

The good, the bad and the cuddly.

My better half had a run-in the other day with someone pushing the old 'I-live-a-Christian-life-no-need-for-God' line. (One of the burdens of being clergy/clergy spouse is that people will tell *you* very bluntly whatever *they* think, yet are deeply offended if you dare to do the same!)

Jews and Christians have held for centuries that right behaviour is a duty on everyone: people of all faiths and none can, *should*, live upright lives. However, the belief that 'Christianity' = 'morality' and vice-versa (with God as a bolt-on optional extra) is very dear to the English and seems to be taken in with mother's milk.

Dear or not, it's wrong, and the height of the wedding season offers the perfect way to expose the flimsiness of that belief.

Were I to preach at a wedding that being married is all about not being allowed to sleep around, bride and groom would feel insulted and short-changed. Surely, they would argue, 'forsaking all other' is a joyful response to the depth of love between them, flowing from the marriage, rather than being its *raison d'être*. And they'd be right.

To confuse Faith and Morality is to make the very same mistake. The good behaviour of a Christian – flawed though it always is – flows out of love for God, just as fidelity flows out from the love of newly-weds.

The point – *the only point* – of being a Christian is to encounter God. We call this 'prayer' and although ways of praying differ, that's what we're about. To be a Christian is to try and live closer to God – and as a necessary by-product to live a good life.

In the coming months, along with the parish of Brigg, we're going to do some serious work on prayer. Some of it has already started with the prayer workshops, the *lectio* and the monthly prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. [See *July dates for details*] More will appear. For prayer is what we're about, and anyone who tries to say otherwise is rejecting the unanimous witness of Christians across the ages.

The risk is, of course, that prayer changes people, even such specimens of moral perfection as we are. With shock we discover that God is not the cuddly 'best mate' who affirms our every opinion and preference. We learn that the journey into God is always unsettling,

often painful, and that all those Scriptural images about the potter and the clay and so forth are uncomfortably near the mark. It's so very much easier to sit back and be 'moral'.

Mere morality is all very well, but all too often it leads to self-righteousness and a sneaky baptising of our own prejudices (or those of the '*Daily Mail*' or '*The Guardian*): perhaps that's why moralisers often repel us. Christianity deals in *holiness*, which is much greater and richer. We're not called to be *moral* – we're called to be *in love*. Ask any newly-wed....

Fr David

MOTHERS' UNION NOTES

On Wednesday May 23rd we held our annual Deanery Festival Service at St Marys Church. We were joined by Mothers union members from St Johns Brigg.

Members from both groups read the readings and led the prayers.

Father David presided and preached at the service. The service was based on this year's theme of "Your Gifts, Discover and Celebrate".

Refreshments were served afterwards in the church hall. Yet again a big thank you to Janet Petch for baking and providing us with her delicious scones.

B.S.

July 4th 9.30am Corporate communion Reader Angela Henson

July 18th 2pm Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

July 25th 2pm Prayer time Leader Linda Bromfield

Flower Rota

July 1st Viv Rowett

July 15th Janet Petch

July 29th Brenda Todd

The Bishop of Lincoln writes.....

The Olympic and Para-Olympic games are almost upon us. It will be an exciting time for our nation and the world as thousands of athletes from all over the planet arrive on our shores to test their skills in a wide range of sports against the best in their particular field. We also might find ourselves becoming temporary experts in sports we have never seen before – I remember really enjoying curling on the TV at one winter Olympics and learning a lot about the various techniques involved.

Sadly, it is also a dangerous time as, with the eyes of the world upon the United Kingdom, this would be a good time for a terrorist attack. We should pray for a safe Games. My wife and I are going to one track and field event and we are already planning our route to the stadium, probably by river and on foot, so we get there comfortably on time.

One thing I learned from the *More than Gold* website is that the original Greek Olympics were preceded by a 'Sacred Truce', which allowed competitors to reach the stadium without being attacked as they passed through the Greek peninsula. I am hoping for a Sacred Truce this time as well – not just safety from terrorist attacks or a safe journey to our event – but in a much broader sense.

Bringing young people together from almost every nation on the planet creatively and enjoyably to engage in competitive sport is an example of how nations could relate to each other, without the need for ancient enmities or violence. The Games are surrounded by a hundred day vigil for peace in the world: peace between and within nations; peace in our own hearts. Let us pray that this will be the true legacy of the 2012 Olympic and Para-Olympic Games.

+Christopher Lincoln:

Can anything good come out of... Lincolnshire?

