

No, no, no, no, yes! (with apologies to the Vicar of Dibley)

*No sun--no moon!
No morn--no noon!
No dawn--no dusk--no proper time of day--
No sky--no earthly view--
No distance looking blue—*

*No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
No comfortable feel in any member--
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds--
November!*

Addresses etc

These words by Thomas Hood, part of a longer poem, seem to sum up nicely the time of year. It's a time when the warmth and clear days of summer are well behind us, and we look forward to dark days and even darker nights. Conversely, in the Church's Calendar we go from the "Ordinary" green of the (seemingly interminable) Sundays after Trinity to the extra-Ordinary days of the Kingdom season, where each Sunday has a different emphasis, culminating in Advent Sunday. We move from All Saints'- and All Souls'-tide, through Remembrance Sunday and (for us) ShoeBox Sunday to Christ the King. At Advent, we enter the time of waiting and preparation for the coming, and coming again, of our Lord.

So what are we to make of this glorious bit of Red season, before the Purple starts? Remembrance is a vital component of the first two weeks; remembering all the "good people" – the Saints, often ordinary people like you or me; remembering all those who have died, including those in warfare. On the following Sunday we at St. Mary's are asked to think about people, and especially children, far less fortunate than ourselves; finally we are brought to the realisation that Christ is the King – for which we rejoice.

Poor St. Andrew this year gets rather shoved out of his traditional Nov 30th slot by Advent Sunday, and is transferred to Dec 1st. Andrew, we will recall, was one of the first disciples – of which we are in a continuing line.

So, it's not so much a case of "No, No, No, No" in November, but rather a much more positive "Yes" to all the exciting things happening in the Church.

Alan

A Quiet Afternoon

David Redrobe is leading a Quiet Afternoon at St Andrews Immingham on **3rd November**. Lunch at 12.30. Afternoon Session 1.30pm - 3.30pm. Theme: - "St Winifred". (It is her Feast Day) Welsh Cakes will be provided. If you are coming to Lunch, please contact Gill Kennedy 01469573779. [See picture – centre pages.]

News from Lindsey Lodge Hospice

We would like to thank all of the people in this town who have supported any event or put money into one of our many tins scattered all over the town. We have been running as a group for 10 years and during that time we have raised well over £100,000 for the Hospice. Thank you everyone.

There will be the annual **Tree of Lights** Service in St Mary's Church on **14th December 2014 at 4pm**. This is a service in which you can remember a lost loved one by either lighting a candle or giving a small donation to the Hospice to have a loved one remembered in the Book of Remembrance.

On **5th March 2015** Andrew Mason is giving a Flower Demonstration for us to raise funds. It will be in the Methodist Hall, Holydyke, Barton upon Humber and the start time will be 7pm. Watch out for a poster on the Church notice board.

News from Barton Rotary Club

Barton Rotary Club members are looking forward to another busy Christmas. The annual **"Photos With Santa"** is again being held during the Barton Christmas Festival on November 29th, in the Methodist Chapel Lecture Hall, Vestry Lane entrance. Starting at 2.00pm, children will also receive a present and the cost is still only £3.00.

At the same time in the Lecture Hall, Trinity Church members will again be holding their **"Teddy Bear's Tombola"** and providing refreshments. There will also be **Face Painting**. Jointly organised with Trinity Church, a **Christmas Tree Festival** will also be staged in the Methodist Chapel.

On December 14th, Senior Citizens are invited to a free **Christmas Concert** at Baysgarth School Hall, starting at **6.00pm**. **Barton Town Band**, together with the

choir of **John Harrison School, Barrow** will provide the seasonal entertainment and members of Barton Rotary Club will provide refreshments during the interval. Please phone David Witter on 632675 to arrange transport for you to the Hall. Residents of Barrow are included in this invitation.

The now traditional way for Barton Rotarians to spend Christmas Day morning, is to cook and deliver around 50 **Christmas Lunches** to elderly people who are on their own. This is a full Christmas Dinner, including Turkey with all the trimmings, a trifle, mince pie and fruit. To arrange this, again please phone David Witter on 632675, by Tuesday 9th December and a member will call round to make the delivery arrangements. We deliver to Barrow and other villages.

SHELTERBOX OPERATIONS UPDATE

Current deployments: Nepal, Ukraine, Gaza, Philippines, Niger, Iraq, Zimbabwe and Syria.

