

***Addresses***

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### ***The Trouble With Mice.***

Until 20 years ago, mention of mice in the media would only conjure up memories of Bagpuss and the Mouse Organ. But rodents have now become (almost) ubiquitous in their new identity as the funny thing on a computer which enables us to explore the interwebthingy. The universe is no more than a mouse-click away. Which has to be a good thing. Doesn't it?

Well, as with all scientific advances, It Depends. The access to information most westerners have had was undreamed of a few years ago – but what can be accessed with a click can be dismissed with a click. We can fast-forward through anything uncongenial in a way we couldn't in the old days of steam television where we had to sit through all the news until we got to interesting things like photos of skateboarding ducks.

Many writers have explored the consequences of people retreating entirely into private space (Isaac Asimov's *The Naked Sun* made a big impression on me 40 years ago): for the first time ever, we have the opportunity to give it a go. Friends may be made and unmade by a tick of a computer-screen box, and shopping can be done without all those annoying people in front of us in the queue.

It's not for me to say whether it's a good thing or a bad thing, but the creation of millions of independent micro-realities, entirely divorced from the realities – and the feelings – of those around us, may not be an unmixed blessing. It's one of the odder things about the world that, as more and more people escape into imagined universes and virtual relationships, it's religious types who are still being accused of being out of touch with reality!

The monk Laurence Freeman, head of the World Community for Christian Meditation, wrote about seeing a craftsman build a dry stone wall, and wondered how quickly it would only be known as a video in a tourist information centre. On virtual relationships, he said, 'Illusions of relationships are sustained in social media and might seem preferable to real encounters, which bring so many dangers of disappointment.' And he

goes on to say that a society which has lost touch with the real, with direct experience, is losing something vital.

But rather than simply grumble about it, he finds hope in an unexpected place – in children, who, it's found, are better at responding to real experiences and encounters than their elders. He's done a lot of work with meditation groups in Church schools, and he found that primary school children have a natural ability to meditate, that is to sit and contemplate a reality far greater than Facebook.

As Lent approaches, there's something to be said for us encountering reality rather than avoiding it. Try turning off the Sky box, or reducing computer chat time to half an hour a day, and instead take time out to sit with the great Reality we call God. It may well be a disturbing experience – it's one we can't control – but it will, at least, be authentic in a way 5,000 Facebook 'friends' can never be.

Fr David

### ***OCC Update***

Wow...You've barely given the dust chance to settle on those needles and already you are knitting and collecting for this year's campaign! It is clear that many of us feel extremely passionately about this very worthy cause, and appreciate that God is working through us to share his love around the world. I thought that as this is the case, (rather than individuals working in isolation) it might be nice to organise an informal opportunity for people to meet up once a month throughout the year to share shoebox ideas, knit, sew, pack and enjoy a cup of tea and a biscuit together. So, you are very welcome to come along to our 'Shoebox Group' which will meet on the first Tuesday of each month (except August and December) in the Church Hall, 1:30 - 3:00, commencing on 3rd February 2015.

The 252 shoeboxes which left St. Mary's in November have now been delivered. There is great joy in knowing that our gifts will have been received and have made a difference to the life of a stranger. Brenda Jacklin was

surprised to receive a letter from the child who received her shoebox ...the letter highlights the impact of the small things we give and the harsh reality in which many children are growing up.

Thank you for all your support with the 2014 campaign – let's hope 2015 will be just as successful!

Julia Wilson

*[The letter is reproduced elsewhere in this edition, but the quality of reproduction is not good. It was felt important for it to be seen anyway. Ed.]*

### ***Lindsey Lodge Hospice***

The Lindsey Lodge Hospice Barton Supporter Group is holding a Flower Demonstration on the 5th March 2015 to be held at Trinity Church Hall on Holydyke, Barton upon Humber. The cost is £10 to include refreshments and it will start at 7.30pm. The Demonstrator is Andrew Mason and the theme is Spring Flowers. Tickets available from Chris Patterson on 01652 634853 or Bridget Golland on 01652 633094

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

Our last meeting of 2014 was a talk by the Great British Bake-off winner, Nancy Birtwhistle who brought her prize to show us, a cake stand! She explained some of the selection processes and described in hilarious detail how she got lost attending the first audition in Manchester along with her lemon meringue and bacon croissants. Having survived that, she was called to London to make bread and scones in a technical challenge in a studio with cameras and constant interviews.

