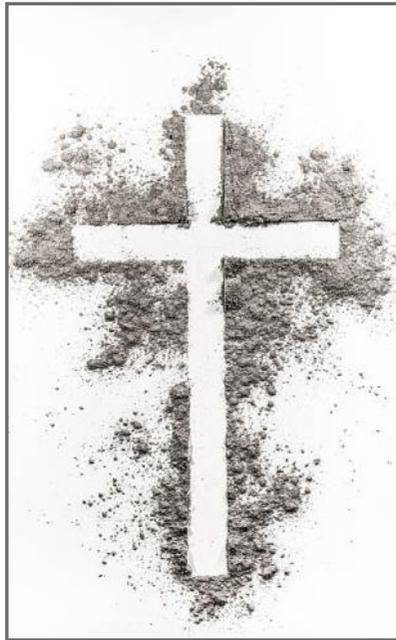


Bolton Parish Church

St Peter, Bolton-le-Moors



Parish News

February 2018

50 p

Will you be my Valentine? Whether or not we care to admit it, I guess most of us have at some time known the heady excitement of sending or receiving Valentine cards, concocting elaborate plots to maintain anonymity by disguising hand-writing or obtaining a misleading post-mark from an entirely different area to where you live. Memories of teenage anticipations and expectations, hopes realised or dashed, the embarrassment of mistaken assumptions or the wretchedness of discovering someone has played a cruel trick live on, long after love has lost its giddiness.

I don't know how much Valentine's Day means to young people nowadays, whether it features at all among the glittering array of social media channels through which they communicate with one another, but February the 14th

remains still a hugely significant date in the worlds of retail and marketing.

No sooner have the last Christmas cards been cleared from the racks than they are replaced by Valentine missals of all descriptions, draped in the traditional hearts and roses and dripping with sentimental verse. Jewellers, florists, restaurants and chocolate-sellers gear up expectantly, and for a few days romantic influences pervade many other areas, including clothing, lingerie, stationery, confectionary and entertainment.

For the Church, however, this year February the fourteenth holds a contrasting significance to the excess of Valentine exuberance. This year Ash Wednesday falls on 14th Feb; the first day of Lent, the first day traditionally of forty days of absolution and self-denial leading up to Holy Week and the great celebration of Easter, or alternatively the first of forty days of opportunity to increase awareness of the God we serve.

The season of Lent doesn't need to be a period of intentional misery; but I do believe it should rightly be kept differently in some way from the rest of the year, marked out as the solemn season of conscious self-discipline, whether your choice is to give up or to take up.

This 14th February your fare may be sumptuous, an homage to the fabled St Valentine, or perhaps a more measured recognition of the beginning of this season of preparation focusing attention on the living and dying Christ.

Whichever way you think of it, Valentine's Day or Ash Wednesday, it is all about love; the heady, new love which overwhelms, the settled, mature love which grounds and sustains, the consummate, unconditional, divine love which redeems and renews, over and over again.

Holy Communion will be celebrated at both 12.15 and 7.30 on Ash Wednesday, with opportunities for those who wish to receive the ancient mark of penitence, a cross of ash on the forehead, as the Lenten observance begins.

In the love of the living Christ, Maira

From the Registers

Baptism

14th Jan.	Dominic Thomas Kenyon Rebecca Louise Myatt Elizabeth Anne Myatt
28th Jan.	Liam John Kelly

Marriage

17th Jan.	Martin Barker and Antonia Cook
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Funeral