Monitoring: The operations' team has been approached by several agencies in Pakistan in the wake of severe flooding in Kashmir. ShelterBox has tents in the supply chain and is hoping to work with the Pakistan Army and other agencies to enable a response. In Zimbabwe, distribution of remaining in-country tent stocks in a new area is starting. A response team left recently to head to the country to oversee the distribution.

Developments are being monitored on the Philippine island of Luzon where volcanic activity at Mount Mayon has led to the evacuation of several thousand local residents. The operations' team is speaking to several in-country contacts about the government's possible evacuation plans should the volcano erupt.

Nepal – Flooding and landslides

Communities along the Nepal-China border have been submerged by rising floodwater. Meanwhile similar scenes have been witnessed along the Nepalese border with India and many districts in-between. It is now estimated that as many as 19 districts are currently underwater across the mountainous country. As conditions have worsened fears of a potential outbreak of cholera have now emerged.

The response team is looking into the feasibility of deploying shelter repair kits alongside conventional ShelterBoxes to help meet shelter needs.

Ukraine - conflict

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), around 36 people a day are being killed in rising tensions in Ukraine which have now displaced more than 260,000 civilians. It is feared the real number of displaced could be yet higher as many Ukrainians that have fled their homes do not register with the Ukrainian authorities nor officially apply for assistance. The operations team is developing plans for future assistance in the region.

Philippines – Typhoon Haiyan

Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines on 8 November 2013. With winds of 195mph, the typhoon was the largest storm ever recorded to make landfall and left the region devastated.

Aid has been delivered to help over 7,000 families. The Response Teams have worked in shifts to deliver aid to over 7,000 families, many of them in remote island communities. Almost 6,800 received tents, but ShelterBox also provided other non-food items including 10,000 solar lights, 870 water filtration systems, 2,300 mosquito nets, 445 tool kits and 30 SchoolBoxes.

Niger - Flooding

Heavy rains and subsequent flooding have affected Niamey, Tillaberi and Dosso regions amongst other. The Government is reporting numbers of 36,000 homeless and 12 deceased in the August 2014 floods. A shipment of ShelterBox aid has now arrived in the country.

Syria – Crisis

It's been over three years since the conflict broke out in Syria. Over 9 million people have been forced from their homes in the war-torn country having been exposed to violence and unremitting fighting. The majority now remains within the borders with no home to go to and no possessions.

Distribution of aid has proceeded through the Rotary partner Hand in Hand for Syria (HIHS). Shelter Repair Kits, more tents, mosquito nets, water filters and carriers, blankets, groundsheets, SchoolBoxes and solar lamps have all been sent to assist families in the region.

Iraq - conflict

The rapid advance of militant fighters has thrown Iraq into crisis and has now led to overseas involvement in the form of aid interventions. ShelterBox currently has prepositioned stock in Iraq and will be working to establish a camp to provide shelter for internally displaced people (IDP's). Although daytime temperatures in the region are currently high the ShelterBox Operations team is making provisions to supplement the existing stock of shelter in Iraq with winterisation kits.

Wilderspin National School Museum

The School Museum has been awarded a Sandford Award for Heritage Education in recognition of the quality of its school programme.

More than 350 heritage sites across the British Isles - including historic houses, museums and galleries have received an Award since the scheme began in 1978. The Wilderspin School Museum and Gainsborough Old Hall are two attractions in our area from a list of prestigious winners this year that includes the Roman Baths Museum, the Royal Museums Greenwich and the V&A Museum of Childhood - even Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle!

The Awards focus on the opportunities for school visits, and according to the Sandford judges, "School parties visiting the Wilderspin School Museum are in for a treat!"

Thousands of school children have visited and have taken part in its extensive learning programme studying the Victorians or the Second World War. The Museum is currently working on new activities linked to the revised schools' curriculum.

John Walker, Chair of the Queen Street School Preservation Trust said, "This is a major national accolade for the Museum. Our Education Team has worked hard over the past five years to develop an exciting offer for schools. Gradually, word is spreading about the quality of the learning packages we have devised and we are now finding that schools return each year which is the best feedback to get!"

The judges were impressed by the range of excellently designed programmes which provide children with an exciting way of engaging with history and encouraging them to use their imaginations.

The Sandford Award is managed by the Heritage Education Trust in partnership with Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln. [See picture – centre pages.]

