

August 2008 Church Newsround

BISHOP'S LETTER

God goes where He is wanted

This was the conclusion drawn by Philip Yancey as he reflected on how Christianity's statistical centre of gravity has shifted from the Middle East, to Europe, to North America, to the developing world. In his in-depth statistical study of global Christian allegiance through 2,000 years, Todd Johnson concludes that by 2100 this centre of gravity is likely to be in north Nigeria.

Of course, such studies are highly speculative, but the very fact that there was a gathering of global south Anglican leaders prior to this year's Lambeth Conference suggests that the predictions are not far wrong. The signs are that this will entail the dominance of more conservative expressions of Christianity and this will be welcomed by many in this country.

But there will also be those for whom any loss of more inclusive and liberal perspectives will be a high price to pay.

One thing seems to be clear. The parts of the world where Christianity is growing numerically are characterised by fairly recent experience of inter-faith conflict and/or political persecution. It has been said often enough that persecution helps Christians to value and fight for their traditional beliefs. Where Christianity is not subject to such active opposition then it runs the risk of becoming woolly and soft-centred. Whilst we may welcome the fact that in our communities across the Diocese of Lincoln we experience relatively little hostility to our faith, it is worth pondering the implications in terms of our own sense of commitment to convictions by which we live and for which we might be prepared to suffer and die.

My own view is that any new centre of gravity for Christianity in the future will not be located in Africa but in China. There are already more practising Christians in China than in Europe, and their numbers are increasing exponentially as a result of the rise in population, but also as a direct consequence of state persecution. This could mean that Buddhist forms of Christianity – already growing in popularity in the West – might prove more influential than that hard-line fundamentalism characteristic of the global south. As China continues to develop as a force to be reckoned with in international politics and economic power, this is clearly a scenario which cannot be ruled out.

So as the eyes of the world are on China for the Olympic Games, perhaps Christians worldwide also need to keep an eye on the growth of Chinese Churches in terms of both their numbers and influence. If the west continues to turn its back on God, then it might well be that God will go where He is wanted – wherever that might be.

+ John Lincoln

Win £3,000 for your church

The Ecclesiastical Insurance Annual Church Competition is coming up fast. This year, as part of their longstanding commitment to the Church, Ecclesiastical is running a different kind of competition.

They are inviting people to make a one-minute film about the true meaning of Christmas. Films can be shot on a camcorder, laptop or mobile phone and uploaded to our specially created website - true meaning.

Entrants have the chance to win £3,000 for their church, along with other great prizes, at an exclusive finalists event. This will take place at Old Trafford, Manchester, on 21 November 2008.

For more information, visit www.truemeaning.co.uk

St Wilfrid's Garden Fete.

St Wilfrid's Church Fete was held on Saturday 19 July and it was a terrific afternoon – despite the changeable weather, which simply kept us on our toes. A lot of people worked very hard to organise, set-up and man the various stalls. The tone was set beautifully by the Dunston Silver Sounds Band, who treated us to an excellent repertoire of popular songs. We managed to raise around £600 and would like to thank everyone who worked so hard and also those who came and supported us so enthusiastically.

Rachel Tyrrell & Ann De Vries
Churchwardens

Parish Registers

Welcome to the Church

Olivia Jayne Brewster & Grace Elizabeth Brewster 22.6.08

Gene Michael Bolton 6.7.08

Ruby Sky Howseman 13.7.08

We pray for those starting married life together

12.07.08 Susanne Mary Fenton & Darren Parker

19.07.08 Rachel Alicia Holvey & David Edward Peacock

We thank God for the lives of those who have died.

Norman (Bruce) Holvey Died 17.05.08 Aged 86years.

Ashes interred at Blankney 2.06.08

Vera Fothergill Died 20.6.08 Aged 82 years.

