

Church Newsround March 2010

MEGA QUIZ & FISH SUPPER
In Aid of St Wilfrid's Church Roof
Friday 12th March 2010
7.00 pm at the Church Hall
BYOB
Tickets £5.00 Each
Call Rod on 07904 017 005

Lent Lunches 2010.

19th and 26th March and 2nd April (Good Friday) St. Wilfrid's Church Hall 12.00 – 1.30pm
Home-made Soup, Bread, butter and cheese, Tea or coffee. £2.50 Ongoing Raffle, to be drawn on 2nd April Raffle Prizes still welcomed.
All Proceeds to The Tear Fund and Air Ambulance.
All offers of help and queries to June Greenhough tel. 328642
Organised on behalf of our three Parishes.

Remembering Bishop King

Lincoln has more of its Bishops with designated days in the Anglican Calendar than any other except Canterbury. They are Birinus (in those days Bishop of Dorchester), Hugh, Robert Grosseteste and Edward King.

It has been said that in the old days Communion Vessels were made of wood whilst Bishops were all gold – and now it's the other way round! Well, perhaps I had better leave others to make that judgement but we can indeed be proud of the part the See of Lincoln has played in the spiritual life of our nation through its most distinguished Bishops.

That is why the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Diocese 5 – 8th March to share with us in marking the Centenary of the death of Bishop Edward King is so important. Archbishop Rowan is a person of profound holiness allied to immense learning and pastoral sensitivity. He stands with the finest leaders of our Church as an example of Christ-like faithfulness and service – and is therefore qualified more than most to do justice to the memory of Edward King.

During his time with us, he will visit Parishes in the north and south of the Diocese, meet community leaders and educationalists, and he will see at first hand some examples of our outreach to the most vulnerable people in our society. He will engage with our growing number of people in training for Ordained and Lay Ministry, and he will Preside at Eucharists in the Cathedral and St. James, Grimsby.

Tickets for the Cathedral Eucharist at 3 p.m. on Saturday 6th March have been sent to Clergy, Readers and PCC Secretaries in order to try and secure as wide a representation as possible. But Archbishop Rowan's Lecture at 11 a.m. on 6th March in the Cathedral will be open to all – no ticket required and no charge will be made. The title is **Faith, Hope and Charity in Tomorrow's World** and will be of general interest to Church people and non-Church goers alike. Of course, early arrival will secure the better seats, but CCTV and screens should ensure that everyone will be able to see and hear well.

Please contact my office by telephone or e-mail (01522 534701 bishop.lincoln@lincoln.anglican.org) if you have any queries about these arrangements. + John Lincoln

Funerals

May they rest in peace

Harry Alfred Tucker aged 85 years Died 23 December 2009.

Gavin Keith Gray aged 33 years Died 6 December 2009.

Don't forget that the next two family church services will take place on Thursday, February 25th and Thursday, March 25th (both starting at 2.15). You are most welcome to come along and join us.

Graham Boyall Head Teacher

Metheringham Over 60s Club

On 2nd December 124 members and guests attended our Annual Christmas Dinner. The catering was excellent and we assume that all those who attended enjoyed themselves because we have not had any complaints.

Unfortunately, our first event of 2010 was cancelled because of the snow and ice conditions. This was to ensure that members were not put at undue risk of injury. The chairman Margaret Amos, has re-booked the presentation on Bees, possibly in April.

Wednesday 13th January, 22 members travelled by coach to Nottingham to see the Pantomime 'Jack in the Beanstalk' starring Nigel Havers. Despite the weather, snow and ice, everyone enjoyed themselves.

Just to remind you - diary notes:

Wednesday 3rd March - We will hold our Annual General Meeting in the village hall. Doors open at 6.30 p.m. and the meeting commences at 7.00p.m. The meeting will be followed by a fish & chip supper and we look forward to seeing as many members as possible.

Saturday 6th March and Saturday 13th June - Coffee Mornings will be held in the village hall between 1000-1130 a.m. Open to all, we have a raffle, a bric-a-brac stall including books and a cake stall. Any items for donation kindly accepted.

Current club members re-sign during April and new members are accepted during May. There is a waiting list for membership but you are welcome to join the list by contacting the Chairman Margaret Amos on Tel: 01526 321049

Non-members aware welcome at all our meetings as guests for a fee of £2.00p and this includes a cup of tea or coffee with a biscuit during the interval.

Wednesday 5th May - new members sign up and the entertainment will be by Tim Rogers, who sing Buddy Holly and John Denver songs amongst others.

Coach trips will be on the 2nd June, 7th July and the 4th August and details of destinations will be notified to members and guests initially at the AGM.

