

***“Because we're worth it....”***

Like just about everybody else I've been having to tackle the business of Christmas shopping. I quite like it really, but there's always the anxiety about finding that you've given somebody the same present as last year, and I think every family has one awkward relative who has everything they need and can't think of anything they'd actually like. Come to think of it, they're probably not awkward, but contented, but it doesn't make them any easier to shop for. On a recent shopping trip I observed a couple of harassed shoppers trying to choose a present. They were looking at a rather nice, understated (and expensive) ornament and considering it as a gift. One said,

“I think she'd like it. What do you think?”, to which the reply was,

“I like it but it doesn't look much. It'd be OK if we could leave the price on”.

In that exchange we can see so much of the best and the worst of Christmas as we experience it today. The love which made the two ladies want to give the present was good, but they translated that love into something which could be assessed in money. It's worth remembering that one reason the commercialisation of Christmas we often complain about has been able to happen is that too many of us have fallen into exactly the same trap and assumed that our love and affection can be demonstrated by the price tag on the presents.

However, we shouldn't suppose that Christmas is in some way spoiled just because the shops are making a profit. No matter what we're told, we don't need to “put Christ into Christmas” because he's already there in the love which inspired every carefully wrapped and chosen gift and made countless people trudge round endless shops trying to make somebody happy with just the right thing. That's what actually matters – the love which inspires the gift.

If you're anxious that the gifts you've chosen aren't wrapped up like a picture in “Good Housekeeping” magazine, and you didn't leave the price tag on so the recipients won't know how much you spent on them, remember that God's greatest gift to us really didn't look like much at all – a child born in poverty and “wrapped” in the setting of a stable without even the dignity of a clean bed in which to come into the world. Yet the gift which was given was God himself as he took on human flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. He gave us the very best there was, out of a love greater than any other love there could ever be, and he did it

because we matter to him so much that nothing but the very best was good enough. In fact you might coin a phrase from a certain advert and say that, amazing as it is to be on the receiving end of a love like that, he did it "because we're worth it".

Have a blessed Christmas - and remember the love is more important than discovering you forgot the brandy butter!

Fr. Liz

### Dates for December

Please refer to the Diary pages for details of all the Advent and Christmas services.

Please note that because of deadlines, the **final day** for receipt of material for the January edition is **TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> December**. Any copy received after then will be held over until February.

### Carol service dates in centres and homes in the town

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December at Eagle House at 2pm.**