5th Jan.	Yip Tak (<i>Dennis</i>) Chan
12th Jan.	Alan Wolfendale

February Calendar

- 4 Sunday Second Sunday before Lent**
8.00 Holy Communion
10.30 Parish Communion (BCP)
18.30 Evening Prayer
- 6 Tuesday 12.15 Holy Communion
- 8 Thursday 12.15 Holy Communion
12.15 Holy Communion
- 11 Sunday Sunday next before Lent**
8.00 Holy Communion
10.30 Parish Communion (CW)
18.30 Evening Prayer with hymns
- 13 Tuesday 12.15 Holy Communion
- 14 Wednesday **ASH WEDNESDAY**
12.15 Holy Communion with imposition of ashes
19.30 Choral Eucharist with imposition of ashes
- 15 Thursday Sigfrid, Bishop, Apostle of Sweden, 1045
12.15 Holy Communion
1.00 Lent Reflection “Kingdom Living” - lunch from 12.30
- 18 Sunday First Sunday of Lent**
8.00 Holy Communion
10.30 Parish Communion (BCP)
18.30 Evening Prayer
- 20 Tuesday 12.15 Holy Communion
- 22 Thursday 12.15 Holy Communion
1.00 Lent Reflection “Life with God” - lunch from 12.30
- 25 Sunday Second Sunday of Lent**
8.00 Holy Communion (CW)
10.30 Parish Communion
18.30 BPC Choral Evensong
- 27 Tuesday **George Herbert, Priest, Poet, 1633**
12.15 Holy Communion
- March**
- 1 Thursday **David, Bishop of Menevia, Patron of Wales, c. 601**
12.15 Holy Communion
1.00 Lent Reflection “Apprenticeship” - lunch from 12.30

INTERREGNUM UPDATE

As we announced previously the date for the licensing and induction of Rev Canon Dr Chris Bracegirdle has been set for 18 April at 7.30pm. Invitations will be sent out shortly but please note the date in your diary. The Churchwardens of the two churches met with the Area Dean to plan the service and we will be meeting again shortly with Chris to look at the order of service in more detail.

Work on the new vicarage is now well underway and should be ready in good time for Chris to be in his new home before 18 April.

The first Sunday services for our new Vicar will at Bolton Parish Church on Sunday 22 April and at St Philips on 29 April.

Please keep Chris in your thoughts and prayers as we look forward to welcoming him to Bolton Parish Church.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

The Annual Parochial Meeting will be held after morning service on 29 April, starting at 12.15pm. If you have a report for the meeting and have not yet sent it in please do so as soon as possible. This will greatly assist in compiling the Annual Report.

CHURCH CLEANING

Our cleaner does a sterling job in keeping the Church clean from week to week but it does no harm to do a 'deep clean' from time to time. The PCC agreed that we should try to put together a working party to undertake this task in time for Easter. Dusters and polish will be supplied along with refreshments but we need your 'elbow grease'.

If you are able to help please let the wardens know.

BELL RINGING COMPETITION

As you may have read in the Bolton News, bell ringers from across the North West came together in Bolton Parish Church on 27 January for a '12 Bell Strike' competition. Everyone who took part seemed to enjoy the day and it was good to hear the bells ring across the town.

Thank you to all who helped our ringers with the organisation on the day.

As a result of the competition, one of the visitors asked if he could arrange a band of ringers to ring a peal on 21 April to celebrate the arrival of our new Vicar. It will also recognise birthday of HM the Queen whose birthday falls on that day.

PA SYSTEM

For some time now, we have had problems with the pa system, particularly in the chancel. New speakers have been fitted in the chancel and sanctuary to replace speakers which had failed. This will partially resolve the problem but we need to look at a longer term solution with a new up to date system throughout the Church.

The work undertaken will form part of any new system so the work will not be wasted but the costs of a new system will not be cheap.

SUDANESE CHURCH IN BOLTON

For several months the Sudanese Church in Bolton has been meeting each week, initially in Church, but now in either the Church or the Hall. The PCC agreed initially to a trial period to see how the arrangements worked. At the meeting in January the PCC agreed to extend the trial to 30 June. The normal arrangements will be for a service in Church on the first Sunday of the month between 2.00pm and 5.00pm with a service in the Hall on other Sundays.

In addition, a ladies group will meet in the Hall for bible study on Saturday afternoons.

These arrangements need a commitment from us. We need to be available to open up and close the Hall and on those weeks when the service is in Church to be in attendance throughout.

