

Church Newsround – March 2011

The Bishop of Grimsby writes

Since last September, many of us searching the internet will have used a facility called 'Google Instant'.

This software displays the results of our queries as we type them and Google claims that it will change the way we use the internet. A bold claim and only time will tell, but the question in my mind is whether, with all this access to knowledge and information, are we actually any the wiser?

Wisdom is about making the best use of what we know and making judgements which lead to good choices. Wisdom is not the opposite of folly, but rather it is the key ingredient to navigating our way through life. Down the ages wisdom has been prized in bringing together what we know, what we understand and what we've experienced of life, to interpret not only what is happening, but how people are reacting and behaving.

Wisdom and the search for wisdom are at the heart of religion and philosophy. In Judaism, wisdom is closely associated with justice and fairness. Across each of the world religions, wisdom is the distinctive human attribute to which we should all aspire. In Christianity wisdom is understood as a gift which gives our knowledge, understanding and experience such a Christlike quality that the wisdom of the world is seen to be folly.

Such a gift is grounded and renewed in our prayers, our study of the Bible and in the worship through which we celebrate our faith in Jesus Christ. There are no shortcuts to gaining the 'mind of Christ' or the wisdom which comes with it - it only comes through the practice of faith. In the mighty rush of modern life, with a relentless demand for instant reactions, decisive leadership and immediate replies to emails - wisdom can so easily be squeezed out.

Impressive software and the faster delivery of information will never be a substitute for the wisdom we need to be happy, to live at peace with one another and to cope with all that life throws at us. In St. Paul's words to the Colossians, we need to "set our minds on the things which are above", for that is where true wisdom is to be found.

+ David Grimsby

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals. *We pray for those departed*

Samantha Louise Wilkinson Died 22 Aug 10

Ashes interred 22 Jan 11

Ronald Creasey Died 22 Jan 11

Funeral 11 Feb 11

Dennis Leighfield Died

Ashes Interred 15 Feb 11

Baptism We welcome them to the church

George Henry Plummer on 23 January 2011

Women's World Day of Prayer

This month – on the first Friday in March - women in our local churches will join with millions of others around the world with one aim in mind - to pray. The Women's World Day of Prayer has in recent years become a global, ecumenical movement of informed prayer and prayerful action, organized and led by Christian women.

The service is written by a different country each year and that country then becomes the focus of the world's prayers on the day itself. It begins as dawn breaks over the islands of Tonga in the Pacific and continues across each continent until the last services of this special day are held back in the Pacific, on the islands of Samoa, circling the world in prayer for 36 hours.

By then the day will have been celebrated in over 170 countries and over 5,000 services will have been held in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The origins of Women's World Day of Prayer date back to the late nineteenth century when Christian women in the USA and Canada began a variety of activities in support of women's involvement in mission, at home and abroad. But it was not until the 1930s that Women's World Day of Prayer services began in Britain.

This year 2011 the worship material has been prepared by the women of Chile. Its theme, 'How many loaves have you?', is appropriate as bread is eaten at every meal in Chile, and is very much part of everyday life.

Although organized and led by women, this is essentially a day of prayer for everybody, as Christians demonstrate their solidarity with 'sisters and brothers' in other countries. So - all are welcome to attend! Locally, **we are meeting at Methodist Chapel on 4th March 2011 at 10.30am. PP**

So what's so special about Lent, anyway?

Lent begins on 9 March with Ash Wednesday, which always falls in the seventh week before Easter. Lent is widely observed by Christians as a time of fasting or meditation.

Why 'Ash Wednesday'? What do ashes have to do with anything? This recalls the Old Testament custom of putting ashes on oneself as a symbol of repentance. (eg. Esther 4.1; Jeremiah 6.26). When the early Church began to observe Lent as a period of preparation for Easter, repentance

played a key part. Therefore the wearing of ashes was adopted as a proper external sign of this inward attitude of remorse and repentance.

Especially during the Middle Ages, Christians began Lent by imposing ashes on the heads of the clergy and the people. Nowadays any ashes used come from the burning of the palm crosses from Palm Sunday during the previous year's Lent. Some churches continue this theme of repentance by the symbolic use of purple clerical dress during Lent.

What about the custom of giving up things? Lent is based on the period of 40 days spent by Jesus in the wilderness before the beginning of his public ministry in Galilee. Jesus fasted for 40 days, and so his followers were encouraged to do the same thing. The early Church recommended a fast of two or three days, but by the fourth century, people were encouraged to fast for the full 40 days.

