

Showing resolve.

The journalist Andrew Brown commented on the shock which followed the voting-down of the move to consecrate women as bishops in the Church of England. No-one, not in the press, not in Church House Westminster, not even (I guess) in the 'anti-' groups imagined at any level that this was going to happen – until it did. A proposal which had the support of almost all the dioceses and the great majority of those present at General Synod fell by the votes of a half-dozen in the House of Laity.

There's a lot could be said about the issue, some of it less than charitable, so it's probably a good job that a month has gone by before I put pen to paper. An RC magazine suggested the CofE was following the ways of the world in wanting women bishops in the first place – and the letters page the following week tore that argument apart. The 'Let's not do it in case it ruins ecumenism' fails to note that ecumenism is already bogged down: according to Rome there's not one real priest at St Mary's, male or female. The 'headship' argument, that women should not have authority over men (the Christian Union at Bristol University has just announced that it won't allow women to lead meetings unless their husband is also on the platform), ignores a lot of Church history, a fair bit of Scripture, and the fact that – so far as I know - HM Queen Elizabeth II and one recent Prime Minister are widely rumoured not to be male. So unless we're prepared to go with the idea that – for some reason – women cannot be ordained simply because they are women, and the ordination doesn't 'take' – I suspect a lot of psychology and self-identity's bound up in it all.

Apparently, the shock waves were such that it's all coming back for discussion in July, so we wait with interest to see whether we might then look slightly less ridiculous than we've made ourselves.

But (rant over) it's the intriguing question about minorities and majorities which attracts my attention. When is 'standing up for my

principles' simply an excuse for my 'dog in the manger' attitudes? And by the same token, when is 'the will of the majority' a good way of forcing unpleasant things on a small number of scapegoats? In the early days of the present 'austerity' period, a lot of hot air was expended on blaming 'scroungers' before it was realised that it's not quite that simple. Both are manifestations of power which can be quite unpleasant.

As we all go through the annual grind of New Year resolutions, from the mind-numbingly practical (“Yes, I really ought to use that expensive leather food/cleaning materials/complicated piece of kitchen equipment” or whatever, to the ambitious (“I shall rise at 2 am to do all the housework and answer the letters”) perhaps a useful one to consider is for us to examine our 'principles'. Do we use them as vehicles for our own prejudices? Do we use them to exert power, for blocking things we personally don't like, or for silencing those whose opinions we don't want to hear? And on the bigger stage, how do we balance minority and majority interests? As our country and our Church struggles to hold all sorts of tensions in balance, a bit of non-tabloid soul-searching might come in handy on a cold January day.

A rewarding New Year to you all!

Fr David

St. Mary's Ladies Group

The group leader Shân Hewson gave a welcome to some seventy members and led the customary prayer. She reported that forty six shoe boxes had been prepared and dispatched for Christmas delivery. The cake stall at the Church Fair had made £140 for the Church, and £198 from Elsa Cox's card making meeting had been donated to Childline. All concerned were thanked. A large variety of goods for the Barton Food Bank had been brought to the meeting for later distribution.

Members were then entertained by three lively and enthusiastic speakers, two Terry's and a Daniel, from Unique Auctioneers and Valuers from Lincoln. Between them they emphasized that an auctioneer's is the best place to value antiques and collectables and that research into all aspects of the item is vital. The value of any object is affected by factors such as date, maker, rarity and desirability, and sometimes a personal story relating to that object.

The internet has made a big difference to prices, and as an item is photographed it is put on the web site and all other linked sites making instantaneous world -wide bidding possible.

The three speakers, two experienced and one less so, clearly thought they had an exciting and fun-filled job, their enthusiasm shone through. Items brought along by members were appraised and evaluated. These ranged from a First World War spiked Prussian Helmet through to china, glass, pretty jewellery and a pipe rack to an exquisite little pearl handled knife still in its original wooden case. A very humble little bear had flown with a war-time pilot which was not only moving but increased its value. Members were advised not to burn anything as little "gems" can be discovered, an example being a picture which sold for £90,000! Such was the interest that refreshments were served as the talking carried on!

