

AUGUST 2009 CHURCH NEWSROUND

BISHOP'S LETTER 2009

Order, Order

This year and next we anticipate that the number of people being Ordained in this Diocese will be in excess of anything we have known in the recent past.

But what are these people being Ordained for? Of course, each will have their personal reasons for seeing this step as one they must take on their journey with God. But Ordination as a Christian Minister is a public event which must be authorised by the Bishop and endorsed by the Church as a whole. So it is not simply about men and women fulfilling an ambition and achieving personal satisfaction. Indeed, some of the very best Ministers have been those who found themselves approaching their Ordination with a degree of surprise and trepidation!

Rather, the ministry of the Ordained must always be about serving others, and must never be simply self-serving in its motivation. It is about helping to open up to others that space which God clears for the transcendent and spiritual dimensions of our lives to be given the chance to flourish. As the Archbishop of Canterbury has put it, Ordained Ministry

“opens a door into a place where a damaged and confused humanity is able to move slowly into the room made available, and understand that it is accompanied and heard in all its variety and unmanageability and emotional turmoil and spiritual uncertainty”.

This is a tall order, and such a ministry needs to be resourced by daily prayer – our own and others – regular times of renewal, rest and re-creation. It is about creating an environment in which communities can access opportunities for times of penitence, thanksgiving and praise. If all Ministers ever do is lead worship, that is no mean thing.

Yet there always is more, because enabling people to enter the space cleared by God entails helping them to deal with obstacles put in their way by sin, society or circumstance. It is about celebrating times of joy and finding a way through dis-ease of body, mind and spirit. It is about ensuring that the door is never closed on God's grace channelled through the Church and her Ministers into a needy world.

Be glad and grateful for those now to be Ordained, and pray for more to join them in this sacred ministry.

+ John Lincoln

From the Registers

Wedding - *We pray for those starting married life together*

20th June 2009 Laura Smith & Robert Cox at St. Oswald's Blankney.

Baptism – *Welcome to the Church*

Jack George Shaw. Aged 6 months. Baptised 19th July at St Wilfrid's.

Funerals – *We commend to God's mercy those who have died*

Margaret Woodford. Died 15th July 2009. Aged 90. Funeral 28th July 1.30pm
A true Christian.

St Oswald's News

As I am sure many people are aware, the tower of St Oswald's has had strapping around it for some time. A sure indications of problems ! Following the recent quinquennial inspection and report we now know the full extent of the repair required. The most immediate repair work needed is of course to the tower but the other work to parts of the roof stone work and also the belfry is also needed. In effect we are looking at costs around the **£180,000** mark. The PCC are in the process of applying to English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund for grant aid. Several other organisations have been approached for funding. As you can imagine being such a small parish we need all the help we can get ! So please look out for the future fund raising events at St Oswald's and come along and support us if you can.

The Harvest Festival will be Thursday 8th October at 6.30pm the visiting preacher being the Rev John Patrick vicar of St Deny's Sleaford, this will be followed by a Harvest Supper at 7.30 in the Old School. Ticket prices will be in the September Magazine.

Finally, the Rev Charles Sowden former House for Duty Priest of our three parishes will be installed as Vicar of Wyberton and Frampton on Tuesday 8th September at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church Frampton. We would like to take this opportunity to wish Charles every success in his new appointment and hope he and his family enjoy life in their new surroundings. I'm sure Charles would be delighted to see a few familiar faces at his installation service if any one from the parish is able to attend.

AG.

St Wilfrid's News - The Garden Fete

Saturday 11th July dawned a bright and dry day - all the helpers assembled the stalls and gazebos, not forgetting the race track for the ferrets.

The Dunston Brass band played to entertain all the people who came along to support the Church.

Malcom, Emily and Glenis Capps organised the fete along with the Flower and Produce Show in the Church - the support was wonderful.

Our grateful thanks to them for all the hard work.

Sincere thanks go to all the volunteers and those who gave items for the various stalls and to all who came along and spent their money.

The total raised at time of going to press is £791.

This will go to the fabric fund of St Wilfrid's Church.

