

Church Newsround – November 2011

ST ANDREWS NIGHT SUPPER

St WILFRID's CHURCH HALL
FRIDAY 25th NOVEMBER 7PM

TICKETS £8

RAFFLE

Please bring your own drinks

Tickets from Margaret Amos

321049

&

St Oswald's Church Blankney

Carol Service Sunday 18th December 4.30pm
Mulled Wine, Tea/Coffee and Mince Pies to follow.

The *NEW* Bishop of Lincoln's Letter

Dear Friends,

There have been a number of 'firsts' for me in the last few days. I've been to Buckingham Palace and met the Queen; I've had my first TV interview with Peter Levy on Look North; and I have received a wonderful welcome from the people of Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire. I am thankful for all these things.

My wife Susan is busy preparing for our move to our new home in Lincoln and we are looking forward to joining you around the Diocese at your celebrations in your church, your school or community, as this first year of office progresses.

On 12th November the formal part of my arrival will take place in the magnificent Cathedral, when I take the Bishop's seat among the Chapter and congregation. I hope many of you will be able to come and join in the worship.

The following day is Remembrance Sunday and for many of us, this is a time of quiet reflection, but for others, it's a time of renewed sorrow. I am only too aware of the price Lincolnshire families have paid, not only in the great wars, but also in the recent conflicts. Sunday 13th November will be another first for me, as I shall be able to join you in prayer on this special day.

Many of you are also coping with difficult economic circumstances, whether you live in our industrial towns or in rural areas. It is my aim to listen and learn in the coming months, so that my life and work as Bishop of Lincoln reaches out to you, wherever you are in this splendid region.

Looking forward to it!

+Christopher

ALL SOULS DAY Wednesday 2nd November.

A Service of Thanksgiving will be held in St Wilfrid's at 7.30pm.
We would like to offer this Service for the whole of the Parish

St Wilfrid' CHRISTMAS TREE OF REMEMBRANCE

Why not sponsor a bauble in memory of a loved one this Christmas - £3
Please contact Margaret Amos on 321049

NOTICE

Conditions for the interment of cremated remains in St Wilfrid's Metheringham New Churchyard

1. Applications for the interment of cremated remains should be made to the Church Wardens who will consult with relatives and decide the place of interment.
2. A record of those whose remains are interred will be kept on a grid plan and entered into a register to be kept in the Church safe.
3. Monuments shall be 14" x 14" x 2" and made of *Nabrasena* stone. Any lettering must be incised and black leaded. Lettering should not be coloured or stuck on.
4. Cremated remains may be interred directly into the earth or buried in a degradable casket. Hardwood caskets will not be permitted.
5. Vases may not be placed in the cremated remains area. Memorials may include a hole with flower rose if desired.
6. Cut flowers may be placed in the memorials if a hole and flower rose are included. Wreaths may be placed directly after interment or during Advent and Christmas. These should be removed by Candlemas (February 2nd) Flowers and wreaths which have become withered may be removed by those who maintain the Churchyard.
7. Artificial flowers are not permitted.
8. The fees for the interment of cremated remains are contained in the current fees order.

Signed : The Church Wardens, St Wilfrid's Church, Metheringham

St Wilfrid's Church Brass Cleaning Rota

12 August 2011 Mrs F Flintham
19 August Mrs M Sturdy & Mrs J Spooner
02 September Mrs P Reynolds & Mrs J Johnson
09 September Mrs F Flintham
16 September Mrs M Sturdy & Mrs J Spooner
30 September Mrs P Reynolds & Mrs J Johnson
07 October Mrs F Flintham
14 October Mrs M Sturdy & Mrs J Spooner
28 October Mrs P Reynolds & Mrs J Johnson
04 November Mrs F Flintham
11 November Mrs M Sturdy & Mrs J Spooner
25 November Mrs P Reynolds & Mrs J Johnson
02 December Mrs F Flintham
09 December Mrs M Sturdy & Mrs J Spooner

23 December Mrs P Reynolds & Mrs J Johnson
30 December Mrs F Flintham
06 January 2012 Mrs M Sturdy & Mrs J Spooner
20 January Mrs P Reynolds & Mrs J Johnson
27 January Mrs F Flintham
03 February Mrs M Sturdy & Mrs J Spooner
17 February Mrs P Reynolds & Mrs J Johnson

SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER IN THE THREE PARISHES

Wednesday 2nd Service for All Souls Day

7.00pm St. Wilfrid's

Thursday 3rd (and each Thursday)