One of the things which came back from last month's Clergy Conference was a book, compiled at Bishop Christopher's request. Called 'Furthering Holiness', it provides prayers and readings for the feasts of local holy people (both 'official' and 'unofficial') throughout the year. Many are well enough known already to need no introduction: Edward King, Hugh of Lincoln, Chad, the Wesleys. Others are perhaps less on our radar....

There are some from round here. The saddest are Anne Askew and Augustine Webster. Webster, prior of Axholme, was executed at Tyburn in 1534, one of the first martyrs after Henry broke with Rome. Askew, from Stallingborough, was tortured in the Tower and burned at the stake at Smithfield in 1546, the last year of Henry's reign, because of her fearless devotion to Protestantism. There is something deeply tragic that these two, one a devoted servant of the Roman Church, the other a devout follower of the new Protestant faith, should both fall foul of Henry's excesses, and something inspiring that they should, despite their very different religious attitudes, be united in martyrdom.

And on November 8th we are offered our own Chad Varah (d.2007) as an example of Christian witness. There will be many who remember him, and perhaps even some who found his open attitude to sexual issues hard to cope with, but the influence of his work, particularly (but not exclusively) with Samaritans is a sign that there is a call to all Christians to live as good citizens of this world as well as of the next.

There's Hybald, as in Hibaldstow (all we know of him is a one-liner in Bede), Susannah Wesley, and others running out into the exotic hinterlands of the diocese, like Louth and Horncastle. Over the coming months we may well be making some use of this resource as part of our worship here. And if nothing else, remember that, if it was possible for these to live close to God even in Lincolnshire, so it probably still is for us.

BISHOP'S YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS CHURCH CHILDREN'S ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

We were privileged to welcome the Bishop of Grantham to St. Mary's Church on the afternoon of Sunday 27th May when he presented eight BYAA participants with awards. Charlotte Smith, Kerry Alliss, Dan Young and Sam Wright all received Advanced Awards for 100 credits and more and Ben Welch received the Higher Award, having, to date, gained more than 50 credits. Three more recently joined participants in the BYAA scheme received their first Standard Awards, for 10 credits per award. Abbygayle Alliss, the oldest of the younger group, was presented with 3 Standard Awards and Matthew Hepworth and Chloe Roberts with one each. Abby, Matthew and Chloe also received the last of their CCAA credits amounting to totals, respectively, of 103, 41 and 55 credits. These had counted on a ratio of 1:10, towards their first BYAA Standard Awards.

It was good to see the participants supported by their family members and friends and good that less personally involved members of the congregation also came along to support them and to meet the Bishop.

E-1-W laid on one of their famous teas for the occasion and this was much appreciated by all. It was good that the party was partly staffed by members of E-1-W who have not ventured into participation in BYAA but who came to support their friends.

St. Mary's has now seen the BYAA Advanced Award presented to no fewer than seven participants since the scheme was inaugurated in January 2005 and that is very good indeed. In total, 14 young people have participated in that time, all gaining at least one Standard award.

Rosemary Lamert

[Thanks once more to Rosemary for her continued overseeing of the paperwork, especially as she also has Geoff to concern her. Ed.]

Thank you.....

.....to all at St. Mary's for the cards, good wishes and prayers during my time of illness. I am recovering slowly and hope to be back with you soon.

Zenda Shakespeare

Performance in the Park 2012

The Tales of Peter Rabbit and Benjamin Bunny and the story of Pinocchio, the wooden puppet who dreamed of becoming a boy, are the featured live theatre being brought to Baysgarth Park this summer by the Barton Tourism Partnership.

The Beatrix Potter story is being performed on Sunday, July 22 by Quantum Theatre which is making its first visit to the town. Using live music the production promises a magical afternoon for young and old alike taking them back to the tales of their childhood in a show designed to appeal to all the family.

The Storytellers Theatre Company is no stranger to Baysgarth Park and the August 5 performance of Pinocchio is full to the brim with toe tapping action. The hour long performance is sure to captivate all who watch and listen.

Both performances start at 2pm and refreshments will be available at Baysgarth House Museum to raise funds for the museum

Barton Tourism Partnership's 2012 Performance in the Park season has been supported by Barton Town Council, South Humber Collection and Barton Lions. Bring along a chair, a picnic and enjoy live performance in beautiful surroundings.

ST MARY'S LADIES GROUP
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 6th June and chaired by Father David.

Apologies were received from Margaret Searle, Cathy Clapson, Wendy Stow, Jill Fraser and June Elliott.