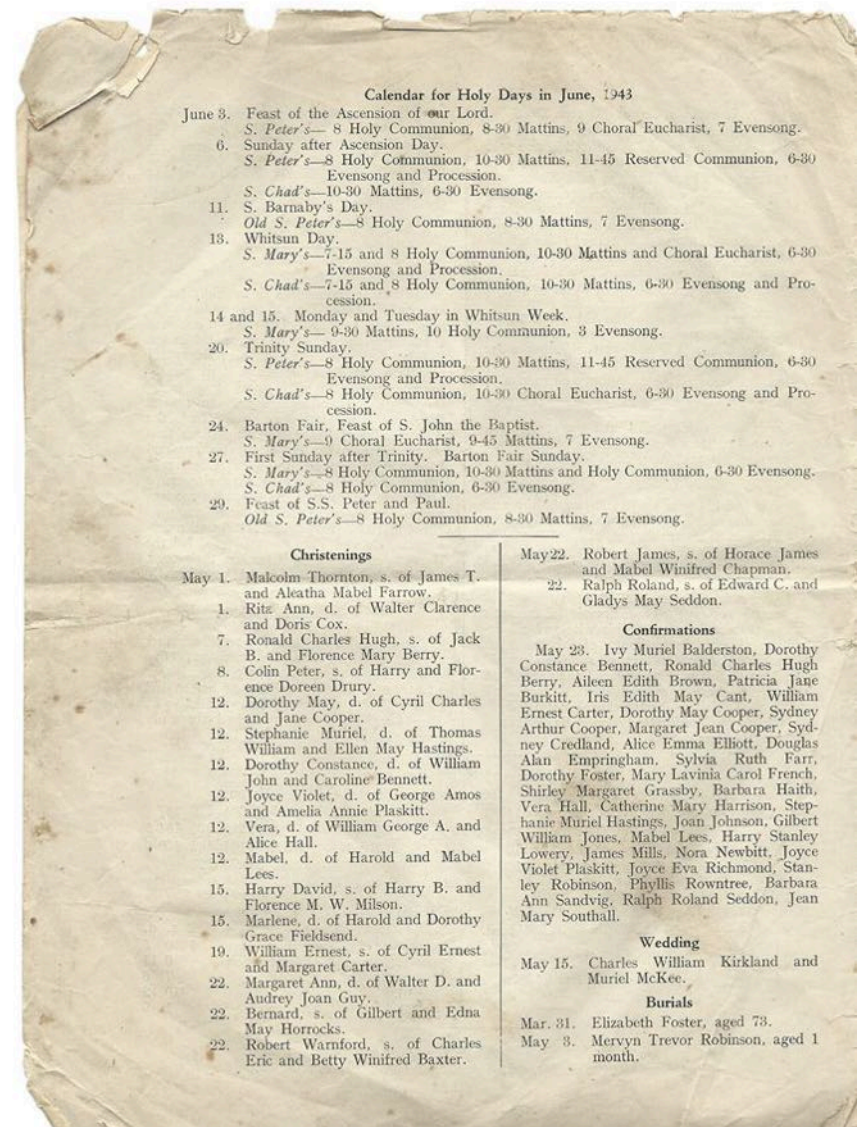
**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December at Victoria House at 7pm**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at Beech House at 2pm**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December at Westbridge House at 7pm**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December at the Willows at 6-30pm**

**Singers are always welcome!**



A page from the Parish magazine for June 1943; there will be many names on there familiar to some older Bartonians.

### **Christmas at The Ropewalk**

Original gifts and Christmas presents will be on sale at The Ropewalk's traditional Christmas Art Market being held in early December.

More than 40 artists and makers, many of whom took part in Northern Lincolnshire's Open Studios event held in September and early October, will be lining the corridors of the quarter-mile long building for the two day event which takes place over Saturday and Sunday, December 6 and 7.

On sale will be original handmade gifts, cards, and artwork. The opening times for both days are 10am until 4pm and admission is free.

Also taking place in December is Duckegg Theatre's Christmas offering, Santa Is Coming To Barton. Young people and those who are young at heart shouldn't miss this show which is suitable for children aged three years and over and their families.

Taking place at Ropery Hall between December 17 and December 22, the show features professional actors from the Duckegg Theatre Company and young people from the Youth Theatre.

The evening performances start at 6pm and on December 19, 20, 21, and 22 there are also matinee performances starting at 2pm.

Tickets cost £8 for adults and £6 for concessions. A family ticket (two adults and two children) costs £24.

### **FROM THE REGISTERS:**

#### **BAPTISMS:-**

Nov 23 Louis James HUMPHREY son of Victoria Leigh & Robert Samuel HUMPHREY  
Nov 30 Casey-May MUMBY daughter of Jade Elizabeth BLACKMAN

#### **FUNERALS:-**

Nov 5 Ernest George Henry SKINNER  
Nov 10 John Henry ANDREW  
Nov 25 Margaret EVISON  
Nov 28 Brian Frank MASON

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

George Lambert : Graham Askew : Amy Norah Cook : Ernest Cook  
Sidney Hewitt : Florence Mary Hewitt : Roy Shepherd : Benjamin Watling  
Reg and Lena Sorfleet : Kathleen Mary Rose : Ted Skinner : Neil Huteson

### **The Bishop of Lincoln writes.....**

I write to you just after Remembrance Day this year, which was for many particularly poignant in this year as we marked the outbreak of the First World War 100 years ago. Already, the symbols of remembrance that have been around us have given way to signs that Christmas is on its way. Even the television advertisements have started, designed to encourage us to dig deep in search of the perfect Christmas.

