

JANUARY 2007 CHURCH NEWSROUND

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

After the excitement and festivities of Christmas Day January may feel something of an anti-climax. But January has a few important things to be celebrated. It may even be a month of revelation. On January 1st the Church celebrates the Naming of Jesus. On January 6th the Church celebrates Epiphany, the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles, as it used to be called.

On that day we see the arrival of the sages, wise men from the east, the Magi, sometimes they are called the three kings, at the stable in Bethlehem. These Magi represented the non Jewish people of the world. In the Western Church, the feast of Christmas was established before that of Epiphany. The early Western Christian Church decided to celebrate Christmas on December 25th; the Eastern Christian Church continued to treat January 6th as the day marking Jesus' birth. Indeed in many churches in Central and Southern America Three Kings Day, or the night before is the time for opening Christmas presents.

On January 25th we mark the conversion of St. Paul. The revelation of Jesus the Christ to St. Paul on the road to Damascus.

And on January 28th this year we celebrate Candlemas, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. When Simeon announces that Jesus will be a 'light to lighten the Gentiles'. This for the traditional Church marks the end of the Christmas Season as we now move into Sundays before Lent. For me Candlemas marks the end of my first year in the Metheringham Group of Parishes. It comes between Christmas and Easter and has something of the Roman God Janus about it. It looks back towards the coming into the world of God to experience humanity in all its glory and troubles and forwards towards the glorious resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Day. I wish you all a happy New Year.

Charles Sowden

Lent Course 2007 - Be Holy & Save the Planet too.

For Lent 2007 Churches Together in All Lincolnshire and BBC Radio Lincolnshire are offering an environmental course with a very practical theme aimed at encouraging churches, communities and individuals to be pro-active.

It is an invitation to join together in planet earth care, to "act locally and think globally." The course calls on Christians to proclaim an ecological Gospel of hope and action for the planet, drawing off the rich resources of the Bible in both Old and New Testaments.

The study will also be of interest to a wide range of people keen to get involved with environmental action.

The five-week course will have a booklet, pages on the BBC website and supporting CD with more material, and a weekly programme on BBC Radio Lincolnshire (part of which is on the CD) which can be copied or downloaded from the website.

The course is introduced on the Sunday before Lent by the Bishop of Lincoln, Sue Edwards of the BBC, and Terry Miller the Chaplain for Environmental Issues in Lincolnshire.

The first week will take the theme Home is where our eco-effort begins. The second is on Living in harmony with the natural world. The third week takes the theme of play time and holidays and deals especially with transport. The fourth is consumer choices – Living consciously and simply. The final week takes the theme of Building ecological communities and will showcase good local examples of activities and share what the Lent groups have been working on.

From the start an important aim of the Lent course is to encourage the Lent groups to become action groups and to identify possible projects locally which they may wish to start, or promote or get involved with.

The Lent course is part of the new Churches Together in All Lincolnshire 'Framework for Action' environmental policy being launched in Lincolnshire at Lincoln Cathedral on Saturday 21 April. The work and ideas of the Lent groups will be celebrated here in a great 'Earth Our Home 2' day of activity, study and worship. All Lent group participants are encouraged to join this wonderful day.

To register your church for 'The Earth in Our Hands' Lent course and for more information on 'Earth our Home 2' contact Terry Miller - 01522 504071, email terry.miller@lincoln.anglican.org. The booklet will cost £2 each and be available from early January. The CD is free.

Parish Registers

Funerals

Vera Margaret Betts aged 74. Died 13-11-06 Funeral 27-11-06

Mary Graham Boyd Fleming White aged 80. Funeral 6-12-06

Baptisms

Jacob Douch baptised 10-12-06

Joshua Casey baptised 17-12-06

The Christmas Cracker -Highly enjoyable evening - our thanks to all who participated and organised the evening. Angels, WOWs, MADs and the three turkeys !

Dunston Parish News.

I never get tired of hearing the Christmas story. Not only the story but seeing children's faces as they sing carols and act their plays in church concerts or school plays.

There is, however, another side of me. One that has seen a lot of birthdays pass me by together with life experiences, there for the taking. There are so many quotes in the 'Good Book' telling us to "Love your neighbour as your self" to "Help those in need" and "It is better to give than receive". This grumpy old cynic has come to realise that in this world there are 'Givers and Takers'.

