

Church Newsround – October 2011

Bishop of Grantham's Letter

Dear friends

Unless we've been living a particularly hermitic life of late, we should now be well aware that we are welcoming a new Bishop of Lincoln and are all looking forward to introducing Christopher Lowson to our wonderful County of Lincolnshire. It is a time, at his consecration to the episcopate and subsequently his enthronement here in Lincoln Cathedral, when the Church can be relaxed about being a little triumphalist and we can enjoy the unparalleled acts of worship, the holy ceremonies and the dignified pomp. For the arrival of a new Bishop, nay the inauguration of the fresh ministry of any minister of whatever position, is a time for rejoicing as the old gives way to the new and we begin to be invigorated by what comes next in the life of the Church. It is wonderful that, in a contemporary society supposedly so secular and unconcerned about the things of God, men and women still lay their lives on the altar of service to God and to others through ordination: not just bishops, but priests and deacons and a host of others. For this is the real source of our rejoicing at the inception of a new ministry: that God's love will be revealed in this newly dedicated life. So let's enjoy this time and pause to remind ourselves what it is all about when the Parish Share has been paid, the roof put back on the church building and the church rotas written: 'God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them'.

And what about you and I? There will be those who welcome a new Bishop because they expect an omnipotent, omnipresent prelate who will right all the supposed wrongs of the Church and, within weeks of his arrival, our churches will be full once more and everything will be as we always wished it to be. In our heart of hearts, we all know that this is an unrealistic expectation of any human being and possibly cruel to the recipient of such exaggerated projections. Perhaps more properly, there will be those who warmly welcome a fellow worker for Christ into the life of a Diocese which has had an ongoing life for many centuries and which seeks to grow into the future. Yes, bringing the best out of its Episcopal leader, but also pledging our own efforts, love and ministry so that the best may be brought out of all us for Christ and his Church.

And what is this 'best' that I speak of. In all his utterances, commands and teachings, Jesus always urged his first disciples to look outwards in love on the world: unconcerned about their needs, it was the healing and service of other lives that brought life and vitality to his Church. And so it is for us today who are now fellow servants with the first disciples. When the narrow needs and issues of the Church are all that concern us, we wither and perish: when we look outward in love and service we thrive.

And perhaps this is the real reason that we rejoice and party at the start of a new Bishop's ministry because, above all, it symbolises the constant outpouring of God's love in His world and the opportunity for the Church, Bishop and people alike, to both receive and show that divine love in their life as his Church together.

Yours in His love,
+Tim

FROM THE REGISTERS:

Baptisms

We welcome into God's Family

Imogen Jo Bowler

Baptised at St Oswald's
Sunday 28th August 2011

Louisa May Firth

Baptised at St. Oswald's
Sunday 4th September 2011

Baptised at St Wilfrid's

Lexie-Mae Stacey Hitch – 10th July 2011

Michaela Jane Green – 10th July 2011

George Graeme Green – 10th July 2011

Minnie Poppy Hodson – 24th July 2011

Billie John Garrick – 14th August 2011

Elikarisa Grace Hill – 18th September 2011

Weddings

We pray for those starting married life together

Richard John Outhwaite

Lucy Charlotte Broadwood at St Wilfrid's 6th August 2011

Lee Andrew Willford

Rebecca Chambers at St Wilfrid's 20th August 2011

Karl Wayne Pearce – Williams

Lisa Marie Pearce at St Wilfrid's 27th August 2011

Adrian Mountcastle

Ellie-Anne Searby at St Wilfrid's 3rd September 2011

CREAM TEAS

The cream teas held at 6 Norman Crescent on 20 August was a great success. To all who gave there time to come and support the event, for all who gave raffle prizes and cakes my sincere thanks.

We raised £255.15 for the Flower Festival

To be held 5, 6 & 7 May 2012. MA

HARVEST SUPPER

We held our Harvest Supper on Friday 16 September. Our evening began singing Harvest Hymns accompanied by Jayne Foster, all were in good voice. Supper was served, all enjoyed it very much. The table arrangements were beautiful, done by Doreen Blackband and Kath Holroyd. The auction of the flower arrangements was ably conducted by The Rev'd. Alan Greenhough, Rita Blow and Jen Gresham ran the raffle.

To all who donated raffle prizes and who gave of their time to make this such an enjoyable evening my grateful thanks, £267.50 was raised for the Flower Festival

MA

Cream Tea

I would like to thank Scott and Margaret Amos for having "Cream Teas" in their garden (August 20th) and to everyone who helped and supported this event. All monies raised will go to the 2012 Flower Festival. D Blackband.