Julia Schofield thanked Mr Terry Woodcock, the principal of Unique Auctions and his two colleagues, not only for their knowledge and talk, but their kind donation to the Barton Food Bank.

S.M.

The first December meeting had a Christmas theme with mince pies, nibbles and wine plus entertainment in the form of hand bell ringing by the Holy Trinity Church, Messingham, ringers.

Directed by Roger Lord who until recently was our Tower Captain, they played a wide range of Christmas songs and carols. Then members were invited to 'have a go' (it is not as easy as it seems!!). The group consisting of Joy, Pam, Jenny, Barbara, Marieanne, Jean,

Tracey, Joy Lord as an extra volunteer and Roger were thanked for their 'performance' by Sue.

Janet played the piano for a selection of carols for everyone to join in with.

A visit to the pantomime will round off the year!!

S.W.

FROM THE REGISTERS:

BAPTISMS:-

Dec 9 Kayla-Alice June CRANIDGE daughter of Jemma Shirley & Paul Shaun CRANIDGE

Jessica Rose STANLEY daughter of Sharon Heather GORBUTT & James Matthew STANLEY

FUNERALS:-

Dec 4 Anne Marie CAIRNS
Wayne Albert GUNN
Noah Colin SISSONS

Dec 5 Stanley Beadle

Dec 6 Alfred Leonard Dinsdale COX
Dec 12 Brooke Shanade DUNDERDALE

Dec 20 Michael Anthony (Joe) STOCKDALE

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

George and Ethel Stockdale

Walter Paul

Vi Grassby

Jack Grassby

Graham Askew

Kathleen Mary Rose

Edna Bellamy

John Bellamy

Hugh McMahon

Mr and Mrs R. Sorfleet

Eward and Ena Broughton

Marjorie Radford

Don Broughton

Allan Manchester

John Stanley

Ruth and Arthur Winship

Donations have also been received from members of the Congregation. Thank you, Shirley Creasey

The Bishop of Lincoln writes.....

When I lived in central London, as I did until moving to Lincoln just over a year ago, the pace of life always seemed hectic. We seemed to be constantly busy, struggling to be heard over traffic noise, battling past thousands of people on every street. What a contrast to life in much of the Diocese of Lincoln.

There are many good things about living in the Diocese, but one of them which still has me catching my breath at times is the sky. I marvel at its bright, azure blue; I'm captivated by the wide open expanse of it – something you never see in the centre of a city. Most of all, though, I am in awe at the sheer wonder and the beauty of the night sky filled with countless stars. In the city, of course, you never glimpse the stars because of the street lights.

Here, I find the night sky endlessly fascinating. Sometimes illuminated by the moon and planets, sometimes not; sometimes constellations I recognise, sometimes not. But always, I am struck by the contrast between light and darkness.

You and I live in a world which can seem very dark at times, whether through war, illness, relationships under stress, worries about work and paying the bills. In Jesus, the greatest light of all has come down to earth to shine in the dark places of our lives and in our world. He has come among us as the light which no darkness can ever put out.

The season of Epiphany reminds us that, in Jesus, God revealed himself to the world. He made himself known in Jesus so that you and I have a glimpse of the true nature of God, and have a way of encountering and overcoming darkness in our lives.

Epiphany is also the time when we remember the Wise Men, who risked much as they followed the star in the night sky. Like them, you and I are called to follow that light, to go wherever it may lead, and to look for glimpses of God's presence, so that the love of God might forever shine bright in the darkness places of our world.

"When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flock,
the work of Christmas begins:

to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among people,
to make music in the heart."

Howard Thurman

+ Christopher Lincoln:

The Ropery

Exhibitions featuring two local artists will be opening at Barton upon Humber's The Ropewalk arts centre in mid-January.

Textures of Spurn features work by textile artist Alice Fox and The Passage of Time with Hull artist Martin Waters will be the first exhibitions in the 2013 programme put together by Exhibitions Officer Richard Hatfield.

Alice has an intense interest in the natural world and in the detail of organic things. Much of her work is currently based on coastal themes and she was artist in residence at Spurn Point National Nature Reserve during 2012.

