

MIND YOUR LANGUAGE....

“Jesus saves. But X scores on the rebound....”

It's not just because the new Bishop of Lincoln is another football fan that I begin with that ancient one-liner. Any priest has constantly to act as if they've never heard that sort of gag before (and I guess that Salvation Army officers are no longer reduced to gales of laughter by the one about 'saving fallen women' for that matter). But underneath it lies something to ponder this Eastertide.

Every churchgoer assumes folk will know what we mean when we talk about (say) 'being saved'. But in a world where mention of Jordan is more likely to call to mind images of a celebrity than of a river in Palestine, we may be a bit adrift of reality. Our religious shorthand can be opaque to others, to the point of being misleading. We may know what we mean – but how well do we manage to put it across?

And before it sounds like I'm leaping on the tired old 'dumb it down' bandwagon, there's a parallel challenge here for those who are on the fringes of the faith, but are put off by what looks like over-complicated jargon. But when even a simple word like 'Saved' has so many possible meanings – eventually – more involved language has to take over.

We'd be astonished if doctors, engineers or musicians (to name a few) didn't need precise language to get to grips with their fields. Why should something as all-encompassing and demanding as wrestling with the mystery of God be any different? And by the same token, a doctor, engineer, etc, etc, who is unable to communicate with a non-specialist, will be seen as a liability or even an irrelevance.

At the heart of miscommunication is an inability or reluctance to understand where the other is coming from. From that may stem hostility, suspicion, dismissiveness.

It might seem an odd subject to raise for Eastertide – but part of the Easter message is about reconciliation. And if we don't try and understand those we're finding difficult, how can we be reconciled with them? Building the sort of respect which allows the very churchy and the not-very-churchy to talk to one another could be a (fairly) painless introduction to the demanding task of understanding others – and building bridges to them.

Fr David

ONE YEAR ON....

It's now a year since David and I did the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. I've been struck how ever since, the things of everyday are seen in a new light; this happens to all of us when we have an experience which is itself beyond the everyday. So, a year on from the preparation to go - just as in mediaeval times, but with added emails to attend to - I now say those words in the Eucharist 'our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared' with added camino-consciousness. Luckily David was very well-prepared, and we ended up in Santiago on the day we hoped, no mean feat when one has planned a 450 mile walk over terrain one has never encountered before, and not knowing how possible it will be to keep to the plan of doing an average of 17 miles a day for 30 days on the trot. All I had to do, as he often jokes, was to choose which coloured pencils I was going to take.

Strengths and weaknesses become very apparent when up against a challenge! D's meticulous planning was supplemented by my 'Wharrever!' take on life, which really helped us, he generously says, when on the second day we arrived at an overflowing refugio, the only one for miles, leaving us with the choice of lying under a hedge for the night or walking a further 8 miles over a mountain range, after the 17 miles we'd already done that day. Our reactions couldn't have been more different; 'Oh good,' I said, while D paced the floor with an anguished expression, 'It's been really boring up to now!' and we set off with a new spring in our step.

As a metaphor for life, the idea of walking along an unknown path cannot be bettered. It was with delight, then, that I felt I had something particular to contribute to this effort after all, unprepared as I was. As a pilgrim church, it's a relief to know that you don't have to be good at everything. The communion of saints includes people with all the skills we need; God is more interested in the things we can do than in berating us for the things we can't.

Viv.

MOTHERS' UNION NOTES

On Friday March 25th we were joined by MU members from Brigg plus other visitors to celebrate Eucharist for Lady Day at noon. After the service the fellowship continued in the church hall with a faith lunch. Once again everyone enjoyed the food and the company.

B.S.

May 4th 9.30am. Corporate Communion Reader Viv Rowett

May 18th 2.30pm. Trinity Rally Vote of thanks Sheila Holt

May 25th 2pm. Prayer time Leader Angela Henson

Flower rota

May 1st Joyce Gibson

May 15th Elinor Cartwright

May 29th Beryl Crompton

PLEASE NOTE

All "Count your Blessings" money to be given in to Elinor as soon as possible.

THANK YOU

Orders for Diaries and Calendars will taken at the June meeting.

ROPEWALK GUITAR FESTIVAL JUNE 2 - 4

Three evenings and one afternoon of total guitar enjoyment are being played out in Barton at the beginning of June.

The Ropewalk's first ever Guitar Festival takes place from Thursday June 2 until Saturday June 4 and has been put together by the festival's musical director Mark Keable of mtm promotions with a little help from Liz Bennet.

