

Church Newsround – November 2009

St Andrews Night Supper
Friday 27 November at 7pm
In the Church Hall

Tickets available from : Margaret Amos, Ann Devries & Another Chance Shop
All proceeds to the Church Fabric Fund

ST WILFRID'S PARISH CHURCH
CHRISTMAS TREE OF REMEMBRANCE
WHY NOT SPONSOR A BAUBLE ON THE TREE IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE THIS
CHRISTMAS
COST £3
Please contact Margaret Amos 321049 Ann De Vries 321363

BISHOP'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

First of all, can I remind you about the Taster Day in the Cathedral on **Saturday 14th November at 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.** for those who want to explore approaches to prayer and so discover what works best for you. No need to book, and there is no charge – just come along and I will look forward to welcoming you. A packed lunch would be a good idea.

Meanwhile, we are delighted that the Archbishop of Canterbury will be with us from 5 – 8th March next year as we mark the Centenary of the death of Bishop Edward King. The Archbishop likes to visit Dioceses when he can, but it is unusual for him to give so much time to one place, so we consider ourselves to be rather privileged.

On Friday 5th March he will be celebrating Fresh Expressions of Church with people coming to Lincoln from all over the country. Apparently we are a bit of a market leader when it comes to promoting and resourcing Fresh Expressions, so it is a chance to showcase some of those initiatives.

Saturday 6th March sees the Archbishop giving a Lecture in the Cathedral at 11.00 a.m. and then Presiding at a celebration of the Eucharist at 2.30 p.m. when we hope all Parishes will be represented. Further details about these events, and how to secure tickets, will be notified in due course but for now please put this date in your diary.

In addition, the Archbishop will travel to the north of the Diocese on Sunday 7th and the south of the Diocese on Monday 8th after Celebrating the Eucharist in the Chapel of Edward King House on Edward King Day.

By no means least, he will meet Ordinands and Readers in training, visit the U2charist project and dine with Civic, Business and Voluntary Sector leaders so as to get a feel for our context and the challenges we face.

All in all, it should be a very special weekend for us, and I hope as many people as possible will be able to share in our celebrations.

+ John Lincoln

From The Registers

Baptism

We welcome into God's Family

Sunday 27th September **Alfie Lee Howseman** at St. Oswald's Blankney

Saturday 10th October **Penny Jane Florence Vincent** at St. Oswald's Blankney.

ANOTHER CHANCE GETS A FACE LIFT !!!

On behalf of the Management Committee and volunteers, I wish to thank Mick & Jane Peacock, **THE** husband and wife decorating team, for the fresh and smart appearance of our shop. We are most grateful to them.

Mick & Janet recently moved to Metherringham and I am sure you will join me in hoping they will be very happy here.

Brenda Hutchison.

The Prayer Breakfast

We have now held the first two breakfasts and can report back.

They are not 'holy huddles' for some spiritual elite! They are open to all of us whether as 'regulars', occasional attendees or very occasional attendees.

So far 13 Methodist Chapel members and 9 St Wilfrid's members have attended. We keep to time – no late starts or late finishes!

Breakfast is from 8.30am to 9am and consists of tea or coffee, cereal, toast or rolls, marmalade or jam – simple but good. For breakfast we sit at small tables of 4/5 people.

The praying is from 9am until 9.30am. We sit in a largish circle. Not everyone prays aloud but I think that we all say, "Amen"! Some suggested prayer topics are introduced but otherwise it is very much as the Spirit leads.

Prayer does change things and we expect to see the fruit of that in our two congregations and in our village. The next Prayer breakfast will be **Saturday 14 November** in the Methodist Chapel Hall.

John Tyrrell

St Peter's School Dunston

We have recently enjoyed the official opening of our new library. Sue Hampton, the author, did the honours and it was lovely to see so many children, parents, grandparents, governors and representatives of the builders, designers, the Diocese, Lincolnshire County Council and many more there.

I would like to say a big well done to everyone who helped make the Scarecrow Weekend such a huge success once again. My family despair of me as I take 10 paces at a time around the village only to then meet yet another person that I know! The atmosphere was wonderful and all of the visitors that I met were friendly, happy and appreciative of all the hard work that went in to creating the excellent displays.