By mid-March they were down to 14 competitors who were then interviewed by a psychotherapist to make sure they could all cope with the pressures of television. Filming started at the end of April and recipes had to be submitted each week by the Tuesday, your own, not from books or the

internet. Each week Nancy left Barton at 11.30, arriving in Newbury at 6.30 with her own tins and any precious equipment. Filming started at 6.30a.m the next morning with about 50 people in the tent all asking questions the whole time. On the week of "Alaskagate" the temperature in the tent reached 37 degrees and one of the freezers had broken down! Nancy thoroughly enjoyed her time on the programme and all the contestants have become friends and stay in touch with each other. She brought a cake for the raffle which was won by a visitor, Kate Clayton, with all the proceeds of the evening going to Lindsey House Hospice and The Guide Dogs for the Blind.

In our first meeting of the New Year, Geoff Bryant came to talk to us about time. He explained that time was determined by the moon at night and the sun by day, but that the measurements were not the same! This led to much confusion as the lunar year was 354 days long and the solar one 365! The Ancient Greeks had a lunar year of 354 days but added 90 extra days every 8 years to keep the seasons right as the farmers depended on the sun and the seasons. The Egyptians realised the sun was more important and adopted the solar year. The Romans devised a year with 10 months of 304 days starting on 1 March. No-one had yet recognised zero and in the gap between December (10th month) and March the farmers did no work. Later Januarius and Februarius were added, but Caesar in Egypt in 47BC realised the Egyptians were right and 45 BC saw the start of the Julian Calendar with 365 days.

Over time, days of the week were named, zero was invented and as knowledge spread inadequacies were recognised. In 1582 Pope Gregory decreed the year was to be 365 days 5 hours 48 minutes 20 seconds long, starting 1 January 1582 and 10 days to be removed in October 1582 as they were then 12 days fast! The Catholic world adopted this straight away but Protestant Britain waited until 1752. The arrival of the railways saw the need

for standardised time and in 1880 GMT was legally adopted throughout Great Britain. GD

Advance Notice:

The Ladies' Group is having a Cookery Demonstration by Nigel Brown of Ropewalk fame and throughout the County.

Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Trinity Lecture Hall, Holydyke.

Names to Kath Smith (with £3 payment for visitors) (ring 633048)

### ***The Ropewalk***

TV presenter and restaurant critic Jay Rayner will be describing his own personal dining hell when he appears at Barton upon Humber's Ropery Hall on Friday February 20.

The Observer restaurant critic and chair of BBC Radio 4's Kitchen Cabinet will be appearing on Friday, February 20 with his My Dining Hell when he will examine our fascination with lousy reviews, recall some of his worst nights out and share the most damning reviews his own work has received.

A day earlier (Feb 19) there is a half-term treat for the young and not-so-young with a screening of How To Train Your Dragon 2 Featuring Cate Blanchett and Gerard Butler the film starts at 6.30pm and admission is £4 for adults and £2 for children.

In March the venue hosts a new series of literature events put on by Northern Accent. The first is a Readers' Day in March featuring writers Natalie Hayes, Stephen May and Helen Cadbury while in April there is an evening of words and wildlife with award winning photographer and Andrew Fusek Peters.

Full details of the programme until the end of April can be found online at [www.roperyhall.co.uk](http://www.roperyhall.co.uk) or by picking up a free copy of the Ropewalk Magazine.

### ***Lent Lunches***

Yes, we will be serving homemade soup and crusty bread every Wednesday during Lent, starting on the 25th February, noon to 1pm. Sue Brown has agreed to join us once again selling her cakes, cards and other items.

Last year we raised a record – breaking amount for Christian Aid (almost £1,000 including reclaimed Gift Aid). We also collected nearly £50 in donations from people unable to come to the Lunches.

So let's see if we can raise any more this year! We look forward to seeing you.

Val Dukes.

### ***What's all that about?***

As we start to look towards Lent, the Christmas festivities already seem a long time ago, but for many of us one of the things we will remember about Christmas is the typical big family gathering as everybody makes the effort to get to see each other over the holiday period. Ideally, families are places in which everybody feels able to relax and be themselves, and in which everybody feels loved in spite of differences, but loving somebody doesn't always mean we necessarily understand them or agree with them. Most family disagreements are caused by misunderstandings and that's as true of our church family as anywhere else. Your editor has suggested to me that it might be helpful to explain some of the things which happen during services here. Fr. Alan wrote a very useful piece about incense a few months ago, so I won't repeat any of that, but I hope the following might be part of the same process.

