

“Why doesn't the Vicar...?”

'Out there', there's still a romantic dream of clerical life which owes more to George Herbert's population of 200 than to a modern parish. The priest-like task (and the reader-like task, and the church-wardenly task, and...) have changed beyond recognition. Bishop Christopher's aware that the load on the Church's professional ministry (lay and ordained) has reached crisis proportions and is keen to do something about it before things collapse.

Underneath all that is a far more significant change, however. If the Church ever was a show put on to entertain, (Pepys' diaries are full of references to sermons as entertainment – imagine!), that it can be no longer. It's 50 years since the Second Vatican Council put the whole church on a new path in which the whole People of God took responsibility for the Gospel, so all of us have spent most of our adult lives in a Church discovering what that means. But at the same time, the consumer mind-set, which reduces responsibility to the level of the exercise of choice and engagement to a desire for instant gratification, has taken an iron grip of the British soul, and has even infected the Church with a 'what's in it for me' culture.

So the answer to the question 'Why doesn't the Vicar...?' is twofold. One is he (or she) can't. George Herbert's long gone. But more importantly, a lot of the time, he or she mustn't. To complain that the clergy/readers/ wardens/insert target here aren't doing enough is more than unkind, it's a profound misunderstanding of what the Church is.

We are the Community of the Gospel. All of us. That's it, no ifs or buts, no wriggle room. Every Christian is called to make that Gospel their own so that we can all go out 'to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour' as Jesus puts it. And that is a work which the Church's ministers and officers can only enable, not do.

We witness to the attractiveness of God by the attractiveness of our lives. Do we point towards the God who loves us and longs for us to be whole? That, simply put, is what that much maligned word 'holiness' amounts to, and all the worship, sermons, teaching and

prayer groups (and, yes, the socials and the work in the background and so on) must be directed towards that end.

Benedictines (sorry, the B-word again!) commit to 'the conversion of life' – allowing ourselves to be moulded by God into the people we most really are. But it's not just a Benedictine calling; it's the baptismal calling, to deepen our discipleship so that – at least sometimes – God can be glimpsed through us. Remember that we do have groups and courses and opportunities to encounter God and one another – and consider making use of them to grow into a greater discipleship.

As the new season cranks into gear, let's reflect not on what someone else 'ought to be doing', but on our own calling in the work of the Gospel. It takes all sorts. Even me. Even you.

Fr David.

COMING UP SOON

Saturday 7th September. traidcraft coffee morning 10-12noon

Sunday 8th September. patronal festival (see diary dates)

Monday September 9th. Barton Senior Alliance Church Service and tea - Trinity Methodist Church 2:30 pm

Monday 9th September. Teaching evening 7 pm

Sunday 6th October. harvest thanksgiving

BARTON AREA FOOD BANK

The Food Bank would like to express their thanks to everyone who helps them in the work.

We have now been open for 18 months, and in this time have given out food parcels for 364 vouchers, representing 564 adults and 363 children, from 31st January to 31st December 2012, and a further 315 vouchers representing 453 adults and 363 children from January to the end of July this year. Of course, there is some double counting, where people's problems are not solved quickly, but nevertheless, this does represent several hundred different families from Barton and most villages in our area.

For this reason, we wish to thank all our communities. Some people donate food and toiletries to the Food Bank, whilst others donate cash, and many of our volunteers come in on a regular basis from the villages. It is not only all the churches sharing in this project, but local organizations and some schools. It is a growing, successful venture, although a sad reflection on the necessity for it in our society. So thank you once more, and if anyone needs any further details, please do not hesitate to contact Margaret Sidell on 01652 632512.

The Bishop of Lincoln writes.....

I have always thought of September as a month for new beginnings, and one which therefore resonates very much with our faith.

This month brings new beginnings for pupils and students of every age as a new academic year begins. From the smallest toddler to the oldest mature student, the prospect of learning new things makes us both a little excited and a little apprehensive too. A whole academic year is opening up, offering new opportunities for us to grow in knowledge, understanding and skill.