As I write this, we are about to enjoy our Harvest Service in St. Peter's. The next monthly service will on Thursday, November 19th at 2.15. I hope to see you then.

Graham Boyall Headteacher

Dunston Scarecrow Weekend

Thank you to all those who took part and supported the 2nd Scarecrow Weekend in Dunston. Yet again the sun shone and we were blessed with many visitors. It is credit to the village that we attracted so many folk and everyone went away full of smiles and excellent refreshments! Huge thanks to all those who worked so hard especially in church and in the village hall, your contribution can not be under estimated. While the church funds benefited from £2000 the village benefited from goodwill and family fun.

Well Done all.

KH

SPONSORED RIDE AND STRIDE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE CHURCHES TRUST ON SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2009

An amazing £550.00 was raised by those of us who felt the urge to sit on our bicycles for mile after mile, or who donned their walking boots and made the journey from Metherringham to Sleaford along the route of the Spires and Steeples path.

The weather was lovely, with very little wind, so there was plenty of incentive to really enjoy the day. Our little group of three visited several churches we had not been to before, and everywhere we went we were made to feel really welcome. Eating our picnic lunch by the

ford at Kirkby Green was a welcome respite from the bicycle saddle, and my little incident with the Nocton frog was the only mishap on an otherwise gentle ride. My thanks go to all who took part in any way to raise this sum – those who cycled, those who walked, and those who kept our own church open and offered rest and refreshment to others.

St. Wilfrid's Church will receive the sum of £275.00 from this magnificent effort, which, I think, is the most we have ever raised. Thank you also to all who sponsored the intrepid travellers, and let us hope next year the weather, at least, will be as kind. JH

Report from Mission Area Planning Meeting 1st October 2009.

The new Rural Dean, Nick Buck, suggested a strap-line based on the D of Deanery and the G of Graffoe: **Delighting in God, Determined in Generosity.** (He's not completely happy with the word *determined* but can't come up with a better one – suggestions invited !)

He suggested a three-strand way of planning for the future:

1. **Vision** What do we want to be, to achieve? What ethos, what tone?
2. **Strategy** How do we get from here to there?
Mission must be at the forefront, we must have a reaching-out mentality.
3. **Resources** What have we got? What do we need? What will we never get?

The Deanery Finances show that although there has been an increase in the amount of historic income allotted to the Deanery, we still need to find an addition £50,000 per year. So far this year we have only received 45% of the amount of parish share required of us. There is a need to parishes to recognise that as there are stipends etc to pay throughout the year, it is necessary to pay the Parish Share in instalments throughout the year to cover the outgoings. The New Era Deanery plan is to have a total of six priests, two in each cluster, with possibly two house-for-duty priests, one in the East and one in the West. At the moment we struggle to raise sufficient funds for these. However, there were already more priests in the Deanery who have to be paid, and staffing levels will not fall within the next three years. The Diocese is already running on deficit, so the reserves set aside to help with New Era have been used up and will not be replaced.

It was felt strongly that we should be paying just for the priests on our plan, and the Diocese should be responsible for the extra priests. It is proposed that Synod be asked to advise the Diocese of this, nor we will be able to fund the two proposed House for Duty priests until staffing levels meet the Plan requirements.

Emphasis must be placed on developing Every Member ministry, forming groups to lead the work in parishes.

There has been a definite change in the thinking of the Group. There is no longer an emphasis on Parishes, but rather on the Deanery as a whole, and indeed, whether the Deanery is large enough to be viable, or whether it should amalgamate into some larger group in order to survive. Despite the financial problems, there was a positive feel to the meeting, and I came away optimistic about the future.

Adrienne Jones Mission Area Group Rep for the Benefice.

The Workings of the church

It's great to come to Church on Sunday but I wonder

Who unlocks the door, sweeps the floor and finds a reader?

Who types the notices, put on the heating, and sees the money is counted?

Who buys the flowers, gives out the books, washes up the cups and puts up the hymn numbers?

Who greets the stranger, makes them welcome and remembers their name?

Who clears up the "debris", makes the coffee and locks and unlocks the church?