DUNSTON PARISH NEWS

All of us at St Peters wish to say thank you to all of you who support our events and with this in mind we would like to high light the forthcoming Scarecrow Weekend in September. While the autumn may seem a long way off the reality is but seven weeks and for those of you with big ideas now is the time to sign up and get planning.

Entry to the scarecrow competition is free and for fun and we hope as many homes in Dunston as possible will participate. Why not theme your home around the occupations of those inside or a favourite book or historical event? The options are endless and the winner will be the home which our visitors vote as their favourite. The quiz will be based on the entries therefore we need you to get thinking and sign up ASAP. Forms are available in St Peters Church porch or from members of the PCC and can be returned to Phyll Sands at Little Leyfields, Chapel Lane or Ann Higginbottom at 7,Back Lane.

The weekend of 26th/28th September will include the scarecrow trail, and a village quiz as well as a children's fancy dress, and colouring/ poetry competition and a grand raffle. There will also be a Barn Dance in the village hall.

So rise to the challenge and get making those scarecrows ...perfect summer holiday entertainment and something for all the family.

GOOD LUCK EVERYONE

Also watch out for news soon about St Peters Christmas tree festival in December which promises to be magical and a real winter treat.

On a more serious note there are those in the community who spoil it for the majority who work hard to make Dunston the beautifully kept village that it is. So could we ask everyone to watch out for and help to prevent the fly tipping which has occurred in the churchyard? A band of volunteers are working hard to maintain the church grounds and we hope to have completed a conservation area with wild flowers by 2009 BUT need you to support our efforts.

As always St Peters offers a warm welcome to everyone.

Dunston School

On June 10th, Mrs Hall and I took our Year 6 children to the Church Schools Festival at Lincoln Cathedral. We had an excellent day which included a tour and a chance to play some bell plates. The children particularly enjoyed having a go on the new mobile bell tower

simulator. We may have sown a seed that might produce some keen campanologists, you never know!

On June 30th and July 1st we were inspected by OFSTED. Although the process could not be described as enjoyable (!), I have to say that the inspector was very courteous, friendly and helpful. We are delighted with her comments about the school but as I write this the details are still confidential. The report will be sent out shortly when we can tell everyone all about it and later will be posted on the internet. In the Autumn we will be having our Church Schools inspection and we hope that the outcome will be just as positive.

Graham Boyall
Headteacher

Worship in the Group August 2008

Sunday 3rd August
Dunston St Peter
Metheringham St Wilfrid

11th Sunday after Trinity
9.00 am Holy Communion with Baptism
8.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am United Service with Methodists at St Wilfrid's

Sunday 10th August
Blankney St Oswald
Dunston St Peter
Metheringham St Wilfrid

12th Sunday after Trinity
9.00 am Holy Communion
9.00 am Morning Worship
10.30 am Holy Communion with Sunday School/Creche

Sunday 17th August
Dunston St Peter
Metheringham St Wilfrid

13th Sunday after Trinity
9.00 am Holy Communion
8.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Morning Worship

Sunday 24th August
Blankney St Oswald
Metheringham St Wilfrid

Bartholomew the Apostle, 14th Sunday after Trinity
9.00 am Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion
10.30 am Holy Communion with Sunday School /Creche

Sunday 31st August
Blankney St Oswald

15th Sunday after Trinity
Group Service

Sunday 6th September
Dunston St Peter
Metheringham St Wilfrid

16th Sunday after Trinity
9.00 am Holy Communion
8.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am United Service with Methodists at
Metheringham Methodist Church

Every Thursday 9.00am Holy Communion at St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

Red letter Saints Days

Wednesday 6th August
Dunston St Peter

The Transfiguration of Our Lord
7.30 pm Holy Communion

Friday 15th August
Dunston St Peter

The Blessed Virgin Mary
7.30 pm Holy Communion

Metheringham WI

Forty eight members including friends and family visited Castle Howard on July 16th.
(Advice – Large coaches ignore the first entrance sign because of the low arches.)