Please speak to one of the wardens If you can help.

HOLY WEEK 2018

Just after Easter last year the Bishop of Manchester announced that he would be spending Holy Week at Bolton Parish Church. He will be with us for most the services from Palm Sunday until Easter Day.

He will also be visiting our schools and spending time around the parish, in particular the town centre.

Full details of his programme are still to be finalised and more details will be in the March magazine. Please look out for details.

John Walsh OBE

The Church is also normally open on Tuesday and Thursdays 11.30am -1.30pm.

For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, please contact the Parish Office on 01204 522226.

Church Services at a glance

Sundays	08.00	Holy Communion
	10.30	Parish Communion
	18.30	Evening Prayer
Tuesdays	12.15	Holy Communion
Thursdays	12.15	Holy Communion

Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 2nd March 2018

The Women's World Day of Prayer (WWDP) began in 1930, and today is a world-wide, ecumenical movement of Christian women united by a desire to encourage the use of women's talents in service to the wider communities in which they live. The Day of Prayer, observed annually on the first Friday in March, begins as day breaks over the Pacific island of Tonga and travels around the globe, concluding back in the Pacific on the island of Samoa. The service is prepared by a committee in a different country each year, focusing on a theme chosen by those women and on the life and traditions of that country.

Noting that WWDP has not been marked in our town centre for some time, our Christians Together group (CTBTC) is arranging a service here in the Parish Church at 2p.m. on Friday, 2nd March, followed by tea, coffee and cake. The order of service for this year has been prepared by women from Suriname in South America, using the title, "*All God's Creation is Very Good.*"

Everyone, men as well as women, are invited to join in this act of worship, and anyone who would like to be involved in any way in preparing or presenting the liturgy will be very welcome – please let Moira know.

Lunches and reflections during Lent

As has become the habit, Christians Together in Bolton Town Centre extend an invitation to share a light lunch in the church hall followed by a period of reflection and discussion, each Thursday afternoon during Lent.

Having invited a series of speakers from various organisations and perspectives for the past few years, this year we will instead be following a short course designed by the Bible Society, one of a number of resources encouraging Christians to explore their faith in order to share it confidently with others.

Called Big Hearted Lyfe, it outlines six sessions (see more below). The writer of the course says, “*my prayer is that as followers of Jesus we take the Bible out of the pew into the pub, out of the church into the café, and out of our private quiet time into noisy public places...*” In other words, into our ordinary daily routine.

Sessions will be facilitated by local church leaders; each works through a particular passage of Scripture as a basis for reflection and discussion, and invites each participant to choose and commit to one of three challenges prompted by that theme.

The separate sessions do not rely on having done the previous ones; so come to as many or as few as you can – but please do come.

**Thursday afternoons in Bolton Parish Church upstairs hall;
lunch served from 12.30, discussion groups from 1 o'clock,
concluding about 1.45 p.m.**

15th Feb. **Kingdom Living** Matt 13.36-52

22nd Feb. **Life with God** John 15.1-11

1st March **Apprenticeship** Matt 7.24-29

8th March **Spread the Love** John 4.1-26

15th March **Words of Life** James 3.1-12

22nd March **Life With Others** Acts 2.42-47

**A Communion Service is held in church each Thursday,
12.15-12.50 which all are also warmly invited to attend.**

Sermon preached by The Bishop of Bolton at Bolton Parish Church on Sunday 14 January. 2018

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a *dream* today!

These famous words from Martin Luther King's speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington in 1963 resonate down the years despite the somewhat dated language.

And I quote them because our reading from the Book of Revelation could be couched in a similar language. Revelation speaks of God's dream for the world where one day the church will be made up of people from every tribe and nation and language, where one day those who oppressed and opposed the church will be held to account, where one day the powers of evil and darkness will be defeated, where one day the tears will be wiped away with no more suffering no more sickness no more death, where one day all will live in peace and joy, where one day all will live in the very presence of God,

where one day there will be new heavens and a new earth. That is the dream, God's dream for the world.

