

## Church Newsround July 2007

### St Wilfrid's Church Fete - 14th July at 2pm

This year the Church Fete will be held in the grounds on the north side of the Church. There will be a LIVES display along with stalls selling Plants, Jewellery, Books and Bric-a-brac. You are invited to try your luck on the Tombola stall or on the raffle. Refreshing teas and tasty home baked refreshments will be served along with the opportunity to indulge in scrumptious ice creams. So forget that long drive into Lincoln to cruise the shops and come along and support St Wilfrid's - see you there.

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### BISHOP'S LETTER - Where are Marriages made?

In Heaven, some would say. On the other hand, the TV reality show **Marriages from Hell** has had little difficulty in recruiting participants!

The answer, of course, is that marriages are made where two people make a life commitment of faithfulness to one another, and determine to make that a matter of public record. So whilst marriage remains an intensely personal matter between the parties involved, it can never be totally private and unobserved. Neither can it be undertaken on a whim and without involving others. This requires a venue where the marriage can be witnessed and registered according to law – and thereby hangs a tail!

Whilst we tend to think of marriages in hotels or castles or on tropical beaches as modern innovations, and even deviations from the norm of marriage in Church, this norm is relatively recent in our history. Even then, the ceremony would have been at the Church door rather than in the Church itself.

However, for several centuries now the vast majority of couples have been married in Church and, if not, it has been the Church's rules which have prevented them. This steady state of affairs almost certainly led to the risk of complacency as the Church took for granted its monopoly role when it came to the provision of venues and legal services.

This is no longer the case. Consequently, Councils and Synods are having to re-visit the terms and conditions governing marriage in Church. For example, should restrictions on where people can be married be lifted so that a couple can be married in any Church of their choosing? Should the words and music used in Church weddings be more flexible and responsive to personal preferences? Should Parish Churches become much more "competitive" when it comes to what they provide and how much is charged?

Certainly we need to be more pro-active in promoting our Churches as places where weddings are welcome and care is taken to make that special day extra special. Evidence suggests an upturn in the number of Church weddings as a proportion of the number celebrated each year. This could be because many people have now attended weddings at non-Church venues and feel that they would prefer what the Church has to offer.

Surveys indicate that it is often the prettiness of the place or the grandeur of the building which governs this preference. But people also speak about the ambiance, the ethos and the spiritual atmosphere of a Church which makes

them feel it is the right venue for them. All this in addition to those for who making their vows before God in God's house is what matters most of all. So weddings in Church continue to offer opportunities for teaching, pastoral care and evangelism towards those who seek us out for what they believe only a Church can give them at a crucial moment in their lives. Let us be bold in letting them know we are there for them, and let us be glad and grateful for the opportunity they give us to minister God's grace and share the good news of God's redeeming love.  
+ John Lincoln

### **Christian Aid Week 2007**

Thank you to all who volunteered to distribute and collect envelopes, gave generously or helped count the money during Christian Aid week. This year we raised £1160. Many people gift aided their contributions so that we could claim an extra 22.5 %. (Thank you Mr. Brown) Christian Aid week is one of our major charitable fund raising activities in the village. It is an opportunity for Christians to show their practical support for the poor. Next year I should like to deliver a Christian Aid envelope to every household in the village.  
MWC

**St Wilfrid's Cream Tea** - Many thanks to all who helped and visited the church. It raised £135 for church funds.

### **Parish Registers**

Funerals. *We commend to God's mercy those who have died.*  
Peter Neville Machin Died 25-5-07 aged 74 years. Cremation 6-6-07 at Lincoln.

Baptism. *We welcome into God's family.*  
Billy Dale Shaw at St Wilfrid's 27-5-07.

### **Dunston Parish News.**

I am writing this page before the exhibition week end has begun and ended!). Six months hard work has gone into the three day event and by business standards we should be bankrupt! Staging it by "Christian Values" I know that we have already made a huge profit. Not in monetary terms but in the community spirit and the pulling together of different aspects of village life. Yes, I have had various disappointments along the way from various people and companies but they were in the minority compared to the positive parts. A billion pound profit company did not want to help a small community venture even though, "Every Little Helps" is their slogan. Obviously a one way trip to their bank balance!