Dave Williams Secretary

St Wilfrid's 2nd Annual Open Flower and Produce Show will be held on Saturday, 10th July. Yes I know it's the World Cup but England won't be in the Final until Sunday.

To help you grow some exhibits here are a few suggestions: You should have already have :-

- Started early seed potatoes into growth by putting them somewhere warm. Stood them up so the end with most eyes, called the rose end, is uppermost. Egg boxes are ideal for this.

Good light is not essential but helps produces sturdier shoots.

Try Sharpe's Express. It was introduced in 1900 by Charles Sharpe of Sleaford and is pear shaped with bright white flesh, a smooth skin and an excellent 'new potato' flavour. It is best cooked whole (either boiled or steamed) and eaten either hot with butter or cold with salads.

- Sown sweet peas in pots and put them in an unheated greenhouse or cold frame. Nip out top two leaves when the seedlings have developed four. In March/April its time to plant out. Be guided by local weather conditions and not the calendar. However, if the ground is cold and/or very wet it is best to wait. The plants will soon catch up.

MC

WI Report

The Life of an Auctioneer and Cricketer – from bat to gavel and back was the talk at the meeting held on the 17th Feb.

Alan Porter alternated between tales of his love of cricket and job as an auctioneer. Don Bradman was Alan's idol and as a boy made his way to see him play at the Oval – Cost, a mere 6d in old money. Now a day ticket costs £92. !

He has a small museum of cricket memorabilia, 1st sweater knitted by Mum and Freddie Truman's pipe. He promotes cricket in schools and clubs and has visited every county that plays cricket.

He became an auctioneer and valuer of mainly antiques after National Service in the Army. A Ming vase made £61,000 at Sotheby's.

What is a gavel – I now know. Bats are more easily recognizable.

Next Meeting March 17th AGM plus Bag Beetle Drive, all will be explained.

JS

Guide for PCCs missing out on investment income

PCC members of churches with cash reserves are being urged to review where these reserves are invested. Parishes are potentially missing out on significant investment income, according to the experts. Says one: "It is important that we are good stewards of all that is entrusted to us, whether personally or as parishes and dioceses, and to review our stewardship at least once a year is good practice." A short guide for PCC members has been produced to guide PCCs through the wide range of alternatives for investments that are not equity linked.

(visit <http://www.parishresources.org.uk/reserves/>) PP

1.1 million still in the local C of E each Sunday

According to the latest attendance figures available (2008), attending a local C of E church is still all part of a typical week for 1.1 million people. And around 1.7 million people continue to attend some sort of Church of England service each month. For every 50 people attending church or cathedrals on a typical Sunday, another 10 attend during the week and an extra 37 in total over a month. PP

Unwired for sound: Church joins campaign for compensation for organisations "evicted" from special events frequency

Hundreds of churches could face bills to replace or retune sound equipment rendered useless by changes to the way that radio frequencies are allocated. It has prompted the Church of England to join an industry-led campaign to press Government to provide adequate compensation for affected groups, and parishes are being encouraged to write to their MP to maintain pressure on the subject.

The changes will affect most churches using four or more wireless microphones, and the unexpected bill could total as much as £1 million for Church of England churches and cathedrals alone, according to an estimate.

To help draw attention to the plight faced by churches using significant amounts of wireless equipment, the Church of England has joined Save Our Sound UK (www.saveoursounduk.com), a collection of theatres, entertainment and event production companies and technical trade bodies, which has formed around this issue, to lobby government for an appropriate funding package that meets the real cost that will be born by these organisations when the channels are 'migrated'. PP

St David's Day

1 March is St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks. Shakespeare called this custom 'an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request' - but nobody knows the reason. Why should anyone have ever 'requested' that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It's a mystery!

We do know that David - or Dafydd - of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church.

Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others - living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi. PP

Mothering Sunday

There is an old Jewish saying:

*God could not be everywhere,
and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day. PP

(Mother's Day was something dreamed up by the Ad Men to sell more cards & flowers ? Ed)

Gwynllyw and Gwladys

Gwynllyw and Gwladys should be the patron saints of all parents who embarrass their children with their behaviour in public.

Gwynllyw was a chieftain of SE Wales in the 6th century, and he was definitely 'one of the lads' - spending his days binge drinking and trying to kick the brains out of anyone who crossed his path. This was a trial for Cadoc, his Christian son, who did not care to bring any friends home - in case his father attacked them on the spot.

His mother was not exactly Mrs Beeton, either. Gwladys had come from a family of 24 children, where she'd learnt survival but not any refined manners. Violence was her preferred form of hospitality, as well.

