

Church Newsletter April 2007

THE PARISH CHURCHES OF ST OSWALD, BLANKNEY, ST WILFRID, METHERINGHAM, & ST PETER, DUNSTON

Priest - The Rev Charles Sowden
The Vicarage, Drury Street, Metheringham
Tel :01526 321115 Mobile 07886 036555
e-mail charles.sowden1@btinternet.com

CHURCHWARDENS

St Wilfrid's

Mrs Ann De Vries Tel: 321363 & Mrs Rachel Tyrrell Tel: 322147

St Peter's

Mrs S Glaister Tel: 320946 & Mr S Rogerson 01526 323183.

St Oswald's

Mr R W Parker Tel: 320210 & Mr R H Spurrier Tel: 320483

The Parochial Church Councils' Honorary Secretaries

St Oswald's Mr R H Spurrier Tel: 320483

St Peter's Adrienne Jones

St Wilfrid's Jenni Honisett Tel: 320968

Vergers: St Wilfrid's Mr John Allen, 62 Princes Street, Metheringham

St Peter's Mrs Connie Sellars, 15, Middle Street, Dunston

Dunston Children's Clubs Mrs Caroline Houlden, 5 Fen Lane, Dunston

St Wilfrid's Church Hall Bookings Heather Morrison, Tel: 01526 321214

Magazine Advertising & Distribution.

Mr Chris Hill Tel 01526 321178 e-mail family.hill@virgin.net

Dunston Distribution: Mrs Mary Lamyman, Tel: 01526 320303

St Wilfrid's Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning in the Church Hall Saturday 28 April at 9.30am.

Cake stall, Tombola, Books, tea and scones and a raffle.

All contributions to the stalls will be gratefully received.

Please contact Margaret Amos on 321049

The Bishop's Letter

Let's agree to differ

"We are the Easter people, and Hallelujah is our song!"

This early testimony to the fundamental importance of Easter for the Christian Church has ensured that belief in the Resurrection remains central to our identity as Christian people. We are Easter people before we are anything else.

Yet the different accounts of the Easter story in our four Gospels testify to the various ways in which this unique event was experienced and communicated. And so it has continued down through 2000 years. Even in our understanding of the Resurrection we are a diverse people, with many and various stories to tell about how the Risen Christ has encountered us on our journeys, at our prayers, about our business and in our homes and gardens – just as he encountered the first Disciples in all these ways on and after that first Easter Day.

As Easter people we are a diverse people discerning and developing our grasp on that new reality which exploded from the tomb to change the world for ever. This reality, with its extraordinary breadth and depth of meaning must be both an encouragement and a reassurance as we seek to deal creatively with difference in our chronically divided world.

We do well to note these words of wisdom written by Doctor George Sabra of the Near East Theological Seminary in Beirut:

“The hope is that Christians come to realise that the only way forward in the ecumenical journey is the recognition and full acceptance that diversity is not only a fact, but the very essence of Christianity: our Christian Holy Book is made up of many books; the creation accounts are two; the divine covenant is more than one; the Gospel is fourfold; the earliest Church is a group of local Churches; Jesus, the Son of God, has two natures; and, most importantly, the one God is triune. Wither shall we Christians flee from plurality and diversity? Christianity is, at heart, a school of diversity.”

Almost a year ago, failure to deal creatively with diversity almost destroyed Beirut even as those words were being written. The way we live together with our differences – whether in the Anglican Communion, the ecumenical movement, our relationships with those of other faiths or our local communities – will be crucial to our credibility as Easter people with Hallelujahs on our lips and in our hearts. + John Lincoln

ST. WILFRID'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND AGM.

St. Wilfrid's held its Annual Parish Meeting and AGM on Friday 16 March. The Rural Dean, Richard Eyre, chaired both meetings and several members of the congregation came along to support the PCC.

At the Annual General Meeting, two churchwardens were appointed unopposed : Mrs. Ann De Vries was willing to continue in post and Mrs. Rachel Tyrrell was welcomed as the new churchwarden.

