

Church Newsround – February 2011

SECOND ANNUAL MEGA QUIZ
Friday 4th of February 2011
Venue St Wilf's Church Hall kick off 7.00pm
Featuring a fish supper - prizes – raffle. At £5.00 a head
Limited places so book in your team now!
BYOB
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The Bishop of Grimsby's letter for Parish Magazines: February 2011

Since last September, many of us searching the internet will have used a programme called 'Google Instant'. This software displays the results of our queries as we type them and Google claims that it will change the way we use the internet. A bold claim and only time will tell, but the question in my mind is whether, with all this access to knowledge and information, are we actually any the wiser?

Wisdom is about making the best use of what we know and making judgements which lead to good choices. Wisdom is not the opposite of folly, but rather it is the key ingredient to navigating our way through life. Down the ages wisdom has been prized in bringing together what we know, what we understand and what we've experienced of life, to interpret not only what is happening, but how people are reacting and behaving.

Wisdom and the search for wisdom are at the heart of religion and philosophy. In Judaism, wisdom is closely associated with justice and fairness. Across each of the world religions, wisdom is the distinctive human attribute to which we should all aspire. In Christianity wisdom is understood as a gift which gives our knowledge, understanding and experience such a Christlike quality that the wisdom of the world is seen to be folly.

Such a gift is grounded and renewed in our prayers, our study of the Bible and in the worship through which we celebrate our faith in Jesus Christ. There are no shortcuts to gaining the 'mind of Christ' or the wisdom which comes with it - it only comes through the practice of faith.

In the mighty rush of modern life, with a relentless demand for instant reactions, decisive leadership and immediate replies to emails - wisdom can so easily be squeezed out.

Impressive software and the faster delivery of information will never be a substitute for the wisdom we need to be happy, to live at peace with one another and to cope with all that life throws at us. In St. Paul's words to the Colossians, we need to "set our minds on the things which are above", for that is where true wisdom is to be found.

+David Grimsby

From the Registers

Funerals. *We pray for those departed.*

Martin Joseph Jordan. Died 17-10-10. Ashes interred 3-11-10

Joyce Kathleen Adams. Died 7-11-10. Burial 22-11-10.

Reginald Woolley. Died 11-12-10. Cremation 23-12-10 after service in church.

Win Simpson. Died 28-12-10 Cremation 10-1-11 followed by Thanksgiving Service at St Wilfrid's.

Baptisms. *We welcome them to the Church.*

Shaun David Ryan and Rylee Anthony Ryan on 21st November 2010.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS

From the 10th February any remaining Christmas Wreaths from the Church Yards will start to be removed. You will appreciate it now takes a little longer to dispose of them as some of the materials used are synthetic and not so combustible.

Wreaths are traditionally removed after Candlemas, it would be very helpful if you can remove your own to help with disposal.

Many thanks.

The Church Wardens

EASTER EGGS.

Just a reminder to order your Easter Eggs early to avoid disappointment.

They are Fair Trade & actually mention the religious significance of the Easter Message. Ed.

The Celebration Eucharist to mark the Retirement of The Right Reverend Dr John Saxbee, 71st Bishop of Lincoln

Like most of us, Bishops tend to be particularly good at one thing with a supporting cast of lesser talents. A Bishop is often a Theological Scholar; or a great Administrator; or a 'showman' who puts the church on the secular map; or a caring Pastor with a great love of people – both those within and outside the Church.

John Saxbee seems to have been all of the above and the Cathedral service to mark his retirement reflected that.

Bishop John is a scholar gaining a PhD at St John's College, Durham but never ceasing to "search the scriptures" and relate them to life. He has written books and encouraged many, particularly in our Diocese, to become students of the Gospel and of Life. Much of the Thanksgiving Service stressed this God-given call to look deeply into the things of God. Bishop John has been a good Administrator and, as part of that, a good delegator. Two thousand people in the Cathedral could be seen as evidence that he leaves a Diocese in good shape to meet the many demands and opportunities it faces.