To those who have supported me in hundreds of various ways I am deeply grateful. If the week end is talked about, for whatever reason, I have managed something. I pray it will be a success.

Will I do it again? Well I will make my own 'T' shirt but I 'ain't wearing it! We all, I hope, try to live our lives according to the 'Good Book' and it really is very hard to do, BUT if we only manage a small slice of it, it is a start. We all

have talents that make this world go round and I like to think that we are all a small tooth (ALL THE SAME SIZE) in the cog that goes round and round very smoothly. If someone opts out then the wheel runs rough and lumpy and as we say "that's life"

I hope you all had fun and maybe laughed a little at what my little band of helpers tried to stage over the week end of June 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.

If you have compliments tell everyone about them. IF you have any criticism then 'keep it to yourself'.

As always, may your God go with you.

Lord Bishop of Dunston ( if you went to the week end you will know what I mean!)

### **STOP PRESS**

I don't know whether it was my prayers or even my costume that allowed my editor to see me at our week end celebrations or as I suspect he was short of news.

I am on a 'high'. Our 'All Our Yesterdays' over the week end has been an absolute superb success. All the hard work over the last six months has come to a successful conclusion. Our concert was well received and the church on Sunday evening was full. We even had to put extra chairs out to accommodate all the congregation. The service taken by the Bishop of Dunston, was the highlight for me, of all the week end. The children of St. Peter's school once again came up trumps. Not only came dressed up but sang their hymn and read their thoughts of 'yesterdays', was not only brilliant but a superb example of the dedication of the headmaster, Graham Boyle and his team of teachers.

My own personal thanks go to all my happy band of flower arrangers, clearer upperers, tea makers and serving wenches who without them it would not have been possible to stage the event. I have had the most fantastic week end of seeing what can happen when a village and surrounding area pull together to help make something work. Our total up to date is £2,300.00p which is due to the generosity of all those people who came to see all their relatives of bygone days.

To our sponsors, our behind the scene givers of time and money my deep heartfelt thanks to you all.

Bishop Stuart of Dunston

( no doubt I will be defrocked before the next edition.)

### **A Raving Starve for Slavery.**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>h</sup> may, some RAVE members took part in the 24 hour famine. We began our "Starve" with games and activities throughout the evening, as well as discussing why we were there. The annual event raises funds for 'World Vision', which this year campaigned to help halt slavery around the world. During our day without food, we also made short films, with is acting out interviews with young slaves. As many of these stories were true, it really hit us why we needed to raise money for this cause. We also held a coffee morning on the Saturday (serve by our starving selves) to raise additional funds. It's hard to understand how difficult it is to make and serve chocolate muffins while we are starving, until our experience it yourself!

We all had a brilliant time playing sport, making giant posters ( while getting the chapel and ourselves covered in paint), and watching the disaster that was the cup final. At the end of the deprived 24 hours, we really appreciated the pizza and donuts we had been badly craving for the past day.

Thank you so much to those who were bullied into staying the night at the Chapel ( sorry if you didn't get much sleep) and those who were there during the day, and everyone who helped to raise funds and awareness through our sponsors and the coffee morning, we are all extremely grateful!

Bt Vikki and Ollie Houlden.

### **Dunston St. Peter's Primary School**

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, I will be taking the Year 6 children to Lincoln Cathedral for the Church Schools Festival. This year their chosen activity is fabric printing. As well as a conducted tour of the cathedral, they will be designing and decorating a cope, which the speaker in the afternoon's act of worship will be wearing. This is always a memorable day and a chance for some of the church schools to get together.

On July 1<sup>st</sup> our girls' cricket team will once again be representing North Kesteven at the Lincolnshire Youth Games in Grantham and on July 6<sup>th</sup> the children in Years 5 and 6 will be setting off on their residential long weekend to Kingswood Activity Centre in West Runton, Norfolk. Activities will include karting, abseiling, archery and kayaking. The children love these trips and sometimes they even get some sleep!