Continuing with the AGM of the PCC, the PCC members who had served 3 years were asked if they were prepared to continue – Richard Brewin, Jenni Honisett, Rod Sanders and Gaynor Little said they were happy to serve another 3 years.

The Rural Dean then asked various members of the PCC to present short reports relating to Finance, Fabric, Another Chance, Deanery Synod, the Electoral Roll and the Secretary's report on the past year. The full reports had been displayed in church the previous Sunday to enable everyone to read them. The Rural Dean thanked everyone for their hard work during the year in relation to these aspects of church life.

The meeting then moved on to ask for more volunteers to act as sides person, and some new names were put forward. This function is not limited to PCC members, and volunteers are always needed.

The meeting also re-appointed an Independent Financial Adviser, David Clarke, who has been the church auditor for some time now, and everyone is very satisfied with his work. Thank you David.

The meeting then drew to a close, and coffee and biscuits were served.

After refreshments, the PCC held a short meeting to appoint the necessary officers. These are: Rachel Tyrrell/Lay Chairperson; Richard Brewin/Treasurer; Jenni Honisett/Secretary. Forthcoming fund raising events

were announced: April 28th/Coffee morning; June 23rd/Cream teas with Parish records; August 11th/Barbecue; and September 14th/Harvest Supper. Any fund raising suggestions can be made to the Fund Raising sub-committee members, Margaret Amos, Brenda Robertson and Rod Sanders. PEH

St Wilfrid's Financial Report

At the Annual General Meeting on 16th March 2007 I highlighted the fact that for the last 2 years we have not been able to pay our Parish Share. This has been due to a few different factors:

- 1) A great deal of energy and resources has gone into putting kitchen and toilet in church, this work was started when Rev. David Payne was with us and it had to be completed.
- 2) Essential repairs to the church highlighted by the quinquennial inspection in 2000.
- 3) Reduction in planned giving and collections:
 - a) Received Y/E 31 Dec. 2002 £15256
 - b) Received Y/E 31 Dec. 2003 £21648
 - c) Received Y/E 31 Dec. 2004 £21103
 - d) Received Y/E 31 Dec. 2005 £18099
 - e) Received Y/E 31 Dec. 2006 £16579

It was in the autumn of 2002 when we held our last planned giving campaign and as a result of that our income in the following year rose by 41% (£6392), since then it has dropped to the position that we are now only 8.7% (£1323) higher than in the year ending Dec 2002.

While our income has gone down our expenses have gone up as they have at our homes e.g. heating and lighting, insurance and items that keep the church operating.

On behalf of St Wilfrid's Church I ask that we all consider what we as individuals can do, we have lost some of our congregation through death or moving away from the area and like many churches the numbers attending has declined over the above period. We are grateful to those who give generously to the church including those who do not attend regularly. Anyone wishing to do give to the church arrangements can be made to make it easy for you. Those who give already can either increase the amount you put in your envelope or increase the amount of your standing orders. If you have signed up for gift aid then the new amount is automatically claimed for.

For those who have not signed a gift aid form and pay income tax please give it serious thought as we do receive an extra 28p on every £1 that is given.

Anyone wishing to discuss this can contact myself or the churchwardens.

R T Brewin

Dunston Parish News.

Change at St. Peter's.

At the PCC meeting held on the 13th March 2007 Barry Porter stepped down from his roll as Churchwarden and Treasurer for St. Peter's Church. I, along with all my colleagues, wish to place on record our sincere thanks for all the hard work that Barry has put into the church both in front and more importantly behind the scenes. His input will be sorely missed and we wish him and his wife, Jan, all the best in their new venture.

I have taken on the roll as churchwarden with Sue Glaister and Adrienne Jones has taken on the roll of treasurer and deanery Synod rep. Stuart Rogerson.

Dunston Village History.

Thank-you to all who have responded to my plea for old photographs and press cuttings. Please keep them coming in. Has anyone out there got any pictures of the Fish and Chip shop on Middle Street or the Village Bakery on Front Street?