In other areas, like the world of work, the autumn is often a time for new projects to begin as everyone returns to work after the summer holidays. With renewed energy and refreshed interest, we feel more able to tackle new projects or harness new ideas.

In our churches, the pattern of fellowship that goes on outside our regular worship will be beginning again after a summer break – whatever form that pattern takes for our particular parish – prayer groups, perhaps, or Mothers Union meetings, fellowship, lunch clubs,

and so on. The pattern is wonderfully unique in every parish.

One of the things we have discovered over the last couple of decades is that learning does not stop when we leave full-time education. It is a life-long process, however formal or informal it might be.

This is just as true in our gaining in knowledge and understanding of our faith. It is a life-long process to deepen our knowledge of the one who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Throughout his earthly ministry, Jesus called people to make a new start and to learn about and demonstrate the love of God in their words, thoughts and actions.

Jesus' ministry concluded with the resurrection, the greatest new beginning of all time, which showed that through God's grace, love and forgiveness we can all make new beginnings from whatever situation we find ourselves in.

May God bless your new beginnings at this time of year, whatever shape or form they may take.

+Christopher Lincoln:

MOTHERS' UNION NOTES

We started our meeting with words of welcome from Linda followed by a short service. We sang "Amazing Grace", Sue Brumpton read from Matthew Ch. 9 v 27-31, the story of the two blind men healed by Jesus. Linda said prayers, then gave out notices, thanking everyone for their contributions towards the MU raffle for the Church Garden Party which raised £96. Linda thanked Janet for making up the three hampers and Joyce for helping to sell tickets.

Linda welcomed our speaker Ralph Marshall who spoke about the Order of St John and the St John's eye hospital in Jerusalem.

Ralph gave a brief insight into the history of the order of St John, how it all started with early Christians going on pilgrimage to Jerusalem and how it survived throughout history and the Crusades despite lots

of setbacks. The Pope intervened in the late 11th century and a new order of Hospitallers was formed. The eight pointed cross descended through the order and centuries, still recognised today. Queen Victoria gave The Royal Charter to St John Brigade in 1888. First aid for industry has been taught by St John's since the 1800s and is still so today.

Ralph showed pictures of the Holy land and the eye hospital with its staff and patients. This hospital is run by specialist trained staff. Not all patients are able to pay but they are still treated. Also outreach surgeries are available for those unable to get to the hospital. There is now more than the one hospital and specialist nursing and training courses are available.

Ralph then gave a brief insight of how and where the St John Association helps today. They run hospices, care homes and give help at Castle Hill hospital. Also members belong to the "DEFENCE MEDICAL WELFARE SERVICE" being there for the wounded in battle and their families. They are highly trained and work on battlefields worldwide. The film showed how the wounded appreciated the welfare officers, giving praise to all the welfare officers.

Sue Brumpton thanked Ralph for his talk saying it was a privilege and delight to be able to see and hear about the good work which is done by The St John Organisation.

Who are we?

The **Mothers' Union** is for people who care about family life. Members are single, married, young, old, male, female, parents, grandparents. Our worldwide fellowship of 4 million members delivers Christian care for families right at the heart of communities.

We pray for relationships to be flourishing and loving.

We campaign for social justice for those on the margins & for greater recognition of stable family life.

We enable development of all kinds; economic, relational & personal so that family life is strengthened.

THE SEEDS WE SOW ARE SEEDS OF HOPE, SUPPORT & OPPORTUNITY. WE WANT TO GROW MORE MEMBERS!

(Taken from the Mothers. Union Newsletter. Diocese of Lincoln. Summer 2013.)

If you are interested in becoming a member please come along to our meeting in St Marys church hall on September 18th at 2pm. You will be very welcome.
Brenda Skinner.

Sept 4th 9.30am Corporate Communion
Sept 18th 2pm Speaker Paddy Phillips
Sept 25th 2pm Prayer time Leader Linda Bromfield

Flower Rota
Sept 1st Sheila Holt
Sept 15th Zenda Shakespeare

Walsingham – apologetically....