Barton upon Humber Civic Society

To mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, Chris Bailey will be talking about the Barton Territorials and the 1/5th Lincs. Battalion who were based at the Drill Hall on Butts Road when war broke out. The talk will take place at the Assembly Rooms at 7.30pm on Friday 21st November. Admission for Civic Society members is free; Non-members £2.

This is the last talk in our 2014 programme but we have planned next year's programme which will include topics such as stained glass windows in Lincolnshire, a history of cycling and the work of Civic Voice, the umbrella body for civic societies in Britain. Membership leaflets are available in the Church or from (01652) 632928.

Operation Christmas Child – the ShoeBox appeal

In the shops we are already seeing how Father Christmas and his Elves are busy preparing for the forthcoming festive season ...St. Mary's Church has its very own wonderful team of talented "Elves" who have been planning, preparing, knitting, making, packing and praying for this year's Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal. There are only a few weeks left until the deadline (16th November) for the shoeboxes to be returned to the Church, but it is certainly not too late to get involved if you aren't already!

I have been really inspired by the energy and excitement which our Elves have for the shoebox appeal and so I thought it would be a good idea to give people the opportunity to meet together to share ideas and echo each other's enthusiasm, therefore I have organised an **Operation Christmas Child Coffee Morning** on Saturday 1st November 10:00-12:00 in the Church Hall – this will be the perfect opportunity to chat with other people who share your same desire to send hope and love to children in need, enjoy a 'cuppa and a cake' and pick up resources and ideas. There will be various displays and a raffle. – Please pop in if you are able!

One thing to remember when we are packing our shoeboxes is that the children who receive them love to know about the *stranger* who cared enough to send them a gift; therefore if you can, please include a photograph, card or letter in your shoebox.

Our campaign for this year will culminate in a **Shoebox Celebration Service** on Sunday 16th November at 9:30am. During the service there will be the opportunity to bring your filled shoeboxes forward to be blessed as they begin the next part of their journey. We hope you are able to join us for the service, and also for cake in the Church Hall afterwards!

Julia Wilson

All Souls' Day Requiem

On Sunday 2nd November there will be a Requiem Mass at 6 pm to commemorate all those who have died. There will be a list at the back of church for names to be added. Please note: those who have died during the past year will automatically be remembered, so please do not add their names *this* year.

The Great British Bakeoff

Many congratulations to Nancy "from the Bakeoff" Birtwhistle on her considerable achievement in the winning the fifth series of the programme. Nancy and husband Tim are members of the 8 am congregation. [See picture – centre page.]



GOLDEN WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS!

Janet and Brian Petch – Friday 14th November

Mavis and Michael Nutbrown – Friday 28th November



Advent Sunday, November 30th

As well as the usual morning services, there will be the Advent Procession service at 6pm. Please come and join us.

Macmillan Coffee Mornings

£360 was raised at Barton St Peter's coffee morning and £385 was raised by the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. Thank you everyone who helped us to raise this fantastic amount for a very worthy charity.

Sue Wind

The Bishop of Lincoln writes.....

This year's time of remembrance is particularly poignant, given that it is the centenary of the dreadful tragic events of the First World War. By the end of the war a million British men were dead, and two million more had been wounded. There was not a single family unacquainted with grief, nor a corner of life unaffected.

Many of us have become familiar with the story of Amy Beechey, a mother from Lincoln who saw eight sons go to war, and only three return. We can only imagine her grief; but every day of the war, her pain was known and understood by grieving relatives in households all over England.

The horror of the trenches, the scale of the slaughter, the tragic loss of so much human potential –all these things meant that long-held notions of an all-powerful God began to be questioned. Put simply: If God is loving and all-powerful, how could evil be allowed to flourish on this devastating scale? And why would we continue to trust in a God seemingly indifferent to our fate?

One person who wrestled with these questions was Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, an army chaplain who earned the nickname Woodbine Willie for handing out cigarettes to the troops at the same time as copies of the New Testament.

Woodbine Willie insisted on being on the front line with the troops whenever he could, and those battlefield experiences forced him to confront depths of evil and suffering which few of us will ever see.

Having entered the war with a secure faith in God and an abstract notion of evil, he ended it being absolutely certain of the existence of evil as a real and palpable force at work in the world. The challenge, then, was to find a way to reconcile all that he had seen in the trenches with the existence of a God who was worth believing in.

