

Church Newsround May 2011

St Oswald's Church Blankney on Sunday 10th July from 2pm.
Come and enjoy "An afternoon in Blankney"
Guided Village Walks, Organ Music, Afternoon teas
Further details in next months Magazine

The Community of St Francis

The sisters of the Community of St Francis - Judith Ann, Liz and Maureen - invite you to an Open Afternoon at San Damiano, 38 Drury Street, Metheringham, on Saturday 21 May 2011. Drop in any time between 2.00 and 5.00 pm for tea and cake and to meet others from Metheringham and nearby villages.
Evening Prayer will be said at 5.00 pm, for any who would like to join us.

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SPECIAL "WE HAVE A NEW BISHOP" EDITION !!

Dear Friends,

The announcement of the Venerable Christopher Lowson as the new Bishop of Lincoln was warmly greeted across the Diocese. I do ask you to keep Christopher and his wife Susan in your prayers as they prepare to come and join our pilgrimage as God's people discovering how to share the good news of Jesus Christ in our generation.

2011 has so far proved to have been historic year and perhaps it will be remembered as a year when there was a coming together of events which have changed the shape of things to come. Internationally our headlines have been captured by the Arab Spring, with its rejection of totalitarian regimes, horrific natural disasters in both New Zealand, Australia and the sheer devastation in Japan. These events have each brought with them heartrending stories of human despair, loss and countless personal tragedies.

Domestically our national story continues to be reshaped by the effects of Government cuts changing the landscape for public services, the NHS and education. At the same time rising prices, an all-time high price for fuel and high levels of unemployment bring with them stories of hardship and anguish.

Life is just full of stories. Whilst the media, with its inability to stay with any story for very long, moves on hungry for new material, the reality is that for the people involved in the headlines, the story goes on and has to be lived out.

A church active in God's mission no option other than to be caught-up in the ongoing human stories which shape the future for individuals and for their communities. It is only when we have lost sight of this connection that we suggest that the church shouldn't be involved in politics. Being caught up in what is happening in other people's lives starts with our prayers, but then has to go on to being actively involved in sustaining, supporting and sharing in the stories which are being lived out all around us.

The story at the heart of the Christian faith is the story of an active God whom we find in Jesus Christ engaged with the ongoing story of life. So a Church caught up with the active God will be a busy place, not for its own sake or its own future, but busy keeping up with a God who is deeply involved with the human stories which ultimately make and shape history.

+David Grimsby

Who is the 72nd Bishop of Lincoln?

Christopher Lowson has been Director of Ministry for the Church of England since February 2006. In this role he has led a team responsible for developing policy and delivering support to those in lay and ordained ministry throughout the Church of England. The Ministry Division advises the House of Bishops, the Archbishops' Council and the General Synod on ministry matters and is responsible for the selection and the oversight of the training of more than 900 new clergy, lay Readers and others admitted to ministry each year.

Born in 1953 in the north-eastern industrial steel town of Consett in Co. Durham, Christopher attended Blackfyne Comprehensive School, and was encouraged to explore the possibility of the ordained ministry soon after his confirmation when he was 13 years old.

His father, grandfather (a professional footballer) and great-grandfather had all worked at Consett's steel works, and Christopher worked there for two summers as a labourer in the coke ovens at the plant while undertaking his initial training for the ordained ministry. He completed his studies at King's College London and in St Augustine's College, Canterbury (AKC), where two of his fellow students were the current bishops of Grimsby and Grantham.

In 1976 he married Susan, and in the same year was awarded a World Council of Churches Scholarship to study at Berkeley in California where he studied within the Graduate Theological Union and gained the degree of Master of Sacred Theology (STM) for his work on the relationship between theology and literature, writing a dissertation on theological themes in the poetry of Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

Christopher was ordained deacon in the Diocese of Southwark in 1977, and priest in 1978. He spent five years as a curate in Richmond in southwest London. His first post in charge of a parish was Holy Trinity Eltham - a suburban parish in the London Borough of Greenwich where he was also Anglican chaplain to Avery Hill College of Education - later part of Thames Polytechnic and now the University of Greenwich. After nine years he was appointed to be vicar of Petersfield, a market town in Hampshire, and rector of a village on the edge of the South Downs, Buriton. During this time he studied as a part-time student at Heythrop College, in the University of London for a Master of Theology degree (MTh) in pastoral theology, writing a dissertation on models of ordained leadership in a rural context.

