

Darwin revisited.

The Vatican has announced an upcoming international conference on "Biological Evolution: Facts and Theories. A Critical Appraisal 150 years after 'The Origin of Species'", to mark the Darwin celebrations and build the science-theology dialogue. The conference is due to be take place in Rome from 3 to 7 March 2009.

Along with other major churches, the Catholic Church proclaims the compatibility of evolutionary biology and Christian faith in the world process as God's creative purpose. The Vatican opposes creationism.

"Debates on the theory of evolution are becoming ever more heated, both among Christians and in specifically evolutionist circles", Fr Marc Leclerc SJ, professor of the philosophy of nature at the Pontifical Gregorian University explained. "In particular, with the approach of the 150th anniversary of the publication of 'The Origin of Species', Charles Darwin's work is still too often discussed more in ideological terms than in the scientific ones which were his true intention".

"In such circumstances - as Christian scientists, philosophers and theologians directly involved in the debate alongside colleagues from other confessions or of no confession at all - we felt it incumbent upon us to bring some clarification. The aim is to generate wide-ranging rational discussion in order to favour fruitful dialogue among scholars from various fields and areas of expertise.

The Rev Dr Malcom Brown, who heads up the Church of England's mission and public affairs unit, also made it clear that the Church has no truck for creationist propaganda - which is based on fundamentalist readings of Scriptural texts and denies 150 years of modern evolutionary biology. Dr Brown said that science and thoughtful religion was "perfectly compatible" and attacked creationism as a minority strand of opinion within Christianity that created a false impression of the Church as a whole.

The Think-Tank Ekklesia welcomed this statement. Co-director Simon Barrow declared: "It is vital that the churches explain why creationism, which denies science and biblical interpretation and which turns God into a 'cosmic manipulator', contradicts the genuine Christian belief that the whole natural process may be seen as divine gift to be explored and cherished."

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Copy Deadlines for the November edition.

Would all contributors note the following?

If at all possible, electronic copy is greatly preferred - it reduces the editing task enormously.

Hard copy (i.e. hand/typewritten items, photographs, etc) should be left in the Magazine file in the clergy vestry by Sunday October 19th 14.
Electronic copy (physical) (floppy disc, data pen, CD-ROM) should be saved as *.rtf (text files) or *.jpeg (image/graphics) if at all possible and placed in the same file as above by the same date.
Electronic copy (email) should be sent in the same formats as above to davidrowett@aol.com by October 20th

Gizza Job

As we all know, now that we have Kathy with us, both Alan and David have every intention of taking as much time off as humanly possible so she can gain 'experience' — particularly during unsocial hours.

The reality is slightly different, naturally. Although Kathy is a well-experienced teacher with a very sound theological and ministerial background, the post with us here is officially designated for training. She will need to gain 'hands-on' experience of all the peculiar things which the dog-collared end of ministry throws at her — despite her time as a reader, it's a bit different now she sports that funny thing round her neck - either people WON'T sit next to her on the 'bus or they most certainly WILL.

This first year is a particularly strange time. Looking for all the world like a 'proper vicar' there are real limits to what she can do. As a deacon within the Church of England, she can't, for example, preside at the eucharist or give a blessing. At one level, it looks as though her reader ministry is continued, but with the simple addition of a natty black shirt and a strip of white plastic.

Which would be to miss the point.

At a recent deacon-and-incumbent training event, the very distinct role of the deacon and the priest were pointed out to us. The deacon is the sheepdog, it was suggested, seeking out the strayed faithful. The deacon is entrusted with a particular ministry of service (but not slavery — the origin of the word 'deacon' is the Greek 'diakonos' 'servant' not 'doulos' 'slave'). And within the Church's worship, the deacon held certain pivotal functions - the 'laying of the table' for example, and the reading of the Gospel, and the guidance of the people by directing them at various points of worship - 'Let us bend the knee'. 'Let us offer one another a sign of peace'. 'Go in the peace of Christ.'

