

Sunday 2nd Jan		Christmas 2	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	10.00 am		Joint service at Trinity Methodist
	2.30 pm		Service at The Willows
Wed 5 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist (MU Corporate)
	2.00 pm		Service at Eagle House
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group
Thurs 6th		Epiphany	
	9.30 am	- 11.30am	Open Door
	12 noon		Eucharist for the Epiphany
Fri 7 th	5.00 pm		E1W meeting
Sat 8 th	11.00 am		Young Peoples' Church
Sunday 9th Jan		The Baptism of Christ	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist (with Trinity)
	4.00 pm		Baptisms
	6.00 pm		Evening Worship
Mon 10 th	10.15 am		Toddler Time
	am		Deanery Chapter (Ulceby)
	2.00 pm		Standing Committee
	7.30 pm		Teaching Evening (Hall)
Tues 11 th	1.30 pm		Staff diary meeting
Wed 12 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at Beech House
	7.15 pm		Ministry Team (vicarage)
Thurs 13 th	9.30 am	- 11.30am	Open Door
Fri 14 th	5.00 pm		E1W meeting
Sat 15 th	11.00 am		Young Peoples' Church
Sunday 16th Jan		Epiphany 2	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Family Worship and Baptisms
	6.00 pm		Parish Eucharist
Mon 17 th	Week of	Prayer for	Christian Unity
	10.15 am		Toddler Time
	am		Home Communion: St. Peter's Court and Victoria House

	2.00 pm		Worship group (vicarage)
	7.00 pm		Prayers at St. Augustine's
	7.30 pm		Foundation Course (Hall)
Tues 18 th	7.00 pm		Said Eucharist
	7.00 pm		Prayers at Trinity Methodist
Wed 19 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Mothers' Union AGM
	7.00 pm		Prayers at Salvation Army
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group
	7.45 pm		Outreach & Nurture (vestry)
Thurs 20 th	9.30 am	- 11.30am	Open Door
	am		Home Communion
	7.00 pm		Prayers at St. Mary's
	Parish	News	Deadline
Fri 21 st	5.00 pm		E1W meeting
Sat 22 nd	11.00 am		Young Peoples' Church
Sunday 23rd Jan		Epiphany 3	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	6.00 pm		Evensong
Mon 24 th	10.15 am		Toddler Time
	7.00 pm		Eucharist and PCC
Tues 25th	Conversion	of Paul	
	7.00 pm		Said Eucharist
Wed 26 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
Thurs 27 th	9.30 am	- 11.30am	Open Door
Fri 28 th	5.00 pm		E1W meeting
Sat 29 th	11.00 am		Young Peoples' Church
Sunday 30th Jan		Candlemas	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	6.00 pm		Evensong
Mon 31 st	10.00 am		Communication group (vestry)
	10.15 am		Toddler Time



The Peal Ringers from left to right: Linda Howden, Richard Hopper, Joan Barton, Roger Lord, George Thompson, Andy Bennett, Geoff Bryant & Andrew Lord.



St. James' window in St. Peter's Church



"Father Brown's Tree"



Snow on December 1st



Liz and Sheila in atmospheric mode at the Advent procession

“FESTINALENTE.”

It's harmless enough – you may have noticed that the diocesan newspaper carries an anonymous article, and it's quite fun working out who might have written it. After 20+ years in the diocese, I've got to know the pet themes of quite a few people and once or twice I'm sure I've done the 'Crosslincs' equivalent of winning at Cluedo.

Cluedo Man notes the culprit this time has blown some of their cover (I have my suspicions) and given away a Benedictine connection by mentioning *conversio morum*, the fundamental alteration of one's life more fully to reflect the love of God. It's not a bad theme to be pondering as 2011 stumbles gritty-eyed through the dawn: it ties in so very well with New Year Resolutions.

Well, almost, but not quite. *Conversio morum*, like so much in Benedictine thinking, isn't about sudden, eye-watering change, but rather about the determination to pursue a life which will lead quietly (rather than spectacularly) to us being re-made.

Church history is full of stories of sudden, astonishing changes of life – until you dig below the surface, and find that things had been bubbling away for years in the background. The 'sudden change' is often no more than the moment when the real changes already made became too obvious to ignore.

