk round Longridge placing their positive pebbles along Berry Lane for members of the public to find and take home. They painted them a couple of weeks earlier and some of the paintings are really fantastic.

The JTC and Seniors have also been practicing their drill ready for the competition this summer and they are starting to look like a really strong squad. Our National Band members have been busy at their weekends away getting prepared for the Band concert at the start of May which we are looking forward to attending.

On Saturday 18th May we will be hosting our Afternoon Tea Fundraiser which was a huge success last year. We are really excited to be able to host this event again and hope you can all support us. If you would like to purchase a ticket, then please come and speak to any of the Brigade Leaders.

Olivia Stewart





Afternoon Tea



**CLCGB
LONGRIDGE**

May
18
3:30 PM

St. Paul's Church,
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Centenary Room

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*We will also be holding a raffle with a wide range of goodies
to win*

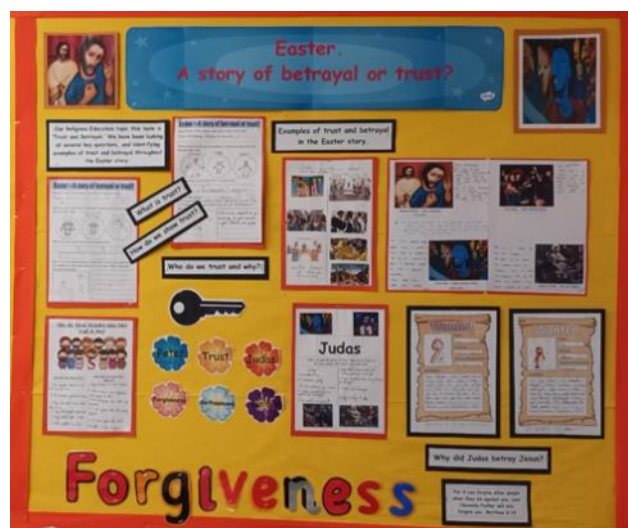
£10
Adults

£5
Children

SCHOOL NEWS – from Headteacher Catherine Parkin

RE at Easter

The classes are all looking at some aspect of Easter in RE. It's lovely to see the children deepen their understanding of this key Christian event as they progress through the school. Year 2 have been looking at Easter symbols. If you look closely at their display you will see a picture of a bridge which is to show that Jesus was sent to bridge the gap between God and man. Year 3 have looked at the sadness and joy in the Easter story while Year 4 have considered betrayal and trust.



Lenten Worship

In our worship we have reached the final week of our Watch and Pray materials. We finish our Lenten theme with 'Waiting for Easter' and the story of the crucifixion. In John's gospel (John 19:16-27) we are left to reflect on Jesus's message:

"Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

As a school our current focus is to be how we can better look after each other.



World Book Day

This event has become a staple of the school year in recent times. The children thoroughly enjoyed visiting the Book Fair and spending their vouchers. They visited Longridge Library for some super workshops on stories but, more than anything, they loved dressing up!



SCHOOL NEWS continued.....

Mother's Day

Our lovely Year 1 children made some beautiful paper flower bouquets for their mums to show their appreciation for everything they do for them.



Bible Fun Group

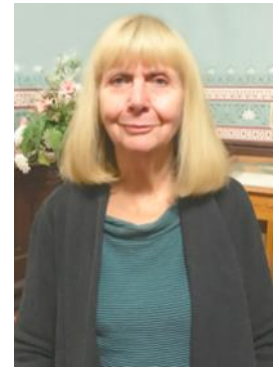
Over the last few weeks the Bible Fun Group have explored key dates in the Christian calendar. We sat around a camp fire and talked about Ash Wednesday. We were lucky to have ash from church and we each put the sign of the cross on our foreheads. We made charcoal drawings and played games. We then looked at Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday. We dressed up as Jesus and rode the donkey into



Jerusalem the children laid their coats on the floor and waved palms. We then sat down at the table for the Last Supper and shared in bread and wine (juice). We talked about how Jesus must have felt knowing that this would be his last meal and how he knew that one of his friends would betray him. Last week we looked at Good Friday. We carried a crucifix up the hill and discussed how Jesus knew he had to die in order to save us. We decorated biscuits with icing and added a cross and made stained glass crosses.

