

Church Newsround September 2008

Sunday 5 October 10.30am

Come along and celebrate Harvest Festival at St Wilfrid's
Everyone is welcome and there will be light refreshments after the service.

BISHOP'S LETTER - Why an Academy has joined our Church School Family

Whenever Governments attach targets to strategies, there is a tendency to mess with the strategy in order to meet the targets. When Prime Minister Tony Blair declared that a certain number of Academies would be established by a given date, this flagship policy became a hostage to fortune. If current criteria could not be met in order to deliver the projected target, then the criteria had to change and it is no good denying that both public and practitioners became confused, concerned and even cynical towards Academies as more about political posturing than the public good.

But for all that there is some truth in this assessment, it is not entirely fair. Proof that the Academies' initiative has real potential to make a positive difference to the lives of young people is now here for all to see in our own Diocese. Thanks to the skill, commitment and determination of the Bishop of Grimsby and Peter Staves, our Director of Education, the St. Lawrence Academy in Scunthorpe is underway and will be formally opened by the Archbishop of Canterbury on 14th October.

As a development of our already extensive investment in educational excellence in communities right across historic Lincolnshire, this Diocese is sponsoring St. Lawrence Academy to deliver Secondary education to a standard Christian values demand, and our young people deserve. These are the grounds on which we have become involved in the Academies' programme – to deliver excellent education within a Christian ethos in places where it has so far proved difficult to attract adequate resources in terms of teachers, buildings and facilities.

So we can be proud that this Diocese has sought to further the vision and values of the Kingdom of God through this form of participation in the Academies' programme. Questions may still remain in some people's minds as to whether Academies in general can deliver all that Government strategists have claimed for them, but in this case our partnership with Government, teachers and the local community has borne fruit and is set fair to be a boon and a blessing to countless young people in years to come.

+ John Lincoln

Thank You

Ron & Iris Creasey would like to thank everyone who gave them support over the past months both practically and with prayers. Thank you.

Ron & Iris

Parish Registers

Baptism

Welcome to the Church

14.09.08 Cameron Jeffrey James Holroyd

4.07.08 Gene Bolton

13.07.08 Ruby Sky Howsman-Miller

Weddings

We pray for those starting married life together

6.09.08 Michelle Bellamy & Duncan Bustin

6.09.08 Wendy Marie Barnes & Shaun Turner

13.09.08 Vikki Alexandra Sharp & David James Counsell

12.07.08 Susanne Fenton & Darren Parker

30.08.08 Rhea Robinson & Kevin Musgrove

Funerals

We thank God for the lives of those who have died

Samantha Jayne Machin Died 12.07.08

Joseph Baumber Died 9.08.08

Mable Joan Drakes Died 25.08.08

Florence Gillings Died 12.08.08

Dian Francis Willis Died 6.09.08

Lincolnshire Old Churches Trust Sponsored Ride and Stride

Saturday 13th September dawned dry and sunny, after the rain of the day before. We could hardly believe our luck, with very little wind, lots of sunshine and warm temperatures. The planned route was to take in 17 churches and chapels, with Temple Bruer standing out as one of our favourites. Situated to the west of the A15, it is an oasis found on the way between Ashby-de-la-Launde and Wellingore, with a lovely kitchen and superb toilets. Lunch was eaten on a beautifully positioned bench in Wellingore churchyard, and we rewarded ourselves (well, nobody else would!) with a cup of tea and a scone at Navenby's little teashop.

Everywhere we went we were met with cheerful people looking after their churches, who were equally as pleased to see us as we them. The last few miles home were enlivened when we happened upon scarecrow-making at Dunston, which gave the impression of several people lying about doing nothing.

Our thanks go to all our sponsors, to the people who kept Metheringham Church open from 10am to 6pm, and also to Sam Palmer, Chris and Paula Hill who also cycled, and June Greenhough and Joan Overmire and who did the Stride part of the day and visited 11 churches and chapels. We will probably have raised around £300 in total, which should mean that St.Wilfrid's will receive around £150.

Jenni Honisett

Dunston Parish News

As I write for October's magazine I am surrounded by folk making scarecrows and hope that as you read this you will have partaken and enjoyed the village scarecrow weekend on 26th and 27th. A huge thank you to all those who have supported us and made this event so special.

September is proving a busy month; on Saturday 13th we welcomed the 'Ride and Stride' fundraisers and would like to thank those who rode for St Peters as well as those who manned the church all day providing a warm welcome and refreshments.

The PCC were also pleased to support the church school inspection on 17th and the village can be very proud of the strong links between church and school. We can all celebrate the hard work and commitment of all those working with young people in the village.

