

Church Newsround September 2011

St Wilfrid's Parish Church Harvest Service Sunday 11 September at 10.30am

St Wilfrid's Parish Church Harvest Supper
Friday 16 September at 7pm in the Church Hall.
Please bring own drinks.
Raffle. Tickets £8.
Contact Margaret Amos on 321049

St Oswald's Blankney Harvest Festival. Thursday 6th October.
Service at 6.30pm followed by Harvest Supper in the Old School at 7.30 pm.
Tickets £10 (under 12's £5) available from the Estate Office or the Church Wardens.

The Bishop of Grimsby writes :-

Dear Friends,

The violent disturbances in London and other cities during August raise many questions. Inevitably our thoughts and prayers are with those who have suffered and lost through the violence. There can be no excuses for the criminal behaviour of scores of people who subsequently had to take responsibility for their actions before the courts. Yet the complexity of the breakdown in law-and-order demands a wiser response that just legislating for longer sentences and more powers for the police. We cannot pretend that such behaviour has been spawned from happy, contented and flourishing sections of our society. Nor does it really address the problem by blaming parents or a lack of discipline in schools. The moral vacuum we witnessed in the violence and looting is evidence of a deeper malaise within our society. Difficult and politically unpalatable questions about the quality of our society have to be addressed and, to me, the most urgent issue is that too many within our communities sit on the margins of our society feeling that they don't 'belong'. Gangs and the mob offer a sense of 'belonging' which is too frequently absent for those who are culturally, socially and economically marginalised. Feeling that we 'belong' is a fundamental feature of a healthy community. This truth has been recognised from the very earliest human communities. It is an imperative found in the Old Testament prophecies, where 'belonging' means that you have a share in the good things of creation. The need to 'belong' is central to Jesus' healing and pastoral ministry, where he restores people to community and creates a new platform of belonging for their future. Followers of Jesus Christ have to take a lead in creating a sense of belonging for all sections of our communities. Enabling people to know that they 'belong' has to be fundamental to creating communities where the negativity of the violence we witnessed this summer is addressed through the quality of life which all people are offered. There are inevitably political and economic features to 'belonging', but it starts within each and every community. In Christian terms our neighbours 'belong' because, being made in his image, they have a God-given dignity.

Our task is to turn the theology of 'belonging' into a reality within the communities in which we worship and witness. The strength of the parochial system is that we are well placed to give a lead to this agenda in each and every community.

+David Grimsby

From the Registers :

Baptisms

We welcome into God's Family

Emily Violet Loakes Baptised at St. Oswald's Sunday 7th August

News from St Peter's Dunston

We have all been appalled by the stories of the famine in Africa, so St Peter's decided to send £100 immediately to the Disaster Emergency Fund.

Don't forget the Dunston Scarecrow weekend on 17th and 18th September. Lots of attractions including the Silver Sounds Band, the Fire Engine, stalls, tombola, raffle and refreshments and lunches in the village hall. It's become a really popular event, with the village absolutely crowded with sightseers. Come and join us!

Each year we get together with our Methodist friends to celebrate harvest. This year the service is at St Peter's on Sunday 2nd October at 9am. Tinned or dry food donations for the Nomad Trust.

Looking forward to Christmas !!! we are hoping to have our Light a Light Christmas tree in memory of loved ones. More information to come. AJ

Metheringham W.I. - August meeting

'GBH + R' – what an intriguing subject for the evening's entertainment, and one which had us all guessing.

Lynn Day, our guest speaker, gradually enlightened us about the initials and what they stood for, beginning with the last one and working her way through G, B and H, with some entertaining tales of family life. However, Lynn is booked to speak at several other groups so we were asked to keep mum about the significance of the letters, and the tales to which they related.

During the business section of the evening, our President Audrey Webb announced that one of our members, Cynthia Dobbs, had won first prize for her invitation entry at the Lincolnshire Show. Audrey then presented Cynthia with her silver plate.