MA

Results of the Flower and Produce Show

The show, which was expertly judged by Mr and Mrs Farmer, was a first for us. Both the officials and the competitors learnt a lot about how to stage a show and showing produce and flowers successfully. It certainly brought out the competitiveness in us and the judges commented on the high standards in the cookery classes. There is already talk of a bigger and better show next year.

It was good to see people sitting, relaxing to the Silver Sounds and we should be proud that the area can support a band for young people.

MC – Chairman - Organising Committee.

Class	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	Highly Commended
A single rose	Alan Jones	Barbara Spurrier	Moira Sturdy	Margaret Amos
Three roses of the same or mixed variety	Barbara Spurrier	Moira Sturdy		
A sweet pea stem	Malcolm Capps			
A bunch of five sweet peas stems	Christine Whitfield	Ann Garrick	Paul Haynes	Malcolm Capps
A flower of any variety not mention above	David Honisett	Ann Garrick	Christine Whitfield	Audrey Webb
A bunch of five stems	Ann Garrick	Brenda Mighell	Moira Sturdy	Hazel Leech
Five potatoes	The Robert Pattinson School	Nicola Jones	Jill Spooner	
Five Pea pods	Barbara Spurrier	Moira Sturdy	Pete Garrick	Carolyn Coxe
Five tomatoes	Chris Hill			
5 beans any variety	Brenda Mighell	Chris Gray	David Honisett	Chris Gray
Five carrots	Jill Spooner			
5 vegetables of any variety	Roy Redshaw	Roy Redshaw	Barbara Spurrier	Chris Hill
A flower arrangement	Brenda Mighell	Carol Pearse	Emily Capps	Barbara Spurrier
A Victoria sponge	Audrey Webb	Glenis Capps	Ann Garrick	
Five scones (cheese)	Margaret Amos	Janet Hewitt	Moira Sturdy	Ann De-vries
Infant Competition	Adele Smith Wood			
Junior Competition	Amy Sellars	Alex Pearse		

Dunston News

As I write this article, we have just enjoyed our own “Strictly Come Dunston Primary School!” Mrs Cowling, one of our parents, has been running a ballroom dancing club at school for the last few weeks and it culminated in a “Strictly” style competition in the school hall. The children looked wonderful and danced very well indeed. We had a panel of judges which consisted of Mrs Hughes (class teacher), Mary Lammyman and Andrew Lingard-Kay, a professional dancer and Olympic gold medallist!. We even had a surprise

dance from a group of our mums who had been practising hard for the event. They were excellent. Look out for photos in the Sleaford Standard. The Years 5 and 6 children enjoyed their visit to Kingswood in Norfolk. The weather was perfect. They enjoyed all of the activities but I think that the highlights were the Zip wire (which I found very challenging but most of the children took in their stride !) and rock pooling on the beach. We are now about to have our Leavers' Service which is always a mixture of sadness and excitement as the Year 6 children share their memories of primary school and also look forward to secondary school. In September we will be holding the official opening of our new library extension which is now complete. Have a lovely summer,
Graham Boyall
Headteacher

One for the Diary – Dunston Scarecrow Weekend 26th/27th September.

SERVICES FOR AUGUST IN THE THREE PARISHES

Sunday 2nd	8th Sunday after Trinity
8.00am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Peter's Dunston
10.30am	United Service – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham
Thursday	(and each Thursday)
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham
Sunday 9th	9th Sunday after Trinity
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Oswald's Blankney
9.00am	Morning Worship – St. Peter's Dunston
10.30am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham
Sunday 16th	10th Sunday after Trinity
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Peter's Dunston
10.30am	Morning Worship – St. Wilfrids Metheringham
Sunday 23rd	11th Sunday after Trinity
9.00am	Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion St. Oswald's Blankney
10.30am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham
Sunday 30th	12th Sunday after Trinity – Group Service
10.30am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham
September	
Sunday 6th	13th Sunday after Trinity
8.00am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Peter's Dunston

The following article is important to our churches as it addresses the possible future of the Church and the way it is organised in our villages.