Christmas advertisements are fast becoming a television genre in their own right. Many have taken a familiar approach - 'tis the season to spoil yourself,' we're told in one - but one supermarket chain has, more controversially, used the trenches of the First World War as the setting for its Christmas advert. It is unsurprising that this has generated much comment in the media. Despite its endorsement by the Royal British Legion, the advert is seen by some as an unashamed (and inaccurate) romanticisation of the horrors of the grim and bloody battlefields of Northern France, with one commentator describing it as a "dangerous and disrespectful masterpiece".

However, the advert does remind us of the remarkable moment when unofficial truces were spontaneously declared at Christmas in 1914. In the weeks leading up to Christmas Day, soldiers from both sides heard each other singing the same carols until, on the day itself, they laid down their weapons and climbed out of the trenches, met each other, exchanged gifts, buried their dead and, famously, played football together. Some stopped for worship together.

Those truces began with the singing of Christmas carols, songs that celebrate the birth of Jesus, the one who is the Prince of Peace. If you catch sight of that advert on television this Christmas, pause for a moment and give thanks for the birth of the Prince of Peace. The birth of Jesus is our ultimate hope and vision for a world founded on love, marked by compassion, and governed by the true and lasting peace of which the angels sang, and for which we long.

I wish you a happy and a holy Christmas.

Bishop Christopher

### **Golden Wedding Thanks.**

We would like to say a huge thank you for all the wonderful cards and gifts that we received for our recent Golden Wedding anniversary. Also thank you to all who came to celebrate with us in the church hall. It was lovely to see so many people and we hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did. It was a wonderful day spent with friends and family, memories of which we will always treasure.

With our love and thanks,

Janet and Brian

### **Who uses the Church Hall?**

As Gordon Plumb pointed out recently, each month in our Parish Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Hall-users. In this first of a (very) occasional series, we include a photo [centre pages] of the Lace Makers' Group who meet every Wednesday morning and who share the Hall for the first few minutes with those having coffee after the 9.30 Eucharist. Their work always looks very complicated to the untrained eye, with bobbins and cotton all over the place. We continue to pray for them, and all other Hall-users.

### **St. Mary's Bellringers**

With the approach of Christmas there will be additional ringing for a number of services. Ringing will also take place from 23.30 on December 31<sup>st</sup>, members of the public will be welcome to join the ringers as they ring in the New Year.

There has been concern about the new ropes with some of them showing worrying signs of damage. Alan Black, from whom they were purchased, has replaced the damaged parts free of charge; he was assisted by Linda, Rose and Andy. Alan has sent the damaged ones to the rope maker for further investigation. The ringers are very grateful to Linda and Rose who do significant work in the bell chamber and whose vigilance led to the discovery of the damage. It was generally agreed

amongst the ringers to send Alan Black a gift token for all the trouble he took replacing the ropes without interrupting the use of the bells for services or practice. Linda has recently reviewed and upgraded the tower security.

The new ropes were blessed along with the new muffles during the service on 2nd November ...but I hasten to add there was no connection with the blessing and what had happened to the ropes!!! Thanks go to Father David for including the blessing in the morning service.

Katy Moore and Katy Snell have both graduated to attending practice nights. Mike Wilsea and Rose Guggiari both still receive individual tuition but are making progress. The ringers will be getting together for their Christmas meal at Stables on 6th December. They would also like to take this opportunity to wish all parishioners a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Joan Barton

### **St. Mary's Ladies' Group**

Our meeting on Bonfire Night was held at Wilderspin School where Shân told us three ghost stories. This type of story was developed in Victorian times as a means of encouraging literacy in all ages and became a popular form of entertainment. We were treated to a light supper of hot dogs with onions.

*[Thanks to the Wilderspin school for allowing us to visit to add atmosphere to the meeting- Ed.]*

Amanda from Jerry Green Dog Rescue came to tell us about its work from its creation in 1961 at Broughton. The kennels rescue, care for and re home dogs whose owners can no longer care for them, and there are now 5 centres for this work. There is a meet-and-match process to rehome a dog, with visits to the centre and home visits before an adoption is finalised. Volunteer groomers are used on new arrivals as their behaviour, feeding and reaction to other dogs and humans are assessed. A suggested donation of £120 covers the care, worming and a month's insurance to take one of the 657 dogs rehomed this year, and the centre is always available for help and advice in times of need. Fund raising is always needed as are donations of food, treats and bedding, and volunteers help with walking, grooming and playtime.