The Bible fun Group meets after School on Tuesdays led by Barbara McCormick and Marina Walker.



Inspirational Words brought to us this month by Patricia Hewitt.

I expect I am not the only person who can identify with the distressed man described in Mark's Gospel (9:24) who entreats Jesus, "I believe; help my unbelief". In such moments I find reassurance knowing that even such eminent Christian writers as C.S. Lewis have also experienced times of uncertainty. In fact, C.S. Lewis admitted:

"I think the trouble with me is lack of faith. Often when I pray, I wonder if I am posting letters to a non-existent address". And guess who asked "'Who among us has not experienced insecurity, loss and even doubt on their journey of faith? We've all experienced this, me too": none other than Pope Francis.

So, the following words of inspiration are words which help me when I'm aware that doubt is besetting me, and I hope will help other occasional doubters as well.

Tricia Gates Brown, an American theologian and ordained Deacon, explains that 'revelation' in the theological sense means 'divine disclosure' and although we primarily look for this in the Bible she says:

I now find revelation almost anywhere if I keep myself open.... Sometimes I hear measures of a song so searingly truthful and beautiful they seem like prayer. Or I see a swallow swooping across a dawn-lit sky and the moment of perfection professes to me more than any sacred text.

I think we can all probably relate to these feelings which is why we raise the roof when singing 'How Great Thou Art', a translation of a Swedish hymn written by Carl Boberg in 1885. He gave the following explanation of what had inspired him to write:

It was that time of year when everything seemed to be in its richest colouring; the birds were singing in trees and everywhere. It was very warm; a thunderstorm appeared on the horizon and soon there was thunder and lightning. We had to hurry to shelter. But the storm was soon over and the clear sky appeared. When I came home, I opened my window toward the sea. There evidently had been a funeral and the bells were playing the tune of 'When eternity's clock calls my saved soul to its Sabbath rest'. That evening, I wrote the song, 'O Store Gud'.

Perhaps this is why, when getting tied up in knots reading the footnotes to a difficult Bible passage it can be good to walk up Beacon fell!

Dr Chloe Lynch, a theology lecturer at the London School of Theology directs us to the words of John of the Cross who wrote that:

"God sometimes permits us to experience his glory as a light so bright that it blinds our intellect. Like Paul overwhelmed by God's glory on the road to Damascus, it's as if we'd stared at the sun.... our mind is blinded, no longer working as before when it comes to knowing and perceiving God. Through this experience, God is establishing a new capacity for knowing him".

This calls to mind the interview "A Bright Yellow Light" (which you can still listen to on BBC Radio 4) in which Nadim Ednan -Laperouse talks very movingly about his Damascene experience when his 15-year-old daughter died from a fatal allergic reaction on a plane journey to France. He describes himself as being at that time an arrogant man, too full of himself who had only been to church for weddings or funerals and was not interested in religion at all, but at the moment of his daughter's death he experienced in a bright yellow light God's overwhelming love and gentleness, and like Paul, he became a Christian.

Inspirational Words - continued.....

John of the Cross (Dr Lynch explains) "calls this new way of knowing God 'faith'. Faith is not a denial of knowledge through intellect, but rather indicates a purifying of intellect. It sets our capacity to reason in proper relation to God's word".

I suspect that most of us have experienced God's presence in an experience 'too deep for words' – and so we don't talk about it. Yet it is this we can come back to when we cannot find answers to questions that can cause us to doubt: Why are hundreds of children dying every day in Gaza despite the millions of prayers beseeching God to save them? Why is Putin alive and well when my gentle, unselfish friend suffered a fatal heart attack? Etcetera, etcetera.

