

## Church Newsround – August 2010

ST WILFRID'S PARISH CHURCH  
HARVEST SUPPER  
IN THE CHURCH HALL  
FRIDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2010  
AT 7PM  
TICKETS £8  
PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS  
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM : Margaret Amos and Another Chance Shop

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### **Bishop's Letter - Such Devoted Sisters**

There was a time when Lincolnshire boasted more Monasteries per square mile than any other part of England. Bardney was one of the largest and most influential of them, and some were pioneering in their habits and lifestyle like the co-ed community founded by Gilbert at Sempringham. However, after the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century these religious communities all but disappeared from the landscape of England in general, and Lincolnshire in particular. It took until the 19<sup>th</sup> Century before a movement to refound religious communities took hold with Anglicans discovering for themselves the value of such power houses of prayer which had for so long been treated with suspicion as hotbeds of Roman Catholic subversion.

Some of these new foundations had houses in Lincolnshire, but during the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century they attracted fewer and fewer men and women prepared to commit to such lives of poverty, chastity and obedience. So here we are without even one such Community in our Diocese ...

... until now. For I am delighted to report that we have reached an agreement with the Community of St Francis. They are moving from their house at Compton Durville in Somerset and as part of their reshaping of the life of the province three sisters will re-locate to Metheringham, and establish the Vicarage there as one of their houses, to be known as San Damiano. Whilst they will be relatively few in number, they will be made very welcome as they re-claim part of our religious heritage which we thought had been lost for ever.

Of course, monastic houses were about more than prayer several times a day and a regular cycle of worship throughout the Christian year. They provided hospitality to pilgrims and wayfarers when travel on the roads could be hard and dangerous. They were committed to education and learning not only in biblical and theological studies, but many other disciplines as well. They provided spiritual direction and opportunities for retreat and reflection for those needing to come aside a while from the busyness of daily life. By no means least, they often pioneered new farming techniques as part of the agricultural revolution.

But what attracted the Franciscan Sisters to come to us was our insistence that we simply wanted them to pray for us and with us day by day. Yes, they will offer a ministry of service and care whenever and wherever they are called upon to do so, but Metheringham is right at the geographical centre of our Diocese, and we rejoice in the knowledge that a Community committed to lives of praise, prayer, petition and intercession will be the beating heart at the heart of all we seek to be and to do as the people of God in historic Lincolnshire. + John Lincoln

### **From the Registers**

#### **Funerals**

*May they rest in peace.*

Eric William Gillings. 76 Years. Died 7<sup>th</sup> May. Cremated 19<sup>th</sup> May.

Fred Darwood. 84 Years. Died 20<sup>th</sup> June. Burial 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Pearl Thelma Green. 76 Years. Died 26<sup>th</sup> June. Cremated 8<sup>th</sup> July.

Barbara Denise Steels. 70 Years. Died 27<sup>th</sup> June. Burial 8<sup>th</sup> July.

Peter Creasey. 79 years. Died 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Burial 15<sup>th</sup> July.

## St Wilfrid's News

The Penny Jar collection has so far collected £871 donated to the Fabric Fund of the Church, please keep on saving your small change. Thank you. MA.

### St Wilfrid's Church Fete & Flower and Produce Show

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July was a very hot day and the church Fete and Flower & Produce show went off very well. The sum of £567 was raised and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success, those helping to put it on and those who came to support the event. All the different stalls raised various amounts, but to me it doesn't matter whether it is a small and larger amount raised the different ones are needed to make the whole.