For Woodbine Willie, hope came with an understanding that God was no longer a remote and detached figure at the peak of a great social pyramid. No longer was God the almighty force of his pre-war understanding, able to prevent humans from harming one another if he so chose. Instead, God was present in the heat of battle, suffering along with humanity, in the intolerable conditions of the trenches, in the endless slaughter of young lives, in the agony of Amy Beechey and all those like her back home. God was characterised not by force and power, but by love; no longer remote from all that was going on, but intimately connected with it and suffering through it.

Writing in 1918, he said this:

‘God loves us enough to bear our burdens and suffer along with us; the destruction of war will not have the final word, because Christ’s example promises us resurrection from death.’

The first world war brought the horrifying reality of modern warfare to every home in the land; it brought a new awareness that God is not distant and other, but is involved through Jesus Christ in our struggles and sufferings.

Despite all the evil in the world we continue to have faith in this God: the God who brings love out of hate; light out of darkness; justice out of oppression; good out of evil; and life out of death. This is our God: the God of Love and Resurrection.

+Christopher

Barton Rotary Club together with Trinity Methodist Church, Barton-upon-Humber

A Christmas Tree Festival is planned to take place, as part of the Barton Christmas Festival, on November 29th and will be staged within Trinity Methodist Chapel.

Businesses, Schools, Churches, Organisations and Charities are invited to provide a tree for the Festival, possibly decorated to represent their organisation. Charities may place a collecting box and name card next to their tree.

Trees, up to about four feet tall, can be set-up on Friday 28th November from 10am until 7.00pm, access via the Vestry Lane entrance and removed on Monday morning (or by other arrangement).

Opening Times

Saturday 29th November 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Sunday 30th November 1.00 to 3.30pm

Entrance - adults 50p children free followed by the Inter-Church "Big Sing" at 4.00pm on Sunday - all are invited.

On Saturday 29th, Barton Rotary Club will again be taking "Photos With Santa" in

the Lecture Hall, there will be Face-Painting and Trinity Church Members will be again holding their "Teddy Bear Tombola".

If you are able to help us by displaying a tree, please contact Margaret Parrott by e-mail, mfeyzin2@aol.com, as soon as possible, to reserve a space.

John Green, President - Barton Rotary Club

St. Mary's Ladies' Group

We enjoyed a lovely Harvest Supper catered by Cook's of New Holland, beautifully presented and served. There was ham and turkey, quiches, green salad, tomatoes, pasta and rice salad and plenty more. Desserts were luscious, creamy with strawberries galore all washed down with wine and soft drinks as we admired the flower arrangements provided by some of our artistic members.

We were then entertained by Victoria and Katherine from Julie Tyson School of Dancing who demonstrated pompoms, ballet, cha-cha and rock and roll before

showing us fitness steps and inviting us to join in and following it with the waltz. A lovely evening was had by all.

Our next meeting took place at Ropery Hall where we watched "Philomena" a film starring Judi Dench and Steve Coogan. It was a very interesting account of the search for a child born in a convent, sold to an American family who ended up working for Ronald Reagan, based on the research of Martin Sixsmith. The film was touching yet amusing and extremely thought-provoking. GD

Harvest Supper and Auction

The Harvest Supper, which was enjoyed by over fifty people (and one Teddy Bear), raised £361 for the Kitchen Fund. Following this, the auction raised £144 for Christian Aid and many tins and packets were donated to the Food Bank after being bought. We were grateful to Ted Treasure and Viv for coming to help since our usual auctioneer Peter Ashton was unable to join us this year.

Many thanks to all who decorated the church, brought produce and bought produce, and to those who worked so hard to feed us all,

Val

New Year for Christian Stewardship Envelopes

Once again those of you who use the Envelopes for their Stewardship Giving will by now have emptied the box and I hope you have received your new set, ready to start in November.

Many thanks to all who use this scheme, which is an essential part of St Mary's funding. Thanks also go to those who use the Standing Order system. If anyone else would like to start using either of these ways of giving, please ask Alan Mabbott the Treasurer, David Dukes the Planned Giving Officer, Geoff Brown or me for more information.

