

Church Newsround – July 2009

St Wilfrid's Church Fete.

Saturday 11th July at 2pm in the Church Grounds.

This year the fete will include a Flower and Produce show.

There will be the usual stalls and games and teas

This is a major fund raiser for the Church so please come and support us.

Offers of help much appreciated.

BISHOP'S LETTER Where Respect is Due

Deference has been in decline for some time, and most people these days would think that a good thing. For far too long, it is argued, members of the aristocracy, the legal profession, Doctors and even Bishops have enjoyed a degree of ex officio respect which is no longer appropriate. Although it is difficult to believe now, in the light of recent events, even Politicians could rely on respect as public servants and representatives of the people.

Now things are different. It is not usual to defer to someone simply because of the office they hold or their standing in the social pecking order. It would appear that everyone must now earn the right to be respected, and no one should expect respect as of right. Paying respect is basically payment by results and, as with the conferring of celebrity status, such payment can go up or down depending on prevailing perceptions and the popular mood.

And God has not escaped this deference deficit.

Until the relatively recent past, God was believed in and worshipped simply for being God.

Most prayers began by affirming God's characteristics: almighty, everlasting, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, and so on. But with the dawn of the age of Enlightenment and the ascendancy of empirical sciences, results came to matter most and God was judged on performance. For example, does God deliver against agreed targets when it comes to the balance of good and evil in the world? What percentage of prayers are answered? Do believers lead better lives than other people?

Whether or not we would welcome a return to ex officio deference when it comes to how we relate to those who feature in Who's Who, we do need to re-affirm deference in relation to God. That is the essence of worship which honours God simply for being God, and it is the core ingredient of faith whereby we entrust ourselves and our interests to the reality, reliability and benevolence of God.

The season of Trinity invites us to concentrate on the Godness of God, and so find ourselves drawn to worship not out of deference alone, but out of sheer devotion to the one who was and is and is to come. + John Lincoln

St Wilfrid's PCC Minutes

St. Wilfrid's Parochial Church Council met on June 8th 2009 in the home of Mrs. Ann De-Vries, who chaired the meeting.

A simple history leaflet has now been produced from information supplied by the Reverend David Payne, and copies are available in church and InfoLincs. The volunteers in "Another Chance" have been thanked for all the work they do.

One of the items of correspondence which needs to receive a wider audience is from the secretary of Graffoe Deanery. We are warned of the dangers of theft from purses and handbags and, having experienced this myself during a visit to London recently, I have first hand knowledge of its effect.

Discussions took place on updating the heating and lighting in church, but while there are running costs, repair work and the Parish Share to be considered, any improvements are a long way down the list, unfortunately.

On a more cheerful note the Summer Fete on Saturday 11th July (please note the change of date) has grown with the addition of a flower and produce show, this latter to be staged in church. The fete will take place mostly in the churchyard on the north side of the church and

will include refreshments, ice creams, a raffle, and cake, Tombola and bric-a-brac stalls, plus much more. Malcolm Capps has entry forms for the produce show, so get growing! All stalls, raffle and refreshments need contributions, so please help as much as you can. And if you can't make, bake or grow, then come along to help and to spend!
Jenni Honisett PCC Secretary

Christian Aid

A total of £995.88 was collected. A big thank you to all who donated and all who collected.

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms

We welcome into God's Family ;

Sunday 3rd May Jack William Raymond St. Oswald's Blankney.

Sunday 24th May Maisie Marris Newman St. Oswald's Blankney

Sunday 31st May Amy & Freddie Ward (Twins)St Oswald 's Blankney.

Wedding

We pray for those starting married life together ;

28th March Jade Partington & Darren Field at St. Oswald's Blankney.

Funerals

We commend to God's mercy those who have died

Kenneth Vincent(Ken) Stothard died 28th March aged 85 .

Cremation followed by Service of Thanksgiving at St. Oswald's Blankney

Eileen Elsie Holvey Died 15th May aged 84.

Cremation, followed by Service of Thanksgiving at St. Oswald's.

Brian Albert Webb aged 74 years. Died 26th May 2009

Dunston School News

The new library extension at school is almost finished and we have had many other rooms decorated. The whole school has been transformed. We can't wait for the work to finish and we look forward to having a formal opening ceremony in September.

