

## June 2010

### The Rector Writes

TRINITY SUNDAY marked the end of the 'festivals' part of the Christian Year and the beginning of the long stretch back to Advent.

It is the 'green' season, when the vestments and hangings remind us of God's good green earth (in our part of the world, at least). Green is the 'standard' colour of the church's liturgical dress.

It occurred to me that many people, even those who are life-long church goers, are not always aware of the church's colour scheme and the significance of the colours.

There are four main colours:

WHITE is used for feasts of Our Lord - Christmas, Easter, and so on, and for feasts of saints who were not martyrs. It is the symbol of purity (hence the reason why brides traditionally wear white). On really special occasions it may be replaced by gold, where a church has vestments of this colour.

RED is for saints who were apostles, evangelists and martyrs - killed for their faith - and represents the blood that they shed. It is also the colour of Passiontide and Palm Sunday, and of Pentecost, reminding us of the tongues of flame that rested on the heads of the apostles when the Holy Spirit came upon them in the Upper Room.

PURPLE or VIOLET, in its various shades, is the colour of penitence and is used in the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent.

GREEN is used for the rest of the year, what the church calls 'Ordinary Time' and is symbolic of growth.

If you're really going the whole hog, you might also have rose pink for Mothering Sunday and black for funerals, but those are really very old-fashioned these days and not much in evidence.

People have often asked why we need these colours and rituals at all. After all, they say, there is no mention of them in the Bible, and Jesus didn't use them.

That is undoubtedly true. But Jesus was a Jew, not a Christian, and the

development of liturgy is something that has happened over the centuries since the time of Jesus.

From the earliest days of The Church people have had the desire to honour and glorify God in as many ways as possible. For God, only the best was good enough.

This led to the practice of decorating churches and places of worship with rich and colourful fabrics and the custom of changing them for each new season became formalised in a succession of particular liturgical colours.

The system we use now, which is fairly standard throughout the Western Church, is a simplification of the medieval customs, which had many more colours and reasons for using them.

This urge to glorify God also led to the building of bigger, more elaborate and beautiful churches, resulting in a lot of the great cathedrals we have in England and Europe, many dating from the Middle Ages.

In parts of Europe especially there still remain many ordinary village parish churches which are wonderfully ornamented in the most beautiful baroque style, with paintings and carvings and elaborate decorations and statues.

I have seen some amazing examples of this in Germany and Austria, and I know that Spain and the Latin American countries have many such churches.

These were often paid for by the poorest of people, who made enormous sacrifices in their drab, far-from-rich lives to make sure that the House of God was as beautiful as it could possibly be.

It speaks volumes about their dedication to their faith and their love for God, and the desire that worship and their places of worship should be the best imaginable.

No one seems ever to have asked what God thinks about all this. In His affection for us, I believe, he accepts the loving offerings of His people, who did it to give glory and honour and praise to the Almighty.

But perhaps the best gift of all is a true, honest and loving heart, with which to offer praise and devotion. Worship God from within, not necessarily in the outward show.

Love and Peace to you all.

Tom.

## Parochial festivities!

St Peter's Day is on 29th June, and we will be keeping our Patronal Festival on the previous Sunday, the 27th.

After the main Eucharist at 10.30am we will be having a party, in the form of a Jacob's Join Lunch. Everyone is warmly invited to attend and asked to bring some food to share.

Let's have a really happy time of food and fellowship together to celebrate our Patron Saint!

### **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

The Church's AGM, as it is often (but incorrectly) called was held at the end of April. There are actually two meetings - the first, which used to be 'The Annual Vestry Meeting' was for the election of Churchwardens. Alice Binns and Wally Russell were re-elected for a further year. They were later Admitted to Office by the Bishop of Blackburn at the Deanery visitation on 26th May.

The second meeting was the Business Meeting of the Parish, when the annual accounts were presented, which showed that we spent a great deal more in running St Peter's than we received through congregational giving. And of course, we received much less in investment income this last year, thanks to the recession. A plea was made for parishioners to increase their regular giving, wherever possible.

Elections were held for the PCC and for Sidespeople. Ann Maciver, Carol Pike and Heather Slater were returned for another 3-year term and Noreen Brogna was elected in place of Peter West. The Sidespeople will be admitted to Office at the 10.30am Service on Sunday 6th June, and are all asked to attend that service.

Reports were presented on the life and work of the Parish and of its various organisations, and also on the state of the fabric of the church building. The Rector also gave his report on the past year - his seventh as Rector of St Peter's. Amongst other things he highlighted the excellence of the Children's Work that is ongoing, commented on the life of our School, reported on the progress of the proposed scheme to create a United Benefice of St Peter's and St Stephen's, and paid tribute to the many people who work so hard for the life, work, ministry and outreach of St Peter's, and thanked them all individually.

