

Church Newsround – October 2007

ST ANDREW'S NIGHT MEAL ON 30 NOVEMBER 2007
ST. WILFRID'S CHURCH HALL at 7.30PM
ENTERTAINMENT BUT PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS.
A RAFFLE WITH A SCOTTISH FLAVOUR - TICKETS £8
ALL PROCEEDS IN AID OF THE FABRIC FUND

AVAILABLE FROM :-
Margaret Amos
Ann DeVries
Another Chance shop

The Bishop of Grimsby's Parish Letter

Dear Friends,

The murder of 11 year old Rhys Jones touched every community. Rhys' parents, along with others who have lost their precious children to sudden and violent death, have been much in our prayers.

In an age of instant comment, much has been said about the whys and wherefores which give rise to such an outrage. Calls for evermore draconian punishments for those who perpetrate such evil develop an energy of their own which is particularly seductive for politicians, who can appear impotent in the face of those who live outside of society's norms and expectations. In such a reaction there is inevitably a focus onto the wickedness of the perpetrators, who indeed must be held accountable for their evil deeds.

In reacting to this tragedy, however, we must not lose sight of the bigger, multifaceted picture. Violence has a context; it does not happen in a vacuum. The truth is that there is an aggressive backdrop to our society. Violence is a key feature of the entertainment industry and our market economy is aggressive towards the weak and the incompetent. Our politics and systems of justice are adversarial and confrontational, providing a backdrop of aggressive interactions, which then become the norm - with winners and losers; the named and the shamed. Tabloids report aggressively about people's actions, failings or shortcomings - readily demonising individuals in the process. Journalism feeds on conflict, showing scant interest in the opinions of the moderate or the reflective.

The church is not immune from this. Our debates, our diversity and reactions to change can have an underlying aggression which, at times, drives otherwise good people into behaviour which falls far short of our vocation to be peacemakers.

In a society which provides an aggressive context from which some will step into violence, it will not be policing and legislation that will alter the context in which that violence is cradled. There has to be a change of heart. Those of us who follow the 'Prince of Peace' are called to give a lead in making aggression an unacceptable part of human interaction. It is an enormous task – almost impossible. Yet Jesus calls us to be the salt or the yeast which transforms the whole. Human interaction without aggression would be a transformation to which we can each contribute. Taking aggression out of our dealings with each other would be a miracle - a sign of God's Kingdom breaking through. In the end, it is up to us.

With my best wishes + David Grimsby

Parish Registers in September

Baptisms at St Wilfrid's

Welcome to the family

Sophie Yvette Gauld, Dane Edmond Roberts, Isabel Amy Picken, Codie Louise Loftus, Ruby Ella Doncaster, Michelle Louisa Clarke, Emily Willow Smith and James Alfred Bryan Knox.

Wedding at St. Oswald's Blankney

We pray for those beginning married life together

Linda Jameson & Dylan Kent

Funeral

We commend to God's mercy those who have died

Bill Heightley died on August 31st aged 86 years. His funeral was on 11th September at Lincoln Crematorium.

John Wileman died July 17th aged 76 years. Burial at St Wilfrid'.

The Annual Ride & Stride Saturday 8th September

Another year gone and no Jenni this year to lead the way. Di Behan from Blankney and I cycled from Metheringham to Dunston, Nocton, Potterhanworth, Branston and a confession - a pleasant but rather long tea stop at Branston Moor Garden Centre Tea Room. After lunch the Scopwick run. A splash through Kirkby Green beck and on to Rowston, Digby and a long very bumpy ride across fields to Bloxholm and Ashby. Then down hill (thank goodness) to return via Scopwick to Blankney in time for Di to do the last hour at church. Me - home to a hot bath, a Chinese takeaway and the Last Night of the Proms. A thank you to all the sponsors, to **Metheringham Bike Shop** for making my ageing bike safe and rideable (couldn't do anything for aging joints and limbs) An enjoyable day helped along by perfect biking weather. Same time next year I hope - why not join us ? Our sponsorship money will go, half to our churches and half to the Old Churches Trust.