I still need artefacts, however small, to fill up corners of the church and village hall, together with wedding photographs (of couples married at St Peter's). It promises to be a fun weekend with a concert on the Saturday evening and an old fashioned 'Songs of Praise' on the Sunday evening when we all "Dress Up".

Stuart Rogerson.

The (new) Church Warden writes

On Sunday 11th March I attended a luncheon at the Newark Showground. It was in connection with my college reunion. This year was our 50th year since attending agricultural college. Out of 38 students in 1956/7, 32 turned up for the meal along with another 200 from various years. It is amazing that so many of us still come to these do's. This started me thinking of "How it was" in those days. Because of the small number of students for that year we became an extended family with lecturers joining in (nowadays it is entwined with the Nottingham University and numbers 100's). We celebrated high days and holidays with commitment and sincerity. For us agricultural students, 'Plough Sunday' in Southwell Minster, was the highlight of the year.

Today this materialistic society has changed all that. How much commitment and sincerity do we put into festivals that thank and praise the Lord for all His goodness? We tend, I'm afraid, to spend tens of thousands of pounds on Easter eggs and presents without much thought of why we actually do it. How do other countries celebrate Easter? Take Croatia for example. The actual celebration of Easter goes back to the symbol of Spring. The 'Easter Eggs' symbolized the birth of life and Easter marks the "salvation" of man from death. In the spirit of this symbolism, Easter eggs are eaten to awaken something dead to life again. On Palm Sunday, Christian congregations will take olive branches to church to be blessed, which is believed to ensure health and vitality in the coming year. The blessing of food is an old Croatia popular tradition. The Easter food is blessed on Holy Saturday or early on Easter Sunday and should not be tasted until Easter day. In Istria one should chew on an olive leaf before taking a bite of the blessed food. This is to remind us that there is no delight without pain and bitterness, like there is no salvation without the cross.

What about the "Easter Bunny?" It is probably the most popular Easter symbol, both in its true and chocolate form. The first document mentioning the hare, as a symbol of Easter, was written in 1500 in Germany. Many Asian and Eurasian cultures revere the hare as a sacred messenger of the Divine. To the Chinese it is a creature in the moon, pounding rice -the staff of life- in a mortar.

The Egyptians called the hare 'Un', which meant, open, to open, the opener, because hares (unlike rabbits) are born with their eyes open. The hare as "opener" symbolized the New Year at Easter; and fertility and the beginning of new life within the young. Celtic tradition viewed the rabbit as a symbol of fertility and new life. In Germanic tradition the rabbit brought new life each spring. The meaning of the rabbit stays the same – messenger of the season when everything is possible and all things can be new again.

To you all 'Sretan Uskrs (Croatia), Frohe Ostern (German), Linksmu Velyke (Lithuanian), and Wesolych swiat (Polish).

A Happy Easter To You All.

Stuart Rogerson.

Dunston St. Peter's Church of England Primary School

During the last few weeks, we have taken part in a variety of sporting events with much success. First of all, our netball team narrowly lost to Potterhanworth and the boys' football team won convincingly on the same evening.

Then our girls' football team had a good home win against Coleby. This was followed by an exciting tournament at Lincoln City Football Club. At the "league stage" they played 7 schools and beat 5 of them and drew the other two without conceding a goal! They therefore progressed to the semi-final where at full time the score against North Hykeham All Saints was 0-0. The match was then decided on penalties which unfortunately we lost 3-1. An excellent effort, especially as all of the matches were against bigger schools. Well done girls!

Our next big (huge!) fund raising event at school will be our Race Night on April 5th at The Red Lion in Dunston. Don't miss it! It is always a fantastic night.

Graham Boyall Headteacher

SERVICES FOR APRIL IN THE THREE PARISHES

HolyWeek

Sunday 1st

10.15am

Palm Sunday Group Service

Meet at Metheringham War Memorial for reading of Palm Gospel and blessing of Palm Crosses then process to St. Wilfrid's Church.

Monday 2nd

7.30pm Holy Communion – St. Oswald's Blankney

Tuesday 3rd

7.30pm Stations of the Cross – St. Peter's Dunston

Wednesday 4th

7.30pm Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

Thursday 5th

Maundy Thursday

9.00am

Holy Communion (and each Thursday) – St. Wilfrid's.

