

Church Newsround – August 2011

Please contact the Church Wardens directly for any matters concerning the Churches including Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. Contact details are on page 6.

**St Peter's Church Dunston's Annual Scarecrow Weekend
September 17th & 18th 2011**

Scarecrow Trail, Raffle & Tombola, Silver Sounds Band, Stalls
Lunches and Refreshments

Entry to the Competition is free and for fun and we hope as many homes as possible will take part. The winner will be chosen by the public and the quiz will be based on your entries.

Entries to

Phyll Sands (Little Leyfields, Chapel Lane)
or Sue Glaister (10 Spring Court).

To be included on the Scarecrow Trail map, your entry must reach us by Saturday 10th September.

There is the opportunity to have a stall in the village hall, but there is only room for 8 stalls. Cost is £10 per stall for the weekend.

Book with Sue on 320946 First come, first served.

Gifts of raffle prizes – tea, coffee, wine, chocs –
or tombola prizes, would be most welcome!

Dear Friends,

You may not have heard of Dr Peter Brierley, but you will have had contact with him. Peter is a statistician who specialises in crunching the data about church and faith activity in the United Kingdom. He produces fascinating information which is used both by the Church and also secular bodies to assess what is happening in the sphere of religion. He maintains an upbeat and hopeful persona, and is quick to remind us of those situations and places where the Church is continuing to have a creative and growing impact. However, the all-round picture does not look good for the institutions of the Church: 'Overall the picture is one of decline', we read after the publication of his latest figures and his projections for church life from 2005 to 2015. Should we be bothered? Well, if you believe that the institutionalised Church is the be all and end all, then there is great cause for concern: fewer people are going to church services regularly year on year, and there is similar, relentless, decline in services like marriage being conducted in church. Despite the recent report 'Faithful Cities' – an upbeat assessment of the faith communities growing impact on national life, it would seem that the Church of England, at least in its traditional role as a national Church with all that means, is on the wane. There is a great danger that we will become a Church with all the trappings of power...bishops in the House of Lords etc, but with no substantial body of people in our pews in whose name this institutionalised Church can speak. The Church of England can begin to look like a modern day rendition of the tale of the Emperor's new clothes. Can we take heart?

In the late 1950s, a priest called Edward Wickham started the Sheffield Industrial Mission (he later became my bishop when I was a young priest in Manchester). The Mission was designed to address the Church's mission to the ordinary working man, for Ted had done his homework and found that, in fact, the Church of England had never adequately captured the hearts and minds of the British working classes. His book 'Church and People in an Industrial City' gave damning statistics demonstrating that the Church was a largely middle-class phenomenon and inferred that it was obsessed by privilege and position and failed in its duty to the marginalised and poor. I would argue that little has changed since he propounded that view, and a hard look around many of our Sunday morning congregations might make us wonder about the social balance contained therein. On the one hand, therefore, Dr Brierley is not telling us anything new.

Recently, I conducted the funeral of a friend of mine who had been killed in a motorcycle accident at the age of 38. He had been a professional boxer, a successful university student, a member of a motorcycle club, a father, a doorman, and had started a health club. His funeral was attended by nearly a thousand people from all the walks of his popular life. These were not people you would normally expect to find in their parish church on a Sunday morning at the Eucharist! Indeed, it is possible they would have had a dim view of religion generally. However, the conversations I had with them after the ceremony were packed full of theology...they talked with me of hope in death; the eternal meaning of human life; the sorrow and pain of human existence, and much more. All of this was expressed, not in the language of liturgy, but in heartfelt and plain manner. The reality is that there may not be a lot of religion out there, and certainly little belief in the established Church, but there is an awful lot of faith. The question is what does the Church of England do with this knowledge to enable it to become, once more, the servant Church of all the people of this land? For the ground is fertile and ready. Many of the answers will lie in the priorities that local churches establish in their ministry and in greater willingness to be inclusive and to follow through with hearts and minds willing to encompass all. However, perhaps a real start might be made if our Church calls itself back to our calling in Jesus to be a Body which brings 'good news to the poor'?