There's a great temptation to go at a new year, or a new project, or a new direction in life like the proverbial bull at a gate – but, as the bull tends to learn, the gate usually wins. The decision rather to begin to steer a new path, quietly, gently, though less likely to earn us the astonishment of friends and family (“Have you heard? Bill's gone from 80 a day to none!”) is more likely to change us long term into what we really are.

Festina Lente. Hurry. But don't rush it. You'll only do yourself a mischief!

Happy New Year,

Fr David

BISHOP'S LETTER: JANUARY 2011

My Last Article of Faith

If there was a competition for the corniest joke, I think it would be about the man who got accidentally shot in the backside during a pheasant shoot, and the notice on the hospital web-site said that he was doing well – “and there will be another bullet in later”.

Bulletins have featured very prominently during my time in this Diocese. Every month I have written an article for the Diocesan Bulletin, and I am always glad to see that it finds its way into lots of parish magazines.

The subject-matter has ranged far and wide – from pieces about the da Vinci Code, J. John's “Just Ten” Mission and the Abolition (and persistence!) of slavery; to reflections on prayer, pews and the Christian beliefs of Alfred Lord Tennyson. Education has featured prominently, and so have public affairs with the environment, globalisation and the Big Society jostling with tilts at Richard Dawkins, winterval and other sad symptoms of our so-called secular society. Mike Parker's **Map Addict** got a mention (why settle for a two-dimensional world when with God there is always a further dimension to explore?), and so did the film **Chocolat** which provided a new slant on the observance of Lent. By no means least, we celebrated the steady rise in the number of people being ordained in the Diocese, the advent of New Era and the cycle of seasons and celebrations which mark out the Church's year.

But above all, I have tried to write about God in Christ and why faith, inspired by the Holy Spirit, matters more and more in a world increasingly obsessed by its own self-sufficiency. Free-range faith rather than factory-farm religion is what motivates me as a pastor, preacher and evangelist. It is this which undergirds what I have written month by month. You are free to change because, as I have repeated so often, God loves you as you are – and loves you too much to leave you that way. That is for me the key message of Christianity, and I simply leave it with you as my last letter and, for me at least, there will not be another Bulletin later!

May God continue to establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;

and the Blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

MOTHERS' UNION NOTES

At the time of going to press we look forward in anticipation to our meeting on December 15th with a selection of carols and readings, chosen by our members, followed by tea and mince pies. A big thank you to Janet Petch for baking the pies, I am sure they will have been scrumptious as usual!!



We look forward to 2011, starting on January 5th with Corporate Communion at 9.30am, then our AGM on January 19th at 2pm chaired by Father David. Subscriptions are due. These are £16.50 which goes to MU work at home and overseas. Happy New Year to you all.
Brenda Skinner

THE ROPEWALK

Standing Tall – Photographs by Stephen Martinson

This exhibition which opens at The Ropewalk on January 22 celebrates the life and work of Stephen Martinson whose photographs span a wide range of subjects, some project based commercial images and others more personal.

Standing Tall, which runs until March 6, includes Stephen's portfolio of work and storyboard ideas which includes some of his award winning

images including landscapes and still life – all with his unique way of looking at everyday objects.

His work was regularly published in a variety of magazines including Amateur Photographer, What Digital Camera and Practical Photography and he also carved out a niche as a commercial photographer specialising in the hotel and leisure industries.

Stephen died in 2009 at the age of 23 years. All profits from this exhibition will be shared between Leukaemia Research and The Anthony Nolan Trust.

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“BOBBING UP AND DOWN LIKE THIS”.

Once Liz Brown started to 'deacon' the parish Eucharist, an anonymous comment got back to me, “Now we've got two of them bowing and scraping!”

Once I'd got over having my devotions scrutinised, I realised that whoever said it hadn't the foggiest why some of us do 'that sort of thing'. Not long ago David Redrobe suggested we share more about the life of faith, so here's an attempt to describe a bit of that life as experienced by a Catholic Anglican. And please — read it, not as 'From The Vicar' but as from David, an ordinary Christian still astonished to find himself a priest.

For many, 'Catholic' still means 'Roman Catholic', but my take on the ordination of women, on priestly celibacy, on human sexuality, on the '*magisterium*' wouldn't go down well in the 2011 Vatican. To convert demands a *full* embracing of a new faith 'as is' — a Presbyterian can't become an Anglican and then grumble it's not Presbyterian enough.