JS

Dunston Parish News

Once again I am writing this piece early as I will be away when the deadline arrives. I haven't had much time to think things out and as most of you know I like to make a point about religion in some form or other then finish with a smile.

To continue where I left off last month, on the subject of 'faith'. As I said 'faith' is not all about religion but about people having something to hold on to in this chaotic and, at the moment very violent world. The murder of young innocents and maybe no so innocent teenagers coupled with the shooting of Rhys Jones, in Liverpool makes me think. How do the families cope with such grief? Their lives are shattered beyond comprehension. The grief on their faces broadcast around the world by an ever intrusive media does not in anyway, shape or form really show us what they are going through, mentally or physically. It is at this time I think, no, I KNOW we can help them by praying that they have the faith and strength to carry on through these difficult times. We don't have to go to church to do that nor do we need to kneel by our beds just before going to sleep at night. God listens to us twenty four hours a day where ever we are.

During August there were celebrations in India and Pakistan to mark the 60 years since they formed independent countries. Since then how much blood has been shed in the name of religion? Is there any wonder that there are 'doubters' in this world of ours with regard to the very existence of 'God'. The problem is that people who blame God for these terrible tragedies are shifting the blame from themselves i.e. humanity, to a person they have never met and that eases their conscience.

I have yet to hear Nelson Mandella blame God for his incarceration for so many years in jail. Terry Waite, held for so many years as a kidnap victim, never blamed God BUT they had 'faith' and they held on to it. We too must have faith, faith that we can make a difference to our world which we rent for such a short space of time.

Faith that we can help other people cope with their tragedies and difficulties that befall us all at some time in our busy lives.

An Indian lady talking about the partition 60 years ago put it very succinctly:

We have learnt to sing like the birds, swim like the fish BUT we haven't learnt to live like human beings.

May your God go with each and every one of you.

Stuart Rogerson.

Thought for the month :- God's gifts put man's best gifts to shame.

Services in October

Wednesday 3rd

630pm

Harvest Songs of Praise followed by Harvest Supper – St. Oswald's

Thursday 4th

(and each Thursday)

9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid’s
Sunday 7 th	18 th Sunday after Trinity
8.00am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid’s
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Peter’s
10.30am	United Service – Metheringham Methodist Church
Sunday 14 th	19 th Sunday after Trinity
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Oswald’s
9.00am	Morning Worship – St. Peter’s
10.30am	St. Wilfrid - Holy Communion - S.S/ Crèche
Sunday 21 st	20 th Sunday after Trinity
8.00am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid’s
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Peter’s
10.30am	Morning worship – St. Wilfrid’s
Sunday 28 th	Last Sunday after Trinity
9.00am	Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion – St. Oswald’s
10.30am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid’s S.School / Crèche
4.30pm	30 Minutes with God – (A Celtic worship) – St. Wilfrid’s
Friday 2 nd November	
7.30pm	Commemoration of the Faithful Departed – St. Wilfrid’s
Sunday 4 th	All Saints Sunday
8.00am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid’s
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Peter’s
10.30am	United Service – St. Wilfrid’s

St. Peter’s Church of England Primary School.

The new year has started well at Dunston St. Peter’s Church of England Primary School. Our ten new Reception children have all settled in very quickly and we have four other new children who have also made an excellent start.

As we now have three classes in the school (for the first time since 1994), we have decided to mark the occasion with a special ceremony. Councillor Bradwell, the portfolio holder for education, will be coming to cut a ribbon and meet some of our children and their parents. We are now getting ready for our Harvest Service in St. Peter’s which will have already happened when you read this!

