

Church News Round February 2007

What's a Cathedral for?

A warm Lincolnshire welcome awaits Canon Philip Buckler on his Installation as Dean of Lincoln. Along with his wife Linda and daughter Susannah he comes to us from St. Paul's Cathedral in London, where he has been Canon Treasurer and Acting Dean. Previous posts have included Vicar of Hampstead and Chaplain of Trinity College, Cambridge.

Lincoln Cathedral is in good heart and voice. On Christmas Eve a "House Full" notice had to be put up for the Carol Service – as far as we know that's the first time! The music is as fine as ever, the fabric is in good hands and even the finances are giving less cause for concern than usual. For this we thank Canon Alan Nugent and his colleagues who have maintained the worship, ministry and mission of the Cathedral to a very high standard during the decanal vacancy.

This is a good moment to ask what a Cathedral is for. Of course, it provides a seat for the Diocesan Bishop with prayers for the Bishop and the Diocese being offered on a daily basis. Furthermore, it provides a focus for Diocesan life as will be particularly evident in 2007, when the Cathedral hosts a number of events majoring on Fresh Expressions of Church, Local Ministry, Spirituality and the Environment. Above all, it maintains the year round cycle of Services and celebrations day by day and week by week.

Yet there is more, because amongst all the Cathedrals in England, Lincoln is one of the most iconic. It can, of course, be seen from many a mile and for good or ill (and it has sometimes been for ill!) it casts a long shadow across the City and County. People of little obvious Christian conviction refer to it as "our Cathedral" and publicity material for the widest possible range of businesses and organisations incorporate it into their brand image.

This lays upon the Cathedral and those who staff it an awesome responsibility when it comes to ensuring that it witnesses effectively to all who look up to it for inspiration, wisdom, pastoral care and communal identity. It is a function performed more or less effectively for 800 years, and we now look to the future full of hope that this unique witness to God's presence, love and power will prove ever more effective as we uphold in prayer our new Dean and the distinctive ministry to which he has been called.

+ John Lincoln

St Wilfrid's Electoral Roll

Every six years as members of the Church of England, we renew our membership of the Church.

By doing this, it enables us to vote at the Annual Parochial Meeting and raise any question of parochial or general interest.

Names are not allowed to be carried forward so it is important that you complete the Application Form. Forms must be returned to me by 6 March 2007.

Forms will be in Church or contact :- Margaret Amos, Electoral Roll Officer. Tel No. 321049

Christmas Wreaths

From the 5th of February any remaining Christmas Wreaths will start to be removed. You will appreciate it now takes a little longer to dispose of them as some of the materials are synthetic and not so combustible.

This year Candlemas falls on the 28th January and it is traditionally the time they are removed from cemeteries and church yards.

Many thanks.

ADV

Women's World Day of Prayer

The service celebrating the Women's World Day of Prayer will be held in the Methodist Church on Friday 2nd March at 10.30 am. The Rev'd Gill Riley is the guest speaker.

Service has been prepared by the Women of Paraguay. All are welcome

Coffee Morning Saturday 24th February 9.30 to 11.30 in St Wilfrid's Church Hall

Sarah Dean and Libby & Vicki Leggett are holding a 'Coffee Morning'. There will be a Raffle, Tombola and other stalls.

It is for part of our Baden Powell Award in Guiding.

The proceeds will go towards new Christmas angels for St Wilfrids and the church hall fund. All donations very welcome, and please support us so we can have new angel decorations in church this year.

Please contact 01526 321473 for further info. Thanks.

Metheringham PCC – 15 January 2007

Various matters were under discussion at the PCC meeting, the first of 2007. The Social Events committee has now produced a calendar of events for the coming year, which will all be advertised around the village as they occur. The first event is a fund-raising Dinner by Brenda Robertson on Saturday 3 February. More details are available from Brenda on 320014, but seats are strictly limited and prior booking is essential.

Malcolm Capps has resigned as Tower Captain, after many years of work with the church bells, but a successor may be appointed in the near future.