### The Results of the Show

<b>Flowers</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>
1 A single rose	Barbara Spurrier	Elsie Nind	Moira Sturdy
2 Three roses	Moira Sturdy	Barbara Spurrier	Elsie Nind
3 A sweet pea Bunch of Sweet	Barbara Spurrier	Malcolm Capps	Elsie Nind
4 Peas A Flower or	Barbara Spurrier	Malcolm Capps	Jenni Honisett
5 Stem	Christine Whitfield	Moira Sturdy	Jenni Honisett
6 Three flowers	Ann De Vries	Moira Sturdy	Paula Hill
<b>Vegetables</b>			
1 Potatoes	Elsie Nind	Paula Hill	Ann De Vries
2 Carrots	Elsie Nind		
3 Beans	Barbara Spurrier	Elsie Nind	Elsie Nind
4 Peas	Barbara Spurrier	Moira Sturdy	Paula Hill
5 Tomatoes	Paula Hill		
6 Vegetables A vegetable & a	Robert Pattinson Year 10	Robert Pattinson Year 11	
7 flower	Robert Pattinson Year 10	Robert Pattinson Year 11	
<b>Produce</b>			
1 Scones ( Savoury)	Cynthia Dobbs	Stella Whitehead	Val Mills
2 Scones (Fruit)	Cynthia Dobbs	Pam Reynolds	Val Mills
3 Victoria Sponge	Janet Wood	Moira Sturdy	Glenis Capps
<b>Floral</b>			
1 Table Decoration Flowers in Jam	Emily Capps	Robert Pattinson Year 11	William Capps
2 Jar	Moira Sturdy		
<b>Children's</b>			
1 Infants Picture of Flower	Dane Roberts	Callum Picken	Zoe Holvey
2 Junior Landscape	Charlotte	Group Yearv 5&6	Julia
3 General	Callum Taylor	Charlie P.	
4 Clay Model	Shaye Elmore	Eve Turner	Ben Whitehouse

### Dunston St. Peter's Church of England Primary School

Well, where do I start? We have had such a busy and exciting time during the last month, there is so much to tell you! The highlight was definitely the Cluster Choir Concert that took place on June 23<sup>rd</sup> in Lincoln Cathedral. There were 14 schools involved. Around 300 children sang to a huge audience of around 1000. It was an enormous pleasure to listen to Dunston's choir, who sang

beautifully, and also to all of the children singing together. A group of children have been to Siren FM, the University radio station, to make their own programme. They used interviews with relatives and neighbours that they had made during a topic on World War Two and turned them into a superb broadcast. All of the children have showed their excellent fitness during our traditional Sports Day and also during a mini World Cup tournament. We have enjoyed Strictly Come Dunston, our very own ballroom dancing contest, which was won by India and Joshua and also Dunston's Got Talent, which was won by Peggy and Rachael.

As I write this the Year 6 children are preparing for their Leavers' Service and they are full of mixed emotions; looking forward to a new challenge but feeling sad about leaving us!

Graham Boyall Head teacher

### **DUNSTON CHURCHES TOGETHER - SUNDAY SCHOOL ENDS - A FOND FAREWELL – BUT IS THIS THE END?????**

Affectionately known as Thursday Club, the children's ecumenical club in Dunston has ended after many years, following the retirement of leader Caroline Holden.

The Sunday School had previously been based in St Peters Church, moving to Dunston Chapel in 1999. Thursday nights proved more popular than a Sunday morning and the club grew in numbers, coordinated by numerous village Christian leaders and helpers.

In the early days more than 20 children were attending weekly and looking forward to a move to the teenage club known as RAVE (Religious and Very Exciting!) which was also proving very popular and run by Russ McLuckie. This closed last year.

At one time at least 80% of village children attended either clubs and the evidence of Gods work was overwhelming. Some children also came from the villages of Metheringham and Nocton too.

The Club held its farewell party on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

As a celebratory event Rev John Collins led a session called 'Godly Play'. Godly play is an approach where the teacher (Rev John) is placed in the role of spiritual supporter or guide who fully accepts that each child has his or her own relationship with God already. The teaching takes place in different ways at the same time: it is multi-modal and multi-sensory. We experienced the use of sand placed in a desert box and where figures were used to tell the story of Abraham.

"WOW" – the effect on us all was amazingly powerful!