+Tim

From The Registers

Weddings

We Pray for those starting Married life together.

MarieTurnstall and Paul Ulliyatt

on 9th July at St Oswald's Blankney

Melissa Graham and Gavin Reed

on 16th July at St. Oswald's Blankney

Dunston St. Peter's Church of England Primary School

On June 20th our choir took part in the super Cluster Choir event at The Lawn in Lincoln.

There were lots of local schools represented, singing songs together and on their own. Our choir sang with power, precision and with lovely harmonies. A wonderful evening.

We have had our Sports Day recently, fortunately in glorious weather, with the Blue team winning the overall trophy. The children were, as ever, very sporting, cheering everyone and every race. This was followed straight away by our Summer Fayre. This raised almost £600, an excellent sum.

The children have been showing us all what they can do in Dunston's Got Talent. The overall winner this year was Jennifer with her baton twirling performance.

As I write this, we have just had our Leavers' Service in the church and then the Leavers' Assembly at school. This year thirteen children are leaving us and are going on to four different schools. They put together a wonderful assembly which included a very funny play written by the children themselves.

Graham Boyall

Headteacher

Jim Middleton

Sadly we report that Jim has died. Jim had worshipped at St. Oswald's church for several years and we were pleased to host a Thanksgiving Service for his life on Friday 10th June. The church was filled to capacity which speaks volumes for the popularity of Jim, who touched life at so many points. He will be greatly missed. BS

"An Afternoon in Blankney "

St Oswald's PCC would like to say a big thank you to everyone who made this event the enjoyable and successful afternoon it was.

Thanks to all who baked cakes, donated prizes and plants, served teas, manned the various stalls, helped set up and take down tents & tables etc, led the walk and played the organ. The village walk – led by Mr Rodney Garland was very popular and everyone was interested to learn more about the history of Blankney.

Many enjoyed their afternoon tea to the strains of the church organ expertly played by Mr Rodney Callow.

The weather was extremely kind to us and made the afternoon more pleasant. Thanks to all who came along and supported us, you have increased the Tower Repair Fund by some £500.

St Wilfrid's Church Fete and Flower and Produce Show 2011

Despite the weather, the show was both a financial and social success. Entries were up on previous years and standards continue to rise while maintaining an air of friendly rivalry. The judges commented on the quality of the entries. There are plans to increase the number of classes next year. Our thanks go to the Silver Sounds Band who kept our spirits up despite playing in cramped conditions and Metheringham Primary School for encouraging the children to enter the children's classes. Thank you to all who supported the event and to all the helpers, exhibitors, the show secretary and the judges. It is good to see the depth and strength of support which the Church has within the village. We raised about £520.

The Produce & Flower Show Results

Flowers 1st, 2nd & 3rd.

- 1 A single rose - Mary Curry, Barbara Spurrier, Elsie Nind.
- 2 Three Roses – Barbara Spurrier, Elsie Nind.
- 3 A sweet pea – Ronnie Wright, Barbara Spurrier, Elsie Nind,
- 4 Bunch of 5 Sweet Peas – Barbara Spurrier, Elsie Nind, Ronnie Wright.
- 5 Flower or Stem – Ronnie Wright, Robert Pattinson School, Elsie Nind.
- 6 Three Flowers – Audrey Webb, Emily Capps, Jenni Honisett.

Vegetables 1st 2nd & 3rd

- 1 Potatoes – Ann de Vries, Elsie Nind, Shirley Maddison.
- 2 Beans – Ann de Vries, Barbara Spurrier, Jenni Honisett.
- 4 Peas – Barbara Spurrier, Nichola Jones.
- 5 Tomatoes – Mr Bowler, Audrey Webb.
- 6 Three Vegetables – Elsie Nind, Sister Maureen, Barbara Spurrier.
- 7 A vegetable and a Flower – Barbara Spurrier, Jenni Honisett, Brenda Mighell.