The treasurer produced the end of year accounts, which showed income was down on last year. Our Parish Share (the money we pay annually to the diocese) is £16, 518 for this year, so support for the church in the village is really vital. To try and increase the number and variety of people who would like to come to see what St. Wilfrid's has to offer, there will be a service on the last Sunday of each month, at 4.30pm – a time when hopefully people are not too busy. This will be aimed at those perhaps new to worship, with 'middle of the road' music. Please watch for the posters around the village in relation to this.

The Annual Parish meeting will take place on Friday 16th March, at 7.30pm in church. Coffee and biscuits will be served, and we hope as many people as possible will come and support it. There is to be a renewal of the church electoral role – please see Margaret Amos' article in the magazine, - and as one of the churchwardens has completed her 6 years in office, she will be standing down, creating a need for a replacement. If you would like to stand, or know of anyone who might be interested, please complete the nomination form on the church notice board. PEH

Dunston Parish News for February, 2007.

Oh joy of 'Deep joys'. It is not often I get landed with a snippet straight into my lap. But this IS a true saying and worthy of all men (I know a biblical saying but bear with me). In early January I went into a "licking" good shop in Metheringham (although what it sells is usually self adhesive now). I went up to the counter to be served and saw a lady behind the glass partition in the next bay. I leaned over and said: "Happy New Year To You" No response. I thought, either I can't speak or she has gone deaf. I leaned over again and there was a sudden recognition of the speaker. Now fellas here comes the crowning glory. "I can't do three things at once" came the reply.

I replied "but I have had it drummed into me all my life that 'wimmin' can multitask and men can't!"

It was at that point that the lady in question realised the error of her ways. "Oh no. I suppose that will be in the Parish magazine!"

YES!!!

As I came back to Dunston chuckling at my good fortune I wondered how I could relay this snippet but at the same time give it a serious note. It came to me as I walked across the fields in the quiet morning air. We tend to look at people but do we actually 'see them' We tend to pigeon-hole them into categories that are usually less than flattering. It is nearly always the negative aspects that we see.

I have tried throughout my life to see good in people, not necessarily their standing in the community or their self proclaimed skills. Everyone of us on this earth of ours is good at something. We are all needed in the great plan of things. We are all a small cog in the giant wheel of life (even though some feel they are a big cog, they are not and their 'egos' need pricking to deflate them!)

We are all needed in Gods plan to live our lives according to his word. I know its hard to do when there are so many distractions around us. As you all read this Lent will soon be on us and the time for giving up things for that period.

THIS YEAR LETS BE DIFFERENT

This year instead of giving up smoking, chocolate, alcohol, cream cakes and all the other niceties of life, lets be positive and see good things in our neighbours. Lets see the crafts and

skills in people who are shy, retiring and don't put themselves to the fore. We need them as much as anyone else to make our life that bit easier.
 So during Lent when we meet our friends, neighbours or even strangers lets be forgiving and see the "Good" in our fellow man.
 Fellas, when you are at the bar 'suppin' a pint and eating some pork scratchings, look at your neighbour and find the "Good" in him/her while you talk to them.
 See ladies us fellas can multitask after all!
 Have a Good Lent and may your God go with you.
 Stuart Rogerson.

Dunston St. Peter's Church of England Primary School

It has been a little while since my last article, I'm afraid our school's busy Christmas calendar took over my life for a while!

We enjoyed our many Christmas activities which included: two successful plays, a Fayre, a visit to the panto in Lincoln, taking part in the various services in the Church (singing with accompanying sign language!), making table decorations with the ladies from the church and a special act of worship in school led by Peter Staves, the Director of Education for church schools! In the middle of all of this we also managed to re-introduce hot meals which are provided by The Kitchen from Nocton Heath.

The children have settled well back into school and are working hard. Our next big event is an Auction at Dunston Village Hall which is organized by the Friends of the school and in aid of both the school and the NCH charity. It will take place on Saturday, February 3rd at 7.00pm.
 Graham Boyall Headteacher.