We are now on the search for local people to help both Rev John and myself as co-leaders and helpers to continue to run Godly Play with the current club children who want to experience more.

Whilst it was a sad evening, we gave joyful thanks to all those numerous leaders and helpers over the years that have been guided by Gods spirit to work with Dunston children.

And.....we prayed for all those children who have attended both RAVE and Thursday Clubs, in the hope that their Christian journeys continue

Godly Play starts on Thursday September 30<sup>th</sup>. 6 - 7.15pm - Dunston chapel.

If you are called to help please contact: Jane on 01526 320110 or Rev John Corrie on 01526 830192

Jane Tuxworth Club Leader

### **Nocton Dairies**

In February Nocton Dairies Ltd. (a consortium of farmers comprising Peter Willes from Devon, David Barnes from Lancashire and Robert Howard from Nocton) submitted plans to develop an 8100 cow factory farm on Nocton Heath. The plans called for 52 acres of farm buildings to be developed (an area larger than the site of two Wembley Stadiums), the building of a number of colossal slurry pits, pumping the 210,000 tons of slurry produced each year over a major aquifer for the area and a slurry spreading plan stretching from Branston to Scopwick. Following a storm of local, national, international protest, a 'meet the developers' open forum in Potterhanworth, (where a poll was taken resulting in a 77 to 3 response against the plans) and a meeting with the Environment Agency, the developers withdrew their proposal for further technical assessment. Today we believe Nocton Dairies Ltd. are close to resubmitting revised plans for the factory farm. Whilst Nocton Dairies have been busy, so have a number of concerned local residents who have set up a local pressure group Campaign Against Factory Farming Operations (CAFFO).

If you would like to know more about the plans to build a factory farm close to our villages visit: [www. CAFFO.co.uk](http://www.CAFFO.co.uk) and if you want to know what it is like to live close to these operations, take a look at <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1292011/The-truth-mega-farms-Chemical-fumes->

[distressed-animals-poisoned-locals.html](#). Please don't let our environment be blighted for lack of information !

Once the Nocton Dairies' plans are resubmitted expect to hear more from CAFFO in the media and through your door in opposition to these plans for a milk factory farm on such a huge scale blighting our environment.

Ian Glaister,

*Anyone like to respond to the above article ?*

*Please contact the Ed.*

### SERVICES FOR AUGUST IN THE THREE PARISHES

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>The Ninth Sunday after Trinity</b>
8.00am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Peter's
10.30am	United Service – St. Wilfrid's
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>(and each Thursday )</b>
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Tenth Sunday after Trinity</b>
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Oswald's
9.00am	Morning Worship – St. Peter's
10.30am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity</b>
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Peter's
10.30am	Morning Worship – St. Wilfrid's
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity</b>
9.00am	Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion – St. Oswald's Blankney
10.30am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity – Group Service</b>
10.30am	Holy Communion – St Oswald's
<b>September</b>	
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity</b>
8.00am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Peter's
10.30am	United Service – Metheringham Methodist Chapel
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>August Prayer Breakfast at 8.00am</b>

### W I Report

Marion Foers delivered an interesting well structured talk with slides about Beatrix Potter. The slides were old photos, pictures of characters from her books and scenes around Hill Top Farm where she lived in the Lake District. BP was one of the founders of the National trust. She was a big conservationist who used her wealth to up-keep the countryside. Her restrictive Victorian childhood, privileged country holidays gave her time to develop artistic talents, explore and observe. Apparently she contributed a science paper on Fungi which she was not allowed to present personally – being a woman !

Many of us have seen the film and were familiar as children with her books.

The trip to Holkham Hall in Norfolk on the 15<sup>th</sup> July was enjoyable. We avoided the showers. The Bygone collections were things we could remember as children. E.g. Farm equipment, domestic appliances – thank goodness for washing machines. The hall was surrounded by extensive parkland overlooking a lake.

Next Meeting Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August – Gift Wrapping – Jane Means.

