

Holy cussedness.

As I sit writing this on the night of Easter Day, there's yet another tabloid campaign going on to standardise the date of Easter, possibly on the last Sunday in March.

There's a couple of obvious problems – one is that agreement has already been reached on a common date for Easter, - but the churches all have to agree to accept it first: given that some of the Greeks are still unhappy about accepting the alterations to the Julian calendar which took effect in the UK about three hundred years ago, this might be a long wait. The second is that the last Sunday in March across Europe is the day that the clocks go forward, and given that one of your clergy was in church on Easter morning setting up at 04.20, asking her to get up for 03.20 might be a little cruel.

But more important than the lie-in and the Greeks, there's a lot to be said for us not fitting in with the pattern of the secular year. Oh yes, it'd be so much more convenient for school terms, airlines and Meadowhall, but maybe the crowbarring into the common consciousness that religion's not always convenient, that human life and experience isn't easily contained within the confines of a shopping centre, and that we're more than a set of consumers to be milked for maximum profit is a position worth defending.

Some Christians delight in being cussed for the sake of it, we know – there's precedent back in the third and fourth century for that, and it was widely seen an unnecessarily provocative even then. But every now and again, to raise a flag for the reality of the inconvenience of life, that God turns up at awkward times and asks equally awkward things of us, that life doesn't always (or often) follow the neat tramlines our personal organisers suggest it should, that what's good isn't always what's convenient, is part of our witness to the world.

Writers and film directors have often imagined worlds where people are herded subtly and unconsciously into serving the ends of a privileged group: Huxley's novel *Brave New World* or *The Matrix* series of films are a couple of examples among many. And although the (probably doomed) campaign to standardise Easter is a fairly trivial starting point, those of us who claim to live a Resurrection faith of a world turned upside down, where those at the bottom are to be honoured and so on, might do well to reflect on where God might be calling us to be both Holy and Cussed.

Fr David

The Bishop of Lincoln writes.....

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The seasons of Lent, Holy Week and Easter tend to be very busy ones in the Church. Many of us will have been involved in meaningful services and activities since the beginning of Lent, and it is only now that the immense joy of Easter Day begins to give way to a gentler time of reflection on the enormity of God's love for us which is so clearly demonstrated in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

How do we, as Christian people, respond to that great love? At the end of this month, I hope you will join me in using a new resource which has been produced by our emerging discipleship team to help all of us in the diocese to deepen our commitment to Christ, in prayer, together.

2015 will be a Year of Discipleship in the diocese and exciting things are being planned to mark this special year. The prayers prepared by the team have been specially written to help us begin to prepare for that Year. Please look out for them in your church before the end of the month.

Jesus prayed that his disciples would be one, and I hope that these prayers will be used across the diocese, that together we will live and pray with faith, confidence and joy.

I invite you to use the diocesan prayer as you begin each day:

*Almighty God, source of our hope and of all good things;
you call us in love to share in the work of creation
in making all things new.*

*Bless our diocese:
may we be faithful in our worship,
confident in our discipleship,
and joyful in our service,
that through us,
the world may catch a glimpse of
the love you have for each one of us,
made known in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

With every good wish, Bishop Christopher

It could never happen here?

A guy goes into the confessional box after years being away from the Church. He pulls aside the curtain, enters and sits himself down. There's a fully equipped bar with crystal glasses, the best vestry wine, single malt whisky, cigars and liqueur chocolates nearby, and on the wall a fine photographic display of buxom ladies who appear to have mislaid their garments.

He hears a priest come in: "Father, forgive me for it's been a very long time since I've been to confession and I must admit that the confessional box is much more inviting than it used to be."

The priest replies, "Get out, you idiot. You're in **my** side."

St. Mary's Ladies' Group

Our speaker this month was Trevor Cherry who brought slides to illustrate his talk on the Air Ambulance of Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. The idea was started in the late 1980s by a group of farmers around Pilgrim Hospital, Boston, and by 1993 enough money had been raised for a helicopter in a shed in Lincoln. In 1994 even more money had been raised and the operation moved to RAF Waddington, on the border of Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire, which means 2 million people and an area of 3000 square miles can be reached within 20 minutes.

Since 2000 the service flies the most modern helicopter, belonging as they all do, to Gloucestershire Medical Aviation Services, flying at 154mph with skids instead of wheels so that it will not get bogged down in mud etc. The latest helicopter, from 2009, is checked every day and carries 1 pilot and 2 paramedics, one from each of the counties, who are trained in air safety and air navigation. Local knowledge is extremely important and the teams have just begun night flying, enabling the service to be available for 24 hours, not just daylight hours.

There is a stretcher which swings out from the helicopter and rolls back, making it easier to load a casualty who might have a broken back, a defibrillator and a fax machine connected to a local hospital so that immediate treatment can be given, and all the kit found in a road ambulance. The NHS pays for the paramedics but any extra equipment needed is provided by the Air Ambulance Service. A volunteer doctor is carried two or three times a week which is very useful for anaesthetising etc.