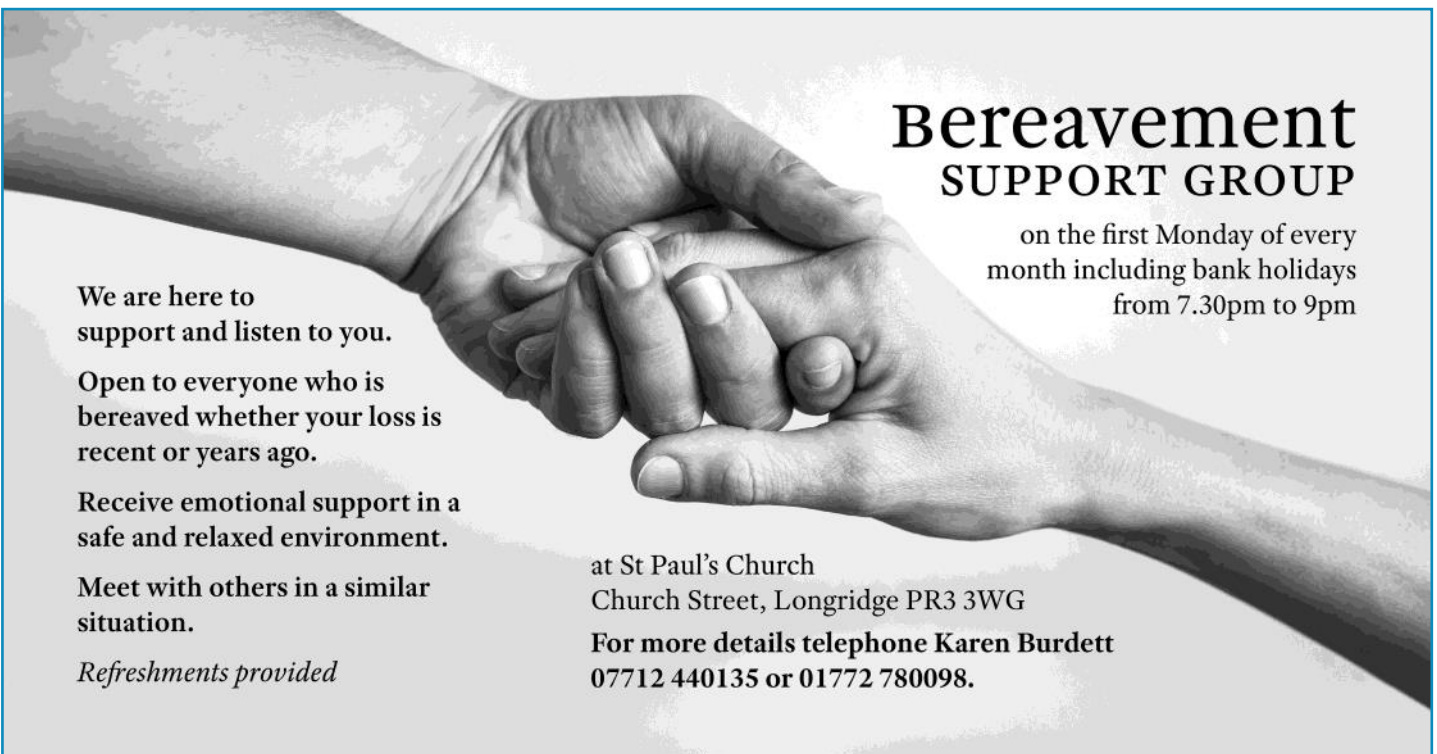
I also often remind myself that as someone who could not understand chapter one of "Black Holes for Dummies" I am not likely to be able to come up with any satisfactory answers, so I tell my mind to be quiet and just listen, taking heed of Ruth Pitter's poem:

The Paradox

Our death implicit in our birth,
We cease, or cannot be;
And know when we are laid in earth
We perish utterly,

And equally the spirit knows
The indomitable sense
Of immortality, which goes
Against all evidence.

See faith alone, whose hand unlocks
All mystery at a touch,
Embrace the awful Paradox
Nor wonder overmuch.