Who books the weddings and baptisms, and organises clergy and bell ringers?

Well - it's not me! Should it be?

Who reads the meters, who organises the builders, who makes sure the

building is maintained?
Who mends the lights, tunes the organ, and moves chairs?
Who pays all the bills and checks the insurance?
Who runs the envelope system, claims back the VAT and Gift Aid?
Who looks after the accounts, and pays into the bank?
Well - it's not me! Should it be?

It's wonderful to be part of the Church family but I wonder
Who visits the people when they are sick, or bereaved?
Who leads the prayers?
Who writes for the Magazine, or edits, types, prints and presents it?
Who plans the entertainment for special events?
Who plans and organises the fundraising events?
Well - it's not me! Should it be?

Metheringham Over 60s Club

Our next meeting will be held at the Metheringham Village Hall, on Wednesday 4th November from 7-9.15 pm, doors open at 6.30pm.

Entertainment will be provided by 'Shiny Stockings' who sing and entertain.

As usual, tea/coffee and biscuits will be served during the interval.

Guests are welcome at a cost of £2.00 per person per visit.

For your Diary, events we will hold in the Metheringham Village Hall this autumn are as follows:

Saturday, 7th Nov. Coffee morning, all members and non-members will be made very welcome.

Wednesday, 2nd Dec. Christmas Dinner & Draw for members.

Dave Williams Secretary.

SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER IN THE THREE PARISHES

Sunday 1st

All Saint's Day

8.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's
10.30am Morning Worship – St. Wilfrid's

Monday 2nd

All Souls' Day

7.30pm Commemoration of the Faithful Departed - St. Wilfrid's

Thursday 5th

(and each Thursday)

9.15am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

Sunday 8th

3rd Sunday before Advent – Remembrance Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
9.00am Holy communion – St. Oswald's
10.00am Remembrance Service – Metheringham Chapel
10.30am Remembrance Service – St. Peter's

Saturday 14th

8.30 to 9.30 am Anglican – Methodist Prayer Breakfast in the Methodist Chapel.

Sunday 15th

2nd Sunday before Advent

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's
10.30am Morning Worship – St. Wilfrid's

Thursday 19th

2.15pm Family Service with St Peter's School Dunston

Sunday 22nd Christ the King – Sunday next before Advent
9.00am Morning Prayer followed by Communion – St Oswald's
10.30am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

Sunday 29th Advent Sunday – Group Service
10.30am Holy Communion – St. Peter's

Friday December 4th
6.00pm Carol Celebration St. Peter's

Sunday 6th First Sunday of Advent
8.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's
10.30am United Service – St. Wilfrid's

All Souls' Day

The early Church was slow to dedicate a liturgical day to offering prayers and masses to commemorate the faithful departed. But in time prayers were offered on behalf of dead monks, that they might attain "the Beatific Vision" through purification, which the Church later described as Purgatory. Odilo, the powerful abbot of Cluny, (d 1049) decreed that All Souls' Day should follow the feast of All Saints' Day.

At least four ancient English dedications are known, the most famous of which are All Souls College, Oxford and the church in Langham Place in London.

In bygone centuries All Souls' day was certainly uncomfortable for anyone who had wronged a person who had then died. For it was believed that souls in purgatory could appear on earth on this day, in the form of ghosts, witches or toads, to haunt anyone who had wronged them in life.

On a more cheerful note, it was also believed that you could help the dead on this day by almsgiving in cash or in kind. Some of these beliefs seem to have been caught up in the popular customs of Hallowe'en.

When the Reformation came, the Protestants disregarded the idea of Purgatory, and this feast day remained with the Roman Catholic Church.

PP

Tee-totallers are sadder people

People who don't drink at all are more prone to loneliness, gloom and even depression. They tend to suffer higher anxiety levels, and lack the social skills of moderate drinkers. So found a recent survey in Norway. It concluded that the happiest folk are those who drink about two units of alcohol (i.e a bottle of beer or two glasses of wine) a week.

Of course, one answer as to why tee-totallers are sadder than drinkers might well be because they remain in their right mind, and have to endure all the daft things drinkers do and say.