Since most churches don't have a deacon available to them, these roles are usually covered by others, but there's an increasing awareness that the distinctive ministry of the deacon is a useful teaching aid about a particular type of service within the Church, and that those churches fortunate enough to have a deacon for a year should encourage a full expression of that traditional ministry. Lincoln diocese expects its deacons to play their full traditional role in the worship of the Church, particularly at the Eucharist, and so Kathy will be quite high-profile in the coming months as we are reminded of an order much more clearly evidenced in the New Testament than either priest or bishop.

Scunthorpe Male Voice Choir.

We were delighted to host a concert by the Scunthorpe Male Voice Choir on the evening of Saturday 20th September, and a good-sized audience turned out to hear them perform as Fr Alan welcomed them to St. Mary's. The concert raised a very pleasant sum for Church funds, and we are enormously grateful, not only to the choir and to all who supported the evening, but also to their helpers (and faithful followers, mainly sundry wives and partners, all of whom paid to get in and hear their beloveds perform!).

The Choir was formed in 1924 making it one of the oldest choirs in the district, and is actively looking for new members. It rehearses at 7.15 pm each Thursday evening at Gurnell St. School, Scunthorpe.

More details can be obtained from Victor Westfield, Secretary: 5 Badger View, Broughton Tel: 01652 659127 Email: victor@vwestfield.wanadoo.co.uk, or

Philip Spicksley, Chairman, 72a Westfield Rd Barton DN18 5AD Tel: 01652 634063 Email: philip@spicksley.fsnet.co.uk

The choir is performing again in our area on December 6th at 7pm at All Saints Church Saxby - tickets £5 to include wine, or £7.50 to include a light supper.

Events at The Ropery Hall

The Knicker Lady

Retired vicar's wife Rosemary Hawthorne will be revealing all in November when she brings her hit show, The Knicker Lady, to Ropery Hall. Fashion historian Rosemary will be delving through 250 years of bloomers, briefs and bustles in her own unique and enigmatic style.

The audience will be transported back to the muslin clad elegance of Jane Austen's England, the corset bound 19th century, the suffragettes and daring knickers of the roaring twenties and much, much more right through to the mighty Y-front. There won't be a brief unturned.

The show is on Friday November 14 starting at 7.30pm and tickets cost £8 in advance and £10 on the door.

Operation Christmas Child - Shoe Boxes - 2008 Campaign

A supply of the instruction leaflets/money envelopes/box labels is now available at the back of Church, or from me and other members of the Mission Committee. If you do not remember the list of permitted contents by heart do get hold of a leaflet before you start to pack your box. You will need a leaflet anyway for its label and money envelope.

Most of you are aware that we collect as a "LARGE GROUP" (we hope - as this requires a total of more than 50 boxes - we have easily achieved this for several years now!). We are not classed as a "drop-off centre", because, unlike schools and businesses, we cannot staff the Church continuously for several weeks during "business" hours, so we are asking you, once more, to bring your boxes to Church at service times only, on Sundays or Wednesday mornings, or to 77, Bowmandale - phone number 634518. We would also ask you to deliver the boxes to us by SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9TH. The later dates advertised on the leaflet are for drop-off centres and I am not sure whether there will be any of these in Barton. You can, of course, deposit your box with us at an earlier date than at drop-off centres!

I hope you will enjoy filling your box and will not find covering the box too troublesome! Remember for many children that brightly covered box itself may hold nearly as much magic as the contents.

If you are reading about the shoe box campaign for the first time and want to know more, please do ask me or some other available Church officer about the project! Happy Packing!

Rosemary Lamert

Travelling Christmas Crib 2008

This custom still seems to hold popular appeal, especially for families with young children. However, there have always been participants among the young-at-heart and I invite any household interested in taking part - or just curious for more information! - to contact me on Barton 634518 during the next two weeks if possible and certainly before the schools' half term break.

Rosemary Lamert

And this reminding of an ancient serving ministry may awaken us all to reconsider our own callings within the Church (and the wider world). We all pitch in and do what we can to keep the show on the road, to keep the sick visited and all the other things - but what is our distinctive calling? What is God asking me to do in particular?

We're standing at Harvest-time, and in the Christian tradition, 'harvest' isn't just about tins of beans on the school assembly table, it's also about the harvest of human souls and our part in that great gathering-in. To spend a few moments asking where we each fit into that task isn't a bad idea as we watch Kathy explore her new calling among us.