We have enjoyed several successful coffee mornings recently, along with a mini Olympics, all of which have contributed to WI funds, and we are continuing to recruit new members, taking our total up towards 60.

Next month the meeting on Wednesday 21 September is an open meeting, where the speaker will be Sue Cadman & 'The Roly Polys'. The evening starts at 7.15pm in the village hall, and all are welcome. PH

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER IN THE THREE PARISHES

Thursday 1st (and each Thursday)

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

Sunday 4th The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's

10.30am United Service – St. Wilfrid's

Sunday 11th The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Oswald's

9.00am Morning Worship – St. Peter's

10.30am Harvest Festival & Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

Thursday 15th Family Service with St. Peter's School ?

Watch the Notice Board for Confirmation.

Sunday 18th The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's

10.30am Morning Worship – St. Wilfrid's

Sunday 25th The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

10.30am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

October

Sunday 2nd The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
9.00am Harvest Festival & Holy Communion – St. Peter's
10.30am United Service for Harvest Festival – Metheringham Methodist
Chapel.

The Nomad Trust is a Christian based registered charity which provides welfare services in the city of Lincoln for those who are homeless or otherwise in need. The Nomad Trust upholds the worth and dignity of all individuals and asserts that everyone should have the basic essentials of life not least companionship.

The new Nomad Centre on Beaumont Fee is making good progress (see picture of the building) It is on schedule to be completed by the end of October. A "Thank you" to Stuart Mitchell, of Lindum, who showed me round recently. It is fabulous, and worth the hours while we sought to transform our dreams for the homeless into a reality. The Nomad Trust in partnership with Framework Housing Association are well on our way to sorting out the changes needed before the move from Monks Road to Beaumont Fee.

The capital money which the Nomad Trust was going to put into the new building, but in the end was paid by Framework, is now being invested in a 9 bedroom house. While the new Nomad Centre will, because of the much better facilities, be doing an even better job in helping the homeless, there still exists the need for some who need longer term support, before they can achieve a good quality of independent living. Those 9 bedrooms, plus an additional 10 bedrooms next door where the Nomad Trust are becoming managing agents, will provide medium and long term move-on accommodation. There will be support on site, and we are developing some Social Enterprises which will provide work skills training and experience, leading to full time employment.

The Nomad Trust is also creating a Street Outreach Team, reaching out to those homeless who currently prefer not to receive our help for various reasons. Did you see Peter and Neil on Look North the other day? So Nomad is working with those not yet receiving help, to working in partnership with Framework at Beaumont Fee with the emergency beds and short term move-on, and then providing for those needing medium and long term move-on support.

The Nomad Trust identified some years ago, that although we have a good record of resettling the homeless, there are too many who cannot cope and who come back to us some weeks or months later. Our extra 19 move-on beds should help to break this cycle.

This means that the Nomad Trust will have the 6 emergency beds in Beaumont Fee and 19 move-on beds, plus support and work training through some Social Enterprises. Framework will manage the 15 short term move-on beds at Beaumont Fee through the S.P. funding.

The Nomad Trust will be keeping the premises at Monks Road for the time being, as it still has to have work facilities for those who are employed to carry on the considerable work to be done outside Beaumont Fee. The Nomad Trust will be committing itself to doing more work with the homeless than ever before, and asks for your continued prayers and support. We need your continued support to enable us to transform lives in crisis into a good quality of independent living and employment.

More news is coming soon on the Social Enterprises. We're working hard to set things up so that they are up and running before the move to Beaumont Fee. It's joined up thinking!!

May you all have a wonderful summer, God's Blessing, and Thank You for your support.

Rev. Hamish Temple Chair of the Nomad Trust www.nomadtrust.org.uk

Help Your Community Flourish with the Parish Partnership Officer - North Kesteven District Council

Would you like to be involved with your community?

Do you have an idea for a new project, group or social enterprise?