Bishop John has been something of a 'showman' without being frivolous or disrespectful of his office. He has flown with the Red Arrows, sky-dived with the Paras. He has slept in the open on a freezing night to raise awareness of the plight of the homeless. He has walked in chains through Lincoln to highlight the plight of slaves, past and present. He has blessed the salt and gritting teams at our Highways depots. Many representatives of secular organisations amongst the Cathedral congregation may have held Bishop John in great esteem and affection as a result of these and other actions – and been given food for thought.

It is clear that Bishop John delights in children of all ages and there is something attractively child-like about the Bishop himself! We have seen for ourselves in our three churches and at Dunston St Peter's C of E Primary School how wonderfully he relates to children. He has also spoken for them in the House of Lords as a spokesman for Education. It was fitting that the 'Anthem Spot' in the service was given to the young children of the "Ready, Steady, Choir!" Bishop John has been an all-inclusive Pastor not favouring any section of society, or ruling any out. The women of the Diocese were given a prime spot when the Diocesan Ladies Choir sang, 'If there is to be peace'. One of the principal leaders of the service was a woman priest.

The 'U2charist Band' (with the Bishop of Grantham on lead guitar) sang 'May the Saints and Saviour watch over you'. It was as if, in the Kingdom of God (and the Diocese of Lincoln) no-one is to be left out, unless they want to be, and that God is calling one and all. Those who were present when the Bishop blessed San Damiano (the former Vicarage) will remember the gales of laughter as the Bishop went from room to room blessing this Franciscan House and the Sisters. It was not inappropriate laughter but laughter full of holy, heavenly joy.

We often hear jokes about a husband or a wife being the 'power behind the throne' in a marriage. There is usually a degree of truth in that statement! Another significant part of the

service came after Communion when the Bishop of Grimsby asked Bishop John to kneel before the altar whilst he and the congregation gave thanks to God for his ministry in Lincolnshire and prayed for his future ministry. But Bishop John was not asked to kneel alone, his wife Jackie was asked to join him there and it was their ministry that was given thanks for and their future ministry that was prayed for. And so another important and moving testimony, this time to the truth of Jesus' words that when a man and woman marry they become one. Some more than others, but that's God's ideal and we gave thanks for it in John and Jackie. The whole service was one of joy, a great hallmark of the Christian faith and one that is never far from Bishop John and, we hope, will continue to bubble up in him wherever he goes in retirement. A retirement from being a Diocesan Bishop but not a retirement from being a source of Christian love and joy.

The service encapsulated much of what God in Christ has done and hopefully will continue to do for many years in and through Bishop John. We will miss him. But we have the same God, the same source of love and power.

John Tyrrell

Dunston News

St Peter's School

We started the new term with two training days, one of which was First Aid training for all the staff. The children have settled well back into school.

We held our second set of house matches last week. Class 1 enjoyed playing bench ball and Classes 2 and 3 played some very competitive games of hockey.

Our super choir have been to Branston Academy for their first rehearsal, leading towards a joint performance with other schools in the Summer at Lincoln Cathedral.

Classes 2 and 3 are now finishing their rehearsals for their pantomime which was postponed from before Christmas. They will be putting on two performances of Cinderella Rockerfella... I am sure that it will be great fun!

Graham Boyall

Head teacher

Dunston St. Peter's Church of England Primary School

Carols on the Green

It has come to the attention of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) at St. Peter's Church that some villagers were disappointed at the cancellation of the planned Carols on the Green on Christmas eve. We are genuinely sorry for any inconvenience caused but wish to explain that the decision to cancel was based on the brass bands wish to cancel their participation due to concerns of the sub zero evening temperatures. In consultation with a Chapel representative, as we were jointly organising the event, it was deemed appropriate to cancel given the extreme weather and this was relayed to villagers through the Dunston Dossier and by word of mouth. For the people that were not included we can only apologise.

The rescheduling of the carols played by the silver sounds band in the village hall at 6pm was an independent decision and a separate event outside the remit of the PCC. We believe this event was a success and are delighted those who attended enjoyed the evening .

Sue Glaister

Advance Notice for the Lent Lunches 2011

On behalf of our three Parishes, the LENT LUNCHES will take place in St Wilfrid's Church Hall on the 8th, 15th and 22nd April (Good Friday).

