

## Church Newsround September 2008

### St Oswald's Church Blankney Harvest Festival

The annual Harvest Festival will be held at St Oswald's Church on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 6.30pm. Followed by the Harvest Supper in the Old School at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 under 12s £5. Available from Blankney Estate Office. The visiting preacher at the service will be the Rural Dean – Canon Richard Eyre.

### The Bishops' Letter

Dear Friends,

We have now returned from the Lambeth Conference and want to share our gratitude for your prayers. We are also grateful for the interest which has been shown in the Conference through the press, local radio, emails and the Blog.

We return from the Conference encouraged by the many encounters which we have had with Bishops from across the Communion. We missed the contribution of those Bishops who decided not to attend, but, as far as possible, their perspective was incorporated into the discussions, however it was inevitably 'second-hand'.

We have been humbled by stories from Bishops who have attended the Conferencing at a great personal risk to themselves and their families.

Bishops from the Sudan, Zimbabwe and Burma have harrowing stories to relate and they clearly value the support which comes from the Communion and we must keep them in our prayers as they return to the challenges they face.

There were a number of highlights for us during the Conference, not least the march in London in support of action to deliver the Millennium Goals, the address by the Chief Rabbi and the retreat led by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The worship, Bible Studies and Indaba Groups have been rewarding. Although the press have concentrated on issues in sexuality, this in fact only formed a small part of our discussions. Time and attention was given to the Gospel implications with regard to many matters and particularly to justice, peace, poverty and global warming.

The Conference was intended to resource us in our ministry as Bishops in Mission. We each feel that it has indeed helped us enlarge our understanding of this complex world, the gospel challenges we face and the resources we have in worship, prayer and the common life of the Anglican Communion.

Clearly, the future shape of our Church worldwide is 'work in progress', but we return home having discussed the issues facing our Communion in an atmosphere of love, understanding and a shared deep desire for the unity for which Christ prayed. There will be more to share as we reflect on the experience of the past three weeks, but for now thank you for the support which you have given us.

Wishing you every blessing,  
+John +David +Tim

### **Thank you**

I would like to thank everyone for cards, good wishes and flowers sent to me on my recent stays in hospital. Thankfully both operations went well and I am now on the way to recovery. Thank you all.

Doreen Blackband

### **Parish Registers**

*We pray for those starting married life together*  
8.08.08 Victoria Ingamells & David Barry Tucker

*We thank God for the lives of those who have died.*  
Mollie Bell Died 8.07.08 Aged 85.  
Ashes interred at Blankney 1.08.08

*Welcome to the Church*  
Theo Vinnie Richards 27<sup>th</sup> July 08 at St Wilfrids.

### **Dunston News**

At an open Church meeting on 15 July, Kay Howat was elected into the role of Churchwarden for St Peters. Kay and her family have been in Dunston a relatively short time however during this period she has impressed everyone with her enthusiasm, support, kindness and drive. We wish her well as she takes up this new role. A service is planned to officially welcome her into the office of Churchwarden, more details on this to follow.

### **Scarecrow weekend**

Plans are progressing for this event during the weekend 27 & 28 September. All villagers should have received a leaflet with the details, if not contact any church member.

We are looking for as many families as possible to take part in this event. Second hand clothes are available from the church for scarecrows and straw will be available nearer the time.

Sue Glaister

### **Dunston School News**

First of all, I am delighted to tell you that our recent Ofsted inspection resulted in the school being graded as "Outstanding", the highest grade possible. As you can imagine, we are all absolutely delighted with this outcome. I would like to thank all of the staff, governors, parents, volunteers, church members and, of course, pupils for their part in this, as a school cannot achieve this accolade without all members of the school community working together towards a common aim. I would also like to say a big thank you for all the wonderful cards and letters that we have received at school, very enjoyable reading at the end of a long year!

The school year ended with our Leavers' Service on the last day of term. The Year 6 children were presented with a Bible, an encyclopaedia and a photograph album of memories from their time with us. We wish them every success at their secondary schools.

