

More people would come to church if....

We're approaching Pentecost, the traditional season for Ordination and, like everybody else, ordinands come in all shapes and sizes. Those ordained at the same time as me included a 5'8" woman with film star good looks, and a barely 5' tall heavy metal fan who wore a bright red clerical "hoodie" under her cassock and the music from whose Ordination party probably shattered windows in the next county. Over the first few weeks of their time in ministry both of them got used to hearing the line "If all vicars were like you, I'd come to church". At first it was flattering, but after a while they realised it wasn't true – and actually it's probably a good thing that it wasn't, because if people were only coming to church because of them, they'd be getting in the way of God and not doing their job. Coming to church is about God, not the vicar.

Those of us who do go to church can be led to make the same mistake – "More people would come to church if it was warmer/if we had different music/if the services were at different times/if (insert other options here)." but that's probably not true either. People go to football matches in the depths of winter, do their shopping regardless of the irritating piped music in the shops and keep important appointments even if they're inconvenient. They do it because these things matter to them enough to override the fact that the experience may not be perfect. Reaching out in appropriate ways to those who don't just how much God matters is a difficult thing to get right and so much depends on the context in which we do it, but the starting place has to be with God and not with the trimmings. Whichever approach to mission seems suitable for our context, we need to make sure we proclaim the possibility of a relationship with God rather than a form of entertainment. Nothing the Church does will ever be perfect because none of its members is perfect, but that isn't the most important thing. What really matters is that the God who is perfect offers to meet us there, and that should make any inconvenience worthwhile for those of us who do come to church and be the message of our mission to those who don't.

News of Neil Batcock

Neil, former Curate & donor of our Font writes:

Dear all from St Mary's, Barton,

Many thanks for your card and kind words. It makes it seem like yesterday that I was with you all at Barton!

Now I am almost 3 months into retirement, and it seems to have flashed by. The hardest thing is having to say No to various invitations to do this or that (now that I have plenty of time on my hands!). I am still what is called a Ministerial Development Reviewer in the diocese of Ely, and on the Diocesan Advisory Committee there, plus doing various talks on art and architecture – so busy enough.

Kathryn is still head of a School near Fakenham, but only working 4 days a week. Her mother Pam lives with us (92) and has quite a few caring needs. My mother is (94 in 2 weeks' time) is pretty well, living in Devon next door to my sister – but it's good to be able to get over there more often now.

Remembering you all with great fondness,

Lots of Love,

Neil B

St. Mary's Ladies' Group

Steve Ward who is the owner with his wife Meryl of "Uncle Henry's", came to tell us how the venture began and developed from just farming to the opening of the farm shop and restaurant in 2006.

The farm was previously owned by Henry Wright and as their children called him "Uncle Henry" they decided to use that name. Using local produce is very important to them and they are very keen to welcome groups of children from schools in the area to show them where their food comes from. It was a very interesting and lively evening and Steve and his restaurant manager Julie brought along samples for tasting which we all enjoyed.

Lent Lunches

A big thank you to all who helped to raise £1024 for Christian aid this Lent! This is the amount they will receive after reclaiming the Gift Aid due. It was great that we managed to exceed last year's total of just under £1,000, and perhaps next year we will raise even more!

In the meantime, many thanks to all who cooked, served and cleared up (including the person who volunteered to wash all 8 tablecloths after the last lunch). The various soups, as ever, were delicious, as was the crusty bread. A special thank you goes to Sue Brown for coming every week to sell her lovely cakes, cards, Easter eggs etc. To those who were unable to attend, but gave us donations, these were greatly appreciated & lastly I owe Brenda Skinner a very big thank you for helping me organise the whole 6 weeks.

Sorry this is late. The gremlins stole it last month!

Val Dukes

Humber to the Wash Open Art Exhibition

The Ropewalk's biennial Humber to the Wash opens on Saturday, June 6, and has drawn entries from all over the region.

The two guest selectors, North Lincolnshire Council's Arts and Theatre Contract Manager Lisa Moran and practicing artist and co-director of Hull's Studio Eleven Adele Howitt had a hard task sifting through the entries which were brought into The Ropewalk over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend.