Produce 1st, 2nd & 3rd

- 1 Scones (Savoury) - Paula Hill.
- 2 Scones (Fruit) – Stella Whitehead, Stella Whitehead, Pam Reynolds.
- 3 Victoria Sponge – Glenis Capps, Ann de Vries, Stella Whitehead.

Floral 1st, 2nd & 3rd.

- 1 Table Decoration – Shirley Maddison, Barbara Spurrier, Doreen Blackband.
- 2 Flowers in Jam Jar – Elsie Nind, Barbara Spurrier, Ronnie Wright.

Children's

Infants – Amy Sellars.

Juniors – Dan Turner.

When Pooh went on a Picnic

“What’s a picnic?” enquired Piglet.

“It’s something easily done, with no effort” explained Owl.

Winnie Pooh thought that this sounded like a good idea.

Christopher Robin said that it was also a meal outside, in the open air.

Pooh thought that this was an even better idea.

Roo asked if there would be cake.

Christopher Robin said “Yes” for he had thoughtfully purchased some extremely good, American cupcakes, decorated with sprinkles and motifs, at the Church Fete and there were also egg, ham with brown sauce sandwiches, strawberries, crisps and pork pie.

Tigger suggested that they walk to Nocton Woods but Christopher Robin said he knew a pleasant meadow, not far from the Church.

Then it began to rain.

“Never mind” said Christopher Robin “we can always have it in the Church Hall.”

“But then it will be indoors and it wouldn’t be a picnic” said Eeyore

“We could always sit on the floor on a blanket” said Piglet helpfully.

“Will there be cake?” asked Roo again.

So they set off. Roo and Christopher Robin examined all the pretty flowers, admired the sheep with the magnificent horns and peered at the tiny black horse.

“That’s technically called a pony” said Owl knowledgeably.

Roo found a stick and rattled it along the railings, which was a new way of playing Pooh sticks.

After feeding the ducks, who were enjoying the rain, they all went home. Tigger wanted to go to the Church Hall, but Piglet said it would be easier to eat at home so they set the table and ate their sandwiches.

“Cake” said Roo, anticipating the delights of an award winning Victoria sponge.

“Not before we’ve had our strawberries.” said Owl, who was stickler for etiquette and was secretly worried that they might miss a course.

“This is just like normal Sunday tea, we’re supposed to be outside. It’s not a picnic at all” stated Eeyore, feeling that he’d been tricked, but not quite knowing how.

Everyone ignored, him for the cakes were on the table.

“No, it’s not said Roo, it’s a St. Wilfrid’s Church, Secret Teddy Bear’s picnic but don’t tell anyone”

SERVICES FOR AUGUST IN THE THREE PARISHES

Thursday 4th (and each Thursday)

9.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 7th The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion – St’ Wilfrid’s

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter’s

10.30am United Service – Metheringham Methodist Chapel

Sunday 14th The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Oswald’s

9.00am Morning Worship – St. Peter’s

10.30am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid’s

Sunday 21st The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's
10.30am Morning Worship – St. Wilfrid's

Sunday 28th The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion – St. Oswald's
10.30am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

September

Sunday 4th The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's
10.30am United Service – St. Wilfrid's

Consecration of Christopher Lowson, 72nd Bishop of Lincoln

21 September 2011 at 11am Westminster Abbey

A reminder that The Venerable Christopher Lowson will be consecrated Bishop at Westminster Abbey on 21 September 2011, at 11am.

We hope that many people from the Diocese of Lincoln will support our new Bishop at the service, which takes place on the feast of St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist. The Diocese of Lincoln will be organising coaches to London from various points around the Diocese, for which a contribution of £12.50 per person is asked.

Seats will be available on a first-come-first-served basis.

For more information, visit www.lincoln.anglican.org/consecration or call 01522 504037.

W.I. Report

45 members plus 3 very brave gentlemen enjoyed a day out in the Yorkshire town of Skipton. It included a 2 ½ hour canal boat trip along the Leeds/Liverpool canal.