Does your club or community organisation need support or funding?

Want to help out but don't know where to start?

Come along and find out how you can turn your ideas into action.

These events will include workshops on topics such as getting funding, setting up new groups and finding people with the skills you need.

Workshop places will need to be booked in advance.

To register our interest for these FREE events and get further information about the workshops contact Debra Dawson.

Email: debra_dawson@n-kesteven.gov.uk

Telephone: 01529 308024

Post: Debra Dawson, North Kesteven District Council, Kesteven Street, Sleaford, Lincs. NG34 7EF

Waddington

Tuesday 20th September

2.30pm-7pm

Waddington Village Hall

Mere Road

Waddington

Lincs LN5 9NX

Sleaford

Thursday 13th October

2.30pm – 7pm

North Kesteven District Council

Kesteven Street

Sleaford

Lincs NG34 7EF

Metheringham Over 60's Club

Over the summer, members have enjoyed coach trips to Wisbech Rose Fair (June), Cambridge (July) and Constable Country (August). There are still a few seats available for the trip to Gressing Hall, Norfolk during September. All coach trips are self-supporting, non-members are welcome to join us when seats are available. Should you be interested please contact Fred Deacon on Tel: 01526 322704.

Summer Holiday: There has been a change to the dates of this year's holiday. Still to Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset, but from Monday, 26th September to Saturday, 1st October 2011, inclusive, staying at The Lauriston Hotel. The cost for 6 days, five nights, will be £350.00p per person. The price includes half-board, entertainment every evening, all gratuities, holiday insurance and no single room supplement. Also includes, couriers, day trips to Bath; tour of Exmoor stopping at Lynton & Lynmouth; Wells Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace with a stop at Cheddar (cheese). Holidays are not subsidised by the club, therefore, it is open to both members and non-members. There are still places available, for further details contact Chairman Margaret Amos on Tel: 01526 321049 as soon as possible.

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 7th Sept. Members evening with entertainment by singer 'Rick White'. Tickets for the Christmas Draw will be available.

Wednesday 5th Oct. Harvest/Auction - members generously donate items and these are then auctioned during the evening.

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. Let's hope Mr. Snowman does not affect us too much this year!

Coach outings:

Wednesday 14th Sept. Gressinghall (Seats available).

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 at all.

Dave Williams Secretary.

Seen on a bumper sticker in the USA : Sound your horn if you love Jesus – use your mobile or text whilst driving if you want to meet him !!

Songs of Praise turns 50

The very first ever BBC Songs Of Praise was recorded 50 years ago this month, and broadcast on 1 October 1961.

The first programme was recorded on 25 September at the Welsh Baptist Tabernacle Chapel in Cardiff city centre (Tabernacl, Capel y Bedyddwyr). This past summer all surviving members of the original congregation were invited to return for the recording of the anniversary edition, which was conducted by Tim Rhys-Evans, musical director of Only Men Aloud.

Songs of Praise has long been the most popular and beloved of all BBC worship programmes. During its 50 years it has visited more than 1,800 churches, cathedrals and chapels, singing over 12,500 hymns. Guest presenters over the years have included Sir Cliff Richard, Alan Titchmarsh and Toyah Willcox. At its peak, 12m viewers watched the programme, with audiences still 2.5m. Songs of Praise has featured in episodes of comedies Vicar of Dibley and The Brittas Empire

Cardiff's Millennium Stadium was the location for Songs of Praise's largest ever episode. The special edition saw 60,000 worshippers, a 6,000 piece choir, an orchestra of 100 harps, the band of the Welsh Guards and an anthem specially written by Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber marking the first Sunday of the new millennium. PP

Christians “falling out” of aid programmes in Horn of Africa food crisis

As parts of the Horn of Africa are gripped by the worst drought in the region for 60 years, Barnabas Fund is helping Christians in both Kenya and Ethiopia who have been affected by the crisis who may otherwise be left to fend for themselves.