**Mission Area Planning Group Meeting "What should the one priest do?"
What must the vicar do.**

He/she should lead the worship in all churches in rotation. He should agree to a sensible rota system, especially with regard to distances, so he administers Holy Communion at as many churches as practical on Sundays. The vicar should work the equivalent of a five-day week. One day will be taken up in preparing sermons etc and leading worship. He should officiate at weddings, baptisms and some funerals. He should officiate at a mid week communion service. He must be a firm believer in the priesthood of all believers! He should oversee liturgy planning for special occasions. He should meet briefly with his administrator to oversee/check details. He should spend time with active church members, contributing ideas, and checking on and overseeing their roles. He should ensure that his teams are properly trained. He should attend only vital meetings. He should appoint delegates to attend meetings on his behalf. He should undergo training in dealing with the media, being aware that the vicar is expected to be the spokesman for the community, especially in a crisis situation. He should be aware of the teaching courses run by the Diocese and encourage people to attend. He should appoint delegates to be regular visitors to their local schools. He should encourage ecumenism. He must have two regular days off each week, when he is simply not available. He will take the same amount of holiday time as others. This will include retreats, quiet days etc.

What could the vicar do.

Attend school services, events etc. whenever possible. Hospital/Hospice visits where necessary. Attend church fund-raising events, where possible. What should the vicar not do. Deal with administration. Train teams himself. Be responsible for teaching. Have so many Sunday services that there is no time to spend before/after services with parishioners.

How this can be achieved.

There must be a competent paid administrator or PA, who will keep and organise the vicar's diary. He/she will generally be the first point of contact for everyone. The PA's office will be close to, even part of, the vicar's home. There must be a team – a number of teams – in the parishes. These are the people whose contact details will be displayed at the church, together with those of the PA. They will be involved in pastoral visiting, and responsible for fundraising and for the upkeep of the building. They are the people to whom the vicar will delegate. These teams will not last forever, so part of their remit will be to organise a rolling programme to co-opt new members who can take over roles as necessary. This is vital, to ensure that the various jobs do not devolve onto the vicar when people leave/die/get bored. PCCs must encourage "cluster" thinking, acting, services and events, rather than parochial. There must be regular group PCC meetings. These are the ones the vicar will attend. The Diocese must set up proper training for the vicar's

teams. The Diocese must set up proper religious/theological teaching groups. The PA will organise wedding rehearsals so that as many couples as possible attend together. The PA will organise, where possible, more than one wedding in the cluster on a particular day to leave as many Saturdays free as possible. The PA will organise all baptisms to take place during regular services – maybe one Sunday per month, on a rota system of churches. (So there would be a baptism service say once every nine months in a particular church). Only in very exceptional circumstances (ie husband home on leave from forces abroad) could there be a baptism outside a regular service. The vicar will officiate at funerals in churches where possible, funerals at the crem to be delegated.

Since then, I have represented the churches in our benefice at a further Mission Area Planning Group Meeting, when the results of the survey were discussed.

All the churches in the deanery had sent in replies, which was marvellous, and the Rev Kathryn Windslow produced the following summary and suggested further action.

SUMMARY

Church and parish life will be different - but change is inevitable - though not welcomed by all.

Lead worship, administer sacraments and develop the liturgical direction of the Cluster in consultation with their communities.

Encourager and enabler of priestliness in the church - incarnational
Enable and encourage spiritual growth and have a disciplined (lively?) personal prayer life. Man/woman of God. Visionaries.

Take occasional offices - weddings, baptisms and funerals (SP church, crem others?). Does it need to be SP doing prep and follow-up?

Lead and support the lay ministers undertaking day to day pastoral care and services in the individual parishes and admin and maintenance.

Recruit new and younger people to lay ministry and Reader ministry, and use people's skills more in church admin and maintenance. But not necessarily do the training ?

Encourage joint services in the Cluster and 'Cluster' thinking, acting and events, rather than parochial.

Attend only vital meetings, eg full Cluster meetings, not individual PCCs

Be active and visible in the communities and in the schools - as part of a team of people, including lay. A visible representative of the church.