Apparently it was the world's worst-kept secret that Archbishop Justin was visiting the Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage (theme 'Double-O-Heaven'), having come straight from a Charismatic Christian gathering in one part of the country and from an Evangelical one somewhere else. But more of that later....

It was our fourth time at the pilgrimage, and we're getting the hang of it, more or less. It soon settles into a routine of 'find the pitch' closely followed by 'find the tent pegs' - and who this year had made the ground out of reinforced concrete? My specially hardened 'Langdale spikes' went in no trouble, but some of the other tents were less well furnished with armour-piercing pegs and bent double. And treble.

With spoof Bond clips (some are available online) starting each session, the 00Heaven theme was established very quickly (in the final disco I felt it necessary to go as a Bond villain, completely out of character of course), and the regular round of food, more food,

worship, study, food and general relaxation was soon established. And for the most part the weather was warm and dry – apart (of course) for the last morning, where it poured steadily for three hours, the storm being so fierce that even the huge Big Top struggled to keep all the water out. I also had the odd experience of seeing someone whom I taught thirty-some years ago being introduced to the congregation as the Archdeacon of Plymouth. He didn't take fright and run off when I (re-)introduced myself to him!

But back to Archbishop Justin – and my apology. I'm sure I wasn't the only one thinking that a brand-new bishop with an Eton background and a career in Big Oil might be a bit of an odd choice for Canterbury, and I freely admit to being wrong. He engaged frankly and disarmingly with the pilgrims (including owning up to falling asleep during Evensong in Coventry Cathedral – when he was taking the service!), and when Freya and Abz spotted him outside the Bible Study tent and asked him to sign their Bibles for them, he was delighted and welcoming. *[See picture, centre page.]* And he made it clear throughout his time with us that he was intending to be the Archbishop for all Anglicans – Catholic, Evangelical, Charismatic, you name it. In taking part in the barefoot walk, and in presiding at Benediction (not something many Christians from an Evangelical background would relate to immediately), and in concelebrating at the Mass the following morning, he showed a glimpse of how, despite our differences and tensions, God's bigger than all of us, and that if He can cope with our differences, so can we.

So we came back exhausted, having had quite a time (see the photo album at the back of church for proof) and generally renewed. I still don't quite know who George Michael is, or why the kids started to call me 'George', but I'm sure E1W will help me find out.... Here's to next year!

Fr David

The Samaritans

Last month we had a meeting to form a Barton Friends' of Scunthorpe Samaritans' group, with a view to holding 2 or 3 events a year to support the work of the Scunthorpe Branch. We had a reasonable response and the ones who did come were very keen to take this forward. As a result we are organising a coffee morning at St John Ambulance hall on Fleetgate on Saturday 14 September, 10 -12noon. Of course, we would welcome anyone else who would like to be involved in our group and I would be delighted to hear from them on 632569.

Lynne Atkin

[There are plans to have a Samaritans' "Songs of Praise" on Thursday Dec 5th at 7 pm to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the organisation. Ed]

TRAIDCRAFT COFFEE MORNING

See what is new plus bargains

Saturday 7th September 10am -12 noon

Bring a friend – the more the merrier

Theatre at Ropery Hall

The Angus and Ross Theatre Company return to Ropery Hall on Saturday, September 21 with Holmes and Watson: The Farewell Tour. Starring Julian Finnigan as Holmes and

Dominic Goodwin as Watson, this show has been described as being “so funny, it should carry a government health warning.”

Before slipping into well-earned retirement, Sherlock Holmes has prevailed upon his long-time companion Dr Watson, his landlady Mrs Hudson and Inspector Lestrade of Scotland Yard to join him in a farewell tour of the British Isles. For the first time ever they will re-enact one of the detective’s most baffling unrecorded cases – The Case of the Prime Minister, the Floozie and the Lummock Rock Lighthouse.

