

## **Church Newsround – February 2012**

Third Annual Mega Quiz will be taking place at St Wilfrid's Church Hall on Friday 24th February 2012 at 7.00pm.  
Only £6.00 a head including a fish & chips supper. Please bring your own drinks. There will be prizes and a raffle!  
Essential to book your team in early to avoid disappointment.  
Tickets from the Church Wardens - Margaret Amos or Rod Sanders 01526 323383

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**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 10am  
Guest Speaker – Sister Judith Ann  
Service this year prepared by the women of Malaysia  
'LET JUSTICE PREVAIL'  
Refreshments after the service.

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**The licensing of Canon Nick Buck** as priest in charge of the Metheringham and Branston benefices and of Sr. Liz as Associate Priest and Sisters Judith and Maureen as Parish Workers will take place at 7.30pm in St. Peter's Dunston on Monday 20th February. All are welcome.

### **The Bishop Of Grantham writes :-**

Dear friends,

For many years I have sat in the same seat on the Kop at Sheffield Wednesday and, during my time as a parish priest just up the road from the ground, I would be asked by many members of the Sunday school and youth club whether they could come to a game with me and my family. On many occasions, I would be sat with a group of seven or eight football mad youngsters and would get vicarious enjoyment from their excitement. On one such occasion, the match was going well! Sheffield Wednesday were winning, the crowd were singing and all seemed well in the world. Suddenly, the opposition equalised via the superbly struck volley of the opposing team's striker and I was surprised to see the young boy next to me, a young black boy of African extract, rise sharply to his feet and make his way to a steward. A few words were exchanged, and then a man sat just behind us was forcibly removed by a gaggle of stewards. Unbeknown to me, my young friend had heard a racist comment directed at the black striker who had scored the superb goal and decided he would act: I've not seen the ejected and dejected fan ever since. That young boy, now a strapping man with a first class honours degree in sports science and himself a successful cage-fighter, often reminds me to this day of that incident long ago.

In today's world, it all seems so antediluvian when we hear of such racist incidents but, sadly, we do not have to go too far to be reminded that, as proscribed and publically despised as racism now is, it still lurks just beneath the surface.

This reality has, both, come to light recently in the case of the Liverpool footballer Suarez and the subsequent racist barracking of an Oldham player by a Liverpool supporter and also in the intimate revelations about the nature of racism during the trial and conviction of the two men found guilty of Stephen Lawrence's murder. In both these cases, the institutions involved-a football club in one case and the police in the other-have taken all the right steps to try and ensure that such prejudiced behaviour is not systemic and inherent in them. However, the horrible truth is that, in the heat of competition or in the bravado of a deeply disturbed young person's hateful tirade, the evil of racism still lurks and it is not far from us all.

Such racism was not unknown to Jesus: we are told that he stood at the well with the Samaritan woman; a woman from a race despised by some simply because they chose to worship God in another Temple other than that in Jerusalem. Jesus cleverly extracts from this 'hated' foreigner the knowledge that he is the source of eternal life and the eagerly expected Messiah. On their return to the well, even Jesus' disciples join in the unconscious and implicit racism, being 'astonished' that he was speaking with her.

In William Shirer's seminal book on The Third Reich, one is struck by the matter of fact way in which the cremators for the killing fields of the concentration camps were ordered from the manufacturers, as simple as ordering a microwave for the kitchen. Such ordinariness combined with horror is rightly named 'the mundanity of evil'. My young friend in the football match was right to challenge that thoughtless and cruel barb by a fellow supporter for there must be link between these small, mundane, acts and the kind of racism that leads to violence and loss of life?

In the end, the real tragedy of racism is that it de-humanises those we parody and to whom we attach simplistic prejudices. It was the 'hated' foreign woman at the well who saw the deep mystery of Jesus and his divinity: when our eyes are clouded by colour, class or creed we fail to see and enjoy the true beauty of the person underneath. +Tim Grantham

### **From the Registers**

Funeral:

*May they rest in peace.*

John Dawson Died 23 Nov 2011 Aged 68 years. Service followed by Cremation 6<sup>th</sup> Dec.2011

John Hanley Amies. Died 5<sup>th</sup> January aged 76 years. Service at St Wilfrid's followed by Cremation 24<sup>th</sup> January.