They will consist of Home-made soup with a roll and butter and cheese, followed by tea and coffee. All proceeds will be donated to charity which will be announced later.

The Ongoing Raffle will be drawn at the final lunch. Any donation of prizes would be appreciated.

Volunteers are needed to make soup, help set up on the day, serve and clear away afterwards. Anyone prepared to help, please contact Brenda Robertson on 320014.

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY IN THE THREE PARISHES

Thursday 3rd (and each Thursday)

9.00am Holy Communion – St Wilfrid's

Sunday 6th The Fifth Sunday before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's

10.30am United Service – Metheringham Methodist Chapel

Sunday 13th The Fourth Sunday before Lent

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Oswald's

9.00am Morning Worship – St. Peter's

10.30am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

Thursday 17th

2.15pm Family Service with St. Peter's School Dunston

Sunday 20th The Third Sunday before Lent

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's

10.30am Morning Worship – St. Wilfrid's

Sunday 27th The Second Sunday before Lent

9.0am Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion St.Oswald's

10.30am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

March

Sunday 6th The Sunday Next before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's

10.30am United Service – St. Wilfrid's.

Metheringham Over 60's Club

All Club events are held at the Village Hall, Metheringham, unless otherwise stated.

The Members Annual Christmas Dinner and Draw was to have been held on Wednesday 1st December 2010 but because of the snow and ice it was re-arranged for Friday 10th December. By all accounts it was thoroughly enjoyed by all 125 members and guests that attended.

Considering the weather conditions and the dark days of early New Year, our first meeting of the year, held on Wednesday 5th January was supported by over 70 people. This was a very interesting presentation by Kevin Harrison on 'Lincolnshire Oddities' that included slides of Old Boston and snippets of information about different villages and linguistics unique to Lincolnshire.

The next Members evening will be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 2nd February, with the doors opening at 6.30pm and we look forward to seeing you all again.

Diary events:

Wednesday 2nd February

Members evening with entertainment by Judith Hibberd a "Musical Rendezvous" with some of England's finest Variety Stars - Joyce Grenfell, Julie Andrews and others. The usual tea/coffee and biscuits will be served during the interval.

Wednesday 2nd March The Annual General Meeting followed by a fish and chip supper.

Saturday 5th March Coffee morning open to all members and the public. In addition to a refreshing brew of tea or coffee and scones, there will be a raffle, a chance to purchase homemade cakes, books, bric-a-brac and tombola.

All donations of items as prizes for the raffle, or for re-sale, will be very welcome, with proceeds going to Club Funds.

At the present time we have full membership but we expect to welcome new members after our meeting during April. Try us and see as a guest at our Wednesday evening meetings at a cost of only £2.00 and that includes tea/coffee and biscuits. We have a waiting list and should you wish to add your details to this please contact the Chairman Margaret Amos on Tel: 01526 321049. Watch out for the posters displayed around the village as a reminder and we looking forward to seeing you at all our events.

Dave Williams. Secretary

Metheringham WI Report – January 2011

For our January meeting we abandoned Metheringham Village hall, and went out for the evening to Martin Moor Golf Club, where we enjoyed our New Year's meal. Over 40 members attended the meal and we were seated at tables of 8, having drawn our table number at random from Audrey's black bag. This was an improvement from last year, when we had three long tables which made conversation rather difficult with anyone other than your immediate neighbour. We all enjoyed our delicious three-course meal, promptly served by members of the golf club staff, which was followed by the raffle.

Once again our thanks go to Audrey Webb and her committee for organising such a pleasant evening.

As part of the meeting's business, members were reminded that subscriptions are due in February. Any one who has not received their WI Life magazine by the next meeting should inform Brenda Hutchison who will chase them up.