We are also delighted to share with you the news of a new monthly family service in St Peters which is open to all as always but is especially in partnership with our school and on October 23rd you are all invited to join us at 2.15pm for a celebration of Harvest.

Work continues in the churchyard making safe old graves and restoring the rear part to make a Peace Garden for the entire village to share. The aim is a place of reflection and contemplation. We are taking advice and sharing expertise and will update you all as things progress over the winter. Again this is a project which will include the school children and villagers.

Dates for your diary; December 5th/6th/7th Christmas Tree Festival
.. more next month!

Once again a huge thank you to all those who support St Peters through worship and our fundraising events which are all vital to the continuation of our village church and the wider community in Dunston.

There is always a warm welcome at St Peters; take care all.

KH

Dunston St Peter's School

The school year has started well with our six new Reception children settling in very quickly (and a seventh will be joining them shortly). When you read this our building work will have probably begun. We are having an extension at the front of the school which will be used as a library and music room. It should be completed by Christmas. We are then hoping to start an after school club in this new space. As the school roll has grown over the last few years, we can't wait to have a bit more room!

In my next article, I will let you know how our Church Schools inspection has gone. It should be a much less stressful affair than Ofsted, with the focus upon celebrating the positive!

Graham Boyall Headteacher

St Wilfrid's News

We held a PCC meeting on Monday 8 September, with the usual variety of topics up for discussion. Our Harvest Festival Service is to be held on 5 October at 10.30am, so please do come and join in the celebration. We will be serving light refreshments afterwards, which will be even better than the usual top quality tea and biscuits! We would love to see you and welcome you. We are also putting together the services for Christmas, which at the moment include a Christmas Eve Carol Service at 6pm and also Midnight Communion – look out for further details nearer the time, but mark them in your diary as we are now less than 100 days to Christmas!

Rachel Tyrrell & Ann de Vries

Churchwardens

WORSHIP IN THE PARISHES FOR OCTOBER 2008

5th October

St Peter
St Wilfrid

20th Sunday after Trinity

9.00 am Holy Communion
8.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am United Service with Methodists at St Wilfrid's – Harvest Festival

12th October

St Oswald
St Peter
St Wilfrid

21st Sunday after Trinity

9.00 am Holy Communion
9.00 am Morning Worship
10.30 am Holy Communion with Sunday School/Creche

19th October

St Peter
St Wilfrid

22nd Sunday after Trinity

9.00 am Holy Communion
8.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Morning Worship

26th October

St Oswald
St Wilfrid

Last Sunday after Trinity

9.00 am Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion
10.30 am Holy Communion with Sunday School /Creche

2nd November

St Peter
St Wilfrid

All Saints Sunday

9.00 am Holy Communion
8.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am United Service with Methodists at Metheringham Methodist Church

There is a Holy Communion Service at 9.00am every Thursday Morning at St Wilfrid's Church in Metheringham.

Harvest Festival at St Oswald's Thursday 2nd October 6.30 pm - followed by the Harvest Supper.

Commemoration of the faithful departed - Monday 2nd November 7.30pm at St. Wilfrid's.

For your prayers;
Saturday 18th October – Luke the Evangelist
Tuesday 28th October – Simon and Jude - Apostles

Don't Forget !

The Pleasure of Sewing Exhibition

7 - 21 October 2008 to be held at Fine Art Framing 18 High Street Metheringham.

For Sale

A 5 ft tall Christmas Tree, planted in the garden two years ago but now needing a new home.
A donation to St Wilf's and its yours !
Chris Hill 321178

Another energetic evening for the W.I.

Wednesday Sept 17th was the open evening and it was a colourful and entertaining occasion. A group of people turned up - costumes of flowing yellow and green rags and ribbons with stockings to match, bells on their ankles and hats decorated with flowers, feathers, fur and flags. They were armed with ½ metre (that's 20" !) thick sticks. They were the (harmless) Bourne Borderers Morris Dancers who demonstrated a selection of their folk dances accompanied by accordions, flutes and recorders with percussion instruments to keep time. Then we had a go !! The dances were simple to follow with set patterns and beats until the "stick chorus". A miss meant an injured thumb, finger or hand – sorry Ronni. Those who did not dance helped keep the time with extra percussion. A big thank you to Bourne Borderers for a happy evening.

Next meeting 15th October – A craft evening. New members welcome.
JS

A big future for Lincolnshire? You decide!