Fr David

Kathy's Ordination - Thank You For A Great Day!

We would like to say a big Thank You' to everyone who helped to make Kathy's recent Ordination service such a moving occasion. We know that many people worked very hard preparing the church, the music, the liturgy and the splendid food afterwards, and we don't want to name names for fear of missing someone out. We are very grateful and touched by the kind welcome we have received, and your generosity of heart has enabled us to settle in more easily. We are glad to be



here and look forward to sharing with you all in the life and witness of the church in Barton.

Kathy Colwell & David Redrobe (and Wesley, our ecumenical Collie)



Don Broughton RIP

Don's death in September robbed St. Mary's of a much-loved and faithful member, and at his funeral service on September 22nd a large congregation, including a goodly contingent from the choir in which he sang for so many years, turned out to mark his passing. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Maureen and Norman and Shirley have sent these short notes of appreciation;

"Maureen wishes to thank all the friends at St. Mary's for the prayers and kindness shown to me during Don's illness. He loved his church and choir so much, and all the friends he made during his lifetime.

Thank you again, most sincerely

Maureen"

"Shirley and I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the awesome quality of the celebration of Don's life, so meticulously arranged and directed by the Rev. Alan Wright and the Rev. David Rowett.

The tribute, organ and choir pieces were a joy, and made a most poignant event a very special and unforgettable occasion. Don would have been so proud.

Thank you to all who had the pleasure of being present.

We are grateful, too, for the continuous excellence of the funeral directors, H & HJ Hutson & Sons.

Norman"



St Mary's Ladies' group

On the 3rd of September the Ladies group meet after the summer break with the members lining up to pay their subscriptions for the coming year. They were welcomed by the leader, Pauline Chapman. Entertainment for the evening was the Steel Magnolias, a dancing group specializing in Indian dance.

We were fortunate to have a lovely dancer and speaker in the form of their leader. Katie Lutley always loved dance. Her teacher was a Hull-based doctor and it was while taking lessons that she met the other two members of the group.

On what was a gloomy night outside, there was colour and life in their appearance and dance. This was a lively start to the programme. Pauline gave a vote of thanks, and raffle winners were Jean Dawson, Eleanor Cartwright and Joan Stanley.

Maureen Garfoot.

As the magazine goes to print, we offer our deepest sympathies and prayers to Maureen and the family on Ivan's sudden death.

Keeping a weather eye open

From our archivist's musings.

This August's cloudy skies and frequent rain pale into insignificance when compared with the weather of August 1912. This was without doubt the worst summer month Britain has had in over three centuries of records. On average there was 80% more rain than August 2008, 35% less sunshine, and a mean temperature more than 3C lower.

It was the coldest August since temperature records began in 1659, the wettest since rainfall records started in 1697 and delivered the smallest tally of sunshine hours since they were first recorded in 1876. No other month has ever claimed all three titles in the entire record of British weather! The climax came on August 26-27, when over 8" /20 cm of rain fell in Norfolk, causing horrendous flooding.

As a concluding quirk (probably nothing more except for conspiracy theorists) the years ending in an 8 over the last century have all had remarkably indifferent summers. Book your holidays now for 2018....

Mothers' Union Notes.

Our meeting was opened by Elinor with prayers, then hymn 172 "The Head that once was crowned with thorns" followed by a reading from Phillipians Chapter 2 verses 5 to 11; this was read by Brenda Skinner. Then, needing no introduction, The Revd Gordon Plumb shared with us his slides of stained glass across the river in East Yorkshire. Gordon has had an interest in stained glass for many years, including medieval glass, but then on to more recently made glass of glass, e.g 19th and 20th century.

