

## **In praise of the wonky.**

Standing at the altar the other day, it struck me how bent and battered some of the silverware is. One of the chalices in particular has a particularly rogue-ish lean to it, as if many years exposure to wine has given it a permanent sideways slump. Set against one chalice I used to use, though, which dated back to the time of Henry VIII and looked like it did, our stuff is all in pristine condition.

I suppose we could send it all off to some expert or other and have it de-cockled, straightened up and generally returned to 'as new' – but I'd rather it stayed as it is. It's fit for purpose, and, more to the point, it's been used for its intended purpose, not bunged away in a cupboard.

Perhaps that's a way of approaching Lent?

What I mean is this, that our calling isn't to be the unblemished newly-minted soul: it is to carve our way through the contradictions and turmoil of our lives and accept that we will not come through this unmarked or unscathed. The task is to be fit for purpose rather than fit for the display cabinet. We are as much called to bear Christ within ourselves as the altar silverware. The only question of importance is, 'Does it do the job?'

If we are to be Christ-bearers, Lent is the chance for us to take a breather and allow ourselves to become a little fit for purpose. It's not a time for plastic surgery of the soul, trying to escape to an imagined past, mistaking naivety for holiness or inexperience for innocence: rather it's an opportunity for us, battered and knocked about as we are, to remember that our calling is to carry Christ in the world. That's our job, not to agonise about how knocked about and damaged and unworthy we think are.

In 'Henry V', there is that stirring speech on the eve of Agincourt which contains this line:

ADDRESSES ON THIS PAGE.

“Then will he strip his sleeve and show his scars, And say “These wounds I had on Crispian’s day.” Old men forget; yet all shall be forgot, But he’ll remember, with advantages, What feats he did that day.”

So we, battered and bent and scarred by our struggles to be the people God intended, carry those marks and maimings honourably into the future. They are marks that we have been used, and are still fit for service. The risen Christ still carried the marks of the crucifixion: it's good enough for Him, it's good enough for us.

Have a good and holy Lent.

Fr David

## **MOTHERS’ UNION NOTES**

Our February meeting was opened by Linda who welcomed everyone including our visitors from Trinity Wednesday Fellowship, St Mary’s Church and our speaker Ruth Blythe. Ruth was to speak about this year’s Women’s World Day of Prayer, ably assisted by Sue Brumpton who operated the Power point display. We opened with a short service singing hymn “Glorious things of Thee are spoken”, a reading from John 4 v 4-30,39 (the familiar story of Jesus at the well asking the Samaritan woman for a drink of water); this was read by Val Dukes. Both the hymn and reading were taken from this year’s women’s world day of prayer service, “Streams in the desert” written by Christian women of Egypt. Linda then led us in prayers.

Ruth gave a presentation about life in Egypt focussing on the issues highlighted in the 2014 service. She gave a brief history of Egypt ranging from biblical times through to the present day much of which were turbulent times including today when there are still lots of unrest, demonstrations and violence. A country desperately in need of our prayers!!!!!!

Seeing the map of Egypt it is easy to distinguish between the Nile valley in the South and the delta in the North. 95% of the population

live in the valley, the River Nile being the lifeblood of a dry and dusty country. Cairo is the capital city affectionately known as “the mother of the world” with a population of 16 million. Cairo stretches out into the desert; there are many informal settlements on the outskirts with hardly any clean drinking water or sanitation. The quality of education and health care are poor as the teachers and doctors/medical staff are poorly paid, not earning enough to live off their salaries. Millions of children are born into poverty where malnutrition leads to health problems. In Schools there are up to 60 pupils in a class who are taught in shifts. One woman Rawia Abdel Kader, 36years old with a Muslim husband and 3 children trained in a pottery school in her area and has set up a workshop (supported by Fair trade) making a name for herself in the art world. This made her daughters realise education is the key to better life.

Today Christians make up 12 per cent of the population; the tensions between the Muslims and Christians have increased in the past year since the overthrow of President Morsi.

In Egypt, World Day of Prayer was first celebrated in 1928 and in 1957 a committee met to plan the 1959 worship service, then in 1970 a group was formed that met regularly, writing the service for 1975. They were invited by the International Committee in 2007 to write the service for 2014. The Egyptian committee say that they feel honoured to have been asked for a third time to have been invited to write the service for 2014. They also say that their greatest challenge at the moment is responding in prayerful action to the Egyptian revolution that started in January 2011, and believing that God will use the dramatic situation in the country for his glory and to bring many more people to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus.