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Children's Church

During March, we have continued our series looking at stories of Jesus in the run up to Easter.

Early in the month, the younger group learnt all about Levi the tax collector. We talked about how Jesus chose Levi to follow him. People were confused as to why Jesus chose a sinner and Jesus said to them (from Mark 2 v17) "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Jayden very kindly offered to be Levi in our story and we made a 'Follow Me' flip flop craft.



Meanwhile, the older group looked at the story of Jesus healing the man who was deaf and also couldn't speak. We played charades to help us to understand how the man must have felt and then began to consider Jesus' power in being able to perform such amazing miracles.

Later in the month, both groups looked at the Transfiguration and how God was pleased with Jesus.

The younger ones were transformed by face glitter at our own "Transfiguration station", we had a mini disco with glow sticks and a worship song, made pictures with glitter and created our own cloud tea lights to remind us of how God spoke out of a brilliant cloud. The older group meanwhile made pictures of the transfiguration using cellophane – when the cellophane covered their picture, Moses and

Elijah disappeared just like in the story!

We love to meet new families through our children's and young people's groups. Do come and join us or feel free to contact

Barbara McCormick (barbara@her-email.co.uk) or Carolyn Barton (carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk)

if you'd like to find out more.



World Day of Prayer 1st March

This year's service, prepared by Christian women from Palestine, was held at Christ Church. The church was almost full and the music, readings and prayers were very well-received by those who attended. It was a delight to be joined by a class of children and their teachers from Longridge CE Primary School. During the service, they led us in three hymns and their behaviour was exemplary. We also appreciated the musical gifts of the Christ Church music group and their leader, Carol Rose. Following the service, many people stayed behind to enjoy refreshments prepared by Dot Little and Denise Atkinson (St. Wilfrid's church). A total of £153 was raised which will go to World Day of Prayer's outreach and education work. Many thanks to everyone who contributed their time and money and to all who attended the service. **Barbara Burton.**

CAFOD and Christian Aid benefit from Lenten Lunches.

The people who have enjoyed this year's Lent Lunches, many having attended all five at the various venues, will be sorry that this opportunity for us to share lunch together and to support CAFOD and Christian Aid has come to an end for another year. We are pleased that they went so well and our thanks go to all who prepared and served the food. For the two lunches held in St. Paul's Centenary Room we must especially thank Rhona White and her team for once again organising these for us.

St. Patrick's Day Remembered.

This year unusually St. Patrick's day – 17th March fell on Passion Sunday and Revd. Mike recognising this invited Revd. Adrian Mairs who hails from Northern Ireland, to end the morning service with an Irish Blessing. These beautiful words were the ones Revd. Adrian chose.

May your days be many and your troubles be few.

May all God's blessings descend upon you.

May peace be within you, may your heart be strong.

May you find what you're seeking wherever you roam.

May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us.

May the hand of God protect us, May the word of God direct us. May thy Salvation, O Lord, be always ours this day and for evermore.

Amen.

This is often followed by the following more familiar blessing –

May the road rise up to meet you.

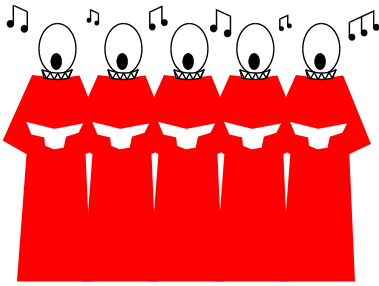
May the wind be always at your back

May the sun shine warm upon your face;

the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Amen.



Choir Notes

After nearly a year at the helm, I thought I had everything under control. What a dangerous thought! Especially with Passiontide/Holy Week/Easter, with lots of special services. Still, the choir have been very patient with the scribe, and



we've already got the Passion Sunday service done and dusted.

One down and five to go! And I am bound to say that the choir sang very well and nicely on Passion Sunday, and I'll go further, and say, that you, the congregation, were treated to particularly good music for that service.