GD

*[Money was also raised for the Ebola Crisis which will be sent via the Marlow Rotary Group to provide essential protective clothing for the staff. Also for 'Child Line' through the purchase of Christmas cards beautifully made by Elsa Cox.-Ed.]*

### **Mothers' Union notes**

Linda welcomed everyone to our October meeting. We began by singing "Let all the world in every corner sing" followed by a reading of Psalm 95, read by our speaker Ann Spolton. Linda then said prayers with a special prayer for Janet and Brian Petch and Mavis and Michael Nutbrown who both celebrate their Golden wedding anniversaries in November. During the notices Linda thanked everyone for contributing to the hampers for the Church Bazaar. These raised £80 towards the Bazaar total of £675, also a special thank you to Janet for assembling them and Joyce for helping to sell tickets. Linda then passed over to Ann Spolton who spoke about her trip to Egypt. Ann (who is an ex primary school teacher) had always enjoyed teaching about Egypt and longed to visit there. Ann showed a map of Egypt explaining how it is a long narrow country with the River Nile running the length of it. Cairo is the capital and is in Upper Egypt where there is often lots of trouble, but Ann started her trip in lower Egypt in Luxor where she joined a Nile cruise, explaining in detail how luxurious it was on board. Wonderful cabins with fully equipped bathrooms and lovely bedrooms where the linen was changed daily and the towels displayed in different animal shapes each time. The people were very friendly and the food fantastic. The staff were very gracious and nothing was too much trouble.

Ann spoke in detail about the huge temples in Luxor, - Karnak being built in 1991 B.C. and how they were built using earth banks and wooden rollers to move the stone (NO J C Bs and cranes in those days)!! In some places buildings were built on top of existing ones which had been buried in sand over time and not known to be there until centuries later. Ann's slides showed statues, columns and carvings on walls. Also views across the Nile bank a (very narrow green strip before the sand started again) showing minarets, date palms and banana trees. Another showed a monastery where the Aga Khan used to visit for healing he was placed in hot sand to help his arthritis. After his death he was buried there.

Ann showed pictures of Lake Nassau and the Aswan dam which was built to regulate river flow and prevent flooding also to provide electricity. 43 million cubes of rock were used in its building. Another tourist attraction was an unfinished obelisk in the pink granite quarry which was left where it been carved out because it developed a large crack so was unable to be moved.

Next Ann went on to a Nubian village where one house allows in visitors to see how they live. The outside walls are painted blue to reflect heat as they say it is apparently better than white. Ann showed slides of herself in a long cotton dress, large hat and sunglasses, all helping to keep her cool in the 40c heat!! Also of her holding a small live crocodile, its jaws being tied, to prevent her being bitten. Her trip to the Valley of the Kings showed pictures of the temple and statues built by King Rameses 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Ann had on display some of her souvenirs of her trip, a red Egyptian dress, a papyrus picture of a cat and other small items. She finished by saying what a wonderful experience it had been and a very relaxing but also exciting time. Sue Brumpton thanked Ann for her talk and how she had enthused us all into wishing we had been there also. BS

Dec 3 9.30am Corporate Communion  
Dec 17 2pm Christmas Carols and Readings

Flower Rota  
Dec 25 Elinor Cartwright

### **Operation Christmas Child 2014**

Thank you for getting involved and making a difference!

After a fantastic community effort our shoebox appeal for this year drew to a close with 252 gift filled shoeboxes leaving St. Mary's Church bound for Romania.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this years' appeal. There are far too many people to name...many have worked tirelessly 'behind the scenes' as well as 'front of house' and I am extremely grateful to everyone for the encouragement they have given me and for the enthusiasm, love and care which they have put into the shoeboxes which ultimately made our campaign such a success. The passion which people have for this charity is very contagious...I'm hoping we can all continue to 'infect' people with our desire to help those children living in desperate situations, and let them know they are precious and loved.