GB

Free Harmony Singing Lesson

Have you watched with a mixture of fascination and disbelief the would-be singing stars that appear on your television set in increasing numbers? And have you thought, “I could sing better than that?” Well, if you’re a guy aged from 9 years old up to - well there is no upper limit, now is your chance to do something about it. We recognise that a number of males, of all ages, who would like to sing are unsure of how to start, where to go, or maybe are a bit nervous because they don’t read music. Fear not, help is at hand! We are Harmony Lincs, a men’s singing group from Lincoln and the surrounding villages, and the eight-week course is for any male over the age of 9 years old – and it’s FREE! If you are a complete novice, or if perhaps you haven’t sung since your school days, then this course will help you to find your voice and will boost your confidence. Or perhaps you already sing with another choir or group, in which case the course will give you the chance to try something new or to brush up on your vocal technique.

Whatever your experience or background, this course has something to offer. We have held two similar courses in previous years, with over forty attendees in total; some have since

stayed with us and have sung in local and national competitions, whilst some have moved to sing with other groups, from rock to world music.

The course, supported by the City of Lincoln Council, starts on Thursday 11th October 2007 and runs each Thursday until 29th November. You will receive expert tuition, demonstrations, sheet music and voice part learning CDs, as well as having an enjoyable and sociable experience.

To find out more please telephone Tony on 01522-791015, email info@harmonylincs.org or [visit www.harmonylincs.org](http://www.harmonylincs.org)

PS – don't forget. It's FREE!

W.I. Report

An energetic afternoon was held in August, A mini Olympics, pole vault, 100m etc were replaced by boule, croquet, darts, quoits helped and equally enjoyed by Gert & Daisy (the resident dogs). There were board games, a quiz, drinks and everyone contributed a plate of food. A thank you to Jean & David for their hospitality.

Christmas is a-coming (early) a talk and demonstrations by Ann Barnes. Lots to make and to quote "no skill required".

Collections of natural things, cones, leaves, poppy heads, beech nuts, dried peppers, chillis and fruit. Attached by pins, cocktail sticks and wire. Arranged on three basic shapes - cones, topiary (tree-shaped) and wreath bases.

There were also arrangements in glasses and vases enhanced by lights and mirrors.

Dishes of smells : herbs, cloves, coffee beans, cinnamon etc all help towards the atmosphere of Christmas.

All the arrangements looked attractive and were simple and easy to make.

Next meeting Wednesday 17th October - Veterinary care by Sarah Williams.

Metheringham Over 60's Club

At our first meeting of the Autumn 125 members were entertained by David St Paul. it was a wonderful evenings entertainment which ended all too soon. The outing to Skegness was well attended and once again the weather was kind to us. The next meeting is our Harvest & Auction, please bring along a donation of produce or jams etc which we will auction off after the Harvest Service. Once again we are having a jar stall at the Fayre & Feast so save your jars and fill with a small gift. It is surprising what you can find to fit in a jar!!! All proceeds are for Club Funds. Don't forget you must attend two meetings between September & November to be eligible for the Christmas Dinner in December. We have a waiting list for new members so if you would like to join us ring Ann (323559) to put your name on the list. Guests are welcome to the meetings for a charge of £2 per visit. (December meeting is members only) Diary Dates - 3rd October Harvest Service/Auction, 3rd November Coffee Morning, 7th November Nick & Anita, 14th November Chatsworth House
Ann Crooks Secretary.

Slow Down !

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, has sent every Member of Parliament a copy of the 100-Minute Bible and a guide to slowing down.

The guide, written by the Bishop of Reading, the Rt Rev Stephen Cottrell, and released earlier this year, is entitled 'Do Nothing to Change Your Life'. The book urges its readers to create pauses in daily life to benefit their own, and society's, health and well being. The book argues this fresh perspective of relishing every moment with a greater attentiveness will improve our relationship with God.

'Do Nothing to Change Your Life' is a passionate plea for the nation to ditch endless 'to do' lists, constant streams of emails, and an increasingly '24/7' culture," said the Church of England. The book was published following an international study that showed that the pace of life in our cities has increased by 10 per cent in the last decade.