Revelation Chapter 5 begins to articulate that dream, partly in the new song towards the end of the reading:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

And in that song, it refers back to the scroll that the one seated on the throne holds in his right hand, mentioned in verse 1 "Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals"

For many people the book of Revelation with all its weird and wonderful imagery is a somewhat closed book. Some of the imagery in our Chapter today is not so easy to understand. It's a bit like trying to understand the laws of cricket for an American or trying to make sense of a piece of music to a non-musician. But you don't have to understand all the finer details of the LBW law to appreciate cricket and you don't have to know the intricacies of musical theory to appreciate Handel's Messiah. And nor do you need a degree in Apocalyptic imagery to appreciate Revelation chapter 5.

There are two keys worth knowing about. The first is that the scroll sealed with seven seals is God's plan God's dream for the world. It is written both inside and out to denote its comprehensiveness. But the plan can only come into effect when the scroll is opened and so the angel cries who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals. The seals indicate that this document is very important just as the

licences that I give to clergy at their collation are sealed with the episcopal seal of the Diocese.

So once you understand that in this imagery, the scroll is God's plan for the world you can begin to understand what Revelation is about. For just the knowledge that there is a plan is of tremendous comfort to the first century Christians undergoing intense opposition and persecution. God does have an end game and the purpose of Revelation is to remind the suffering church that God is sovereign, God does have a plan and one day justice and freedom will be established.

As you know, in many parts of the world, Christians are still suffering. Our own link Diocese of Lahore has suffered attacks and bombings on their churches, the same is true in Egypt, in Sudan, not to mention the extreme persecution in places like North Korea.

Our solidarity with them and the vision that Revelation has is of great significance and comfort to them.

So who is to open the scroll? The crunch here is that God is not the one to open the scroll, it is our human destiny to open the scroll and bring into being God's plan for the world. That is the way things work and underscores the vital role that we as the church have to play - we put into effect the purposes of God - that is our calling and gift right back from Genesis 1 where human beings are given responsibility for and dominion over the world

The writer is crying because no one can be found to break the seals and open the scroll; but then he is told don't worry, the Lion of Judah is here. He has won the victory and will open the scroll. The Lion of Judah referring to the Davidic King to come from the tribe of Judah. It gives the impression of a militaristic Messiah that many thought was to come.

But in a strange reversal the writer turns and looks and sees not a lion but a Lamb that has been slaughtered. What good is a lamb and a slaughtered one at that? Where is the power and the might and the glory in a lamb that has died? This is the beauty of Revelation and this type of literature; it weaves together two seemingly opposing ideas. For the Lion is the lamb and the Lamb is the lion. In other words Jesus, the Messiah, the son of David, won the victory and found his right to put into action God's plan for the world, not by a feat of strength, not by winning a battle of swords and spears, but by his death and glorious resurrection. Jesus is like the most powerful animal in the world, the King of the Jungle, but achieves the victory by becoming like the most vulnerable animal in the world.

This turns upside down our own perceptions of power and success, this refutes the view that because we are weak we can't do anything, it disturbs the voices of the world that tell us we must become like lions to make an impact. No it is the cross that is the place of victory over evil and death and the powers of darkness.

So the encouragement that I bring to you today is this. God is king and he has a plan a good plan for the world. God has a dream for what we are to become. That plan comes into effect because of Jesus the Lion and the Lamb - but it comes into effect through us this multinational multi-ethnic amazing group of people united by our love for Jesus Christ. So what can we do to make God's dream a reality or in Gospel terms to see heaven opened in our day and our generation?

My prayer is that together we may have a greater grasp of God's dream for the world as we reflect on Scripture and allow the Spirit to direct our minds; and that we would have a greater grasp on how the way of the cross of Jesus will enable us to put that dream into reality here in Bolton.

May God bless us as we do so.

Opening the church for visitors.

This is the last clause of our Vision Statement:

In everything we do we aim to reflect God's love and care to our congregation and across the town.