St Wilfrid's Church Quinquennial Inspection

As was mentioned earlier in the year the quinquennial inspection was carried out and we have had quotes for the work to be carried out. The work has been split into two parts, a) Nave Gutter repair, north side, b) Stonework, rainwater goods and internal plaster repairs. The PCC reviewed the tender list at its last meeting and it seems that the total cost will be in the region of £17,000. The architects are checking that the figures are acceptable and accurate, it is hoped that the work will start and be completed by the year end although this will be tight.

Over the last month we have also been informed that work is urgently needed on the church bells. Only little work has been carried over last 100 years and if we do not give some serious attention to them the costs could escalate. At the present time we have been given an estimated cost of around £8000, however a full quotation has not been received. RTB

Dunston News

Harvest Festival.

Dunston St Peter's Harvest Festival is at 9am on October 2nd, with coffee afterwards, then the communion service will follow.

What a Success!!

It was a wonderful Scarecrow weekend! The weather was really kind to us, people flocked round the village in droves – at least 500 families followed the scarecrow map, then ate around £800 worth of refreshments! It was a great community atmosphere, and a tremendous team effort,

which raised over £2,500 badly-needed funds for St Peter's. The weekend ended with a lovely village service of Praise and Thanksgiving in St Peter's led by Johnny Markin with John Corrie and the Da Capo musicians from Timberland. Our grateful thanks go to the band of willing helpers, from the washer-uppers to the ticket sellers, we could not have managed without you all. And the fire engine (especially the siren!) was again much appreciated by the young people. And to the stars of the show - many congratulations to the scarecrow makers, once again you were amazing! Adrienne Jones

The winners, voted for by you, were:

- 1st No 6 Caveman Bob – Brett Garrick & Family
- 2nd No 17 The Dunston Dunny – Max & Vicky Ellis
- 3rd No 18 Skiing Stanley – Don & Bev Watson

The 50/50 Auction winners were:

Saturday £62 for Ida Johnson

Sunday £76.50 for John Robertson

And congratulations to the winner of the school entry – 9 yr old Maisie Aubrey

The Raffle winners were:

Wine & Whisky Hamper – Phil Gretton

Wine Hamper – Ida Johnson

Tea & Coffee Hamper – Cliff Jackson

Chocolate Hamper – Linda Crookes

Sack of Potatoes – Barbara Mosey

Box of Potatoes – Sue Miller

Box of Frozen Fish – Victoria Gamil

Dunston St Peter's C of E Primary School

As I write this article, we have had two weeks of the new term and the children have settled back into school well. Our ten new children in Reception are already getting used to the routines of school life and in another week's time they will be full time. We also have two new children in other year groups and they too have settled well.

I visited the scarecrows at Dunston this weekend and my son and I had a great time. The streets were very busy indeed and everyone received a warm welcome in the church, on The Green and in the village hall. I would like to say well done to everyone who took part and especially to those who organised the event. Dunston is fortunate to have so many people who are prepared to give up so much of their time to arrange events like this that promote the village so well.

Finally I would like to invite you to our Harvest Service which takes place on Thursday, September 29th at 2.15. I hope to see you in church.

Graham Boyall

Headteacher

Dunston St. Peter's Church of England Primary School

Metheringham Over 60's Club

At our most recent meeting held on Wednesday 7th Sept. Singer Rick White, from Long Sutton, entertained members with songs from Cliff Richard, Billy Fury, Nat King Cole, Bobby Vee, Jason Donovan, Tom Jones, Elvis Presley and many others. Throughout the evening Rick engaged with his audience. Our ladies sang louder and with greater enthusiasm than the gents! Rick amused us with some good jokes, one's I certainly have not heard previously. Also, he reminded us about Dolly tubs, wind-up gramophones, tin baths, changing from gaslight to electricity and our first TV. His finale was a medley of Frank Sinatra songs, "New York", "Come Fly With Me", "I've Got You Under My Skin" and "My Way". Altogether, an enjoyable evening of entertainment.

All Club events are held at the Village Hall, Metheringham, commencing at 7.00pm with doors opening at 6.30pm, unless otherwise stated.

Diary events:

Wednesday 5th Oct. Harvest Festival followed by an Auction – members generously donate items and these are then auctioned during the evening.

Wednesday 2nd Nov. Members evening with entertainment by singer 'Sharna'.

Saturday 5th Nov. Coffee morning open to all members and the public. In addition to a refreshing brew of tea or coffee, there will be a raffle, a chance to purchase homemade cakes, books, bric-a-brac and tombola. All donations of items for re-sale will be very welcome, with proceeds going to Club Funds. The doors open at 10.00 am.

Wednesday 7th Dec. Members Annual Christmas Dinner and Draw.

At the present time we have full membership. Non-members are welcome to join us on member's evenings at a cost of £2.00 per visit. This includes a half-time cup of tea or coffee when we also serve biscuits. We have a waiting list for full membership and should you wish to add your details to this please contact the Chairman Margaret Amos on Tel: 01526 321049.