Finally, another advert for our Summer Fayre. This will take place on Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 1.00pm. Please come along and support us.  
Graham Boyall Headteacher

### **SERVICES FOR JULY IN THE THREE PARISHES**

#### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>**

8.00am

9.00am

10.30am

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

Holy Communion – St. Peter's Dunston

United Service – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>

7.30pm

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>

9.00am

St. Thomas the Apostle

Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

( and each Thursday )

Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

#### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>**

9.00am

9.00am

10.30am

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

Holy Communion – St. Oswalds Blankney

Morning Worship – St. Peter's Dunston

Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's S.School / Creche

#### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>**

8.00am

9.00am

10.30am

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

Holy Communion – St. Peter's Dunston

Morning Worship – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

#### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

#### **Mary Magdalene / 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

9.00am	Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion – St. Oswalds Blankney
10.30am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's S.School / Creche
4.30pm	30 Minutes with God – ( Reflections and Prayers ) St. Wilfrid's Metheringham
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	St. James the Apostle – 7.30pm H.C. St Wilfrid's
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>
10.30am	Group Holy Communion – St. Oswalds Blankney
<b>August</b>	
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>
8.00am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Peter's Dunston
10.30am	United Service – Methodist Chapel Metheringham
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	The Transfiguration of our Lord 7.30pm St.W's

### **Metheringham WI – June Meeting**

Brian Kettleborough and his future son in law, Dave, gave the WI a very sobering account of the work of the small local police charity Cop Drop which began in 1998 and has organised funding, work and equipment for an orphanage in Romania equating to hundreds of thousands of pounds and many children's lives restored or given some dignity. This all stemmed from a casual suggestion at Horncastle police station that they could take some aid out to Romania to help.

Members were also told about the WI's involvement at this year's Lincolnshire show with cake bakers, stewards and competition entries. Five members entered the competitions with ten exhibits although for the first time for many years Metheringham did not have a co-operative entry. Moira Sturdy was congratulated on coming second in the class for an embroidered cushion. Members were also reminded about forthcoming events and outings and asked for their recipes for the proposed WI Recipe booklet. 130 copies of Audrey Webb's TV programme quiz had been sold. Cathy 's Clown won the competition for a toy to go to Romania and Audrey Webb won the flower of the month. Jenni Honisett gave a plea for someone to help with the village hall as management committee secretary or as WI representative on the committee. There will be no July meeting as members and their friends are going to Sandringham for the day to look at the house, museum and gardens. DH

### **Premier asks for your support in its bid to win a national licence**

Premier Radio is hoping to secure a place as the first Christian radio station to broadcast on a national digital licence.

The successful applicant would be able to broadcast a number of stations across the UK using digital radio. Premier Christian Radio are part of the National Grid's bid and are the only Christian broadcaster on either application.

Currently the broadcasting regulator, Ofcom, is overseeing the decision on which of the two candidates - the National Grid and Channel Four should be awarded the licence.

Should National Grid win this bid, Christian programmes will be heard on portable radios across the nation - for the first time in UK history. PP

### **Signs & Symbols: The Churchyard Cross**

In medieval days 'God's acre' – the churchyard - was a busy, often noisy if not raucous place. It was used for dancing, games, feasting and for holding fairs: and travelling merchants would set up stalls within it. You can imagine it as being very different from today where we consider it a place of quiet, peacefulness and tranquillity.

This was because it was a non-cultivated grassy area that would have been central to the population and open and large enough for them to gather within it. The wheel is turning full circle when you hear or read some churches saying that they are the 'centre' of the community!

Prior to the Reformation (in the sixteenth century) every church had a large cross in the churchyard, and some still remain in whole or part today. The cross would have been originally erected on or near a pagan shrine or site and would have been the centre of worship until the church was built. Hence even today they are usually at the true centre of the consecrated area.