The exhibition is open until Sunday, September 6, in both Gallery One and the Artspace. The Ropewalk is open Monday to Saturday from 10am until 5pm and on Sundays and Bank Holidays between 9am and 4pm. Admission is free.

Wilderspin School Museum

Muster a team of up to four people to test your general knowledge including all those facts you learned at school. Top of the Class is our quiz evening on Thursday 18 June you 7.30pm. Doors and bar open at 7pm and question start at 7.30pm – avoid detention and don't be late. The team fee is £10 which includes nibbles. Book now to avoid disappointment (01652) 635172.

Make Do & Mend is as big now as it was in the 1940s. All sorts of arts and crafts make use of odds and ends - recycling and re-using materials to make creative things and decorate around the home. So, we are organising a special event on Bank Holiday Monday 31 August. There will be sales stalls, talks, demonstrations and artists all sharing ideas – new and old - on recycling on the home front. Bookings for stalls are now open for amateur and commercial crafters who recycle to create! There will also be stalls available for local charities and organisations who would like to share their recycling message. Please get in touch for more details on (01652) 635172 or email ianwolseley@gmail.com.

Mothers' Union

Instead of our usual meeting in May a small group of us joined with other MU groups from The Glanford Cluster at The Bridge Hotel Scunthorpe for a delicious lunch followed by a speaker.

Our speaker was Lincoln Diocesan President Jenni Honisett.

Jenni spoke about her time in the Mothers' Union over the years from when she first joined and the many roles she has played and changes there had been during that time and the changes still to come.

Her philosophy has always been “take each day as it comes and go from there”, (a very apt saying).

Jenni was thanked and given a small gift from us all. The afternoon of food and fellowship was enjoyed by everyone. BS

June 3rd 9.30am Corporate Communion

June 3rd 2pm Glanford Festival Service at St Lawrence Church Scunthorpe

June 17th 2pm Meeting in St Mary's Church Hall

Flower Rota –

June 7th Val Dukes

June 21st Joyce Gibson

FROM THE REGISTERS:

BAPTISMS:-

May 10 Ted Stanley MARRIAN son of Emma Elizabeth & James Richard John MARRIAN

Jack Henri SMITH son of Ellie Marie MORRIS & Martin Luke DAY

May 24 Indie SAGAR daughter of Danielle Jade WEST & Thomas SAGAR
Sophie Louise DUNDERDALE daughter of Claire Louise SMITH & Wayne DUNDERDALE

May 31 Alice Grace HESELTINE daughter of Katie Louise & Lee Michael HESELTINE

Evalyn Robyn ROWSON daughter of Rebecca Jayne & Wayne Brian ROWSON

MARRIAGES:

May 23 Anthony Donald LEANING & Victoria Louise PAGE-CHESTNEY

FUNERALS:-

May 6 George Stanley PETTIT

May 12 Pamela FLETCHER

May 22 Wendy Ann BRODDLEY

May 26 Steven Jason KELLY

MEMORIAL SERVICE:-

May 23 Lizzie Millard

Barton upon Humber Civic Society

There are still a few places left for non-members to join our guided walk of Hull's old town on Sunday 14 June. We'll be finding out how the city grew from a Medieval harbour to a major port and city. The walk begins in Queen's Gardens at 2pm and ends at the Guildhall around 4pm. Booking is essential which you can do c/o the Wilderspin School Museum (01652) 635172.

Later in June Marilyn Roberts returns on Friday 19th to talk about Lady Anne Mowbray – The High and Excellent Princess - the little girl who married the younger of the Princes in the Tower. As usual, the talk takes place at the Assembly Rooms at 7.30pm. Non members are always welcome: £2.

The Bishop of Lincoln writes:

Dear friends,

Over the last few weeks our television screens and computer newsfeeds have been full of images of the most appalling human suffering, some as a result of natural causes, others driven by fear and conditions which are so intolerable or dangerous that it has led to individuals risking their lives, and those of their families, in attempting to escape across the Mediterranean in overcrowded and unseaworthy vessels. I am humbled by the tireless efforts of aid agencies and individuals across the world who work together to relieve their suffering.

It is easy to feel helpless in the face of all this heartache, to imagine that anything we could do would be so small and insignificant in the face of such large-scale problems. But that is not so. All around us, in every one of our communities, there are people who need our help – and every one of us has the ability make a difference. God calls us to do what we can to help our neighbours and, as Christians, it should be our joyful duty to work hard to do so.