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

Sunday 6th The Third Sunday before Advent

8.00am Holy

Communion – St. Wilfrid's

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's

10.30am United Service – St. Wilfrid's

Sunday 13th The Second Sunday before Advent

Remembrance Sunday

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Oswald's

10.00am Remembrance Sunday – Methodist Church and afterwards to the War Memorial

10.45am Joint Remembrance Service – St. Peter's

Sunday 20th The Sunday Next to Advent – Christ the King

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's

10.30am Morning Worship – St. Wilfrid's

Sunday 27th The First Sunday of Advent

9.00am

Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion - St. Oswald's

10.30am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

December

Sunday 4th The Second Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's

10.30am United Toy Service – Metheringham Methodist Church

Metheringham Over 60's Club 16th October 2011

All Club events are held at the Village Hall, Metheringham, commencing at 7.00pm with doors opening at 6.30pm, unless otherwise stated.

Diary events:

Wednesday 2nd Nov. Members evening with entertainment by singer 'Sharna'.

Saturday 5th Nov. Coffee morning open to all members and the public. In addition to a refreshing brew of tea or coffee, there will be a raffle, a chance to purchase homemade cakes, books, bric-a-brac and tombola. All donations of items for re-sale will be very welcome, with proceeds going to Club Funds. The doors open at 10.00 am.

Wednesday 7th Dec. Members Annual Christmas Dinner and Draw.

At the present time we have full membership. Non-members are welcome to join us on member's evenings at a cost of £2.00 per visit.

This includes a half-time cup of tea or coffee when we also serve biscuits. We have a waiting list for full membership 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 of forthcoming events and we looking forward to seeing you all.

Dave Williams Secretary

W.I. Report

Dave Skepper's talk about StageCoach buses (not theatre or horse drawn carriages) was well received and appreciated by holders of a bus pass.

Like all good school boys his ambition from the age of 7 was to drive a bus and he progressed from cleaning to driving and eventually to managing a branch of Stage Coach.

The 1940's and 50's was the age of the bus – even in Lincolnshire you could always rely on the "last bus" to take you home after the cinema, theatre or a dance.

Bus use declined in the 60s & 70s owing to the availability of the car.

After de-regulation in 1985 bus companies in conjunction with councils sorted out and updated bus routes. Councils wanted to encourage bus use because of parking, congestion and pollution. Improved bus shelters, bus lanes, park & ride, interconnect, flexible ticketing all helped.

Stage Coach are always updating their buses to accommodate passenger use. They now have a fleet of Bio Buses.

Two personal requests having had to rely on the bus for a few months. The re-introduction of the Saturday Sleaford bus and perhaps the "last bus" to accommodate the theatre and concert goers? A thank you to Dave for his well illustrated, structured talk and for the "goodies" for us to share pencils, key rings etc.

Next meeting November 6th Wednesday – Christmas Memories by Terry Richards.

The Table Top Sale on Saturday 19th November in the Village Hall.

The Trip to York on Tuesday 29th November. JS

Real Easter Egg company reveals choccy Christmas tree campaign

A campaign to make the UK's 20 million Christmas trees a bit more meaningful this December has been launched by the company behind The Real Easter Egg.

To help parents, grandparents and godparents communicate the Christmas story to the next generation, The Meaningful Chocolate Company has produced the UK's first ever interactive set of chocolate tree decorations, based on the characters of the Nativity story.

Each box of Meaningful Chocolate Tree Decorations contains a limited edition Christmas card, a sticker set and six hand wrapped, high quality, Fairtrade chocolate decorations. The Christmas story, which can be found on the card, enables adults or children to read the story while placing character stickers on the decorations. Once completed, the decorations can be hung on the tree as a reminder of the real meaning of Christmas.

David Marshall, from The Meaningful Chocolate Company, said "We estimate that most of the UK's 20 million Christmas trees don't have anything religious hung on them. The Meaningful Chocolate Tree Decorations are an opportunity to buy a gift that allows the telling of the Christmas story at home.

"The card also includes an invitation for people to go to church to hear the Christmas story. So, not only is it educational, it's also a piece of evangelism."

The Meaningful Christmas Tree Decorations cost £3.95. Orders can be made through www.MeaningfulChristmas.co.uk or exclusively from Traidcraft. Orders should be made by mid November 2011 as supplies are limited.

Last year the Meaningful Chocolate Company launched The Real Easter Egg, the UK's first and only charity Fairtrade Easter egg to mention the religious understanding of Easter. By Christmas 2012 the company expects to have helped raise over £60,000 for charitable projects, as a result of Meaningful Chocolate sales. Find out more at www.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk PP

Cathedral worship

Unlike Anglican attendance generally, numbers attending cathedral services are increasing. Midweek attendance has more than doubled over the past decade, while Sunday attendance has wobbled but remained basically constant. The obvious question is, "Why?"

