

### Free or not? Food for thought

We are all experiencing the effects of the economic crisis of the last few years. In the case of churches, the already sky-high maintenance costs of keeping a grade I listed building in decent repair and open to the public has been exacerbated by godless thieves from Eastern Europe stripping the lead from church roofs. The big cathedrals in particular face not only the costs of maintaining the fabric, but also the cost of funding regular musical worship.

So it is not surprising that many large cathedrals are making a charge to go inside. I am told that St Paul's Cathedral charges £14.50 and Lincoln Cathedral about £7. Durham Cathedral however is still free. I personally think that the whole idea of paying to enter God's house is abhorrent. Access should be as free as the love that God offers to us. But if we do not want our great churches to fall into ruin, and the daily worship they offer to be neglected, what alternative is there?

In some European countries the state pays for the maintenance of churches out of the taxation system. In principle maybe this is an idea that we should consider in Britain. But clearly the economic climate makes such a suggestion not even worth considering at the present moment. Moreover the atheistic view that prevails among many present-day politicians would make them gleefully squash any attempt along these lines.

So maybe we should just encourage visitors to give what they can afford when they visit a church or cathedral. The trouble about that is that many public museums have already tried to do this. It looks impressive to see a large transparent box with £20 notes in it, but in practice for every £20 note there are many, many people who put in 20p or a handful of coppers.

Only a very high turnover attraction could fund itself with an admission charge of 20p!

I am not offering a clever solution to this problem; I do not think that there is any easy answer. And moreover, the situation seems likely to get worse rather than better. So there is plenty of scope for thought and prayer.

Peter Large

### PLEASE NOTE CHANGES TO SERVICES

Sunday January 1<sup>st</sup> – 10.00 am at Trinity Methodist Church. 4.00 pm United Carols at St. Augustine's. There will only be an 8.00 am service at St. Mary's that day.

### PERMANENT CHANGES

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays remain the same as before

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 9.30 Parish Eucharist with choir  
6.00 Sung Evensong with choir

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 9.30 Parish Eucharist with choir  
11.30 Baptisms  
6.00 said Eucharist (usually with hymns)

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday 9.30 Parish Eucharist with choir  
6.00 said Evening Prayer



Thank you.....

.....to St. Mary's Ladies group for providing a new Christmas Tree for the church.

## ST. MARY'S LADIES' GROUP

Helen Danson (the manager of the Scunthorpe store) came to speak about Thornton's sweets and brought an array of wonderful 'goodies' for us to purchase and lovely 'Smiley face' choc. buttons to sample. She showed tremendous enthusiasm for her work and said how she enjoyed doing these 'outreach sessions'.

William Thornton was born in 1832. He opened his first Thornton's Chocolate Kabin shop in October 1911 on the corner of Norfolk Street and Howard Street in Sheffield.

It was Joseph William's intention to offer the nicest sweet shop in Sheffield. The walls inside the shop were covered in fashionable cream 'anaglypta' wallpaper. There was a beautifully shaped glass case from which Kunzle cakes were served individually with tongs. Trays of Mackintosh's Toffee Deluxe were broken into pieces by assistants using toffee hammers and pincers and put into waxed bags on the brass weighing scales. Behind the counter there were mirrors from floor to ceiling, giving the shop a classy air and making it seem much bigger than it actually was, with glass shelves for the jars of caramels and boiled sweets. Other now unfamiliar products included Cachous, Violet Cachous, Sweet-Lips and the descriptively-named Curiously Strong Mints. The members of staff were two young ladies "of a very superior type" who doubtless gave the shop the necessary atmosphere of quality that Joseph sought. There must have been great relief in the family when the shop opened successfully; taking £20 a week, "quite a lot of money....in those days".

In 1924 Stanley started to experiment, and produced a home-made toffee that everybody seemed to like. They sold it for the high price of 6d (2½p) a quarter. It became so popular that it soon made up half of the total sales of the business and remained the company's pre-eminent product for the next 50 years- in many people's minds the words 'Thornton's' and 'toffee' became synonymous.

The brothers decided in 1934 on a purpose-built factory instead of relying on rented premises. War was declared in September 1939. Owing to the shortage of raw materials, particularly cane sugar which of course always had to be imported, confectionery was quickly rationed to a mere two ounces a week. Staffing in the retail shops was reduced as individuals, male and female, left for military service.

In early 1954, Walter Willen, a young Swiss confectioner, came to work for Thornton's. Walter set to creating a new range of handmade confectionery called Swiss Assortment now called 'Continental's'. And so Thornton's continues to thrive.

Of course we all said how good it is to have a Barton franchise which Helen said is doing very well.  
S.W.