Memories of verses from some of R.L. Stevenson's poems from a "Child's Garden of Verses" flooded back (not literally)

Dark brown is the river (canal)

Golden is the sand

It flows along for ever

Trees on either hand.

On goes the river (canal)

On past the mill

Away down the valley

Away down the hill.

Smooth it slides upon its travel

Here a wimple there a gleam

O the clean gravel

O the smooth stream.

The canal was very brown (hardly clean). The long boat slid slowly past mills, valleys and hills. There was plenty of time to take in the scenery, wildlife, contents of other narrow boats and enjoy a salad lunch. Other canal facts : navigating locks and swing bridges, sailing on the right and no faster than 4 mph.

We were able to look round the Skipton market and depart just in time to avoid a down pour.

A raffle was organised to keep us entertained on the long journey home.

A thank you to Audrey and the Committee for organising a pleasant day out.

Future events :

Sat July 23rd Olympics Afternoon – Trainers and Lycra (!) at 26 Drury Street.

Sat Aug 13th Coffee AM at 9 Manor Close.

Next Meeting Wed 17th August Lynn Day "GBH+R" ??? JS

Heritage Lincolnshire is on the lookout for volunteer Heritage Stewards in the Metheringham area

Heritage Lincolnshire is looking for volunteers to get involved with Lincolnshire Heritage at Risk, a national pilot project, offering local people the opportunity to learn more about their local heritage.

Volunteers will record the current condition of historic buildings, sites and open spaces in their local communities. The survey information will be used to help develop a strategy to manage our heritage and safeguard it for the future.

A free training event will be held in Metheringham on Saturday 5th November between 10am and 3.30pm for anyone interested in getting involved with the project.

Natalie Hamilton, Heritage at Risk Project Officer, said

"We aim to offer an enjoyable day discovering the rich heritage of the area, there is no obligation to sign up as a volunteer but we welcome all who wish to do so."

The event is open to all and no previous experience is required. Booking is essential. To find out more contact the Heritage at Risk team on (01529) 461499 or email heritage-at-risk@lincsheritage.org

Ten million face starvation across the Horn of Africa

Christian Aid has launched an emergency humanitarian appeal to help people across the east and Horn of Africa after two failed rainy seasons have left ten million on the brink of starvation. Drought and displacement combined with rising global food prices have left Kenya and Ethiopia in particular facing severe food shortages, with UNOCHA reporting that the regional situation is the worst food security crisis in the world today.

Some parts of the region are experiencing the driest conditions in 60 years, and Christian Aid emergency teams are continuously assessing how best to help local populations.

"The crisis has been building for some time, especially in Kenya and Ethiopia, and is fast escalating across the region," warns Nick Guttman, Christian Aid's humanitarian director.

"People are desperate and if we don't act now we could be looking at one of the worst humanitarian situations the world has seen in a long time."

Funds are urgently needed for life saving measures such as: provision of water for villages experiencing the worst of the drought conditions; food for families, malnourished children, and pregnant women; animal feed to protect livestock that are so crucial to survival.

To make a donation to Christian Aid's East Africa Food Crisis Appeal call 08080 004 004 or visit www.christianaid.org.uk/east-africa-appeal. PP

Cajetan (1480 - 1547)

Bit short of cash for your holiday this year? Cajetan should be the patron saint of anyone who needs some extra money – right now. For it was he who founded the Monts de Piete – the pawnshops – in the 16th century. They were first designed to help people through a lean time, not exploit them.

As a young man, Cajetan gave up a brilliant career in law to become a priest, and went on to spend his life fighting corruption within the priesthood. He and his friends founded the Theatine Order, which promoted study of the Bible, sound Christian doctrine, spirituality of worship, caring for the sick, and good pastoral care. They worked in Verona, Venice and Naples – where the pawn shops first appeared. Cajetan would undoubtedly have a lot to say about the amount of interest the credit card companies charge these days. PP

Beheading of St John the Baptist

When you go back to work after the August Bank Holiday this month, spare a thought for John the Baptist: however rough your local sandwich bar may be, it probably doesn't serve you locusts with a honey dip; you won't be imprisoned for saying derogatory things about the

local MP's wife, and even the boss from hell is unlikely to have a daughter who wants to hiphop about with your head on a platter.