Graham Boyall  
Head teacher

### **Worship in the Parishes September 2008**

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>
St Peter	9.00 am Holy Communion
St Wilfrid	8.00 am Holy Communion
	10.30 am United Service at Methodist Church
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity, Holy Cross Day</b>
St Oswald	9.00 am Holy Communion
St Peter	9.00 am Morning Worship
St Wilfrid	10.30 am Holy Communion with Sunday School/Creche
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St Wilfrid	8.00 am Holy Communion
	10.30 am Morning Worship
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>
St Oswald	9.00 am Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion
St Wilfrid	10.30 am Holy Communion with Sunday School /Creche
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>
St Peter	9.00 am Holy Communion
St Wilfrid	8.00 am Holy Communion
	10.30 am United Service at St Wilfrid's

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

#### **Red letter Saints Days**

*Please remember in your prayers*

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September Michael and all Angels

#### **Metheringham W.I.**

An energetic month for the WI. Not wishing to outdo the GB Olympic Team – but in total contrast, a gentle, non-competitive Mini-Olympics was held at No26 Drury Street on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August. Boule, Croquet, Javelin, Darts,

Mini Tennis, Table Games and quiz to exercise the mind and plenty of food for energy. A thank you to Jean and David Simpson (not forgetting Gert & Daisy the dogs) for their support.

There was another active evening at the monthly meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Belly Dancing or rather Eastern Dancing. The talk and demonstration which included changes of costume was given by Margaret Rushworth. "Belly Dancing" came from India and the travelling gypsies. Each country developed its own style. e.g. Spanish Flamenco and later the USA with dances such as the Cha Cha.

The dancers were paid for their efforts. To quote "It is excellent exercise, good for posture, age and size no problem." We all had a go at the basic movements. It was fun but is it good for the back? Mine suffered!!

Next Meeting (Also an active one) Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September Village Hall. The Bourne Borderers Morris Dancers. An open meeting - visitors welcome. £2. Get out your dancing shoes.

J.S.

### **Metheringham Over 60's Club.**

We are coming to the end of our outings for the summer and looking forward to commencing our monthly meetings in the Village Hall on 3rd September. The outings have been very successful with trips to Louth, Derbyshire, Wisbech Flower Festival, Eden Camp and in September our annual trip to Skegness. In November we have tickets for Thursford to watch the Christmas Spectacular, for information and ticket availability ring Margaret (321049). The membership is full but Guests are welcome to join us at the meetings at a cost of £2.00 per visit with tea/coffee & biscuits provided at the interval.

Diary Dates.

3rd September John Jalland

10th September Trip to Skegness

1st October Harvest / Auction

5th November Karen & Ally

Ann Crooks. Secretary

### **What are you doing in church, anyway?**

A cartoonist and an author have joined forces to create a fresh guide to churchgoing – recently published by the Church of England - which has already won praise for its no-nonsense approach to explaining the Anglican faith.

'What Am I Doing Here?', produced by Church House Publishing, uses the main weekly communion service as a basis for explaining why people go to church, and what happens when they do.

Accompanied by illustrations from cartoonist Dave Walker, the pocket-sized book guides readers through each of the key parts of the Holy Communion service, demystifying what happens and why.

Written by Hilary Brand (Christ and the Chocolaterie; The Sceptic's Guide to the Bible), the book serves as an ideal resource for churches to offer people

who have recently started attending church, perhaps through contact with Fresh Expressions, Back to Church Sunday, or other mission initiatives. It follows research that recently revealed three million people (six per cent of the adult population) would come back to church if they received a personal invitation.

What Am I Doing Here?, £4.99 (ISBN 978-07151-4161-8), is available from Christian bookshops, or by mail order via the web at [www.chpublishing.co.uk](http://www.chpublishing.co.uk).  
PP

### **Holy Cross Day**

On Holy Cross Day the Church celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ's victory over death. Holy Cross Day goes right back to 14 September 335, and we have the mother of a Roman Emperor to thank for it.

Helena was a devout Christian, and after her son, Constantine, was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, and seek out the places of special significance to Christians.

Of course, much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around 135 AD. But even so, Helena finally located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them - the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

That church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14 September 335.

The sign of the Cross has been used by Christians since early times.

Tertullian, writing his *De Corona* (3:2) around AD 211, noted that that Christians seldom did anything significant without making the sign of the cross.

What is its significance? Well, people often put their initials or some sort of personal mark on something to show that it belongs to them. The Cross is the personal mark of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we mark it on ourselves as a sign that we belong to him. Even in the book of Revelation, we read that the servants of God are 'sealed' or 'marked' on their foreheads as a sign that they are his.

A preacher once put it this way: if you were explaining to someone how to make a cross, you would say: "Draw an I." That is you standing before the Lord, saying, 'here I am'. Then cancel that vertical stroke with a horizontal stroke – as if to say: "Lord, I abandon my self-will and make you the centre of my life instead. I abandon myself to your love and service."