The house was designed by Sir John Vanberg – initially a dramatist - and took over one hundred years to build..

The Howard family (those who avoided beheadings and imprisonment) have owned and lived in the house for over three hundred years. Part of the house was destroyed by fire in 1940.

The present Howards are directors of the company that have taken over the running and maintaining the estate, to return it to its former glory for the public to enjoy.

There is an extensive picture collection, elegantly furnished rooms and galleries and a museum room with many interesting curios. The house is dominated by the central dome and overlooks the park and the fountains. There were gardens to explore, lunch to enjoy and a variety of shops. Castle Howard is mainly remembered for the BBC production of Brideshead Revisited – soon to be made into a film.

A thank you to Audrey and all the other people who contributed to make the day so enjoyable. Next Meeting.

Wednesday August 20th – Belly Dancing !!

Don't forget the Olympic Meeting 26 Drury Street on Monday August 18th 2 to 4pm. Lycra shorts & running shoes are a must.

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

As a relative newcomer to the three parishes, I believe you have to live in the area for twenty-five years before being nodded at in the morning, I do enjoy your magazine.

I was sad to hear that the Dunston contributor has gone on a sabbatical. However I thought I would put pen to paper and reply to him having read all his contributions.

I am reading a book by 'Dick Francis' and on one of the pages was the following.

"Where do policemen live? – 'Letsby Avenue' of course!!

It made me laugh and I hope made you at least smile. A smile costs nothing but can make a dull day a lot brighter. SR didn't write in a grammatical fashion but in a 'talk-write' ie he wrote as though he was actually talking to each and every reader. What intrigued me was in his last contribution he made reference to a 'Red Pen' reader. I wonder who that person is. I am going for a wild stab in the dark and say that I imagine that person to be 'Female', in 'Education', either a Letcherer, or is it Lecturer? You see when someone talks to you do you know how they are spelling the words or where the punctuation marks are? To me when I read pieces like that I like to think that the writer is talking to me and me alone. This makes it very special.

You know "Real generosity is doing something nice for someone who will never find out". In our daily lives we should all try and be generous to one another without any thought of reward in any shape or form and that is what being a 'Christian' is all about

One of the greatest riches in the world today is being content.

Contentment makes poor men rich. Discontent makes rich men poor – how true.

I will finish by telling you a poem entitled:-

My Promise To You.

When you are sad I will dry your eyes.

When you are scared I will comfort you.

When you are worried I will give you hope.

When you are confused I will help you cope.

When you are lost and can't see the light.

I will be your beacon shining very bright.

This is my oath I pledge to the end.

Why you may ask – because you're my friend.

Signed "GOD".

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant

Euart Cauldicotte.

Historic Christian Sites in Britain: Canterbury

Thomas Becket, the courtier turned priest, was a man of high principle and made it clear that his first loyalty was to God and not to Henry. In a moment of anger Henry expressed the wish

that Becket should be silenced. Four knights took the king at his word, broke their way into the Cathedral and murdered the Archbishop on 29 December 1170.

Within months of his death Becket was hailed as a holy martyr and soon pilgrims began to arrive in Canterbury from across England and the Continent to pray at Becket's shrine.

There have been many written accounts of Becket's death but none have been so powerful and dramatic as T S Eliot's 1935 work in verse, *Murder in the Cathedral*.

The visit of pilgrims to Canterbury in honour of Thomas Becket is the scene for one of the nation's most famous literary compositions, Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*.

Chaucer began the work sometime in the 1380s and worked on it for at least ten years.

There are sixteen Tales in all and a Prologue. The Tales are stories told by pilgrims walking from Southwark in London to Canterbury, and they are told by a range of people from many walks of life, including a knight, a miller, a merchant, a squire, a physician, a cook, a friar, a nun, etc.