Watch out for the posters displayed around the village as a reminder of forthcoming events and we looking forward to seeing you all.

Dave Williams

Secretary

W.I. Report

Sue Coleman's "Life Less Ordinary" to quote a film made the working women's life sound dull in comparison. She flouted all the usual advice:- "work hard at school, qualifications, and a well paid job."

Instead she avoided lessons, left before 16, no traditional exams, but at the age of 15 became a qualified Ballet teacher. She earned her way by taking Baby-Ballet classes. She is a fellow of the International Dance Society. Another job included working on a switchboard for an under-taker. She was told not to sound so exuberant.

Her stage career began in Pantomime in Coventry. She came cameo rolls in TV programmes, Crossroads, All Creatures Great and Small, Poldark and Angels to name a few. Programmes we could remember.

Her account of being part of a Flying-Ballet coping with harnesses was hair raising - no health and safety rules.

Then the big break- an audition in London eventually to be part of the Roly-Poly Dance Troupe. Coping with costumes and disastrous rehearsals

A thank you for a funny, interesting talk - to continue a later date.

Next Meeting Wed. October 19th All about Stagecoach Buses by Dave Skipper. Don't forget the Fayre and Feast - Sat Oct. 22nd. items needed for Tombola.

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER IN THE THREE PARISHES

Thursday 29th September Family Service with St. Peter's School
2.15pm Harvest Festival

Sunday 2nd The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity 8.00am Holy
Communion – St' Wilfrid's
9.00am Harvest Festival & Holy Communion – St. Peter's
10.30am United Service for Harvest Festival - Metheringham
Methodist Chapel

Thursday 6th (and each Thursday)
9.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
6.30pm Harvest Festival and Supper to Follow – St. Oswald's

Sunday 9th The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
9.00am Holy Communion – St. Oswald's
9.00am Morning Worship – St. Peter's
10.30am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

Sunday 16th The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's
10.30am Morning Worship – St. Wilfrid's

Sunday 23rd The Last Sunday after Trinity

Francis' close rapport with the animal creation was well known. The story of his preaching to the birds has always been a favourite scene from his life. He also tamed the wolf of Gubbio. This affinity emphasises his consideration for, and sense of identity with, all elements of the physical universe, as seen in his Canticle of the Sun. This makes him an apt patron of nature conservation.

The 20th century witnessed a widespread revival of interest in Francis. Sadly, some films and books caricatured him as only a sentimental nature-lover or a hippie drop out from society. This ignores the real sternness of his character, and his all-pervasive love of God and identification with Christ's sufferings, which alone make sense of his life.

Two ancient, and many modern English churches are dedicated to him.

8 St Luke the Evangelist (1st century)

To St Luke, a Gentile, we owe the beautifully written Gospel of Luke, and the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician, a disciple of St Paul, a companion on some of his missionary journeys, and an inspired writer.

Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ. His gospel contains some of the most moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. This, with his emphasis on poverty, prayer and purity of heart, make up much of his appeal to the Gentiles, for whom he wrote.

Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner.

In Acts, Luke is remarkably good at linking sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. A principal theme of his Acts is how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Luke is the patron saint of doctors, surgeons and artists (due to his picturesque style of writing). His symbol is an ox, sometimes explained by reference to the sacrifice in the Temple at the beginning of his Gospel. In England 28 ancient churches were dedicated to him.

31 All Hallows Eve

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1 November - All Saints' Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

More ministers

Is this article relevant in Lincolnshire, locally I feel not.

The number of church ministers has increased by +4% in the UK between 2005 and 2010 and if these trends continue could grow again by another +3% between 2010 and 2015. In 2010 there were 37,000 ministers spread across 51,000 congregations.

The number has increased because of the growth in membership of the Pentecostal and New Churches, Fresh Expressions and the Orthodox, and a growing number of churches in each of these groups. It is quite logical that an increasing number of worship centres requires an increasing number of leaders. However, the increasing number of leaders in New Churches, Fresh Expressions and Orthodox is relatively small (collectively up by +19% between 2005 and 2010). The real increase is seen in the huge number of new Pentecostal leaders (up +39% in the same period).

Not all the Pentecostal leaders are full-time. Many have a day-time job while acting as a church leader in a part-time volunteer capacity. Because that dual role requires much energy, many of the Pentecostal leaders are in their 30s and 40s, often making the clergy younger than their congregations.

In the Church of England too, the average age of a congregation is often greater than the age of the Vicar. This information comes from the new listing of churches by denomination in the book UK Church Statistics 2005-2015 (obtainable through the email address below).

Over the whole of the UK, one minister in 6 is female (17%). While the Church of England has more women priests than on average (21%), it is not the denomination with the highest percentage. Methodists have 40% women ministers, the Salvation Army 51% and the United Reformed Church (URC) 58%.

