

CHURCH NEWSROUND SEPTEMBER 2007

The Bishop of Grantham writes :

Dear friends

My summer holiday was in sharp contrast to my early memories of family holidays. There were hot, sticky days in Bridlington, cooled by a sharp breeze off the sea. In the air, there were strange and heady scents of the British holiday resort: real ice cream; hot dogs and burgers; the 'novelty' rock emporium. Later in life, in my teens, my affections moved to Skegness where the, hitherto unopened, delights of the pleasure beach and its massive – it seemed to me in those innocent days before Alton Towers and its 'super rides' – roller coaster, which, at one corner, dangled you frighteningly and precariously over a sandy beach which seemed to be miles from any ocean. The whelks and cockle stalls, candy floss which stuck around your mouth and took, seemingly, months to disappear completely, and the 'kiss me quick' cowboy hats in which one would cut a cavalier dash down the promenade. All of this, and the statue of the Jolly Sailor, beckoning you to a fortnight of unblemished pleasure to be remembered for ever through the medium of the photos taken by a complete stranger with tickets in his hat who would inform you that 'they will be ready in 24 hours at the end of the pier'.

It all seems an aeon ago, and Skegness itself has modernised whilst retaining something of that old traditional feel. But nowadays we jet off to foreign climes as easily as getting on a bus and we even have our weddings on lush Caribbean beaches or Thai temples. The world has got smaller and is now a 'global village'. Whole families routinely pop across to Australia or some other far away idyll as quickly and as comfortably as we once went to Cleethorpes. This is, of course, essentially good, because we are learning more about our fellow human beings in once hidden and inaccessible places. We learn that they think and feel and act in more or less the same way as ourselves: there is no place for racism or stereotypes with the seasoned traveller, only a respect and awe for the diversity and richness of the many cultures on the earth. That is why it is sometimes sad to stand in a supermarket in France or Israel and realise that you could, in fact, be in any supermarket anywhere in the world. The forces that would profit from our tourism and travel can also be forces which reduce us to be mere consumers-the lowest common denominator of human experience.

It is strange that the word we use for our pleasurable breaks is 'recreation', a word which is familiar and at home in the world of faith: we believe that, far from being once created and left alone by God, like some flesh and blood clockwork toy, we are always being re-created by Him. The hymn reminds us that 'new every morning is the love'. If you and I, as we travel the world experiencing the God-given kaleidoscope of Creation, can remember that this world is constantly revealing the beauty and wonder of the Divine to us, then perhaps we will begin to treat it differently and respect it more. For soon, if we continue to plunder its resources and maltreat it in the way we do, our planet itself will need re-creation and its joys will be lost to us for ever. + Tim

Blankney Harvest Festival 3rd October

St Oswald's 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. Tickets for the supper will be available mid-September onwards from the Blankney Estate Office priced £9 with under 12's at £4.50.

AG

Dunston Parish News, September, 2007.

I am back and with a mind full of wonderful experiences. Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda are all different countries in topography and culture and offer an insight into how the 'other half lives'. By far the winner was Rwanda for varying reasons. Firstly a beautiful mountainous country, lovely people, fantastic flora and fauna but to spend a whole hour with the mountain gorillas in their own habitat was, for me, incredible.

Now, you might ask; "What has that got to do with St. Peter's?" The answer is simply 'Faith'

Let me explain. On Sunday, 12th August our sermon at morning worship was about 'Faith' and how we perceive it. Faith is not always about religion. Let me give you an example; Whilst in Rwanda my guide drove me from the capital, Kigali, northwards to the Volcano National Park where the gorillas are. It took a three hour drive through lovely countryside and passing through a village I saw what I took to be a wedding ceremony taking place at the side of the road. A canopy shielded a table at which sat a man in white robes, and two other gentlemen from the scorching sun. The crowd attending were all dressed in their Sunday best and looked on. In front of the table were two people. All this I saw as we drove by. I commented to my driver about this but his reply was "That's not a wedding but a court." After the brutal massacres in the early 1990's a lot of the perpetrators hid in the community but over the years the government have updated the traditional GACACA system of justice. This system was originally used to settle community disputes and transgressions. Its adaptation to judging genocides makes it a unique experiment in post genocide justice. Basically if someone is thought to have committed an act of genocide he/she is brought before the court and faces his/her accusers face to face. This way not only is justice done but seen to be done.

