

Faith Forged on the Anvil of Doubt

This summer has seen celebrations in Lincolnshire to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Alfred, Lord Tennyson at Somersby Rectory near Horncastle.

Tennyson remains one of the greatest poets in the English language, and as Poet Laureate he was one of the stars in the Victorian literary firmament. Most people have read **The Brook** ("For men may come and men may go, But I go on for ever"). And his invitation to "Come into the Garden, Maud" is familiar to many of us. Lincolnshire is justifiably proud of one of its most illustrious sons, and interest in him is now as great as it has ever been.

But what about Tennyson's religious beliefs? Did he have any, and if so, of what kind?

Well, in many ways he was a man of his time embracing fairly conservative Victorian values and moral assumptions. But he was not a great Church-goer – perhaps his experience at Somersby when his rather perplexing father was the Rector, did little to encourage him in that respect. Yet his son assures us that Tennyson "studied the Bible, as all who knew his poems know", and he engaged readily with the liberal Christianity promoted by Charles Kingsley and F. D. Maurice.

However, the publication of Darwin's **Origin of Species** did cause him to doubt some of the central claims of the Christian faith, even though he never doubted the existence of God nor the reality of life after death. He wrote:

We have but faith: we cannot know;
For knowledge is of things we see;
And yet we trust it comes from thee,
A beam in darkness: let it grow".

In the light of these sentiments, T. S. Eliot was prompted to observe that Tennyson's greatest poem **In Memoriam** "is not religious because of the quality of its faith, but because of the quality of its doubt", and this is balanced by Kingsley's view that "Tennyson held to an orthodox Christian faith forged on the anvil of doubt"

Contents

Happy January, or, "women, who needs them?"	2
Lincolnshire Old Churches Trust	3
Mothers' Union Notes	4
Thanks / Residential Home Services	5
Desperately seeking cleaners / Thoughts to live your life by	6
Ordination of Kathy as Priest	7
September Diary	8
Donations for Church flowers / Parish Registers	10
Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal 2009 / 'Bats' or 'bats'.	11
E1W at home and on tour 2009	12
Earth our Home 3 - Lincoln Cathedral, Friday 2 October, 2:30 to 7:30 / Renovated Church School	13
News from Ropery Hall	14
Senior Alliance / Humberside Police Band in concert	15
Faith Forged on the Anvil of Doubt: Bishop John's letter	16



Copy Deadlines for the October edition

Would all contributors please submit material by **Sunday Sept 20th** at the absolute latest?

Happy January.....

or.....

..... “Women, who needs them?”

It's always a bit disconcerting when you have a couple of ideas for an article, only to find very similar ideas in the previous Parish News! So thank you to both DRs for stealing my thunder!

Let me (very) quickly explain the title of this article. I intended to talk about the use of August as a month of recharging, before the “new year” of September. As a former schoolteacher, I am programmed to begin my year in September; I even have an academic year diary – I tried a “normal” diary, but got frustrated round about October. Fr. David is quite right (there's a change!) – the “quiet” month of August *is* a good time to take stock, think about new things and quietly effect change. There is no doubt that the past year has been a challenging one for many of us, but July was glorious, with the Garden Party, the **SCORE** weekend, the Pet Service and Julia and Ian's wedding. (Incidentally, for those of you who haven't seen the photograph of the sacristan/choir lady [?] complete with bottle, please seek it out!).

As has been detailed in the August Parish News, “New Things” are afoot, which will see St. Mary's reach out more into the community – a living witness to the gospel, or “Good News”. Many people over the years have grumbled that the chairs in St. Mary's are too many and too close together. Thanks to the activity of woodworm, and also the Pet Service, several rows of “past-it” chairs have been removed, making the church more friendly. If your “favourite” chair has disappeared, rather than moan, why not look upon it as an opportunity to sit near someone else.