Father David thanked members of the committee and the group for their support over the past year. Contributions by way of the making of Christingles – 180 this year and we nearly ran out! – the purchase of various items of equipment and support at Christmas and summer bazaars were all greatly appreciated.

Pauline, our Leader, then read her report recalling a varied and interesting programme over the past year. She highlighted the sponsored Line Dance fund raising effort for the Macmillan Nurses which raised a magnificent £2,260.

The Treasurer's Report was noted and there was a balance of £526 remaining. Ideas were sought as to donations from this sum.

Pauline announced that she would be retiring in July as Leader. She has led the group for 6 years and will be missed by all. Angela Duke the Secretary was also retiring along with Jean Atkinson and Roseanne Crowder – all having contributed to the success of the group.

Nominations were sought and a new committee formed consisting of:

Leader – Shan Henson

Secretary – Sue Wright

Treasurer – Cathy Smith

Committee Members –

Elizabeth Elliott

Jill Fraser

Sue Mitchell

Julia Scholfield

Sheila Tilley

Vicky Vickers

On behalf of the meeting Brenda Skinner thanked Pauline for her leadership over the past 6 years.

At the end of the meeting Shirley Creasey informed us that the Flower Festival, celebrating the Queen's Silver Jubilee, raised a magnificent

£2,028 [a total that has now been exceeded. Ed.] and thanked all who contributed in any way.

The evening ended with cheese and wine.

FROM THE REGISTERS:

BAPTISMS:-

June 10 Esme Agatha BROWN daughter of Susan and Daniel Peter BROWN

Thomas Brian JOHNSON son of Nicola Jenny and Damien Andrew JOHNSON

June 24 Jasmine Summer HARPER daughter of Melanie Kim and Paul Andrew HARPER

Xavier Elijah Ellis SUNTER son of Odette Naomi Claire and Michael Richard SUNTER

MARRIAGES:-

June 4 Timothy Roy BENNETT and Jennifer Ann SMITH

June 30

Julian Thomas Gavin ROWETT and Sophia Marianna JOHNSTON

FUNERALS:-

June 1 George Walter BENSON

A donation for Church flowers has been received in loving memory of Rebecca (Becky) Searle.

A message from Shirley Creasey.....

I would like to express my gratitude for all the love and support received in organizing the Flower Festival - to the wonderful group of flower arrangers (without their skill the festival would not have been such a success), the suppliers of the beautiful flowers, the tea-makers, cleaners and to all who helped in any way but most of all to the people who supported us on the Preview evening and over the week-end. Thank you too to Auriol and her band of helpers who provided refreshments.

None of this could have been possible without the generous donations given to buy the flowers.

It is obvious from comments received that the Flower Festival gave much pleasure to so many people and in doing so raised the magnificent sum of £2074.00 for the Church Fabric Fund.

Thank you to everyone

Shirley

[A very big "thank you" as well to Shirley for her vision and organisation. Ed.]

Over to you.....

It seems I am in good company with the Bishop of Lincoln referring to the Olympic Games! I think I have been disillusioned until this year when I found out that the torch bearers all carry a torch of their own and have to pay about £200 for the privilege. But what a privilege! I thought it was the same torch passed from person to person (maybe I am not alone in this!). It is also a sad state of affairs to hear that people are selling them on eBay for enormous sums.

On the antiques Road show a man had brought in the torch his grandfather had carried at the last London Olympics and there was no way he was going to part with that.

We live in a society where money seems to be the main factor - keeping or collecting things seems to be a thing of the past - how many young people do you know who collect coins or stamps? Everything is very minimalist or electrical! The things that are worth the most cannot be bought - training hard, taking part and winning events in the Games, friends and friendship, family and love, but most of all the knowledge that we can depend on God's Love and support throughout our lives and beyond.

Enjoy the Games whether from your front room, or whether you are lucky enough to attend them (like E.1W.). S.W.

St. Mary's Ladies Group Outing 24th May 2012

We went to Stamford first then onto Spalding. The coach picked us up at 9 a.m. and as Pauline said "It's a good thing we are a Church group because God has certainly blessed us with a beautiful day today" or words to that effect, as the sun shone brightly down on us.

We had a good journey down the A1 to Stamford and what a lovely town it is. The old lime stone buildings look very attractive the whole town appears to be very well kept the streets being litter and graffiti free. There seemed to be something for everyone whether just a wander around the town, church, admiring the buildings, or perusing the shops or visiting "The George Hotel" which is a very old coaching inn with a beautiful courtyard. Some of us bought sandwiches and had a picnic in the meadows near the river enjoying the lovely sunshine surrounded by ducks and geese begging for food.