The slides took us on a journey to St Mary's Beverley, Bishop Wilton, St Leonard Scarborough, St Mary South Dalton and ending with St Helen in Welton. The scenes depicted in these windows ranged from all aspects of Christ's Life from His birth to His crucifixion and resurrection. Also the Miracles of Christ and Mary's Annunciation . All the saints and apostles were shown along with lots of figures from the old testament: Jesse, David, and King Solomon, to name but a few. Stories of John the Baptist and Paul were shown, the story of Paul's shipwreck on Malta being Gordon's favourite because it showed such a lot of drama .Musical angels holding scrolls and musical instruments as well as angels shepherding souls to heaven and hell were in some of the windows along with Christ the Judge at the top. The last slides shown were of the Emmaus road on Easter day. These slides were only a few of many taken by Gordon. St Mary's at South Dalton was built in 1860 for the cost of £25,000 and is of superb quality! Gordon was thanked for a very informative and visual journey".

Our October meeting will be in memory of Marjorie as it would have been Marjorie's choice of hymns of praise. Would members please bring their choice of favourite hymn, from which will be chosen 5 or 6 to sing, along with readings and prayers.

Altar flowers for October Kath Lambert

October 1st: reader Linda Bromfield

October 15th: Songs of Praise

October 22nd: Prayer time, Val Dukes



Insert poster

Explanation Of God:

'One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.'

'God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.'

'God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.'

'Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista . At least there aren't any who come to our church.'

'Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.'

'His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.'

'You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time..'

'You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!

"And there will be martyrs and saints"

"Can 'saints and martyrs' – or simply Christians who lived exemplary lives – give focus to the Christian task in the C21st, and also help unite the churches into which they were born? An international group of experts will discuss these and related questions at a symposium in an Italian monastery.

Throughout the history of the church, men and women have set examples of Christian life that constitute a rich heritage to the ecumenical movement, say the organisers.

An international symposium to take place at the monastery of Bose, Italy from 29 October to 2 November 2008 will discuss how the joint remembrance of those witnesses to the faith can contribute to an ecumenical spirituality.

About 80 internationally acknowledged theologians and church leaders are expected to participate. The archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, has submitted a paper to be read on his behalf.

"There is growing awareness that witnesses to the faith, both contemporary and from the past, do not belong only to individual confessional groups but are the common heritage and a source of inspiration for the whole christendom and beyond," said Tamara Grdzeldze, a programme executive of the WCC Commission on Faith and Order.

"This symposium aims to share in the richness of holiness and martyrdom as experienced in various church traditions and contexts and to see how this awareness may further our reconciliation and mutual understanding,"

Grdzeldze added.

As part of the symposium, an ecumenical commemoration of Christian witnesses will take place on Saturday, 1 November, the Feast of All Saints in the tradition of Western Christianity.



Thanks

Many thanks to all my friends at St Mary's for their prayers, get well wishes, cards and flowers. I am now "ON THE MEND" as the saying goes. God bless you all.

Brenda Skinner

Convalescence

Nature does the healing work and slowly strength returns again. Secretly she makes and mends: a marvel no one can explain. But the process can't be hurried; hour by hour and day by day. God restores to health and wholeness in His own mysterious way. Surgeons do their skilful job, but nature does the miracle. She performs the healing work, the part that's strange and wonderful.

London priest is jailed after anti-war protest

A Catholic priest who lives and ministers in London began a short prison sentence last month, after he refused to pay a fine following a peace protest which was ruled to have broken public order restrictions.

Fr Martin Newell, who is a member of the London Catholic Worker, a radical Christian community action group that works for justice and peace, was sentenced to prison at Highbury and Islington Magistrates Court.

On 28 December 2007, Catholic Worker supporters Scott Albrecht, Sr Susan Clarkson and Fr Newell poured red paint on the sign at Northwood Military Headquarters. The three knelt in prayer with banners reading:

'We All Have Blood On Our Hands' and "War Shall Cease All Over The Earth". They were arrested, placed in jail and charged with £315 worth of criminal damage.

When called back to court for refusing to pay his fine, Fr Newell said that he was acting according to his conscience and that he hoped the judge would act according to his. Fr Newell refused to accept the court's fine, arguing that he had acted in faith for the greater good of humanity, and he was therefore jailed.

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.'

'If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because 20 your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.'

'But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases.

And...that's why I believe in God.'

Lindsey Lodge Tree of Lights Service,

Sunday December 7th, 4.00 pm.