John the Baptist, by our standards, had a terrible life. Yet the Bible tells us that of all the people in history, no one has even been born who was as great as him. Why? Because of the unique job God gave him to do, which has to be the best PR job of all time: act as God's press officer.

This was quite literally the PR job from heaven: with God as his client, John the Baptist's job was to broadcast the news that the Messiah had come. Not even Church House Westminster has ever attempted anything like that.

It always helps if PR people recognise their own clients, and the same was true of John: he was the first person to recognise Jesus as the Messiah. PR people also help their clients prepare for their public role, and John did the same for Jesus: he baptised him in the Jordan at the start of his ministry.

PR people also stand up in public for their client's point of view, and in John's case it led to his arrest and imprisonment. His death was finally brought about by the scheming of Herodias and Salome, and here the similarity ends: for not even Max Clifford has ever lost his head over a client. PP

John Bunyan

After the Bible, John Bunyan's wonderful Christian allegory, the Pilgrim's Progress, is one of the most celebrated and widely-read books in the English language. It has been translated into more than one hundred languages around the world and keeps its place as a Christian classic.

Names of people and places from its pages have been commonplace wherever English is spoken. We need only re-call Mr Great-Heart, Mr Valiant-for-Truth, Giant Despair, Madame Bubble, the Slough of Despond, Vanity Fair, the Delectable Mountains, the Hill Difficulty and the Celestial City.

Bunyan was born on 28 November 1628, at Elstow, near Bedford, England, of a poor family. He had little formal education and his father taught him to be a metal worker. His first wife died young. His second wife, Elizabeth, helped him considerably with his blossoming literary career. His conversion was the result of reading the Bible, and the witness of local Christians. From that time the Bible became the great inspiration of his life. He wrote more than fifty books on Christianity. A Baptist by conviction, he had little time for the Established Church. Bunyan became a popular preacher, but because of his opposition to the Established Church and because he did not have a Church of England preaching licence, he was imprisoned in 1661. It was in prison that he wrote Pilgrim's Progress. It was not only Bunyan's greatest book but was destined to become one of the most popular Christian books in the world. Pilgrim's Progress is an allegory, using the names of people and places from the Bible to teach spiritual lessons. The vivid and unforgettable imagery in the Pilgrim's Progress covers the whole Christian gospel from sin and condemnation all the way through faith, repentance, grace, justification, sanctification, and perseverance to heaven itself.

Bunyan died on 31 August 1688. His portrayal of the death of Mr Valiant For Truth is Bunyan at his allegorical best. This brave old soldier of Jesus Christ has received his summons to 'go home.' Calling his friends together he says, 'My sword I give to him who shall succeed me in my pilgrimage ... My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me, that I have fought His battles, Who will now be my rewarder.' ... So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side. PP

Signs & Symbols : Bowing and Bending

Have you noticed that some people – and in some churches just about everyone – genuflects or bows when they pass in front of the altar? Perhaps you do it yourself? But do you know why or is it just because 'we've always done it that way'?

To 'genuflect' means to 'bow (or bend) the knee' so they are in essence the same and have the same meaning. If you've never genuflected, have a go! It's like kneeling, but only the right knee touches the floor and then only for a second. You need to keep your back straight and if you put your hands on your left knee you can keep you balance easier.

Both come from the time of the early church when the Romans were in charge and these gestures were used within their court traditions; though the Romans in their turn had taken

them from oriental court traditions. They symbolise one's smallness or lowliness in the presence of one's 'Lord'. In Japan today, people still often bow to each other; with the deeper and longer-held bow being made by the 'inferior' person to the 'superior' one.

Bowing is an outward show of an internal attitude or thought. In this case it is showing respect, love, awe and esteem to the person, place or object to whom or to which one is bowing. Sometimes people will bow when the name of 'Jesus' is said within the service (in Roman Catholic traditions this may happen also at the name of 'Mary'). This is clearly because Jesus is 'Lord'. But why to the altar? Or to ask another way, why not to the Bible or the cross?

