

Church Newsround – May 2010

An evening of *Songs from the Shows* by the Hi – Notes.
in the Church Friday 14th May 7.30pm. Nibbles. Tickets £5.

ORGAN RECITAL.

An organ recital followed by cheese and wine will be held at St. Peters' Church, Dunston on Saturday June, 26th 2010 at 6.00 p.m.
Organist:- Rosemary Field.
Proceeds to St Peters'
Admission: £5.00 (£3.00 concessions) on the door.

Christian Aid Week 9th - 15th May 2010

“ Going door to door so that someone in a slum in Kenya can change their life is amazing”

Catherine Nyaata, Nairobi, Kenya

Poverty robs people of their dignity, freedom and hope. Christian Aid believes that it is an outrage against humanity. Christian Aid tries to combat world poverty. They try to do this by funding long term development work, responding to emergencies and challenging unjust systems which make and keep people poor. It is the official development agency of 41 church denominations in the U.K. and Ireland but helps people of all faiths and none.

For every £1 given 80p is spent on charitable giving and 19p on fund raising and 1p accounting for the funds entrusted to them. Christian Aid works in 48 countries.

Each collector raises £30 on average.

What can I do? You could deliver or collect a few envelopes. Put up a poster. Remind people it is Christian Aid Week. Pray for the success of the campaign or make a donation and gift aid it. This gives Christian Aid an extra 28p in the pound.

If you want to help please contact Malcolm Capps, 37 High Street, Metheringham Lincoln Tel. 10526 321541

Bishop's Letter - “I have seen the Church and it works”

So it was that the Archbishop of Canterbury summed up his visit to the Diocese to mark with us the Centenary of the death of Bishop Edward King.

We worked him pretty hard! From a hugely well-attended Conference on Fresh Expressions of Church at the Lincolnshire Show Ground on Friday, right through to lunch at Christ Church, Stamford on Monday he took in as many aspects of Lincolnshire life that we could put his way.

For many the Archbishop's Lecture followed by a wonderfully moving Eucharist in the Cathedral will live long in the memory, but he himself was especially touched by witnessing at first hand examples of how Churches in all parts of the Diocese are engaging with the local community – and especially with some of the most hard to reach people in our communities.

As he put it in a letter to me following the visit: “I have seen the Church and it works”.

For me the tone was set by his description of the Church as “the echo chamber of the eternal word”. That wonderfully evocative definition captures exactly what we are about as Christians.

The eternal word of God has become flesh and dwelt among us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Church echoes that good news as we seek to share in word and deed the love and care of Christ in our communities and congregations. It is the calling we share as fellow-workers for Christ – and amongst our fellow-workers Archbishop Rowan will continue to encourage and inspire us.

My sincere thanks go to all those who made the weekend so memorable and worthwhile.

With every Blessing and joyful Easter greetings,

+ John Lincoln

St Wilfrid's PCC NEWS

The Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place in St. Wilfrid's Church on Monday 12th April. Mr. Nigel Dickin, Lay Chair of Graffoe Deanery, welcomed everyone and conducted the meeting.

Mrs. Margaret Amos and Mr. Richard Brewin were duly elected churchwardens for the next twelve months, and Mrs. Ann De-Vries was thanked for her six years as churchwarden.

There are now 76 names on the church Electoral Roll. Various reports were given on the activities of the church, the financial position, the fabric of the building, the workings of the Deanery Synod and the MAP Group, plus how 'Another Chance' is getting on.

Three PCC members were re-elected and join the existing members, and there is one new member. All the sidespersons were re-elected en bloc with one addition, and the Independent Financial Adviser was re-appointed.

Mr. Dickin thanked everyone for attending, and for all the work done by everybody in the life of the Church. JH

BIG THANK YOU

From the three Parishes to all those who supported and helped with the Lent Lunches.

As a result we have been able to send £250 each to the TEAR FUND & Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance. JG

St Wilfrid's Church Flowers.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the flowers for Easter and to Ann for doing the Easter Garden. It all looked beautiful. A special thank you too to all who gave such generous donations for the flowers. It was very much appreciated. DB

More News

Just to keep you all up to date as to what is going on with the Glebe land and The Vicarage. The Glebe land has been put up for sale and assuming the sale goes through, the Lincoln Diocesan Trust and Board of Finance Limited will invest the net proceeds of the sale, with the income being applied towards the cost of the annual stipends. This, in turn, will help to keep down the ever-rising costs of Parish Shares.