Christmas is a time when we meet together with friends, family and loved ones to celebrate this special time of year. It is also a time when we remember loved ones who are no longer with us or are far away and not able to be with us during the festive season.

Throughout the country hospices are holding seasonal commemorative services and events to remember friends and loved ones. You are welcome to join others in remembering a friend or relative by coming to one of our services, each lasting about an hour, with hymns, readings and prayers, and/or requesting a light on our Tree of Lights. The name of each person for whom a light shines will be entered in our Book of Lights and a commemorative card will be sent to you. In return for a light all we ask is for a small donation towards the work of Lindsey Lodge Hospice. During the service the Tree of Lights is switched on and our Book of Lights placed next to the tree, and this occasion is open to everyone regardless of whether your friend or loved one was cared for by Lindsey Lodge Hospice. Seasonal refreshments will be served after.

The Book of Lights will remain on display throughout the Christmas period after which it will be taken to the Hospice where visitors are welcome to view it at any time.

October Diary

Wed 1st. 9.30 am Said Eucharist
 7.30 pm Ladies Group Harvest Supper
 7.30 pm Mission Committee meet at 77 Bowmandale.

October 5th In Thanksgiving for Harvest.

8.00 am Said Eucharist.
9.30 am Family Eucharist.
11.15 am Sunday Club.
6.00 pm Festal Evensong.

Mon.6 10.15 am Toddler Time.
 7.00 pm Harvest Supper & Auction of produce.
 Tue. 7 7.00 pm United Prayers at S^t. Augustine's
 Wed. 8 9.30 am Said Eucharist.
 2.00 pm Eagle House residents' service.
 7.15 pm Ministry Team meets at the Vicarage.

October 12th

8.00 am Said Eucharist.
9.30 am Parish Communion.
4.00 pm Evening Prayer and Baptisms.

Mon. 13 10.15 am Toddler Time.
 Tue. 14 7.00 pm Said Eucharist for wholeness & healing.
 Wed. 15 9.30 am Said Eucharist
 2.00 pm MU meeting
 7.30 pm Ladies' Group.

October 19th

8.00 am Said Eucharist.
10.00 am Family Worship & Baptisms.
6.00 pm Parish Eucharist.

Mon. 20 10.15 am Toddler Time.
 Tue. 21 7.00 am-7.00 pm Day of Prayer at Salvation Army Citadel
 7.00 pm Said Eucharist for wholeness & healing.
 Wed. 22 9.30 am Said Eucharist.
 2.00 pm MU Prayer Time

October 26th Last Sunday after Trinity - Bible Sunday

8.00 am Said Eucharist.
9.30 am Family Eucharist.
6.00 pm Memorial Service.

Mon. 27 10.15 am Toddler Time.
 Tue. 28 7.00 pm Said Eucharist.
 Wed. 29 9.30 am Said Eucharist
 Thu 30-Sun 2 E1W residential at Whernside Manor.

From the Registers.

Baptisms.

September 21st

Faith Saunders, daughter of **Kelli-Marie Rawson & Stefan Saunders**.
Roxie Louise Boyer, daughter of **Rachel Louise & Robert John Boyer**.
Ben Donald Nundy, son of **Caroline Susan & Christopher Nundy**.
Alicia Sian Bennett, daughter of **Carol & John Michael Bennett**.

Marriages.

September 13th

Damian John Simons to Kate Elizabeth Roberts.

Funerals.

August 19th Eva Emmie Mumford.
 August 21st Jan Johnson.
 August 26th Peter William Sharp.
 August 28th Leslie Duncan Atkin.
 September 1st Brian Stuart Sutcliffe
 September 4th Michael John Frow
 September 22nd Donald William Marshall ('Don') Broughton.
 September 23rd Thomas Whittle.
 September 26th Ruth Broughton.

Church flowers

Donations for Church flowers have been received in loving memory of:-

Edna and John Bellamy	Hugh McMahon
Walter Paul	Casey Jones
Bob Griffiths	Jeremy Griffiths
Stephen Atkin	Madge Atkin
Fred Small	Hugh Varah
The Brigham Sisters -Daisy, Rene, Mary, Grace, Winnie and Lucy.	
Nancy Markham	