Concelebration. Sometimes on a Sunday morning more than one priest will go up to the altar to offer the Eucharist. There are various reasons for this depending on circumstances, but the main one at St Mary's is as a sign of our common purpose here. The clergy are from different backgrounds and traditions, but we're all privileged and honoured to work for and with the people of this parish, and our joint celebrations are a sign of that unity.

Some of us prefer only to concelebrate on special occasions, like our Patronal Festival, and others like to do so more often. It's a personal choice and not significant – and in the tradition of all good families we respect each other's preferences.

Genuflecting. When the words of consecration are said (“This is my body, this is my blood”) all the clergy will make some gesture of acknowledgement. Some will bow, some will genuflect (kneel down for a few moments). Again, this is a personal choice – rather as some people sit for the intercessions and some kneel – but it reflects the fact that we all believe that something important has happened and that God has come to us in a special way. Neither gesture is more devout or proper than the other, and everybody is free to do what feels comfortable for them.

Lacy bits! Most of the clergy here have at least one vestment with a bit of lace on it. The only reason for that is because we believe that the worship of God is worthy of being made beautiful in every way – just as we beautify the church with flowers.

Hands up! I was a bit surprised to be asked about this one, but the reason for keeping the hands together when not actually using them for holding something is twofold. One is neatness – we have to do something with our hands after all – but the other is as a gesture of prayer. Most of you will have seen the “praying hands” picture, and keeping hands in this position is a gesture which reminds us that all our worship is offered in a spirit of prayer, even if we're only standing still.

I hope this is useful and if there are any other aspects of what happens you'd like to know about, please do ask. However, do please also remember that every act and gesture is an aspect of personal devotion and important to the person concerned. Like all families we're a mixed bunch but the church is for everybody. The important thing is that we worship God together - and long may we continue to do so.

Liz – [with the tacit agreement of David and Alan!]

## ***Mothers' Union***

At the Annual General Meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup> 2015 it was decided after long discussion that the Mothers Union at St Mary's would continue until December with members organising meetings on a monthly basis instead of having a main committee. This will consist of Corporate Communion on the first Wednesday of the month and an afternoon meeting on the third Wednesday, and also a Flower rota for Trinity Altar. B.S.

February dates :-

*Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Corporate Communion*

*Feb 18<sup>th</sup> 2pm Speaker Ruth Blythe to give introduction to this year's Women's World Day of Prayer Service.*

*(The Women's World Day of Prayer Service for 2015 will be held at The Salvation Army on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 11.30am.)*

Flower rota

*Feb 1<sup>st</sup> to Feb 15<sup>th</sup> (7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> is Marriage Week) Brenda Skinner/Linda Bromfield*

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

‘Confused.com’ – I am sure that you have all heard of this before – well, I am more than confused at the moment!! *[Is this possible? Ed's husband!]*

No one can fail to have heard of the tragic events in Paris in the last few weeks involving the depiction of the Prophet Muhammad in the *Charlie Hebdo* magazine and the killing of Jews in their kosher supermarket.

The reason for confusion? Firstly it seems everyone is entitled to freedom of speech which these magazines are supposedly practising in the form of Satire. As a grammar school pupil I was taught that ‘satire’ meant holding people up for ridicule. We have people prosecuted for doing this kind of

thing on 'Facebook' etc. so what is the difference? Then the Pope gave out a message that if someone insulted his mother he would punch them and indeed gave a demonstration to the action! Then we have Jesus advocating 'Turning the other cheek'. So you can see my dilemma? How would we feel if Jesus was ridiculed (indeed he was before his Crucifixion) but how would we feel now?

What do you think about all this?

Have a good month.

S.W.

### **FROM THE REGISTERS:**

#### **BAPTISMS:-**

Jan 11 Thomas James JEST son of Samantha Jayne SMITH & Alan Anthony JEST

Jan 25 Georgia Maie ROWLINSON daughter of Shannon Jade SMITH & James Andrew ROWLINSON