The Vicarage has been sold - The Community of St Francis is to leave Somerset after nearly 50 years. They have recognised reluctantly their house has become too large to run. The Vicarage at Metheringham will become their spiritual home. We look forward to meeting the Sisters and giving them a warm Metheringham welcome. MA
(There is an excellent web site www.franciscans.org.uk)

St Wilfrid's Church FABRIC REPORT 2010

Although this year started quietly it soon developed rather more than we hoped for. It was noticed that a crack on the interior walls of the tower had widened considerably, on investigation the report suggested the earthquake of the previous year was the possible cause, it will need regular checks to ensure it is not deteriorating. By July the dry rot was observed on the south side of the church, experts were brought in to investigate. The result was that we should act quickly to prevent further deterioration, we needed shoring/scaffolding to support the roof until work started. The necessary faculty was obtained quickly via our architect. The work started almost before Christmas had finished, the scaffolding up inside and out before New Year. The whole project took longer than previously expected due to inclement weather, but was completed by early March with all scaffolding being removed. We have managed to pay this considerable and unexpected bill, with the help and support of many local people in fundraising, jam jars etc. which is of great encouragement. A grant of £5000 was received from Lincoln Churches Trust, who handle Land fill grants (WREN). (This last year people Walked and Cycled to raise funds for the Trust from our Church) Looking ahead there is a great deal of work that requires attention, they are as follows:

- 1) Lightning conductor has collapsed and need repair on the top of the tower.
- 2) Lighting in church is in need of updating.
- 3) Guttering on the north side has been checked, to prevent reoccurrence of the problems we have just dealt with on the south side. Estimate cost £14000 to £18000.

- 4) Stone work will require pointing up following the harsh winter.
 - 5) Interior decoration.
 - 6) Cupboards in Kitchen.
 - 7) Outside storage.
 - 8) Carpeting for north aisle.
- The quinquennial inspection is due in a year's time and will we expect raise many of the issues listed. RB

St Wilfrid's Church Cleaning

We have now been back in church for 2 months after the repairs having been completed. I would just like to give a vote of thanks to the team who cleaned the church. I was away when the bulk of the work was done and when I first went into the church on my return I was amazed with how well it looked. Many thanks to you all. RB

Dunston School News

First of all I would like to share some more sporting successes with you. Our cross country team (three boys and three girls) won the overall trophy at the annual Nocton race which was a superb effort. This included Harry winning the boys' race and Sarah coming second in the girls' race. All of the training that they did around Dunston playing fields really paid off. We then took a squad of children to the Branston Community College Tag Rugby tournament. They won all of their games except one (which was a 3-2 defeat to the eventual winners) and came third overall. In addition Peggy was chosen as the Player of the Tournament (out of over one hundred pupils).

We have enjoyed a variety of Easter activities. The Easter service in the church was very well attended. I would like to thank the ladies from the church who made a lovely Easter garden which was on display in the school hall. The children have enjoyed an Easter dance, a performance by the music club and the annual egg hunt around the school grounds.

The next three Thursday family church services will take place on April 29th, May 20th and June 24th (all starting at 2.15). You are most welcome to come along and join us.

Graham Boyall Headteacher

Dunston St. Peter's Church of England Primary School

SERVICES FOR MAY IN THE THREE PARISHES

Sunday 2nd The Fifth Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's

10.30am United Service – Metheringham Methodist Chapel

Thursday 6th (and each Thursday)

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

Sunday 9th The Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.00am Holy communion – St. Oswald's

9.00am Morning Worship – St. Peter's

10.30am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

Thursday 13th Ascension Day

7.30pm Deanery Eucharist at St Peter's Navenby

Sunday 16th The Seventh Sunday of Easter

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's

10.30am Morning Worship – St. Wilfrid's

Thursday 20th 2.15pm Family Service with St Peter's School

Sunday 23rd Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

9.00am Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion – St. Oswald's

10.30am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

Sunday 30th Trinity Sunday – Group Service
10.30am Holy Communion – St Wilfrid's

June

Sunday 6th The First Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy

Communion – St. Wilfrid's

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's

10.30am United Service – St. Wilfrid's

N.B. Prayer Breakfast on 8th May and until September will be at the Methodist Church Hall

FISHY BUSINESS

I have a goodly number of back issues of SEA ANGLER magazine. Would anyone like to give them a new home in return for a small donation to St Wilfrid's Church before June recycles them please call 01526 328642. AG
(Free local delivery can be arranged – Ed)

Metheringham Over 60's Club.