10.30am

Metheringham School Service @ St Wilfrid's.

7.30pm

Holy Communion with washing of hands and stripping of the altar.

Friday 6th

Good Friday

9.00am

Matins and Litany – St. Oswald's Blankney

2.00pm

Meditation – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

7.30pm

Compline – St. Peter's Dunston

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 8th | Easter Sunday |
| 9.00am | Holy Communion – St. Oswald's Blankney |
| 9.00am | Holy Communion – St. Peter's Dunston |
| 10.30am | Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's (S.School/Creche) |
| Sunday 15th | 2nd Sunday of Easter |
| 8.00am | Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham |
| 9.00am | Holy Communion – St. Peter's Dunston |
| 10.30am | Morning Worship with Baptism – St. Wilfrid's |
| Sunday 22nd | 3rd Sunday of Easter |
| 9.00am | Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion – St. Oswald's |
| 10.30am | Holy Communion and Baptism – St. Wilfrid's |
| 4.30pm | Worship and Praise Service – St. Wilfrid's |
| Sunday 29th | 4th Sunday of Easter |
| 10.30am | Group Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's |

WI AGM March 21st

The 2006 Committee stood again for 2007 with two extra co-opted members, Dot Howes and Coral Earnie. Audrey Webb was elected President. Cups for various competitions were presented, refreshments enjoyed and a pass the parcel game left over from Christmas.

Shirley Maddison gave an interesting report of the Annual Spring Council Meeting held in Spalding on March 13th. The main speaker was Tricia Stewart - the Original Calendar Girl.

Future Events : Area Group meeting - Bassingham March 28th. Promotional Stall at the Annual Parish Meeting on April 24th.

Next Meeting April 18th - Garden Colour throughout the year - a talk by Mr H Leach.

New Members always welcome. JS

Metheringham Conservation and Wildlife areas

South side of St Wilfrid's closed Churchyard and Ancient Spring Site (Drury Street)

These two areas are moving on as nature and I intend, slowly, with both flora and fauna improving. Work is done according to seasonal need and weather and time allowing. In about 2 to 3 years hence these areas will have become safe and lovely places for local wildlife (of the non-human kind) and for the gentle art of watching and listening by the caring kind (human). They will also have become part of a village "walks scheme" being set up by NKDC. This work is being done by a group of three, with non-financial support from both District Council and Lincoln diocese. Although some work can cost (i.e. the late cutting back of tall grasses and occasional cutting down of scrub where necessary). More volunteers would be very much welcome and the more we are the more successful this project will be. All you need is to give some of your time, no matter how little, when ever you can. You do not need to have a vast knowledge, just a willingness to help and a love of the wild side of life! Please put something back. It need not cost you anything but time and thought. Take care of ours and our children's future health and wellbeing by

starting here in our villages. The rest of the world might take a little bit longer!
Heather Morrison

Metheringham Over 60's Club

The Annual General Meeting was held on 7th March in the Village Hall. All officers and committee were re-elected to serve for a further year. The Club had another good year financially. After the official business had been completed members enjoyed a Fish and Chip supper followed by bingo. The coffee morning on the 10th March was well attended and we raised approximately £626.00, many thanks to all who supported this event. The winner of the Easter Egg was Mr T.Hedworth who guessed there were 31 chocolates enclosed, and Mrs J Blundell won the doll whose name was Annabel.

April is Members Signing on night with entertainment by Jazz - N.

Membership fees for the coming year are now £5.00 and Coach Fares for the trips will be £8.00 for members and £9.00 for non-members, these increases were voted on at the AGM. New members will be admitted at the May meeting subject to places being available. if you would like to put your name on the waiting list contact me on 323559.

Diary Dates : 4th April Members Signing on/Jazz-N.