Martin's recent projects have also included a residency at Spurn Point where he collected flotsam and jetsam from the beach and recycled it into art. Much of it was man-made plastics in bright colours that contrasted starkly with the natural environment at Spurn.

His new exhibition, The Passage of Time, in the Artspace focuses on a more personal history and features many of the artist's own images and objects.

Both exhibitions open on Saturday January 19. Textures of Spurn continues until Sunday, February 24 while The Passage of Time ends on Sunday March 3.

There is no charge for admission to The Ropewalk galleries which are open from Monday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm and on Sundays and Bank Holidays from 10am to 4pm.

Foundation Governor for Barton St Peter's School

Linda Bromfield has recently 'retired' as a Foundation Governor at Barton St Peter's Church of England Primary School having given 16 year's service. For a number of these years she was Chair of the Governing Body.

Mrs Steward (Headteacher) and Ms Carruthers (current Chair) thanked her at the weekly Gold Book Assembly for her dedicated hard work given to the school. She was presented with a gift and bouquet of flowers.

Mrs Bromfield has not escaped all duties at the school, she comes in weekly to listen to readers and help within the classrooms.

Thank you, Linda, for your support and wisdom.

Parish News

At the start of another new year, we would wish to take this opportunity to thank our advertisers for their support.

At St Mary's we see the 'Parish News' as an integral part of our outreach to the community.

Many of our advertisers have supported us for a number of years; we do not take that support for granted.

We wish them all well in their respective businesses.

St. Andrewstide

On the evening of December 1st a sizeable number of the E-1-W themed party fan club sat down to a splendid feast prepared and

delivered by the leaders and members of the group. My – we were a colourful group! I think the most resplendent amongst us was probably Mary Robinson who was wearing a red jumper and what I think was a Royal Stewart tartan scarf – it was nicely red anyway – and a jaunty matching beret.

Marion Guilliatt had made tartan skirts for the young waitresses and Marion herself was also wearing a tartan skirt with Steve resplendent in a kilt. Young Matthew had a wonderful blue felt waistcoat embellished with a tartan motif and a St Andrew's cross. It looked warm enough to be useful in Church during the winter, but I'm not sure that Matthew was impressed by my suggestion! Most of the rest of us improvised. A tartan car rug was pressed into service as a shawl and one ingenious lady draped a plain shawl in the manner of a plaid. I'm sure that in real life Scottish crofters really did that. Marion had also made ties from left-over tartan pieces and many of the male guests sported these. The tables were decorated with tartan napkins folded into a flower shape and we each received a favour of a sprig of heather tied with ribbons.

The food? – beautiful!- Geoff and I opted for haggis - what else? – and those who were more wary and opted for one of the alternatives missed a real Scottish treat. There were, of course, neeps to accompany the haggis. For those with a sweet tooth, the puddings were all very rich and wonderful and with strange Gaelic-sounding names.

It was a very cheerful occasion, made even more so by the particularly sunny atmosphere created by the leaders and members of E-1-W. It was a real pick-me-up in the middle of some really drab weather and it was clear that everyone enjoyed themselves hugely. The pass-the-parcel games created much hilarity and if the quiz, managed with great authority by Steve, showed some of us to be seriously ignorant about Scottish history, it all added to the fun. Thank you once again E-1-W, for an evening of much entertainment.

A joke (?) inside one of the layers of pass-the parcel – “Why do bagpipers walk when they play?”

Answer: “They're trying to get away from the noise!!”
Rosemary Lamert (See pictures, centre pages)

Rotary Shoebox Appeal

An urgent request has been made by Barton Rotary Club members for additional Rotary Shoeboxes, this time filled with items for new-born babies. A large number of regular Shoeboxes have been filled by local schoolchildren, mainly to provide gifts for boys and girls in Eastern Europe and they have already been delivered by the Rotary volunteer drivers.

To answer this new request, each member of Barton Rotary Club has filled two boxes with goods to help the mums of new-born babies and the churches in Barton have agreed to place a collection point near their Cribs. Items can also be given directly to Alan. The items collected will be sorted and packed into shoeboxes by club members.