So that's “January” out of the way, and back to the end of September. “Father” Kathy has been with us for nearly a year now, and has endeared herself to all she has met. She has brought a new dimension to the clergy team, and to the parish, and her new perspectives are greatly welcomed. I know Kathy was grateful for the chance to initiate a Pet Service, and similarly grateful that no pet ate another! On Sunday September 27th, she will be priested at Lincoln Cathedral, and on Monday 28th at 7.00pm she will preside at her first Eucharist in St. Mary's, followed by refreshments.

It is this which makes Tennyson a man of our time as well as his own. He lived in an age of doubt yet it was his very struggles with doubt which convinced him that faith would see him through this life “to something better”.

On the plinth of his statue in the precincts of Lincoln Cathedral the following lines are inscribed. They sum up Tennyson's faith in nature as a window into a divine mystery beyond our comprehension – but very real to us all the same:

Flower in the crannied wall,
I pluck you out of the crannies,
I hold you here, root and all, in my hand,
little flower – but IF I could understand
what you are, root and all, and all in all,
I should know what God and man is.

+John Lincoln

Senior Alliance

The annual Pensioners' Service and Tea will be held at Trinity Church on September 21st at 2.30pm. It's sponsored by Barton Town Council, and all are invited to join in.

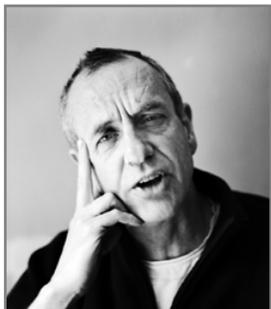
Humberside Police Band in concert:



in the grounds of Saxby Hall, September 5th, gates open 5pm, music from 7pm. Bring your own picnic, hot & cold drinks available. Tickets £7.50, children free. Proceeds in aid of the Saxby Church Fabric Fund & Sue Ryder home, Konstantin, Warsaw.

News from Ropery Hall

After an all too brief summer lull, The Ropewalk is gearing itself up for a full programme of events in the autumn at Ropery Hall and at Ropewalk Contemporary Art & Craft.



At Ropery Hall one of the undoubted highlights is the visit of Mr Film Night himself, Barry Norman, who will be appearing on stage on Friday, October 9, talking about the icons of the silver screen - and why not - memoirs of a film lover. And on Saturday, November 28, that original grumpy old man, Arthur Smith, will be doing what he does best - making people laugh.



The full programme will be out shortly and, when launched, available to view on www.the-ropewalk.co.uk.

New look for Ropewalk's craft gallery

The Craft Gallery at Barton upon Humber's Contemporary Art & Craft has a new and modern look thanks to Harpswell based craftsman Tim Rinaldi and a grant from Arts Council England.

He was commissioned to create the new reception desk and jewellery counter at the Malkiln Road gallery and used only the finest materials coupled with the latest methods of construction combined with traditional hand tools to make two original pieces of furniture designed to last a lifetime.

Tim, who also designed the two counters, used only the finest materials which coupled with the latest methods of construction using cutting edge adhesives combined with traditional hand tools have created two original pieces of furniture designed to last a lifetime.

Kathy and I have followed similar paths (career schoolteacher, then ordination in our very early 50s), so I can understand some of her thoughts, doubts and fears, while welcoming a fresh challenge. We need Kathy, the church needs Kathy. There are those who find acceptance of a woman priest difficult; if you are one such, please re-read David Redrobe's article in the August Magazine, and remember that the first people to acknowledge the Risen Christ were women. So, yes, we in the church need women, just as in all walks of life. Let's rejoice in Kathy's Priesthood, and support her in it.

Alan

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Lincolnshire Old Churches trust

On Sat 26th, 7.30pm in Church, St Cecilia Singers' will present a varied programme in aid of the Lincolnshire Old Churches Trust, one of our designated charities. Tickets will be available shortly, or on the door.

Mothers' Union Notes.

St Benedict's, Lincoln — a date for your diary.