I know that many of you already do so much to make a difference in your communities, helping those who are vulnerable, isolated and living in poverty, and building support networks for the young and the old. But there is always so much more to be done. And in greater Lincolnshire, more help is now available as the Diocese of Lincoln, in partnership with community organisations, has launched a £1m Social Justice Fund to provide grants to support projects that make the real difference in the lives of the people who need the most support.

In the grand scheme of things, £1m is not a lot of money considering the challenge we face. The average person in the UK will earn more than £1m during the 40 years of their working life. If each of us takes up the call to help our neighbours, together we can help to build a more just society, transforming lives across greater Lincolnshire. We have an opportunity, however small, to live out our Christian discipleship and use our time, our skills and our money to support those for whom there is sometimes otherwise very little hope.

+Christopher

[Please note, the fund to which the Bishop is referring is the Bishop of Lincoln's Social Justice Fund. The fund will be launched on 1st June, and more information will be available on our website, or through the third party administrators of the fund www.lincolnshirecf.co.uk]

Hull and East Riding Organ Group

On **Saturday June 6th**, Members of Hull and East Riding Organ Group will visit St. Mary's Church for an Organ Recital given by their President John Scott Whiteley, Organist Emeritus York Minster. You may also have heard his name in connection with the BBC series "21st - Century Bach" in which John Scott Whiteley played the complete organ works of J.S. Bach on authentic Baroque organs in Germany.

The 1898 Forster and Andrews organ, originally built for St. Peter's Church, is well known for being a fine instrument and this will be a great chance to hear this well respected player in Barton.

The recital will begin at 7 pm and non-members are particularly welcome.

Entrance is free to members of IAO affiliated Organ Associations. £3 to non-members

The programme will include works by Sigfrid KARG-ELERT, Johann Christian KITTEL, J. S. BACH, César FRANCK, Joseph JONGEN, T. Tertius NOBLE and William WOLSTENHOLME. The Organ Group is grateful to the Vicar and the Organist of St. Mary's for the opportunity to use the church and organ.

Gastronomic delight - Midsummer Supper – Wednesday 9th June at
7pm

Operation Christmas Child

"Big Community Knit" in aid of Operation Christmas Child...Teddy Bear Challenge!

As I am sure you already know, one of the gifts which regularly features in our shoeboxes is knitted hand puppets. These are a fun and colourful toy for the children to love and play with. In addition to this, local Samaritan's Purse shoebox distributors have reported of their effectiveness as a method of breaking down communication barriers. This year we would love to be able to put a teddy bear hand puppet in all of our shoeboxes and therefore are seeking your help!

We would like to try to get the whole local knitting community involved in our Teddy Bear Challenge. We may not quite be able to equal the current world record (which stands at 15534 teddies) but we would like to aim to knit enough puppets to stretch the entire length of St. Mary's Church! Knitting patterns for the teddy bear puppets are available at the back of the Church, from Julia, or can be downloaded from our Operation Christmas Child Facebook page (Occ Barton On Humber).

On **20th September at 9:30am**, St. Mary's Church is holding a special Teddy Bears Picnic Service (further details to follow). We feel this will be an appropriate time to conclude our challenge and the perfect opportunity to display all the puppets together in the Church prior to them being packed in the shoeboxes.

Please get involved if you are able and spread the word amongst your knitting neighbours...perhaps we can set a new Barton on Humber record!
Julia Wilson



Teddy Bear puppets

King John by *Hugh Chesterton*

In 1215 at Runnymede
The Barons and their friends decreed
That John must sign the Charter.
They'd thought of everything they could
To make King John do what he should,
To make this miscreant monarch good,
To tame the Royal tartar.
But all in vain, for bad King John
Declared "I'll not be set upon;
I'll go the way I've always gone,
I'll not be made a martyr."

They called him wild and fearful names,
They said "One day we'll stop your games,

We think your wicked conduct shames
The crown you wear so lightly.
We've had a meeting and discussed
Your misdemeanours and you must
Behave much more politely."

But still King John no heed would pay,
He just went on the same old way,
The government grew worse each day.
He told the Barons brightly:
'The crown I'm wearing is my own,
Please leave King John and it alone.'