In 1999 he took up the post of Archdeacon of Portsmouth, later to become the Archdeacon of Portsdown. He chaired the Diocese of Portsmouth's Board of Ministry and the *Kairos Project*, a programme of renewal for the diocese which encouraged parishes and diocesan bodies in Portsmouth to take part in an 18-month process of study, prayer and reflection on the needs of their local communities before producing five-year plans for mission and ministry.

He also helped devise and teach an MA course in Church and Community Studies at the University of Portsmouth for clergy, Readers, teachers and other professionals. In 2003 he completed a Master of Laws degree in Canon Law (LLM) at Cardiff Law School in which he explored legal issues surrounding the history and future of the parson's freehold, and in 2006 took up his current post in London.

Susan, his wife, is a registered general and paediatric nurse who now works as a lead clinician for the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman, providing clinical advice in relation to complaints about the National Health Service in England. She is also churchwarden of St Matthew's Church, Westminster. Christopher and Susan have two grown-up children: James (31) now married to Katie (also the child of an archdeacon) who works for Dow Jones in London - Katie works for the BBC - and Rebecca (29) who is a History graduate and who now lives and works in Manchester.

"It was a great honour to be invited to be Bishop of Lincoln, and my immediate instinct was to accept," said Christopher.

"It is daunting to be part of a great tradition of people who have all left their legacy in the Diocese, and I pray that I can live up to this great challenge. We're very much looking forward moving to Lincoln, and exploring the wonderful diversity in the Diocese, and to leading God's work here.

"Being a bishop is about supporting and encouraging the clergy and laity of the Diocese at the grass-roots. It's about mobilising the people of the Christian community to engage with the life of the world in order together to uncover and build God's Kingdom. Christians need to work together with all people of good will - of faith and no faith, in the public, private and voluntary sectors - to serve the common good and to build a community in which all people can flourish and grow into the people God has made them to be."

The Lord Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd Graham James, who is also chair of the Church of England's Ministry Division, said: "Christopher Lawson has the gentle authority of a fine pastor and the clarity of mind of a superb teacher.

"He's been greatly appreciated as a parish priest, archdeacon and most recently as Director of Ministry Division. Lincoln will soon count itself fortunate to have Christopher as its bishop."

To relax, Christopher enjoys watching live sport, particularly cricket and football, and walking. "Susan and I are looking forward to being much closer to the countryside," said Christopher.

What happens next:

The process for the appointment of a bishop is quite complex. It involves a considerable number of people, and so it is very difficult to set a timescale. It is overseen by the Provincial Registrar of the Province of Canterbury. Once the name of the bishop-to-be has been announced, the Crown will send to the Dean of Lincoln a *Conge d'elire* and Letters Recommendatory.

These require the College of Canons to meet to elect a bishop, and also tell them whom to elect. The result has to be notarised, and signified to various people, including the Crown and the Archbishop of Canterbury. The result of the election is often displayed on the vacant cathedra (episcopal chair) in the cathedral. Following that, the Court of the Arches is convened in London, often at the church of St Mary-le-Bow. During a service there the identity of the bishop-elect is confirmed, as are the particulars of his election. He takes the required oaths, and the Archbishop delivers his Charge to the new bishop. From this moment, he is in law the new diocesan bishop, the 'Spiritualities' of the diocese being so conferred. Christopher Lowson must also be ordained (consecrated) a bishop. This usually takes place in London.

Following this, the Bishop must go to pay homage to The Queen. This is the ceremony often referred to as 'kissing hands', and represents the conferral of the 'Temporalities' of the See. In times past, this could mean vast swathes of land, palaces and revenues.

Then, and only then, is it possible to enthrone the new Bishop in his Cathedral Church. This is done by the Archdeacon of Canterbury, representing the Archbishop, and is very much the occasion for the whole diocesan family to welcome its new Father in God.

From the Registers :-

Funerals. *We pray for those departed*

Kathleen Beryl Hawley Mitchell aged 72 years. Died 16th March 2011.

Alan McKeating aged 81 years. Died 23rd March 2011.

Wedding. *We pray for those beginning married life together*

Gail Victoria Tweedie & Stuart Gordon Parker. 2nd April 2011.