Val Dukes thanked Ruth for a very interesting presentation and Sue for operating the power point display of photos.

The meeting finished with refreshments served by Janet Petch (including some of her delicious scones, thanks Janet).

March 5<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Corporate Communion. Reader - Elinor Cartwright

March 19<sup>th</sup> 2pm Meeting Speaker Rev Ivan Howitt. Reader/vote of thanks – Sue Brumpton

March 25<sup>th</sup> Lady Day Service 12noon St Mary's Church

PLEASE NOTE:-

March 7<sup>th</sup> Women's World Day of Prayer Service will be held at St Augustine's Church at 2pm. The Speaker is Suki Jackson.

**Church Cleaning.**

Once more time to rally the troops and evict the spiders from their winter quarters! On the Tuesday of Holy Week, April 15, we'll be very grateful indeed for volunteers to give Church its annual spring clean. If you can donate an hour or two (or three), that'd be wonderful.

**Barton Churches together Ecumenical Breakfast**

This year the breakfasts will be on the second Sunday of each month. The next breakfast will be at 8:30am on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March at St. Mary's. Everyone is welcome to come to the gathering which consists of an informal breakfast after a time of a bible reading, reflection and prayer. It gives a great start to the day allowing a free time for talking and sharing. There will be a poster in church which will give full information for each meeting and its venue. Angela Henson

9th March 8.30 at St Mary's

13th April 8.30 at Sally Anna's

11th May 8.30 at Trinity

***The Search***

Jesus Christ lives today  
He is near to guide the way  
How to find the golden key  
So that he can talk to me.  
JESUS DIED FOR ME

Bended knees to knock the door  
Holy Spirit in me pour  
Humbly talking to the Lord  
Firm belief in His word.  
DIED TO SET US SINNERS FREE

Sincere intentions deep inside  
Surely he will be the guide.  
Answers come by various means  
As my trust on Jesus leans.  
GUIDE AND HOLD ME EVERY DAY

Hard indeed it is to give  
My whole self and how I live  
If only I can open out  
And full of Alleluias shout.  
AS I STUMBLE IN THE WAY

Come Holy Spirit, come to me,  
Set this poor sinner's spirit free.  
Use me to serve Thee every day  
So I may all my sins repay.  
HOLY SPIRIT LIVE IN ME  
Dennis Cowe

**Thank you.**

A big thank you to everyone who continues to collect the stamps to support Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. It is much appreciated and the sale of these stamps raised almost £8,000 last year. This goes such a long way towards the cost of training these dogs that make such a

difference to the life of a deaf person. Some interesting facts to put this into perspective are:

The charity receives £3.50 per kg of stamps 1kg = approximately 3,000 stamps. 330 kg = 1,000,000 stamps. 330 kg x £3.50 = £1,155  
Thanks very much. Lynne Atkin

Bishop Christopher writes:

Dear Friends,

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, traditionally seen as a time for prayer and penance in the church; a time for drawing aside and reflecting on our Lord's journey to the Cross and our own journey as Christian people.

As we seek to move forward together as a faithful, confident and joyful diocese, Lent provides an ideal opportunity for us to clear away some of the clutter that can get in the way of that making those things a reality in our own lives. Lent gives us a structured framework in which to stop, to pray, and to reflect on the things that stand between us and God; between us and each other; between us and the best of who each of us is.

That is not always an easy thing to do. It can take us to uncomfortable places as we uncover things about ourselves that we would rather remained hidden, or are reminded of the broken-ness and cruelty that mar God's world.

On Ash Wednesday many of our churches will hold services which include the imposition of ashes. If you have the opportunity to attend one of these services, I encourage you to do so. The ash is also a symbol of what is left when everything else has gone and things are laid bare. Their imposition on our foreheads is a powerful reminder of our own vulnerability and of the ways in which we fall short of all that God intends for us.

But Ash Wednesday is only the beginning of the Lenten journey. Jesus' journey to the Cross will be transformed into the Easter joy of

the resurrection – a transformation which shows the world that God's power is made perfect in weakness.

That possibility of transformation is the basis of our hope as disciples of Christ. It is the light that shines even when all seems darkest in our own lives and in the life of the world. We need not fear: the God who endured the pain of death on the cross is the same God whose love and forgiveness are freely offered by God to each one of us.