There is a clear need for the church to be open and available to people in the town, because whenever the church door is open, people come in. They come:

- ◆ for a few minutes' peace and quiet at a time of personal need;
- ◆ to see the place where their forbears came for baptisms, weddings or funerals;
- ◆ to make an enquiry;
- ◆ just because 'I've lived in Bolton all my life and I've never been in here!'

At present the door is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays around the time of the midday services, and on Fridays when the flower team is working.

We really need to find a way to keep that door open more. To make that work, we need more people who can give a few hours of their time to be in the church ready to greet visitors.

Could you be one of those people?

Could you offer a few hours – say between 11 and 1.30 – once a week, or once a fortnight, so that we can care for our visitors better?

With spring coming, it would be good to get a rota going from the beginning of March. Ideally we would like two people at a time.

There are often clergy, or wardens or deputies about but they have jobs to do, so they can't guarantee to be on hand to welcome visitors but are available to be called upon. You would not be without someone to refer to if questions are asked that you can't answer.

If you can help, or would like more information, please talk to Evelyn or John. And thank you.

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.

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 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 shroving 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 and a number of towns have maintained the tradition. These include Alwick in Northumberland, Ashbourne in Derbyshire (the Royal Shrovetide Football Match) and Sedgfield (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 resembled a fairground, with stalls arranged on the sea front offering gingerbread, liquorice, coconuts, and similar delicacies. A contemporary account described the scene: "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."

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 parts of Yorkshire, snow pancakes were often made if there was snow on the ground on Shrove Tuesday. Immediately before cooking, a tablespoonful of snow was stirred into the mix.

The idea was to fry the batter really quickly so that it 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!

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday occurs 46 days before Easter. Ash Wednesday fell on 1 March last year and falls on 14 February this year.

In future years, Ash Wednesday will fall on the following dates:

- 2019 – 6 March
- 2020 – 26 February
- 2021 – 17 February
- 2022 – 2 March
- 2023 – 22 February
- 2024 – 14 February
- 2025 – 5 March
- 2026 – 18 February
- 2027 – 10 February
- 2028 – 1 March
- 2029 – 14 February
- 2030 – 6 March

The earliest date Ash Wednesday can occur is 4 February (in a common year with Easter on 22 March), which happened in 1573, 1668, 1761 and 1818 and will next occur in 2285.

The latest date is 10 March (when Easter Day falls on 25 April) which occurred in 1546, 1641, 1736, 1886 and 1943 and will next occur in 2038.

Ash Wednesday has never occurred on Leap Year Day (29 February), and it will not occur as such until 2096. The only other years of the present millennium that will have Ash Wednesday on 29 February are 2468, 2688, 2840, and 2992. (Ash Wednesday falls on 29 February only if Easter is on 15 April in a leap year.)

Deanery Flash Mob!!

Would you like to join a Flash Mob?

Have you been part of a Flash Mob?

Do you know what a Flash Mob is?

On 31st March, Easter Saturday, Bolton Deanery Flash Mob will sing in the town centre. Just one song, no practice, gathering at 11.45. The words of the song (which will be well known anyway) will be available. Easter eggs will be handed out during the singing. At the end of the song we all leave.

It is hoped and anticipated that each church will be represented. Ask me for more information!

Lesley Easterman

Thank you from Sunday School

Everyone in Sunday School would like to say a big thank you to all those who filled a Rotary shoe box or bought something from our stall before Christmas.

We have sent 27 filled shoe boxes and also raised £87.21 for The Children's Society.