Another Chance

We are now in our 11th year and from the profits from our 10th year we have made the following donations:-

U S P G	£300
LIVES	£100
Air Ambulance	£150
St Francis School	£50
Nomad Trust	£50
Meth. Hand in Hand Club	£200
St Barnabas Hospice	£100
St Andrews Hospice for Children	£100

This is a total of £1050 for the year. This has brought the total given away since we opened the shop to £14170, this I believe is an excellent record and I thank all the volunteers who work in the shop week in week out.

On behalf of everyone involved I would like to thank all those who have donated goods to the shop over the years and that we continue to look for china, glass, jigsaws. If you have anything that we can sell please bring it to the shop when open on Tuesday 2-4pm, Thursday 10-12noon and Saturday 10-12noon. Please note that we unable to accept electrical items.

RB

Lent Lunches

The three lunches have now taken place and were very successful. The homemade soups were delicious and appreciated by all who sampled them. The teams of helpers worked efficiently, with evident enjoyment, even the washers and dryers.

The raffle was superb with 32 prizes. Thanks to all who donated them. The support from the people of the three villages was excellent and all who came enjoyed the visit.

Everything was donated and we raised the magnificent sum of £600. My sincere thanks to everyone who supported the lunches in any way.

The money will be equally divided between LIVES, First Responders and the Aim4Change, a Leicester based charity which is setting up a new orphanage and school for children rescued from the streets and rubbish dumps in Rawpindi.

Brenda Robertson.

ST. WILFRID'S PCC ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The meetings, held in St. Wilfrid's Church on Monday 4th April, were attended by 18 parishioners, which is disappointingly few, considering the number of people living in Metheringham.

Richard Brewin did not stand for re-election as churchwarden, and our sincere thanks were expressed for his work during the past year. After due nomination and seconding, the churchwardens for the coming year are Margaret Amos and Rod Sanders.

Reports from various parts of the church community were given, and it is to be noted that the Reverend Jonnie Parkin will be the part-time Associate Priest for the six parishes of Blankney, Branston, Dunston, Metheringham, Nocton and Potterhanworth. Thanks were recorded for all the help given by our retired clergy and visiting Readers, enabling the spiritual needs of the Church to be met. We await the report of the Quinquennial inspection, and we know certain repairs to the church need to be addressed.

Because of the cost of the repairs needed for the roof timbers we struggled to pay our Parish Share, so this coming year it has been reduced to £14,000 from last year's £19,483.

There were no nominations for membership of the PCC, and the numbers are now reduced to 8. Please give serious thought to what help you could give the PCC, and offer yourself for co-option. The life of the Church will go on in Metheringham, but we need more people to share the work.

Jenni Honisett Secretary to the PCC

St Peter's School Dunston

On March 25th, Class 3 went on an excellent trip to York. They enjoyed the Jorvik Centre and the superb ride around the Viking streets. They also went to a place called Dig where they learned all about archaeology in a very practical way.

Once again this year our cross country team did the school proud at the annual race at Nocton School on March 28th. Five schools took part and our team (three boys and three girls) came second overall. A special well done goes to Maisie who won the girls' race by a comfortable margin. Well done to all of the children who trained so hard around Dunston playing fields. Over twenty children came to the cross country club and showed what a fit group of children they are.

We have enjoyed a variety of Easter activities. The Easter service in the church was very well attended. I would like to thank the ladies from the church who made a lovely Easter garden which was on display in the school entrance and then in St. Peter's. The children enjoyed their annual egg hunt around the school grounds. They particularly enjoyed the prize of an Easter egg for the child who finds the most in each year group!

The dates of our future family services are:

May 26th, June 23rd and July 14th. These are all Thursdays and all start at 2.15pm. You are most welcome to join us.

Graham Boyall. Head teacher

SERVICES FOR MAY IN THE THREE PARISHES

Sunday 1st The Second Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's

10.30am United Service - St. Wilfrid's

Thursday 5th (and each Thursday)

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

- Sunday 8th The Third Sunday of Easter**
 9.00am Holy Communion - St. Oswald's
 9.00am Morning Worship – St. Peter's
 10.30am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
- Tuesday 10th The Licensing of The Reverend Jonnie Parkin**
 7.30pm All Saints Church – Nocton
- Sunday 15th The Fourth Sunday of Easter**
 9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's
 10.30am Morning Worship – St. Wilfrid's
- Sunday 22nd The Fifth Sunday of Easter**
 9.00am Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion – St. Oswald's
 10.30am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
- Thursday 26th**
 2.15pm Family Service with St. Peter's School
- Sunday 29th The Sixth Sunday of Easter Group Service**
 10.30am Holy Communion – St. Oswald's
- June**
- Tuesday 2nd Ascension Day**
 7.30pm Deanery Eucharist - St. Wilfrid's Metheringham
- Sunday 5th The Seventh Sunday of Easter**
 8.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
 9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's
 10.30am United Service - Metheringham Methodist Chapel

The Community of St Francis

The sisters have altered slightly their prayer times, so the regular times when others are welcome to join them in prayer are:

Morning Prayer 7.30 am Wednesday to Saturday & 7am Sunday.