Metheringham WI now has 50 members !

### **It's Good to be a Methodist !! - Methodists live longer than the average Brit.**

Earlier this summer Stanley Lucas of Cornwall died, aged 110 (born on 15 January, 1900). Stanley was thought to be not only the oldest male member of the British Methodist Church, but one of the oldest men in the world.

Is this sort of longevity characteristic of Methodists? Seemingly, yes. An analysis of family announcements printed in the Methodist Recorder shows that in 1973 the mean age of death for Methodist laity was 77.9 years for men and 83 for women. By 2008 these figures had risen to 83.9 and 91.1 respectively – well above the life expectancy for the UK population as a whole (77 for men and 82 for women).

Dr Richard Vautrey, GP and Vice President of the Methodist Conference, said, "I'm sure there are many different factors at work....but I would guess that our emphasis on caring for our spiritual as well as physical health, avoiding excess, engaging with people in our communities and being good neighbours all help."

Methodist commentators, both in the Victorian era and since, believed that the longevity of Methodists was not accidental. They posited a clear link between a religious, 'clean' and virtuous life on the one hand and a long one on the other. The avoidance of physical and moral excess was especially advocated.

The Church's annual governing body, the Methodist Conference, begins every year with singing "And are we yet alive?", a hymn by Charles Wesley.

PP

### **Oswald – a king with faith, courage and humility**

Many Christians have indulged in fantasies from time to time about doing something spectacular for God, which would be remembered for centuries afterwards. Oswald, who lived from 605 to 642AD, was in a position to do so.

He was a King, but in those times such a title exposed him to danger as well as power. His father Aethelrith was a great warrior who laid the foundations of the great kingdom of Northumbria. But Aethelrith was killed by a rival, and Oswald was only twelve years old when he was driven into exile with his elder sister and two younger brothers. For their own safety, all were taken to Irish territory in the West of Scotland.

The three brothers were educated by the Christian monks on Iona. Meanwhile, warfare raged in Northumbria, and in due course the time came for Oswald to make a difficult decision. Should he remain in safety, or return to claim his kingdom? In 632 his older brother led an expedition there to sue for peace, but instead he was put to the sword. It was a time of broken dreams and bitter grief for the young Oswald, who must have spent many hours in prayer before he decided to risk his life by following his brother south.

In his famous book, The Ecclesiastical History of England, Bede tells us that Oswald prepared to meet his enemies Cadwallon and Penda in battle on a December night at a place which is now called Heavenfield. His small army was likely to be outnumbered and victory seemed impossible. But that night, Oswald had a vision of St Columba, the founder of Iona. Columba prophesied that Oswald would be king, and reminded him of God's words to Joshua at the river Jordan, "Be strong, and of good courage.....for you will be the leader of these people as they occupy this land."

Before battle commenced, Oswald made a rough cross from two young trees and held it upright until soldiers were able to fill in the hole around it. Then he led his army in a prayer that God would bring victory and deliverance to his people. He also promised that if they survived, he would send for missionaries from Iona to bring the Christian faith to Northumbria.

Oswald's subsequent victory has become part of the region's folklore, commemorated by the name of that battlefield and the more permanent cross which now stands at Heavenfield. Many leaders would have regarded such a triumph as the high point of their career, advanced to the royal palace and quickly forgotten their promise to God. But Oswald remained faithful, and in due course St Aidan arrived in the new kingdom and made Lindisfarne the centre of his ministry.

Now it was time for Oswald to reveal a quality less frequently associated with kings, but even more vital to the spread of God's work. That quality was humility. As the sponsor and protector of Aidan, he could easily have imposed his own agenda on this new mission. Such a test came early, when Aidan declined Oswald's offer of resources at court in Bamburgh castle, and chose the remoter location of Lindisfarne.