Most of the callouts, 60-70%, are to road traffic accidents, the rest being agricultural or industrial mishaps. The casualties are flown to the nearest hospital for treatment but might be flown on further for more specialised treatment.

Recognising the helicopter cannot fly in fog or blizzards the Nottinghamshire farmers raised money for a road ambulance, a Rapid Response Vehicle, which complements the helicopter. The service has its own hangar at RAF Waddington to house both of them. There were 851 missions last year, 147 in the first two months of this year, and the service needs £1.7 million to keep the service flying. Luckily it is well supported by donations. J.D.

Our second April meeting was a visit to 'Goltho Gardens' near Wragby. This was preceded by lunch at the 'White Heather', Caenby Corner. They provided an outstanding buffet with all the usual cold meats and salads, followed by a choice of sweets including profiteroles, cheesecakes and lemon meringue pie.

The gardens, set in the Lincolnshire countryside, began as a derelict property and uncultivated land. Now there is a beautiful farm house, nursery, tearoom and 4 acres of garden.

It is divided up into walks through more wild areas, lawns, ponds with water lilies and fish, a nut walk and wild flower meadow. We were allowed to wander as we pleased on what was a beautiful Spring afternoon and sit in the peaceful surroundings to contemplate the plants and ponds or just sit!!

As ever we were transported by Radley's Coaches who never fail to provide an excellent service. S.W.

Theatre at Roperly Hall

Two theatre productions are being staged at Roperly Hall this month.

The first, on Friday, May 23, sees the return of Company Gavin Roberton with the story of Mata Hari, believed by many to be the most notorious female spy in history.

To many she remains the unfortunate victim of a hysterical section of the French press and public determined to root out evidence of a non-existent enemy within, a scapegoat attractive as much for her curious profession as for her crimes. Dancer, lover, confidante and courtesan, an hour before her

execution she reflects upon the events that have led her to face the firing squad on the morning of 15th October 1917.

The play begins at 7.30pm and tickets cost £11 in advance or £13 on the door.

Four days later, on Tuesday, May 27, Scribbled Thought Theatre is staging the charming tale of Superhero Snail Boy a play which shows that even the smallest of superheroes can grow to be bigger than their fears. This is a show for everyone to enjoy from the age of nine years upwards.

There are two shows for this half-term theatre beginning at 11am and 2pm. Tickets cost £4 for adults and £3 for children.

Life's Refrain

The church bells rang for you today.
As water poured upon your head,
'I name this child...', the vicar said.

Betrothed, then vows without delay.
To tell the world that you have wed,
the church bells rang for you today.

'For this departed soul we pray...'
The priest in solemn homage led
the mourners who prayed for the dead.
The church bell rang for you today.

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(Note: written in the form of a Chaucerian roundel)

St. Mary's Bellringers

Ringling during April took on an extra dimension particularly by those who rang the smaller bells and were required to fight for space with the scaffolding!! All was in a good cause and well worth the effort in order to end up with a splendid new west window complete with grill and a grill to the south window. The work was followed by cleaning of the ringing chamber during Holy Week when there was no practice night. Linda, Rose and Geoff

have carried out routine maintenance of the bells which included checking and tightening the nuts holding in the clappers.

Saturday 5th April saw the St Mary's ringers set off on a day out to the Newark area; we were joined by friends from Burton Stather, Cambridge, Chelmsford and Salisbury to ring in four towers during the day. We were pleased to welcome several non ringers who joined the group and hope they enjoyed exploring as we rang. The first stop was the splendid Southwell Minster which has twelve bells arranged, unusually, in an anti-clockwise fashion. We were a little nervous to begin with but soon settled to produce some very creditable ringing and enjoyed the experience. Next stop was a few miles away in Upton, by contrast a light ring of six bells which had been re-hung for the Millennium. Lunch was taken at various venues in the historic town of Newark after which we all met up at Balderton to ring their beautifully sounding eight bells. Last church of the day was at Coddington where ringing takes place on the ground floor round the font.[See picture, centre page.] Our thanks went to all the local ringers who made us very welcome in their towers. A most enjoyable day was rounded off with dinner on the way home in Lincoln.

New ringer, Clive, is making good progress and will soon join us for Sunday Service ringing.

The bells will be rung to mark several occasions during the coming weeks and months, on Wednesday 23rd April there will be ringing as near as possible to 18.00 to mark St George's Day; on Wednesday 2nd July the bells will be rung and visitors welcomed to the ringing chamber during Bike Night and on Wednesday 9th July the bells will be rung to mark the 300th anniversary of the passing of the Act of Longitude which enabled Parliament to offer a prize of £20,000 to anyone who could solve the problem of keeping an accurate record of time at sea when crossing lines of longitude. John Harrison, who lived in Barrow-upon-Humber claimed the prize with his famous chronometer.