Highlights of the festival include guitar virtuoso Martin Taylor on the first evening with accomplished players such as Dave Swarbrick, formerly of Fairport Convention, Chris Sherburn and Denny Bartley, Paul Lidell, guitar wizard Walter Strauss and Ezio playing on the second and third days.

There are several ticket options including packages for both Friday and Saturday performances, the two sessions on Saturday as well as the individual sessions.

To view all the details please go to www.roperyhall.co.uk

FROM THE REGISTERS:

BAPTISMS:-

April 10th Esme Rose PEARSON-SEATH daughter of Kassie Lou PEARSON and Simon Alexander SEATH

Tilly Savanna GROGAN daughter of Jeri-lea and Daniel Jay GROGAN

April 24th Rebecca MELODY (adult)

MARRIAGES:-

April 30th Damien Andrew JOHNSON to Nicola Jenny ROBINSON

FUNERALS:-

March 16th Alan Michael GRANTHAM

March 21st Ruby ROE

March 25th Jack DIMOLINE
Brenda Florence TURNER

March 28th Harry PARKINSON

April 8th Brian SMART

April 13th Vera NURSE

April 15th Ethelwynne Margaret GREENHALGH

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

Don Broughton
Marjorie Radford
Stan Robinson
T. G. Read
Bob Griffiths
Jeremy Griffiths
Edna Bellamy
John Bellamy
Hugh McMahon

Thank you for these donations and also those from members of the congregation who enjoy seeing the flowers in Church.

THANK YOU

Over the last few months, with your support, The Children's Society has achieved great things. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for everything you've done to make childhood better.

Ending immigration detention of children.

In December 2010, Nick Clegg set out a timetable to end the abhorrent practice of detaining children in immigration centres by 11th May 2011.

The Children's Society was delighted by this news and particularly welcomed the immediate closure of the family unit at Yarl's Wood. Over the coming months, The Children's Society will monitor developments to ensure that children's welfare and safeguarding are at the heart of any changes.

The Children's Society is also urging the government not to detain children during the transition period. More than 100 children have been detained since the government promised to end detention, and The Children's Society believes that this destructive practice should end immediately. One more child in detention is one too many.

We would like to thank everyone who has spoken up in support of this campaign.

Your actions have helped secure a better childhood for countless young refugees.

Mike & Margaret Searle.

PCC COMMITTEES 2011 -2012

At the PCC meeting held on Monday 28th March 2011, the following were confirmed as members of PCC committees:-

Social

Mrs A. Trubshaw (Chair)
Miss A. Hepworth
Mrs Y. J. F. Hepworth
Mrs I. Ward
Mrs L. Grindley *
Miss J. Hepworth *
Mrs M. Robinson *

Outreach and Nurture

Revd A. E. Brown (Chair)
Revd D. Rowett
Revd K. Colwell
Mrs V. Dukes
Mr K. Henson
Miss A. Hepworth
Mrs Y. J. F. Hepworth
Dr P. Large
Mr J. McCartney *
(Trinity Methodist Rep.)

Children/young people/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 *

* coopted member

Hall committee – now in abeyance having fulfilled its purpose for the time being

Church health and safety coordinator – Mr K. Henson

May I remind those of you whose names are on the Church Electoral Roll that you have the right to read PCC minutes, once they have been approved by the PCC. If you are interested, please contact me.

Rosemary Lamert
PCC Secretary

THE BISHOP'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

The announcement of the Venerable Christopher Lowson as the new Bishop of Lincoln was warmly greeted across the Diocese. I do ask you to keep Christopher and his wife Susan in your prayers as they prepare to come and join our pilgrimage as God's people discovering how to share the good news of Jesus Christ in our generation.

2011 has so far proved to have been historic year and perhaps it will be remembered as a year when there was a coming together of events which have changed the shape of things to come. Internationally our headlines have been captured by the Arab Spring, with its rejection of totalitarian regimes, horrific natural disasters in both New Zealand, Australia and the sheer devastation in Japan. These events have each brought with them heartrending stories of human despair, loss and countless personal tragedies.

Domestically our national story continues to be reshaped by the effects of Government cuts changing the landscape for public services, the NHS and education. At the same time rising prices, an all-time high price for fuel and high levels of unemployment bring with them stories of hardship and anguish.

Life is just full of stories. Whilst the media, with its inability to stay with any story for very long, moves on hungry for new material, the reality

is that for the people involved in the headlines, the story goes on and has to be lived out.