The children have had lots of sporting success recently. They came second in the Branston tag rugby tournament (losing by only one score in the final) and Aaron in Year 6 was named player of the tournament. We have also won our first cricket match of the season against Martin Primary School. Scores were tied with one ball to go and the captain, Samuel, managed to get the winning run off that last ball. Very exciting!

The Year 6 children really enjoyed the Church Schools Festival. The activity that we chose was bee keeping which took place in the Cathedral centre garden. The children were fascinated by the observation hive. They also had the chance to put on the bee keeper's outfit and taste different types of honey.

The rain washed out our Treasure hunt and picnic recently and so instead we have decided to expand our Sports Day. On Friday June 26th the races will take place until around 3.00 and will be followed by a BBQ, stalls, raffle and so on until about 4.30.

Finally, the children in Years 5 and 6 will be setting off to Kingswood Residential Centre (in West Runton Norfolk) on July 10th for a long weekend of exciting activities. These will include rock pooling, zip wire, go karting, abseiling and climbing.

Graham Boyall Headteacher

SERVICES FOR JULY IN THE THREE PARISHES

Thursday 2nd (and each Thursday)

9.00am Holy communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

Sunday 5th Fourth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's Dunston

10.30am United Service –Metheringham Methodist Chapel

Thursday 9th Family Service at St. Peter's with St. Peter's School

Sunday 12th Fifth 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 19th Sixth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's Dunston

10.30am Morning Worship – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

Sunday 26th Seventh Sunday after Trinity

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

10.30am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

August

Sunday 2nd Eighth 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

Another Chance

This month the magazine was complied with the help of a new mouse mat - this one does not scoot all over the desk. The mat was purchased at a very reasonable price from Another Chance. It's surprising what you can get there !! - Ed.

W.I. Report

SILENCE – no chatter after the meeting held on the 17th June. Why ? We were sampling Ice-Cream brought along by Robin Dennett of Dennetts Ice Cream, Vanilla, Coffee, Lemon Sorbet and Rasbery Yoghurt.

A family business in every sense. Three generations, started in 1920 by Robin's grandfather and continued after the war by his father. The talk prior to the tasting was about how the Ice Cream was made, the marketing of the product and the testing of the variety of flavours. You then realized the continued hard work needed to main the quality.

A big thank you to Robin for his interesting talk.

Next meeting will be the outing to Harewood House on Wednesday 15th July. There are places available for visitors at £17.

JS.

St Wilfrid's Church, Metheringham

Open Flower and Produce Show 2009

Entry fee 20p (Free entry to children's competitions)

First Prize £1.

Certificates for first three places.

Flowers

1. A single rose
2. Three roses of the same or mixed variety
3. A sweet pea stem

4. A bunch of five sweet peas stems
5. A flower of any variety not mentioned above
6. A bunch of five stems (mixed or same flower but not mentioned above)

Vegetables

1. Five potatoes
2. Five pea pods
3. Five tomatoes
4. Five beans any variety (runner, broad, French etc.)
5. Five carrots
6. Five vegetables of any variety not mentioned above (all same or different)

Produce

1. A flower arrangement suitable for the table at a family celebration to include candle or candles)
2. A Victoria sponge (exhibitor's own recipe) to contain jam or cream or both.
3. Five scones (plain, fruit or cheese) from exhibitor's own recipe)
4. An infant (4 - 7 years old) children's competition. Details to be announced later
5. A junior (7 - 11 years old) children's competition) Details to be announced later.

Rules

1. All entries to be staged in St. Wilfrid's Church by midday, Saturday, 11th July 2009.
2. All entries to be exhibited until 4pm.
3. All entries to grown or produced by the exhibitor or their gardener.
4. All flower entries to be exhibited in own container (not judged)
5. All vegetables exhibited on plain paper plate supplied
6. All food to exhibited on own plate (not judged)
7. The judge's decision is final.

MC

Half a million to be invited 'Back to Church'

Churchgoers across the Church of England are set personally to invite up to half a million people to services on Back to Church Sunday, 27 September 2009, making the event one of the largest co-ordinated evangelism events shared across the Church in recent history. Every one of the Church's 44 dioceses are taking part in the initiative this year, by encouraging churchgoers to invite someone they know who used to attend church to come back on a particular Sunday.