Rather, Catholicism is a way of receiving (*not* 'understanding') God which is convinced that it is God who always makes the first move. In baptism, God reaches out, ready to be rejected, to each and every individual, even the most helpless. The Eucharist — as the Maundy Thursday liturgy makes clear — catches us up in that one great Eucharist one spring evening in first-century Jerusalem. And I believe that, even though I can't understand how, Christ is so powerfully present in the Eucharist that I cannot but bow (and even scrape) before him in adoration. If we stand for the National Anthem regardless of where Her Britannic Majesty might be, what should we do in the real presence of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords?

It's also a way of seeing oneself. To Catholic (Greek, '*kath holou*' 'all together') Christians, the 'us-ness' of the faith and of humanity completely transcends the 'me-ness'. We are 'all in it together': we, the People of God, pray for one another, make up for one another's deficiencies, weep for one another's failings and rejoice in one another's holiness. Because we belong to God, we belong to one another, too, and this sense of belonging even transcends the grave.

We hold as living presences those who have inspired us: for me, Benedict is not an interesting figure from the past but a real, if critical, friend. It is held together by disciplines of prayer, and self-examination, by an acknowledgement of one's own incompleteness and at the same time of one's infinite preciousness in the eyes of God who loved us first, 'while we were yet sinners'.

And it is a faith rooted in the physical, the here and now of creation. A religion of 'Scripture alone' may reveal God to the highly articulate; I need God to speak through other, neglected, gifts of creation — sound, sight, smell, taste, touch, gesture, posture, drama, silence.

Then there's Tradition — the experience of two thousand years of the faithful living out their faith. Imagine a world in which Christianity and Islam are at loggerheads, where the financial system and urban life are collapsing, where poverty and crime are rife and the Church is struggling with its mission. This was the world into which the Carmelite Friars came in the Middle Ages. I am encouraged by their example — and pray that we, like them, will reveal God in a broken world, by the power of the same Spirit at work in the same Church now as then. It's a poor sketch, and it leaves out so much — the wealth of study, the depths of the spiritual tradition, the sense of a world shot through with the glory of God. It's also *my* take, which is not going to be quite the same as that of other members of St Mary's who are Catholics within the Anglican tradition. (Not to mention the fact that I'm still *just* young enough for my knees to bend.)

But it's not a thing explained, it's a life lived. It's what nourishes and shapes me. It may help make sense of some of the things I say, do and believe. And it may encourage others — whether cradle Anglican, convert or guest in our midst, from the Reformed, Evangelical, Charismatic or Liberal traditions— to share how God lives and works in them.

Fr David

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

Janet Denovan
George Clark
Jack Farrow
Irene Rowe
Mr. & Mrs. R. Sorfleet
H. McMahon
Edna & John Bellamy
Vi. & Jack Grassby
Walter Paul
Allan Manchester
John Stanley
Marjorie Radford
Don Broughton
Ena and Edward Broughton
Ruth and Arthur Winship
Graham Askew

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

Dec. 12th Oliver Jack and Jessica Faye TROOP son and daughter of
Carly Phillipa and Ben TROOP
Lena Grace JONES daughter of Kirsty Jane Jessica
GOULDTHORPE and Stephen George Justin JONES

MARRIAGES None in December

FUNERALS

Nov. 18th Elizabeth Joan WOOD
Nov. 21 Margaret SIMPSON
Dec. 2nd Thomas Raithby ANDREW
Dec. 10th Geoff HALL
Dec. 14th Herbert HEADLEY
Dec. 16th Noel Terence (Terry) CLIPSON
Rex NEAL
Dec. 20th Pearl SMITH
Dec. 22nd Frank SIMPSON

TOWER NEWS

On Sat. 27th November a Peal was rung at St. Mary's for the Barton Christmas Festival celebrations. The peal was 5056 changes of Plain Bob Major, continuous ringing for three hours fifteen minutes and was very significant in several respects. According to records, this is the first time that an entirely local Sunday service band of ringers has rung a peal at St. Mary's since the bells were augmented from four to eight bells in 1946; a considerable achievement which we are all very proud of. The ringers, starting with the lightest bell, were: 1 Geoff Bryant, 2 George Thompson (age 13) his first Peal on eight bells, 3 Joan Barton, 4 Linda Howden her first Peal on Tower Bells, 5 Richard Hopper, 6 Roger Lord, 7 Andy Bennett and 8 Andrew Lord. Andrew made an excellent job of conducting the Peal which involved making calls at specific places to ensure that all the different 5056 changes were rung and correcting any mistakes. A lot of people have commented how nice the bells sounded and to mark this achievement we are hoping to have a "Peal Board" erected in the ringing chamber.