Soldiers baptised in Afghanistan

Four servicemen were recently in the chapel of Camp Leatherneck, a US military base in Afghanistan. Three US personnel and one Briton were immersed in a water tank, watched by a young, multi-ethnic congregation, singing modern worship songs. The US soldiers brought their guns to the service, as they must have their weapons with them at all times – even in church. The sermon was given by a British chaplain from the UK's Camp Bastion, Padre Cole. Each baptism was applauded and photographed on mobile phones. US marine Major Harbour said: 'This deployment has solidified my faith. Our faith helps us get through the tougher times.' Source: The Guardian (23/8).

The Cow and the Bible

A religious farmer lost his Bible out in the field. A few days later he went to answer a noise at his door. Standing there was a cow, with his Bible in its mouth. The farmer raised his eyes to heaven and thanked the Lord for this miracle. "Not really," said the cow. "Your name was written inside."

Glass

The two window panes were arguing as to which one was made of the better glass. One said to the other, "Well, you may think you are a better glass, but I know what you are trying to prove. Believe me, I can see right through you."

Shampoo

I don't know why I didn't realise this sooner. It's the shampoo we use in the shower. When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body, and printed very clearly on the shampoo label is this warning, "FOR EXTRA VOLUME AND BODY." No wonder I have been gaining weight. I am getting rid of the shampoo and am going to use dishwashing liquid instead. It's label reads, "DISSOLVES FAT THAT IS OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE." Problem solved.

New International Bible for Cats

On the first day of creation, God created the cat.

On the second day, God created man to serve the cat.

On the third day, God created all the animals of the earth to serve as food for the cat.

On the fourth day, God created honest toil so that man could labor for the good of the cat.

On the fifth day, God created expensive furniture so that the cat would have objects whereon to sharpen its claws.

On the sixth day, God created veterinary science to keep the cat healthy and the man broke.

On the seventh day, God tried to rest, but he had to scoop the litterbox.

Music

The symphony musicians had little confidence in the person brought in to be their new conductor. Their fears were realized at the very first rehearsal. The cymbalist, realizing that the conductor did not know what he was doing, angrily clashed his instruments together during a delicate, soft

passage. The music stopped. The conductor, highly agitated, looked angrily around the orchestra, demanding, "Who did that? Who did that?"

Others

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

Broad

Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.

The glass

To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

There are three religious truths:

- a. Jews do not recognize Jesus as the Messiah.
 - b. Protestants do not recognize the Pope as the leader of the Christian faith.
 - c. Baptists and Methodists do not recognize each other in the off-license.
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Dreams

Realise your dream! Unless it's the one where you're at work in your underwear during a fire drill.

Accident

As my five-year-old son and I were heading to McDonald's one day, we passed a car accident. Usually when we see something terrible like that, we say a prayer for whoever might be hurt, so I pointed and said to my son, "We should pray." From the back seat I heard his earnest voice: "Dear God, please don't let those cars block the entrance to McDonald's."

Stories

As part of his talk at a banquet, our minister told some jokes and a few funny stories. Since he planned to use the same anecdotes at a meeting the next day, he asked reporters covering the event not to include them in their articles. Reading the paper the following morning, he noticed that one well-meaning cub reporter had ended his story on the banquet with the observation "The minister told a number of stories that cannot be published."

Sticks

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft.

Today, it's called golf.

The Perfect Minister

When looking for a new minister, it may be helpful to bear the following in mind:

The Perfect Minister preaches exactly 10 minutes. He condemns sin roundly, but never hurts anyone's feelings. He works from 8 a.m. until midnight, and is also the church handyman.

The Perfect Minister lives on a very small salary, wears good clothes, drives a good car, buys good books, and donates £30 a week to the church. He is 29 years old and has 40 years' worth of experience. Above all, he is handsome.

The Perfect Minister has a burning desire to work with teenagers, and he spends most of his time with the senior citizens. He smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously dedicated to his church. He makes 15 home visits a day and is always in his office to be handy when needed.

The Perfect Minister always has time for church meetings and all of its committees, never missing the meeting of any church organization. And he is always busy evangelizing the unchurched. He also spends hours preparing couples for their weddings, hours preparing parents for their baby's baptism, and hours visiting the bereaved. But his life is dedicated to solitude, prayer and meditation.

The Perfect Minister is always in the next town over! So if you think that our minister does not measure up, it has been suggested that we simply send this notice to six other churches that are tired of their minister. The idea is that we bundle up our minister and send him to the church at the top of our list. If everyone cooperates, in one week we will receive 1, 643 new ministers. One of them should be perfect. Have faith in this plan. One church broke the chain and got its old minister back in less than three months.

Pastors

What do they call pastors in Germany?

German Shepherds.

Blessed

Blessed are the flexible, for they don't mind it when the demands of family and work ties them in knots.