All events held at the Village Hall, Metheringham, unless otherwise stated.

On 3rd March, commencing at 7pm, the Club President Mr. Bill Chambers, welcomed 120 members and guests to Annual General Meeting.

To summarise:

The Chairman Mrs. Margaret Amos - reported another successful year with an average attendance of 125 members at each meeting. Although costs have increased, Margaret stated that the annual cost of membership would continue at £5.00p with the monthly fee for guests remaining at £2.00p per visit. This helps to cover the cost of any entertainment and tea/coffee and biscuits. Those attending showed unanimous approval of the caterers who provided our Christmas Dinner, at a cost of £5.00 to each member, and agreed that we should seek to use them again this year. The total cost per person attending was £13.50p each with the balance paid from club funds.

Margaret went on to thank everyone for their support at coffee mornings and with the various raffles and the Harvest Auction, especially to those members who donated cakes, books, bric-a-brac and prizes. The money raised goes towards providing functions and entertainment that a majority of the members are able to benefit from. However, the coach trips and holidays have to be self supporting. Regrettably our summer holiday this year has had to be cancelled due to a lack of support. Holiday accommodation is arranged to ensure there are ample facilities for those members who may have mobility issues. Costing always includes insurance, excursions including a guide and gratuities. It is hoped that the next holiday will be better supported.

The club holds 3 coffee mornings, March, June and November. It also arranges several coach outings that are well supported. The cost of hiring coaches has risen and with the cost of fuel rising they are likely to cost more in the future. A vote was taken to increase the cost per person from £9 to £10 per trip - *this was agreed unanimously*. During the forthcoming year it is hoped we will organise 6 outings.

Margaret went on to thank the President and the committee, car drivers who helped members, those who helped with the catering and setting up and clearing the hall of chairs and tables.

A vote was taken on the Continuation of the Club - *carried unanimously*.

Finally, Margaret announced an Easter Lunch to be held at the Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa on Tuesday 6th April. The cost to be met from club funds that members had worked so hard to develop.

The President, Bill Chambers - thanked the Chairman and the Committee for all their hard work throughout the past year, including the detailed work involved in organising the various holidays and day trips. He went on to thank the members because without their involvement, and full and enthusiastic support the Club would not be so successful. He went on to propose a vote to re-elect the Club Officers and Committee Members, as follows:
Chairman, Mrs. Margaret Amos, Treasurer, Mr. David Harvey, Rita Blow, Sheila Kettleborough, Mrs. Ros Bell, Mrs. Doreen Blackband, Mr. Dennis Bowler, Mrs. Doreen Cope, Mrs. Kath Mandall, Village Hall Representative, Mrs. Sue Clark and Secretary, Mr. David Williams - all re-elected unanimously.

Bill then gave an insight into Club's income :

	Income	Expenditure
1957	£63.00p	£10.00p
1958	£52.00p	£22.00p
1959	£50.00p	£60.00p
1981	£1,555.00p	£1,321.00p
2009	£29,253.00p	£27,776.00p

The meeting was followed by a fish and chip supper funded by the club.

Coffee morning - held on Saturday 6th March , was well supported and we raised over £620. A huge thank you goes to the members and the public for all your support.

Easter Lunch at the Petwood Hotel - 113 members sat down to an excellent two course lunch, accompanied by a glass of wine and followed by coffee and mints. The food was well prepared and the staff provided an excellent service.

Wednesday 5th May - new members invited to sign on. Also, entertainment by "Just Chilled" featuring female singer Jan Huston, in the style of Ella Fitzgerald, backed by guitarist Gordon Anderson.

Non-members are always 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.

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.

Dave Williams Secretary.

Metheringham WI

The meeting was very well attended with the addition of 6 visitors. Our speaker this month was Sean Barkes, a practitioner of Traditional Chinese Medicine. He gave us a very interesting talk on his training, some of it in Japan, some in China and some in London. He also told us about the long list of ailments that can be treated successfully with Acupuncture. Moira gave the vote of thanks.