A church active in God's mission no option other than to be caught-up in the ongoing human stories which shape the future for individuals and for their communities. It is only when we have lost sight of this connection that we suggest that the church shouldn't be involved in politics. Being caught up in what is happening in other people's lives starts with our prayers, but then has to go on to being actively involved in sustaining, supporting and sharing in the stories which are being lived out all around us.

The story at the heart of the Christian faith is the story of an active God whom we find in Jesus Christ engaged with the ongoing story of life. So a Church caught up with the active God will be a busy place, not for its own sake or its own future, but busy keeping up with a God who is deeply involved with the human stories which ultimately make and shape history.

+David Grimsby

Handel's Messiah

On: Saturday 28th May

In: St. Mary's Church

At: 7.15pm

Cost: Nothing (retiring collection)

- ❖ **This is NOT a polished performance – it's a "Come and Sing" event.**
- ❖ **If you would like to SING Handel's Messiah, please come along, and bring a copy if you have one.**
- ❖ **If you would like to LISTEN to Handel's Messiah, then just turn up.**

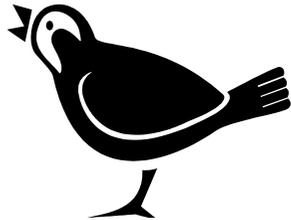
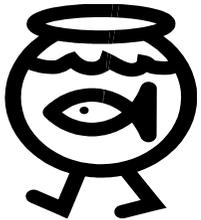


A PETS' BLESSING SERVICE

On Sunday 22nd May at 3.00 pm we will hold our annual Pets' Service.

All pets and their humans and friends welcome. If you feel unable to bring your pet into church but would like a blessing, please bring a photograph or an object relating to your pet. This also applies if your pet has died.

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE AFTER THE SERVICE
There will be a retiring collection for an Animal Charity



THANK YOU.....

.....to all those who came and scrubbed, dusted, vacuumed, washed or made tea on the Church Cleaning Day. The result was a sparkling church ready for Easter. Thanks to Janet for organising it.



Pray this Christian Aid Week Sunday 15th May – Sunday 22nd May

Loving God,
believing that we are all made in your image
we pray for justice, peace and an end to poverty.
Believing in the miracle of your love
we pray for a dismantling of all systems that oppress.
Believing in the promise of creation made whole
we pray for the vision of a new earth.
As we are made in your image
may we live in your image and be Christ-like,
in service, endurance and love.

Help people in poverty out of poverty

COMIC CORNER

(yes, we realise they're old ones, but they're still funny!)

- ❖ The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.
- ❖ The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'
- ❖ Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- ❖ Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.
- ❖ Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- ❖ The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

RE Day at St Peter's School



The new school banner



Kathy cutting and pasting an elephant for the Ark



Attempting Hebrew writing



Making Noah's Ark



Making illuminated letters on the computer



St. Peter's School display in church

Sunday 1st May		Easter 2	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist (said with hymns)
	2.30 pm		Service at The Willows
	6.00 pm		Said evening prayer
Tues 3 rd	2.00 pm		"Ruth" study group - Hall
	7.30 pm		Media group (82 West Acridge)
Wed 4 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist (MU corporate)
	2.00 pm		Standing Committee (vicarage)
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group
Thurs 5 th	2.00 pm		Service at Eagle House
Fri 6 th	1.30 pm		Memorial service – Mark Stebbing
	5.00 pm		E1W meeting
Sunday 8th May		Easter 3	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	4.00 pm		Baptisms
	6.00 pm		Evening Worship
Mon 9 th	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	7.30 pm		Teaching Evening
Wed 11 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	7.15 pm		Ministry Team (vicarage)
Fri 13 th	5.00 pm		E1W meeting
Sat 14 th	1.00 pm		Wedding
Sunday 15th May		Easter 4	CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Family worship and baptisms
	6.00 pm		Parish Eucharist
Mon 16 th	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	am		Home Communions: St. Peter's Court and Victoria House
	7.30 pm		Foundation Course (Hall)
Tues 17 th	7.00 pm		Said Eucharist
	7.45 pm		Outreach and Nurture (vestry)
Wed 18 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at Beech House
	2.00 pm		Mothers' Union
	7.00 pm		Archdeacon's Visitation (Caistor)