It is also understood that Mr Holmes has been entrusted with the conveyance to the Tower of London of the fabled Satsuma Stone, stolen from the crown of William of Orange in the 17th century and only recently discovered in Europe. During the evening there is a glimpse of this priceless gem so one can only be thankful that Professor Moriarty fell to his death at the Reichenbach Falls. Or is he still alive, planning another deadly strike as he lurks, unseen, in the wings?

This is your final chance to catch Holmes and Watson as they embark on their Farewell Tour. Don’t miss them. It’s elementary!!

The play starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £10 in advance or £12 on the door. More information from www.the-ropewalk.co.uk

FROM THE REGISTERS:

BAPTISMS:-

Aug 11 Leighton George Ernest TYSON son of Theresa Maria & Andrew David TYSON
Thomas William Frazer KAGZI son of Emma Jane & Nizar Marcel KAGZI

MARRIAGES:-

Aug 9 Jonathan Paul FLATMAN & Catherine Jane TAYLOR

Aug 10 Paul Mark ROBERTS & Naomi Rebecca WEAVER

Aug 17 Mark Brian TOYNE & Zoe Charlene PEARSON
Mark Richard SIDELL & Lisa Samantha CROSS

Aug 24 Joseph Edward BOOTH & Laura Ellen KIRBY

FUNERALS:-

Aug 1 Christine Vera PARKER

Aug 13 Gerald NORTH

Aug 14 John David PEARSON

A donation for Church flowers has been received in loving memory of Eden Gadie

Wilderspin National School Museum

As part of our fund raising programme the Wilderspin National School is having a Vintage Fair on Sunday 8th September between 10am and 4pm. Stalls will be selling lots of things from the 1930s – 1960s including homeware, crafts and clothing. There will be workshops and activities for children – and some vintage vehicles.

Later in September we will be once again celebrating Lincolnshire Heritage Open Days - one of a hundred special openings and events have been arranged across Lincolnshire. This year's county-wide theme is "Material Matters", and events will include tours around special buildings, guided walks around Lincolnshire's market towns, living history events and talks and demonstrations of the distinctive buildings of Lincolnshire and the diverse materials which they have been created from. A leaflet detailing the full programme is available at the Library and the Wilderspin School Museum.

Between the 13th and 15th September, at the Wilderspin National School, children and adults can explore the materials used to construct the Victorian school in a trail, "Stone, Paper, Scissors".

From the 22nd September, winning entries in our annual Handwriting Competition will be on display. Pupils from around our region who have visited the School Museum with their schools submitted work. The prizes have been sponsored this year by George's Gents' Hairdresser on Fleetgate.

Barton upon Humber Civic Society

Heritage Open Days celebrates England's fantastic architecture and culture by offering free access to places that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission.

Heritage Open Days is organised by a huge network of people who share a passion for places, history and culture. Locally, over 1,400 organisations and some 40,000 volunteers organise thousands of site openings and events, jointly attracting over one million visitors. They make Heritage Open Days England's biggest voluntary cultural event. On a national level, the programme is managed by the Heritage Open Days National Partnership and funded by English Heritage.

The Society will be opening 51 Fleetgate and conducting guided tours as part of Lincolnshire Heritage Open Days on Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th September between 1pm and 4pm. Admission is free. Access to the site is courtesy of CHAMP.

On Friday 20th September, Geoff Bell will give a talk called "*Stories in Stone*" at the Assembly Rooms on Queen Street. The talk tells the story of alabaster stone, quarried in medieval times near Nottingham, and used to carve church monuments and much cheaper panels for export. The talk begins at 7.30pm, and there are interval refreshments. Members free. Non members £2.

St. Mary's Bell ringers

August has been a fairly quiet month for ringing with many of the ringers away on holiday – we even had the previously unknown situation of having to cancel a Tuesday practice night because there were not enough people!

Ringling continued for the usual church services and in addition for several weddings. On the evening of Monday 12th August there was a practice by the participants of the band who will represent the Northern Branch in the Lincoln Guild 8 bell striking competition. Good luck to them for the actual competition which will take place on Saturday 19th October at Kirton-in-Lindsey. Six of the eight ringers are from Barton the other two ring at Grimsby.