On 11th November I was lucky enough to visit the Ice House and meet their wonderful team of volunteers who work all year round to prepare shoebox gifts for

children, babies and even grannies and granddads! It was great to see the scale of their operation and their resourcefulness when it comes to recycling.

I was especially touched by a story which one of the Ice House ladies told me about one of her trips abroad delivering the shoeboxes... Liz explained to me that she was sitting with a teenage girl whilst she unpacked the shoebox which she had received. The girl pulled a chiffon scarf out of her box. Liz said "miserable and practical me instantly thought to myself that won't keep her warm". She then went on to tell me that all the time that she was there the girl constantly danced with her new chiffon scarf. Liz and her colleagues were so moved by the girl's passion for dancing that they left her some money to be able to have some dancing lessons - who would have thought that as a consequence the girl would one day become part of the Russian Ballet and last year perform in Scunthorpe whilst on tour! What really struck me about this story is that the person who sent that box would never know how his/her gift transformed the life of that girl....the power of a simple gift!

Our Shoebox Celebration Service on 16th November was a lovely way to conclude our collection, and despite the technological failures (!! ) the service was well received and very well attended. A big thank you to Alan for planning and conducting the service, and to everyone who was able to attend it. During his sermon Alan spoke about talents - I feel that this year we have effectively employed a vast array of talents from within our local community (people have prayed, knitted, sewn, donated, bought, made and packed); we have worked in partnership to fulfil the mission of Operation Christmas Child at a community level...To demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world. [See picture, centre pages.]

Marion has prepared a tree representing Operation Christmas Child which will be displayed in the Christmas Tree Festival at Trinity Methodist Chapel on the 29th & 30th November...please pop in and see it if you are able. (Thank you to Marion for all of her creative talents throughout the campaign.)

I have already got a few ideas in the pipeline for next year, if you have any suggestions or ideas please let me know.

We thank God for working through us to fulfil his purposes, and we pray that through these simple gifts all people will know the awesome extent of God's love. Good news, great joy!

Julia Wilson

*[Considerable thanks also go to Julia for her inspired work for the ShoeBox appeal. The efforts of everyone are a manifestation of God's love at work in Barton. Ed.]*

### **Visitors to St. Mary's**

Gordon Plumb popped in to have a coffee with Auriol and her crew on a recent Monday morning and discovered two visitors from near Livingston, in Scotland. Alex Moore and his wife had come to St Mary's in search of his ancestors, the Bygott family, memorial stones to which pave the nave in the church. Mr Moore himself was born in Barton and told Gordon he had traced the family in Barton to the second half of the seventeenth century. He and his wife had been welcomed and plied with coffee and they were grateful for and impressed with the warmth of the welcome. The picture on the middle page shows Alex and his wife looking at some of the nave memorials. So when we walk up the nave remember, these stones have a history which for some is very meaningful.

Alex and his wife later rang Gordon partly to thank him for some information Gordon had sent him, most of all to thank folk for the tremendous warmth of their welcome.

*[It's good to hear of people being welcomed, and appreciating it. This is ministry in action! Ed.]*

### **Lindsey Lodge Hospice**

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm sees the annual "Tree of Lights" service on the behalf of Lindsey Lodge Hospice. This is an opportunity for those who have been cared for at the Hospice to be remembered, although of course the service is open to all.

### **Christingle**

Christingle candle collection boxes will be available from the beginning of December through the Primary Schools in Barton, at Toddler Time and at the back

of the church. The Christingle Service is on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 4 pm – please arrive early to ensure families can sit together.