### **St Wilfrid's Flower Festival 2012.**

A meeting to discuss displays will be held in church on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 11am.

Please come along if you can help in any way. Thank you.

DB

### **Crib Service**

The Crib Service held at St Wilfrid's Parish Church on Christmas Eve raised £131.36 - this was divided between Lives First Responders and The Nomad Trust each receiving £65.68. Thank you to all who attended. MA

### **REPORT OF ST. WILFRID'S PCC MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> 2011.**

A petition had been received from Fair Trade about the African cotton trade, and it was agreed this should be signed and sent off.

A job description has been received from the Reverend Nick Buck, for his work as Priest-in-Charge of the six parishes of Blankney, Branston, Dunston, Metheringham, Nocton and Potterhanworth.

Money from the closed Bell Fund should be available to anyone fund raising for future work on the bells. Grants for this work are being applied for.

Mrs. Amos has boxes of slides of various parts of the church, and these include the stained glass windows.

The Reverend Jonnie Parkin talked about youth work in general but it was not clear as to how this relates to the congregation of St. Wilfrid. The general consensus of opinion arising from this particular meeting was that it would be best to leave things as they are in the parish for the time being.

Several head stones, which had caused problems at a neighbouring property, have been moved and erected near the base of the tower. Undergrowth has been removed from the trees, the wobbly railings are to be made safe, and the path through the churchyard is to be repaired.

On hearing of a request to use the Church Hall during cold weather, it was decided this should be at the discretion of the churchwardens, and help would be needed to transfer necessary items to the hall. JH

### **A Quiet Day for Lent 10th March 2012 Led by Sr Liz CSF at The Community of St Francis, 'San Damiano', Metheringham.**

#### **"Journey into the Wilderness"**

The quiet day will start with coffee at 10 am and end at 4pm.

Hot drinks will be provided. Please bring a packed lunch.

A suggested contribution of £15 per person for the day is

requested.

Please book a place if you would like to come. This is open to all in the six Parishes.

Tel: 01526 321115; email: [metheringhamcsf@franciscans.org.uk](mailto:metheringhamcsf@franciscans.org.uk)

38 Drury Street, Metheringham, LN4 3EZ

### **The Community of St Francis, 'San Damiano' invites you on Wednesdays in Lent to a place of Sanctuary.**

Come in, Be still escape the noise & demands, the busyness.

This is **YOUR TIME** Come & go as you please 9am—9pm

on 22, 29 February, 7, 14, 21, 28 March and 4 April 2012

Midday Prayer will be held in the Chapel at 12.30

The Eucharist at 6.30pm and Compline at 8.30pm you are welcome to join us at San Damiano, 38 Drury Street, Metheringham

### **St Wilfrid's Churchyard**

As is the custom Christmas Wreaths will be removed after Candlemas which is 2nd February 2012. Anyone wanting to keep wreath should remove prior to that date.

Many Thanks RTB

### **St Oswald's Blankney**

Many of you will be aware that St. Oswald's Church has been awarded a grant from English Heritage Lottery Fund to assist with funding of very necessary repairs to the tower .i.e. repair of stonework lead roofing and tiled roofing. There have been a number of experts involved with planning and preparation before the repairs can commence i.e. Architects, Steeplejacks and Ecological Consultant. The repairs should commence at the beginning of May and is expected to take twelve weeks, weather permitting. There should not be any disruption to the services of worship. During 2011 the Church remained busy with weddings ,welcoming, and with preparation before their marriage ceremonies, a number of them along with families when possible return to worship at St.Oswald's. We have welcomed the very young too on the occasion of their Baptism, who have all been supported by their families and friends. Sadly during the year we had large congregations for a Thanksgiving and Funeral service for two supporters and worshippers at St.Oswald's.

Throughout the year we have continued to maintain our fund raising programme which English Heritage still expect from us, we are expected to match the amount of grant from E.H. to pay for repairs. There was a sponsored slim, Sunday afternoon in and around Church and Blankney Walks, Harvest Festival and Supper, Carol Service with Christmas Gift Stall, we have received a number of generous donations for which we are very grateful.