	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group
Thurs 19 th	am		Home Communions
	7.30 pm		Diocesan Readers' Meeting (Hall)
Fri 20 th	1.30 pm		Wedding
	5.00 pm		E1W meeting
	Parish	News	Deadline
Sunday 22nd May		Easter 5	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	3.00 pm		Pets' Service**
	6.00 pm		Sung Evensong
Mon 23 rd	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	9.30 am		Deanery Chapter (Wrawby)
	1.30 pm		Clergy Diary meeting (Birchdale)
	7.00 pm		Eucharist and PCC
Wed 25 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Mothers' Union Prayer Time
	7.00 pm		May Supper in Hall
Fri 27 th	2.00 pm		Wedding
	5.00 pm		E1W meeting
Sat 28 th	7.15 pm		Handel's Messiah in Church**
Sunday 29th May		Easter 6	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	6.00 pm		Sung Evensong
Monday 30 th	7.30 pm		Foundation Course (Hall)
Tues 31 st	2.00 pm		"Ruth" study group - Hall

** See separate panel for details

**WILDERSPIN NATIONAL SCHOOL
QUEEN STREET**

A busy month lies ahead at the School. Families with young children will enjoy the **Easter Chick Hunt** while older children can follow the **I Spy Quiz**, and everyone can submit their entries for a chance of winning an Easter egg prize.

On Saturday 14 May there is a **Diabetes Screening Session** between 10am – 2pm organised by Silver Star Diabetes Unit in conjunction with Barton Lions. All are welcome – the testing is free and in total confidence. Free refreshments will be available in the School for participants. More details are available from Phil Bradley on 016652 634267.

Barton Arts are launching this year's Barton Arts Week on Saturday 21 May between 10am – 4pm. Tickets will be on sale and refreshments will be available in the School. There will be music and calligraphy demonstrations by Lindsey Scribes.

Between 21 May and 28 August, Paul Davies will be exhibiting his atmospheric photographic images of familiar landscapes and views around Barton and the region. The exhibition is called **Borrowed Light**. Please note – the exhibition room is sometimes in use for school visits and private functions. To avoid disappointment please telephone to check access times.

Remember Empire Day – or Commonwealth day as it became? The first 'Empire Day' took place in 1902 on the 24th May. Millions of schoolchildren across the British Empire celebrated ~ saluting the union flag and singing patriotic songs like *Jerusalem* and *God Save the Queen*. To mark the launch of Scholars, our new coffee shop, we are commemorating Empire Day on Bank Holiday Monday, 30 May between 10am and 4pm.

For further details: (01652) 635172

LENT LUNCHES

This year a record-making sum of £470.60 was raised for Christian Aid (with thanks to those who Gift Aided their donations). The soup was delicious, as was the fresh crusty bread and the service was excellent!! So, many thanks to those who cooked, served and helped to clear everything away. This made the lunches happy, enjoyable and social occasions, enjoyed by all who attended.

An extra thank-you goes to Sue Brown who volunteered to come and sell her cards, cakes and many other items for Christian Aid. It was good to have her with us and her contribution, which boosted our total considerably, was most welcome.

Val Dukes

ST MARY'S LADIES' GROUP

Anticipating a sombre evening talking about the Homeless it could not have been further from the truth!!!

An illustrated talk given by Linda, Allison, Lucy and guest Robert (a resident) gave an insight into the work done by The New Life Church in Scunthorpe. Known as the 'House' their Pastor Russell had a vision to provide somewhere for the homeless in a place where there is profound need and instigated the purchasing of the derelict Conroy hotel on Frodingham Road. Known as the Lighthouse it caters for people:-

- ❖ Rejected by families because of difficulties
- ❖ Broken homes
- ❖ Hospitalisation/disabilities making them homeless
- ❖ Victims of addiction
- ❖ Domestic violence
- ❖ Marriage breakdown.

We were shown before and after pictures of the conversion which was completed in 2007. 25 people can be accommodated and includes family and single rooms. It is all self catering. There is close security. Guests are allowed to stay for up to 6 months and during this time other agencies are involved to move them into a permanent home. It is designed to give people HOPE. People are carefully screened and

helped by an experienced team who are full of empathy, sympathy and compassion.

Another redundant building has been converted into a training centre where people can become computer literate, write CVs, learn life skills, practise interviews or be interviewed; ethnic groups can be helped with their English language skills, to fill forms in (even the census forms). They can learn 'where are you now?' or 'how do you move forward?' or 'what is stopping you?' (questions we could all ask ourselves at times). Linda quoted Isaiah ch. 61 - 'The spirit of the Lord Good is upon me because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to announce good news to the humble, to bind up the broken hearted....to give them garlands instead of ashes.....buildings long in ruins will be rebuilt.....'