Even when Cadoc somehow managed to convert them both to Christianity, Gwynllyw and Gwladys did not become the sort of couple you'd want in your home group at church. After they moved to Stow Hill, near Newport in Gwent, they got it into their heads that the Lord wanted them clean - and cold. So each day they would strip stark naked and walk for a mile up to the river Usk - both winter and summer alike - and back again - in the nude.

Poor Cadoc. Some parents are simply eccentric - and embarrass their children. PP

Where does your time go?

Have you ever got to the end of the day and wondered where the time has gone? Days, weeks, months can fly past. Before we know where we are there is another birthday or anniversary. Maybe it's time to pause and reflect on the day or year, notice what is around, discover God in the middle of it all. Here are some ideas you may like to try.

Listen Try simply listening. Listen to whatever sounds are around with complete attention for a few minutes. How many sounds can you hear? Is there anything you have not noticed before?

Feel Hold a smooth pebble. Take some time to feel the smoothness of the stone. Look at its colour and texture. Feel its weight in your hand. Great forces have gone into the making of your stone. Now it is small and still. Hold it as you talk to God about what is in your mind.

Look Let a candle, a cross, a picture or icon become a focus for your attentiveness. Or sit in the garden and let a tree, leaf etc. be that focus. Sit and look at it. Allow yourself to look at it rather than think about it. When you are ready, talk to God about what you see.

Breathe Choose a short prayer or a few words from the Bible. Repeat it in time with your breathing. The Jesus Prayer can be used in this way "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, be merciful to me, a sinner". Or simply, "Jesus". Try to breath naturally, without over breathing.

An empty chair Sometimes a chair becomes something to pile things on to—a bag of knitting, books, newspapers..... Take a chair and put it near the place where you are sitting. In your imagination put onto it anything you are finding difficult or heavy at the moment. Share

it with God. Put onto it anything that you are glad about. Appreciate it and enjoy God appreciating it with you.....

Or you may like to simply imagine Jesus sitting on the empty chair. Sit in his company. Talk with him if you want to. Tell him about your day. Listen to him as well. PP

Hedgehogs don't like decking

Is your garden hedgehog-friendly? A conservationist from Hull University has warned that hedgehogs could well disappear from Britain within the next 20 years because of the trend in using paving and decking in so many millions of gardens. The 'makeover' trend restricts the animals' access to feeding areas. PP

How wild is our churchyard? Can we make it wilder?

Soon another growing year will begin in our churchyard. And the message to us from the experts is that we should aim more to 'manage' our churchyard than to 'mow' it. We need to give space to help endangered plant species survive.

That is the recent message from the CofE's national environmental campaign, Shrinking the Footprint, which has signed up to the United Nations' International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). The Church of England is one of 300 UK partners who have joined the global campaign. It involves almost 1000 organisations celebrating "the variety of life on Earth".

Did you know that an estimated two thirds of the CofE's 16,000 churches (around 10,000) have churchyards which collectively cover the area of a small National Park? Around 6,000 of these already contribute to the biodiversity of our country - both in rural and urban areas. One parish in Bedfordshire has recorded more than 100 species of wildflowers in its churchyard. Another, also in Bedfordshire has won an award from the Campaign to Protect Rural England as an example of what churchyards can do with its community-led conservation project, including 'adopt a grave'. PP

GOOD SAMARITAN

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."

DID NOAH FISH? [This is the best one so far this year !]

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?"

"No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms."

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23.. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

UNANSWERED PRAYER

The vicar's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she him why..

"Well, dear," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon." "How come He doesn't answer it?" she asked.

BEING THANKFUL

A Rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old boy, "So your mother says your prayers for you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?"

The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"

A MEN / A GIRL

When my daughter, Kelli, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past). For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelli would

say, "And a girl." This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing. My curiosity got the best of me and I asked her, "Kelli, why do you always add! the part about a girl?" Her response, "Because everybody always finish their prayers by saying A Men!"

SAY A PRAYER

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away.

"Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer." said his mother. "I don't need to," the boy replied. "Of course, you do.." his mother insisted.

"We always say a prayer before eating at our house." "That's at our house." Johnny explained. "But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook!"

Signs and Symbols in our churches: Incense

A number of churches use incense within their worship; some as a regular feature, others on particularly 'high' or 'special' occasions, such as Easter and Christmas, yet others only as a part of one-off informal participative services.

'Incense' is a combination of natural gums, plants and waxes, each different combination giving a unique fragrance. You can find incense in many different forms in local shops for use in the home – sticks, cones, within wax to melt on a heated plate and so on.