Thanks must go to everyone for the hard work time and effort necessary in maintaining this beautiful building providing our place of Worship. Thanks to our retired Priests and San Damiano for guidance and leading us in Worship. To our organists who continually support us, to our friends from St. Wilfrid's and St. Peter's and many others.

D.B.

### **Dunston St. Peter's Church of England Primary School.**

On behalf of the staff and governors at Dunston St. Peter's Church of England Primary School, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. The children have settled well back into school. A new, exciting after school club has just started called the Mad Science Club. All of the regular clubs have now got going again, such as Starlights (drama), multisports, football and netball.

We intend to go up to four classes in September if possible as our numbers continue to grow. We currently have 79 children on roll and we expect this to rise next year. This will mean that in September we will be able to have the Reception children in a class on their own, and then Years 1 and 2 together, Years 3 and 4 and Years 5 and 6. This will be a better arrangement for everyone.

Finally, I would like to invite you to join us for our Christingle service which will take place at 2.15 pm on Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> in St. Peter's Church.

Graham Boyall Headteacher

A number of ladies from Dunston, Blankney and Nocton went into St Peter's School just before Christmas to help all the children make a Christmas table decoration to take home.

This was certainly appreciated by the school and children and hopefully by the parents but it was also a very pleasurable experience for the ladies working with and helping the children, an all round winner and great community spirit.

**2012 Lent Course: Led by The Community of St Francis**  
**"FINDING A VOICE"** based on the film 'The King's Speech'

Over the centuries Lent has lost its radical edge. For many people it has become about giving up chocolate or alcohol, for others about gathering together in groups to chat about religious stuff.

It was intended to be much more. Historically Lent was a time for strengthening and for preparation: a time when fasting strengthened the flagging will-power; when prayer and meditation prepared for Easter when baptismal vows were renewed. It was based on Christ's 40 days in the wilderness. Just as Jesus knew how vital was that strengthening and preparation for what was to come, so it seems did his earlier followers. In those tough times, they understood, rather more than we do, what a radical and crucial calling they had to fulfil. Followers of Jesus Christ are described in the New Testament as 'a royal priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) and as recipients of a 'glorious inheritance' and an 'incomparably great power' (Ephesians 1: 18-19) – people with incredible potential and enormous responsibility; people with a duty – to speak with authority about that which is loving and true.

Yet these days many of us seem to have lost our voice. So eloquent are the voices raised against faith – and often so subtly dismissive – that we no longer believe that we have a right to be heard. So private has our religion become that propriety prevents us either revealing our pain or offering encouragement. So flabby are our wills and so strong are our fears that we have lost the sense of who we could become and what together we might accomplish. That is why Lent remains important and why Lent courses if entered into with honesty and commitment, can be vital staging posts in the journey towards fulfilling spiritual potential. The film the 'King's Speech' is a powerful tool and is the basis for this Lent Course. The film is not just about overcoming a stammer but about gaining self-esteem. In Bertie we see our own anxieties played out, in other characters we also glimpse our own disappointments, we see those who have discouraged us, those who have scorned us. But we also see other things we know to be true: the power of perseverance, of courage and above all of friendship.

Format for the Lent Course 2012:

A one off session to watch the film 'The King's Speech' together, before the beginning of Lent on **Thursday 16th February**. The pre reading material for the first session will be given out on this evening as well. 7.30 – 9.30 pm at San Damiano.

**Then 5 sessions on Thursday evenings in Lent: 1st, 8th, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22nd and 29th March, between 7.30 and 9.30 pm at San Damiano.**

A typical Session will show clips from the film and then include, questions, brainstorming, discussion, reflection and end with a short meditation, readings and silence.

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY IN THE THREE PARISHES

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> ( and each Thursday )**

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

**Sunday 5th                      The Third Sunday before Lent**

8.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's

10.30am United Service – The Methodist Church Metherringham

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>                      The Second Sunday before Lent**

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Oswald's

9.00am Morning Worship – St. Peter's

10.30am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>                      The Sunday Next before Lent**

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

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup>                      Licensing Service**

7.30pm St. Peter's Dunston – All Welcome

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>                Ash Wednesday – St. Wilfrid's**

7.30pm Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>                      The First Sunday of Lent**

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

**March 2012**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>                      The Second Sunday of Lent**

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

**Metheringham WI News**

(December's Report held over due to tight deadlines over Christmas )

The Christmas Social stopped me from joining the Grumpy Christmas Brigade. It was an evening where everyone contributed, food, a small gift from Santa games and carols. (A big thank you to Jane Foster for transporting her electric piano)

Most important of all a welcome and friendship.