The precise nature of this 'fasting' varied. In general, the western church understood 'fasting' as a reduced intake of food, and encouraged Christians to spend time in devotional reading or attendance at church rather than fasting.

What about the length of Lent? The period between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day is actually 46 days. Why not the 40 days that Jesus fasted? In the early Church, every Sunday was regarded as a celebration of the resurrection of Christ - so fasting was forbidden on a Sunday! So the period of 46 days thus consists of 40 days of fasting, plus the six Sundays which fall between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day.

Finally, just before Ash Wednesday, we have Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Tuesday. This reflects the many thousands of Christian housewives down the centuries who cleared out their larders immediately before the fast of Lent. The simplest way of using up all their eggs, flour and milk was to make pancakes. In some countries the day is known as Mardi Gras, and is marked by major carnivals, most famously in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. PP

A service on Ash Wednesday (9th March 2011) takes place at St Wilfrid's Church at 7.30pm

Second Annual Mega Quiz

An enjoyable night was had on the 4th February 2011 in St Wilfrid's Church Hall when a full house enjoyed the Annual Quiz prepared and organised by Rod Sanders, 10 teams took part in friendly competition. At the interval piping hot Fish and Chips arrived and was enjoyed by all as we dealt with a picture round. The evening raised £200 for Fabric Fund.

Theft of Lead

On Thursday 3rd February 2011 it was discovered that lead on the ridge of St Wilfrid's Church Porch had been removed. It is believed to have happened around midnight and if anyone saw anything they should contact the police.

St. Wilfrid's PCC Annual General Meeting.

This is advanced notice that the above meeting will take place on 4th April 2011; please look out for more information.

Lent Lunches 2011

On behalf of the parishes of Blankney, Dunston and Metheringham

The lunches will take place on:

April 8th, 15th, 22nd Time 12.00 -1.30pm. in St Wilfrid's Church Hall

The choice is of two home-made soups with cheese, roll and butter

Followed by tea and coffee, the cost only £2.50

There will be an ongoing raffle which will be drawn at the last lunch. We would be grateful for any donations raffle prizes.

All money raised will be divided between L.I.V.E.S. First Responders, a local charity which is there to benefit us all; and Aim4Change's new school and orphanage, Hope of Life Trust, in Rawapindi Pakistan. This Market Bosworth based charity caters for small vulnerable children who lived on the street and survived on the rubbish that they find to eat.

Please put the dates in your diary and come and support us.

Brenda Robertson

NEWS FROM ST PETER'S

Plant Swap and Afternoon Tea

This hard winter has killed many plants in our gardens, so here's your chance to fill in the holes!

On Saturday 14th May from 2 to 4pm at St Peter's, you can bring plants you don't want and swap them for ones you like or donate unwanted ones (we'll be happy to accept surplus fruit and veg as well!) or buy what others have donated.

And then relax with a cuppa and a cream and jam scone!

So when you begin splitting too-large plants, don't throw bits away. Stick them in a pot or poly bag and save them for the plant swap.

Parish Open Meeting

The Annual Meeting is on Tuesday 12th April at 7.30pm in church. Open to all.

Church Flowers

Every week volunteers arrange flowers in church, often paying for them as well, but for big occasions – Easter, for example – many more flowers are needed. So if you can help with the cost, please give a small donation to Phyll Sands at Little Leyfield on Chapel Lane. Thank you.

Scarecrow weekend

At the same time this year – 24th and 25th September – so get your thinking caps on!

Carols on the Green

We will try again – and succeed this time. On Christmas Eve. More details later.

**Dunston
St Peter's Church of England School**

The two performances of our panto, Cinderella Rockerfella, were a triumph. The singing was outstanding, including some stunning solos. The children acted with great confidence and a couple of Year 6 boys even donned dresses and make up as the ugly sisters!

We have enjoyed two swap days with our partner school Digby Primary recently. Some of our children have spent the day at Digby, meeting their pen-pals and experiencing a school day in a different school. In return, some of the Digby children have been to Dunston. The children got on very well indeed and enjoyed the day.

The Friends have put on a Torchlight Treasure Hunt around the school grounds. The children had great fun and the strong wind just made it more exciting. £100 was raised for School Funds.

Finally, Barry Cooper has been at school to run Judo workshops with each class. Barry runs a Judo club in Branston and he showed the children how to do some basic moves. We already have some pupils who do Judo outside of school and there are now many others who would like to take it up!