Last month before the concert at St Peter's I got a phone call from a man who I shall call 'Bob' because he builds things. Bob the Builder' had made three shepherd crooks, complete with lanterns and festive baubles. They were for the Church and wider community to use. Either in school plays or during carol services etc. Bob just wanted to hand them over, quietly and without fuss, because he enjoyed doing his little bit and it gave him a quiet internal warmth of peace and contentment. This I can relate to.

BUT and as my readers know there always has to be a "BUT". On the other side of the coin a person (and I don't know who it was nor gender) verbally assailed the vicar in Metherringham to vigorously complain about the state of the churchyard at St. Peter's and when were the Church Authorities going to do something about it? At the last Parochial Church Meeting I said I would put the record straight in January's edition of the magazine.

The churchyard at St. Peter's is what is known as a "Closed Churchyard" that is to say no more burials are allowed with the exception of cremated remains along the south wall of the church and anyone who had bought a burial plot and is still alive. As such the churchyard becomes the responsibility of Dunston Parish Council and NOT the Parochial Church Council. Had the complainer read this magazine three years ago he/she would have read of what I intended to do and I wrote to the Parish Council explaining my plans.

Over the last two years I have requested, through this magazine, help in the form of labour to make the churchyard a more pleasant place to come, sit and contemplate. The help I have received apart from one villager came mainly from Eastern Europe (By kind permission of Nocton Estate). The South Walk to the church entrance cost £130.00 in materials BUT saved the Parish Council thousands in labour charges. I am slowly getting round to the Northern part of the churchyard BUT again one ageing cynic finds it takes him longer to do a days work than it did forty years ago!

Why do I do it? Simple:- Like 'Bob the Builder' I enjoy doing it and when completed it gives me a quiet warm glow of satisfaction knowing that in a hundred years time, long after I'm gone, that path will still be there inviting people into St. Peter's to sing their praises to our Lord or even just to sit quietly in a contemplative mood.

Of course our complainer could moan to the Dunston Parish Council OR... get off his/her "Gluteus Maximus" and give me four hours a month for a year to clear up the top end of the church yard!!

Could that be a 'New Years Resolution' ? I don't think I will hold my breath.

Peace and Tranquillity to you all in 2007 and may your God go with you.

Stuart Rogerson.

Thursday and Rave Club News.

In December, the Thursday Club held their Christmas Party. We were very pleased to be joined by The Rev Sowden who presented each child with a book for attending the club, and then participated

in the party games and tea..

The Thursday Club also contributed to the Dunston Christmas Concert with an alternative version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas". The emphasis of the performance was how it felt for the poor lady who was sent all the 'birds, maids a milking, pipers piping, etc. etc'. The story did not have a happy ending!

The Rave Club have been busy tie-dyeing and printing their own "T – Shirts". Some memorable designs have been produced!

The new term in January starts with the annual 'Christingle Service,' to be held on Thursday 11th January at 6.30 p.m. in St. Peter's Church. All children must be accompanied by an adult please, due to the lighted candles on the 'Christingle'

SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2007

Thursday 4th (and each Thursday)

9.00am Holy Communion –St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

Sunday 1st January 2007 1st Sunday of Epiphany, the Baptism of Christ

8.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's Dunston

10.30am United Service – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

Thursday 11th Christingle Service

6.30pm St. Peter's – Dunston

Sunday 14th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Oswald's Blankney

9.00am Morning Worship – St Peter's Dunston

10.30am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham
with Sunday School / Creche

Sunday 21st 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion - St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's Dunston

10.30am Morning Worship – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

Thursday 25th Conversion of St. Paul

7.30pm Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

Sunday 28th Candlemas – Presentation of Christ in the Temple

9.00am Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion St Oswald's

10.30am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham
with Sunday School / Creche

4.30pm Worship and Praise Service St Wilfrid's Metheringham

February 4th 3rd Sunday before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham

9.00am Holy Communion St. Peter's Dunston

10.30am United Services at Metheringham Methodist Chapel

February 21st Ash Wednesday

7.30pm Imposition of Ashes Metheringham

The St Andrew's Day Dinner

Seventy two people gathered in St Wilfrid's Church Hall on 30th November to celebrate St Andrews Day.