Churches will focus on extending an even warmer welcome than usual on the day, supported by 'Back to Church Sunday' resources such as special red 'welcome' T-shirts and subsidised 'party packs' of fairly-traded catering products, produced in partnership with Traidcraft. Up to 16,000 Church of England churches could be taking part, joining congregations from Churches Together in Scotland, the Church in Wales, Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed churches nationwide, Elim Pentecostal churches and Anglican churches in Australia, Argentina, New Zealand and Canada. PP

St Helier

Take the book of Samuel in the Bible, add a bit of Luke Skywalker father/son conflict from Star Wars, stir in a dash of Pirates of the Caribbean, and you sort of have the story of Saint Helier – the first saint and martyr of Jersey.

According to the legend, it all began in 6th century Tongeren (now in Belgium). A pagan couple badly wanted a child, but the wife was barren. In desperation they sought the help of a local Christian, Cunibert. He advised them to pray to the Christian God, and to promise that any child born would be 'given back' to God. So they did, and then the wife fell pregnant and gave birth to a son, Helier.

The parents were delighted – at first. But as the baby grew into a boy, it became clear that Helier was different from other children – he was precociously intelligent and could perform

miracles. Helier's father found this unsettling, and grew jealous of Cunibert's influence over his son. Finally he plotted to have Cunibert murdered. In horror at such treachery, Helier fled. He wandered far, eventually reaching a monastic community in Normandy, run by Saint Marculf. Here he settled, seeking a life of contemplation, but it was not to be. Marculf had received pleas for help from the very few residents of an island called Gersut, or Agna (now called Jersey). They, too, had had bitter experience of violent men who killed their loved ones without warning: the Vikings and Saxons and Vandals had each visited the island in turn. Now they sought some comfort from the Christians: would someone bring them the gospel? They had no one to shepherd them. Marculf could not ignore such a plea, and so he sent Helier and a companion, Romard, to Jersey. The two monks found a small community of fishermen on the sand dunes where the modern town of St Helier would later grow. Helier chose to settle on a tidal islet, nowadays known as the Hermitage Rock. Romard, it was agreed, would act as the 'go between' between Helier in his hermitage and the fishing village. Helier had chosen a remote spot for the peace and quiet it would give him as he approached God. But one day he discovered that his tidal islet had another great advantage as well. While looking out to sea and praying, he suddenly saw the sails of attacking pirates, stealthily approaching the island in boats. Frantically, Helier signalled the shore of danger coming, and the fishermen and their families scattered into the surrounding marshes, beyond the reach of the bloodthirsty, lustful pirates. This happened time and again, and became so well known in island history that even today, small dark clouds on the horizon are still known as les vailes dé St. Hélyi (the sails of St. Helier). As if that were not enough, Helier's prayers and the sign of the cross on another occasion stirred up such a storm that a raiding party was driven clear off the island. One day the pirates finally caught up with Helier on his tidal islet. They beheaded him. Helier was deeply mourned, and has always been revered in Jersey for having brought Christianity to the island. When his head and body were sent back to France, a healing spring is reputed to have sprung up on the place where the boat came ashore, and so Helier is better known there as a healing saint. The traditional year of his martyrdom is AD 555. His feast day is still marked in Jersey by an annual municipal and ecumenical pilgrimage to the Hermitage, on 16 July. PP

What laughter does to you

When the writer of Proverbs observed that "a cheerful heart is good medicine" (20:22), he was really onto something. Doctors have now discovered that 'mirthful laughter' can quite literally reduce people's risk of having a heart attack. Doctors in a recent study at Loma Linda University in California formed a group of people with problems ranging from diabetes, high blood pressure and cholesterol. They asked half of the group to watch comedy programmes or films that they found funny for at least half an hour a day for one year. Now the results are in. The half of the group which watched comedy TV have had a 26 per cent rise in their good cholesterol. The level for the group that took medication without the laughter rose by just three per cent. Good cholesterol in the blood is known to protect against heart disease. So it seems that laughter is literally good for the heart. As one doctor put it: "there is an intrinsic physiological intervention brought about by positive emotions such as mirthful laughter, optimism and hope." In other words, a cheerful heart is good medicine! PP

Praise for the mighty oat!