This month: - Have a careful look and listen to what is done and said at the altar itself. A priest will often make the sign of the cross when the liturgy is speaking about Christ's Second Coming, the Resurrection of the dead and / or the life to come. In other words – a commitment of their whole life to the future with Christ. PP

Press one for vicar, two for curate....12 for prayer....

The Rectory
St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Now you have got your new telephone system in the parish, I shall not be calling you again. I refuse to wait for ten minutes every time I ring to have to listen to the cycle of "press 1 for the vicar, 2 for the curate, 3 for the secretary", until we end with "12 for requests for prayer". I was tempted to leave a message on 12 to ask that the wretched machine would break down, but then realised I would have to call a second time to leave a message on 13 for making a confession.

And if I have to listen one more time to someone playing "Thine be the glory" on one finger on an electric organ while I am "on hold" I will have him excommunicated. At least you have the grace while I am waiting not to ask me not to hang up, as my call is important to you. I would even warm to your system if a voice occasionally said that they couldn't care less whether I hung up or not as my call was utterly irrelevant to them.

Those poor people who have to wait to reach 7 for leaving messages regarding marriages might as well leave a second on 8 for baptisms and save on a large phone bill in months to come; in fact, another on 9 for funerals may well be necessary by the time that number comes up. Entire families could be born, marry and die before they hear that 15 is specially reserved for urgent calls. And may I suggest that your car parking attendant who stuck a note on my windscreen telling me not to park there again is given the number 666.

My own answerphone tells people firmly that the machine is specially designed not to accept incoming messages and that I only answer the thing personally on Thursdays between 10am and 12 noon, provided nothing better has turned up. Alternatively, they could write me a letter which may be answered at my convenience, or could be ignored if I disapprove of its contents. This has the added benefit that I have not received any invitations to buy photocopiers or to learn that I have been selected to have a new kitchen installed, for many a year.

For the few who have got hold of my mobile number, my response is to tell them that I am just about to enter a tunnel and then to switch it off. Callers from other parts of the country now believe that the parish of St. James the Least is honeycombed by mile-long tunnels, making communication all-but impossible.

You can now be assured that your new system means you will be contactable at any moment, wherever you happen to be. But don't call me to complain and expect to receive sympathy; I shall be just about to enter a tunnel.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Do you live in a warehouse?

Is your home full of clutter? How much of it is actually yours? It could well belong to your children - even though they no longer live with you. It seems the younger generation, living in small city flats, is using the family home as their storage dump for unused but still wanted goods. The phenomenon has become known as the 'warehouse of mum and dad'.
Some warehouse! – a survey has found that parents are now looking after some £2.4 billion of their grown-up children's gear. One in 12 parents has asked their children to remove their old possessions, with no success. One in five says that their children were well into their twenties and early thirties before they removed their last possessions from the family home. The keepsakes range from old clothing to photographs, from holiday souvenirs to old school books and music gear. Only one in eight parents say they enjoy the nostalgia of climbing over all this stuff. PP

Joy is the serious business of heaven. C S Lewis

It is not the number of books you read, nor the variety of sermons you hear, nor the amount of religious conversation in which you mix, but it is the frequency and earnestness with which you meditate on these things till the truth in them becomes your own and part of your being, that ensure your growth. F W Robertson.

Prayer is the pulse of life.

Every prayer is an inverted promise...If God teaches us to pray for any good thing, we may gather by implication the assurance that he means to give it. C H Spurgeon

Whatever our trust is most in, that is our God. R Stibbes

Eternal life does not begin with death, it begins with faith. Sam Shoemaker

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Life in general

With the cult of celebrity in mind....
Keeping up appearances is the most expensive thing in the world.

With the Arab Spring in mind.....No army can withstand the strength of an idea whose time has come. Victor Hugo

The only thing worse than an alarm clock that goes off is one that doesn't.

Naive: anyone who thinks you are very interested when you ask how they are.