We had a rather amusing incident at a recent choir practice. One of the anthems we were looking at starts off with a cantor (solo singer), before all of the choir join in. So, we were discussing who or which voices should sing the cantor bit. Now, someone who shall remain anonymous, had written in thick pencil on their copy of the music "men" for the cantor part. Unfortunately, instead of saying something like "my copy has men written in thick bold letters" came out with "my copy says big fat men".... Such light hearted moments are to be greatly treasured!

One problem with Easter, at least on the music front, is that there are so many good hymns to choose from, and we only end up with singing just a small selection of them. In a way, it seems like a bit of a waste. And no matter which hymns get sung, there will always be voices plaintively asking "why didn't you choose" such and such a hymn.

One piece of music that I like to play on Easter Day is "Sunrise", from "Also sprach Zarathustra", by Richard Strauss. The name of the music may not mean much to some of you, but it is universally recognised as being the theme music for "2001 - A Space Odyssey". This is one of those pieces of music where my imagination goes into overdrive. I imagine the empty tomb, with the stone rolled away, and not yet quite light. Then, suddenly, the light of the rising sun floods into the tomb. I don't know how to explain this, but such imagery somehow works its way down to my fingers when playing such pieces of music and affects how I play the notes themselves.

With the final chord of that music thundering away in my head, I wish everyone a Happy Easter.

Paul Warren



St. Lawrence Flower Rota

31 st March	Easter Flowers
7 th April	Easter Flowers
14 th "	In memory of Lilian Hodgson
21 st "	In memory of Daphne Nelson
28 th "	In memory of Stephen & Annie Kenyon

St. Paul's Flowers

Easter Sunday and throughout April.—Donna Rowe Green and others



Hymns we love - Come down, O Love divine—Paul Warren

This well loved and popular hymn is a translation of a medieval poem originally written in Italian. The author of the poem was Bianco da Siena, who lived from circa 1350 to 1434. He was born in Tuscany and spent his boyhood as an apprentice in the wool trade in Siena. At the age of seventeen he joined an order of mystics. Although he wrote a number of lyrics and hymns, little more is known about him, other than he spent his last years in Venice.

Bianco's poem, which began '*Discendi, Amor santo*' and ran to eight verses, was little known until 1851 when it was copied by an Italian from an ancient manuscript. Some years after this rediscovery, four of the verses were translated by Dr Richard Littledale (1833 - 1890). These translated verses appeared in Littledale's *People's Hymnal*, published in 1867.



Come down, O Love divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passion turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till he becomes the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Littledale's translation retains much of the spirit of the original Italian verses. In particular, it preserves Bianco da Siena's allusion to the monastic vocation, especially in the lines of the third verse which speak of the vesture of holy charity and the inner clothing of lowliness.

Richard Littledale was a high churchman who translated many hymns from Latin, Greek and other languages. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin. His first curacy was at St Matthew's, Thorpe, Norfolk and then at St Mary the Virgin, Soho.

'Come down, O Love divine' was sung very little in Britain until it was chosen as one of the entries for the hymnbook the *English Hymnal* in 1906. The editor of this hymnbook was Percy Dearmer, and he chose the virtually unknown Ralph Vaughan Williams to be responsible for the musical side of the new hymnbook.

On the whole, where existing tunes were lacking or inadequate, Williams tended to prefer settings of English folk songs to new tunes. But 'Come down, O Love divine' was an exception (he only wrote four new tunes for the hymnbook, including the tune *Sine Nomine*, which is sung with great gusto to 'For all the saints').

Williams called the new tune for 'Come down, O Love divine' Down Ampney, after his birthplace in Gloucestershire. Arguably, the success of this hymn lies with the tune.

We all be exploring this hymn at St Paul's on Wednesday 17th April at 11.00 am, where, not only do we sing the hymn, but Mike will provide insight to the meaning and heart of the verses.

Our Favourite Recipe

Having covered both soup and cake recipes in recent Logs we are now delving into the Mothers Union cookery book and sharing a tried and tested main course dish which may well be worth trying out on the family over the Easter school holidays.