**Over to you.....**

As you may have gathered by now, I listen to the radio a lot and recently heard this interesting article. A Jewish family was planning the festivities for Hannukah which is the Festival of Lights. It commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century B.C. and begins on the 6<sup>th</sup> December at sunset and ends on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

During this time they planned to observe at least one day when work of any kind would be forbidden- no cooking, housework, using electrical items (household or information Technology), travelling etc. So a lot of forward planning would have to take place. When asked, ‘why’, the following answer was given:

We want this to be a family time when we all sit and eat together, share the day with no outside distractions. In this busy world we have all forgotten the basics of family life and communication and never have enough time on an ordinary day.

I wonder how many of us could manage or even cope with this idea. Jesus always found time to be with his family of Disciples and was frequently shown to spend time communicating with his Father.

During the busy festive period which is fast approaching, perhaps we could find time for some of these ideas. Have a joyful Christmas Time. S.W.

Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec.	9.30 am	<b>Andrew, Apostle</b>	Toddler Time
	<b>12noon</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.00 pm		Pilgrim Course (Vicarage)
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30 am		Said Eucharist (MU Corporate).
	10.15 am		Diary meeting (Vicarage)
	7.30 pm		Ladies’ Group
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm		Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio divina

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>		<b>Advent 2</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>2.30 pm</b>		<b>Service at The Willows</b>
	<b>4.00 pm</b>		<b>Said Evening Prayer</b>
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	11.30 am onwards		SCP meeting ( <b>Eucharist at Noon</b> )
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm		Pilgrim Course (Vicarage)
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	7.15 pm		Ministry meeting (Vicarage)
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm		Carols at Eagle House
	7.00 pm		W I Carol Service
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio Divina
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>		<b>Advent 3</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>2.00 pm</b>		<b>Baptism</b>
	<b>4.00 pm</b>		<b>Lindsey Lodge “Tree of Lights” service.</b>
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	7.00 pm		Carols at Victoria House
			Home Communion week
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm		Said Eucharist
		<b>Strict Parish</b>	<b>News Deadline</b>
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	10.30 am onwards		St. Peter’s School rehearsal
	2.00 pm		Mothers’ Union meeting
	2.00 pm		Carols at Beech House
	6.30 pm		Wedding Rehearsal
	7.30 pm		Ladies’ Group
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am- 12 noon		St. Peter’s School rehearsal

	1.30 pm- 3.00 pm		Bowmandale School service
	2.00 pm		Carols at Westbridge House
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	am		Castledyke School service
	pm		St. Peter's School service
	6.30 pm		Carols at The Willows
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio divina
	1.00 pm		Wedding and Baptism
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>		<b>Advent 4</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>4.00 pm</b>		<b>Christingle service</b>
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	7.00 pm		Extra Choir practice
<b>Wed 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>6.30 pm</b>		<b>Carol Service</b>
	<b>11.30 pm</b>		<b>Midnight Mass</b>
		<b>Happy Christmas!</b>	
<b>Thurs 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8.00 am</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Family Eucharist</b>
<b>Sat 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	<b>John, Apostle &amp; Evangelist</b>	<b>Said Eucharist</b>
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>		<b>The Holy Innocents</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>4,00 pm</b>		<b>United Carols at St. Augustine Webster</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>		<b>Said Eucharist with hymns</b>
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		NO Toddler Time
	<b>12 Noon</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
		<b>Happy New Year!</b>	



# Scunthorpe Male Voice Choir



## In Concert

at

## *All Saints Church*

Church Lane, Saxby All Saints, DN20 0PZ

Soloist

**Lesley Julian**

Accompanists

**Ann Rook and Margaret Walker**

Conductor

**Daniel Fields**

7.00pm Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2014

There will be a raffle and light refreshments

**Adults: £5.00 Children under 10: £3.50**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM**

Norma Crabtree, 69 Main Street, Saxby All Saints, 01652 618228

AND

Dorothy Fagge, Mistle House, Stable Yard, Main Street, Saxby All Saints  
01652 618615

Choir Website: [www.scunthorpemalevoicechoir.com](http://www.scunthorpemalevoicechoir.com)  
Photography by Bill Ballam





Mr and Mrs Alex Moore on a recent visit to St. Mary's



Part of the ShoeBox collection



Janet and Brian Petch at their Golden Wedding party in the Hall



Lace-makers in the Hall