Bolton Parish Church

Music for February 2018



Sunday 4th – 2nd before Lent

10.30 BCP – Shaw

Introit: Venite vv 1-7

Hymns: 555, 258, 250
328, 625
267

The Heavens are Telling – Joseph Haydn

Trumpet Tune in A – David N. Johnson

Wednesday 14th – Ash Wednesday

19.30 Choral Eucharist

Hymns: 95, 97, 411
269, 98
557

Mass for Four Voices – William Byrd

Miserere Mei, Deus – William Byrd

Sunday 25th – Lent 2

10.30 Common Worship – Appleford

Hymns: 368, 582, 606
304, 269
376

Lord, Let Me Know Mine End – Maurice Greene

Fugue in B minor (from BWV 544)
– J. S. Bach

Sunday 18th – Lent 1

10.30 BCP – Merbecke

Hymns: 95, 496, 96
99, 284
557

Almighty and Everlasting God

– Orlando Gibbons

Fantasia in C minor (BWV 562)
– J. S. Bach

18.30 BCP Choral Evensong

Psalm 135

Responses: Tomkins

Canticles: Walmisley in D minor

Hymns: 385, 97, 20

How Lovely are Thy Dwellings

– Johannes Brahms

Sunday 11th – Next before Lent

10.30 Common Worship – Appleford

Hymns: 386, 383, 628
474, 495
430

O Nata Lux – Thomas Tallis

Toccata – Eugène Gigout

Vicar:



Lecturer: Revd Moira Slack BA, BTech

Curate: Revd Barrie S. Gaskell

Assoc. Priest: Revd Canon Professor Kenneth G. C. Newport BA, MA, MSt, DPhil, DD (Oxon)

Director of Music: Michael Pain MA, FRCo, LRAM, ARCM



From Canon Mike Williams

I would like to thank you all at Bolton Parish Church for the donation of £500 you made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund (JDRF).

Our grandson has had Type 1 diabetes since he was two and so we have a personal interest in this fund. The fund's work is primarily into better treatment for those with Type1, to investigate the causes and, in the longer term, to find cures.

More and more children and young people are now being diagnosed with the condition and this is often critical when, as the children get older, they have to learn to take more personal responsibility for themselves. For teenagers it can prove to be a very dangerous time.

During 2017, my son James and I have been raising money for this charity. One event was the 60-mile night cycle ride around Liverpool and the Wirral. My son's firm in Manchester also agreed to make it their charity for the year.

The total raised in events during the year, including your £500, was just over £10,000. James' firm then doubled this so the total that has gone to the charity is £20,333.

This is a wonderful result and it will be a considerable help to the charities' research which will help people, not only in this country but across the world, who suffer from this condition. Once cures have been found it will potentially benefit millions of young people.

Many thanks for your support.

Collect for The First Day of Lent

commonly called Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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Joanne L. - August 2016



Good

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A man moved into a tiny hamlet. On the following day, he decided to visit the village pub, where he promptly ordered three beers. The barman looked a little surprised, but served the man three beers, which he drank quietly at a table, alone. An hour later, after the man had finished the three beers, he ordered three more.

The next evening the man came in again and ordered three beers several times. Soon the entire village was whispering about the Man Who Orders Three Beers. Eventually, the barman brought up the subject on behalf of the villagers: "I don't mean to pry, but people around here are wondering why you always order three beers."

The man explained: "You see, I have two brothers, and one went to America, and the other to Australia. We promised each other that we would always order an extra two beers whenever we drank as a way of keeping up the family bond."

The barman was pleased with this answer, and the Man Who Orders Three Beers became a local celebrity, with outsiders also coming to the hamlet to watch him order and drink.

Then, one day, the man came in and ordered only two beers. The bartender poured them with a heavy heart.

This continued for the rest of the evening - each time he ordered just two beers. Word flew around the village and prayers were offered for the soul of one of the brothers.

The next day, the barman said to the man "The villagers and I want to offer our condolences to you for the death of one of your brothers. We couldn't help but notice the two beers..."

The man pondered for a moment, then replied "You'll be happy to hear that my two brothers are alive and well... It's just that I've decided to give up drinking for Lent".

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Mobile 07759 19 44 78

1B Ansdell Road

Horwich

Bolton

Hand-bell Group

New members are very welcome to join us – we meet in church (access via the south side door) on Wednesday evenings between 7 and 8.30pm. Please consult the pew sheet for any changes.