The Haggis was piped in by Mrs Jane Palmer, this got the evening off to a good start. The Tatties and Neeps were very kindly donated and cooked by Butch at the Star and Garter, he also cooked the Haggis. Sarah made the trifles. Doreen Blackband made the beautiful table arrangements, Rita Blow and Brenda Robertson helped to prepare the hall. Scott Amos, Christopher Hill and Rod Sanders acted a waiters. Janet and Bert Wood for behind the scenes in the kitchen.

The meal ended with tea/coffee with shortbread.

The WOW Singers (Wilfrid's Occasional Warblers) opened the entertainment, Jill Corah sang two solos, Gayner Little read a monologue. Jane Palmer played her bagpipes and Margaret Amos read two poems. The evening rounded off with everyone joining the WOW Singers to sing two songs. A good evening was had by all and £500 was raised for the St Wilfrid's Fabric Fund.

My sincere thanks to all who gave their support and to everyone who came to make the evening a success.

Margaret Amos.

(Excellent do - magic Haggis - Ed)

Metheringham Over 60's Club

We ran two trips in November, the first to Peterborough for sightseeing or Christmas shopping the second to Thursford for the Christmas Spectacular - both very enjoyable. December meeting was our Christmas Dinner & Draw, we were fully subscribed for this event although we did have some cancellations on the evening due to illness. We all enjoyed a traditional 3 course Christmas dinner followed by coffee & mince pies. The evening closed with the Christmas Draw.

Diary Dates for 2007

3rd January - John Campbell (Dean's Verger)

7th February - Ladies Barber Shop

7th March - A.G.M.

Ann Crooks. Secretary

RE-TYRED !

Little did I know when I took up my teaching appointment way back in 1977 that I would still be here, teaching in 2006. So deciding to take early retirement due to a long term ill health problem was an extremely hard decision to make. So many happy years spent teaching at Metheringham Primary School - so many children taught in those years and of course as things worked out teaching their children. So now you know why you might see me "bunking school" !

I thank every one who has been part of my long career and made it so worthwhile - I retire with hundreds of memories. I may not be teaching anymore but my interest in the welfare and progress of the children I have taught and known continues.

May I take this opportunity to wish all past pupils and you the reader a very Happy & Content New Year.

Joy Smith

(that's "**Miss Smith**" to most of us - Ed)

"Drop-In" Police Surgery

The recently initiative by the Lincolnshire Police to introduce a "Drop-in" Police Surgery in the Village has proved most successful. Held on the first Friday of each month it takes place in The NKDC InfoLink on High Street, Metheringham between 10 am and 12 noon. The next Surgery will be on the 5 January 2007. For all future dates please check the Village Notice Board. As reported in the last edition of the magazine the scheme offers residents an alternative way of getting in touch with their local Neighbourhood Policing Team. NKDC have set aside a room in their premises where local people can meet and talk to their local police about any issue which might be troubling them or causing them concern. These meetings are strictly confidential. The new head of the Bracebridge Heath East Neighbouring Policing team is PC Simon Gordon, who has recently taken over from PC Carl Annall who has returned to the City. PC Gordon and his support team of PCSO's Lisa Duckworth and Paul Flannigan will be on hand to answer any questions which they may be posed with. If they do not know the answer they will know someone who does.

PC 638 Gordon, PCSO Flannigan & PCSO Duckworth can be contacted on 01522 805718 or 805703.

(These numbers should not be used for reporting crimes or incidents which require immediate Police response. Always phone the Communications Centre on 01522 88 22 22 or 999 in an emergency.)

CHURCH NEWS ROUND

It's subscription time again. The magazine deliverers will be collecting your annual subs starting in January 2007. Please try and be prompt as it helps the Church with the cash flow situation. The price remains the same for another year mainly due to the generosity of the advertisers so please support them whenever possible.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all the Magazine deliverers for their sterling work delivering the magazine through out the year and to all the back room people who help produce the magazine.

The Church Wardens.

6 January - Epiphany

On 6 January we celebrate Epiphany - the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus. But who were these wise men? No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them 'Magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were they called kings - by a church father, Tertullian. Another church father, Origin, assumed there were three - to

correspond with the gifts given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing - and even embalming. Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things. Since the eighth century, the magi have had the names Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior. PP

Get fit for 2007!

More people join health and fitness centres each January than at any other time of the year. And well over half the newcomers will be gone again – within a month.

Perhaps there's not much commitment to begin with. Or maybe, they lack motivation because they haven't made themselves accountable to a personal trainer. (One incentive many clubs are now bringing in.)