Importance of priests as 'figureheads' for church and community life.

Share time fairly between the many individual communities and churches.

Set times/days for availability in each community?

Be a manager, with good communication skills, a listener, an enabler, aware of, and responsive to, all the traditions in their designated area.

Teacher and evangelist. Trouble-shooter, advisor, co-ordinator, theologian, good sense of humour.

Have adequate time off for physical relaxation and spiritual refreshment - 2 days each week, plus proper holidays. Will need to be healthy and able to say 'no'.

FURTHER ISSUES

There should be appropriate training for the stipendiary priest (SP) for this different role - especially in collaborative ministry.

Improved secretarial support will be required - perhaps a Cluster office and PA. Need a central point for booking baptisms, weddings and funerals. Co-ordination of available slot., for baptisms and weddings.

Each church should have responsibility for its own administration – plus leadership, management, maintenance, fundraising and development? Self-sufficient.

Readers should be able to take 'Communion by extension' on a more regular basis. Should we have fewer Communion services?

Retain individual PCCs, or join benefices and have DCCs/WCs? Develop a 'super PCC' meeting with Cluster delegates. Also an annual 'Open Cluster' meeting for anyone to attend who wishes. Meetings need not be chaired by SP.

If priests are reduced, will Parish Share also be reduced?

Strong expectation that the priest should take Communion services and do pastoral visiting. Nursing Residential homes - could this be a lay/Reader ministry? Care of very elderly former church members?

Strong expectation that each church will have a service on major feast days. Share resources for youth work across Cluster.

Develop a Deanery Team of priests - and other ministers, lay and retired? Ecumenical dimension?

Churchyards and memorial requests etc.

Different needs of different communities, eg rural - close relationship of church and community, multiple weddings and baptisms and venues; urban/large village - greater number of Funerals + schools.

Fear that priest will become an unknown person to each place - may become like a bishop: lovely chap but distant and rarely seen...

'If there were only one stipendiary priest in each cluster (3 in the Deanery) what would you want them to do?'

There was plenty of discussion, some felt that the summary actually said what a priest does now! Most seemed to agree that the priest's role should NOT include administration, but there was some doubt that a full-time PA could be afforded. (So what's new!!) However, it was agreed that the priests in the Deanery should use the summary to work out what they felt the one priest should do. I understand that the intention is to sell Metheringham Rectory, and the plan is still to find a house in either Dunston, Nocton or Potter for the new priest. However, it was pointed out that the Diocese is unlikely to make an appointment from outside the Diocese, and that, because of falling numbers and financial constraints, the number of stipendiary priests in the Diocese - around 160 - will have to be reduced to around 100. So don't hold your breath! If you have any queries, comments or suggestions for me to take to the next MAP meeting in September, please do get in touch.

adrienne@hvj608.plus.com , 321678. Adrienne Jones

WI Report

The WI Members and friends had a varied and interesting outing to Harewood House on July 15th. There was a house with its Chippendale furniture, Sevres Porcelain and Picture Gallery. The kitchen area with its display of gleaming copperware. From the Italian Terrace there was a lovely view of the Park designed by Capability Brown. The more energetic could walk round the lake to the Himalayan and Walled Gardens and to the church.

The many exotic birds in the bird garden were all part of a breeding programme to save endangered species from all over the world. The ducks were as clued up as ever. There was an invasion as soon as you opened your purse for 20p for the bird food machine.

A thank you to Audrey and all those who contributed towards a very happy day. Even the rain gave way to sunshine.

Next meeting Wednesday 19th August when the subject will be Hat Making with Dorothy Wood. JS

On the discovery of a long lost crypt

The Rectory

St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Since your church is a former cinema, I suspect that were the floor to be removed, cigarette ash, sweet wrappings and tickets for the last Charlie Chaplin film would be revealed. Our marble flooring in the chancel was raised last week to try and find the rat that had died on an underfloor heating pipe. It made its presence so un-ignorable last Winter that it gave me the excuse to use incense.