'God has been generous to us; we are called to reflect this generosity'

Again, many thanks, Val Dukes

FROM THE REGISTERS:

BAPTISMS:-

Oct 12 Tillie Rose HAIGH daughter of Rachael & Joseph David HAIGH
Meisha Alison SCOTT & Liam James SEDDON daughter & son of Michelle
Carol TOYNE & Adam James SEDDON

Oct 26 Henry Patrick DENT son of Megan Sarah & Timothy DENT
Alfie Louie ALLAN son of Katie Louise POOL & Daniel James ALLAN

FUNERALS:-

Sept 30 Agnes Nina ELLIOTT
Oct 24 Dorothy May SOBEY

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

The Brigham Sisters - Daisy, Rene, Mary, Grace, Winnie and Lucy
Stephen Atkin
Madge Ayto Atkin
Fred Ayto Small
John Bellamy
Edna Bellamy
Hugh McMahan
Lauretta Welch
Stanley Welch

Thank you for these donations and Shirley Creasey would also like to thank the St. Mary's Ladies' Group for the collection made at the Harvest Supper to buy flowers for the Harvest Festival. A special thank you too to the ladies who decorated the Church so well for Harvest.

MOTHERS' UNION NOTES

Linda opened our October meeting with words of welcome. We then began with a short service, singing "Hills of the North rejoice", a reading from Mark 10 v 13 – 16, was read by Val Dukes, this being the story of Jesus saying "Let the little children

come to me" and He blessed them. Linda then said prayers including prayers for Janet and Brian. Linda read out notices, also reminding everyone to think about what would happen to our group in 2015 as the main committee members would be stepping down from their posts. Linda then passed over to Mavis Nutbrown who was to speak about her connection with the Brownie/Guide movement.

The guiding movement is worldwide and Mavis (65 years a Brownie!!) has travelled to lots of countries and joined with the Brownie / Guide/ Girl Scout groups in those countries. Her "camp blanket" (which was on display) is covered in all the appropriate badges from these places, even one from Jordan. She has many stories to tell about these many places but only had time to mention a select few.

The original Brownie promise included a promise to God, but sadly as things have changed over the years the new promise does not include His name. But all older guiders still recite the original when at church parade. All Brownie packs were connected to a church or chapel where they held their meetings in the church hall, attended Sunday school and also church parade, once a month, except in August when many were on holiday, but there were two in September to make it twelve a year. Missing church parade meant you could be thrown out of the Brownie pack. But all members were very proud to wear the uniform, attend regularly especially being able to be involved by saying a prayer, choosing a hymn or taking collection – everyone liked to have a job to do!! There was always a special parade on Saint George's Day.

Mavis took a break as pack leader when she had her children, but one day her daughter came home from school saying that she wanted to join Brownies as her friend went – this eventually led to Mavis returning as a Brownie/Guider because the group needed an additional leader, As there was more than one pack in the area which needed help Mavis became a "Flying Owl" helping were needed. Eventually the packs became interdenominational but everyone still liked to take part in a service and having a job to do usually taking place at the Central Methodist Church – one Sunday whilst sitting in the front rows as usual the Brownies kept giggling, The Minister, knowing why, stood up and explained to the congregation that the Brownies had won a competition to Disneyland Paris and were very excited. On this trip they were on a boat trip on the Seine but one Brownie had wanted to go to Notre Dame to say a prayer, so the tour guide suggested that instead he would point out when they were approaching Notre Dame and they would be able to stand at that side of the boat, they all stood quietly hands together praying, much to the astonishment of the other passengers.

On another trip to York, when in The Minster, (3 new brownies were to be enrolled) they wanted it to take place there much to the surprise of the Minster guide who had asked them to be silent as a prayer service was about to start. They sat quietly in front of the lectern saying their own prayers. After this they were enrolled by the Minister (a man in a frock as one called him). He had been asked to do so by one rather “forthright Brownie”.

One Easter on a visit to the seaside they had soup in the lifeboat station as it was very cold on the beach but the girls had insisted on going there.

Another highlight was going to London to see Trooping the Colour More than once, always being lucky enough to get the same place near Clarence House on the corner next to a Police Sergeant on horseback. He told them who was coming along next in the parade. On further visits it was the same policeman, so he became “our policeman”. Visiting Westminster Abbey they automatically went in and said a prayer. They were also lucky enough to see The Lord Mayor’s Parade.

Mavis explained that whenever meeting other guiders they always swapped badges – leading to many international badges being on her blanket. There were also many photos to see which showed all that Mavis had spoke about. Mavis has retired 3 times but is still helping at brownies/guides (once a brownie always a brownie)!!