That could be enough to depress anyone. Certainly in England this past summer, many people admit to having consumed an average of EIGHT alcoholic units a day while on holiday.

Which may mean they can't recall being happy or sad – or much of anything.

(I AM NOT SAD – Ed)

Guy Fawkes – an early terrorist

If modern security at the Houses of Parliament seems a bit weak to you, take heart, it's never been much better. Back in 1605 Guy Fawkes managed to stow a good few barrels of gunpowder under the House of Lords without anybody noticing. He wasn't a member of Al-Qaeda, he was part of a Roman Catholic plot to murder James 1 of England and his parliament at the state opening. Fortunately, Guy Fawkes was found - and stopped - in time.
PP

St Andrew (d. c.60)

The apostle Andrew is patron saint of Scotland. According to the gospel of Matthew, Andrew and his brother Simon Peter were the very first two disciples whom Jesus called. "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matt 4:18,19)

Without more ado, they obeyed. "At once they left their nets and followed him." The story is touching for the simple but total faith which they had in Jesus.

Whenever the gospels mention the disciples, Andrew's name is always in the first four.

Rather than a boisterous leader of men (like Peter), he seems to have been an approachable person who wanted to help people. It was Andrew who helped introduce a group of Greeks to Jesus (John 12:20-2) and Andrew who offered Jesus the five small barley loaves and two small fishes when Jesus challenged them to feed the five thousand. (John 6:8) His faith in Jesus over small things was richly rewarded, and this faithful, kindly Galilean fisherman turned disciple went on to become one of the 12 apostles of the Christian Church.

Andrew never settled back in Capernaum by Galilee. Instead, his 'fishing for men' seems to have taken him far. One ancient tradition links him with Greece, where both Scythia and Epirus claimed him as their apostle. Another place in Greece, Patras in Achaia, claimed to be the place where Andrew was eventually martyred.

Like Jesus, he was crucified, but the story goes that during the two days it took him to die, he preached earnestly to the people about Jesus. Andrew was not afraid of death on a cross – he had seen it before, and knew one thing for certain: because of Jesus, there was nothing but eternal life ahead of him.

In the West, Andrew's feast-day was universal from the 6th century, and hundreds of churches were named after him in Italy, France and England. But how did he end up as patron saint of Scotland?

Well, according to one ancient legend, his relics were taken from Patras to Scotland in the 8th century, and ended up in Fife, where a church dedicated to him was built and became a centre for evangelization and later pilgrimage. As Andrew was the only apostle to make it as far as Scotland, he was chosen as patron saint.

But Andrew did not stay in Scotland. After the fall of Constantinople in 1204, it is said that the Crusaders took his relics to Amalfi. From there the despot Thomas Palaeologus sent his head to the pope in Rome in 1461 – where it became one of the most treasured possessions of St Peter's - until it was sent to the church in Constantinople by Paul VI.

In art Andrew is depicted with a normal Latin cross in the most ancient examples. The saltire cross 'X', commonly called St Andrew's Cross, and which represents Scotland on the Union Jack, was associated with him from the 10th century.

Operation Christmas Child – it's shoe box time!

There is a child somewhere who is depending on YOU for his/her Christmas present this year. If you don't send it, they won't get it – or anything else, for that matter.

Each year more than a million shoe boxes leave the UK filled with small gifts for children.

Through Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest children's Christmas appeal, more than a million children in parts of Africa, Central Asia and Eastern Europe are able to enjoy something of the joys of Christmas.

Operation Christmas Child has now been going for 19 years, and last year alone sent 1.2 million shoeboxes from the UK. It is only possible with the amazing support of hundreds of thousands of people like yourself. The scheme is simple: OCC works by taking YOUR gift-filled shoebox – packed and wrapped, and taken to one of the local drop-off points, and hand-delivering it to a child in need overseas.

All shoeboxes are given to children in need, with no regard to their background or beliefs.

OCC works with local partners on the ground to ensure that your gift-filled shoebox is delivered with integrity and with respect to the local culture.

Where culturally appropriate, our overseas partners will make available a booklet of Bible stories, which gives a message of hope and an explanation of the true meaning of Christmas - God's gift of his son, Jesus.