Eucharist 6.30 pm Wednesday & 12.15 pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday

Midday Prayer 12.00 Noon Thursday – Saturday & 12.30 pm Wednesday and Sunday.

Evening Prayer 5.30 pm Wednesday - Sunday

Night Prayer Wednesday – Saturday.

St Wilfrid's CHURCH FETE and GALA

Church Fete and Gala Saturday 16th July 2:00 -4:30pm in the Churchyard. Please support the Church Gala on this day. There will be the usual stalls. Tea in the church, ice creams, a grand raffle, games and stalls, music and perhaps ferret racing for followers of the Fancy and the Silver Sounds Band will entertain us. A chance to relax, socialise and view the exhibits in the Flower and Produce Show.

The 3rd Annual St. Wilfrid's Church Flower and Produce Show Saturday, 16th July 2011

Flower Section

Class 1 A single rose

Class 2 Three roses, same or different variety

Class 3 A sweet pea

Class 4 A bunch of 5 sweet peas

Class 5 A flower or stem of flowers not mentioned above

Class 6 A bunch of three flowers not mentioned above, same or different

Vegetable Section

Class 1 Potatoes, Five
Class 2 Carrots, five with tops.
Class 3 Five Beans any variety but must be the same
Class 4 Five Peas
Class 5 Tomatoes, five
Class 6 Three vegetables not mentioned above, same or different
Class 7 A vegetable and a flower

Produce Section

Class 1 Five savoury scones
Class 2 Five fruit scones
Class 4 A Victoria sandwich cake with jam or cream filling or both

Floral Art Section

1. A table decoration for a family occasion incorporating a candle.
2. A bunch of flowers displayed in a jam jar

Children's Section

1. Infant's 5-7 years To be announced
2. Junior 8-11 years To be announced

Rules

1. All entries to be produced by the entrant or their gardener. Except arrangement
2. Judge's decision is their own and final.
3. Flowers to be displayed in own vase (not judged)
4. Vegetables to be displayed on paper plate (provided)
5. Produce to be displayed on own plate (not judged)
6. All entrants to complete entry slip on day. Cost of entry 20p. Prize £1 for classes with five or more entrants Certificates in all classes. Children's section free.
7. Entries taken on the day, in church, between 10am and 11:30am. All entries to be staged by noon. No entrance to Church after noon. All entries to remain on show until 4:30pm or forfeit prize money.

Christian Aid Week 15 - 21 May 2011

Christian Aid Week is one of the most prominent acts of Christian witness in the UK and Ireland. During the week, around 200,000 people join with others in their churches and communities to give, act and pray for lasting change in the world.

Christian Aid helps people in poverty out of poverty. More than that, it helps people help themselves out of poverty. In for the long haul – there before the disaster, during it, and long after the cameras have left, Christian Aid support comes in long-term relationships.

It is estimated that one billion people live on less than a dollar (60p) a day. How big is a billion? Well, it takes one person 32 years to count to a billion but 1000 people can do it only 4 months.

Please consider helping during Christian Aid Week either by delivering envelopes, collecting the money, giving or supporting their effort in any other way. By getting involved in Christian Aid Week in your own community, you can help to turn the hopes of communities all around the world into realities. You can be part of a movement which is transforming lives. Last year we raised £660 in this village alone. MC

W I Report

The talk this month was about pottery designer Clarice Cliff.

She was a talented artist whose work came to the fore during the 1930s. The bright colours and bold patterns injected life into the depression years. The designs ranged from geometric shapes, flowers to land and seascapes. There were figurines called the Age of Jazz and flat sided cups and teapots 0 easy to store but how easy to drink from ?

Whether or not you liked her work was personal but experts and antique dealers value it. It certainly interested the speaker Gerry Burrows.

The Phoenix Meeting in Leadenham (the group involving all the WI's in this area) was well attended by Metheringham.