Val Dukes thanked Mavis for a brilliant and enthralling talk sharing a wealth of memories “The Flying Owl” being one that stood out.

Nov 5th 9.30am Corporate Communion Reader Brenda Skinner
Nov 19th 2pm Speaker Ann Spolton “Talk on Egypt”
Please Note There are No Prayer Meetings during the Winter Months.

Flower Rota :-
Nov 16th Val Dukes
Nov 30th ADVENT SUNDAY

St. Mary’s Bellringers

A fairly uneventful month in the ringing chamber with ringing taking place for the usual services and practice nights as well as for half an hour before the Civic Service during the afternoon of the 19th October.

Three learners are still making good progress. The new ropes and muffles will be blessed during the 0930 service on 2nd November. There will be half muffled ringing to mark Remembrance Sunday on 9th November.

Joan Barton

Over to you.....

The Bishop of Lincoln began one of his ‘sermons’ with the words: “I have been listening to the daily ‘Twitter’ this morning” and I thought he meant he had been ‘tweeting’ on his i-pad only to discover that he meant the daily birdsong broadcast on Radio 4!!! For some people the language of Information Technology is like a foreign tongue! To many people the word ‘kindle’ means lighting a fire; a tablet is something you take- based on the Roman word for writing material it means a small hand-held computer; blogging is another word for keeping a journal on your i-pad ; ‘facebook’ -a series of comments and photos put out in the public domain (an old fashioned album perhaps- who wants to know really what you have just eaten or you can smell smoke !!! Perhaps you should just ring the fire Brigade!!!

All these systems can cause harm if incorrectly used - the latest word is ‘Troll’ (I thought they were in the Three Billy Goats Gruff!! This is where people write harmful comments about others and make it available to the press etc. I was pleased to hear this morning that sentences for this were proposed to rise from six months to 2 years in prison.

I.T. can be a useful medium - apparently some way is going to be developed to make use of all these to propagate the Gospel and encourage the young members of our community. To quote the speaker on the radio, ‘Jesus did not encourage the disciples to bring people into the churches but for the disciples to go out among the people.’ Have a good month..... S.W.



Nancy Birtwhistle in her kitchen (below) and (above) with Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood



St. Winifred



Pupils from Barton St. Peter's School experience what it felt like to be a wartime evacuee. Having arrived in their "new" home, away from the Hull air raids, the schoolchildren are shown where they will be billeted before experiencing a wartime school lesson.



Sat 1 st November	10am-12noon		Operation Christmas Child (ShoeBox) Coffee morning (Hall)
	11.00 am		Lectio divina
Sunday 2nd Nov		All Saints' Sunday/All Souls' Day	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	2.30 pm		Service at The Willows
	6.00 pm		All Souls' Day Requiem
Mon 3 rd	9.30 am		Toddler Time
Tues 4 th	2.00 pm		Service at Westbridge House
	7.00 pm		Pilgrim Course
Wed 5 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist (MU Corporate)
	10.15 am		Diary Meeting (Vicarage)
	2.00 pm		Service at Beech House
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group meeting
Thurs 6 th	2.00 pm		Service at Eagle House
Fri 7 th	6.00 pm		Prayers before the Blessed Sacrament
Sat 8 th	10.00 am-12 noon		Church Bazaar
Sunday 9th Nov		3rd Sunday before Advent	Remembrance Sunday
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	8.30 am		Prayer Breakfast (St. Mary's)
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	11.30 am		Town Remembrance Service

	4.00 pm		Baptisms
	6.00 pm		Evening Prayer (said)
Mon 10 th	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	2.00 pm		Standing Committee (Vicarage)
Tues 11 th	7.00 pm		Deanery Synod (Wrawby)
	7.00 pm		Pilgrim Course
Wed 12 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	7.15 pm		Ministry Meeting (Vicarage)
Fri 14 th	8.00 am	All Benedictine and Carmelite Saints	Said Eucharist
Sat 15 th	8.00 am	All Benedictine and Carmelite Souls	Said Eucharist
	11.00 am		Lectio divina
Sunday 16th Nov		2 before Advent	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist (ShoeBox service)
	6.00 pm		Sung Evensong
Mon 17 th	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	Home	Communions this week	
Tues 18 th	7.00 pm		Said Eucharist
	7.30 pm		Pilgrim Course
Wed 19 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Mothers' Union
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group
Thurs 20 th	Parish	News Deadline	
Sat 22 nd	11.00 am		Lectio Divina