But Christians have been called by God to become spiritually fit, and we DO have a personal trainer!

We have only been able to join our 'club' through the precious, priceless blood of Jesus, and our 'spiritual fitness' goal is to be holy and to be loving, caring people.

The heavenly Father will be pleased and glorified as we simply keep on coming to the 'gym' of personal and corporate worship, and keep faithful to the spiritual disciplines, and our service together in the Body of Christ. PP

For anyone making New Year resolutions, here are some good ones to consider.

All I need to know I learned from Noah's Ark

One. Don't miss the boat.

Two. Remember that we are all in the same boat.

Three. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

Four. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old someone may ask you to do something big.

Five. Don't listen to critics, just get on with the job that needs to be done.

Six. Build your future on high ground.

Seven. For safety's sake travel in pairs.

Eight. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

Nine. When you're stressed, float awhile.

Ten. Remember the Ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals. PP

It may not be the weather that is making you feel under the weather

We all know that water is important, but did you know that it is estimated that well over half of us are chronically dehydrated? In many people, the thirst mechanism is so weak that it is often mistaken for hunger. Yet even mild dehydration will slow down one's metabolism as much as 3%.

One glass of water shuts down midnight hunger pangs for almost 100% of the dieters studied in a recent study. Lack of water is the Number One trigger of daytime fatigue.

A mere 2% drop in body water can trigger fuzzy short-term memory, trouble with basic maths, and difficulty focusing on the computer screen or on a printed page.

Research indicates that drinking 5 glasses of water daily decreases the risk of colon cancer by 45%, plus it can slash the risk of breast cancer by 79%, and one is 50% less likely to develop bladder cancer. PP

Groucho Marx died 30 years ago, in 1977. In memory of the fellow with the big cigar and even bigger grease-paint moustache, here are ten of his most cutting quotes.

1. "Those are my principles. If you don't like them, I have others."

2. "Time wounds all heels."

3. "He may look like an idiot and talk like an idiot, but don't let that fool you. He really is an idiot."

4. "I have had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it."

5. "Remember men, we're fighting for this woman's honour - which is probably more than she ever did."

6. "There is no sweeter sound than the crumbling of your fellow man."

7. "I must say that I find television very educational. The minute somebody turns it on, I go to the library and read a book."

8. "Room service? Send up a larger room."

9. "Who are you going to believe: me or your own eyes?"

10. "Quote me as saying I was misquoted."

God had trouble with the children too...

Whenever your children are out of control, you can take comfort from the thought that even God's omnipotence did not extend to God's children.

After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve.

And the first thing he said was: "Don't".

"Don't what?" Adam replied.

"Don't eat the forbidden fruit," God said.

"Forbidden fruit?"

"We got forbidden fruit?"

"Hey, Eve...we got forbidden fruit!"

"No way!"

"Way!"

"Don't eat that fruit!" said God.

"Why?"

"Because I am your Father and I said so!" said God, wondering why he hadn't stopped after making the elephants.

A few minutes later God saw his children having an apple break and was angry.

"Didn't I tell you not to eat the fruit?" the First Parent asked.

"Uh huh," Adam replied.

"Then why did you?"

"I dunno" Eve answered.

"She started it!" Adam said.

"Did not!"

"Did too!"

"DID NOT!!"

Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own. Thus, the pattern was set and it has never changed.

But there is reassurance in this story. If you have persistently and lovingly tried to give them wisdom and they haven't taken it, don't be hard on yourself. If God had trouble handling children, what makes you think it would be a piece of cake for you? PP

Various observations

A leading authority is anyone who has guessed right more than once. Anon

Life's greatest tragedy is to lose God and not miss him. Anon

One proof of the inspiration of the Bible is that it has withstood so much poor preaching. AT Robinson

The Bible is meant to be bread for our daily use, not just cake for special occasions. Anon

The New Testament does not envisage solitary religion. CS Lewis

Show me a thoroughly satisfied man and I will show you a failure. Anon

When Christ came into my life I came about like a well-handled ship. Robert Louis Stevenson

Praise expresses the marvel of not being the centre of the universe ourselves. Cardinal Carlo-Maria Martini

Egotism is an odd disease. It makes everybody sick but the one who has it. Anon

Peace is not packaged in pills. Vance Havner

I've read the last page of the Bible. It's going to turn out all right. Billy Graham. PP