Walsh's



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Open: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.
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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.

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**We support Royal School for the Blind, Church Road,
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Conveyancing, wills.....

.....be well advised

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Flower News

The beginning of January saw the church still decorated with Christmas splendour. The arrangements were largely in white and gold; although the war memorial arrangement was in red and gold, and in the west porch a “frosty” arrangement in white and silver, complete with robin greeted people at the door.

Arrangements in the south porch, of candles and gold pots with foliage and gold stars, were beautifully created by members of Sunday school - including parents and grandparents. The theme of the guiding star then followed through into church. By the museum corner an arrangement of amaryllis and carnations included a larger star. Following across to the north aisle the Magi were to be seen journeying towards the stable. At the crossing was a metal obelisk decorated with amaryllis and the largest star of all...leading to the crib.

In the middle of January, the altar arrangements were of white carnations, and a pedestal arrangement by the pulpit contained green chrysanthemums, cream roses and white spray carnations.

Plans for our next charity flower day on Saturday 12th May are now well in hand, and for further details please see Alison or Kath.

With grateful thanks for donations to the flower fund at Christmas and during January. Thank you also for gifts of foliage for Christmas, and for help given in both creating the Christmas arrangements and then helping to dismantle them in January.

Flower team

Choir

If you (or someone you know) enjoy singing and are interested in helping to maintain the tradition of Anglican Choral music, you may like to consider joining the choir. Some ability to read music is essential.

For 6th-form pupils considering a future application as a Choral Scholar at University, the experience of singing in a choir like this could be invaluable, and, even if you do not have such high aspirations, could still prove very rewarding.

We are always on the look-out for new singers. If you think you might be interested, contact the Director of Music, Michael Pain, on

07540-834-001 or michaelpain18@gmail.com, and he will be happy to discuss this with you.

Misprints and unfortunate turns of phrase

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.

Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and the deterioration of some older ones.

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.

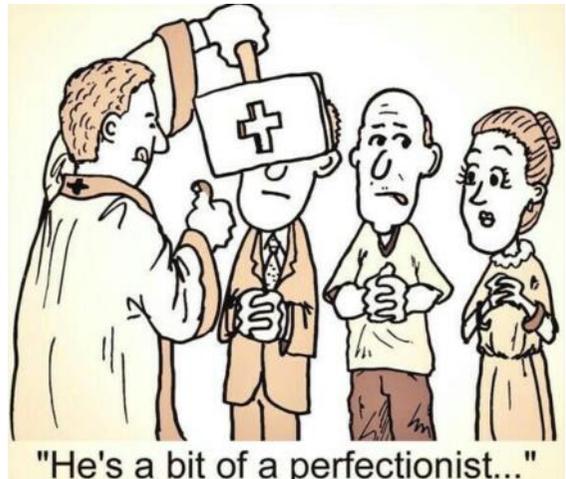
Meditation Group Meetings

Mondays 7.30 p.m. and
Thursdays 2 p.m.

Venue: The Friends' Meeting House.

Tea & coffee and biscuits served after each session.

Please consult the pew sheet for any changes.



To advertise in this publication, contact
admin@boltonparishchurch.co.uk
or call the Parish Office
on 01204 522226

Please send material for the March issue to the
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Curate:	Revd Barrie Gaskell	07512782297
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Treasurer:	Mr Andrew J Mitchell	01204 840633
Director of Music:	Mr Michael Pain michaelpain18@gmail.com	01204 491827
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Parish Church Schools

Canon Slade School, Bradshaw Brow BL2 3BP
Headteacher: David Burton
Tel: 01204 333343

Bishop Bridgeman Primary School, Rupert Street BL3 6PY
Executive Principal: Jill Pilling
Headteacher: Hafsha Hafeji
Tel: 01204 333466

Bolton Parish Church Primary School, Kestor Street BL2 2AN
Headteacher: Angela Worthington
Tel: 01204 333433