Various pieces of research offer some considerations. In one study, attenders at two different cathedrals said their main reason for attending (88%) was the "spiritual atmosphere" and the "feeling of peace". Their second reason (86%) was "the choir" and "the music". The location and the worship made a "contemplative atmosphere" (84%) which was "friendly" (80%).

These are high percentages, and are echoed whether a person regularly goes to church or not. In another study, this time of those visiting St David's Cathedral in Wales, 77% of those who never normally attended church said they found "the cathedral uplifting", while of those who only occasionally attended 84% said this, while for regular worshippers it was 95%. All three groups put "a sense of peace" as their second reason for attending.

Church attendance experts say that the figures suggest questions like: Are our church services too irreverent, too noisy? Are our services too geared to entertainment, too non-stop? Should we pause and have a time of silence?

Further studies have compared the age of attenders at other cathedrals (Worcester and Lichfield) indicating their agreement or not with the statement, "You don't have to go to church to be a good Christian," which some 80+% of those under 30 agreed with, dropping steadily to 60+% for those 60 and over. PP

Churches and cathedrals invited to light Church Beacons on Monday 4th June 2012.

Churches of all denominations throughout the United Kingdom are being encouraged to take part in The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons by lighting a special Church Beacon on Monday 4th June 2012, in celebration of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year. In 2012, Her Majesty The Queen will become only the second monarch in British history to celebrate sixty years on the throne, the previous such monarch being Queen Victoria. The vision is for thousands of churches up and down the land to gather their communities together for this happy occasion. For more details, visit:

www.diamondjubileebeacons.co.uk/Diamond_Jubilee_Beacons/HOME.html PP

All Souls' Day

The early Church was slow to dedicate a liturgical day to offering prayers and masses to commemorate the faithful departed. But in time prayers were offered on behalf of dead monks, that they might attain 'the Beatific Vision' through purification, which the Church later described as Purgatory. Odilo, the powerful abbot of Cluny, (d 1049) decreed that All Souls' Day should follow the feast of All Saints' Day.

At least four ancient English dedications are known, the most famous of which are All Souls College, Oxford and the church in Langham Place in London.

In bygone centuries All Souls' day was certainly uncomfortable for anyone who had wronged a person who had then died. For it was believed that souls in purgatory could appear on earth on this day, in the form of ghosts, witches or toads, to haunt anyone who had wronged them in life. On a more cheerful note, it was also believed that you could help the dead on this day by almsgiving in cash or in kind. Some of these beliefs seem to have been caught up in the popular customs of Hallowe'en.

When the Reformation came, the Protestants disregarded the idea of Purgatory, and this feast day remained with the Roman Catholic Church. PP

The Kea to toothache?

Kea was an early Christian and a monk from a good family who left Glastonbury to work in Devon and Cornwall, where Landkey (Devon) and Kea (Cornwall) bear his name. He founded several Christian centres in the area before going on to Brittany to become the saint known there as 'Saint-Quay'. It seems that Kea may also have tried a bit of early dentistry, as down the centuries since he has been invoked over the problems of toothaches. PP

Beware of bitterness

Have you had a failure somewhere in your life that has left you feeling very bitter? Beware - bitterness is a bitter pill for YOU to swallow. Researchers have now found that if you go through life in an attitude of blame and bitterness, your overall anger and hostility levels are raised. Over time, this puts such stress on YOU that it can lead to 'biological dysregulation' which damages your metabolism, immune response and organ functions. Prof Carsten Wrosch of Concordia University in Montreal, who carried out the study, urges people to 'disengage from a fruitless endeavour', and search for another way forward. The Bible teaches us that we can 'cast our burden' upon the Lord, and that he will sustain us. He will deal with the person who has wronged us; we can leave that person to him. Once we forgive, the past loses its destructive power over us, and we are free to move on. PP

A once-in-a-century Remembrance Day – 11-11-11-11

At 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month of 2011, the nation will pause to remember those who have given their lives in fighting for this country.

This year is doubly special: 2011 is The Royal British Legion's 90th anniversary, and also this is a once-in-a-century Remembrance Day.

At 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month in 2011 -11-11-11-11 - we will be remembering those who were willing to lay down their lives for their country.

The British Legion is inviting people to be a special part of this unique occasion, by leaving a message to go on a poppy to be planted at Wootton Bassett. That is the town where thousands of people have paid their respects during repatriations in recent years - you may have seen this on TV.