2nd May Withern Singers

9th May Trip to Old Warden

5th June Walpole St Peters Flower Festival

Ann Crooks. Secretary

Nosy Neighbours

Churches must encourage nosy neighbours - in order to fight crime Attacks on churches could be drastically reduced if neighbours were nosier, says Ecclesiastical Insurance. Results for 2006 show that malicious damage and theft affecting Anglican churches continued at an unacceptably high level, with one in four churches suffering.

There was a sharp increase in the theft of lead and copper, encouraged by rising worldwide metal prices. Thefts of lead trebled and thefts of copper increased by nearly ten times, compared with 2005.

Such thefts are often carried out blatantly in broad daylight. "No doubt any witnesses think the thieves are genuine contractors. Basically people aren't nosy enough. We want churches to make friends with their neighbours, tell them about any scheduled work, and ask them to treat any other activity as suspicious," says John Coates, a spokesman for EI.

All Fool's Day

In years gone by, the rules surrounding April Fool were this: between midnight and noon on 1 April, everyone is 'fair game' to be made a fool of. It is the morning of the practical joke. But the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a 'fool's errand'. And so children would be sent to the dairy for a pint of dove's milk, or to the bookseller for The Life of Eve's Mother. Practical jokes on a bigger scale were played: in 1860 a vast number of people received an official looking

invitation to the Tower of London that read: 'Admit the Bearer and Friends to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions.' Precisely the same trick had been played in 1698.

Then, on the stroke of noon, tradition decrees, April Fools is finished. If anyone attempts devilry thereafter, even while the clock is still striking, it recoils on his own head. A child would then race through the sing-song formula : 'April-Fool-Day's-past-and-gone-you're-the-fool-and-I-am-none!'

Did you know.....

Ever wonder where the prayer ... 'May I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day' comes from? Richard of Chichester, a bishop in the 13th century, wrote it.

He began life as Richard de Wych of Droitwich, the son of a yeoman farmer. But Richard was a studious boy, and after helping his father on the farm for several years, refused an advantageous offer of marriage, and instead made his way to Oxford, and later to Paris and Bologna to study canon law.

In 1235 he returned to Oxford, and was soon appointed Chancellor, where he supported Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, in his struggles against King Henry III's misuse of Church funds. After further study to become a priest, Richard was in due course made a bishop himself. He was greatly loved. He was charitable and accessible, both stern and merciful to sinners, extraordinarily generous to those stricken by famine, and a brilliant legislator of his diocese. He decreed that the sacraments were to be administered without payment, Mass celebrated in dignified conditions, the clergy to be chaste, to practise residence, and to wear clerical dress. The laity were obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days, and to know by heart the Hail Mary as well as the Lord's Prayer and the Creed.

Richard was also prominent in preaching the Crusade, which he saw as a call to reopen the Holy Land to pilgrims, not as a political expedition. He died at Dover on 3 April 1253. In art, Richard of Chichester is represented with a chalice at his feet, in memory of his having once dropped the chalice at Mass! One ancient English church is dedicated to him.

And, of course, he is author of that famous prayer, now set to popular music, which runs in full:

'Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ for all the benefits thou hast given me, for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for me. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly, day by day.' PP

More Quotes from Parish Magazines

Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "Hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

The Rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing: "Break Forth Into Joy."

Keep your child safe on the Internet

Is your child safe on the internet? A guide for parents about internet safety, 'Help. I Want my Child to Stay Safe on the Net' contains important Internet safety do's and don'ts. Internet based child abuse is a serious and growing problem, and children from church backgrounds are by no means immune from this type of exploitation. Top tips for staying safe are highlighted at www.thinkuknow.co.uk. They include the following:

- Don't give out personal details online. This includes Messenger id, email addresses, mobile numbers and pictures.
- It's better to keep online mates online. Never meet up with strangers without taking a trusted adult.
- Remember that any pictures or videos published online can be changed or shared
- Some people lie online – not everyone is who they say they are
- It's never too late to tell someone if something makes you feel uncomfortable.
- Report online child sex abuse at www.thinkuknow.co.uk

75% of children and young people aged between 9-19 years have internet access at home.

According to the OfCom Communications Market Report 2006, 70% of young people aged between 16 and 24 are using new online social networking sites to make friends, share information and have fun. PP