The evening finished with an excellent supper provided by the Rector and Kath.

## Mothers' Union

Our "Guess What?" meeting in May turned out to be Feelies, Smellies & Tastes - guessing which was what! Good fun was had by those who did attend, but, please, where were all our members? Numbers attending our regular monthly meetings have been going down recently and this is worrying us. On the other hand, it has been good to welcome three new members - Cynthia Bramley and Carol Waddington, who are renewing their membership of the MU, and Brenda Rochester who is a new member.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 30th June at 2.00pm in church, when Mrs Alison Mitchell will be sharing with us her experiences of being a Head Teacher in the 21st century.

Indoor Members and those over eighty are invited to the Senior Citizens' Deanery Tea Party on Wednesday 18th June, from 2 to 4 pm, at St Cuthbert's Church. Transport will be provided, so please let Ethel or Kath know if you would like to attend.

Finally - the church Summer Fair is on Saturday 19th June, from 11.00am to 2.00pm, hopefully outside in the church grounds. The MU is jointly responsible with the Needleworkers for the Cake and Home Produce Stall, so please will everyone bake, make jam, marmalade or whatever, so that we can keep the stall well stocked.

## **Parish Awayday**

**Saturday 11th September 2010**

**Led by Bishop Geoff Pearson, Bishop of Lancaster**

This is an opportunity for the PCC and all interested members of the congregation to get away together for a few hours to think and pray and plan about our mission, outreach and Mission Action Plan for St Peter's.

Bishop Geoff is a very experienced leader and expert in mission matters and we will benefit greatly from his wisdom and guidance.

The Awayday will be held at Benedict's Barn (between Worsthorne and Briercliffe) and will last from about 10.00 to 4.00pm. A list will be put up in church for interested folk to sign and indicate their interest and further details will be published as we get nearer the time.

If you care about St Peter's and its future ministry, do attend the Awayday.

## **Christian Aid Lunch**

I would like to thank everyone who supported the lunch on 23rd May in support of Christian Aid, and hope you all enjoyed the food and fellowship we shared. Financially the event was a success raising a total of £271. 81p.

I would also like to thank 'the team', namely Freda Clegg, Carol Travis and Ethel Jessop for all their work and input into making the lunch a success. Also Kath Bill for her expert advice and help when required. The 'girls' performed their waitressing skills to perfection and a big thank you to them.

Finally the envelope collection for Christian Aid raised £184.10p, making the joint total of £455. 91p. Thank you all once again.

Cynthia Bramley

*And of course a huge vote of thanks is due to Cynthia herself, who had the idea for the lunch and did all the planning and organising for it, as well as for all the other Christian Aid activity. Congratulations and well done, Cynthia! Can we do it again next year? TAGB*

## **Friends of St Peter's**

The speaker at our AGM was Miss Pat Dyson, with her talk 'Granny has such a funny name (& other tales of the family)'. It was most interesting and had us wondering what was coming next as the story went from the Mounted Police in Canada to London, back to Lancashire and so to St Peter's Churchyard.

The Friends' stall this year for the Summer Fair, which will be held on Saturday 19th June, will be 'Choose the Name of the Dog', the cost of which will be 50 pence. We will need a rota so anyone can spare an hour of your time then please contact Heather Slater beforehand or just turn up on the day.

The committee welcomes some new members who very kindly put their names forward at the A.G.M. - Ethel Jessop, Arthur Parker, Maureen Brown and Muriel Jobling. The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday 1st September at 7.00pm and will be held at the Rectory.

On Saturday 9th October we are holding a concert in church of music from the shows. We will be able to tell you more about this event nearer the time, but please put the date in your diary now

## **Introducing J.A.M.**

It is my great pleasure to introduce you to our new youth fellowship which will be named J.A.M. J.A.M. stands for

Jesus and Me and is going to be a space where our young people will be able to come together every two weeks to learn more about their faith, themselves and each other. J.A.M. will run on Sunday evenings from 7pm till 9pm once a fortnight, starting on Sunday 13th June. I am very excited about J.A.M. and hope you will be too.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all young people of confirmation age and above to come and find out more at our first meeting which will take place in church on 13th June at 7pm.

And don't worry if you're young at heart but not in years - I also extend a warm invitation to you to give up one hour of your year to get involved and share your experiences with our young people to help encourage and support them! Please come and talk to me to find out how you too can get involved and benefit from our new youth fellowship.

Whether parent, young person or interested parishioner, come talk to me and find out more!

Love in Christ, Katie.

## **Needleworkers**

May's meeting was small in number owing to holidays, visitors and illness, but we were pleased to welcome Canon Tom to the meeting and to show him the progress on the chasubles. I think he liked what he saw. The seeds of an idea were sown for one of the purple chasubles, and this will be put to the next meeting which will be held at Sue's on Tuesday, 15th June at 7pm.