BEEF, CARROT, ONION & HERB MEATBALLS WITH SWEET POTARO MASH

500g Minced Beef	1 large Carrot, grated
1 Onion, finely chopped	3 tsp Tomato Puree
3 tsp Dried Mixed Herbs	Salt & Pepper
4 medium Sweet Potatoes, peeled and chopped	

Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C

1. Mix the beef, onion, carrot, tomato puree, herbs and seasoning in a bowl.
2. Make meatballs about the size of a golf ball and place them in a baking dish.
3. Add a little water and cover with foil to keep the meatballs nice and moist.
4. After the meatballs have been cooking for about 15 minutes prepare the sweet potato mash by cooking for about 10 minutes or until cooked through. Drain the potatoes and mash with a little salt, pepper and a little butter, a bit of ground nutmeg is nice too.
5. Serve using the juices from the meat as gravy – if you like a bit more gravy add a bit more water whilst the meatballs are cooking.

Church Flower Club

Save it With Flowers!! We have a theme for our Flower Festival and are really excited about the whole project. Everyone can be involved, even if you have never put a flower in a vase before – honestly.

As well as group displays, we would love as many of you as possible to put together a 'Cup of Love'. This can be anything from a dainty china cup and saucer to an old tin mug. You can fill it with flowers or leaves, maybe even herbs.

It would be great if these have grown locally, either in your garden or a friend's plot. Another way to be involved is to maybe create individual flowers using your craft skills – can you knit, crochet or sew? Maybe you are great at woodwork, using scrap materials to make a recycled flower or even a whizz at Lego building. Honestly, anything goes.

I will probably be talking about this all the way to July, but please do come along and say hello if you see me in church. I would be so glad to hear your ideas or guide you if you are stumped.

If you would like to join our monthly Flower Club, it is open to anyone. You do not have to arrange flowers in church to come along to our meetings. We have a range of activities and demonstrations throughout the year on the 4th Tuesday of the month, 7.30 – 8.30pm.

If you would like any information on how you can be involved with our flower team, both at St Paul's and St Lawrence's or how to help fund the blooms in church, please do give me a call on 07880348597 or email donnarowegreen@gmail.com.

Thank you so much. *Donna*.



Church Flower Club - continued.....



St Lawrence
with St Paul
Longridge

Save it With
Flowers



A Community Celebration of Flowers

July 13th & 14th 2024

St Lawrence's Church

The Flower Team from St Lawrence with St Paul's would love to invite you to be involved by making a display as part of this event. Our theme, "Save it with Flowers" is a way to inspire all of us to think about how just a small patch of flowers can contribute to the protection of our planet.

Groups: Donna would really like to visit you to chat more about what you might like to include in your display. Believe us, no idea is too crazy.

Individuals: We would love to scatter 'cups of love' throughout the festival. This might be a dainty china tea cup or a tough old tin mug, anything goes. Just fill it with flowers and leaves, preferably grown locally such as in your garden, and we will display them around the church.



For more information or just a chat about this , please do give Donna a call on 07880348597 or email donnarowegreen@gmail.com

Travels with Dorothy Laver Durham Cathedral and The Venerable Bede.

Unfortunately I am unable to join the Parish weekend to Durham in September as I already have another trip booked driving part of Route 66 in the USA. I am disappointed to miss the weekend as I love Durham and have visited there several times. When I was considering my options after A levels, I was encouraged to apply to St Hilda's College in Durham for a teacher training course and was accepted. I decided instead of teacher training to read History and applied to another Durham College, St Aidan's, but sadly was not accepted. In the end I went to Liverpool University and was very happy there reading Medieval and Modern History.



Parishioners going on the Parish weekend will be able to visit the stunning Cathedral situated high up above the River Wear on a peninsula. They will see the shrine and magnificent treasures of St Cuthbert. St Cuthbert is the most popular saint but there is also another Northern Saint's tomb in the Cathedral that you should take time to visit. At the western end of the Cathedral is the Galilee Chapel. It is the first Chapel visitors wander through before entering the Nave. You will see a Latin inscription on a tomb which translates into English as :
" In this grave are the bones of the Venerable Bede".