#### **FUNERALS:-**

Dec 30 George William GILFOY

Jan 6 Jean STEWART  
Betty ANDREW

Jan 12 Margery LACEY-HATTON

Jan 13 Kathleen Smith HOWARD

Jan 15 John William PRESTON

Jan 16 Nellie HOODLESS

Jan 19 Jean CLIPSON

Jan 23 Charles Charter ALTOFT  
Jan 26 Roy TODD  
Ethel TODD

Flowers were donated to the church at Christmas in loving memory of :-

George and Jessie Holland

Owen Stone

Monica Gray

#### ***In brief:***

- ❖ Belated birthday wishes to Janet Petch, who achieved her 70 years on Jan 28<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ Thanks to all those who attended and contributed to the Christingle Service, especially to the Ladies' group for providing the Christingles. The sum of £408 was collected – the second highest total in recent years.
- ❖ Ash Wednesday appears very soon (amazingly on a Wednesday!). Please return last year's Palm crosses to provide material to be burned.
- ❖ The preacher at 9.30 on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb will be Revd Canon Mike Burston-Thomas.

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

The ringers were very busy over Christmas and New Year starting with bells for a wedding on the 20th. The Christingle Service of the 21st was next and saw the church full to capacity with parents and excited children, my own four year old granddaughter was enthralled to look down on the scene from the ringing room before we attended the service.

I am not usually in Barton over Christmas but this year was different so I was delighted to be able to ring for the Christmas Eve Carol Service then later for the Midnight Service and finally at 09.00 on Christmas Day itself. We were pleased to welcome Jenny Bennett's father and sister to ring with us whilst they stayed in Barton for the holiday. All the ringers were glad to see George Thompson when he joined us for some of the ringing. On a personal note... my walk on to church Christmas morning took me, as usual, along Beck Hill past St Peter's Church; as always it bears testament to time that it

is, but on this particular day it looked wonderful in the sun against a clear blue sky. This sight led my thoughts to all the parishioners of Barton over the centuries who had celebrated Christmas Day with worship in St Peter's during the 1000 years or so of its active life and how different their lives were from ours today.

New Year was ushered in as usual with the bells and we were pleased that Sally Hewitt was able to join us and bring a family member with her to help out with ringing, also that Ruth Kitching was able to attend with Donald. Several members of the public were welcomed to the ringing chamber and were fascinated to see the bells via the CCTV camera as they moved. After 2015 had been well and truly rung in we continued the celebrations in Queen Street at the home of Ro and Geoff Bryant, many thanks to them for their kind hospitality.

The St Mary's ringers welcomed members of the Northern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers for their AGM on Saturday January 24th.

Joan Barton

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

This month the church begins the season of Lent – traditionally a time of reflection and prayer when we to reflect on our life as followers of Jesus.

During Lent the story of John the Baptist will be read in our churches. John is a fascinating character who risked being mocked not only for his eccentric dress and his bizarre taste in food (locusts and wild honey – but also for the controversial things he said, calling people to repentance. To 'repent' is to turn away, to change direction and do things differently.

John called his hearers to turn away from the mistakes of the past and to re-orientate life in the Christian way. That is the same vocation to which God, through Jesus and his church, calls us today.

As you know, the diocese has begun a Year of Discipleship, running through 2015, and I'm excited about the signs of growth and renewal in our churches which I hope will flow from this initiative. One of the things which set John the Baptist apart was that he was prepared to talk about things that matter – what it is to lead a holy life, how to reflect on our experience through a spiritual lens, how to talk about God, and so on.

I want all of us to be able to talk freely about our faith. My hope and prayer is that the Year of Discipleship will increase our confidence about doing that, and help us to find the words to share the love of God with those we meet in our daily lives, for our faith to be expressed in lives of discipleship and service, enabling us to make a real difference to the life of our communities.

Bishop Christopher

### ***Wilderspin School Museum***

Spring is just around the corner so we will be reverting to our normal opening times from the February Half Term (10am – 4pm Thursday – Sunday).

Our forthcoming events include This Boy on Friday 13 February, 7.30pm, when Hull and Hessle MP Alan Johnson will share his moving childhood memories and recollections of growing up and going to school in the slums of Notting Hill in West London. Tickets are £12 and can be booked by telephone (01652) 635172 or by calling in at the Wilderspin School Museum.

North Lincolnshire Museums are running an informal reminiscence session Fond Memories between 2pm – 3pm on Thursday 26 February. Everyone is welcome to drop in and look at familiar domestic artefacts that long ago disappeared and we had almost forgotten about. Come along and share your memories over tea/coffee.