It was a lovely bright morning as we set off for our first port of call which was Monks Cross shopping park just outside York. Here we had two hours or so to explore the extensive retail area with the M&S coffee shop attracting many of the group for their morning caffeine boost! After some extensive retail therapy, evident by the smiles and number of shopping bags coming back on board, everyone seemed to enjoy their morning.

Our next stop was The Bay Horse at Burythorpe just outside Malton for lunch. This was a delightful country inn with beams and inglenooks. The staff were very friendly, accommodating and served an excellent meal.

After lunch it was onto Castle Howard. The building is most impressive as it sits on a hill surrounded by beautiful countryside. Many of the garden trees were lit with fairy lights and looked most welcoming. Inside the house the decorations were quite extensive and in the main hall was a huge log fire and a beautiful Christmas tree. Apparently the family take part in decorating the house for Christmas which I thought was a lovely gesture.

Our day was nearly complete with a visit to the café for tea and mince pies, then finally the gift shop with lots of interesting goods and fresh produce to purchase.

We had an excellent journey home arriving around 6-30p.m. Our thanks go to Kath Smith for organising an extremely enjoyable day and to Radley's for looking after us so well.

Jill Fraser

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

I am writing towards the beginning of 2012, near the Feast of Epiphany which to some extent is a neglected feast – though in Hispanic and Latin countries it is celebrated in great style and is the moment that presents are exchanged. For me, Epiphany has three big ideas at its heart.

First, arising from the **journey** of the Wise Men, the idea that life is a journey of exploration from 'here to eternity' and I hope the work on

discipleship we shall be beginning in 2012 will resource each one of us for this.

Secondly, arising from the **homage** offered by the Wise Men, we are reminded of the fundamental importance of worship of something greater and beyond our routine experience.

Thirdly, arising from the **gifts** of gold, frankincense and myrrh, the offering of gifts as signs of love. The people of our diocese are greatly gifted by God to offer Him worship and serve him the life of the world. Let's mobilize those gifts.

Every blessing for 2012,

+Christopher Lincoln:

### The Children's Society

Dear Boxholder

I would like to take this opportunity, through the 'Parish News' to thank you for your commitment and support to the Children's Society. Last year, thanks to supporters like you, house boxes raised around £2million, helping to make childhood better.

Your support and generosity, has given some children the chance of a brighter future. The Children's Society offers one-to-one support for children, to help them get through the hard times and look forward to a better future. For 2011 our total raised through the box collection was £539:75.

Thanks to you all.

Margaret Searle.

### **MOTHERS' UNION NOTES**

Sheila welcomed everyone to our meeting especially Viv Rowett who had stepped in to speak, as our planned speaker was unable to come.

We sang the hymn "Thine arm O Lord in days of old". Linda Bromfield read from Acts 9 v. 36-43. Sheila said prayers, then gave out notices.

Viv's title was "Advent stitches", as she does a lot of stitching making very creative things as a lot of you may know, she is a very creative person. Viv spoke how women and some men have made things throughout the ages, e.g. clothes, furnishings etc. At this time of year the sky seems very grey and

dull but if you look closely there are various shades of grey which makes the colourful autumn leaves stand out against the grey background, so make friends with grey and see how it can be very useful!! Viv went on to show samples of her work and all the different stitches done on her wonderful sewing machine. Viv explained how she puts meanings of the scriptures into all pieces of material and stitches. Lots of ideas come from the book of Psalms and Viv uses different colours and stitches to depict the meanings of the words. Up to date sewing machines can do a lot more than the old types, even embroidery. Embroidery work goes back a very long way through the ages, being done by hand and later with machines. Viv's machine does letters of the alphabet which she had made into some samples of Christmas labels for anyone who wished to take one or order a special one. Viv had once tried lace-making but found it very slow, she would rather use her machine which is quicker! Viv says she is more cut out to do fast work!!

Accidents can happen when using machinery as Viv found out recently whilst stitching some white cloth!! She was more concerned about there being blood on the cloth than the state of her nail and finger. This made her very wary afterwards, although it didn't stop her sewing!!

Viv was thanked by Linda Bromfield for a very entertaining talk leaving us all amazed at her wonderful work.

### Mothers Union Dates

Jan 4 9.30 am Corporate Communion Reader Sheila Holt

Jan 18 2.00 pm A.G.M. Father David Rowett  
Reader and Vote of thanks Brenda Skinner  
Annual Subscription due £19

### **WORKSHOPS AT THE ROPEWALK**

Want to give your wardrobe a new look? A workshop taking place at The Ropewalk at the end of January could be just the thing to show you how to breathe new life into old clothes.

Sally Stone will show you how to up-cycle old woollen jumpers, scarves or blankets into bags into bags, jewellery and more. Be prepared to share some of your old garment with other course members to make colourful embellishments and try out two different techniques to make decorative cord for handles or to gather your bag.