On my return to Kigali from the mountains my guide took me to see the Kigali Memorial which told the whole story of the massacre in graphic detail eg how and why it happened. My guide didn't go in and on going back to my vehicle I asked him if he had been before. " No it's too painful. You see I have no brothers, sisters, parents or any relative. They were slaughtered . I am a Tutsi."

My first reaction was: "How do you cope?" "Simple" he replied. " I have a faith which keeps me going and that today there are people who want to see justice done, not revenge, for what happened. It cannot be undone but the hurt can be healed and we can once again live together like we did so many years ago."

My guide was a very proud man, proud of his country and what it had to offer me as a tourist and proud to show it off. I was indeed very humbled by his attitude to what had befallen him. His faith that everything would turn out alright had kept him focused.

I am very privileged indeed to meet and talk with such a man.

How do I perceive 'faith'? To me it is a belief, a belief that not only comforts me but sustains me. Like a baby with a soggy piece of blanket, like a child with its favourite teddy bear, like an adult with a hot water bottle. They all comfort us at various times of our lives.

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

Stuart Rogerson

Thought for the day. " A tree can only be straightened when it is young".

(Rwandan folklore)

Rave & Thursday Club News.

At the end of the summer term the three leaders of the Rave Club have all retired from the club for a well earned rest! Unfortunately it has not been possible to replace them, therefore the club will close for the time being. If anyone is interested in resuming the club, in any capacity, please contact Caroline on 01526 322925. Children of all ages are, of course, welcome to come to the Thursday club.

The committee, the children and the families would all like to give a huge thank you to Russ, Keith and Debbie and all the previous leaders and helpers who have made such tremendous contributions to the lives of Dunston children over the years. The last meeting was a celebration party, of course!

For the summer outing the Thursday Club children and their families visited Woodside Falconry. We had a fantastic day with no rain at all. The children joined in with the handling of the owls, snakes and reptiles. One brave boy and his mum joined in with the pig racing and got very muddy in the process. Mum actually ran faster than the pigs!!

An even braver child won a ferret racing competition – the prize was to have a ferret down his trousers! Well Done.

Thank you to all the children and their families for your company and support.

Caroline Houlden.

Parish Registers

We pray for those beginning married life together.

4th August, 2007

Natasha Doughty & Peter Marshall at St. Oswald's Blankney
Baptism

We welcome into God's Family

29th July 2007

Jack David Stansfield at St. Oswald's Blankney
Funerals

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

Monday 13th August at Lincoln Crematorium,
Jacqueline Vera Murray died 1st August aged 66;
Ronald George Nunn aged 89.

Advanced Notice

The Vicar is to hold a Lent Course in 2008 across the three parishes called 'Life Balance' about rediscovering Sabbath in our busy 21st century lives.

SERVICES & EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

Sunday 2nd

8.00am
9.00am
10.30am

13th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham
Holy Communion – St. Peter's Dunston
United Service – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

Thursday 6th

9.00am

(and each Thursday)

Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

Sunday 9th

9.00am
9.00am
10.30am

14th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion – St. Oswald's Blankney
Morning Worship – St. Peter's Dunston
Holy Communion with Baptism - St. Wilfrid's. Sunday School/Creche

Friday 14th

7.30pm

Holy Cross Day - Metheringham Harvest Supper

St Wilfrid's Church Hall Metheringham

Sunday 16th

8.00am
9.00am
10.30am

15th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham
Holy Communion – St. Peter's Dunston
Morning Worship – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

Friday 21st

7.30pm

St. Matthew Apostle

Holy Communion- St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

Sunday 23rd

9.00am
10.30am
4.30pm
6.00pm

16th Sunday after Trinity

Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion – St. Oswald's.
Holy Communion – with Baptism – St. Wilfrid's S.S/Creche
30 Minutes with God – (A Celtic worship) – St. Wilfrid's.
Harvest Festival – St. Peter's Dunston

Sunday 30th

10.30am

St. Michael and all Angels

GROUP SERVICE Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

October

Wednesday 3rd

6.30pm

Harvest Festival - St Oswald's Blankney followed by Harvest Supper.