A dice game involving passing along small chocolates in different directions mixed us up. A real learning process for small children !! right left centre etc. At least we all went home with a few chocolates.

A quiz about cakes and puddings made me realise how few I knew (apart from Yorkshire Pudding).

A thank you to Audrey and the committee for their organisation. Used stamps were collected for the charity Guide Dogs for the Deaf..

Don't forget the resolution forms from the W.I. Life Magazine.

New Members always Welcome.

**January's Report:**

2012 kick-started with the Christmas Dinner held once again at Martin Moor Golf Club. 46 Members enjoyed a three course repast with a choice of drink.

The chatter was over-whelming but silenced when the meal was served and wading through the generous portions of sticky toffee pudding.

The evening concluded with a raffle and details of the forthcoming programme. There was a special programme this year. The one with the flower print came with a bottle of Bubbly Lucky Cathy Mitcham- a good idea Cynthia Dobbs.

A thank you to Audrey and the committee and the Golf Club Staff.

Next Meeting February 15<sup>th</sup> – To suit the weather – wear your thermals – "Living in the Canadian Arctic" by Malcome Earney.

Remember your Subs – Stamps for the Guide Dogs for the Deaf Charity (2nd Year)

JS

**Tales of Christmas – Its a bit late now but it's good.!**

It was Caspar who first noticed the bright star. Looking at the charts he said that Jupiter was crossing the paths of Venus and Saturn, I remember distinctly he said to Melchior that this must signify something important is going to happen. I went over to the table where our charts and diagrams of the zodiac lay, and all three of us gathered round to pore over them, After a few days discussion we came to the conclusion that the bright light portended the birth of an important person, possibly a new king and that birth would have serious consequences for the entire world.

We thought we should go and find out more and began to get ready for our journey. We decided to take some spells and materials gold, frankincense and myrrh, just in case they were needed.

Well I can tell you it wasn't an easy journey. Several times we were all for turning back. There was the heat and the desert. The camel drivers kept disappearing and getting drunk. The rooms in the inns were often filthy. people weren't very friendly. The food was awful! In the end we decided it was best to travel at night and rest up during the day. But the bright star was always there on the horizon.

After travelling many months, we crossed the border into Israel and made for Jerusalem. We asked the way to the king's palace. Well it seemed logical that if this person was important, then that's where he'd be born. We knew we were taking a bit of a risk. Herod's reputation was well known as someone who couldn't be trusted. To our surprise he gave us an audience and was charm itself He couldn't have been more helpful He already knew of our quest because his spies had told him. He particularly wanted to know how long it was since we had seen the star. He gathered his council together and asked them where they thought such a person might be born. Well, after a lot of arguing about possible places someone said that the prophet Micah had forecast Bethlehem as the place. So with Herod's blessing we set off, agreeing on our return journey to tell him the exactly where he could find the baby. At last, we were almost at our destination. I couldn't wait.

When we got to Bethlehem we weren't sure where to look for the baby. The place was absolutely seething with people who'd come for the census. Streets were crowded and the town was bulging at the seams. Eventually after visiting several inns we found one where they said a baby had only recently been born I expected we would be shown to one of the best rooms. Imagine my surprise when we were taken outside to a stable at the back of the inn. Surely if the stars were right some one as important as this baby would not be found in such a humble place. It was like a cave in the rock. You could smell the animals, hear them snuffling and chewing.

There was just a glow which I thought came from a lantern

We crept in. Imagine the scene. Cows munching quietly. A mule standing patiently. And the baby lying in some straw in a manger. A young girl sat by it with a man beside her. She smiled in welcome. I was suddenly conscious of a deep sense of quiet and being atone with the universe. There was no lantern but a gentle light seemed to surround them. I had a feeling of being in the presence of something mysterious. I can only describe it as a profound goodness. I sensed here was a force for good. Almost without thinking we brought out our magic spells, and laid the gold, frankincense and myrrh, by the crib. In the face of such goodness we realised our magic would now be powerless. Reverently and quietly we slipped away.