Graham Boyall

Headteacher

Dunston St. Peter's Church of England Primary School

News from San Damiano

The community of St Francis "San Damiano" invites you on Wednesdays in Lent to a place of **Sanctuary**, it is a time to "Come in, Be still", escape the noise and demands, the busyness. It is come and go as you please between 9am -9pm with Eucharist at 6.30pm and Compline at 8.30pm. The dates for this are 16, 23, 30 March, 6, 13, 20 April.

**METHERINGHAM WI REPORT
FEBRUARY 2011**

This meeting was the Hyde Park Corner for Metheringham W.I.. Members, brave enough, stood up to entertain, and talk about anything that interested them.

- 1) "Pam Ayres" read some poems:- Teeth, a bad cold, winkle pickers, and husbands. Then we realized it was Jenni Honisett.
- 2) Jean Simpson told us about her time nursing with the Princess Mary Royal Airforce Nursing Corps. After training they were offered many exotic places but she ended up near Wolverhampton! Later she did go to Cyprus and Australia and earned a Queen's Medal.
- 3) Sally Wilson told us about village plans to celebrate the Royal Wedding on 29th April, Street Party, Big Screen,
- 4) Jayne Palmer tired us and herself with two games, "Things to do with a coat hanger" and "poor Jim(or Jayne) – could not keep up with actions!!
- 5)Cynthia Dobbs concluded the evening with two entertaining poems about ourselves.

Next Meeting Wednesday March 16th 7.15pm

The AGM Game – Bag Beetle .

Remember your bag containing 2 items costing no more than £1.

JS

SERVICES FOR MARCH IN THE THREE PARISHES

- | | |
|---|---|
| Thursday 3rd
9.00am | (and each Thursday)
Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's |
| Friday 4th
10.30am | Women's World Day of Prayer
Metheringham Methodist Chapel |
| Sunday 6th
8.00am
9.00am
10.30am | Sunday Next before Lent
Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
Holy Communion – St. Peter's
United service – St. Wilfrid's |
| Wednesday 9th | Ash Wednesday Service – St. Wilfrid's
7.30pm Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes |
| Sunday 13th
9.00am
9.00am
10.30am | The First Sunday of Lent
Holy Communion – St Oswald's
Morning Worship – St. Peter's
Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's |
| Thursday 17th
2.15pm | Family Service with St. Peter's School Dunston |
| Sunday 20th
9.00am
10.30am | The Second Sunday of Lent
Holy Communion – St. Peter's
Morning Worship – St. Wilfrid's |
| Sunday 27th
9.00am
10.30am | The Third Sunday of Lent
Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion –
St. Oswald's
Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's Metheringham |
| April
Sunday 3rd
8.00am
9.00am
10.30am | The Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday
Holy Communion - St. Wilfrid's
Holy Communion – St. Peter's Dunston
United Service – Metheringham Methodist Chapel |

Metheringham Over 60's Club

All Club events are held at the Village Hall, Metheringham, unless otherwise stated.

Our Annual Christmas Dinner initially scheduled for Wednesday 1st December 2010 had to be postponed until Friday 10th December because of the snow and ice, thankfully, the vast majority of members and guests were able to attend. Once again the catering was provided by Sue,

from Woodhall Spa, and members have commented on how well her staff performed and especially in keeping the food hot.

Our most recent event, on Wednesday 2nd February, was a "Musical Rendezvous" with vocalist Judith Hibbert.

Before the entertainment commenced, members stood in a silent tribute to past chairman Ron Creasey and past member Wyn Simpson who both died recently.

Judith now lives in Beverley, she has worked extensively in television, theatre, musicals, cabaret and pantomime. She has appeared with Jon Pertwee and as a supporting act to Danny La Rue.

Judith provided us with a very entertaining evening of 'Musical Hall Theatre'. Her performances of songs from the "Sound of Music" would have had you thinking that the, very small, Metheringham hills were alive to the sound of Julie Andrews. Her version, complete with the right accent, of Elisa Doolittle's "Wouldn't It Be Lovely" was very enjoyable.

In addition to her excellent singing, Judith's more humorous side was demonstrated through her rendition of Victoria Woods "Let's Do It" and featured wonderful facial expressions. Also, Joyce Grenville monologues, including "George, don't do that!" Her verbal illustrations of people she has known and worked with were quite informative and amusing. Singing Gracie Field's "I've Never Cried So Much In All Me Life" and "Sally" brought her show to an end. Some of us had never laughed so much in all our lives. The above is just a snapshot of her performance.

Member's, if you missed this show, you were in the wrong place on the night!