Bell ringing, or to be more precise the art of campanology, is a very interesting and skilful English Art that we all enjoy very much. We often visit other churches in the area and throughout the country, organise outings, take part in striking competitions and social events etc. We will be ringing for all the additional Christmas services and you are all very warmly invited to come to the church at 11-30 pm on New Year's Eve when we celebrate the New Year by "ringing out the old and ringing in the new".

St. Mary's has one of the strongest band of ringers in the area; but we are always looking for new recruits (particularly youngsters) who would like to take up this fascinating hobby, so if you fancy having a go please contact the "Tower Captain" or just turn up on a Tuesday at 7-30 pm.

RL

BEWARE OF THE WANDERINGS OF EASTER

Episode 3

It is quite something that in the three years from 2008 to 2011, Easter went from one extreme date to the opposite extreme date.

This might have last happened in 1913, when Easter Sunday was on March 23rd, but it didn't! It was 1856 to 1859 when Easter previously jumped like this.

In 2095, when Easter Sunday will be on April 24th, it is a possible year for the quick jump to happen again. But not so, because it will be 2160 to 2163 before this extreme happens again!!

So don't hold your breath!!

More information next month.....

D.B.R.

OVER TO YOU

Listening to Radio Humberside for weather updates this month, it amused me to hear that the man in charge of gritting highways is called John Skidmore!!!

I started thinking about the names of people I know. In past times a surname denoted one's occupation e.g. my maiden name is Gooseman so presumably my ancestors looked after Geese! My surname is now Wright and in past times this would have a 'trade' preceding it such as cart, wheel, wain etc. Names such as Farmer, Fisher, Archer, Farrow, Baker, Butcher, Gardiner are all quite common. I wondered if David Redrobe's ancestors had been Bishops!!! Where does 'Rowett' come from?

I find this all fascinating- looking into family history is all the vogue and I imagine a lot of you spend time researching this.

Names mean different things to different people, did you know that the Wetherspoon pubs are so called because an unkind teacher (as they so often were) told his pupil he would never amount to anything – so said pupil set these pubs up and decided to name them after this teacher to prove a point!! Shakespeare said, 'A rose by any other name would smell as sweet'.

There is one name though that means a lot to us all and that is Jesus, 'name above all names' as we sing. The name we can always

rely on in our daily life and who we can turn to for support in good times and bad, and as we start out in 2011 let us make sure we never forget Him.

Have a good month!!

SW.

THANKS

The clergy and their respective 'better halves' would like to thank people for their kind wishes and Christmas greetings. We particularly appreciated the toffee put in with a stewardship envelope, and Gordon asked whether next time it could be a bottle of decent malt.....

With our best wishes,
David, Alan, Kathy, Liz & Gordon

The word "Diky" is written in a blue, cursive font. Below it is a green leafy branch.The word "Gracias" is written in a blue, blocky font. Below it is a green leafy branch.The word "Hvala" is written in a green, cursive font. Below it is a green leafy branch.The word "Merci" is written in a blue, cursive font.The word "תודה" (Toda) is written in white, blocky Hebrew characters on a pink background.

SLEEPING IN CHURCH!

During a particularly cold service with a particularly select congregation after our heating had failed, I found myself reflecting on how desperate I would have to be to want to spend the night in St Mary's. Yet I knew that not so far away in St. Mary-le-Wigford in Lincoln homeless people were more than pleased to make that choice.

Every night a team led by Revd. Liz Jackson (who trained with our Liz Brown) provides food and shelter in the church for people who have nowhere else to go. Over Christmas we have had plates at the back of the church for donations to help support this project, and I hope we will continue to keep Liz Jackson and her team in our prayers along with all the homeless people for whom a welcome at St. Mary-le-Wigford is so vital.