Joan Barton

FROM THE REGISTERS:

BAPTISMS:-

Apr 27 Harry Noah LEE son of Susan Anne & Gerald Kenneth LEE
Ava Lily ROBINSON daughter of Nicola EDDINGTON & Stuart
ROBINSON

FUNERALS:-

Mar 28 Carole Audrey AUSTIN

Apr 8 Margaret Edith BAKER
Margaret Rose Violet ARNELL

Apr 10 Peter HURTON

Apr 11 James Dennis HOLTBY

Apr 25 John Alfred (Jack) JONES

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

Roy Shepherd
Lucy Booty
Graham Askew
Kathleen Mary Rose
George E. Bell
E. Muriel Bell
T. Gordon Read
W. J. Griffiths
H. S. Griffiths

MOTHERS' UNION NOTES

For our meeting in April we joined Trinity Fellowship group for their Annual Rally along with other groups from the area. The service was presided over by Deacon Carys Woodley. The speaker was Kate Marr who spoke about makeovers and changes, relating these to how we could bring our churches into the 21st century to adapt to the people now. She spoke about how we could adjust to passing on the gospel to everyday people who may be very

wary of coming into churches and services but really need to know that Jesus is there for them. "Jesus was there yesterday, is here today and will be forever". We cannot alter the basics but we can try to spread the gospel to everyone in a modern way of comprehension that the people in the street would understand.

Eleanor Fuller sang two beautiful solos "All in an April Evening" and "Word of Life".

After the service an appetising tea was served by the catering team, it was delicious!

Linda Bromfield (on behalf of all the visitors) thanked Carys, Kate and Eleanor for a lovely service, Ruth for playing the music and the catering team for the tea during which we continued the friendship and fellowship of the afternoon.
Brenda Skinner

May 7 9.30am Corporate Communion Reader Iris Ward
May 21 2pm Speaker Sue Brumpton
May 28 2pm Prayer Time Sue Brumpton

Flower Rota
May11 Brenda Skinner

WOULD ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE TO THEIR PRINTED PROGRAMME:-

May 21 meeting is now in St Mary's Church hall and **not** the Glanford Group Lunch as stated, this is later in the year (details to follow). Thank You.

A **BIG** Thank You.....

.....To **Val Dukes** for organising the Lent Lunches so efficiently. As she has indicated below, there were many more people attending than in previous years, which is very encouraging. Val writes:

"The total sum raised for Christian Aid this year will be almost £1,000 when the Gift Aid is reclaimed. This total includes money raised at the Lunches by Sue Brown who sold her cards, cakes and Easter eggs etc. It was good to have her with us, after last year when she was unable to help due to ill health.

“Many thanks to all who cooked, served and helped to clear up everything, not forgetting Brenda Skinner who was a great help, especially the week when we had 40 people for lunch! So, thank you to all who came and enjoyed the soup and crusty bread and who gave so generously as did those who preferred to give donations via the collection plate in Church.”

.....To **Janet Petch** for organising the Church Spring Clean on the Tuesday of Holy Week. Janet says there were many more helpers this year than last, and hopes that there'll be even more next year. Again it's encouraging that people are prepared and able to turn out to do an essential but unglamorous task.

.....To **Shirley Creasey** and all the flower arrangers for their dedication and expertise in making the church look so wonderful for Easter day.

Komic Korner (with apologies!)

A Priest and a Nun were travelling across lonely moorland when suddenly the car broke down. Now this was in the days before mobile phones so they were stuck. Then they saw, twinkling in the distance, the lights of an Inn, so they walked towards it. When they got there the proprietor said that they were welcome to stay, but unfortunately he only had one room left.

“Don't worry” said the Priest “We've both taken our vows, Sister can have the bed, and I'll sleep in the chair”
So they settled down for the night.

Soon came a plaintive cry from the bed “I'm cold Father!” (Irish accent optional)
So he went out into the corridor to the linen cupboard and brought her another blanket.

A while later she tried again. “I'm still cold Father”
So he fetched her another blanket.

Realising that he wasn't getting her 'double entendre' she said:-
“Father, do you think that just for once we may behave like a married couple?”
“Certainly” he said “Go fetch your own blanket!!!!”



The recent outing of the St. Mary's ringers at All Saints Church Coddington near Newark.

Wilderspin National School

During May we shall be taking part in three national events. Over the May Holiday weekend why not call in and meet one of our Victorian teachers to compare your schooldays memories and add your childhood recollections to our memory boards. The Best Days of Your Life is part of Local History Month and runs from Saturday 3rd May to Monday 5th May.