So that was why King John was seen
At Runnymede in 1215,
A-whimpering and whining,
And that was why they made him sign
His name along the dotted line;
And how he hated signing!

(Magna Carta June 15 1215 – June 15 2015. Contributed by D.B.R.)

From the Visitors' Book.....

April entries of interest (plus a late entry from January).

31.1.15 'I believe I was baptised here. What a lovely place to start my life.

1.4.15- Bath

2.4.15-Saxby All Saints- Beautiful church- great upkeep, will be back again soon to visit. Thank you.

4.4.14 - Somerset.

8.4.15- Angela - Beautiful church. Lovely flowers.

Thank you, Brian.

Over to you.....

One of my favourite members of the clergy is Rev. Richard Coles who many of you will have heard of/ seen via the media- television, radio, newspaper and magazine articles.

He is described as ‘an English musician’ who played in the 1980’s band ‘The Communards’. He came to the priesthood in his late 20’s and was ordained in 2005 becoming Curate at St. Botolph’s in Boston; he then moved to St. Paul’s Knightsbridge and is also Chaplain to the Royal Academy of Music. He was the inspiration for the BBC2 sitcom ‘Rev’ which I am sure many of you have watched. He is now Priest at St. Mary the Virgin, Finedon near Peterborough.

In one such article he talks about visiting people in his parish and enjoying listening to their life experiences especially those ladies who had been in the Land Army in the second world war – taking lanterns with them in to the fields to bring in the sugar beet in record time or dodging the rats which ran up and down their legs in the hay ricks. How they frequently answered the door to the postman bringing a telegram bearing bad news of the loss of a loved one.

Interestingly he talks of his visits to Motorway Service stations on his preaching rounds where he sees all human life stopping for the toilet or a drink. He meets lots of people and has more ‘lattes’ than is good for him.

That is what I call ‘mission’.

It brings a whole new meaning to the sign on the motorway-

‘SERVICES 6M’!

S.W.

Mon 1 st June	9.30 am	Visit of the BVM to Elisabeth	Toddler Time
	2.00 pm		Diary meeting (Vicarage)
Wed 3 rd	9.30 am		Said Eucharist (MU Corporate).
	2.00 pm		MU Glanford Festival at St. Lawrence, Scunthorpe
	7.00 pm		Deanery Synod (Kirton)
	7.30 pm		Ladies’ Group AGM
Thurs 4th	9.00 am	Corpus Christi	Said Eucharist
Fri 5 th	6.00 pm		Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
Sat 6 th	11.00 am		Lectio divina
	7.00 pm		Organ recital
Sunday 7th June		Trinity 1	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	2.30 pm		Service at The Willows
	6.00 pm		Choral Evensong
Mon 8 th	9.30 am		Toddler Time
Wed 10 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	7.00 pm		Midsummer Supper
Thurs 11th	9.00 am	Barnabas, Apostle	Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at Beech House
Sat 13 th	11.00 am		Lectio Divina
Sunday 14th		Trinity 2	

June			
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	4.00 pm		Baptisms
	6.00 pm		Said Evening Prayer
Mon 15 th	9.30 am		Toddler Time
			Home Communion week
Tues 16 th	7.00 pm		Said Eucharist
Wed 17 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Mothers' Union meeting
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group
Sat 20 th	11.00 am		Lectio divina
		Parish	News Deadline
Sunday 21st June		Trinity 3	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist and Baptism
	6.00 pm		Said Evening Prayer
Mon 22 nd	9.30 am		Toddler Time
Wed 24th	9.30 am	Birth of John the Baptist	Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at Westbridge House
Thurs 25 th	2.00 pm		Service at Eagle House
Sat 27 th	11.00 am		Lectio Divina
	8.00 pm		Brighthouse and Rastrick Brass Band (Barton Arts)

Sunday 28th Sept		Trinity 4	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	11.30 am		Baptisms
	6.00 pm		Said Eucharist with hymns
Mon 29th	9.00 am	Saints Peter & Paul, Apostles	Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Toddler Time
Wed 1 st July	9.30 am		Said Eucharist (MU Corporate)
	10.30 am and 11.15 am		St. Peter's School services
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group