The next meeting is in Metheringham Village Hall on Wednesday 16th February at 7.15pm. This will be a 'Members' evening', and visitors are always welcome. PEH

1000th Sycamore Tree - Restorative Justice programme changes prisoners' lives

Prison Fellowship's restorative justice programme Sycamore Tree achieved a milestone at the end of last year, when the 1000th programme was completed. More than 30 prisons and young offenders institutions in England and Wales offer the programme and around 2,000 learners participate every year. Sycamore Tree raises the awareness of the impact of crime on victims and teaches the principles and application of restorative justice.

The programme started in 1998. Around 15,000 learners have taken part so far. For most Sycamore Tree learners, the most powerful element of the programme is when a victim of crime talks to the group about how crime has impacted on their life. More than 300 Prison Fellowship volunteers are involved in Sycamore Tree each year.

Details at: www.prisonfellowship.org.uk/sycamore-tree.html

Caedmon (d 680AD)

Caedmon should be the patron saint of all farmers who enjoy humming to themselves as they do the lambing this Spring. For Caedmon of Whitby was a bit like David in the Bible – he grew up as a simple herdsman out on the hills who enjoyed composing songs and poetry for himself while watching his flocks.

Like David, Caedmon also had a keen awareness of God, and used his creative gift to express his devotion and love for his Creator. When his poems and songs became known to others, they liked them so much that soon Caedmon left his sheep in order to become a monk. This gave him time to compose many poems based on the stories in the Bible: from Creation and Genesis, to the Exodus and entry of the Jews into the promised land, to the birth, passion and resurrection of Christ, and finally to the future Last Judgement, Heaven, and Hell.

Then one day Caedmon suddenly announced that he knew he was going to die soon. And so he did, in a state of charity and peace with everyone. There was great mourning.

Sadly, only nine lines of his poetry has survived, and we have the great historian, Bede, to thank for even that much. But in his time, Caedmon's gift of telling Christian stories in the vernacular must have been of great value in evangelising the common folk. PP

The very first Valentine card - a legend

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison waiting execution, Valentine

showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14 February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'

So the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers. PP

Are you grumpy yet?

An infant laughs nearly 300 times a day. Teenagers laugh on average just six times a day. By our twenties we are down to four times a day. Our thirties are a bit better – at five times a day. But by the time we hit 50, our sense of humour is deserting us, and we laugh just three times a day, while the average 60 year old manages a good laugh just 2.5 times a day. It gets worse. According to the TV station Dave, who carried out the research, people over 50 are most like to complain and worry than younger people. They write more letters of complaint, argue with neighbours more, and spend time worrying about health and money. One of the researchers suggests: "It's important to remember how good laughter is for you. It releases endorphins and a little laughter every day goes a long way to reducing stress." PP

On why our church does not need health or safety...

The Rectory, St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

The disasters you inflict on church life are made the worse because they are so well meaning. I appreciated your concern when you heard one of our parishioners had slipped on a gravestone. Your desire to help was entirely commendable; sending your own church's health and safety officer to give us some advice was kindly-meant. But the thousand page report was not welcome. If we implemented your officer's suggestions, life would become unbearably safe.

St. James the Least has survived perfectly well for the last 600 years without gutter cleaning inspections, path degreasing and electrical safety certificates, so I think we may survive a little longer without them. As far as I am aware, the only disaster to hit us was when Cromwell's soldiers stabled their horses in the nave – which I suspect a few of our oldest members still clearly remember.

The shock the sidesmen sometimes get when switching on the lights occurs only occasionally, is relatively mild and soon over – and if it happens when preparing for the 8am Service, helps to wake them up. The fact that the weight of Duke of Clumber's marble sarcophagus is slowly detaching the south aisle from the rest of the church is very slow – and the pews in that area are used only once a year when his relations visit from America to commemorate his death at Agincourt – which is probably just beyond remembrance of the oldest of our congregation. Leaks from the ceiling in the north aisle are solved with the row of buckets – and even you must concede that the fungi on the oak beams look really rather attractive when the sun catches them. The sapling growing out of the spire is certainly an issue – although it looks so attractive in Spring when in blossom. As for our fire extinguishers, they were serviced when my predecessor-but-two was in office, and I have the certificate to prove it.