Sunday 7th

8.00am
 9.00am
 10.30am

18th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham
 Holy Communion – St. Peter's Dunston
 United Service – Metheringham Methodist Church

W.I. News

A Talk by Jennifer Parker on The World of Ballet.

We knew the stories of some of the greatest ballets : Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, The Nutcracker, Giselle. With illustrations Jennifer showed us some of the greatest dancers interpreting these ballets. Fonteyn, Nureyev, Pavlova, Nijinski and most recently Darcy Bussell, Sylvie Guillemé plus many others. Ballet originated in France and was developed in Russia but technique perfected by the English Ballet Schools. Some of these techniques were demonstrated by Jennifer making many of us feel more arthritic than usual.

If you want to get fit and supple access a French dictionary, - practice Plies, Jetes, Arabesques, Entrechats, Pas de chat et cheval, Tour en l'air and Sur le pointe etc. At our ages best not to try Le Grande Ecart et ne mange pas Pavlova.

Next meeting Wednesday 19th Sept "Christmas is a-coming with Ann Barnes.

JS (sans tu-tu)

Report on the IAU World Challenge, Drummondville, 28th – 29th July 2007

(The IAU is the International Association of Ultra Runners whose motto is "Beyond the Marathon" This is the report by one of the sons of one of our group Church Wardens who ran the race in Drummondville in Eastern Canada. It is an amazing feat of endurance covering a distance of 131 miles in 24 hours. Read it and be amazed ! (www.iau.org.tw)

"Well it was quite an experience – my first world championship, and hopefully not my last. The international atmosphere was already forming on Thursday when we mingled at Montreal airport with the Spanish team and then checked into the same hotel as the French, New Zealand and Luxembourg teams. This continued on Friday at the opening ceremony where all 26 participating nations assembled. We also checked out the course on the Friday – a 2.2km loop through the town and across two bridges. There was a total of about 15m (50ft) of climb on each lap. It doesn't seem much but 1,500m (5,000ft) over 100 laps and 24 hours is quite significant.

Just before the start I realised that, by definition I was the least experienced person in the race (you needed one race to qualify and I'd only done the one). The race started at 2pm on Saturday in 31°C (88°F) heat and 92% humidity – not exactly ideal running conditions and most runners started conservatively. My starting tactic was to take some food and drink and have a walk about every half an hour. This gave me about 4 to 5 laps per hour. An evening thunderstorm helped to cool us down, freshened the air slightly and lowered the humidity. I decided to push on in the relative cool of the night. I say "relative" as the puddles from the storm dried up very quickly and at no point did I need to change my vest for anything warmer. This was the high point of the race for me, passing 100 miles in just over 16 hours and peaking at 15th place.

Then the sun came up. I has enjoyed running through the night but it's a great feeling to get some daylight again. However, the clear blue skies were ominous and by 8am it was already hot. The morning then became a battle for survival.

I managed to get my fluids right and continuously soaked myself in water and also used ice to cool myself down. However, by noon temperatures had risen to 35°C (95°F) in the shade, and we weren't running in the shade. At this point I was manhandled into a chair by team management, sat on packs of ice and had ice held under my armpits and on my head and neck. It was explained that the bronze medal was now out of reach and that at least four people had been hospitalised. They had decided that we should walk the rest of the race and I took that advice. As a result I lost some places towards the end but still finished 25th in the World championship which doesn't sound bad at all.

The usual questions

What did you eat?

Mashed potato and cheese, oatmeal, custard, peach slices, jelly babies, stewed apple, jam sandwiches, muesli bars, Pepsi. A balanced diet!

Did you stop or sleep?

I stopped for massage and stretching only, I didn't sleep but I did walk frequently.

Did you go to the toilet? (honestly, I have been asked)

Yes, of course (see question 1)

Weren't you bored?

No, there's a lot to focus on – eating drinking, pace etc. There's also time to talk to the other athletes and I've made some new contacts, especially in the Irish and Australian teams.

Don't your feet get sore?

This time, yes. My feet swelled in the heat and I had pins and needles for the last few hours. I'm definitely going to lose at least two toe-nails and I have a few blisters.

Why do you do it?

Because I enjoy running, I'm good at it and it's a challenge to see just what I'm capable of.