Geoff Brown

BISHOP MAKES PASSIONATE PLEA AGAINST TUITION FEE HIKE AND STUDENT DEBT 15 DEC 2010

Trebling student tuition fees will normalise debt for the young and contradicts Christian teaching, says the Anglican Bishop of Lincoln.

The comments from the Rt Rev John Saxbee came during an impassioned debate in the House of Lords over the Government's plans to raise university fees to up to £9,000 a year.

Peers, many of them of 'independent means', approved the moves - but with fierce opposition from former university vice chancellors, noted educationalists, the opposition benches and one senior Liberal Democrat, higher education spokesperson Baroness Sharp.

Bishop Saxbee, who is a patron of the Student Christian Movement, suggested that the Government's attempt to move university teaching from a public good to a private enterprise was morally indefensible and contrary to the teachings of Christ.

He declared: "The recent financial crisis shows us that policies based on debt are speculative to say the least. We must ask whether the normalising of debt in this way is morally defensible or socially sustainable."

"Surely it is for the sake of the common good that the state uses taxpayers' money to fund higher education," the bishop continued. "It is the mechanism whereby the common purse funds what is for the common good."

The Christian think-tank Ekklesia and the Student Christian Movement are among those who have argued that the government's current plans threaten the foundations of the public university.

Similar concerns have been raised by academics and student bodies across the countries.

Alternatives include tax and spending adjustments within the government's overall budget and a Business Education Tax (BET) put forward by the University College Union, Compass and the Green Party, among others.

IT COULDN'T HAPPEN HERE.....?

The decision by Bulgarian Orthodox priests to join a trade union because they have not been paid on time has angered at least one church hierarch, who says it goes against the church's internal canon law.

According to Bulgarian-language media reports, the new union will be part of Podkrepa, one of Bulgaria's two national trade union federations.

In the northwestern town of Vratsa, priests said that they had not been paid on time, and their statutory health and retirement insurance had not been paid, the Standart daily newspaper reported.

Metropolitan Kipriyan of Vratsa, however, said it is "absurd" for priests to join a union.

ST. MARY'S LADIES' GROUP CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

The move follows complaints about the low and late pay of priests and lay employees, a criticism echoed by Bozhidar Dimitrov, the cabinet minister in charge of Bulgarians abroad, who had said priests in villages are "living in poverty."

Church employee Hristo Latinov, named as head of the union, told Bulgaria's Darik Radio on Monday (13 December 2010) that it is "unacceptable, immoral and scandalous" that priests are classified in the same labour law category as gravediggers and people with no college education.

The same labour classification, meanwhile, assigns bishops and metropolitans the status of corporate directors.

The Standart reported on 14 December that union membership will include priests, sextons, administrative staff and employees who manufacture candles, although it is unclear how many people have joined or will join the union.

Bulgaria's Trud daily newspaper reported on 9 December that the church had earned about \$8 million from the sale of candles, which is exempted by law from value-added tax.

The sale of candles was meant to cover the pay of priests, but in some smaller dioceses, not enough candles were sold to achieve this. The alternative was that priests were paid in kind by being given candles.

"I cannot eat candles," Trud quoted an unnamed priest as saying.

The newspaper reported that in the Danube River city of Rousse, 80 priests in the diocese were paid an average monthly maximum of around \$240.

This year a completely different evening took place at Elsham Golf Club enabling the committee to have a relaxing evening too!

The weather took a kind interlude from the snow, so by coach and car members arrived to find a bedecked room full of holly wreaths, candles and superbly laid tables complete with crackers (and the awful jokes!!)

A delicious meal comprising turkey with all the trimmings or traditional roast beef followed by lemon mousse or Christmas pudding, coffee and Roses chocolates to end with. Expertly served and enjoyed by everyone.

Entertained by 'Identity Crisis' a local group from Burton upon Stather, lots of our members (some of our more mature ones too) enjoyed dancing to 'Mistletoe and Wine', 'White Christmas' and songs by Dusty Springfield, Duffy to name but a few.

Raffle prizes were won by Sheila Tilley and Jean Walker, amongst others, and Mother Christmas rounded off the evening distributing gifts to all.

Thank you to all members who came to prepare the Christingles and enjoyed coffee and mince pies together as a reward!!

January 5th Meeting - Trip to the Far East by Penny Phillips.