In the afternoon the coach took us to the Gordon Boswell Romany Museum Nr. Spalding. Gordon welcomed us off the coach and showed us into a large barn which housed a wonderful collection of Romany Vardo's (Gypsy Caravans), mainly the horse drawn types, which is one of the finest collections in the country. One belonged to the actor Sir John Mills and is where his wife the author Mary Hayley Bell wrote many of her novels including "Whistle Down the Wind". It was situated in their garden apparently. Gordon also believed this particular caravan had links with Queen Victoria as it has her coat of arms on it. He is in the process of researching the links with Royalty. Some of the later caravans which were built to be motor drawn had beautiful cut glass windows and inside cabinets with bone china tea sets and ornaments.

There was also a unique collection of Romany photographs and sketches spanning the last 150 years. He explained how the Romanies had originated in Northern India and had been driven out in the 1200s; it had taken them 400 years to reach England some coming via Egypt where the name "Gypsy" was derived. They arrived during the reign of Henry 8th and he apparently did his utmost to get rid of them sending them on boats to America and Australia.

Then followed a slide show of Gordon and his wife Margaret travelling to the Appleby Horse Fair from Spalding by horse and cart, a total of 280 miles over two and a half weeks. Gordon's passion for his genealogy which has produced this unique insight into the Romany way of life has to be admired.

The visit concluded with a cup of tea and biscuits provided by Gordon's wife Margaret and a look around the gift shop.

It was a most enjoyable day and I would like to thank Pauline and Kath for their excellent organisation also Carl from Radleys for transporting us safely.

J F

St. Mary's Bellringers

St Mary's bells were rung on several occasions to mark the Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

On Thursday 31st May BBC Radio Humberside came to the Tower to make a recording both of the bells and an interview with Tower Captain Andy Bennett which was broadcast just before 0700 on Sunday 3rd June.

On Sunday 3rd June there was 45 minutes of general ringing from 1500 which complied with a national request for bellringing to coincide with the Thames river pageant.

On Tuesday 5th June members from the Northern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers rang for 45 minutes from midday at the beginning of a Jubilee ringing tour which ended at Wragby.

Geoff Bryant, who started his ringing career in Halifax, recalled that his first ever peal was a fully muffled one following the death of King George VI. Few people today have rung fully muffled peals.

The Open Tower afternoon Saturday 14th July, come and meet the Bell ringers, put faces to names, see the bells on the camera system, see how the bells are rung and even have a go yourself!

The Tower will be open between **2pm and 5pm**. Refreshments, for a small donation, will be available throughout the afternoon in the Church Hall.

Joan Barton

St Mary's Barton Bellringing trip to Liverpool May 26th 2012

On a bright but breezy Saturday morning at 9am, 14 bell ringers and two hangers on boarded a mini bus and were waved off by Joan, who stayed behind to look after the bells for a wedding later that day. We were expertly taken to the official Anglican Cathedral car park, arriving about 12.30pm.

We all went our separate ways to discover the sights and delights of Liverpool for the afternoon. Most of us headed towards the Mersey, to look around museums, the Albert Docks and the Liver Building, and generally keep out of the blazing sunshine. We returned to the Cathedral for the obligatory group photo at 5.30pm before our ascent to the highest ring of ringable bells in the world.

We all had to go in small groups with a local guide in two lifts up to level eight to the ringing room. This was an amazing room with the ropes up at backstroke in a circle above a huge raised circular platform. This is where we would be standing when we rang the heaviest bells in the world, to allow the ropes to drop forward into the pit.

Everyone was quite quiet when they entered. The space is so awe inspiring, but also exciting. The locals were so friendly and accommodating, saying that everyone who wanted to ring could have a go and those that didn't 'would be persuaded'! Sue, Geoff and I were the first to try these huge bells for rounds, ringing the 2nd, 4th and 3rd respectively. We were to follow one of the locals who took the treble and told us to almost stand our bell at back stroke, before pulling down again to allow time for the 82cwt tenor to turn over. I have never been so scared in my life but was smiling from ear to ear when we finished. After that, every single ringer that came from Barton attempted to ring these bells at least once, most of them twice and a couple three times. Every one of them rang exceptionally well whether it was for rounds, or plain hunt, on 8 or on all 12.

Then came the moment that we had all waited for, when the local Ringing Master said that Danny could attempt to ring the tenor, all 4 tonnes of it. He was to stand on a box, on the raised platform while the

ringing master 'strapped' a spare tail end to the rope. Then we all held our breath as Danny successfully pulled the rope in time with all of the other 11 bells to rounds. Although the ringing master had another tail end, Danny rang the bell all by himself and there is video evidence to prove it.