After a good night's rest we decided to bypass Herod in Jerusalem and take an alternative route home. He wouldn't be happy with this birth. In the past he'd shown no qualms in getting rid of any potential rival. If he found this young family the infant would soon be murdered. Who would have thought such a baby would have been born in a stable? As we journeyed, the image of the baby in the stable was fixed forever in my mind. Certainly I sensed I'd been in the presence of someone or something special. Even perhaps a divine being, and that somehow life would not be the same again. I couldn't put my finger on it. But I felt I'd witnessed the beginning of a major change in the world's affairs and that this baby would turn the world upside down.

### **FairTrade EASTER EGGS which actually mention Jesus – Amazing !**

"Another Chance" will be having the eggs for sale nearer Easter. They not only taste good but £26,000 of the profits made last year by the Meaningful Chocolate Company from the eggs went to charities.

### **On how to survive a residential conference**

The Rectory

St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I am glad you enjoyed your conference, but please do not be deluded into thinking that conferences are there to teach you anything. Conferences exist to provide another entry on

your CV, to give you time off while flattering yourself that you are working, and to make the person leading it feel that their life is not wholly pointless. As it happened, I was also invited to the same one, the one entitled 'Learning how to say 'no''. But I refused to attend, thereby proving that I didn't need it anyway. There are certain useful points you need to learn for conferences. First, about half the attendees will have been together only the previous week attending another conference in another part of the country. They will be eager, enthusiastic and overflowing with management platitudes. Avoid them at all costs. Should one of them say to you: 'expect the unexpected' you have my permission to strangle them. They won't have expected that! Secondly, when you are all asked to go through that ghastly process of introducing yourselves to everyone else, make it up. I think the last time I was obliged to do this, I became a butcher specialising in exporting offal to Saudi Arabia. All your clerical colleagues will then panic that they have turned up for the wrong course and the leader will make sure that you are not asked another single question throughout the event. Both outcomes are satisfying. Thirdly, do realise that when you are asked to divide into small discussion groups, it means that the conference leader has run out of ideas about what to do next. Do not, at all costs, volunteer to be chairman. It only means that when you have to report back – and if the leaders use the word 'plenary', then by all means contemplate strangling them also - you will be involved in sticking sheets of paper on to walls, which will then rip off the wallpaper when you try to remove them. You will also have the embarrassment of finding that every felt tip pen you try to use will be empty, and what you thought were the conclusions your group had arrived at will be volubly contradicted by all the other members. No, if you are ever obliged to attend another course, take a good book, enough claret to cover every evening away, and develop a debilitating illness that, while enabling you to attend every meal, obliges you to retreat to your room for the rest of the day. You will leave having learned as much on whatever the topic was as your colleagues, but will return refreshed and eager to make the next booking. Your loving uncle, Eustace

(The Rev Dr Gary Bowness writes these tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace')

### **Smile-lines**

#### **Forgiveness**

A Sunday School teacher had just concluded her lesson and wanted to make sure she had made her point. She said, "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?" There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up. "Sin," he said.

#### **What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?**

David's Triumph was heard throughout the land.

Honda... because the apostles were all in one Accord.

Volkswagen Beetle: 2 Cor. 4:8 "We are pressed in every way, but not cramped beyond movement."

#### **Pastoral Search Report**

We do not have a happy report to give. We've not been able to find a suitable candidate for this church, though we have one promising prospect still. We do appreciate all the suggestions from the church members, and we've followed up each one with interviews or calling at least three references. The following is our confidential report on the present candidates :-

Adam: Good man but problems with his wife. Also one reference told of how his wife and he enjoy walking naked in the woods.

Noah: Former pastorate of 120 years with no converts. Prone to unrealistic ship building projects.

Abraham: Though the references reported wife-swapping, the facts seem to show he never slept with another man's wife, but did offer to share his own wife with another man.

Joseph: A big thinker, but a braggart, believes in dream-interpreting, and has a prison record.  
Moses: A modest and meek man, but poor communicator, even stuttering at times.  
Sometimes blows his stack and acts rashly. Some say he left an earlier church over a murder charge.