When Henry VIII ordered the dissolution of the monasteries Becket's tomb in Canterbury was destroyed in 1540. The priory was dissolved and many of the monks formed the reconstituted cathedral foundation. These were turbulent times in the land. The Reformation begun by Martin Luther in Germany reached England in the 1520s and for two decades it was tightly controlled by Henry who wanted reform in the Church but not a Reformation.

The last Roman Catholic Archbishop of Canterbury was William Warham who died in 1532.

Bishop Gregory of Rome had appointed Augustine as Canterbury's first Archbishop and for more than 900 years all Augustine's successors had acknowledged the Pope as Supreme Head of the Church.

Now in the 1530s Reformation winds were blowing in England and on Warham's death, Henry appointed Thomas Cranmer as Canterbury's first Reformed Archbishop. In the 17th century England was embroiled in the Civil War between King and Parliament. Oliver Cromwell's parliamentary army smashed much of the Cathedral's stained glass.

In the 19th and 20th centuries the Anglican Church spread around the world and Canterbury Cathedral came to be recognised as the Mother Church of the worldwide Anglican communion. In 1867 a gathering of Anglican archbishops and bishops from many parts of the world met in London. The venue was Lambeth Palace, the London home of the Archbishops of Canterbury since the 1300s. These Lambeth Conferences meet every ten years and thirteen have convened since their beginning.

When the fourteenth Lambeth Conference meets in July and August this year Archbishop Williams will preside. The Anglican Communion around the world is deeply split on a number of theological and pastoral questions, not least its attitude to same-sex marriages.

So Canterbury remains, not the earliest Christian site in England but one of the earliest. From Augustine to Rowan Williams, Canterbury Cathedral has mirrored the highs and lows, the changes, turmoil, Reformation and agitations that have marked Christianity in England for 1400 years.

PP

Send a Cow celebrates 20 years

20 years ago someone had the bright idea of sending a cow to Africa.

Soon Send a Cow was born – and a small group of dairy farmers began by sending pregnant cows from their own herds to poor families in Uganda. They wanted to help poor farmers in Africa to become self-sufficient by providing them with livestock, training and advice.

20 years on, the charity still works with some of the most vulnerable groups in Africa, including children orphaned by war, families affected by AIDS, and disabled people.

All families helped by Send a Cow pledge to pass on the skills and benefits they gain to another family in need – meaning that just a little assistance from the UK goes a long, long way.

Nowadays, Send a Cow works in 10 countries across Africa, giving hope by providing a variety of locally bought animals and other assistance.

PP

Anonymous tip-offs play major role in solving crimes

Twenty years ago this year, a national charity was set up in the UK to make it easier for people to give information indirectly to the police. Since then, Crimestoppers has played an amazingly successful part in the fight against criminal activity. Its message "Tell us what you know, not who you are" has yielded almost a million actionable calls.

A staggering £101 million worth of goods have been recovered as a result of these anonymous calls and 84,000 people have been arrested and charged over the 20-year period. Drugs with an estimated value of more than £145 million have been seized. Calls are taken at the 24/7 bureau based in Godstone, Surrey. During the year ended in March, the 6,000 criminals arrested included 47 people accused of murder, 400 drink-driving offenders and 81 charged with firearms offences.

A 'Most Wanted' website set up two years ago has been instrumental in achieving 400 arrests.

Originally launched as the Community Action Trust, the charity was renamed Crimestoppers in 1995, by then covering the whole of the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Initially, the administrative set-up was based on TV regions, but the best model proved to be local county-based committees working in partnership with single police forces. The roll-out of this structure continues; there are now 39 volunteer committees across the UK and a further increase will follow, as volunteer numbers grow sufficiently to set up these new, more locally focussed groups.

Crimestoppers is currently working with a multi-agency project (Operation Pentameter 2) which was launched last October to protect victims of the sex-trafficking industry. Operation Pentameter first ran in 2006 and involved all 55 police forces in the UK, many other statutory and voluntary agencies, and law enforcement across Europe. Labour exploitation and child trafficking is also covered by the scheme.