The Needleworkers and the Mothers' Union have worked together, over many years, to run the Cake Stall at the Summer Fair. We rely on the generosity of all members of the congregation and friends to supply baking and home-made produce. And this year is no exception. Please do what you can! However we need help this year in staffing the stall, as some of us are tied up with Diocesan Needleworkers' duties on that day. Would you be willing to give an hour to helping in this way? No qualifications are required - just clean hands and a smile for the customers! Don't be shy about offering. It would be very helpful. Mention it to Sue, Kath or Di. It's on Saturday 19th June.

## Thursday Lunch Club

The Club's dates for June are the 3rd and 17th. Coffee is served from 10.30am and lunch is at noon. We are always glad to see new members coming along.

## Concerts

Our two Saturday morning concerts this month are in succeeding weeks: On 5th June Ian Pattinson will give an organ recital, while the following week, the 12th, there will be a piano recital given by Carl Schofield. Tickets are £3.50 and refreshments are available before both concerts.

**Saturday 19th June is the day of our Summer Fair**, one of the two big fund-raisers for St Peter's, so please may we have your support, plus all your friends, relatives, neighbours, etc. Please encourage them to come along. The Fair will be open from 11.00am to 2.00pm, hopefully outside in the church grounds, weather permitting. Our theme this year is Football.

Stalls will include:

Cakes & Home Produce: run by the Needleworkers and the MU, but everyone needs to bake for the stall to make it a big money-raiser and to keep it stocked the whole time.

Tombola: St Peter's School

Bric-à-Brac: Peter Pike & Cynthia Bramley

Mystery Stall: Friends of St Peter's

Spin the Bottle: Meena Tomlinson

Crafts: Susan Robinson

Books & Videos: David Smith & Doug Walker

Plants: Alice Binns & Maureen Brown

Toiletries: Edna Murtagh

Raffle: Stephen Dixon & Janice Pink

Cards: Pauline Frost

Barbecue: Alan Roadley

Face Painting: Carol Waddington

Children's games: Linda Russell & Others

Handbags

Refreshments: Gillian Ormerod, Noreen Brogna & Team of Helpers

Sandwiches: Carol Pike

Entertainments: Burnley Alliance Junior Band and Punch & Judy

Children's Competitions: Penalty Shootout; Banner for your favourite footballer/football team.

New this year - a Cake Competition - for five fairy cakes. Please see Gillian Ormerod for details and entry forms

Help is desperately needed, please. On Friday night from 7.00pm we need to get everything downstairs ready (and to decide whether we can be outside or inside); on Saturday morning from 8.00am to put up gazebos, bunting, etc and from 9.00am to erect stalls and set up displays.

Our next Events Committee meeting has been changed to Friday 11th June at 7.30pm in the Rectory. Everyone please feel free to join us.

**Date for your Diary: Friday 16th July - Cheese and Wine Party in aid of Pendleside Hospice at 7.30pm in St Peter's Church.**

2nd	10.00am 5.45pm	Holy Communion 'Midweek with God' is cancelled.		
6th 1st Sunday after Trinity	8.00am 10.30am  6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Sung Eucharist (DK, AB)  Choral Evensong	Galatians 1:11-end Luke 7:11-17 Genesis 8:15 - 9:17 Mark 4:1-20	PP  AR
9th	10.00am 5.45pm	Holy Communion 'Midweek with God'	<i>Columba, Abbot of Iona, Missionary, 597</i>	
13th 2nd Sunday after Trinity	8.00am 10.30am  6.00pm	Holy Communion Choral Mattins  Choral Evensong	Deuteronomy 10:12-11:1 Acts 23:12-end Genesis chapter 13 Mark 4:21-end	WR  PL
16th	10.00am 5.45pm	Holy Communion 'Midweek with God'	<i>Richard, Bishop of Chichester, 1253</i>	
20th 3rd Sunday after Trinity	8.00am 10.30am  6.00pm	Holy Communion Sung Eucharist (PS, KB)  Choral Evensong	Galatians 3:23-end Luke 8:26-39 Genesis 24:1-27 Mark 2:21-end	CP  DS
23rd	10.00am 5.45pm	Holy Communion 'Midweek with God'	<i>Etheldreda, Abbess of Ely, c.678</i>	
27th 4th Sunday after Trinity, kept as <b>St Peter-tide</b> , our Patronal Festival	8.00am 10.30am  6.00pm	Holy Communion & breakfast Sung Eucharist (CP, KO) <i>(followed by Jacob's Join lunch)</i> Choral Evensong cancelled	Acts 12:1-11 Matthew 16:13-19	PS
30th	10.00am 5.45pm	Holy Communion 'Midweek with God'		