On Holy Cross Day, we recall Jesus' wonderful promise: "And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32)

PP

### **St Michael and All Angels**

Michael is an archangel, whose name means 'who is like unto God?' He makes various appearances throughout the Bible, from the book of Daniel to the Book of Revelation. In Daniel, he is 'one of the princes' of the heavenly host, and the special guardian of Israel. In Revelation, he is the principal fighter of the heavenly battle against the devil.

From early times, Michael's cult was strong in the British Isles. Churches at Malmesbury (Wiltshire) , Clive (Gloucestershire) and Stanmer (East Sussex) were dedicated to him. Bede mentions him. St Michael's Mount in Cornwall was believed to commemorate a vision there in the 8th century. By the end of the Middle Ages, Michael had 686 English churches dedicated to him. In art Michael is often depicted as slaying the dragon, as in the 14th century East Anglican Psalters, or in Epstein's famous sculpture at Coventry cathedral. Or he is found (in medieval art) as weighing souls, as at Chaldon (Surrey), Swalcliffe (Oxon.), Eaton Bishop (Hereford and Worcester), and Martham in Suffolk. Michael's most famous shrine in western Europe is Mont-Saint-Michel, where a Benedictine abbey was founded in the 10th century. The 'All Angels' bit of this feast-day was added in 1969 when Gabriel and Raphael were included in with Michael.  
PP

### **“Your rod and your staff, they comfort me” Psalm 23.4**

Shepherds used to use a tall staff with a crook neck for caring for their sheep. They could slip the crook end around a lamb that had wandered off and fallen into a ditch, and lift it out to safety and comfort. At other times the shepherd would use his staff to deftly prod a wayward sheep back onto the right path. Then again, there were always the reluctant sheep who were simply afraid to go forward.

Many a Christian has found that our Good Shepherd uses his heavenly staff in much the same way. Sometimes we fall into circumstances beyond our control, and need rescuing and comfort. Other times, we are stubborn and going our own way – and need a firm hand to prevent us causing even more trouble. And finally, there are those times when we are too timid to move forward and grasp what God has given us for the next stage in our lives.

Then, we need a firm, loving push!

Either way, the Bible assures us that our Good Shepherd will take good care of us. As long as we are following him, nothing can get at us without first coming past him.

PP

### **Why Christians go to Harrogate this month**

Sometimes dubbed the 'ideal church show', the Northern Christian Resources Exhibition will be held at the Yorkshire Event Centre, Harrogate from Thursday 25 – Saturday 27 September. It will host up to 150 organisations, from book publishers to youth work specialists, relief agencies to chair manufacturers.

More than 4000 people, representing most mainstream Christian denominations, are expected to attend the event, the majority with some form of leadership responsibility in their local churches.

- and of course a slice of the fruit cake at Bettys' Tea Rooms makes it all worth while – Ed.

### **21 September – World Alzheimer's Day**

It might surprise you, but there are an estimated 24 million people around the world who currently have dementia. World Alzheimer's Day aims to raise

awareness to this devastating disease, and also to the reality of life with dementia.

The theme for 2008 is, 'No time to lose!' with a focus this year on carers. The Day will emphasise the enormous contribution that the carers make, and give them the recognition that they deserve. PP

**If biblical headlines were written by today's liberal media :**

On Red Sea crossing:

WETLANDS TRAMPLED IN LABOUR STRIKE

Pursuing Environmentalists Killed

On David vs. Goliath:

HATE CRIME KILLS BELOVED CHAMPION

Psychologist Questions Influence of Rock

On Elijah on Mt. Carmel:

FIRE SENDS RELIGIOUS RIGHT EXTREMIST INTO FRENZY

400 Killed

On the birth of Christ:

HOTELS FULL, ANIMALS LEFT HOMELESS

Animal Rights Activists Enraged by Insensitive Couple

On feeding the 5,000:

PREACHER STEALS CHILD'S LUNCH

Disciples Mystified Over Behaviour

On healing the 10 lepers:

LOCAL DOCTOR'S PRACTICE RUINED

"Faith Healer" Causes Bankruptcy

On healing of the Gadarene demoniac:

MADMAN'S FRIEND CAUSES STAMPEDE

Local Farmer's Investment Lost

On raising Lazarus from the dead:

FUNDAMENTALIST PREACHER RAISES A STINK

Reading of Will now to be Delayed

**Signs & Symbols : sacred vessels**

This summer we considered the chalice, one of the two most distinguishable sacred vessels both in use and as an image. This month let's look at that second one; the plate that holds the bread for Holy Communion – the paten. The word 'paten' comes from the Greek name for a dish-like bowl, and yet most patens that we see in churches are shallow, round and saucer-sized. So presumably something happened between the naming of the container and today.