We are not alone; the light shines in the darkness.

Bishop Christopher

**Congratulations and celebrations...** (with apologies to Cliff Richard!)

We congratulate, and celebrate with, two ladies who will shortly reach a milestone birthday, although each a different one. Margaret Robinson (March 2<sup>nd</sup> – St. Chad's Day) and Edith Hobson (April 1<sup>st</sup>) are the ladies in question. Happy Birthdays!

**FROM THE REGISTERS:**

**BAPTISMS:-**

Feb 23 Connor George JACKSON son of Jayde Anja & Lee Andrew JACKSON

James-Dio BEACOCK son of Toni Anne SANDERS & James Robert BEACOCK

**FUNERALS:-**

Feb 3 Keith Eric AKESTER  
Violet WHITE

Feb 4 Robert Andrew (Bob) CHAPMAN

Feb 25 Joan JAMES

## **Church Schools' Research at Wilderspin National School Museum**

Following our successful award of a Heritage Lottery grant we are embarking on a project to research the post-war history of the town's two Church Schools – on Queen Street, and St. Chad's on Waterside.

We are keen to talk to former pupils and staff who attended either school in the 1950s, and the Queen Street School, during the 60s and 70s. We will use the memories we collect to enhance our displays and produce a short publication about the schools.

If you would like to know more or would like to share your own recollections we have arranged the first of a series of "schools' reunions" on Saturday 22nd March between 11am and 3pm. If you have post war memories of either school why not pop in so we can meet you and get your details. You can jot down your memories or we can arrange to interview you at a later date. If you have any memorabilia or photos we could borrow perhaps you could bring them along.

Also in March we are hosting a series of general Reminiscence Sessions. These are being provided by the North Lincolnshire Museum Service in partnership with FreshStart. The sessions are free and there will be old photographs and objects from the Museum Service's collections to handle and discuss. There is no need to book, just come along, share your memories and make new friends over tea & coffee. The sessions are on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 10.30-11.30am; Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1.30-2.30pm; Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 10.30-11.30am; and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1.30-2.30pm.

And March ends with another Table Top Sale on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March from 11am when white elephants, small domestic items and books will be on sale. Telephone (01652) 635172 to reserve your table to recycle your unwanted bric a brac.

[www.wilderspainschool.org.uk](http://www.wilderspainschool.org.uk) Tel. (01652) 625172

## **Barton upon Humber Civic Society**

The Civic Society's next public talk is by Peter Myers of Northern Rail who will speak about "The Life of a Railway Manager" - an amusing view of life in the privatised rail industry. This will take place at the Assembly Rooms on Friday 21 March at 7.30pm. Members free. Non members £2.

Looking ahead, readers might be interested to put the 18th April in diaries when the Civic Society will be hosting a magic lantern evening in conjunction with the Wilderspin National School. Andrew Gill is a professional magic lanternist who has performed at major museums and arts festivals. His shows are guaranteed to be interesting, enjoyable and surprising and audience participation is encouraged. He will be re-creating this popular Victorian entertainment, including animated and images from around our region. Ticket prices: Members & concessions £5; Non-members:£7 including interval refreshments. The show starts at 7.30pm at the Wilderspin National School on Queen Street. Tickets are now available from the Wilderspin National School (Tel. 01652 635172).

The first of this year's open days at 51 Fleetgate will be on the 20th April between 1pm and 4pm.

## **The Ropewalk and Ropery Hall**

The year of the centenary of the start of World War One is commemorated at The Ropewalk with an exhibition by Lee Karen Stow, Poppies and Postcards. Photographic artist Stow brings together postcard-sized botanical images of the common cornflower poppy with a series of World War One original postcards exploring the roles of women during the four year long conflict. Sponsored by Arts Council England, the exhibition in Gallery One from February 22 until April 6, tells the stories of women affected by and involved in wars and conflicts from World War One to the present day.

On a lighter note Julie Andrews' fans are in for a treat on March 14 when West End actress Sarah-Louise Young brings her cheeky but affectionate show, Julie, Madly Deeply, to Ropery Hall. This new show, which has already won five star ratings from London critics, is a

delightfully funny and candid love letter to a true show business legend.