Most of them had three steps to enable people to be seen when they stood on them to speak. The three represented the Holy Trinity. They were the place where public announcements were made as well as where travelling or itinerant preachers would have stood to speak before the church was built. Some of these crosses have a 'niche' in the shaft in which a pyx (a holder for the consecrated host) was placed.

The church would then have been built to the north of the cross, and many think this was so that the shaft of the cross might remain in sunlight and throw its own shadow, rather than be shadowed itself by the church building.

Before the Reformation individual headstones were not generally used.

Those who could afford such luxuries had a monument within the church itself. So the cross came to be seen as the 'headstone' for all the graves.

Today there is a clamour for a personal 'mark' to be made where a person's body or ashes are laid, but then all came under the one 'mark' of the cross.

This month: Have a look at an unfamiliar churchyard and consider their large cross. Is it the centre of anything or anywhere? How is it decorated? What do you think its different purposes have been over the years and for today?

Would it act as a 'mark' for you? Rev Dr Jo White

### **St Christopher**

The legend goes that Christopher was a Canaanite who lived in the 3rd century. He was a giant of a man, of fearsome appearance. At first he decided to serve the devil, but when he discovered that the devil was afraid of Christ and his Cross, Christopher decided to serve Christ instead. A nearby hermit instructed Christopher in the Christian faith, and assigned to him a place near a river: Christopher's job was to help travellers cross it safely. All went well, and Christopher helped lots of people on their way until one day a child came along, and asked to be carried across. Christopher put him on

his back and set off, but was soon staggering under the astonishing weight of this child. The child then told him that he was in fact Jesus Christ, and that he carried the weight of the whole world. The Christ-child then told Christopher to plant his staff in the ground: the next day it bore flowers and dates – confirmation that the child was indeed who he claimed to be.

After some time more of helping travellers cross the river, Christopher went to the city of Lycia, where he preached the gospel with such success that the Roman emperor (Decius?) had him arrested and imprisoned – especially when Christopher refused to sacrifice to the gods. Two women sent into his cell to seduce him came out converted Christians instead. So Christopher was beaten, shot with arrows and finally beheaded.

Christopher has been well loved of the English down the centuries. Many wall-paintings of him have been placed on the north wall of churches, opposite the porch, so that he would be seen by all who entered. There was good reason for this: as patron saint of travellers, it was believed that anyone who saw an image of St Christopher would not die that day. As the ancient saying goes: 'Behold St Christopher and go thy way in safety'.

A kind of daily insurance policy against death – this was so good that St Christopher became in due course the patron saint of motorists. There is even a church in the Javel area of Paris where Citroen cars are made, that is dedicated to St Christopher. In modern times, with the increase in air and motorway travel, Christopher has remained popular. When in 1969 the Holy See reduced his feast day, there was a sharp protest in several countries, led in Italy by a number of popular film stars. If you ever travel in a taxi on the Continent, look out for a little St Christopher hanging from the rear view mirror beside the driver. Now you know why it is there! PP

### **How to help the unbeliever?**

Have you ever wondered how to help the friend who says that he/she would like to believe, but simply can't?

Your friend's brightest prospect of becoming a believer in Christ may well rest, humanly speaking, on YOU. Nearly every time an individual responds to the good news of Jesus, somewhere in the background was a friend. As Augustine said sixteen centuries ago: 'One loving spirit sets another on fire.' Faith needs a backcloth. In the days of the New Testament, the backcloth was the Jewish tradition, stretching back over centuries – and the common expectation of a Messiah. Today it is rather different. Your friend may not have a religious framework for his/her thinking; alternatively your friend may have a distorted religious world-view, such as is found in New Age.

A little undermining of his/her presuppositions will be necessary – and because you are a friend, it can be done without offence. An obvious opener is the challenge: 'Describe to me your world-view'. For every man, woman and child on Planet Earth has a world-view; that is, believes something about the meaning of life as they find it. What is your friend's world-view? Explore it, probe it, question it, and undermine it - and all the time you are praying: 'Make them hungry, Lord!'