The British Legion explains: "Many people associate Remembrance Day with heroes of D-Day or the Battle of Britain's Spitfire pilots. Some people think of the deeds of the SAS during the Falklands conflict or, of course, Flanders Fields from World War I, carpeted in poppies growing where so many men lost their lives. But in the last few years it's also been about the nation showing its support for the soldiers returning injured and traumatised from current conflicts." So if you would like to put your name to a poppy, please visit:

<https://donations.britishlegion.org.uk/RBLDonation/> PP

The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge

The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge, to protect our green spaces, was launched in March this year. Since then the Challenge has been gaining momentum across the country. In Kent, Wingham Parish Council became the first landowner in the county to sign off on protection for a field. Altogether, more than 700 parks, playing fields, woodland walks, and playgrounds across the UK have been put forward by landowners for Queen Elizabeth II Field status to protect them for the future.

There's something for everyone: whether you fancy a Robert-Burns celebrated Scottish woodland walk, a coastal path in Kent or the venue for the World Alternative Games in Britain's smallest town Llanwrtyd Wells. If history's your thing, there are historic playing fields in Yorkshire and the location of the source for Belfast's first piped water supply nearly 200 years ago.

On 18 October Fields in Trust launched the chance for the public to say 'Save a Space for Me', by clicking on the spaces they supported on www.qe2fields.com. This is open for a month, so if you're quick you might still be able to show your support for the parks and playing fields you love. There's still over 1000 spaces to hit the Fields in Trust's target of 2,012 so if you are a parish council who owns outdoor space, why not put it forward for protection?

What to look out for? Before the end of this year, Fields in Trust funding for Queen Elizabeth II Fields will open. Keep an eye on the website and maybe your fields could get a Christmas present! PP

St James the Least of All

There are more frightening things than bishops out there....

The Rectory St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

You really should not worry about having reversed your car into the bishop's gatepost, knocking it over and destroying his rose-beds; it gives him an opportunity to exercise Christian forgiveness. Your real mistake was scribbling a note of apology and pushing it through his letterbox. Far better would be to have sent an anonymous letter (and to have written it on lined notepaper in capital letters, preferably in green ink, to make it look truly authentic) saying you had just seen what the archdeacon had done, and then watched him drive off without stopping. That would have taken the minds of the senior clergy away from parish matters for quite some time.

No, never worry about the wrath of bishops; dangers lurk much nearer home. For a start, never incur the displeasure of your flower arrangers. I only crossed their path once – and arrived in church the following Sunday, to see a ten foot high floral arrangement at the front of church. I assumed it was by way of making amends, until I discovered it had been placed in front of the pulpit. I was obliged to preach, hidden behind a large multicoloured hedge, while the congregation listened to what were apparently talking chrysanthemums.

A colleague offended his own ladies and arrived to find that the contents of the safe had been removed and replaced with all those exotic pieces of equipment that seem to be indispensable for arranging flowers. He was obliged to administer Communion using a small vase until peace was re-established and his chalice returned to him.

Similarly, organists are a delicate breed. Congratulate him on the anthem, and if it happened to be unaccompanied, he will assume you were implying that the services were better without his playing. Offend your organist and you can be guaranteed that hymns will be played at either half or double speed, stopping one verse short and that the final piece of music as you process out will stop, leaving you and the choir stranded half way down the aisle.

And finally, never, ever upset your verger. One forgotten Christmas present and you can be sure you will get half-way through a baptism to find he hasn't put water in the font; at marriage services, the sheets for last week's funeral will have been accidentally put out and when you sit in your stall you will discover where he now stores the mop and bucket.

No, bishops are warm, fluffy bunnies; dangers lurk a lot nearer home.

Your loving uncle, Eustace.

Children of Israel

In Sunday School one morning young Joseph raised his hand and proceeded to ask a question that had perplexed him for some time. "There's something I can't figure out.

According to the Bible, the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?" "Right," said his teacher.

"And the Children of Israel beat up the Philistines, right?" "Er, right."

"And the Children of Israel built the Temple, right?" "Again you're right."

"And the Children of Israel fought the Egyptians and the Children of Israel were always doing something important, right?" "All that is right, too," agreed the teacher. "So what's your question, Joseph?"

"Well what were all the grown-ups doing?" PP

Hospital Chart Bloomers

Don't be alarmed, but these are actual writings from hospital charts....