Suitable for those aged 12 years and over tickets cost £11 in advance or £13 on the door. For more details go to [www.roperyhall.co.uk](http://www.roperyhall.co.uk)

### **Lent Lunches**

Once again we will be serving homemade soup and crusty bread every Wednesday during Lent, starting on March 12<sup>th</sup> - 12 noon to 1pm.

Last year I told you a little of the history of this project. This year (including 'clergy' soup on one occasion!) I shall be having help with the overall organisation. As some of you already know, Brenda Skinner and Ian Wilson agreed, late last year, to act as assistants to Geoff Brown and me, in our role as Churchwardens, and this was accepted by the PCC. It was stressed that this did not mean that they would automatically become the next Churchwardens, but that they could offer continuity and assistance.

Meanwhile, Ian has been a great help to Geoff with regards to the church buildings, and Brenda has been very helpful to me, at the 9.30 am Sunday services and also in repairing hymn and service books etc.

So, as there will no longer be a House-to-House collection for Christian Aid in Barton, please help us to have a record year in the total we raise from the Lunches. Sue Brown is hoping to join us, selling her cakes, cards and other items. Also we can accept donations, if you are unable to come for lunch.

Val Dukes

### **St. Mary's Bellringers**

There will be a St Mary's Bellringers' outing on 5th April to the Southwell / Newark area, please feel free to join us even if you are not a ringer. A schedule of the day is available from the tower.

Practices for particular methods continue and are of great benefit, the latest two have been Plain Bob Triples and Stedman Triples.

The Tower AGM will be on Tuesday 11th March at 1815 and will take place in the ringing room. Please feel free to join us.

Joan Barton

### **St. Mary's Ladies' group**

We had a welcome return of Janet Staine from Sheffield with a talk about wedding dresses, which was supported by a collection of shoes, veils and dresses through the ages, including photos of the people who had once owned them, wearing them on their wedding day.

The Anglo Saxon word 'wed' means wager or gamble and a thousand years ago young girls were betrothed and married later. At first dresses were simple but in medieval times became heavily encrusted with jewels. Henry VIII's sister married in white which was very unusual. Fashions changed through the ages as can be seen in the Victoria and Albert museum. The present Queen's dress was made of Spitalfields' silk and Honiton lace. Veils were thought to ward off evil spirits and were a symbol of chastity and modesty.

Most of the dresses shown were very small but in Edwardian times they were slightly bigger, usually a size 10!! By 1915 looser styles reminiscent of the 'flapper' period were worn. The cinema was a great influence on style in the 1930s as are celebrities and Royalty today.

A lot of the members recognised the styles from the 60s, some of whom had worn similar dresses themselves.

Members enjoyed getting a close up view of the many dresses and were intrigued by the smallness of waists and feet!!! SM.

David Lee came, at short notice, to talk to us about the Shelter Boxes at our first February Meeting. The idea first started as a Millennium project by the Helston Rotary Group, to provide emergency items wherever a disaster occurs in the world. The Ladies' Group had previously provided funds for boxes in the Haiti disaster and recently gave money for a box to go to the Philippines. David told us how some 4,500 families were housed using the contents of the boxes after the Typhoon.

Boxes contain tools, tent, thermal blankets, mosquito nets, a stove, clothing, activities for the children, purification tablets and many other items necessary for survival and rebuilding lives. The boxes are packed in England by trained volunteers. Funding is raised in many ways by groups such as ours and many schools have chosen to be involved. Five boxes were sent from Barton to the Philippines.

Teams are ready to go to these areas and distribute the boxes and show people how to erect the tents. David showed slides of them being used for shops, surgeries and homes. They are of room height so quite comfortable to move around in. Members enquired about the help given to the people in South Ferriby and the Rotary Club is involved with this too. SW

At our second meeting this month it was announced that Sue Mitchell would be stepping down from the committee and leaving the group as she is moving to Derbyshire We all wish her well in her new life and thanks were given for her help and service to the group including the reports each month to the magazine. Gill Dear has been co-opted onto the committee to fill Sue's place until the AGM.

The evening took the form of a quiz to which members from Worlaby Ladies' Group were invited. Teams of six were arranged around the

hall and we settled down to eighty questions set by Peter Greenfield, twenty of which were based on the local area, rather unfair for our visitors! Arguments ensued in each group as to the second longest river in the world, the European city with the longest canal network and the book title that is a translation of Beelzebub. We had a rest after forty questions and enjoyed a magnificent "faith" supper provided by members while we puzzled over pictures of people and buildings. Most of us could recognise the Sydney Opera House, the London Eye, and some could name the state housing the Pentagon, but few recognised Nelson Mandela House of Only Fools and Horses fame!