Not only did Oswald accept the monk's decision gracefully; he continued to spend many uncomfortable weeks on the road acting as Aidan's interpreter. His willingness to lay aside his kingly privileges and play second fiddle to a spiritual leader ensured that the Gospel spread quickly through the new kingdom and transformed many lives.

Within a few years, dark times returned to Northumbria. Oswald was slain in battle and his brother Oswin succeeded to the throne. Penda continued to wreak havoc with his marauding raids; on one famous occasion, Aidan watched him attack the royal fortress as he prayed on the Farne Islands, and it is written that his intercessions caused the wind to change direction and beat back the flames from the castle gates.

But through it all, the light of Christianity continued to flourish and grow. Aidan is rightly remembered as the missionary who brought the good news to Northumbria, but he could not have succeeded without Oswald, the man who was brave enough to claim an earthly kingdom, yet obedient enough to play a humbler role in advancing a heavenly one.

Prayer from the liturgy for St Oswald's day (August 5th), written by the Northumbria Community:

"I place into your hands, Lord, the choices that I face. Guard me from choosing the way perilous of which the end is heart-pain and the secret tear.

"May I feel your presence at the heart of my desire, and so know it is for Your desire for me. Thus shall I prosper, thus see that my purpose is from You, thus have power to do the good which endures." (Copyright Northumbria Community Trust, 1996) PP

### **How green is your church? Churches respond to environment challenge**

More and more churches, of all denominations, are seeking to affiliate themselves to the organisation Eco-Congregation, which aims to encourage churches to consider environmental issues within a Christian context. It also enables local churches to make positive contributions in their life and mission.

Following the launch of the scheme in 2000, some 200 churches took up the challenge to apply for an environmental check-up within the first two years. In March 2002 the first Eco-Congregation Award was given to Evesham Methodist Church. By the end of 2006 there were over 100 Award-winning churches (from a variety of denominations) in Britain and Ireland. The total now (as this report is written) is 164 and rising. There is even one Eco-cathedral (Chelmsford).

An eco-diocese scheme (for Anglicans) is just getting under way, with similar arrangements for the synods of United Reform churches and Methodist circuits.

The awards are designed to affirm the good environmental work of churches and witness to the wider world that churches care for God's creation. To get an award, a church must undertake an environmental check-up or audit and also develop initiatives in three areas: spiritual (worship and teaching), practical and mission (outreach on environmental matters). Eco-congregation can help to provide resources (free) if needed.

The Award assessment is a visit to the church by two local people (for details see the website address below). The scheme developed from a partnership between the Government-funded charity ENCAMS (which runs the Keep Britain Tidy campaign) and the Environmental Issues Network of Churches Together in Great Britain and Ireland.

This valuable work will be publicised at the Greenbelt Festival this month [August] and there will be a special conference in September.

For more details: tel: 0114 2636421 or write to Eco-congregation (England & Wales), The Innovation Centre, 217 Portobello, Sheffield S1 4DP. Or visit [www.ecocogregation.org](http://www.ecocogregation.org). PP

**A Breton fisherman's prayer** - Protect me, dear Lord; my boat is so small and your sea is so big.

### **On the perils of leaving your pulpit**

The Rectory, St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

It was good of you to take Evensong here last Sunday while I was at my old college re-union – but I would prefer you used the pulpit in future when preaching. How could Colonel Brockle complete 'The Times' crossword and Miss Balmer her knitting with you constantly walking up and down in

front of them? They found it most disconcerting, as out of politeness, they were obliged to listen to you. It was a unique experience they do not wish to repeat.

Those few who defy Anglican tradition and sit at the front of the church were also placed in the dilemma of trying to decide whether they should keep turning in their pews as you paraded down the nave and then rotating back to the front as you re-emerged up the side aisle. It did Lady Plumtree's vertigo no good at all. It also allowed people to see that you were wearing suede shoes. For many of our worshippers, the most appalling of heresies are as nothing when compared to brown shoes under a cassock.