Do thank your health and safety officer for all his work and tell him we will bear his recommendations in mind. Also tell him I was so sorry he slipped and broke his leg as he was entering your own church last Sunday. If only he had been encased in bubble wrap, it would never have happened. Perhaps you could put that on the agenda of your next health and safety meeting.

Your loving uncle, Eustace.

Use a hand dryer in the public toilets? Probably best not to bother....

You know the routine – after washing your hands, you are faced with an electric dryer, under which you are supposed to rub your hands vigorously, until they are dry. Well, they may get dry, but they may will be more germier than when you started.

Researchers have found that bacteria levels INCREASE when you wash your hands and then rub them together under an electric hot-air dryer. And the wetter the hands when you start, the more bacteria. They concluded that while electric dryers may keep bathrooms tidy, paper towels are far more effective at reducing the risk of spreading infection.

The problem is that the bacteria that lives within the skin is brought to the surface when you wet your skin and then rub it. The report, published in the Journal of Applied Microbiology,

found that 'a diverse mixture of bacteria survived hand-washing.' And when you rub your hands together under a dryer, you can even increase the bacteria count – up to 18 per cent!

PP

Signs & Symbols: Love you!

A vicar once horrified a stranger whilst travelling up twelve floors with her in an office block lift by saying, 'How lovely to meet a fellow Christian'. 'What do you mean?' she replied, bewildered. 'Well you're wearing a crucifix so I assumed you must be a Christian.' 'Oh, this,' lifting a large gold necklace she was wearing, 'this was my Grandmother's – I wondered what it was.' So often we just take for granted that people know what we know about the Christian faith, and of course, in that case she clearly didn't.

As our thoughts turn to 'Love' in the month of February and St Valentine's Day, what symbol might you choose to express your love for someone? Perhaps a heart, a lipstick kiss, or even a hug? What colour would you choose for love? It is usually red – to remind us of our life-blood. In fact, if you see stained glass in a church, the chances are that where red glass predominates the message is of sacrifice and ultimately of 'love'.

Jesus, it is often said, showed his love by opening his arms wide upon the cross; and so the cross is our supreme symbol of God's love for each of us. A cross (no figure suspended) because Jesus is no longer held there, but rather has overcome death and is alive again. A crucifix (with a suspended figure) because here is Jesus paying the ultimate sacrifice for love of each one of us.

With Valentine's Day in mind...

Romance, love, marriage and all that stuff
- the way children see it...

How do you decide whom to marry?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the crisps and dip coming. - Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. - Kirsten, age 10

What is the right age to get married?

23 is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. - Camille, age 10

No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married. - Freddie, age 6

How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.
- Derrick, age 8

What do you think your mum and dad have in common?

Both don't want any more kids. - Lori, age 8

What do most people do on a date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say, if you listen long enough. - Lynnette, age 8 (isn't she a treasure)

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. - Martin, age 10

What would you do on a first date that was turning sour?

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. - Craig, age 9

When is it okay to kiss someone?

When they're rich. - Pam, age 7

The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. - Curt, age 7

The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. - Howard, age 8

Is it better to be single or married?

I don't know which is better, but I'll tell you one thing. I'm never going to have sex with my wife. I don't want to be all grossed out. - Theodore, age 8

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. - Anita, age 9

How would the world be different if people did not get married?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? - Kelvin, age 8

And the #1 Favorite is.....

How would you make a marriage work?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a truck. - Ricky, age 10 (smart fellow)

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Sometimes women are overly suspicious of their husbands. ..

When Adam stayed out very late for a few nights, Eve became upset. "You're running around with other women," she charged.

"You're being unreasonable," Adam responded. "You're the only woman on earth." The quarrel continued until Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened by someone poking him in the chest. It was Eve. "What do you think you're doing?" Adam demanded.

"Counting your ribs," said Eve.

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Do what we can to help...

Several women in the church prayer group were visiting an elderly friend who was ill. After awhile, they rose to leave and told her; "We'll do what we can to help. We promise to keep you in our prayers."

"Thank you," she said. "But, really, I can do my own praying. The thing I can't do is the dishes in the sink in the kitchen...."

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Bye bye

I like long walks, especially when taken by people who annoy me.