Barton club President, Mike Knapton said "There appears to be a big need for these items, something we had not thought about before and we are making a large effort to help these mums and fill as many boxes as possible before the next delivery early next Year. We are very grateful to the people of St Mary's for their help and we will write the name of the church on the boxes".

Suggestions for items to be included in a Shoebox for new born babies

***Baby grows - Vests - Warm jackets (probably knitted) - Bootees - Hats - Small soft washable cuddly toys - Dummy - Bottle - Baby oils - Talcum - Disposable nappies - Terry nappies - Nappy pins - Plastic pants
Any other items that the donor deems appropriate.***

Mothers' Union

Linda welcomed everyone and our speaker, the Revd. Mary Vickers. We sang the hymn "We have a Gospel to Proclaim", Val Dukes read from 1 Corinthians 12 v.4-13 and Linda led the prayers. Thanks were given for the Bazaar Hamper which raised £55 and other notices were given out, then Linda introduced the speaker, the Revd. Mary Vickers, who is now an Urban Industrial Chaplain, based in Grimsby. Her illustrated talk was entitled "Chaplaincy Reflections from London 2012." Mary briefly commented on the Synod's failure to get the go-ahead for Women Bishops, thinking of the Bible Passage – we all need each other. She has a badge which says, "The Heart of God is bigger than the mind of any Synod." Mary's work is much more than talking about the Gospel, but other topics e.g. The weather or football can lead there.

She first went as a Sports Chaplain to Athens in 2002 and has helped at many other venues, culminating in 2012, where she was the Leader of the Chaplains at the Rowers' – Canoeists' Village.

They had two multi-faith rooms – one "quiet, quiet" and one "quiet", where the competitors were able to talk to the Chaplains (four Christian, one Buddhist.) There was a Muslim Prayer – room elsewhere on the campus and a very large recreational room. The photos she took at the Campus had no people in them to protect their confidentiality. We saw a picture of the Brownlee brothers in the Triathlon (taken in a public space!) We then heard about the power of the sponsors, who funded various aspects of the Games, where the 'Brand Police' inspected everywhere for 'rogue' producers' items which had to be removed or covered up! Even the Winners' podia were purple and low enough to resemble a certain chocolate bar!

Mary then commented on how the Paralympics had shown everyone that the competitors were 'not disabled but differently enabled'. She was delighted to have received three Thank – you emails, two from

Lord Coe and one from the Prime Minister. She was also invited to the dress rehearsal of the Opening Ceremony and had a place on the Mall, to watch the Parade, some days later.

Finally she talked about how the hope of inspiring a new generation was partly being helped by McDonald's who are paying for the volunteers to do training for customer-service if they so wish.

The last image on the screen was:

That which we are, we are;

One equal temper of heroic hearts,

Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will,

To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

Val Dukes thanked Mary for enlightening and inspiring us all.

January 2nd 9.30am Corporate Communion. Reader Val Dukes

January 16th 2pm AGM

Reader and Vote of thanks: Brenda Skinner.

Annual subscription due £19

Val Dukes

A cautionary tale.....or.....it could happen to you

Recently we've been having a rather peculiar, pungent smell in our downstairs toilet – those of a delicate disposition, please don't read on! The odour wasn't apparent all the time, so we doubted that it was a creature long departed, but could it have been the unpleasant aroma

of several people (not all at the same time) using the shower in the room above? We became somewhat more alarmed when the “scent” was accompanied one morning by some thin wispy smoke. It was correctly surmised that “summat were oop”; an electrician was called for. (This was after various people had been invited in to sample the smell.)

The upshot is that in our 50 year old house, one of the fuses, and its plastic cover, had burnt out, and could have caused a possibly catastrophic fire if not seen to. Dear reader, we have had our whole fuse-box changed for a more modern variety, so worry not about us. But what about you? Alan

St. Mary's Bellringers

All the St Mary's bellringers send best wishes for a speedy recovery to the Ringing Master, Jenny, after her recent operation and to Geoff following his recent post holiday illness. We miss you both in the tower and hope to see you back very soon.