I appreciate you made heroic efforts and got your sermon down to 30 minutes, but that is still 20 minutes longer than they anticipated and 29 minutes longer than their attention span. That is why the noise you thought was sidesmen counting the morning's collection while you preached was in fact the organist jangling his keys in an attempt to remind you that his oven timer had long since switched off and his casserole was getting cold.

No, use the pulpit in future; that is the reason why stonemasons 600 years ago put twenty tons of marble in our church in the first place and it would be a shame to disappoint them. It also means that from a distance of 100 yards and a height of 20 feet, no one can tell that the glass of water I use liberally while preaching is in fact a gin and tonic.

I concede that our pulpit has its dangers. I have known several bishops come to grief as their robes wrap themselves around the newel post as they ascend the steps. One, unable to untangle himself, was obliged to preach while half way up the steps and with his back to the congregation, while our vergers were dispatched to find a pair of scissors.

Perhaps, before your next visit, we may install a mechanical floor in the pulpit, so that after 10 minutes, it slowly lowers you into the crypt while the congregation can get on with singing the last hymn before getting home in decent time.

Your loving uncle, Eustace.

### **Whispers**

A young curate lost his voice at the local football match one Saturday and, being due to preach the next morning, he thought he should call in and consult his vicar. So he rang the vicarage bell and the door was answered by a very attractive teenage daughter.

"Is your dad here?" the curate managed to whisper very quietly.

"No," she whispered back, thinking she had got the message. "Come on in!"

### **Don't go far!**

The curate went to the bank and asked for a statement of his account, adding: "We want to know how far afield we can go for our holiday." Handing him his statement the cashier enquired very gently: "Have you got a field at the back of your garden, sir?"

### **Staying power**

Hospital patients' comment about the new curate: "He can stay longer in an hour than most people do in a week."

### **Nearly omnipotent**

The curate was giving his young daughter a cuddle before she went to bed. As he picked her up and hugged her tight, she said: "Daddy, you're so strong! I really think you'll be God one day!"

### **Slow**

A curate consistently arrived late for work until his long-suffering vicar asked him what was wrong. "My problem," explained the curate, "is that I sleep very slowly."

### **Don't know nothin'**

When Columbus started out, he didn't know where he was going. When he got there, he didn't know where he was. When he got back, he didn't know where he had been. And he did it all on other people's money. Can't help thinking that Columbus reminds me of some teenagers who go on family holidays...

### **Sky fright**

An airliner flew into a violent thunderstorm and was soon bumping around in the sky. One very nervous lady happened to be sitting next to a clergyman and turned to him for comfort. "Can't you do something?" she demanded forcefully.

"I'm sorry ma'am," said the reverend gently. "I'm in sales, not management."

**Sky at night**

The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage.

**Hole for one**

A golfing priest, after having been beaten by an elderly parishioner, returned to the clubhouse somewhat depressed. "Cheer up," said the layman. "Remember, you'll eventually be burying me some day." "Yes," said the priest. "But even then it will be your hole!"

**"Dear Vicar....**

- I know God loves everybody but then he never met my sister. Yours sincerely, Arnold. Age 8.
- Please say in your sermon that Peter Peterson has been a good boy all week. I am Peter Peterson. Sincerely, Pete. Age 9.
- My father should be a minister too. Every day he gives me a sermon about something. Robert Anderson, age 11.
- I'm sorry I can't leave more money in the plate, but my father didn't give me a raise in my allowance. Could you have a sermon about a raise in my allowance? Love, Patty. Age 10.
- My mother is very religious. She goes to play bingo at church every week even if she has a cold. Yours truly, Annette. Age 9.
- I would like to go to heaven someday because I know my brother won't be there. Stephen. Age 8.
- I think a lot more people would come to your church if you moved it to Disneyland. Loreen. Age 9.
- I liked your sermon where you said that good health is more important than money but I still want a raise in my allowance. Sincerely, Eleanor. Age 12.

God lives in our bathroom, every morning Dad says "God, are you still in there ?"