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY IN THE THREE PARISHES

| | |
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| Thursday 1st | (and each Thursday) |
| 9.00am | Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham |
| Sunday 4th | 3rd Sunday before Lent |
| 8.00am | Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham |
| 9.00am | Holy Communion – St. Peter's Dunston |
| 10.30am | United Service - Metheringham Methodist Chapel |
| Sunday 11th | 2nd Sunday before Lent |
| 9.00am | Holy Communion – St. Oswald's Blankney |
| 9.00am | Morning Worship – St. Peter's Dunston |
| 10.30am | Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham |
| Sunday 18th | Sunday next before Lent |
| 8.00am | Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham |
| 9.00am | Holy Communion – St Peter's Dunston |
| 10.30am | Morning Worship – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham |
| Wednesday 21st | Ash Wednesday |
| 7.30pm | Imposition of Ashes St. Wilfrid's Metheringham |
| Sunday 25th | 1st Sunday of Lent |
| 9.00am | Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion – St. Oswald's Blankney. |
| 10.30am | Holy communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham |
| 4.30pm | Worship and Praise Service – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham |
| March 4th | 2nd Sunday of Lent |
| 8.00am | Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham |
| 9.00am | Holy Communion – St. Peter's Dunston |
| 10.30am | United Service – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham |

Sunday 18th March is Mothering Sunday

W.I. Report

The annual dinner, postponed from before Christmas, was held at Blankney Golf Club on Wednesday January 17th. No golf - just an evening of general chat, an enjoyable meal and we all came home armed with a small gift.

The Christmas Social had to be cancelled, not through lack of support but because of "no heating" in the Chapel some of Santas Elves had vandalised the system.

Next Meeting Wednesday 21st Feb. Sherpas & Snowmen - a talk with slides by Tim Hudson.

New members always welcome.

JS

Metheringham Over 60's Club

At the January meeting we had a very entertaining evening with John Campbell the Dean's Verger, there was a slide show of the filming of the De Vinci Code at the Cathedral and after a break for tea & biscuits John told anecdotes about his life as the Dean's Verger. The Annual General Meeting takes place on 7th March (how time flies) come along and let us know if we are getting things right (or not) whichever the case may be. There is a trip to Hodstock Priory to see the Snowdrops on 14th February (subject to demand) so if you would like to go contact Doreen 321478 for details.

Diary Dates. 2007 7th February Ladies Barber Shop. 7th March A.G.M

Ann Crooks. Secretary

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin.

(See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6) In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12 – 18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 – 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today. PP

Why climate change?

At one level the climate change we are now beginning to experience is the result of increased concentrations of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere. At another level it is the result of human activity, mainly through burning of fossil fuels like coal, gas and oil. So carbon dioxide concentrations have increased by one third since 1750, the start of the Industrial Revolution, and the United Kingdom has provided 15 per cent of this. If no action were to be taken to reduce this, temperatures could rise by up to 6 degrees centigrade, with disastrous effects to the environment, the climate and the population. In the light of the Christian faith, what does this mean? At the heart of Christian belief is the idea that God has provided abundantly for all his people. But there are limits to the way God's gifts are to be used. As Ann Pettifor reminds us in her book 'The Coming First World Debt Crisis', "The strict rules of the Sabbath prohibit the exploitation of land and labour every seventh day". So the Sabbath, by providing limits to consumption and exploitation, offered an almost automatic mechanism for correcting

injustices and imbalances. Not just a correction every week, but every seventh year and in every fiftieth year at Jubilee.

Because for so long we have lost this sense of God's generosity and humanity's need for constraint, we now need to take drastic measures to put things right again. Abating the causes of climate change will take far more than simply refraining from Sunday trading. Some of the adjustments will be painful and costly, but in the process, we may come nearer to the God whom we worship. PP

Do your bit - how many low energy light bulbs have you got in your home ? - they save you money as well as reduce CO2 emissions.

Smile Lines

A young clergyman, fresh out of training, thought it would help him better understand the fears and temptations his future congregations faced if he first took a job as a policeman for several months. He passed the physical examination; then came the oral exam to test his ability to act quickly and wisely in an emergency. Among other questions he was asked, "What would you do to disperse a frenzied crowd?"

He thought for a moment and then said, "I would pass an offering plate." He got the job.