"The Bishop's warning about the danger of not taking rest and play seriously is a timely one," said the Church of England. The 100 Minute Bible gives a synopsis of every book in the Bible and takes less than two hours to read.

PP

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. PP

The language of church-going

AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

BULLETIN: Your receipt for attending the service.

CHOIR: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the congregation to lip-sync.

HOLY WATER: A liquid whose chemical formula is H₂O.

HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: The last song at a service - often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.

INCENSE: Holy Smoke! Good for keeping Bats away too.

JONAH: The original 'Jaws' story.

JUSTICE: When kids have kids of their own.

KYRIE ELEISON: The only Greek words that most Catholics and Anglicans can recognize besides gyros and baklava. (it means Lord have mercy)

PEW: A medieval torture device still found in many Anglican and Catholic churches.

PROCESSION: The ceremonial formation at the beginning of the service, consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats.

RECESSIONAL: The ceremonial procession at the conclusion of the service - led by parishioners trying to beat the crowd to the car park.

RELICS: People who have been going to church for so long that they actually know when to sit, kneel, and stand.

TEN COMMANDMENTS: The most important – and oldest - Top Ten list.

USHERS: The only people in the church who don't know the seating capacity of a pew

Your Guardian Angel

The teaching of Jesus encourages us to believe that we each have our own guardian angel. He once said, 'See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.' (Matthew 18.10)

The existence of angels was suggested in various Old Testament texts, Jesus mentioned them explicitly, and the early Christians accepted their existence and work (Acts 12.15).

In England, devotion to the angels, both in Anglo-Saxon times and later, was strong. In modern times, the great American evangelist Billy Graham, has written an entire book on the existence and work of angels.

Alcuin described them as intercessors (in the 11th century Leofric Missal); Herbert of Losinga, bishop of Norwich (d 1119) specially praised them, and his contemporary, Reginald of Canterbury, wrote prayers in their honour.

Honorius Augustodunensis (d 1151) clarified the existing belief of the time by asserting that each human soul, when infused into the body, is entrusted to the particular care of a single angel, who protects both body and soul and offers prayers to God.

For many centuries Christendom was satisfied with the feast of St Michael (and all Angels), but the special feast of the Guardian Angels was introduced in Austria, Spain and Portugal in the 15th – 16th centuries. Guardian Angels were there seen as guardians of particular towns or regions, or of each individual. Pope Clement X made the feast day universal in 1607, fixing its date to 2 October. PP

St Luke the Evangelist

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. PP

Odran of Iona died c. 563

Odran is a suitable saint to remember as Halloween approaches, for his story involves the spirit world.

British by birth, Odran was one of Columba's first companions on Iona. Sadly, he died not long after his arrival on the island. But Columba found comfort, for in a vision he saw Odran's soul ascending to heaven, after being fought over by angels and devils. Christ had redeemed Odran for his own, and so all the devils there ever were could not lay claim to Odran's soul. In memory of his dear friend, Columba named the graveyard on Iona after him, Reilig Orain. An old Irish tradition has an Odran abbot of Meath and founder of Latteragh (Co. Tipperary), and it is probable that these Odrans are one and the same. PP

Put it this way...

- ~ A good pun is its own reward.
- ~ A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
- ~ A pessimist's blood type is always b-negative.
- ~ My wife really likes to make pottery, but to me it's just kiln time.
- ~ Dijon vu: The same mustard as before.
- ~ I fired my masseuse today. She just rubbed me the wrong way.
- ~ A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother.
- ~ Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death.
- ~ I used to work in a blanket factory, but it folded.
- ~ Marriage is the mourning after the knot before.
- ~ Sea captains don't like crew cuts.
- ~ Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
- ~ A gossip is someone with a great sense of rumor.
- ~ Acupuncture is a jab well done.