



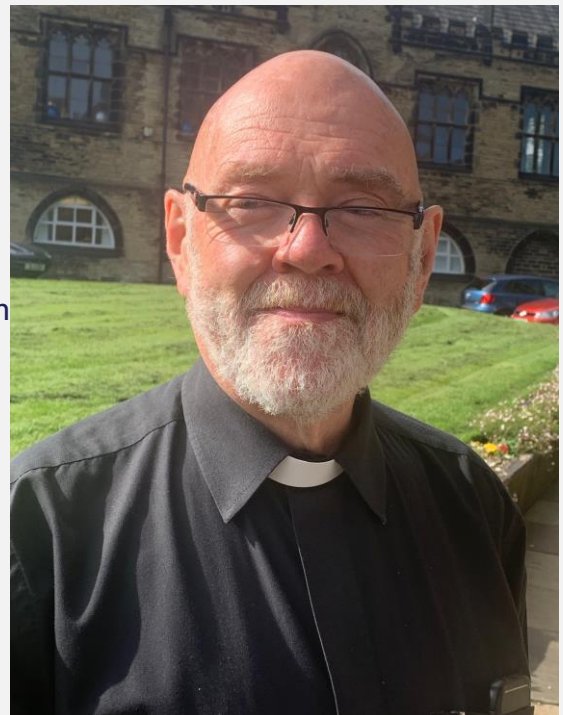
HALIFAX
MINSTER

Dear Friend!
Welcome to the third of our monthly e-News!

Minster Musings

Many years since, I recall hearing a radio interview with the historian Professor **Scarisbrick** concerning the rise and fall of civilizations. If my memory is correct, he implied that western civilization could be in decline. I seem to remember that several indicators were given; The failing of governments to govern holistically, the loss of moral compass and spiritual direction, and a shift in emphasis from ours and yours to me and mine, and that the rise and fall is not a smooth curve, but more like the rise of a mountain range with its ups and downs, steep banks and gentle falls.

Now whilst, in all probability, I have not accurately recalled all of this, nevertheless the point is made, and there is a great deal of information written on the subject, and Google will provide a happy hunting ground from the seriously academic to the bizarre.



If any of this is true in respect of civilizations, then much the same could be said of the church. There is, arguably, a weakening of governance, a loss in direction, along with a weakening of a sense of community or togetherness. Divinely instituted you may claim it to be, but it is also all too human an institution and has certainly demonstrated a great deal of flux over centuries in terms of its ascent and descent; its power, prestige and at times damaging behaviour, right through to its life-giving and sustaining faith, suffering, and truly good and valuable work throughout society.

This musing comes during Lent when sermons have the theme of hope; Hope for the Church, Hope for the World, Hope for our Nation, and finally, Hope for Society. I don't know about you, but I'm struggling hard to find hope at the moment. No one will seriously want to rewind the clock. There are many things today that our parents and

grandparents did, and suffered, that we would shudder at having to embrace, but don't you just know that in some matter's things were better, our sense of community for one. I see a disjointedness and disintegration within our nation, society and indeed the church: a shift from ours to mine, and in the church a mass exodus not from faith, but from organised religion, resulting in a frantic effort to shew up failure and disconnection, and a growing paranoia with numbers, finance, and for all the talk of engagement, retrenchment to a fundamentalism on whichever side of the fence you sit.

Now I wouldn't describe myself as a political animal, much less an economist, but there is one thing that struck me about Liz Truss. She acknowledged that things weren't working and there was a need for change, fundamental grass roots change in the way things were done. Now, it didn't work out, neither for her or the nation, and I'm no judge as to why, but I do see that there is a fundamental need for change. I said that I am struggling having hope, but that's not to say it's disappeared, and it has not disappeared because I trust that God knows that things aren't working and that there is a need for things to change, and his topping and tailing this acknowledgement, and his plan for change, with incarnation and resurrection.

There is something of the divine in us and something of the promise of resurrection, of being born again: and as you and I make up society, and societies of all shapes and sizes make up nations and the world, then there has to be hope. Hope in the human capacity to transcend calamity and woe and to find courage, conviction and to forge a new beginning. Witness the tremendous courage and tireless determination of the people of Turkey, Syria and the Ukraine to, Phoenix like, arise from the ashes of destruction and despair.

This is incarnation it is resurrection; it is hope for the future.

Revd David Carpenter
The Lecturer

Dates for the Diary

Saturday 11th March 6.30pm: Britten St Nicolas and Faure Requiem, performed by the Halifax Choral Society, Halifax Minster Choir and Halifax Young Singers. *Tickets and more information [HERE!](#)*

Thursday 23rd March 7pm: 'Lo, the full sacrifice.' A concert of Music for Lent & Passiontide, performed by the Choir of Selwyn College Cambridge with organ accompaniment by Adam Field. *Free admission, retiring collection. More information [HERE!](#)*

Sunday 26th March 4pm: A Meditation in Words & Music for Passion Sunday

Sunday 2nd April 4pm: Stainer's Crucifixion, a come and sing performance. *To take part, please book - more information [HERE!](#)*

Sunday 16th April 10.30: Annual Parochial Church Meeting. *Please check if you are on the Electoral Roll on the list in the Minster or click [HERE!](#) to be add*

February in The Minster



Apprentice Builders, Decorators and Joiners from Calderdale College spent a day at the Minster.



Exchange students from Aachen visit the Minster



The Minster welcomed Alison Lowe OBE, Deputy Mayor of West Yorkshire for Policing and Crime to speak at our Sung Eucharist.



The Minster hosted a vigil on behalf of the Ukrainian community to mark the first anniversary of the Russian invasion

Parishioner Profile

The second in our series introducing members of the Minster community.

Name: John Waddington

Favourite Colour - Blue

Favourite Place - Ogden because of the woods and the moors. I love the moors.

Favourite Food - I eat anything!

Favourite Music- Country music and at the moment "(Ghost) Riders in the Sky" by Johnny Cash.

I'm most proud of- when I worked at Hopkinsons and the firm needed to make everyone redundant I organised a process of outside help to support people into new jobs and to work towards a new future.

Work life: I started as work as an apprentice engineer in 1970, and then began working the lathes. I followed my dad into line inspection checking first offs and batch. When the factory closed I moved to eland to drive fork lift trucks and I loved that. I went back to line inspection before taking early retirement at the age of 60.

100-word bio: "I love motorbikes, I love God best, but motorbikes... I love riding them. All my working life I've rode them to and from work, through rain and hail and snow since retirement I've studied riding of road, and long road trips and I'm a much better rider than I've ever been."



The weekly pewsheet is published each week online - click **HERE!**

Please return any Stewardship Campaign replies by March 26th.

For further information about Halifax Minster, check out our website or social media:

<https://halifaxminster.org.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/HalifaxMinster>

<https://twitter.com/HalifaxMinster>

https://www.instagram.com/the_minster_at_halifax/