But we have made an exciting discovery: the long lost crypt containing the tombs of the Lords Staveley, who flourished in this area until a little domestic disagreement with Henry II made the family realise that life in Italy might be pleasanter if they wished to retain their heads. The stone from their manor house soon became our lady chapel; an example of re-cycling as a euphemism for theft.

Inevitably, as soon as we had made the discovery, rumours of vast treasure flew round the parish. Long before anyone had descended into it, the treasurer had the fortune earmarked for re-wiring the church, the organist decided it should be spent on enlarging the organ, and Mrs Millington had decided it should keep the flower arrangers in chicken wire until the next millennium-but-one. I confess that even I toyed with the idea of a conservatory with discreet drinks cabinet at the rectory.

Sadly, it was not to be. Our 'treasure' consisted of rows of coffins in various stages of decay, enough bat droppings to keep our Verger's vegetable patch enriched for the coming year and long-lost peppermints dropped by generations of choristers sitting above, as they munched their way through the sermons.

Later that evening, when the workmen had left, I decided to have one last look. Taking a torch, I descended the stone steps, but lost my footing. The

now-broken torch went one way and I another. After floundering round in total darkness and unable to find the stairs to get out, I resigned myself to an uncomfortable night in the crypt until daybreak.

In the early hours, I heard steps on the same stairs and in their torchlight, saw it was someone who must have heard the rumours of treasure and decided to liberate some of it. He, too, tripped, fell and lost his torch and in the total darkness I heard him fumbling about at the other end of the crypt among the coffins.

Intending to be helpful, I shouted out that I'd been trying to get out of here myself for a long time and had never made it, so he may as well give up. But do you know, he found his way out in no time.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Signs & Symbols: Communion Cloths

When you visit someone's house for a meal, have you noticed how differently people 'do' things? For example, some people wait for everyone to completely finish eating before they clear away the dirty plates – not wanting to rush the slower eaters – whilst others will clear each plate away as soon as the person is completed – so you're not sitting there with a dirty plate in front of you.

Both attitudes are based on caring for the guest, but are very different.

When we come together in a formal community, like church, it makes life much easier if systems are agreed and set out for everyone to follow; though hopefully not so regulated that they become the 'law' in themselves.

At Communion in the more traditional denominations, there are rules (known as 'rubrics') to help the priest whichever church s/he is conducting the service. These can be very detailed – even the size and folding of the cloths used for a Communion service are covered.

All cloths should be white linen or cotton with traditionally a simple small cross embroidered on them, but nowadays there is often with more elaborate designs and some even use colour.

The 'Corporal' upon which stands the bread and wine to be consecrated is approx 12 by 12 inches (30 cms). It is folded twice, both vertically and horizontally, and placed on the altar in such a way as the folds form a bucket shape to catch any crumbs.

The 'Purificator', used to wipe the chalice after each person has drunk from it, is roughly 9 by 18 inches (23 by 45 cms). It is folded like the corporal so that it can cover the chalice and hang down each side of the rim. PP

Beheading of St John the Baptist

When you go back to work after the August Bank Holiday this month, spare a thought for John the Baptist: however rough your local sandwich bar may be, it probably doesn't serve you locusts with a honey dip; you won't be imprisoned for saying derogatory things about the local MP's wife, and even the boss from hell is unlikely to have a daughter who wants to hiphop about with your head on a platter.

John the Baptist, by our standards, had a terrible life. Yet the Bible tells us that of all the people in history, no one has even been born who was as great

as him. Why? Because of the unique job God gave him to do, which has to be the best PR job of all time: act as God's press officer.

This was quite literally the PR job from heaven: with God as his client, John the Baptist's job was to broadcast the news that the Messiah had come. Not even Church House Westminster has ever attempted anything like that.

It always helps if PR people recognise their own clients, and the same was true of John: he was the first person to recognise Jesus as the Messiah. PR people also help their clients prepare for their public role, and John did the same for Jesus: he baptised him in the Jordan at the start of his ministry.

PR people also stand up in public for their client's point of view, and in John's case it led to his arrest and imprisonment. His death was finally brought about by the scheming of Herodias and Salome, and here the similarity ends: for not even Max Clifford has ever lost his head over a client. PP