

Church Newsround August 2007

The Bishop writes:-

The rain storms which visited our region at the end of June left in their wake not only physical damage, but also much grief and heartache. The Look North weatherman, Paul Hudson, commented that this is "climate change weather" - not just unusually bad weather, but signs of fundamental change going on across our planet.

We glimpsed the reality of climate change and we are going to have to learn how to respond to new patterns of weather. I am still surprised to meet people who want to deny the science and evidence about global warming. People who readily accept the science which lies behind their mobile phones, their televisions, their healthcare and many other facets of our modern life which depend on the technology developed from the work of scientists. Yet in the key and crucial area relating to the effects of global warming they want to reject what is now the overwhelming conclusion of the scientists.

The torrential rain and consequent floods reminded us of our impotence when the full force of nature is released. The trouble is that we have become so addicted to a particular way of life that we find it difficult to imagine how we are going to cope with different patterns of weather and more extremes of the natural forces. Part of our addiction to modern life is a misplaced confidence that science and technology will solve our problems. Such confidence is folly for ultimately it will be the human spirit which will determine how we engage with the challenge of global warming and climate change.

It has been that spirit which has enabled the human race to struggle through the evolutionary processes to become what we are. Science and technology can do little to enrich the human spirit; it will only be by recovering those spiritual qualities which thirst for peace, which lead to generosity and which enable communities to be strong that we will rise to the challenges which lie ahead. Such spiritual qualities were well described by the prophet Micah who many hundreds of years ago suggested to a community which had lost its way to "do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God". As we face a challenging future, those who walk with the risen Christ will serve the world best by living out the prophet's wisdom.

+David Grimsby

St. Wilfrid's Summer Fete

A very big thank-you to everyone who helped to make the church fete such a success – to those who helped to set up and take down all the various tents and gazebos, to those who gave their time to help on the stalls, to those who generously donated cakes, bottles, tombola items and bric-a-brac, and to all those who came and supported us during the afternoon.

We were so lucky with the weather, as the sun came out, the temperature rose and no rain fell! Everyone seems to have enjoyed the afternoon, and a total of £696.75 was raised from the various stalls and refreshments.

In addition to that total, the Traidcraft stall raised £75 on the raffle, and £33.45 with the sale of Traidcraft goods, bringing us to a grand total of £112.45 for the afternoon.

So once again, thank you all for your support, and we look forward to seeing you again next year.
P.H.

Early Lock-up

Due to problems with young people around the church recently, the church will be locked up early in the afternoon during the school holidays. This will commence on Sunday 29 July.

Anyone wishing to enter the church after that time should contact the Priest or the churchwardens, whose details are listed in the parish magazine.

ADV

Parish Registers

Funerals

We commend to God's mercy those who have died.

Geoffrey Chance Died 13-6-07 Aged 73 years Cremation at Lincoln 27-6-07

Lynn Chapman Died 19-6-07 aged 59 years Cremation at Lincoln 27-6-07

Douglas Tasker Died 19-6-07 aged 77 years Cremation at Lincoln 9-7-07

Baptism

We welcome into God's Family

24th June Tyler Galland Newman at St. Oswald's Blankney

Advance Notice

St Oswald's Church Blankney will be holding a Harvest Festival Service on Wednesday 3rd October at 6.30pm. The visiting preacher will be the Very Rev'd Philip Buckler - Dean of Lincoln Cathedral.

This will be followed by the Harvest Supper at 7.30pm in the Old School.

More details nearer the time.

AG

Cecil Alfred Lupton 1927 - 2007

The son of Alfred and Hilda Lupton of Dunston.

His father was, by way of occupation, a wheelwright, joiner, and undertaker.

Cecil attended Nocton school before joining the family business.

He met his wife to be Muriel and was married in Nocton church on September 8th 1956.

The couple were blessed with three sons, Edmund, Paul and Karl.

Cecil had a keen interest in motor cycle racing travelling all over Britain and Europe and to the Isle of Man TT races.

He was vice president of Lincoln Motor Cycle and Car Club, attending and officiating at various racing circuits, especially locally at Cadwell Park.

He especially enjoyed his annual visits to France for the Le Mans 24 hour race with his good friend and fellow racing enthusiast Peter Howson.

Motor racing being something of a family disease he followed keenly the racing exploits of his son Karl.

He was awarded the steering wheel used by Nigel Mansell, during the Italian Grand Prix at Monza in 1982, by the British Racing and Sports Car Club, for services to Motorsport, man of the year 2006.