David: The most promising leader of all until we discovered the affair he had with his neighbour's wife.

Solomon: Great preacher but our parsonage would never hold all those wives.

Elijah: Prone to depression-collapses under pressure.

Elisha: Reported to have lived with a single widow while at his former church.

Hosea: A tender and loving pastor but our people could never handle his wife's occupation.

Deborah: Female.

Jeremiah: Emotionally unstable, alarmist, negative, always lamenting things, and reported to have taken a long trip to bury his underwear on the bank of foreign river.

Isaiah: On the fringe? Claims to have seen angels in church. Has trouble with his language.

Jonah: Refused God's call into ministry until he was forced to obey by getting swallowed up by a great fish. He told us the fish later spit him out on the shore near here. We hung up.

Amos: Too backward and unpolished. With some seminary training he might have promise, but has a hang-up against wealthy people. Might fit in better in a poor congregation.

John: Says he is a Baptist, but definitely doesn't dress like one. Has slept in the outdoors for months on end, has a weird diet, and provokes denominational leaders.

Peter: Too blue collar. Has a bad temper—even has been known to curse. Had a big run-in with Paul in Antioch. Aggressive, but a loose cannon.

Paul: Powerful CEO type leader and fascinating preacher. However, short on tact, unforgiving with younger ministers, harsh and has been known to preach all night.

Timothy: Too young.

Jesus: Has had popular times, but once when his church grew to 5000 he managed to offend them all and this church dwindled down to twelve people. Seldom stays in one place very long. And, of course, he's single.

Judas: His references are solid. A steady plodder. Conservative. Good connections. Knows how to handle money. We're inviting him to preach this Sunday. Possibilities here.

### **One-liners that we promise will make you groan....**

1. My neighbour knocked on my door at 2:30 this morning, can you believe that? 2:30am? Luckily for him I was still up playing my bagpipes.
2. The Grim Reaper came for me last night, and I beat him off with a vacuum cleaner. Talk about Dyson with death.
3. Paddy says, "Mick, I'm thinking of buying a Labrador. "Really?" says Mick "have you seen how many of their owners go blind?"
4. I saw a poor old lady fall over today on the ice! At least I presume she was poor - she only had £1.20 in her purse.
5. My girlfriend thinks that I'm a stalker... Well, she's not exactly my girlfriend yet.
6. The wife has been missing a week now. Today police said to prepare for the worst. So I have been to the charity shop to get all her clothes back.
8. A mate of mine admitted to being addicted to brake fluid. When I quizzed him on it, he reckoned he could stop any time.
9. My daughter asked me for a pet spider for her birthday, so I went to our local pet shop and they were £70. "Blow this," I thought, "I can get one cheaper off the web."
10. I was driving this morning when I saw an RAC van parked by the road. The driver was sobbing uncontrollably. I thought to myself, "That guy's heading for a breakdown."

**Kiss kiss**

An honest seven-year-old admitted calmly to her parents that Billy Brown had kissed her after class. "How did that happen?" gasped her mother. "It wasn't easy," admitted the young lady, "but three girls helped me catch him."

**The boss**

My boss was complaining in a staff meeting the other day that he wasn't getting any respect. Later that morning he went out and got a small sign that read, "I'm the Boss". He then taped it to his office door. Later that day when he returned from lunch, he found that someone had taped a note to the sign that said, "Your wife called, she wants her sign back!"

**Husbands**

Two men were in a pub, talking about how highly their wives thought of them. The first man said, "My wife, she thinks so much of me that she won't let me do any work around the house. It's incredible." The second man said, "That's nothing. My wife thinks I'm a god. Every night at the table, she places a burnt offering before me."

**Who did it?**

A solicitor, doctor, and minister went hunting red deer together in the Highlands. When a deer ran past them, they all fired at the exact same moment, and the deer dropped. However, when they went to look, there was only one bullet hole. They didn't know which of them shot it, and asked one of the stalkers what they should do.

The stalker said: "Let me look at the deer. Sometimes I can figure it out." He asked a few questions, examined the deer carefully, and declared, "The minister shot this buck!" Amazed, they all asked how he knew. Stooping down, he pointed out the wound. "See here. It went in one ear and out the other."