Saturday September 19th. 10am to 11.30am. Coffee morning to raise funds for St Benedict's, the centre run by Lincoln diocese MU members to provide a welcome break for shoppers in Lincoln away from the hustle and bustle of the precinct. Gifts for the cake stall and tombola will be gratefully appreciated.

Mothers Union July 15th

Our meeting was opened by Sheila who welcomed everyone including our speaker the Reverend Canon Ian Robinson of Caistor. After singing hymn 211 “ We love the place O God”, Val Dukes read Psalm 122. Sheila said prayers then gave out notices and apologies.

Ian's talk was about all the churches of West Wold Deanery which covers 250 square miles from Swallow to just outside Lincoln (approximately), in which 40 churches are still open. With a total population of only 12,500 it consists of lots of tiny communities. Ian's powerpoint display showed all of these churches. All Saints at Grasby – the vicar there was Charles Tennyson brother of poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson (whose 200th anniversary is this year), Charles wrote sonnets mainly about the local area , church and farming. From Grasby we saw views of St Nicholas –Searby cum Owmbly, All Hallows – Clixby, (used only once a year, in June - you have to take your own chair as there are only three pews). St Peter and Paul – Caistor, Lincoln Cathedral , St Lawrence – Snarford, St Mary – Thoresway, All Saints – Walesby known as “ The Ramblers Church” – it is on the Viking Way and has a stained glass window showing ramblers, St Mary New Church, St Michael & All Saints – Brookenby (joint Anglican and Methodist, it is part of the ex-sergeants' mess at RAF Binbrook). All Saints – Crosby , St Nicholas – Cuxwold – maintained and looked after by the local farmers. St Andrews – Kirkby cum Osgodby, St Martin – Kirmond le Mire, St Cornelius – Linwood, St John the Baptist – Lissington (where our own Sheila Holt was christened), St Mary – Hainton, St Martin – North Owersby, St Peter – Normanby le Wold, All Hallows – North Kelsey, St Mary – Rothwell, St Mary – South Kelsey, St Andrew – Stainton le Vale, All Saints – Tealby, All Saints – West Rasen, St Margaret – Usselby, St Martin – Cherry Willingham, All Saints – Thornton le Moor, All Saints –

Earth our Home 3

- Lincoln Cathedral, Friday 2 October, 2:30 to 7:30

Taking Action on Climate Change: looking towards the UN Copenhagen Climate Change Conference and celebrating St Francis.

Come to this free event; enjoy lots of exciting activities and exhibitions, explore Franciscan spirituality, walk the labyrinth, see the dance & drama.

Special Evensong at 5.30 with guest speaker Revd Dave Bookless of A Rocha UK, followed by discussion.

To book or for further information contact Terry Miller 01522 504072, terry.miller@lincoln.anglican.org

Renovated Church School

If you haven't already visited the old Church School on Queen Street, Barton, now regenerated as The Wilderspin National School museum, or if you went along when it first reopened, do take some time out of your summer to visit.

Since the initial reopening, newly designed interpretation displays have been installed, and the two Victorian classrooms, one dedicated to Samuel Wilderspin, the Victorian education pioneer himself (which has been taken right back to his original design) and the other set at a later date in Victorian education, are now used for school parties to extend their work on history.

Events now take place at the School, and more are in the pipeline, featuring volunteers dressed in Victorian outfits. Guaranteed to take you back to your childhood (or your grandparents' childhood, if you are younger!), the School also has a shop where you can buy traditional toys and other reminders of your visit, and a café which sells tea, 'proper' coffee and truly scrumptious cakes.

And don't just leave it there! Plans are in the pipeline to extend the menu in the café, to put on more entertainments and lectures, and to complete the renovation work (some of which was delayed by lack of funds). Volunteers are needed to take all of those projects forward. Work proceeds apace, and the volunteers are becoming one big, happy family, so if you are interested, put your name down to join in.