Are you insane?

I'm not qualified to answer this one.

John Pares (Ann De Vries's son !)

John's next race is at Tooting Bec in October which will lead up to the Commonwealth 24 hour race in Keswick in 2009. Behind every great man there is a great mum ! - Ed

An Ode.

I am indebted to "P.B." for putting the following through my letter box on my return from my travels. SR

"Stand & Deliver".

A quiet little village with highwaymen on the heath
So said in the Domesday book something of a feat.
A village where a passer by will walk or ride straight through.
But me I stopped a while to see what there was to do.
To my surprise I met a flower seller outside St Peter's Church
I could see a lot was going on so decided to stop and search
As I stepped inside to my amaze photographs were all around
Walking further and people everywhere I think I'll stick around
Walking further I met a lady selling raffle tickets (nothing new)
I'll bet she made a bob or two
Lovely people, happy faces some from the village and from other places
A gold coach I saw and lots lots more
There is everything here but what's it all for?
Then I spied a poster on the wall ALL OUR YESTERDAYS, well that told me all
The Village Hall played its part with busy wenches serving tea
If I had stayed much longer I would have had one on my knee
Then a serious note came to mind I should leave a donation for collection
But I have not seen the vicar yet to my honest recollection
Then I asked a passer by "Do you have a vicar here?"
"We did have sir, a Bishop sir, all fine with spats and gaiters
A rounded cloak with hat to match a Bishop very hard to catch
He disappeared without a trace all we found were his braces,
His hat near the Beck and cloak was found
Shot by a highwayman I'll be bound
But this Bishop was very slick
Some people say t'was Highwayman Dick.

P.s. Somewhere in this poem is a message, (stand and deliver) and you Bishop did just that!
God Bless You All, "P.B."

OPTIONAL EXCURSION

An English lady wanted to spend a holiday in a German village in the mountains. As she did not know any German, she wrote to the local teacher for help. Hoping he would understand English, she asked him to send full particulars of the cottage she planned to rent and in particular, did it have a W.C The teacher understood all of her letter, except for the abbreviation W.C., so he asked the local priest if he knew what it meant. Together they came

to the conclusion that the lady must be a devout Wesleyan Church goer and so he replied as follows:

My Dear Madam

The W.C. is situated five miles from the cottage, in the centre of a beautiful forest. It is open every Tuesday and Sunday, which is unfortunate if you are used to going regularly. You will be glad to know, however, that many people take a packed lunch and make a day of it. As there are a great number of visitors, we would advise that you arrive early to get a good position with a seat. A bell will ring 10 minutes before the W.C. opens and closes. I would recommend that you go on Tuesday, as there is an organ accompaniment on this day. If you know well in advance when you want to go, we shall try to reserve a seat for you. You will find a Hymn Sheet behind the door for personal use. Unfortunately my wife and I have not been for 8 months, which pains us greatly, but it is such a long way. Yours very truly Max.
(thanks to AJ for this contribution)

Pun

A man entered a local newspaper competition that offered a prize for the best pun. He sent in ten entries, hoping that one would win. Unfortunately, no pun in ten did. PP

And another....

Depends how you read the following whether you get the pun!

A tractor driver was riding slowly along a country lane when he was surprised to see a farmer friend of his standing alone in the middle of a huge field and just staring at nothing in particular.

This was most unusual and so he went and asked him if he was alright. "Yes, I'm fine" replied the farmer.

"I'm sorry - I was just wondering what you were doing?"

"Well" said the farmer, "I'm trying to win the Nobel Prize, you see I've heard that the Nobel Prizes are awarded to people who are out standing in their field". (thanks to SR for this one)

How Harvest Festivals began

Our Harvest Festivals have very ancient origins. Festivals that celebrate the harvest by giving thanks to God have been held right back in time to hundreds of years before Jesus. You can read about them in Leviticus (chapter 23) and Deuteronomy (chapter 15 & 16).

In Old Testament times, the first thanksgiving of the year was Passover, with the sacrifice of the first spring lamb and presentation of the first sheaf of wheat. The wheat harvest went on for fifty days and ended with the Festival of Weeks, Shavuot, (Pentecost, meaning 'fiftieth'). Later there was the Feast of Tabernacles, a celebration of the wine harvest.