So if you would like to join the Operation Christmas Child campaign this year, and send a poor child the only Christmas present they are likely to get, it's easy. Begin by visiting www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk.

What gifts go best in a shoe box headed abroad? These gifts are fine..

Toys: Bear, soft toy, tennis ball, finger puppet, jigsaw, yo-yo, building blocks, small musical instrument. For boys trucks and cars, for girls dolls, clip on earrings etc.

Educational supplies: Felt pens, pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, eraser, colouring book, notepad, picture or puzzle book, chalk, pencil case, stickers etc.
Hygiene items: Toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, comb, hair clips, bar of soap, flannel etc.
Other items: Sweets (sell by date to be at least March of the following year), gloves, scarf, sunglasses, cap, hat, bangles, necklaces etc.
PP

Signs & Symbols: Communion Bread - The Rev Dr Jo White

At the last meal that Jesus ate with his disciples, the Passover meal, on the night before his death, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19)

He also took wine and passed it to each of them and said, "This is my blood, given for you."

These actions by Jesus form the basis for most Sunday morning services in churches throughout the world – although the names and details vary between denominations and even between churches within the same denomination. To give his body and his blood – to die for us - was the reason that he had come in the first place – and been born in Bethlehem in the first place.

People gather together for worship and prayer, re-enacting this supper, and symbolically share in the breaking of the bread and the drinking of the wine.

It is a way of giving 'thanks' as Jesus did (the word 'Eucharist' comes from the Greek by way of Latin, and it means 'thanksgiving'), reminding us not only of the tremendous sacrifice that Christ had made on our behalf, but also recalling the love and joy that Jesus brings to the community.

The word 'Communion' comes from something done with others – the community. It's done with Christ. It's done with other worshippers. In sharing the meal, 'I' becomes 'us'.

The word 'Mass', by the way, comes from the conclusion to the traditional service – which was in Latin: 'Ite, missa est.' 'Go. You are being sent.' Today we use similar words, 'Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.'

Whatever you call it, bread is required. Here again, you will find a range from individual wafers (we are all equal so we all receive the same) to a piece broken from a large wafer or 'real' bread (His one body broken for many of you). PP

St James the Least of All

On the ferocity of the church's Bridge drive

The Rectory

St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Your suggestion that we should hold a sponsored hymn-singing bicycle ride through the village as a way of raising money was well-meant, but I am not wholly convinced it would suit our clientele here at St. James the Least. While you certainly raised some money, I feel that £5.43, along with assorted foreign coins no longer in use, may mean that the purchase of your pneumatically adjustable stage for liturgical dance, along with equipment for producing holograms of the Holy Land to illustrate sermons, may be somewhat delayed. It makes our fund-raising to repair the tea urn seem somewhat mundane.

You may have musical bike rides, but we have Bridge drives, which are generally as amiable and peaceful as bear baiting. Half of those attending will see the afternoon as an opportunity to catch up on local gossip and to exchange knitting patterns, the game of cards being a minor hindrance to these other activities. The other half arrive primed for a battle to the death, reluctantly conceding that eye-gouging is not allowed. They will demand total silence – which is wholly ignored by those at the tables discovering what Mrs Trumpington confided to Lady Driver half way through "Onward Christian Soldiers" at last Sunday's Mattins. The congregation is eternally grateful to Mrs Mitchell, who as a former mill worker is able to lip read.

Refreshments are regarded by one half as an opportunity to put jam on the cards, spill tea on the score cards and make sure that the other tables get the egg and cress sandwiches while they corner the boiled ham; the others see it as an unwelcome interruption to the serious business of slaughtering their opponents.

Drawing the raffle is the adult equivalent of ringing the school bell at going-home time. Half the players will immediately dash off to relay newly-mined seams of gossip throughout the

village, leaving the others holding reproachful post-mortems with their partners over their bidding mistakes.

Reproaches are never too violent, however, since the chances are that they will all be meeting again the following afternoon round card tables at another location for yet another re-enactment of the slaughter at Agincourt, the only difference being that the French and English were not entertained with tea and sandwiches at half time.

Your loving uncle, Eustace.