A really uplifting evening given by people living out their faith and full of joy. They were thanked by Pauline; the group brought food and toiletries to help them in their task.

At our second April meeting the speaker failed to materialise so at short notice Sue Mitchell (one of our members) stepped into the breach and gave a lovely talk about her recent holiday travelling in a white transit van!!!

Last October, two Mitchell women (both Sue's son Tim and her husband had died recently), Sue and Dini (Tim's partner), set off to Belgrade (where her third son lives) from France. Tim had done up this van as he sold African artefacts on the French markets. Five days of rain fell when they were getting the van ready but unfortunately there was no time to paint the rust but they took the paint with them!!

They travelled down through France stopping in various campsites or even pulling onto the roadside up a lane-the ground had to be level so the van was stable and Dini preferred the van not to be visible as she likes secluded, peaceful places!! Toilets usually were thickets and water was carried round in a plastic kettle for ALL purposes!

Going through Monaco they didn't think they would quite fit in but were suddenly flagged down by the gendarmes!! They had tracked the rusty van on camera all the way through Monaco- obviously hoping to find drugs they searched the van and were surprised to find it so immaculate- no spliffs or hippies here! Checked all paperwork but

even so wanted Sue's name and her address in England-so she is now on their records!!

After the relatively peaceful journey through France it was mayhem in Italy with people everywhere. But all the Italians were very friendly. They wanted to visit Venice and the Lido de Jesolo so after contacting Chris on her mobile they found a site near the ferry and so went into Venice where Sue found a lace making shop (an old Methodist chapel) complete with a lady from Manchester who had lived there for forty years.

Travelling on through Croatia, the Plitvica lake with wonderful views over the Adriatic they woke up to snow, so had to succumb to a B. and B that evening.

Finally arriving in Belgrade where it seemed to be total madness they arrived at Andrew's on time (much to his surprise).

The return journey was less hazardous going through the Dolomites (almost encountering a bear), Seeing vineyards with golden leaves, arriving through the tunnel into Chamonix where they had the luxury of a hotel. So they parked up, dressed up and went out on the town! Even buying second hand clothes in a shop!

Sue said she felt slimmer, fitter (after clambering up and down into the shoulder-high bunk which had no ladder and going on lots of walks,)

It was a worthwhile experience- a chance for them to get to know each other and really a kind of closure for both her and Dini. And they wished they had painted the Van!!!!

OVER TO YOU.....

I can't believe another month has gone by as I said in a previous issue I would tell you what it means to be a Bishop's Visitor, which I am at St. Peter's School here in Barton. In the light of the recent appointment of Christopher Lowson as Bishop of Lincoln and celebrating 200 years of Church Schools this year, it seems quite appropriate. As Bishop John told us we are his 'representatives' as it is nigh on impossible for him to visit every Church school. 'Most of all', he said, 'It is being a friend'.

The role varies according to need or circumstance - some Visitors only visit on special occasions e.g. end of term services etc., others offer help with craft activities or wherever their talents lie, some help out with 'washing up' in the staffroom - a vital role! Or to be a listening ear to staff or children alike. I prefer to be a frequent visitor - I listen to readers, lead school worship, pop in to the classrooms for a chat and see what the children are doing. Recently I have been privileged to teach some Year 5 and 6 children on a one to one basis to boost their numeracy and literacy skills as SATs tests rapidly approach this month.

Kathy Colwell and I have planned and executed R.E. days - last year to celebrate Bishop Edward King and this year 400 years of the King James Bible. After an introductory worship for which they learnt some new 'bible' songs, the children went off to do activities which ranged from making models of Noah's Ark in the Foundation unit to comparing the Easter Story in the four gospels in Year 6 with writing Hebrew manuscripts, designing illuminated letters on the computer, learning about 'Mary Jones and her bible', and acting out the parable of the lost sheep in between. The day culminated in a sharing worship to show what everyone had been doing. { *See photos in the middle pages*}

Also, armed with a design made by the School Council and the help of Shan Hewson, Viv Rowett and John Canner we have produced a new School Banner for the Church Schools' Festival in the Cathedral later in May (where it will be dedicated). We were really excited when Father David found an old pole which originated from St. Peter's church on which to hang it.

So as you can see there is never a dull moment and most of all it is a role I thoroughly enjoy!!