We still have a few seats left on the coach to Holkam Hall in July.

Rosemary won the raffle, Mandy won the competition and Audrey won the flower of the month. We ended the evening with a song, "My Favourite things" for the more "Mature Ladies".

JS

Time to cherish our churchyard!

Thousands of growing churches are preparing to celebrate Cherishing Churchyards Week this June as part of the UN's International Year of Biodiversity.

The nationwide project is being run by conservation charity Caring for God's Acre (CfGA) and is supported by the CofE's national environmental campaign Shrinking the Footprint. There are an estimated 12,000 CofE churchyards. Around half of them already run biodiversity projects, in rural and urban areas, while remaining respectful to their users, particularly family and friends of those buried there.

During the week (Friday June 18 to Sunday June 27) CfGA is encouraging churches to run an event to raise awareness and celebrate the treasures of their churchyard. Last year, activities included; church tower tours, scything workshops, guided walks and talks, flower identification, family events and storytelling.

Shrinking the Footprint is encouraging churches to submit wildlife discoveries and projects as part of a new central database.

Churchyards are unique and special places. Each one is packed full of interesting natural and built features ranging from the beautiful ancient yew trees to the gravestones telling the stories of past Parish inhabitants.

David Shreeve, the CofE's environment adviser, said: "With its thousands of churchyards in both urban and rural settings, the Church has a major national park involving a vast amount of biodiversity in its care for the whole community. As this is a special year for biodiversity, we would like to start recording this so that we can make everyone aware and appreciate just how important the country's churchyards are for both nature and people." PP

Ban the bomblet – Churches celebrate the Cluster Munitions Act

Methodist, Baptist and United Reformed Church leaders have welcomed the recent passing of the Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Act in parliament. The Act ensures that the UK military cannot use cluster munitions, nor can UK military establishments house cluster bombs for other nations. The Churches have been campaigning for this change for the last

two years and were pleased to note the all-party support for the Act arising from strong public support for banning these weapons.

Cluster munitions contain many bomblets, small objects typically the size of a drinks can, which explode spreading shredded metal around the surrounding area. Sometimes bomblets fail to explode, meaning unexploded bombs are left at the scene of conflict. PP

May Day

May is the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to all sorts! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli. For centuries in 'Olde England' the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence and unbridled merriment. One Philip Stubbes, writing in 1583, was scandalised: "for what kissing and bussing, what smooching and slabbering one of another, is not practised?"

Henry VIII went 'maying' on many occasions. Then folk would stay out all night in the dark rain-warm thickets, and return in the morning for dancing on the green around the May pole, archery, vaulting, wrestling, and that evening, bonfires.

The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day - and in 1644 May Day was abolished together. Many May poles came down - only to go up again at the Restoration, when the first May Day of King Charles's reign was "the happiest Mayday that hath been many a year in England", according to Pepys.

May Day to most people today brings vague folk memories of a young Queen of the May decorated with garlands and streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, Morris dancing, and the intricacies of well dressing at Tissington in Derbyshire.

May Day is a medley of natural themes such as sunrise, the advent of summer, growth in nature, and - since 1833 - Robert Owen's vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but in harmony and friendship. This is why, in modern times, May Day has become Labour Day, which honours the dignity of workers. And until recently, in communist countries May Day processions were in honour of the achievement of Marxism.

There has never been a Christian content to May Day, but nevertheless there is the well known 6am service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day.

An old May carol includes the lines:

The life of man is but a span,
it flourishes like a flower
We are here today, and gone tomorrow
- we are dead within an hour.

There is something of a sadness about it, both in words and tune, as there is about all purely sensuous joy. For May Day is not Easter, and the joys it represents have always been earth-bound and fleeting. PP

St James the Least of All

On the perils of a Scout camp

The Rectory

St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

It seems that the basics of parish ministry are no longer taught in theological colleges. Don't you know anything about consulting your diary in public? When you are asked if you are free on a certain date, accepted practice is to open it so that the enquirer cannot quite see. You then shake your head sadly, saying you are committed to blessing a new tea urn, or on some other vital ecclesiastical activity that day. Then you regretfully give your apologies. You do not open the thing in full view of your enquirer, so he can see the blank pages! Really, it serves you right that you are now committed to going on Scout camp.