Cecil enjoyed gardening and pottering around in the greenhouse and workshop. He also spent many Saturdays standing at Sincil Bank watching Lincoln City play. Cecil was one of the few old Dunstonians left in the village and was widely known for his services rendered.

When I came to Metherringham in February last year Cecil Lupton was one of the first people to welcome me to the village. I remember the greeting as I opened the front door of the vicarage, 'Hello., I'm Cecil Lupton, the undertaker at Dunston, we're probably going to be working together a bit!'

He wasn't far wrong.

I have had the privilege of working with Cecil many times over the last eighteen months and the only way I can describe him is 'a lovely man'.

He was always kind always helpful and always well organised. He had a wonderful way of putting people at ease, and had a great sense of humour.

Although I had only known him for eighteen months I feel that it was much longer.

I along with many others will miss him as a colleague and as a friend.

C.S.

Dunston Parish News.

August's news is being written on the 8th July. This is because I am going on my holidays on the 10th until past the proof date.

Where am I going? This year I have my pass signed and am off on my own into what probably will be one of the most exciting and rewarding holidays I have ever been on. You see I am going to be privileged to enter the environment of the animal kingdom.

You have no doubt seen the television pictures of David Attenborough with the gorillas in the jungle. I too am going to see the gorillas in Rwanda, in their own habitat. To be allowed into their kingdom is something that is akin to coming into the 'Church' for the first time. Step quietly, look and listen to see how people with a faith behave

The church generally does have a bad press especially when three Bishops talk of God punishing us for the natural disaster of the recent floods. (See the 'Times' 4th July). As was pointed out "To hijack a natural disaster and harness it to their own political and ethical bandwagon is the last thing good pastors should do. Unfortunately, too often it is the first".

Over our exhibition week end I met a few newcomers to the village who, whilst admitting not church goers, were pleasantly surprised that the warm family friendly feeling of the village and of the 'Songs of Praise' service was a lovely way to greet newcomers. We volunteers, that try to keep the church going, are just normal people, who, besides having a faith, also lead a full and rewarding life. We even dress up for a laugh and have the 'Micky' taken out of ourselves in a light hearted way. We try to show other people that life in the church is not all doom and gloom with a bit of mumbo jumbo thrown in. It is about caring for communities and individuals. It is about trying to lead a good and fruitful life (yes and many times falling by the wayside in our attempts).

So if those of you out there who read our magazine but don't relish the thought of coming to church why not step in quietly, look and listen. You never

8.00am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Peter's
10.30am	United Service – Methodist Chapel
Monday 6th	The Transfiguration of Our Lord
7.30pm	Holy Communion St Wilfrid's

Every Thursday

9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
Sunday 12th	10th Sunday after Trinity
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Oswalds
9.00am	Morning Worship – St. Peter's
10.30am	Holy Communion - St. Wilfrid's S.School / Creche
Wednesday 15th	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
7.30pm	Holy Communion St Wilfrid's
Sunday 19th	11th Sunday after Trinity
8.00am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Peter's
10.30am	Morning Worship – St. Wilfrid's
Friday 24th	St Bartholomew the Apostle
7.30 pm	Holy Communion St Wilfrid's
Sunday 26th	12th Sunday after Trinity
9.00am	Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion – St. Oswalds
10.30am	Holy Communion -St. Wilfrid's S.School / Creche
4.30pm	30 Minutes with God – St. Wilfrid's (Reflections and Prayers in sight and sound)

September

Sunday 5th	13th Sunday after Trinity
8.00am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Peter's
10.30am	United Service – St. Wilfrid's

Girl Guides

Samantha Richardson a Girlguiding Senior Section member from Metheringham is experiencing an unusual and challenging venture this month. She is a member of a group of young people representing Lincs South visiting the Republic of Belarus in what was the old Soviet Union.

They left Boston on 19th July and will return on the 2nd August. During this time they will take part in ten days of camping in the Vitebsk region with Scouts and Guides from the U.K., Germany and Poland.

The Programme includes, writing group articles for magazines and newspapers, hiking, presenting and acting a theatre play, craft classes, international evenings and becoming acquainted with myths and legends from the visiting countries along with cultural exchanges, discussions and singing. The Camp is followed with four days of Home Hospitality in Minsk.

This is part of a bi-annual exchange by young people with Girlguiding friends in Minsk and has been ongoing since 1992.

Our members raise their own funds to pay for these visits. The return trip by the Minsk girls is funded only by the generosity of friends of our Minsk Exchange.

Phyll Sands.