Well, two things have made the difference. First, who eats the bread? Whilst originally all the baptised people shared the bread there came a time when

the priest alone consumed it on their behalf. So hence the size shrank. Why spend money on precious metal to make the paten too large for purpose? Secondly, what type of bread is it? Initially the bread was the type used in domestic eating; a real edible loaf and every baptised person who was there would have eaten it. So the bread had to be large enough to be broken into many pieces for everyone and therefore a large container was needed over which to do the breaking. But then unleavened bread was introduced, with a size that could be seen when raised, along with pre-cut round individual wafers which were then stored separately in a different vessel, as they did not need breaking.

So hence while the name has stayed the same, the object and its purpose have changed.

This month

When you're next at a Communion service, have a think about the different symbolisms that leavened and unleavened bread brings as well as the individuality of the wafers or the breaking and sharing of a large piece or pieces.

Rev Dr Jo White

### **Historic Christian Sites in Britain: WHITBY**

The Christian faith in England has long been associated with places like Glastonbury, Canterbury, York and London. But the town of Whitby, on the north Yorkshire coast, can also lay claim to its own historic Christian roots. Overlooking a vast expanse of the North Sea, and with its rocky headland and high cliffs, Whitby is one of the favourite seaside attractions in the north east of England. With some narrow winding streets and its associations with Captain James Cook, Whitby has an olde-world feeling about it. More recently it has been the location for the TV hospital drama *The Royal*. High on the headland stand the ruins of St Hilda's Abbey and that's the clue to its link with early British Christianity. Hilda was connected by birth to King Edwin of Northumbria and sometime around 627 AD she was converted to the Christian faith. After missionary work in Co Durham, she was appointed by the Christian King Oswy of Northumbria as the first Abbess of the newly-founded Abbey at the place later named Whitby.

The Abbey soon had a reputation as a great centre of Christian missions and learning but it was a gathering of royalty, bishops and monks that was to give Whitby lasting fame. The occasion was the Synod of Whitby in 664AD, a gathering of Britain's Christian leaders that would determine the shape of Christianity in these islands until the Reformation. That story, however, begins much earlier.

It would be exciting to know exactly when the Christian faith arrived in these islands and who brought it to us. There have been many suggestions but a very probable answer is that Christian missionaries from Gaul (now France) crossed the English Channel to bring the Good News to our pagan ancestors. A probable date is sometime in the early third century, between 200 and 250AD, though it might have been considerably earlier.

A hundred years later the faith had spread widely and there were Christian settlements in many parts of England and Wales. Ireland was evangelised in the 5th century and, in turn, Irish missionaries took the gospel to Scotland. If

we take the year 600AD as our starting point, then we have a picture which we will consider next month...

PP

### **A mission of healing in devastated Gaza**

Crossing the border between Gaza and Israel is difficult and hazardous. Those arriving from Jerusalem go through the Erez checkpoint and then face a walk through rubble and the deserted shells of buildings. Those who are ill cannot seek treatment in Israel or the West Bank, so the pressure on Gaza's hospitals continues to grow.

Al Ahli Arab Hospital, supported by BibleLands, is an oasis of tolerance and hope in this dangerous situation. With sustained attacks destroying Gaza's resources, and over 80% of the population living below the poverty line, the Hospital depends on the determination and courage of its staff as they help all in need of medical care.

With at least 85 essential medical and surgical items officially at 'zero availability', and an intermittent supply of electricity to the operating theatres, the pressure on staff is immense. In spite of the difficulties, Al Ahli Hospital has continued to treat around 3, 000 patients per month, as well as sending out mobile clinics to those unable to travel to Gaza City.

A visitor to the Hospital recently commended the staff with these words: 'If this hospital works it is because the staff, Muslims and Christians, work unstintingly to take care of those around them. I saw the message of our Christian faith, the compassion and love of our fellow human beings, there on the front line, unsegregated and blind to difference. I saw the world that I would like for my children to see'

The Director of Al Ahli Hospital, Suhaila Tarazi, will be speaking at the BibleLands Annual Service, 4 October, St Michael's, Chester Square, London. For more information visit [www.biblelands.org.uk](http://www.biblelands.org.uk) or call 01494 897950.