The workshop, which takes place on Saturday 28 January, will also show you how to explore the potential to make jewellery such as flower and spiral brooches and if there is time even birds and egg cosies. The workshop costs £34 or £30 for Ropewalk members and last from 10.30am to 4.30pm and there is a small charge for materials (if required) on the day of between £5 and £10.

Other specialist workshops coming up in the next three months include printing, photography, jewellery and willow sculpture.

Full details all the specialist classes being held during the winter season can be found on [www.the-ropewalk.co.uk](http://www.the-ropewalk.co.uk)

## **FROM THE REGISTERS:**

### **BAPTISMS:-**

Dec. 11 Blake Patrick and Aaliyah Jayne MULLEN son and daughter of Melissa Jayne HILLMAN and Sean Patrick MULLEN

Dec. 29 Harvey James Bryan BERRIDGE son of Kerry Louise FOX and Jonathan Paul BERRIDGE

### **FUNERALS:-**

Dec. 5 George MOUNSEY  
Dec. 19 Roy SHEPHERD  
Dec. 20 James Ernest WINSHIP  
Dec. 21 Leonard Peter HORNE  
Dec. 22 William Neville "Chad" CHADWICK

Donations for flowers in church at Christmas have been received in loving memory of:

Edna and John Bellamy  
Vi and Jack Grassby  
Walter Paul  
Hugh McMahon  
Rob Marsh

Mr and Mrs R. Sorfleet  
Amy Norah Cook  
Ernest Cook  
Benjamin Watling  
Neil Huteson  
Stephen Atkin  
Madge Ayto Atkin  
Fred Ayto Small  
Hilda Stow  
Ruth and Arthur Winship  
Ena and Edward Broughton  
Marjorie Radford  
Don Broughton  
Allan Manchester  
John Stanley

Donations have also been received from members of the congregation for flowers.

We are most grateful for all the money received which enables us to put on a good display of flowers in Church to celebrate Christmas.

Shirley Creasey

## **News from the North.**

We all hear a lot about the hoo-ha at St. Paul's in London, but did you know that there are similar demonstration camps around the country? One is outside Newcastle Cathedral where the church and campers join in services together, the cathedral staff will sit in the tents and talk with the demonstrators and the people of Newcastle have provided so much food that the campers are working with the cathedral to help feed the homeless-hoe Christian is that?

Likewise we hear about the disgraceful student march which included the desecration of the Cenotaph, but did we hear about the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary march from Jarrow to London to highlight youth unemployment? No, of course not, because it was peaceful and orderly and a credit to all who took part.

Jane Robinson

## Over to you....

To continue my 'nostalgic theme' from last month, I was reminded recently about a favourite childhood story. A lot of you will be readers of 'Woman's Weekly' (including some men I know) which recently celebrated its centenary and published a copy of the first issue. It contained a story for children about the Robin Family which was read to me at bedtime by my Mother in the 1950's. I looked forward each week to the next episode and she would cut them out and put them in a scrap book so I could read them myself. I also had a 'Children's book of prayers' which included 'Gentle Jesus' and 'Matthew, Mark, Luke and John' which we went through too, forming a special routine at bedtime. Shopping in M & S recently I became involved in a discussion with the assistant about Nursery Rhymes - he had heard that children didn't 'do' them anymore or learn about 'Christmas'. As a Primary School Teacher I assured him that they form an important part of the Literacy scheme for 5-7 year olds and for the whole school who revisit the 'Nativity' throughout their primary education. I am sure that the things we did in childhood stay with us throughout our lives and we can pass them on to our children and Grandchildren. Happy New Year to you all!  
S.W.

'Golden Gleams'

I couldn't resist including this 'gem' from the 'Rest page' of the 1911 Woman's Weekly!!!

'What the washerwoman said'

One day a very sad-faced woman called at a cottage and gave the busy mother who was hard at work at the washtub, a tract.

'Is this about religion?' said the young woman, looking up from her work.

'Yes', said the visitor.

'Then I do not want it. I am miserable enough already!!'

## St. Mary's Bellringers

### Outing

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2011 a group of 18 ringers and non ringers mainly from Barton but also from Leicester and Essex, embarked on a tour of towers in the East Riding of Yorkshire. The first was Snaith (8 bells) where we all needed to remain aware of the low but noteworthy beams in the ringing chamber. In contrast to the beams some of the ropes were quite high but everyone, particularly the less experienced ringers, coped very well to produce some good ringing which, coincidentally, marked the opening of the local Christmas Bazaar.

Second stop of the day was at Goole (8 bells). Sadly the bells here are not often rung, in fact only for weddings we were told. Within a few minutes of our arrival a local photographer joined us who had heard the bells and came to investigate. He took numerous photos, both posed and whilst we were ringing, telling us we had made his day! We even made it to the Goole Times with a group photograph and a short article. The ropes at Goole were even shorter than those at the previous tower so, in the absence of enough boxes to stand on, some time was spent making adjustments before we could produce reasonable ringing.