Metheringham Over 60's Club

The outings are well underway, in spite of the weather not being at all like summer these have been well attended and enjoyed by most (you can't please everyone all of the time) We have two more trips before we reconvene in the hall in September contact Doreen for details (321478). We have had enquiries about the dress code for the dinner at the Petwood Hotel, it is Lounge Suits please, so get out your best bib & tucker in readiness for what promises to be a good evening, any queries phone Margaret, Ann or Rita (tel. numbers on back of membership cards) We are fully subscribed for this event.

Diary Dates

1st August Cambridge

5th September Davis St Paul

12th September Skegness.

3rd October Harvest Service/Auction

Ann Crooks Secretary.

Metheringham W.I. Report

The trip to Sandringham was a relaxed and enjoyable day out and we were lucky with the weather. The showers came while we were on the coach. The gardens were an ambler's delight and the views, both from the house itself and from the lakes looking towards the house were feasts for the eyes. We pleased ourselves as to what we did and when. Some people enjoyed a 40 minute tractor and trailer round the Woodland Park. A ride in a Royal Daimler/Rolls Royce would have been more in keeping and there were plenty of those in the museum.

The many photos were interesting; dour and posed. The country dress, especially that of the ladies, looked very uncomfortable, thank goodness for trousers and sweaters.

From a personal point of view pictures on the walls in preference to swords and shields and guns would have been more in keeping. The trophy heads lions, tigers, rhinos etc were a rather grisly display.

Thank you to Audrey Webb and the Committee members who helped organise an interesting day out.

J.S.

Christian Aid - Harvest Appeal

Our harvest festivals allow us to be thankful for the productivity of our planet. In the UK our harvest is augmented by the harvests of others in countries thousands of miles away because we can purchase their crops and products. We should, therefore, be doubly grateful! A good harvest depends on many things: sound seed, fertile soil, rainfall and sunshine in the right measure and the skill of the farmer. Failure of one of these elements can mean a much reduced harvest or none at all, increased prices for us and hunger for some. This year the Diocese will support Christian Aid in its work with communities on three continents who face ruin because of changes in their weather that they cannot predict or control.

Scientists, governments, institutions and businesses are by and large in agreement; human action is changing and will change our climate in ways that we are only just beginning to understand and haven't yet agreed on how to combat. The statistics and studies feature in our media, but it is hard for ordinary people to take it all on board or even fully appreciate the seriousness of the challenge and the importance of our actions in response to it. In March Christian Aid in the East Midlands hosted a visitor from Senegal called Ahmadou Sow, who was anxious to share his communities' conviction that while climate change might be a future threat for us it is a daily reality for them.

Ahamadou spoke to a group in Lincoln about his work in a district called Podor in the north of Senegal and described how the villagers are having to change their methods of cultivation and cattle raising as rainfall declines year by year and summer temperatures soar. His organisation, USE (Union pour la Solidarité et l'Entraide) supports the people with wells and irrigation channels, new crops and farming methods, tree-planting and the construction of energy-efficient stoves which need less wood to fuel and conserve the remaining forest. But it is a struggle and Ahmadou asked his audience for two things; firstly that they encourage the giving of more development resources to support vulnerable communities facing climate change and secondly that as individuals, communities and as a nation they seek to reduce their own carbon footprint and lower the emissions that cause global warming.

The 2007 Diocesan Harvest Appeal – Commitment to Care – is a means of responding to his first request. It also picks up the essence of the recently launched Lincolnshire Churches Environmental Framework for Action in that our approach to use of the resources of our planet should be informed by a concern for justice. At the moment the very poorest in our world are paying the price for two centuries of our development.

Christian Aid hears this story over and over again, from Bangladesh where even a small rise in sea level increases the destructiveness of the regular floods and allows typhoons to inundate and erode farmland, leaving cultivators destitute; and from El Salvador, suffering hurricanes of such severity that homes and livestock are swept away and there is no money to replace them. Even if we make speedy changes to our lifestyle to reduce our carbon footprint communities like this will feel the impact for decades and will need our support.

Parishes will receive information about the appeal in the mail and can obtain extra posters and leaflets from Terry Miller's office at Church House. Sue Richardson of Christian Aid is happy to be asked to speak to church groups about the appeal and the issue behind it. She can be reached at the Christian Aid office in Ashby de la Zouch (01530 417522) or on e-mail:

ashby@christian-aid.org. The office can also supply a dvd with a PowerPoint presentation on climate change and a study pack "It's Time to Change the Climate" free of charge.