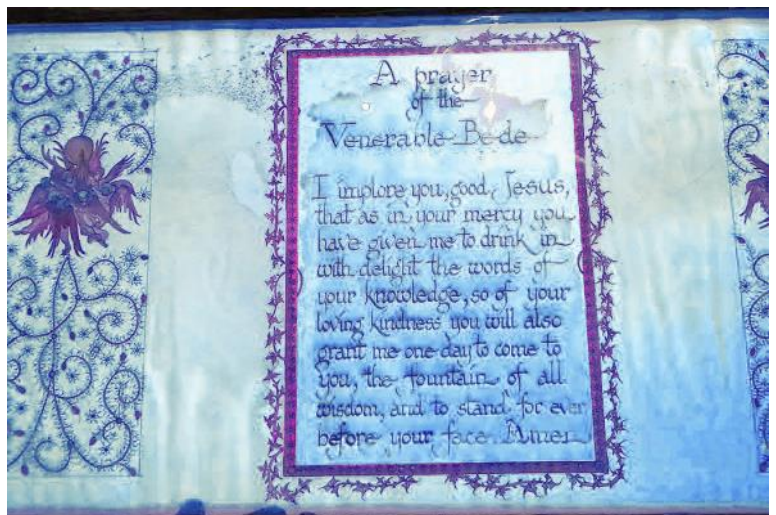
Who was Bede , why is he "Venerable" and how did he come to Durham?

Bede (673-735) was born near a Benedictine monastery in Wearmouth and entered the monastery in Jarrow as a child at the age of 7. He became a monk and then a priest. The monastery had a very good library and Bede wrote extensively, including works on the life of St Cuthbert and the lives of the

saints. He was a skilled linguist and translator and contributed significantly to English Christianity by making Latin and Greek writings more accessible to the Anglo-Saxons. His most significant work is "The Ecclesiastical History of the English People" which was written in Latin. (In my first year at Liverpool we studied this work but fortunately we studied a translation!). Bede also helped to popularise the practice of dating forward from the birth of Christ (Anno Domini)

When he died Bede was buried at the monastery in Jarrow. Despite Viking raids his grave survived untouched.. A monk took his remains (relics) to the new Durham minster in approximately 1022. They were first buried in the grave of St Cuthbert but were then moved in 1370 to their own tomb in the Galilee Chapel. Pilgrims came in large numbers to Bede's shrine. The shrine survived the Reformation and Bede was re-buried in a more simple tomb. In 1831 the grave was rebuilt .

Bede is considered to be the greatest of all the Anglo-Saxon scholars and is regarded as the father of English History as well as being the Patron Saint of scholars and historians. If it were not for Bede we would know much less about this dark period of history and the lives of the saints. Bede's influence was such that in 1899 he was declared a Doctor of the Church, the only Englishman to receive this honour.



I believe there are still places available on the weekend. If you have never been to Durham why not give it a go? Also for the children various parts of the Cathedral were used in the Harry Potter films.

OUR WORSHIP AND READINGS

Our vision is With Jesus On Mission

Our regular Sunday 'in church' services are below.

St Paul's Holy Communion Service at 9:30am (arrival from 9:00am)
 St Paul's Informal Service at 11:15am (not on 2nd Sunday of the month)
 St. Paul's 'All together' Service 10:00am on 2nd Sunday of the Month
 St Lawrence's at 6:30pm (arrival from 6:00pm)

The readings that will feature in these services are listed below.