As part of Museums at Night 2014, our Victorian Chimney Sweep is back on Thursday 15th May, from 7.00pm for another entertaining, hands-on look at the work of the Sweep and the Chimney Children. Find out how the soot was used, who the Night Soil Man was and more about the fables and traditions of the Chimney Sweep. Special sessions for schools during the week. Concessions & children £2; Adults: £3; Family (2 children + 2 adults) £6. Booking is not required.

And finally, as part of National Family Week, the whole family will enjoy a museum tour with a difference in our Teddy Tours, between Saturday 24th May and Sunday 1st June. Borrow one of our lonely teddy bears who will tour the school with you and introduce our teddy school staff. Bring your

camera or smartphone to take some pictures too. Price: £2 (£1.50 when you bring your own teddy).

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Barton upon Humber Civic Society

Stuart Burgess will be talking about the World War II Slipway Ramp at Burton on Friday 16th May from 7.30pm at the Assembly Rooms. The Slipway or Tank Ramp near Burton Stather was constructed in 1944 by the 79th Armoured Division. Its primary purpose was for secret testing of the Duplex Drive Amphibious Tank and amphibious craft. Non members are welcome: admission £2.

Our second opening this year of 51 Fleetgate is on Sunday 25th May, between 1.00pm – 4.00pm. Admission is Free. The property is managed by CHAMP to whom we are grateful for allowing access. w.bartoncivicsociety.co.uk. t. (01652) 632928

Over to you.....

This year, for the first time, I went to the cathedral with Alan to the Sung Eucharist with the Renewal of Vows and Blessing of the oils.

I learnt a lot of things I had not known before:-

That the oils used are olive oil.

That there are three different oils - one for Baptism, one for Confirmation (or Chrism) and one for the sick.

That we have these three in St. Mary's (before I just thought they all came from the same pot!).

That there is a hymn translated from Latin for this purpose. We sang this as the flagons of oil were carried to the Sanctuary by the Deacons.

Blest by the sun, the olive tree
Brought clusters of fair fruit to birth,
Whose ripeness now we bring with prayer,
Lord Christ, redeemer of the earth.

Eternal King, look down and bless
the oil your servants offer here,
and may it be a lively sign
which all the powers of darkness fear.

From those washed in the sacred font
let Satan's influence depart,
and when this oil the brow shall seal
transforming grace invade the heart.

Our wounded nature thus be healed
by your anointing grace, oh Lord;
in men and women so renewed
shall God's own image be restored.

Lord Christ, the Father's only Son,
who took our flesh in Mary's womb,
give light to your anointed ones
and break the powers of death's dark tomb.

So may this joyous, Paschal feast,
the time when saving grace is given,
fill every Christian soul with praise,
and raise our minds from earth to Heaven

When the oils are removed from the sanctuary they are used to fill up the three jars from each church represented by the clergy. They then return to that church and are used at the various services or taken out to people who are sick. Next time I will tell you about the renewal of vows.

Have a good month.....

Thurs 1st May	9.00 am	Philip & James, Apostles	Said Eucharist
Fri 2 nd	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 3 rd	11.00 am		Lectio divina
Sunday 4th May		Easter 3	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	2.30 pm		Service at The Willows
	6.00 pm		Sung Evensong
Wed 7 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	10.30 am		Diary meeting (Vicarage)
			Ladies' Group outing
Fri 9 th	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 10 th	11.00 am		Lectio Divina
Sunday 11th May		Easter 4	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	4.00 pm		Baptisms
	6.00 pm		Said Evening Prayer
Mon 12 th	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	9.30 am		Deanery Chapter (Ulceby)
Wed 14th	9.30 am	Matthias, Apostle	Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at Eagle House
	7.15 pm		Ministry Team (Vicarage)
Thurs 15 th	am		Home Communions
Fri 16 th	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 17 th	11.00 am		Lectio divina
Sunday 18th May		Easter 5	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	6.00 pm		Sung Evensong
Mon 19 th	9.30 am		Toddler Time
Tues 20 th	7.00 pm		Said Eucharist
		Parish	News Deadline

Wed 21 st	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at Westbridge House
	2.00 pm		Mothers' Union meeting
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group meeting
Fri 23 rd	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 24 th	11.00 am		Wedding
Sunday 25th May		Easter 6	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	11.30 am		Baptisms
	6.00 pm		Said Eucharist with hymns
Tues 27 th	9.00 am		Said Eucharist
Wed 28 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at beech House
	2.00 pm		Mothers' Union Prayer Time
	7.30 pm		Archdeacon's Visitation (Barton)
Thurs 29th	7.00 pm	Ascension Day	Sung Eucharist
Sat 31st	11.00 am	Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth	Lectio Divina
	12 noon		Said Eucharist
Sunday 1st June		Easter 7	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	2.30 pm		Service at The Willows
	6.00 pm		Choral Evensong