Learners' practices continue to be well attended and Jackie Usher is a welcome addition to those who are learning to handle a bell before coming to ordinary practice evenings and service ringing. Marianne is doing well and now attends for both.

There will be ringing for the extra Christmas services and at 23.30 to welcome the New Year; please feel free to come and join us to celebrate the arrival of 2013!

The bellringers would like to extend good wishes to everyone for a very Happy New Year. Joan Barton

Over to you.....

I don't mind admitting that I am a great lover of T.V. drama especially the costume ones like 'Downton Abbey' or Jane Austin etc. but I also like more modern ones too and at the moment am enjoying "Last Tango in Halifax" (particularly the dry stone walls in the background!!)

It was, however, very disappointing to see the portrayal of the Church of England's response to marriage when the couple (both widowed and in their seventies) went for an interview with the female Vicar to arrange their wedding. The couple whilst waiting in the church had both reminisced about their strict upbringing, church attendance and having to endure endless 'fire and brimstone' sermons.

The vicar was very foreboding and began her interview by asking when they had last attended church. Her attitude was very unfriendly and the conclusion was made that they could not be married in church!!!

I was very surprised at this portrayal – if our weddings were based on Church attendance we would have very few and if it applied to Baptism hardly any at all!

In God's eyes we are equally important – so why should anyone be turned away?

Have a happy 2013.

S.W.

Wed 2nd January	9.30 am		Said Eucharist (MU Corporate)
Fri 4 th	6.00 pm		Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
Sat 5 th	11.00 am		Lectio divina
Sunday 6th Jan		Epiphany	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	2.30 pm		Service at The Willows
	6.00 pm		Sung Evensong
Mon 7 th	9.30 am		Toddler Time
Wed 9 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	10.15 am		Diary meeting (vicarage)
	7.15 pm		Ministry Meeting (vicarage)
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group
Fri 11 th	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 12 th	11.00 am		Lectio divina
Sunday 13th Jan		Baptism of Christ	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	4.00 pm		Baptisms
	6.00 pm		Said Evening Prayer
Mon 14 th	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	2.00 pm		Standing Committee (Hall)
	7.30 pm		Teaching evening
Tues 15 th	7.00 pm		Said Eucharist
	7.45 pm		In Depth Group 4a Caistor Road
Wed 16 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at Eagle House
	2.00 pm		Mothers' Union
Thurs 17 th	am		Home Communion
Fri 18 th	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 19 th	11.00 am		Lectio divina
Sunday 20th Jan		Epiphany 3	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist

	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	6.00 pm		Sung Evensong
	Parish	News	deadline
Mon 21 st	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	9.30 am		Deanery Chapter (Scawby)
	am		Home Communion at Victoria House
Wed 23 rd	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at Westbridge House
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group
Fri 25th	9.30 am	Conversion of Paul	Said Eucharist
	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 26 th	11.00 am		Lectio divina
Sunday 27th Jan		Epiphany 4/Holocaust Sunday	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	11.30 am		Baptisms
	6.00 pm		Said Eucharist with hymns
Mon 28 th	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	7.00 pm		Said Eucharist and PCC
Wed 30 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at Beech House

Please note: The Ladies' Group meetings in January are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays just for this month.

Sunday 27th January is Holocaust Sunday. As part of their ongoing programme of education and spirituality, E1W have been looking at the Holocaust, its causes and effects, and so at the 9.30 Parish Eucharist the young people will be playing a prominent part. We will also be using a newly-created "Alternative Parish Eucharist" for the first time, which is more young-person friendly. Please support our youngsters at this service.

David, our Vicar, is on Retreat (what/who is he retreating *from*?) from January 14th to 19th inclusive. Please direct any enquiries/problems to Alan, Liz or a churchwarden



Sue Brennan, who worshipped here in previous times, has recently returned to the parish and will continue her ministry as a Diocesan Reader.



Action shot at the Andrew's Tide feast – please note that Alan was **given** the pudding dish; he did **not** ask for it.



Steve and Marion's dog, suitably bedecked at the Andrew's Tide meal



Happy diners.