E1W at home and on tour 2009



In case you'd not noticed, E1W have been up to quite a bit over the Summer – the Middle Eastern night (proving it's possible to do an indoor barbeque!), a sponsored walk to Thornton Abbey and back (when some of the rain which fell on the Barbeque night might have been welcome to cool folk down on the road) in aid of a diabetes charity, and a day pilgrimage to

Walsingham (including two noble individuals who chose to walk the Holy Mile barefoot). They have already drafted an entertaining programme for the autumn – you have been warned....



Sixhills, Holy Trinity – Swallow, St Thomas – North Willingham and All Saints – West Barkwith. Quite a lot of churches, all well looked after, some having beautiful interiors, tombs and carvings. Ian was thanked by Val Dukes for a very interesting and informative talk and display.

Sept. 2nd 9.30 am Eucharist. *Reader — Auriol Trubshaw.*
 Sept. 16th 2pm Speaker: Mavis Silley — MU Literature.
 Reader and vote of thanks — Brenda

Skinner.
 Sept. 23rd 2pm Prayer Time: Brenda Skinner (*in St James Chapel*).

Flowers Sept 11- Carolyn Smith.
 Sept 25 - Janet Petch.

Will all members please check the MU notice board at the back of church for information.

Thanks

We would like to thank the St Matthew's Lodge of the Masons for a generous donation of £100 towards the refurbishment of the sound system. We would also like to thank the British Society for Old Testament Study who have generously donated the cost of our new projection screen.

Residential Home services

We are grateful for the support of members of the churches at these services. We are a little short of musicians – if you think you might be able to help, could you contact Margaret Sidell.



Desperately Seeking Cleaners

If anyone can spare an hour every four weeks to help on the regular cleaning rota for the church could you please contact Janet Petch on 01652 633071. There are vacancies on both the ladies' and the men's' rotas so anyone can apply and help out our regular band of cleaners.

We are also trying to recruit some extra people to act as "reserves" for people who are on holiday etc. If you can help with this, please ring Janet on the above number. Thank you.



Thoughts to live your life by

- Let the choices you make today be choices you can live with tomorrow. No one can think for you – you have to decide.
- Watch your thoughts: they become your words. Watch your words: they become your actions. Watch your actions: they become your habits. Watch your habits: they become your character.
- Respect yourself. If you don't, nobody will.
- Respect – you gotta give it to get it.
- You are as honest as your actions.

Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal 2009

I hope everyone has had a chance, during the summer, to stock up on items for the shoeboxes. Copies of the 2009 leaflet/envelope/labels are now available at the back of the Church or from me at 77 Bowmandale.

I should be very grateful if completed boxes could be brought to St. Mary's, at service times on Sundays or Wednesday mornings only, so that they can be stored safely. Alternatively they can be brought to 77 Bowmandale: I suggest you phone first to make sure there is someone at home. If you would have difficulty delivering your box, please contact me and ask for it to be collected.

The completed boxes need to arrive at Church or at 77 Bowmandale by Sunday 8th November 2009 as I expect to be making arrangements for their collection very shortly after that date.

Many thanks

Rosemary Lamert

'Bats' or 'bats'

Three vicars were discussing the infestation of bats in their various churches.

Vicar one said, 'No matter what we do they always return- I've tried using a stuffed owl but still they come back.'

Vicar two said, 'Well, I've tried all sorts including smoke but still they return!'

Vicar three listened carefully to them both and then announced, 'Well I've found the answer to all our problems! What you do is this :- christen them and then confirm them and you can guarantee they'll never be back at all!!!'



Donations for Church flowers

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



Jean Ward
Clarence Robinson
Casey L. Jones

Shirley Creasey

Parish Registers

Baptisms:

August 2 Louis Clarke, son of **Bridget Emily & Andrew Clarke.**

August 9 Zara Joanne Lawtey, daughter of **Rebecca Sarah & Steven John Lawtey.**

Marriages:

August 1 Neil James Hurst and **Anna Victoria Womersley.**

August 8 Michael John Redmond and **Rachel Louise Storr.**

August 15 Simon James Percy and **Karen Ann Sandall.**



Funerals:

August 7 George Elia

Ordination of Kathy as Priest Sunday 27th September Lincoln Cathedral

Tickets for the coach to Kathy's ordination are on sale from Alan from July 1st at £5 on a first-come-first-served basis. The coach will leave St. Mary's at 8.45am, and leave from the Cathedral at about 12.45pm, depending on the length of the service. There will be services at 8.00 am, and at 6.00 pm but there will be no 9.30 — we do encourage members of St. Mary's to come and support Kathy.