Crimestoppers is not part of the police. The promise of anonymity is so strictly kept that a caller's name will not be taken even if it is volunteered. The national number for giving information is 0800 555 111, but other calls (such as inquiries about helping the charity or fund-raising) should be made to 020 8254 3200.

PP

All in a name

I'm dyslexic, and recently attended a conference about the disorder with a friend. The speakers asked us to share a personal experience with the group. I told them stress aggravates my condition, in which I reverse words and letters when I'm tense. When I finished speaking, my friend leaned over and whispered to me, "Now I know why you named your daughter Hannah."

PP

What am I?

A teacher gave her young class a lesson on the magnet and what it does. The next day in a short written test, she included this question: "My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I am strong and attractive. I pick up lots of things. What am I?"

When the papers were turned in, the teacher was astonished to find that more than half her students had answered the question with the word: "Mother."

Noah opened up the ark and let all the animals out, telling them to "Go forth and multiply!" He began to close the great doors of the ark when he noticed that there were two snakes still sitting in a dark corner. Concerned, he said to them: "Didn't you hear me? You can go now. Go forth and multiply." "We can't," said the snakes sadly. "We're adders."

PP

Some miscellaneous observations on modern life...

Fools rush in where fools have been before.

It's called 'take home' pay because you can't afford to go anywhere else with it.

Success is relative - the greater the success, the more relatives.

If at first you succeed, try to hide your astonishment.

You must have learned from others' mistakes. You haven't had time to think all those up yourself.

People like criticism - just keep it positive and flattering.

It's okay to let your mind go blank, but please turn off the sound.

Worry kills more people than work because more people worry than work.

Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.

When you're getting kicked from behind, that means you're in front.

Misers aren't much fun to live with, but they make great ancestors.
Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.
The real reason you can't take it with you is that it goes before you do.
Junk is something you throw away three weeks before you need it.
Hospitality is making your guests feel at home, even if you wish they were.
The world is full of willing people - some willing to work and some willing to let them.
Some people are like blisters. They don't show up until the work is done.
A babysitter is a teenager acting like an adult while the adults are out acting like teen-agers.
Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you a mechanic.
Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again.
The one who snores will fall asleep first.
The length of a marriage is inversely proportional to the amount of money spent on the wedding ?

Do as you would be done by ...

"Therefore all things you would that men should do to you, do even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

The mark of a child is the absence of any lag between a desire and its satisfaction. No sooner does a want or a need come into the mind of the child than it seeks immediate satisfaction. This is one of the reasons why children cry so readily. We want what we want. And we want it now.

Every human being is prone to selfishness. Oscar Wilde once said: "To love oneself is the beginning of a lifelong romance." The selfishness may manifest itself in boasting, in vain display, in pushing to the front, in boring others, for a bore has been described as a man who deprives one of solitude without ever giving company.

There has never been a person who monopolized a conversation without at the same time monotonizing it. A little girl, seeing another alongside of her at a party take a piece of cake, said, "How greedy you are to take the largest piece. I wanted that for myself!"

As Francis Thompson put it:

"Nothing begins and nothing ends
That is not paid with moan,
For we are born in other's pain
And perish in our own."

Peace is not something that is given; peace is something that is made: "Blessed are the peacemakers." We want to live in a give-and-take world and to have done to us what is to our greatest good and benefit. We want to live our lives in peaceful surroundings, to raise our children and enjoy the simple pleasures of being alive. At least that is what we think we want if we in the West weren't so consumed by the desire always to have more.

But peace is made only by war – war not against others but against sin and selfishness and egotism, not only in ourselves but in international relationships as well. War is waged with the cross, not one that fights outward like Peter's sword, which cuts off the ears of others, but rather a sword that is thrust inward to cut out selfishness which destroys the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God and the redemption of his Son. Perhaps we have to think more about living simply in order that so many millions across the world may simply live.