These were all offerings of first fruits at the shrine, or Temple, to thank God for liberation from Egypt and the desert and for the gift of the Law, as well as for the provision of food. Thus they linked thanksgiving for that year's food with Israel's historical faith in being the chosen people of God. God was always to be thanked, for the land was the Lord's, and the people of Israel had only a 'life interest' in it.

Some produce was to be left on the vine or in the field for 'the alien, the fatherless and the widow' because: 'Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt therefore I am commanding you to do this' Deut 24.21.

In Deuteronomy – a very practical book - it says that if it is not possible to transport the animals and grain, they could be converted into money and taken to the shrine, where other animals and grain could be bought with the money, offered and eaten. (Tithing to support the servants of the Temple, the Levites, also developed from these offerings.)

In Britain, for many years, there were unofficial religious festivals of thanksgiving for the harvest. By the mid-nineteenth century 'it was common to hold an annual parochial festival', which linked the gift of the fruits of the earth with our responsibility to God to use them 'to his

glory, for our own well being and for the relief of those in need'. The emphasis thus became less on 'first fruits', and more on thankfulness for the ingathering of the harvest.

So this autumn's Harvest Festival is still a reminder to give thanks to God. And we bring gifts of food and money to help God's work of feeding other people, near and far.

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In both eastern and western churches, Mary has always been held as pre-eminent among all the saints. The unique, extraordinary privilege of being the mother of the One who was both God and Man, makes her worthy of special honour. Thomas Aquinas believed she was due hyperdulia, or a veneration that exceeds that of other saints, but is at the same time infinitely below the adoration, or latria, due to God alone.

The gospels of Matthew and Luke give Mary most mention. Luke even tells the story of Jesus' infancy from Mary's point of view. Her Song, or Magnificat appears in Luke 1:46-55. The virginal conception of Christ is clearly stated in the gospels. But after Jesus' birth, Mary fades quietly into the background. During Jesus' public life, she is mentioned only occasionally, as at the wedding at Cana. She reappears at the foot of the Cross (John's Gospel), and is given into John's care. In the early chapters of Acts, Mary is with the Apostles, and received the Holy Spirit along with them on Whitsunday. But her role was not the active one of teaching and preaching.

Mary's significance grew with the centuries. By the fifth century she was called Theotokos, The Mother of God, and from the seventh century onwards, she was given four festivals: the Presentation in the Temple (2 February), the Annunciation (25 March), the Assumption (15 August) and her Nativity (8 September).

Marian devotion has played an enormous role in the church down the years. Mary has been the object of countless prayers, accredited with performing many miracles, and the subject of thousands of artistic endeavours. She has had hundreds of chapels or parish churches named after her.

During the Reformation many images of Mary were destroyed. The Second Vatican Council 1962 made an extended statement on her, stressing her complete dependence on her Son, and regarding her as a model of the Church.

Principal Marian shrines of today include Lourdes (France), Fatima (Portugal), Walsingham (England), Loreto (Italy), Czesochowa (Poland) and Guadalupe (Mexico). PP

Aye Carumba! The Simpsons help liven up Christian teaching

The exploits of Bart, Lisa, Maggie, Marge and Homer Simpson - alongside the other animated residents of Springfield - are being used to encourage children to reflect on the big issues in life in a new book from the Church of England.

Along with the recent first Simpsons' feature film, 'Mixing it up with The Simpsons' suggests screening extracts from episodes of the hit show to invigorate church youth group programmes, as part of a new series providing contemporary material for youth workers to use in mid-week groups or 'Sunday School' settings.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, is known to be a fan of the American animated series, and believes that it represents "one of the most subtle pieces of propaganda around in the cause of sense, humility and virtue." With its compelling characters and comical storylines, the Church hopes that Springfield will become a springboard for discussion of important themes.

After watching the suggested sections from the animation, groups using the book are guided through a range of discussions on the emerging theme, relevant Bible passages are listed to present the Christian perspective, and a 'prayer activity' is provided to conclude the session. 'Mixing it up with The Simpsons' (ISBN 978 0 7151 4104 5) is priced £8.99 and is available from Christian bookshops including Church House Bookshop, on the web at: www.chbookshop.co.uk PP