She will preside at the Eucharist for the first time on Monday September 28th at 7.00 pm.



Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 1 Corinthians 13 v.4.

The kindness of Jesus. We are quick to think of His power, His passion and His death. But those near Him knew and know God comes cloaked in kindness.

Mum celebrated her 40th birthday, and received several lovely orchids. These were lined up on the hearth for everyone to enjoy.

After a day or so, 6 year old Johnny came in. "Would you water the orchids?" she asked.

Johnny went out, then came back, looking puzzled.

"What did you mean, mummy," he said, "would I water all the kids?"



September Diary

This year there will be a 6pm service of Evening Prayer on all the Sundays of August.

Please note there is no Tuesday evening Eucharist until September 8th.

Wed. 2 9.30 am Said Eucharist (MU Corporate)

Thu 3 9.30 -11.30 Open Door

September 6th Patronal Festival.

8.00 am Said Eucharist.

9.30 am Parish Eucharist.

11.15 am Sunday Club.

2.30 pm Service at the Willows.

6.00 pm Choral Evensong.

Mon. 7 10.15 am Toddler Time.

2.00 pm Worship Review group meets at the Vicarage.

Tues 8 7.00 pm Said Eucharist

7.00 pm Stewardship steering group meet at the Vicarage.

Wed. 9 9.30 am Said Eucharist (MU Corporate)

2.00 pm Service at Eagle House.

7.15 pm Ministry Team meet at the Vicarage.

Thu 10 9.30 -11.30 Open Door

September 13th Trinity 14

8.00 am Said Eucharist.

9.30 am Parish Eucharist.

4.00 pm Baptisms.

6.00 pm Evening Prayer.

Mon. 14 10.15 am Toddler Time.

Holy Cross 7.00 pm Said Eucharist.

Tue. 15 7.00 pm Said Eucharist for Healing & Wholeness.

Wed. 16 9.30 am Said Eucharist.

Thu 17 9.30 -11.30 Open Door

Home Communion

Sat 19 10 - 11.30 MU Coffee Morning in support of St Benedict's Centre.

September 20th Trinity 15

8.00 am Said Eucharist.

9.30 am Family Worship

6.00 pm Parish Eucharist.

Mon. 21 10.15 am Toddler Time.

St Matthew Home Communion at St. Peter's Court (10.15) & Victoria House (11.00).

7.00 pm Said Eucharist.

Tue 22 7.00 pm Said Eucharist.

7.30 pm Deanery Synod at Barnetby.

Wed. 19 9.30 am Said Eucharist.

Thu 20 **9.30 -11.30 Open Door**

Sat 26 7.30 pm St Cecilia Singers' concert in aid of the Lincolnshire Old Churches Trust.

September 27th Trinity 16

8.00 am Said Eucharist.

**ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD OF KATHY COLWELL,
10.30, CATHEDRAL.**

6.00 pm Evening Prayer (BCP, said).

Mon. 28 10.15 am Toddler Time.

7.00 pm First Eucharist of Fr Kathy Colwell.

Tue 29 *Visitation by the Bishop of Lincoln.*

7.00 pm Said Eucharist.

Wed. 30 9.30 am Said Eucharist.

2.00 pm Service at Beech House

OCTOBER

Thu 1 **9.30 -11.30 Open Door**

Sun. 4th Harvest.

Morning Prayer is usually said at 9am Monday-Friday in the St James' Chapel.

*The Lord
Is good*