People across Lincolnshire are being encouraged to get involved in the second phase of an ambitious project that aims to shape the future of the county. Lincolnshire Assembly (of which the Bishop of Lincoln is chair) is now asking for views as part of the Big County, Big Skies, Big Future - Shaping Lincolnshire Together project. People have until 17 October to fill in an online questionnaire at www.lincolnshireassembly.com/bigideas. Alternatively, paper copies are available at various public locations including doctors' surgeries, libraries and council offices. The questionnaire is also being sent to a selection of households countywide. The results of the consultation will be used to plan the county's priorities over the next 25 years. This follows work carried out last year when the Assembly asked a variety of people and organisations to rank the importance of aspects of local life. If you would like to take part, please look out for paper copies of the questionnaire in public places, look online at www.lincolnshireassembly.com/bigideas or phone 01522 782060.

90 years of age!

The number of people in the UK who celebrate their 90th birthday grows larger year by year. Nearly half a million people in the UK will be doing so in 2009! The actual estimated number is 460,000 men and women. This is up from 360,000 in the year 2000, itself an increase from 250,000 in 1991. The rate of increase in numbers was especially high in the 1990s, averaging 12,000 a year, but since the 21st century dawned we have still been adding 11,000.

Nearly three-quarters, 74%, of those who are 90 or over are women, a percentage which is dropping owing to the greater longevity of more and more men. The percentage of women was 81% in 1991.

It is possible that as many as 18% of those 90 or over have a Christian commitment, one in every 6, although many will not be able to get to church, as they will be living in residential homes, or needing transport.

In a survey of older Christians undertaken a few years ago, in which over 200 90-year olds participated, many said they still kept reading their Bible, and many watched the BBC Sunday programme Songs of Praise, finding it a spiritual experience.

Virtually half, 49%, of all 90-year olds went to Sunday School back in the 1920s, and many will still remember the hymns they sang then and the Bible verses they had to learn by heart. How can we help these older people bring their faith alive, especially when it has been dulled by years of nominalism or even neglect? There is an urgency also – only 10,000 of 90-year olds will celebrate their 100th birthday. PP

A few Saints

Felix of Thibiuca (247 – 303)

Do you value your Bible? If so, Felix of Thibiuca is a good patron saint for you.

The year was 303, and Diocletian was emperor in Rome. In February he decided that Christians were NOT a good thing. So he issued an edict: all copies of the Christian scriptures and all liturgical books were to be surrendered and burnt. Diocletian had decided to 'wind up' this upstart religion.

The persecution began in Rome. By June of that year, the edict had reached North Africa, and Thibiuca, where Felix was bishop. Felix was arrested and interrogated. Yes, he said, he did have a copy of the Scriptures. No, he said, he would not hand them over.

Felix was a highly respected bishop, and even the authorities were loath to take immediate action against him. So they gave him three days grace to see sense, and back down. But Felix prayed and became only more certain that this was a conflict between the commandments of God and the commandments of men.

At the end of the three days Felix was referred to the proconsul. He still refused to hand over his Scriptures. His last words in public were memorable "God, I thank you. I have passed 56 years in this world. I have preserved my chastity; I have observed the Gospels; I have preached the faith and the truth. Lord God of heaven and earth, Jesus Christ, I bend my neck as a sacrifice for you, who abides for ever." He was condemned to be beheaded at Carthage, and became one of the first martyrs to die under Diocletian.

Needless to say, Diocletian did not succeed in destroying the Scriptures. Today there are hundreds of millions of copies around the world, and this month, Sunday, 26th October, Christians will thank God for the Scriptures when they celebrate Bible Sunday. PP

Odran of Iona died c. 563

Odran is a suitable saint to remember as Halloween approaches, for his story involves the spirit world.

British by birth, Odran was one of Columba's first companions on Iona. Sadly, he died not long after his arrival on the island. But Columba found comfort, for in a vision he saw Odran's soul ascending to heaven, after being fought over by angels and devils. Christ had redeemed Odran for his own, and so all the devils there ever were could not lay claim to Odran's soul.

In memory of his dear friend, Columba named the graveyard on Iona after him, Reilig Orain. An old Irish tradition has an Odran abbot of Meath and founder of Latteragh (Co. Tipperary), and it is probable that these Odrans are one and the same. PP

Why you are like a pumpkin

Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. God lifts you up, takes you in, and washes all the dirt off you. He opens you up, touches you deep inside and scoops out all the yeuchy stuff - including the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then he carves you a new smiling face and puts his light inside you to shine for the world to see. PP

Big breakfasts help diets

If you want to lose weight, eat a good breakfast. It controls your craving for snacks later in the day.