More than 10 million people are caught up in the crisis that has hit large areas of Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Kenya, and also parts of Uganda. The international community is providing relief, but there are fears that Christians, as a minority group in parts of the region, will miss out in the distribution, as happened during the Pakistan floods of 2010.

A Christian leader in north-east Kenya has told Barnabas Fund that church leaders were concerned because the Christian minority there was “falling out” of the existing aid programmes.

Barnabas Fund is directing emergency drought and food relief to north-east Kenya and Ethiopia to help Christians affected by the crisis. In the south of Ethiopia food prices have soared up between 60 and 100 per cent since March. Many Christian families cannot afford to buy food from the market, and their children are suffering most.

Among The Barnabas Fund's relief efforts in the region is the supply of wheat flour to feed Christian families in Ethiopia. It costs £10 to provide a 25kg sack of wheat flour that will allow a family of six to make enough bread for a month. If you would like to help, please visit:

www.barnabasfund.org.uk PP

St Giles of Provence d.c. 710 (Bet you have never heard of him before !)

St Giles was an immensely popular saint in the Middle Ages, and no wonder: he was the patron saint of cripples. In those days, there must have been many people who, once injured, were never really whole again. Even today, a serious injury – either physical or mental or emotional, can leave us damaged for months, years or even longer. At such times, we, too, find inspiration in others who, though also damaged by life, have not been overwhelmed.

St Giles was probably born in Provence, southern France early in the 7th century. The 10th century *Legenda Aurea* (Golden Legend) tells us he lived as a holy hermit deep in the forest of Nimes, near the mouth of the Rhone. A hind, or Red Deer, was his only companion.

Then one day, while out hunting, King Wamba spotted the deer, and pursued it. The hind fled back to St Giles for protection. King Wamba shot an arrow which missed the deer, but pierced the saint who was protecting it. Thus the king encountered the saint. The saint's acceptance of his injury, and his holiness greatly impressed the king, who conceived a great admiration for St Giles.

In the end, much good came out of the original harm of the encounter, for the king built St Giles a monastery in his valley, Saint-Gilles-du-Gard. The little monastery was put under the Benedictine rule, and became a source of blessing for the area roundabout. In later years, St Giles' shrine would become an important pilgrimage centre on the route for both Compostela and the Holy Land, as well as in its own right.

There is a further story connected with St Giles. Another legend tells how an emperor sought forgiveness from him for a sin so terrible he dared not even confess it. While St Giles said Mass, he saw written for him by an angel the nature of the sin in question. But his prayers for the emperor were so efficacious that the letters naming the sin faded away. As Christians we know that the Bible urges us to pray for others, no matter how hopelessly bad they seem, because Christ's mercy and forgiveness are extended to everyone who truly turns to him and repents.

St Giles, the crippled saint who helped others find wholeness with God, became patron saint of cripples, lepers and nursing mothers. In England 162 ancient churches are dedicated to him, as well as at least 24 hospitals. The most famous of these are St Giles in Edinburgh and St Giles in Cripplegate, London. In art St Giles is represented as either a simple abbot with staff, or protecting the hind, or saying the Mass, and thus interceding for the emperor. PP

Do you know where you're going to?

Billy Graham, the great American evangelist, told this story at one of his last public appearances:

'Albert Einstein, the great physicist, was once traveling from Princeton on a train when the conductor came down the aisle, punching the tickets of every passenger. When he came to Einstein, Einstein reached in his vest pocket. He couldn't find his ticket, so he reached in his trouser pockets. It wasn't there. He looked in his briefcase but couldn't find it. Then he looked in the seat beside him. He still couldn't find it.