The ringing practice lasts for 90 minutes but apart from ringing there was plenty of time to borrow some ear defenders, get in the lift up to floor ten and watch the bells ringing from above. That is a sight to behold as the bells are hung in a circle, and ring out from the centre of it and back in to it. This is very different from how our bells are in a square frame at Barton, which ring within their own space in different directions from each other. You can also go up the stairs from here to the roof for a view over the city, although this can also be viewed on a monitor at the ground floor level.

When we all descended the lifts and found ourselves out in the bright sunlight again, we were all chattering on about how well we thought we had done. After a few words of congratulations from the Barton Ringing Master and a vote of thanks to Geoff Bryant for arranging the day, we set off homeward, arriving back in Barton about 11.00pm.

Jenny Bennett, Ringing Master, St Mary's

APPOINTMENT TO PCC COMMITTEES

2012 – 2013

SOCIAL

Mrs A. Trubshaw (Chair)
(Chair)
Miss A. Hepworth
Mrs I. Ward
Mrs L. Grindley*
Mrs M. Robinson*
Mrs K. S. Hewson*

OUTREACH AND

Revd A. E. (Liz) Brown
(Chair)
Revd D. Rowett
Mrs V. Dukes
Mr R. Lord
Miss A. Hepworth
Dr P. Large
Mr J. McCartney* (Trinity
Methodist rep – tbc)

CHILDREN/YOUNG PERSONS/VULNERABLE ADULTS

Chairperson to be appointed
Revd D. Rowett
Revd A. Wright
Mr G. Brown
Mrs Y. J. F. Hepworth
Mrs R. Lamert
Mrs M. Nutbrown
Mr M. Searle*
Mrs K. S. Wright*
Mrs M. Wright*
member

tbc – to be confirmed
* - coopted

CHURCH HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER

Mr K. Henson

Sunday 1st July		Trinity 4	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	2.30 pm		Service at The Willows
	6.00 pm		Choral Evensong
Mon 2 nd	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	11.45 am		Toddler Time meeting
Tues 3rd	7.00 pm	Thomas, Apostle	Said Eucharist
Wed 4 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist (MU Corporate)
	11.00 am		St. Peter's School in church
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group
Fri 6 th	5.00 pm		E1W
	6.00 pm		Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
Sat 7 th	2.00 pm		Summer Fair
Sunday 8th July		Trinity 5	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	4.00 pm		Baptisms
	6.00 pm		Said Evening Prayer
Mon 9 th	9.30 am		Toddler Time
Wed 11 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at Eagle House
	7.15 pm		Ministry meeting (Birchdale)
Fri 13 th	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 14 th	11.00 am		Lectio divina
	2.00 pm		Open Tower
Sunday 15th July		Trinity 6	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	6.00 pm		Sung Evensong
Mon 16 th	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	9.30 am		Deanery Chapter
	am		Home Communion at St. Peter's Court & Victoria House
	2.00 pm		Diary meeting (Birchdale)
	7.00 pm		Exploring Prayer (St. James' Chapel)
Tues 17 th	7.00 pm		Said Eucharist

Wed 18 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at Westbridge House
	2.00 pm		Mothers' Union meeting
	4.30 pm		SCP meeting
	6.00 pm		Eucharist with SCP
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group
Thurs 19 th	am		Home Communions
Fri 20 th	5.00 pm		E1W
		Parish	News Deadline
Sat 21 st	10.00 am		Requiem Eucharist (private Intention)
	11.00 am		Lectio divina
Sunday 22nd July		Mary Magdelene	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	11.30 am		Baptisms
	6.00 pm		Said Eucharist with hymns
Mon 23 rd	9.30 am		Toddler Time
Wed 25 th	9.30 am	James, Apostle	Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Mothers' Union Prayer Time
	2.00 pm		Service at Beech House
Thurs 26 th	10.30 am		Bell Ringing
Fri 27 th	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 28 th	11.00 am		Lectio divina
	1.00 pm		Wedding
Sunday 29th July		Trinity 8	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	6.00 pm		Said Evening Prayer
Mon 30 th	9.30 am		Toddler Time



Viv's abseil down the Humber Bridge before (above) and after (below).



Bishop Tim and Rosemary Lamert with the young people after the BYAA and CCAA presentations.



Flower Festival images and a happy Shirley Creasey, the organiser.