This summer, if you want to lose weight, lower your cholesterol, lower your blood pressure, get rid of some toxins, and then increase your brain power, libido, and even life expectancy, start eating oatmeal or muesli for breakfast. It may not sound very exciting or dramatic – you could hardly imagine James Bond tucking into a bowl of porridge in one of the films, but it seems it works. The humble oat is packed full of healthy things for us. Certainly sales have soared this past year. Last winter the Quaker Oats factory in Fife (which also produces Scott's Porridge Oats and the microwavable alternative Oats So Simple) had the biggest sales increase in its 110 year history - up by between 18 and 38 per cent.

So – how do you cook it? In 1929 Marian McNeill produced “The One and Only Method” for making proper porridge. She decreed that coarse oats should be added to boiling water “in a steady rain from the left hand, stirring it briskly the while with the right, sunwise.” In Scotland, purists decree that only salt and milk or cream should be added; the English don’t care, and add sugar. PP (Another Chance does some very good Muesli)

Children in Prison

Did you know that England and Wales jails more children than any other country in Western Europe?

The Howard League for Penal Reform, the oldest penal reform charity in the world, has been so concerned about this fact that it set up a special legal team to represent children and young adults caught up in the penal system. The team has a track record of success in forcing improvement to prison conditions, parole procedures and support on release.

The League wants to encourage a new way of working with children who commit crimes — one which engages with the whole child and the underlying causes of their behaviour. It shouldn’t be the crime that defines them.

In England and Wales, children are considered fully culpable for offences from the age of ten (the UN has said that a minimum age of criminal responsibility below 12 is “not internationally acceptable”). This criminalises young children who would benefit from a wide range of social, family-based or other welfare interventions. At present there’s a division between children who are seen as needing protection (with access to Children’s Services) and those who receive attention from criminal justice agencies.

This, says the Howard League, is an artificial division because children who are caught committing crimes are likely to be children in need. It demands that Government policy for all children should be based in the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Casework has revealed that some children do not get the legal representation to which they are entitled. Others receive a poor quality of service which has meant that some have received levels of punishment that they did not deserve. Newly introduced fixed fees for legal aid ignore the fact that working with children is complicated, time-consuming and requires specialist knowledge. So the League asks that solicitors who provide advice for children should be paid for the work they do, not just a flat fee.

Further information can be obtained from the Howard League at 1 Ardleigh Road, London N1 4HS (telephone 0207 249 7373). PP

The growing popularity of the farm shop

Farm shops are on the increase – in fact last year they were the fastest growing retail sector in the country. It seems that health-conscious folk are turning to the shops for fresh vegetables, fruit and meat that have been sourced locally. By the end of 2008 there were about 1800 of them in operation across the country – that is up 15 per cent on the year before.

If you know of a good local Farm Shop please contact the Editor and we can list them in a future Mag.

Funeral music goes pop!

If you attend a funeral nowadays, you are much more likely to hear chart hits, anthems from the talent show X Factor, or even TV theme tunes rather than the traditional hymns such as Abide with Me or Amazing Grace.

A survey of 30,000 funerals last year found that hymns were most popular at only 35% of services, down from 41% in 2005. 58% of all requests were for contemporary songs, with only seven per cent of requests being made for classical music.

‘My Way’ by Frank Sinatra is overall most favourite. Next comes ‘Wind Beneath My Wings’ by Bette Midler, and ‘Time to Say Good-bye’ by Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman. Other, more unusual requests have included Radio 4’s ‘Shipping Forecast’, and the themes from ‘Only Fools and Horses’, ‘Top Gear’ and Channel 4 ‘Racing’.

The survey was carried out by Co-operative Funeralcare. PP

At the close of a recent local funeral the music was “Je Ne Regret Rien” by Edith Piaf.

Be kind to newts

July is a dangerous month for newts. This month they will be leaving their breeding grounds in ponds and ditches and striking out on land, where they will stay until next Spring. They will come out of the water hungry and looking for insects, worms and slugs before they hibernate this coming autumn. You are unlikely to see one, as they spend their days hiding under stones, in wall crevices, or compost heaps. Newt numbers have plummeted as three quarters of our natural ponds have disappeared in the last 100 years. So to help the survivors survive a bit longer, why not leave the vegetation around any ponds long, and include some piles of logs, leaves and compost heaps in your garden? PP

The Newts in our pond have eaten most of the tadpoles. These would have grown up into slug eating frogs and toads if given half a chance. I'm undecided.