The last time I agreed to pay the Scouts a visit was when I found that there was a splendid restaurant only a mile away from their camp. I arrived and parked my car by the side of the river where they were all canoeing, wound down the car window and made encouraging noises for some minutes before explaining I had to find a garage for petrol. Several hours later, after an excellent lunch, I drove to where they were now rock climbing, wound down the

car window and made encouraging noises for some minutes before explaining that I had a standing committee to return to that evening. It was a splendid day. You, however, will experience the charms of two days under canvas. Whatever site for your tent you choose will be the one that floods first. The early hours will undoubtedly find you wading about in water in the pitch dark, retrieving your sleeping bag and clothes – which you will then have to wear for the rest of the day. Watch out for the food, as well: all camp food contains grass and usually sheep droppings. This will make you ill, though for some reason Scouts thrive on it. Whatever the weather and whatever activities you do each day, you will end up wet, chilled and bruised. At least your evenings will be warm – for you are bound to spend them at Casualty, with youngsters suffering from sprained ankles or dislocated shoulders. My only advice is to use those hours in Casualty to practise the art of opening your diary in a way that only YOU can see it. Your loving uncle, Eustace PP

Rogation Sunday

Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land for the year ahead. It is appropriate in any emergency, war, plague, drought or foul weather.

The practice began with the Romans, who invoked the help of the gods Terminus and Ambarvalia. In those days a crowd moved in procession around the cornfields, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, and driving away Winter with sticks. They wanted to rid the cornfields of evil.

About 465 the Western world was suffering from earthquake, storm and epidemic. So Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the popular pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields on the days leading up to Ascension. With his decision, 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial.

Rogation-tide arrived in England early in the eighth century, and became a fixed and perennial asking for help of the Christian God. On Rogation-tide, a little party would set out to trace the boundaries of the parish. At the head marched the bishop or the priest, with a minor official bearing a Cross, and after them the people of the parish, with schoolboys and their master trailing along. Most of them held slender wands of willow.

At certain points along the route - at well-known landmarks like a bridge or stile or ancient tree, the Cross halted, the party gathered about the priest, and a litany or rogation as said, imploring God to send seasonable wealth, keep the corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to an ample harvest. At one point beer and cheese would be waiting.

In the days when maps were neither common nor accurate, there was much to be said for 'beating the bounds' - still very common as late as the reign of Queen Victoria. Certainly parish boundaries rarely came into dispute, for everyone knew them. (Do you know yours today?) PP

Genesis and politicians

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation." "Maybe," said the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job."

"But you forget," interrupted the politician, "somebody had created the chaos first!"

Already well connected

The telephone rang in the church office of the church that the MP attended when visiting his constituency. An eager voice inquired: "Do you expect the MP to be in church on Sunday? If so, I was thinking of coming along."

"That," said the clergyman, "I cannot promise. But we do expect that God will be there, and we fancy that that should be incentive enough for a reasonably large attendance."

A gracious rival

Modern political campaigns might take a lesson in graciousness and kindness from Edward Campbell, the great British statesman of the 1930s. Once when Campbell was opposing Thackeray for a seat in Parliament, the two contenders, in the course of their campaigning, met and engaged in friendly conversation.

On taking leave of his rival, Thackeray remarked: "May the best man win!" "Oh, no," Campbell replied, "I hope not – I want to win!"

He won't win that way

As the politician said: "This occasion gives me an opportunity to shake hands with many old faces."

Decisions, decisions

Politician to aide: "About their charge that I'm indecisive – do you think I should answer it, or let it go, or answer it in part, or what?"

Children's parties

The main purpose of holding children's parties is to remind yourself that there are children more awful than your own.

Don't look back

The Sunday School teacher was telling the story of how when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom and Gomorrah, she turned into a pillar of salt. One youngster nodded in a knowing fashion. "My mummy looked back once while she was driving," he confided, "and she turned into a lamp post."

Measuring success

After the local Churches Together meetings had concluded, the four ministers were discussing the results with one another.

The Methodist minister said, "The meetings worked out great for us! We gained two new families." The Baptist pastor said, "We did better than that! We gained three new families."

The URC minister said: "That's nothing – we gained five new families!"

And the Anglican vicar smiled in contentment. "Well, we did best of all. We got rid of our 10 biggest trouble makers!"