Recent research has found that those who consume a large portion of their daily calories early in the morning are less likely to impulse eat later in the day. The Endocrine Society also believes that big breakfasts can help dieters to keep the weight off in the long term. PP
The other one is Breakfast like a King, lunch like a Lord and dine like a Pauper. Ed

Sacred Vessels - the PYX

Some non-church people who attend a Communion and Baptism service are amazed at the 'greedy' behaviour of the priest - who eats and drinks all the bread and wine that has not been consumed. They don't realise that this is normal practise or why it happens.

No-one leaves very precious things lying around in case of theft, damage or misuse. So it is the same with the consecrated elements of bread and wine. When they have not all been consumed it is important that the surplus is dealt with in ways that honour the meaning that we give and receive from them. In most denominations they are consumed immediately, in others they are returned to the earth or given back to nature.

Sometimes, at the end of a service, you will see that some bread and wine has been deliberately kept aside to take out to those who are sick or for use at a service where no priest will be present, and this then must be stored. So the question arises – what vessels will be used?

The 'pyx' – literally a box – is the name for the container for the consecrated bread. Its size depends on the amount that it needs to contain; for taking to individuals in their own homes it is usually small enough to fit in a pocket.

Although these can be especially bought from church suppliers, made in a variety of metals with embellishments, precious stones, enamel work and so on, you can actually use any container that fits the purpose. PP

A vampire story for Halloween

Two nuns, Sister Mary Agnes and Sister Mary Vincent, were travelling through Europe in their car, sight-seeing in Transylvania. As they are stopped at a traffic light, out of nowhere, a small vampire jumped onto the bonnet of their car and hissed at them through the windscreen. "Quick, quick!" shouted Sister Mary Agnes, "What should we do?"
"Turn the windscreen wipers on. That will get rid of the abomination," said Sister Mary Vincent.

Sister Mary Agnes switched on the wipers, which knocked the mini-Dracula around. But, he hung on and continued hissing at the nuns. "What shall I do now?" she shouted.

"Try the windscreen washer. I filled it with holy water before we left the Vatican," replied Sister Mary Vincent.

Sister Mary Agnes turned on the windscreen washer. The vampire screamed as the holy water burned his skin, but he hung on and continued hissing at the nuns.

"Now what?" shouted Sister Mary Agnes.

"Well, show him your cross," urged Sister Mary Vincent.

"Now you're talking," said Sister Mary Agnes. So she opened the window and shouted: "YOU STUPID VAMPIRE !! GET OFF OUR CAR !!"
PP

The Baptist dog

A strong Baptist family decided to buy a home and make everything in the house Baptist. They were going to make it look and feel Baptist through and through. So when they were finished, they went to a dog home to look for a Baptist dog.

The owner of the dog home thought about it for a while and then nodded. "Yes... yes, I think we have a dog that will fit your description."

So the dog was brought out to the family. The father said, "Let's test this." He said to the dog, "Go get a Bible."

And the dog ran over to a table, grabbed a Bible in its mouth, ran back to the man and plopped the book at his feet. Impressed, the father continued, "Let's see if this dog knows its books of the Bible... Turn to Psalm 23".

The dog then opened the Bible with its nose and pawed through the pages to Psalm 23. "Okay," said the father. "That's great. But what are your views on baptism by immersion?" The dog thought for a moment, and then went out and jumped in the duck pond. Very pleased, the father and family fished the dog out of the pond, dried him off, and took him home. The next day, the family showed their friends the Baptist dog and the things it could do. Finally, the friends asked, "Well, can it do any other tricks that normal dogs do?" The Baptist father wondered and said, "Hmm, I don't know. I've never tried." He then ordered the dog, "Heel." Suddenly the dog leaped onto the father's lap and placed its paw on the man's head and started to pray. "Wait a minute!" exclaimed the mother, outraged. "This dog isn't Baptist! It's Pentecostal!" PP

Definitions

CHOIR: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the Congregation to lip-sync.

HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key two octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: The last song at a church service, often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.

JONAH: The original "Jaws" story.

AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

Moses revisited

Nine year old Joseph was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school. "Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joseph, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked, somewhat alarmed.

"Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!" PP

10 definitions

Success: being able to afford spending what you are already spending.

Spanking: a case punishing one extremity to get sense in the other.

Sceptic: one who won't take know for an answer

Sewing circle: a group that darns husbands

Rush hour: when the traffic stands still

Optimist: one who takes a frying pan on a fishing trip.

Pessimist: a person who is happy when he is wrong.

Music: the speech of angels

Necessary evil: one we like so much we refuse to do away with it.

Monday morning: when we look back wistfully on the good old days – Saturday and Sunday.