In churches it's most common to use incense in the form of small grains which are placed on burning charcoal.

Incense was used in worship long before the time of Jesus. It's sweet smell and its rising smoke give it the image of a person's prayers rising up to God. It's no surprise that the psalmist says in Psalm 141, "Let my prayer come like incense before you."

Each granule when placed on a heated coal immediately emits a strong perfume and clearly perceptible smoke. When a number of grains are placed together the result is a powerful visible reminder that whilst alone we can be heard and seen, together we are far more potent and noticeable.

The slightest time of burning can leave an aroma long after the heat of the burner is quenched and the incense itself is consumed. PP

On the nonsense of a lavatory at church

The Rectory St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

This year, the rigours of Lent have taken second place to a far more pressing matter: the installation of a lavatory at St. James the Least. Personally, I entirely disapprove of this additional sign of decadence in our moral fibre; we have survived perfectly happily for the last 800 years without one, so why is there such an urgent need now? And being surrounded by acres of fields, there seems to be a completely acceptable alternative.

It also spoils the pleasure I used to take, informing ushers at weddings, having liberally refreshed themselves at our local pub before the Service, that we have no facilities and that they would just have to wait. Their look of pained resignation, developing to clear signs of repentance as the Service progressed, was most cheering. It also meant that wedding parties did not linger after the Service but disappeared with commendable speed to safe havens.

I anticipate that now we have the thing, a sub-committee will inevitably form to devise a commissioning Service for the person who will be in charge of its maintenance. I can already foresee Lady Bartlett proposing an appropriate set of robes for the office holder – although it will need some tact to select suitable insignia on the sleeves.

In fact, the project has not been entirely successful; we still need to have a lock fitted and so at present, occupants have been advised to sing hymns loudly, preferably something rousing; "Onward Christian soldiers" would be ideal. A hymn book has been installed as an *aide memoire*.

The greater difficulty arises from our antiquated plumbing system. A member of the

congregation can leave a Service perfectly discreetly; they can enter the lavatory unseen by anyone, but on flushing, water is drawn through pipes running the length of the inside of the building with a thunderous roar that obliges me to stop preaching until the cataract has subsided. By the time the customer returns quietly into church, all noise has ceased and they remain oblivious of the chaos they caused and the stoic politeness of the congregation. I am sure that in your worship centre you will have lavish cloakrooms furnished with colour co-ordinated walls and towels, baby changing facilities and video monitors relaying everything going on, so that users will not be denied a single second of your hour-long sermons. . Our congregation should be grateful for what they now have. And to think that someone even suggested it should have heating!

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Hospital update

A 75 year old lady rang her local hospital with a polite enquiry. "Please could you give me some information on one of your patients? She is Mrs Tiptree in Ward 3. She was admitted last week with chest pains and I just want to know if her condition has deteriorated, stabilised or improved?"

The nurse on the ward checked the notes. "I'm pleased to say that Mrs Tiptree's condition has improved. She has regained her appetite, her temperature has steadied and after some routine checks tonight, she should be well enough to go home tomorrow."

"Oh that's wonderful news, I'm so happy, thank you ever so much!"

"You seem very relieved, are you a close friend or relative?"

"No, I'm Mrs Tiptree. Nobody tells me anything in here!" PP

All in the month of : March

It was 100 years ago:- on 8th March 1910, that John Moore-Brabason became the first person in the UK to qualify as a pilot.

It was 80 years ago:- on 6th March 1930 that Clarence Birdseye first launched frozen food for sale – in Springfield Massachusetts. It was a success from the start.

It was 75 years ago:- on 16th March 1935 that Adolf Hitler was on the march.... he ordered the rearming of Germany, in violation of the Treaty of Versailles.

It was 50 years ago:- on 21st March 1960, that the Sharpeville Massacre took place in South Africa. Police opened fire on a group of black anti-Apartheid demonstrators, killing 69 and wounding 180.

It was 40 years ago:- on 5th March 1970 that The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons came into effect, having been ratified by 43 nations.

It was 30 years ago:- on 4th March 1980, that Robert Mugabe was elected as Zimbabwe's first black prime minister.

It was 25 years ago:- on 2nd March, 1985, that the US Government approved a screening test for AIDS, allowing contaminated blood to be excluded from blood transfusions.

It was 20 years ago this month: - on 31st March, 1990, that there were poll tax riots in London

It was 15 years ago this month:- on 2nd March 1995, that the British 'rogue trader' Nick Leeson was arrested for his role in the collapse of Barings Bank.

It was 10 years ago:- on 26th March, 2000, that Vladimir Putin was elected President of the Russian Federation. PP