Our regular mid-week Holy Communion Service takes place on Thursday at St Paul's at 10am

7th April—Easter 2

9:30am St Paul's and Live Stream	11:15am Informal Service	6:30pm St Lawrence's (Evensong)
1 John 1.1—2.2 John 20: 19-31	1 John 1.1—2.2	Psalms 143 : 1-11 1 John 1.1—2.2 John 20: 19-31

14h April—Easter 3— All Together Service

10:00am St Paul's and Live Stream	6:30pm St Lawrence's (Holy Communion)
1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24 : 36b-48	1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24 : 36b-48

21st April—Easter 4

9:30am St Paul's and Live Stream	11:15am Informal Service	6:30pm St Lawrence's (Evensong)
1 John 3:16-24 John 10 : 11-18	1 John 3:16-24	Psalms 81 : 8-16 1 John 3:16-24 John 10 : 11-18

28th April—Easter 5

9:30am St Paul's and Live Stream	11:15am Informal Service	6:30pm St Lawrence's (Evensong)
1 John 4 : 7-21 John 15 : 1-8	1 John 4 : 7-21	Psalms 96 1 John 4 : 7-21 John 15 : 1-8

5th May —Easter 6

9:30am St Paul's and Live Stream	11:15am Informal Service	6:30pm St Lawrence's (Evensong)
1 John 5 : 1- 6 John 15 : 9–17	1 John 5 : 1- 6	Psalms 45 v 1-9 1 John 5 : 1- 6 John 15 : 9–17

Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child, Baptisms, Marriages

Arrangements for these should be made with the Vicar (Tel: 01772 783281) or via the Church website
 Do you know anybody who is in hospital or ill at home?
 If so, please let the Vicar know so that they may be visited.

BAPTISMS

We congratulate and pray for those who have been recently Baptised into our Church family:

Nasim Zanguee on Easter Day 31st March 2024 at St. Paul's Church



FUNERALS

We commend to God those who have died recently and pray for those who mourn their loss

David Stringer Florence Jackson Peter David Nuttall
 Cynthia Dobson Caroline Heather Bradley Joanne Parkinson



The Last Word

From the Vicar



Perhaps it's the ridiculously long run of poor weather we've been having that's left me hoping for Summer and drawn my attention back to one of Aesop's fables that most stuck in my mind as a child. Can you guess which one? It's the one where the wind and the sun have a dispute about who was the more powerful of the two. No this wasn't an early competition to decide the best source of renewable energy, instead like all fables it served a moral purpose.

And so as an unsuspecting traveller walks by, the wind and the sun compete to see who can remove the traveller's cloak the quickest. The wind goes first and starts to blow with ever increasing measure, but the more the wind blows the more

tightly the traveller wraps his cloak around himself.

The sun goes next and starts to shine brighter and brighter and soon the traveller is made warm by the sun's glorious heat. It's not then long before the hot traveller casts his cloak to the ground and the sun is declared the winner.

A victory for gentle persuasion over forceful bluster. Why then do so many of us adopt the strategy of the wind when it comes to getting our point across? Perhaps it's because we're more concerned with being validated in our own eyes rather than considering the honest concerns of those with whom we're engaging.

It's interesting to apply this fable to the way the resurrected Jesus ministered to, and commissioned Peter following Peter's previous denial of Jesus three times.

Rather than castigate the already broken Peter with force, Jesus ask Peter the gentle question, 'Do you love me?' three times. Jesus draws Peter back into the warmth of his own love by allowing Peter to think for himself.

Peter will later write in one of his letters to the church, '*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect*', 1 Peter 3.15.

For the Christian the resurrection of Jesus, which we've just celebrated on Easter Day, is the most powerful source of hope the world has ever known, yet if we try to communicate it forcibly, inevitably most will turn away.

So knowing the hope of the resurrection, how can Christians shine like the sun rather than blow like the wind? Someone once said, 'Grace plus Truth given over Time equals Spiritual Growth' and I quite like that equation. A Christian's role is therefore to continue to shine. I think this poem by Emily Dickenson sums things up nicely:

*Tell all the truth but tell it slant —
Success in Circuit lies
Too bright for our infirm Delight
The Truth's superb surprise
As Lightning to the Children eased
With explanation kind
The Truth must dazzle gradually
Or every man be blind —*

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