Lavender Biscuits

If you have lavender in your garden, do try these delicious August biscuits! They come out soft when warm from the oven, and 'crisp up' as they cool down. Goes well with a rich creamy desert such as syllabub or ice cream.

Use: 225g unsalted butter, softened; 110 g caster sugar; 175 g self-raising flour; 1 medium egg, well beaten; 1 tbsp dried lavender flowers (Makes 20-24 biscuits.)

What to do: Pre-heat your oven to 180C/Gas Mark 4. Cream butter and sugar in bowl until light and fluffy. Add a spoonful of flour to prevent curdling, then mix in the beaten egg. Stir in flour and lavender flowers, mixing well. Drop teaspoons of the mixture, spaced well apart, on to baking trays lined with parchment paper. Bake for about 15 minutes until the biscuits are brown around the edge and golden yellow in the centre. You'll need to do several batches. Leave to cool on baking tray for several minute. Then use spatula to transfer to a rack. PP

Put the kettle on!

How many times this summer will you reach for the teapot? The good old English cuppa has revived our flagging spirits for years, giving solace to the downcast, providing instant hospitality, and the best excuse for a short break during the day. Hot sweet tea can be helpful to people who have had a shock. Sadly, cold tea is all that actors get on stage, when the script calls for whisky to be drunk...

Tea has 101 uses, and it is one of our most natural and healthy drinks. This is because tea contains flavonoids, which are important antioxidants. They mop up free radicals, highly reactive chemicals in the blood which do serious damage to cells. In fact, many experts believe that a high intake of tea (at least two cups a day) can help reduce the risk of heart disease, cancer and stroke.

Consider the Lychgate

On the moors in West Yorkshire, there are some stones, two placed together, with crosses marked on them. Many people have thought that they were boundary or marker stones, and in so far as they marked the way towards the oldest church in that area, they were. To be more exact, the oldest hurchyard. In ages past bodies were carried by hand, sometimes over long distances, and there were restrictions placed on where they could be laid to allow the bearers to rest. These two stones were 'resting' stones.

When a body arrived at the church for burial, it would again be put down while the administrative formalities were carried out, and again the bearers could rest. So a resting stone was placed at the edge or start of the consecrated land around the church.

The priest conducting the funeral would meet the cortege here, not originally out of respect, but rather to receive the required legal certificate for burial before he allowed them to enter the church grounds.

Because of rain and wind it was usually sheltered, and benches were built for the bearers. There would also be a cross within the construction to signify the start of holy land. This is what today we call the 'lych-gate'; lych coming from the anglo-saxon word lich or lic, related to the modern German word leiche, all meaning corpse.

Few old lychgates remain today as many were destroyed or damaged after the Reformation, and most of those that survived were constructed of timber and have since decayed.

In the eighteenth century when the use for the resting stones and thus lychgates declined many were removed and replaced with gates, often retaining the shelter as it continued to be a meeting place for the priest to receive funeral parties. Rev Dr Jo White.

Quotes for August

Knowledge is the eye that must direct the foot of obedience. Thomas Watson

A gnawing conscience keeps the memory terribly alert. W Sangster

The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety. George Muller

If you lay yourself at Christ's feet he will take you in his arms. William Bridge

The best way to see divine light is to put out thine own candle. Francis Quarles

Experience is what you get while you are looking for something else.

Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.

Outside of a dog, a book is probably man's best friend; inside of a dog, it's too dark to read. Groucho Marx

Always borrow from a pessimist. He never expects to be repaid. Herbert V Prochnow

If you ask some people what they are thinking about, it's a compliment.

It's hard to suffer in silence, because that takes all the pleasure out of the suffering.

There is nothing more difficult than the art of making advice agreeable.

It should be easy to make an honest living – there is so little competition.

One hitchhiker to the other: "That's right – just sit there and let me work my finger to the bone."

When you see a married couple coming down the street, the one who is two or three steps ahead is the one that's angry.

A typical citizen is one who has his home mortgaged, owes thousands on his car and credit cards, plays golf when he ought to work, and hopes for a happy old age on the government pension....

Date of birth?

Stationed in Okinawa, Japan, a young man and his wife were expecting their first baby.

His mother back in England was elated when the call came through with news of the birth. She scribbled down all the statistics, and turned to relate it all her co-workers in her office. "I'm a grandmother!" she declared. "It's a baby girl, and she weighs five pounds."

"When was she born?" someone asked. Recalling the date her son had told her, she stopped, looked at the calendar, and said in amazement, "Tomorrow!" PP