Faith needs an event. We know, of course, that the search for faith is not a blind, empty search for anything. It's more like the ancient search for the source of the River Nile. Everybody knew that there must be a great reservoir that was feeding the mighty river; it was only a question of persevering.

In the Christian context, we have been given the latitude and longitude for the search for ultimate reality. We need look no further than the life, death and resurrection of the world's pivotal figure, Jesus Christ. In your discussions, keep coming back to HIM. The road to a living faith is the road that keeps Christ in view. "Faith," wrote Os Guinness, "does not feed on thin air, but on facts." (Doubt, Lion Publishing). In the end, faith, for your friend, is not going to be a 'feeling' about Christianity, but a rational and willing response. Faith needs a trigger. "Who do you say that I am?" Jesus asked Peter. It was a trigger moment for the disciple. But a trigger can equally be an event, an illness, the birth of a baby, a visit to church, the reading of a book. Keep looking for those opportunities that may help to tip your friend towards the Kingdom.

It can take a while, going about it as the singer Garth Hewitt once declared to a journalist, when he said, "My role is that of creating doubt in the mind of the ardent unbeliever."

But when that job is done, the way is created for the electric 'trigger' moment. 'Lord – make your friend hungry.' Rev Richard Bewes PP

### **Children !**

One day Joe's mother turned to Joe's father and said, "It's such a nice day, I think I'll take Joe to the zoo." "I wouldn't bother," said father. "If they want him, let them come and get him!"

A lady invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied.

"Just pray what you've heard Mummy pray," the wife answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

### **Some observations with a spiritual flavour...**

It is shocking to reflect that a change in the weather has more effect on some men's lives than the dread alternative of heaven or hell. C H Spurgeon  
Love is not affectionate feeling, but a steady wish for the loved person's ultimate good as far as it can be obtained. C S Lewis

We must give our Lord our love or that love will go somewhere else. We are so created that we must love something or other. C H Spurgeon

If we have not quiet in our minds, outward comfort will do no more for us than a golden slipper on a gouty foot. John Bunyan

You can have such an open mind that it is too porous to hold a conviction. George Crane

A breakdown in moral order leads to a breakdown in civil order. Frederick Catherwood

God considers not the action, but the spirit of the action. Peter Abelard

Each temptation leaves us better or worse; neutrality is impossible. Erwin W Lutzer

He who neglects the present moment throws away all he has. Johann von Schiller

The secret of boring people lies in telling them everything. Anton Chekhov

A brain is known by its fruits. H G Wells

### **What your snoring partner is doing to you**

If your partner snores, it will cost you two years of missed sleep over your lives together.

A staggering 15 million British adults live with a snoring partner, who deprives them of an average of two hours sleep a night. If an average relationship lasts 24 years, this equates to a loss of two years' sleep.

These are the findings of a study by the British Snoring and Sleep Apnoea Association (BSSAA). Of the 2,000 adults questioned, 85 per cent said that their relationship with their partner would be better if they would stop snoring. Over half (55 per cent) said that snoring had even affected their sexual relationship.

The victims of snorers admit to feeling irritation, frustration and upset with their partner. They complain that the lack of sleep also leads to them making mistakes at work.

The BSSAA have come up with a variety of devices to combat the problem: nose and chin strips, nasal dilators, breathing devices, ear plugs, allergy testing kits and even nightwear that stops snorers from sleeping on their backs.

Meanwhile, we want to ask our readers: how do you combat the problem with your snoring partner? Please write your tips on a piece of paper and leave it in the editorial post-box at the back of the church. There is no need to write your name. We'll let you know what people in this church do to get some sleep at night! PP

### **Some miscellaneous observations on summertime:**

Weed: a plant whose virtues have not been discovered. Emerson

Willpower: the ability to eat one salted peanut and stop

Holiday: the period of time when you get too active and too tired on your own time.

Holiday resort: where you go when you are worn out and where you come back a complete wreck

Waiter: a fellow who believes that money grows on trays

Little boats should keep near shore. Franklin

Nothing is so good as it seems beforehand. George Eliot