Sunday 23rd Nov		Christ the King	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	11.30 am		Baptisms
	6.00 pm		Said Eucharist with hymns
Mon 24 th	9.00 am		Deanery Synod (Wrawby)
	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	7.00 pm		Eucharist and PCC
Wed 26 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	10.30 am and 11.15 am		St. Peter's School services in church
Sat 29 th	11.00 am		Lectio divina
	All day		Barton Christmas Festival
Sunday 30th Nov		Advent Sunday	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	6.00 pm		Advent Procession
Mon 1st Dec	9.30 am	Andrew, Apostle	Toddler Time
	12 noon		Said Eucharist
Wed 3 rd	9.30 am		Said Eucharist (MU Corp)
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group

The D— word.

I'll be honest, I'm not fan of campaigns and so on and so forth. I remember all too well George Carey's ill-fated 'Decade of Evangelism' which delivered less than nothing while giving everyone the feeling that something might be happening somewhere else. Sometimes the quote attributed to Caius Petronius in the first century seems apt: "I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganising: and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress, while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralisation."

It would be easy to be similarly world-weary about 'The Year of Discipleship', just launched by the Diocese – except that there's a widespread agreement across the Churches that it's discipleship which has been neglected in the life of the Church for far too long. We've done loads of training, plenty of reorganising, but the basic 'Why am I a Christian and what difference does it make?' has taken a back seat.

And during this time the world's changed. As Liz observed in her sermon at the Civic Service, we now live in a society where the basics of the Christian faith – knowledge of the Lord's Prayer, for example – can't be taken for granted. Religion (for most people) is a lifestyle choice for the minority, and dismissed by the intellectually lazy as the cause of all wars.

So where does discipleship fit into all this? Well, simply put, it's what we are already. But it's also a call to become more and more what God is calling us to be so that He might be more and more present in the world. We proclaim ourselves to be the Body of Christ, and that's just what we are – God's visible presence in the world. The more we live in Him, the more present He is – and the less likely it is that what we present about religion will be driven by our own fears and prejudices, or be shaped by others' ill-informed ideas.

The diocese is already working on its plans for the Year: at our end, we are constructing the opportunities for you to deepen your discipleship. (And in case you were wondering, it's not about money. People pay for things they think important, and our giving reflects with - sometimes uncomfortable - accuracy what we think about our Faith). But we can only offer the help with prayer, service and study which helps us grow – we can't make anyone take it on board.

There's no quick fix for discipleship: no-one can do it for us. We could heat the church to sauna levels, or try to be entertaining, dress up, down or sideways, and

it'd not bring in one extra soul. But if we live close enough to God for people to see Him through us – well, that's a different matter.

Please – if you do pray – keep the work of discipleship in your prayers. And if you don't pray – well, perhaps now's the time to think about starting?

Fr David

'Lord, in your mercy'

'Lord, in your mercy'

You'll recall that a couple of months ago we said that we could do with some more people to help with leading intercessions at the 9.30 Parish Eucharist. There are still vacancies, but there'll be two new resources available to help.

First: A handbook's been prepared giving basic guidelines on putting intercessions together. It includes ideas for where you can get help or suggestions, some tips on how to make it a less nerve-racking experience standing up at the front, and one or two examples of how not to do it (none of which are culled from St Mary's, we hasten to add).

Although it's especially drawn up to help those new to the ministry, it's also for those who've been leading the prayers for some time – even if it's only to give you a smile at the antics at 'St Dodo's' (example: “He forgets to rehearse the response at the start and so has to stop at the first break and say ‘When I say ... you should say ...’ in a voice which implies that the congregation should have known this all along.”).

Second: We've put together a spiral-bound booklet of sets of intercessions for the Church's Year, culled from various bits of 'Common Worship'. They can either be used for inspiration for the different times and season of the year, or straight off with insertions from the 'suggestions for intercessors' sheet which appears Sunday by Sunday. There are several copies of this available, so you can borrow one (and bring it back when you remember). They'll live in places like the lecterns or amid the books on the table/chest by them, or on the bookshelf by the Trinity altar.

And if you'd like to offer yourself for this important ministry, have a word with one of the clergy.