Age UK

We receive information regularly from Age UK. Age UK is the new force combining Age Concern and Help the Aged. They are able to offer a range of services which vary from charity to charity but include, for example: help at home, bereavement support groups, information and advice, befriending schemes, handyperson schemes, advocacy services, nail-cutting service, transport schemes, help with claiming benefits, exercise classes and day centres. To find your local Age Concern/Age UK call Age UK Advice on 0800 169 65 65. The Metheringham Over 60s secretary has an information and advice directory.

DIGITAL TELEVISION SWITCHOVER

Age UK newsletter provides the following advice.

In the lead up to the digital switchover in 2011 Digital UK and Trading Standards are warning people to be on their guard against cowboy contractors who may try to charge high fees for installing the system or carry out unnecessary works.

People are encouraged to look for Registered Digital Installers (RDI's) who display the "digital tick logo". This means that they are approved, security-checked and hold the relevant qualifications and insurance.

FIVE FACTS TO STOP PEOPLE BEING RIPPED OFF:

1. There is no such thing as a digital aerial and most existing aerials will work after the switchover, it may only need replacing if it's in poor condition.

2. If you need a new aerial always look for a Registered Digital Installer or a member of trade body CAI. Failing that word of mouth is a good way of finding an installer with a good track record.
3. Never agree to work being done at your property without an appointment and identification being shown.
4. Before work commences always agree the price, payment arrangements and work dates.
5. If you think that you may have been ripped off, or you think that there is a rogue trader in your area, call Consumer Direct on: tel. 08454 04 05 06.

The digital switchover in the Kesteven Areas takes place as follows:

Digital Switchover Dates

Stage 1: Belmont - Lincolnshire.

BBC 2 Analogue off on 3rd August 2011.

Stage 2: All Analogue channels off on 17th August 2011.

The next meeting of Metherringham Over 60s, is our Annual General Meeting on the Wednesday 2nd March but may have occurred before you receive this Spring edition of the Macla Magazine.

Dairy events:

Wednesdays Times: 7.00 - 9.00 pm doors open 6.30pm. The usual tea/coffee and
tea/coffee and biscuits will be served during the interval.

Wednesday 2nd March Annual General Meeting and Fish Supper.

Saturday 5th March Coffee morning - open to all members and the public.

In addition to a refreshing brew of tea or coffee and scones, there will be a raffle, a chance to purchase home made cakes, books, bric-a-brac and tombola. All donations of items as prizes for the raffle, or for re-sale will be very welcome, with proceeds going to Club Funds. Doors open from 10.00 - 11.30 am. We look forward to seeing you all.

Wednesday 5th April Members Signing on night with entertainment by male

vocalist Noel Gee.

Wednesday 4th May New members will be invited to attend to sign on.

Entertainment by vocalist Trev "Budgie" Walton;

presumably he sings like a bird!

The annual holiday trip this year is to Weston-Super-Mare, from 12-17th June,

inclusive, staying at The Lauriston Hotel. The cost for 6 days, five nights, half-board will be £369.00p per person. The price includes courier, gratuities, insurance, single room supplements, evening entertainment and day trips to Bath, Linton & Lynmouth, Exmoor, also Wells Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace with a stop at Cheddar (cheese). Holidays are not subsidised by the club, therefore, it is open to both members and non-members. For further details contact Chairman Margaret Amos on Tel: 01526 321049.

At the present time we have full membership. We have a waiting list and should you wish to add your details to this please contact the Chairman Margaret Amos on Tel: 01526 321049. Watch out for the posters displayed around the village as a reminder and we looking forward to seeing you at all our events. Guests are welcome at £2.00 per visit, including refreshments.

Dave Williams

Secretary

HOLY DAYS

17 March St Patrick's Day

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well... the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It's all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he "knew not the true God".

Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh, and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin. PP

25 March Lady Day - the Annunciation

This beautiful event (Luke 1.26-38) took place in Nazareth, when Mary is already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel comes to Mary, greets her as highly favoured, tells her not to be afraid, that she will bear a son Jesus, and that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is already pregnant (with John the Baptist).

The church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25 March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from his birth on 25 December, but the latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. But the birth and death of Jesus are intrinsically linked - he was born to die, and thus fulfil God's purposes.

The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar - it is one of the most frequent depicted in Christian art. Gabriel's gracious strength and Mary's humble dignity have inspired many artists. Certainly Mary's response to the angel has for centuries been an example of good faith in practice - humility, enquiry of God, and trusting acceptance in his will for her life. PP

What now?

Today, I was in the bathroom at a popular coffee chain. Someone had written "What Would Jesus Do?" on the wall. Another person had added, directly underneath: "Wash His hands."