After a short break we returned to local questions to learn that there used to be a racecourse in Barton, near Kingsforth, that Soutergate means Street of the Shoemakers and that in 1855 there were 14 pubs in Barton but 18 cobblers! There would appear to be plenty of walking going on!

At the end of a very enjoyable evening the winning team scored 71 out of a possible 108, scraping in by 1 mark, and were presented with daffodils as their prize, while the booby prize consisted of cream eggs. Our thanks were extended to Peter for compiling the quiz and he left us with another to find 30 books of the Bible hidden in an article. JD.

TO KEEP A TRUE LENT.

by Robert Herrick

Is this a fast, to keep  
The larder lean?  
And clean  
From fat of veals and sheep?

Is it to quit the dish  
Of flesh, yet still  
To fill  
The platter high with fish?

Is it to fast an hour,  
Or ragg'd to go,  
Or show  
A downcast look and sour?

No; 'tis a fast to dole  
Thy sheaf of wheat,  
And meat,  
Unto the hungry soul.

It is to fast from strife,  
From old debate  
And hate;  
To circumcise thy life.

To show a heart grief-rent;  
To starve thy sin,  
Not bin;  
And that's to keep thy Lent.



Shelter Box in use.

Over to you.....

Over the recent months we have not failed to be upset by the pictures of flooded areas in Great Britain, not least in our own locality.

We can begin to appreciate what it is like for the people of Haiti and the Philippines to lose everything they had. People are very quick to blame God for everything that happens. Some very wise words were spoken by one of the nuns on 'Call the Midwife' (one of my favourite programmes). She said, 'God is not in the event but in the response to the event.' This is evident in the generosity of time and giving to the people round the world and here in Barton, Barrow Haven and South Ferriby. At the moment, as we drive through South Ferriby, we are reminded of how terrible it must have been, especially for the more senior members of the community. And the determination of people to restore things once more so lives can return to some sort of normality. So let us not be complacent, but be prepared to help whenever we can- if only by having a bowl of soup to support Christian Aid!!

Have a good month.

Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> March	11.00 am		Lectio divina
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar</b>		<b>Sunday before Lent</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>2.30 pm</b>		<b>Service at The Willows</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>		<b>Choral Evensong</b>
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	2.00 pm		Diary meeting (Vicarage)
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm		Pilgrim Course
<b>Wed 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>Said Eucharist with Ashing (MU Corporate)</b>
	10.30 am		Schools' Service (St. Peter's and Wootton)
	2.00 pm		Service at Eagle House
	<b>7.00 pm</b>		<b>Sung Eucharist with Ashing</b>
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	5.00 pm		E1W
	6.00 pm		Prayers before the Blessed Sacrament
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Edward King	Lectio Divina
	12 noon		Said Eucharist
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>		<b>Lent 1</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>4.00 pm</b>		<b>Baptisms</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>		<b>Evening Prayer (said)</b>
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	2.00 pm		Standing Committee (Vicarage)
	7.00 pm		Teaching evening
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm		Pilgrim Course
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at Westbridge House
	7.15 pm		Ministry Meeting (Vicarage)
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio divina
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>		<b>Lent 2</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>Sung Evensong</b>
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm		Said Eucharist
	7.30 pm		Pilgrim Course
<b>Wed 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Joseph of Nazareth</b>	<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	2.00 pm		Mothers' Union
	2.00 pm		Service at Beech House
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group
	7.30 pm		Deanery Confirmation (Ulceby)
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup>	am		Home Communions
	<b>Parish</b>	<b>News Deadline</b>	
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	12 noon		Said Eucharist
	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio Divina
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar</b>		<b>Lent 3</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>Said Eucharist with hymns</b>
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	7.00 pm		Eucharist and PCC
<b>Tues 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Annunciation</b>	<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	7.00 pm		Pilgrim Course
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup>	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio divina
	7.00 pm		E1W Harry Potter meal.
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>		<b>Mothering Sunday/Lent 4</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist with St. Peter's School</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>		<b>Said Evening Prayer</b>
Mon 31 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	9.30 am		Deanery Chapter (Snitterby)
Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> April	7.00 pm		Pilgrim Course