The talk was given by Colin Young about auctioneering and valuing items. The trip to the theatre Royal was fun – an energetic rather noisy production of Oklahoma.

Next Meeting Wednesday 18th May. Resolutions. Talk about Gift Wrapping.

Note the WI has a Tombola stall at the village Hall Spring Fayre on Saturday 21st May. JS

Metheringham Over 60's Club 12th April 2011

On Wednesday, 6th April, the majority of our current members re-joined for the year 2011-2012.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by Mr Noel Gee (no, not a B. Gees singular).

Noel supports the AmbuCopter through his performances. He was a member of "The Casuals" who recorded hits during the 60s. Their "Jesamine" reached number two in the record charts, Mary Hopkins with "Those Were The Days" was number one at the time, and is still regularly played on the radio. His performance was anything but casual. Giving excellent renditions of songs from the late 50s and 60s including Emile Ford's "What Do You Want To Make Those Eyes At Me For"; Cliff Richard's "Livin' Doll" & "The Young Ones". Songs from Shirley Bassey, the Beatles, The Everly Brothers, Billy Fury, Tom Jones, Jim Reeves, The Searchers, The Springfields and many more. We were treated to the unofficial Irish National Anthem "Danny Boy" and Noel finished with the Liverpool anthem "You'll Never Walk Alone".

After the interval Noel recounted that he had been approached by one lady member, who shall be nameless, to buy one of his CDs and had remarked that he looked much older close up!

To add to the atmosphere, members, knowing most of the words by heart, joined in with enthusiasm and gave Noel loud and prolonged applause throughout the evening.

Three members of the committee were sat at a table to one side of the stage recording details of members re-joining and remained sitting there whilst Noel performed. Noel remarked that they appeared to be like an 'X Factor' panel. This was comprised of treasurer, Dave Harvey, Rita Blow, a rose between two thorns, she who knows almost everyone and keeps the two Daves in order, and secretary Dave Williams. During the interval and unbeknown to Noel, A4 size numbers were produced in preparation for the second half. After his second song, chairman Margaret stopped Noel whilst she asked the panel to rate his performance, their decision gave him scores of 7, 7 and 8; thus adding to the general good humour of the evening.

To add to the atmosphere, members, knowing most of the words by heart, joined in with enthusiasm and gave Noel loud and prolonged applause throughout the evening.

Dave Williams Secretary

REAL EASTER EGGS

We wanted to write to you to thank you for making the Real Easter Egg such a success in its launch year.

Thanks to you, the Real Easter Egg became the UK's number one mail order egg with tens of thousands being ordered.

The pressure you put on supermarkets meant that Morrison's, Waitrose, Co-op and Booths decided to stock a limited 'trial listing' of the Real Easter Egg. Traidcraft's network of 6,500 retailers, a number of independent shops and a selection of cathedrals also stocked The Real Easter Egg.

Stores that had the egg on sale saw their shelves cleared of the eggs within hours of them going on sale. Supermarkets told us that people were walking past the 'two for one' offers to buy the egg or have tried to order dozens of eggs for home delivery (The Bishop of Manchester, pictured left, managed to find a box in Waitrose).

A church in Birmingham told us they had a line of people waiting to buy the eggs from their shop as word spread that they had supplies.

With 7 million people going to church regularly and millions supporting the ethos behind Fairtrade products or attending church schools, we thought demand might be high but the response has been overwhelming and we had four production runs to meet demand.

Last year 80 million eggs were on sale and not one mentioned Jesus. This year that changed and it has changed forever as our first orders for next year have been placed.

We have learnt a lot this year and hope to make the egg even better next year based on feedback you have given us.

Thank you and have a blessed Easter. Meaningful Chocolate Company.

We sold 100% of the eggs we ordered. All proceeds go to St Wilfrid's. We may do the same next year if there is interest - Ed

Musings on modern life...

People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention.

Tact: the ability to shut your mouth before someone else wants to.

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

My inferiority complex is not as good as yours.

I am in shape. Round is a shape.

I'm not afraid of heights - afraid of widths.

Indecision is the key to flexibility.

Life's evening will take its character from the day that has preceded it.

Life is a journey that no one makes alone. The more people you touch along the way, the more meaningful and rewarding your time anon

Musings on our life of faith...

Give God what's right - not what's left.

Man's way leads to a hopeless end - God's way leads to an endless hope.

A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.

He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.

To be almost saved is to be totally lost.

In the sentence of life, the devil may be a comma - but never let him be the full stop.