- ~ The patient refused autopsy.
- ~ The patient has no previous history of suicides.
- ~ Patient has left white blood cells at another hospital.
- ~ Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.
- ~ On the second day the knee was better and on the third day it disappeared.
- ~ The patient has been depressed since she began seeing me in 1993.
- ~ Discharge status: Alive but without permission.
- ~ She is numb from her toes down.
- ~ The skin was moist and dry.
- ~ Occasional, constant infrequent headaches.
- ~ Patient was alert and unresponsive.
- ~ I saw your patient today, who is still under our care for physical therapy.
- ~ Skin: somewhat pale but present.
- ~ Patient has two teenage children, but no other abnormalities. PP

Which man won?

Little Charlotte was at her first wedding and was enthralled by the entire ceremony. When it was over, she asked her mother, "Why did the lady change her mind?"

Her mother asked, "What do you mean?"

"Well, she went down the aisle with one man, and came back with another one."

Funeral for a dog

Muldoon lived alone in the Irish countryside with only a pet dog for company. One day the dog died, and Muldoon went to the parish priest and asked, 'Father, my dog is dead. Could ya' be saying' a mass for the poor creature?'

Father Patrick replied, 'I'm afraid not; we cannot have services for an animal in the church. But there are some Baptists down the lane, and there's no tellin' what they believe. Maybe they'll do something for the creature.'

Muldoon said, 'I'll go right away Father. Do ya' think 5,000 euros is enough to donate to them for the service?'

Father Patrick exclaimed, 'Sweet Mary! Why didn't ya tell me the dog was Catholic?'

Loud prayers

An elderly lady was well-known for her faith and for her boldness in talking about it. For instance, she would stand on her front porch and shout, "PRAISE THE LORD!" Next door to her lived an atheist who would get so angry at her proclamations he would shout, "There is no Lord!!"

Hard times set in on the elderly lady, and she prayed for God to send her some assistance. She stood on her porch and shouted, "PRAISE THE LORD. GOD, I NEED FOOD!! I AM HAVING A

HARD TIME. PLEASE LORD, SEND ME SOME GROCERIES!!" The next morning the lady went out on her porch and noted a large bag of groceries and shouted, "PRAISE THE LORD!" The neighbour jumped from behind a bush and said, "Aha! I told you there is no Lord. I bought those groceries, God didn't." The lady started jumping up and down and clapping her hands and said, "PRAISE THE LORD!! He not only sent me groceries, but he made the devil pay for them!"

Observations....

Can an atheist get insurance against acts of God?
When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
Local Area Network in Australia : The LAN down under.
The short fortune teller who escaped from prison: a small medium at large.
When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.
Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.
With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.
When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.
No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'

Praying for a brother

A small boy badly wanted a baby brother, so his dad suggested he pray every night for one. The boy prayed earnestly, night after night, but his prayers seemingly weren't answered. After a few weeks, he didn't bother to ask anymore. Some months later, his dad said they were going to see Mum in the hospital and he was going to get a big surprise. When they got to the room, the little boy saw his mother holding two babies. "Well, what do you think about having twin brothers?" his dad asked. The little boy thought for a moment and replied, "It's a good thing I stopped praying when I did."

Quotes

With All Saints day in mind:

The only difference between the Saint and the Sinner is that every saint has a past and every sinner has a future. Oscar Wilde

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. Psalm 116.15

God deliver us from sullen saints. St Teresa of Avila

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Miscellaneous observations on our Christian life....

The priest should preach as a dying man to dying men. Richard Baxter

If you do not pray, everything can disappoint you by going wrong. If you do pray, everything can still go wrong, but not in a way that will disappoint you. Hubert van Zeller

The parson leaves the Christian in the lurch whenever he brings his politics into Church. John Byrom

When the thought of thee wakes in our hearts, let it not awaken like a frightened bird that flies about in dismay, but like a child waking from its sleep with a heavenly smile. Soren Kierkegaard

The Lord prefers common-looking people. That is the reason he makes so many of them.
Abraham Lincoln

God is all that is good, in my sights, and the goodness that everything has is his. Julian of Norwich

Goodness is uneventful. It does not flash, it glows. David Grayson

If you love freedom, you must hate slavery; if you love your people, you cannot but hate the enemies that compass their destruction; if you love your country, you cannot but hate those who seek to annexe it. Menachem Begin, on signing the Egyptian-Israeli Treaty of 1979.

Where people are praying for peace the cause of peace is being strengthened by their very act of prayer, for they are themselves becoming immersed in the spirit of peace. John Macquarrie

There never was a good war, or a bad peace. Benjamin Franklin

Theirs is an endless road, a hopeless maze, who seek for goods before they seek for God. St Bernard of Clairvaux.