Then a third person wrote, "And your feet."

What the teacher says and what the teacher means....

If you have ever wondered what the teachers think of your child....

Your son James has a remarkable ability in gathering needed information from his classmates. (He was caught cheating on an exam.)

Karen is an endless fund of energy and viability. (your hyperactive monster can't stay put for five minutes.)

Fantastic imagination! (He's one of the biggest liars I have ever met).

Margie exhibits a casual, relaxed attitude to school, indicating that high expectations don't intimidate her. (The lazy thing hasn't done one assignment all term.)

Sue is a real athlete, with superior hand-eye coordination. (The little creep stung me with a rubber band from 15 feet away.)

Nick thrives on interaction with his peers. (Your son needs to shut up and start working.)

Your daughter's greatest asset is her demonstrative public discussions. (Classroom lawyer! Why is it that every time I explain an assignment she creates a class argument.)

John enjoys the thrill of engaging challenges with his peers. (He's a bully.)

An adventurous nature lover who rarely misses opportunities to explore new territory. (Your daughter was caught skipping class in order to wade in the fish pond.)

Beautiful

The English test had only one question: "Write an essay on 'The Most Beautiful Thing I Ever Saw.'" One of the students finished his essay in less than a minute. It read in its

entirety: "The most beautiful thing I ever saw was just too beautiful for words." He got the only A in the class.

What? When?

What do we want? PROCRASTINATION!

When do we want it? NEXT WEEK!

Marriage advice

'I'm in a terrible fix,' moaned Mark. 'I'm in love with both Susie and Maria and I don't know which to marry.' 'No problem,' said Sean, his Irish friend, 'I know you're not a Catholic but I think the Church could help you. Call in St Patrick's on the way home tonight, kneel down and ask God for help - that should solve your problem.' Next morning Sean found Mark grinning from ear to ear. 'It worked. It's a miracle,' Mark enthused. 'I walked in, knelt down and there it was written in red across the altar cloth: AVE MARIA!'

So you think English is easy?

Read on:

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 4) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 5) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present .
- 6) A sea bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 7) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 8) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 9) After going out after having done some sewing, a sewer fell into a sewer.
- 10) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.

What children think about angels

My angel is my grandma who died last year. She got a big head start on helping me while she was still down here on earth. - Ashley, age 9

Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets. And if they don't make the animals get better, they help the child get over it. - Vicki , age 8

What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them. - Sarah, age 7

Dear God...

A little boy's prayer: "Dear God, please take care of my daddy and my mummy and my sister and my brother and my doggy and me. Oh, and please take care of yourself, God. If anything happens to you, we're gonna be in a big mess."

Hymns we sing?

The Laodicean church is described in the Bible in the book of The Revelation as being lukewarm. If the Laodiceans were to have a hymnal, suitable for their conviction, here's a list of some of the hymns it may contain:

Just as I Am, with Lots of Excuses

Make Suggestions to Me, My God and King

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Much

Not My Life - Let Me Be

O Come, All Ye Wishy Washy

O Come Let Us Ignore Him.

Oh, for a Couple of Tongues to Sing

Part of the Way with Jesus

Pillow of Ages, Fluffed for Me

Fishy

The minister greeted a young lad at the church door one Sunday morning, and was impressed when the lad explained that though his father was going fishing, his father had insisted that his son come to church that morning. "And why is that, my boy?" The lad replied, "Dad said he didn't have enough bait for both of us."

Somebody or other

A preacher, who was somewhat "humor impaired," attended a conference to help encourage and better equip pastors for their ministry. Among the speakers were many well known and dynamic speakers. One such boldly approached the pulpit and grabbed the entire crowd's attention by declaring: "The best years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman that wasn't my wife!" The crowd was shocked. But when he followed it up with: "and that woman was my mother!" the crowd burst into laughter and gave him their attention for the rest of the talk.

The next week, the pastor decided he'd give this humor thing a try, and use that joke in his sermon. As he climbed into his pulpit that Sunday morning, he tried to rehearse the joke in his head. It suddenly seemed a bit foggy to him. However, getting to the microphone he let rip with gusto: "I want to tell you all something personal this morning. The greatest years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman that was not my wife!" The congregation inhaled half the air in the room. Stunned silence fell. After standing there for almost 10 seconds, trying to recall the second half of the joke, the pastor finally blurted out, "...but I can't remember who she was!"

Critics

People like criticism - just keep it positive and flattering.

Worry

Worry kills more people than work because more people worry than work.

Petrol

You know it will be a bad day when it costs more to fill up your car than it did to buy