We all went our separate ways for lunch then met up at Eastrington (6 bells). More rope adjustments but we were able to ring a good variety of methods before heading to the final tower of the day.

Howden Minster (8 bells) is an awe inspiring building in which to ring, least of all for the unconventional approach across a roof walkway. Short ropes here again but the bells sound so rich and stately plus there was a good supply of boxes on which to stand so not much rope adjustment required before we were ringing to a good standard. The Tower Captain, made us feel very welcome and stayed throughout our visit, he even invited us to return to ring a Quarter Peal! We may take up his kind offer in the New Year.

The most enjoyable day was rounded off by a splendid meal at the Ferguson-Fawcett in Walkington where everyone expressed their thanks go to Geoff Bryant for all his hard work in organising the ringing and to Ro Bryant for booking the meal.

The new peal board has been blessed and will hang in the ringing chamber above a picture of the ringers who took part. Visitors are most welcome to the tower to see this and other memorabilia.

The bells at St. Mary's were rung during the morning of Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November to mark the 2011 Barton-upon-Humber Christmas Festival.

Some ringers from Barton rang for the Candlelit Service at the Walesby Ramblers' Church on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

The St Mary's ringers wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

Joan Barton



Andy Bennett, the new Tower Captain.

### **"...With a great supporting cast...."**

Holmes without Watson, Frodo without Sam, Batman without Robin — even the Oscars acknowledge that the performance of the Supporting Actor can make or break a film.

So, apart from the faint pantomime reference in the title, what's that got to do with the January Parish magazine?

Well, it was observed that whereas clergy, readers, licensed ministers and the like get their moments of glory in ordinations, commissionings and licensings and so, on, the bulk of the day-to-day work of the parish falls on

folk who never get headlines — but without whom the entire structure of Church life would come tumbling down.

There's a lot of research which says that the impression made on casual visitors (both to services and out of service times) by the people doing the teas, meeting you at the door, or just ensuring that the place is open and clean and inviting makes a huge difference to how people perceive the Church. And we know from our visitors' book how appreciative folk are of the place being well-kept — and open.

So **Evening Prayer on January 29<sup>th</sup>** will be a thanksgiving for and celebration of the many people in St Mary's who'd probably never consider themselves as 'having a ministry', but without whose generous giving of time and energy and skills we'd be in a sorry state. We intend to follow this with a Bring and Share party in the Church Hall, just to bring Christmastide to a fitting and celebratory close.

We're not sending out loads of invitations — we'd be bound to miss someone. But please come along, either to show appreciation of the unsung work done by so many week in, week out, or to have your contribution to the work of the Gospel celebrated, and publicly acknowledged.

And — from all of us — 'Thank you'.

<b>Sunday 1st Jan.</b>		<b>Circumcision and Naming of Jesus</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>		<b>Joint Service at Trinity Methodist</b>
	<b>2.30 pm</b>		<b>Service at The Willows</b>
	<b>4.00 pm</b>		<b>United Carols at St. Augustine's</b>
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Said Eucharist (MU)
	2.00 pm		Service at Eagle House
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio divina
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan.</b>		<b>Epiphany</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist with Methodists</b>
	<b>4.00 pm</b>		<b>Baptisms</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>		<b>Evening Prayer</b>
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	2.00 pm		Standing Committee
	7.30 pm		Teaching Evening (Bishop of Grimsby)
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at Westbridge House
	7.15 pm		Ministry meeting (vicarage)
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio divina
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Jan.</b>		<b>Epiphany 2</b>	
	<b>WEEK</b>	<b>OF PRAYER</b>	<b>FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY</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>Sung Evensong</b>
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	10.00 am		Dairy meeting (Birchdale)
	am		Home Communion at St. Peter's Court & Victoria House
	7.00 pm		Unity Week service at St.

			Augustine's
	7.45 pm		Outreach & Nurture Committee
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm		Said Eucharist
	7.45 pm		In Depth group (4a Caistor Road)
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Mothers' Union
	2.00 pm		Service at Beech House
	7.00 pm		Unity Week service at Salvation Army
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup>	am		Home Communions
	7.00 pm		Unity Week service at St. Mary's
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	5.00 pm		E1W
	<b>PARISH</b>	<b>NEWS</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio divina
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan.</b>		<b>Epiphany 3</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 Eucharist with hymns</b>
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	7.00 pm		Eucharist and PCC
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup>			Unity Week service at Trinity Methodist
<b>Wed. 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Conversion of Paul</b>	<b>Said Eucharist</b>
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup>			Lectio divina
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Jan.</b>		<b>Presentation of Christ in the Temple</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>Evening Prayer</b>
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	9.30 am		Deanery Chapter (Barnetby)