On the hazards of the Summer Picnic

The Rectory, St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

It was lovely to see you and your curate friends last week when you came for your Summer picnic in the countryside. I was delighted when you said you were bringing Chardonnay, but somewhat disconcerted to discover that what I assumed would be coming in bottles, arrived in a pink track suit. I had the white wine glasses all ready. I presume your baptismal register is full of Claret Smiths, Burgundy Jones and Beaujolais Browns.

I was saddened to see that almost all of the group were wearing hearing aids, and assumed it must be a consequence of spending so much time with your noisy "music groups" in church. It was only when one of your friends asked me why I was bellowing at them all, that I discovered their hearing was perfect and that they were listening to music. How you manage to fit sets of records into one of those little machines, let alone squeeze in a turntable, is beyond me. And why call them eye-pods when they fit into your ear?

On another occasion, do remind your friends that a farmer's field differs from an inner city park. Fields do not have benches, let alone picnic tables; power points for electric kettles and mobile phone chargers are not in every field corner; you sit on the grass and accommodate yourself around the sheep droppings. I know it will come as a surprise to some of your group, but farm animals are not trained to visit lavatories.

Neither are fields centrally heated; we have what are called hats, coats and scarves when enjoying the open air – anyway, it was not cold, it was bracing. And do remember that barbed wire has that name for a reason. Brandon's left jacket pocket can be retrieved from the fence next time he visits. In our villages, we tend to think of the dangers lurking in inner city streets, but apparently they are nothing compared with the endless hazards you encounter in the countryside.

I was sorry that the day ended so suddenly. When I got one of our local farmers to let you use his field, it never occurred to me that he should be asked to clear it of his stock. I fully realise that the nearest your urban colleagues will have got to a sheep will have been in a supermarket among the lamb chops wrapped in cling film, but the panic that spread through them when the flock ambled over to see if they might be treated to the odd sandwich was something to behold. Sheep are perfectly amiable, they are most unlikely to trample you underfoot and I have never known anyone torn limb from limb by a crazed ewe. That sort of behaviour is only to be found at church jumble sales.

But it was your loss; it allowed me to finish off the picnic, with my own Chardonnay which was rather more elegantly clad in green glass – and your killer sheep thoroughly enjoyed the chocolate cake.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Go Swan Upping 20 – 24 July

Here is a delightfully English annual event that dates back to the 12th century, and which nowadays must keep the Americans and Japanese busy with their cameras: swan upping. The phrase may conjure up visions of everyday folk sneaking down to the Thames to grab a swan and whoosh - turning it upside-down - but the reality is nearly as colourful, and perhaps less of a struggle!

Swan upping is the annual ceremony of marking and counting the Queen's swans. A big deal is made of this each year, from Sunbury-on-Thames in West London to Abingdon in Oxfordshire - all 55km of the river. Swan upping is done in some style: traditional rowing skiffs, complete with flags and pennants, carry the Queen's Swan Marker and Swan Uppers, easily recognisable in their scarlet uniforms.

The boatmen stealthily surround the birds, and then carefully lift them into the boats to be inspected and tagged. It has always been the duty of the Sovereign's Swan Marker to count the young cygnets each year and to ensure that the swan population is maintained. With the assistance of the Swan Warden, Professor Christopher Perrins of the University of Oxford, the swans are also given a health check.

If you would like to be there when the swans are upped, please visit the Swan Upping website for details, because different bits of the river are done on different dates.

www.the-river-thames.co.uk/swupping.htm PP

Those teenagers around your house this summer...

Have you ever thought how much they have in common with cats?

1. Neither teenagers nor cats turn their heads when you call them by name.
2. No matter what you do for them, it is not enough. Indeed, all humane efforts are barely adequate to compensate for the privilege of waiting on them hand and foot.
3. You rarely see a cat walking outside of the house with an adult human being, and it can be safely said that no teenager in his or her right mind wants to be seen in public with his or her parents.
4. Cats and teenagers can lie on the living-room sofa for hours on end without moving, barely breathing.
5. Both cats and teenagers eat some very odd things – at very odd hours.
6. Cats are obsessed with themselves and their appearance. Teenagers....!
7. Cats have nine lives. Teenagers act as if they did.