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Andrew interrupted, "My mum looked back once, while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

A Catholic priest and a Methodist pastor from two local churches were standing by the side of the road, feverishly pounding a handmade sign into the ground with a large rock. The sign read: The End is Near! Turn Yourself Around Now Before It's Too Late!

As a car sped past them, the driver yelled, "Leave us alone, you religious nuts!" A moment later, from around the curve they heard screeching tires and a big splash. The pastor turned to the priest and asked thoughtfully: "Do you think the sign should just say 'Bridge Out'?"

Don't sniff at the common cold

What is the leading cause of a visit to a doctor in a Western country? And a major cause of absenteeism from work? The mundane, misery-inducing common cold.

The common cold is not a precisely defined disease, but you sure know it when you've got one. This virus brings on symptoms which last from two to 14 days, and range from sneezing, congestion, a runny nose, sore throat, headache, tiredness and coughing. On average, you are likely to get between two and four colds a year.

Since Vitamin C was first isolated in the 1930s, it has been used to fight respiratory infections. In recent trials of more than 11,000 children and adults, it was found that though people who take Vitamin C regularly still get colds, they seem to recover more quickly. (At least a day ahead of the others.) PP

Fairtrade Nuts – now there's more choice!

More than 13,000 nut farmers in Malawi, Mozambique and India will benefit from a decision by Tesco to increase its successful Fairtrade nuts range.

Working with alternative trading organisation Twin Trading, Tesco has launched two new products – a 200g Fairtrade peanut and raisin mix, and Fairtrade natural cashews in 150g packs.

The move follows the successful introduction of shelled own-brand Fairtrade brazil nuts to Tesco stores in March last year. These now account for more than a quarter of brazil nuts sold in the fresh produce category of Tesco and the product has been rolled out to more than 600 Tesco stores.

The peanut and raisin mix shows a photo of Judith Harry, a Malawian peanut farmer and single mother of a teenage daughter, who says: "In Mkanda where I live most farmers live below the poverty line. They earn below \$1 per day and do not have enough food to last them the whole year. The guaranteed fair price which comes with Fairtrade is important as we make a profit when we sell our nuts and we can use the money to lift up our lives." The peanuts are also available in roasted and salted form from Co-op stores nationwide.

The Fairtrade raisins have been sourced by Traidcraft and come from the Eksteenskuil Farmers Association of 119 smallholder farmers near the Kalahari in South Africa.

Thomas Kalappurackal, a cashew farmer in India and joint secretary of the Fair Trade Alliance Kerala (FTAK) which is supplying some of the nuts says: "Farmers' debts have steadily mounted in Kerala. There is growing impoverishment and some farmers have taken their own lives, unable to bear the burden of debt. The guaranteed fair price which comes with Fairtrade is a move away from this terrible insecurity."

Duncan White, Project Director for nuts at Twin Trading says: "The move to widen the availability of Fairtrade nuts for UK consumers has been advanced by Tesco with the launch of these two new nut lines. Farmers in Africa and Asia are experiencing secure trading relationships and have a real say in the supply chain. UK consumers can help them live their lives outside of the poverty trap in return for great quality products."

Tesco's buyer in charge of nuts, Kevin Patel, adds: "Tesco is offering its customers two new Fairtrade nuts products. Sales of Fairtrade brazil nuts, now available in more than 600 stores, have surpassed all expectations and we are pleased to offer an increased, top quality Fairtrade choice to nut lovers in our stores."

Significant market opportunities exist with these products because of the ever increasing popularity of Fairtrade and because of the huge rise in nut buying thanks to their well-publicised health benefits.

The world nut market is dominated by a small number of large trading houses, with local traders and processors controlling supply chains in some of the world's poorest countries. Those at the bottom of the chain – small-scale farmers – tend to gain little in return for their intensively hard work whilst their crops generate significant returns to those further up the supply chain. Many nut farmers have seen the real value of their crop decrease year on year and they are struggling to survive.

Duncan White adds: "The success of Fairtrade nuts at Tesco shows that the UK public wants not only to enjoy a delicious and healthy snack product, but also to guarantee that farmers in the world's poorer countries are being paid fairly for the work they do and the crops they grow. We want the rest of the nut industry to take note." PP