'The conductor said, "Dr. Einstein, I know who you are. We all know who you are. I'm sure you bought a ticket. Don't worry about it." Einstein nodded appreciatively. The conductor continued down the aisle punching tickets. As he was ready to move to the next car, he turned around and saw the great physicist down on his hands and knees looking under his seat for his ticket. The conductor rushed back in dismay and said, "Dr. Einstein, Dr. Einstein, don't worry, I know who you are; no problem. You don't need a ticket."

'Einstein looked at him and said sadly, "Young man, I too, know who I am. What I don't know, is where I'm going!"

Graham concluded: "When you hear I'm dead, I want you to remember this: I not only know who I am, I also know where I'm going." PP

Did you know?

65% of people in the UK know nothing about the Prodigal Son

About 10% of UK church buildings are used as polling stations

One in five children under 5 in the UK has a TV in their bedroom

10% of the population celebrated Harvest last year -- more than half by taking a tin of baked beans to a church or school. PP

On the perils of taking a wedding

The Rectory

St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

As with so many of your ideas, your intentions are admirable; it is just that they never work.

So it was with the recent wedding in your church, where you allowed the happy but quite mad young couple to try and imitate the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. It did not seem to occur to anybody that your church, converted from a 1960s warehouse, is fractionally less impressive than Westminster Abbey. Also, sadly, a backdrop of a car park and canal make a poor substitute for the Houses of Parliament and the Thames. Finally, even 43 very enthusiastic young people can hardly pretend they are a congregation of several thousand.

I applaud your decision to invite me to take it, in order to impart a degree of gravitas to the proceedings; though of course I would not presume to upstage the Archbishop of Canterbury. (Although were he to ask my advice on how to run the Anglican Church, I have several helpful suggestions to hand.) But even I struggled to keep things on what I feel is a proper course, when the bride, lacking a horse-drawn carriage, simply walked up the lane, leading her ancient pony. (For one thing, the pony tried to bite me at the church door!) Her arrival was greeted with music. I will pass no comment on this, as when the Bible says we are to make a joyful noise unto the Lord, it does not specify that it has to be a harmonious noise. I am sure that drums and kazoos and guitars all have their place – somewhere or other.

It was a pity that the groom, unlike Prince William, had not thought to get to the church on time – or indeed, at all. It was fortunate that the bride's mother found him in that pub nearby, or really, we could not have completed the wedding. I wonder why the groom saw fit to display the word "help" on the soles of his shoes when he knelt at the altar.

If I may give one final word of advice: a row of trees in a massive, ancient building looks fine; a line of plastic Christmas trees, even with lights, simply does not give the same effect. Your loving uncle, Eustace.

Hymns for people over 60

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah, I've Forgotten Where I've Parked The Car,
Count Your Many Birthdays, Count Them One By One,
Blessed Insurance,
It Is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Hurt.

Quotations with a Christian theme

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point.

Because of God's grace, failure is never final.

Don't give up on yourself. Even Moses was once a basket case.

We never do anything so secretly but that it is in the presence of two witness: God and our own conscience.

It is only with gratitude towards God that life becomes rich. Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Christ promises to save his people from their sins, not in their sins. C H Spurgeon

Hope is the foundation of patience. John Calvin

I believe every Christian man has a choice between being humble and being humbled. C H Spurgeon

We play the game; God keeps the score. Erwin W Lutzer

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Miscellaneous quotations on life

Show me a sane man and I will cure him for you. *Carl Gustav Jung*

If you think you're too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room.
Anita Koddick

If you want to forget all your other troubles, wear too tight shoes. *The Houghton Line*,
November 1965

Millions long for immortality who don't know what to do on a rainy Sunday afternoon. *Susan Ertz*

Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind. *Dr. Seuss*

The only normal people are the ones you don't know very well. *Foe Ancis*

Children are a great comfort in your old age, and they help you reach it faster too. *Lionel Kauffman*

Never feel remorse for what you have thought about your wife; she has thought much worse things about you. *Jean Rostand, (Le Mariage, 1927)*

Experience is that marvellous thing that enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again. *F. P. Jones*