Looking ahead, if you were thinking of having a clear out, why not rent a table at our Table Top Sale on 28 March. Tables cost £10 and can be booked

by telephoning the museum on 635172. On Tuesday afternoon, 24 March, there is a chance to sing back in time in Sing with a Swing when Laurie Robinson will be playing music from the 1930s and '40s. It's a sort of tea dance – sitting down! Unless the urge takes you to take to the floor. It all starts at 2pm and costs £3.

### Confirmation

A reminder that the Deanery Confirmation is here at St Mary's this year, and is on the evening of March 11th. It'll be taken by Bishop Tim and will start at 7.00. Preparation's under way, but it's still not too late for you to come on board. Have a word with the clergy.

### Civic Society

Our public lecture programme commences on Friday 20 February with The Medieval Stained Glass of Tattershall Church, Lincolnshire. Gordon Plumb, a leading stained glass photographer, will be speaking about one of the most important glazing schemes in late Medieval England at the Collegiate Church of the Holy Trinity. As usual, the talk takes place at the Assembly Rooms, and starts at 7.30pm. The fee for non-members is £2.

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>		<b>Candlemas.</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>6.00 pm</b>		<b>Choral Evensong</b>
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
<b>Wed 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist (MU Corporate)</b>
	2.00 pm		Service at Beech House
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am		Diary meeting (Vicarage)
	2.00 pm		Service at Eagle House
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>			<b>No Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament</b>
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio divina
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>		<b>2 before Lent</b>	

	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>		<b>Said Evening Prayer</b>
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
<b>Wed 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	2.00 pm		Service at Westbridge House
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio divina
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>		<b>Sunday before Lent</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>		<b>Sung Evensong</b>
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	9.30 am		Deanery Chapter (Wrawby)
	Home	Communions	this week
<b>Tues 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7.00 pm</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
<b>Wed 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>Said Eucharist with Ashing</b>
	2.00 pm		Mothers' Union meeting
	<b>7.00 pm</b>		<b>Sung Eucharist with Ashing</b>
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm		Wedding Rehearsal
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>		Parish	News Deadline
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio divina
	2.00 pm		Wedding
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb</b>		<b>Lent 1</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>11.30 am</b>		<b>Baptisms</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>		<b>Said Eucharist with hymns</b>
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
<b>Wed 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio divina
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>		<b>Lent 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>6.00 pm</b>		<b>Choral Evensong</b>



17th December  
2014

Dear Mrs. Brenda Jacklin,

I have just got your Christmas present.  
I want to thank you for the attention  
you have shown me.

I received a cheque with a Christmas card.  
I guess that is for shipping per shoebox, and  
I know your address.

I want to introduce myself.

My name is Teodora Bojic. I am eight years old  
and I'm attending primary school. I live  
with my brother and my parents.

We live in Obrenovac. It's a small town  
near Belgrade in Serbia. My mum is  
English teacher and Librarian at primary  
school. She helped me to write this letter.

My dad lost his job. Flood, which was

in May this year, took everything  
he had. He is trying to re-start  
his job, now.

I'm small and I do not understand  
the adult world still, I just want  
to be happy.

I was happy, when I opened your present  
at the school.

Best regards,

Teodora Bojic



Father David in a somewhat unusual pose at Christmas – gives a whole new meaning to the term “Lacy bits”!



Faith Wilson - the latest new choir member – complete with hymnbook

### **Senior jokes** (the ones that *could* be printed!)

Two elderly ladies were out driving in a big car. Both women were so small that they could barely see over the dashboard. When they came to a junction, they went straight through, even though the light was red. “I must be losing my mind. I could have sworn we just went through a red light”, the woman in the passenger seat said to herself.

A few hundred yards along the road, they came to another junction, and once again they sailed through on a red light. The woman in the passenger seat looked uneasily at her friend but still said nothing.

Shortly afterwards they went through yet another red light. This last violation was too much for the woman in the passenger seat who could hold her tongue no longer. “Ada,” she said. Don’t you realise we just went through three red lights? Yu could have got us into serious trouble – or even killed!”

“Oh,” said Ada. Am *I* driving?”

*[and to redress the gender balance...]*

An elderly man went to his doctor to complain about a pain he had been feeling in his left leg. The doctor examined the leg thoroughly but could find nothing wrong. In the end he said, “You probably won’t want to hear this, but I think the pain in your left leg is simply the result of old age.”

“Your diagnosis can’t possibly be correct,” said the patient haughtily. “After all, my right leg is perfectly OK.”

“What does your right leg have to do with it?” replied the doctor.

Well, my right leg doesn’t hurt at all, and it’s exactly the same age.