If anyone is interested in learning to ring please do come along to St Mary's at 7.30 on Tuesday evenings to see what we do or email me at k.joan.barton@gmail.com

Joan Barton

BARTON WEA

WEA stands for "Workers' Educational Association". For over 100 years the mission of the WEA has been to provide educational opportunities to those least well served by the mainstream provision of the day. It is a registered charity in England and Wales, operating nationwide via a network of regions and branches.

The WEA came into being in 1903, the energetic offspring of one man's vision and a 2/6d loan from his wife. The founder was Albert Mansbridge, a clerk in the Co-operative Wholesale Society. He believed that through self-help and collective endeavour, people and especially Workers could transform themselves spiritually and intellectually.

Today some of our classes are "Cultural Studies", for those who want to learn for its own sake. The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) is our main funder along with our students who pay fees which help to cover the courses. See also in the Library.

Barton Branch of the WEA has two classes of French on Wednesday 18 September starting at 11 am and 1.30 pm, Anglo Saxon England on Monday 23 September from 7.30 pm and a Music course on Operatic Celebrations from 26 September 2013 from 2 pm. To find out more and to enrol go on line www.wea.org.uk/yh or ring 0114 242 3609. Do look at what the WEA has to offer you in Barton at Wilderspin National School. On 16 Nov we have an afternoon on Pack-Horses, details to follow.

Ursula Vickerton. Barton Branch of the WEA

Over to you.....

Isn't it amazing how new words have seeped into every corner of our daily life? We have always known that a 'slim' chance is the same as a 'fat' chance and that things can be 'invalid' for an 'invalid'!! One teacher is known to have said that slang is the 'vocabulary of tramps and thieves'!

We can't get through the day without resorting to its use especially if one has a mobile phone! Texting can be the worst culprit. (Our son does not tolerate the use of abbreviations and prefers the proper use of words!) Acronyms show a lack of literacy skills and in a time when 'writing' is one of the poorest skills in children/young adults we are not doing them any favours. We have all come to know what TLC and R and R, L8R(later) etc are but how much time do we have to spend/waste deciphering these messages. The words 'singing from the same hymn sheet' have a totally different meaning now. Someone who has died has 'suffered injuries incompatible with life'!

One person whose messages were clear and to the point was Jesus- he didn't need to use abbreviations or jargon, but, to help people, he gave his message through a parable so that everyone could understand. Sometimes we try to make things too academic- is this necessary? So, think before you text/speak!!!!..... S.W.

She's been.....and come back!

Most of us know that over the past two years Kerry Alliss has been raising money for her World Challenge adventure to Thailand and Cambodia. Kerry has done her own considerable fund raising, not expecting her parents to dip into their pockets. The mission included a trek for several days, doing good works at an orphanage, visiting the Killing Fields in Cambodia as well as a short period of well-deserved rest and relaxation.

During the two years of preparation, Kerry has been a permanent fixture after services and at bazaars and garden parties selling her cakes and other goodies; by doing so, she has brought much to the church by her sunny and positive outlook.

On the centre pages are just some of the 600+ photos she took – if you ask nicely she will show you the lot! I hope there will be opportunities for us to see where she has been, and some of the things she got up to. The whole idea of World Challenge experiences is that the youngsters have to be self-sufficient in their decisions and organisation, and should learn much about themselves in the process. I reproduce (with Kerry's permission) the report that the WC leader wrote about her:

"Kerry has excelled throughout this expedition. She has embraced every challenge that has been thrown at her. Kerry bravely chose to lead at the beginning of the expedition. Impressively she also chose to manage the team accounts throughout the entire trip for which she has done a fantastic job. Throughout the expedition, Kerry has shone as a leader, and inspired and motivated other group members.

Kerry impressively managed the budget even during difficult periods. She is authoritative and decisive in nature, meaning that she demands a huge amount of respect from her peers. Kerry is also extremely likeable and caring, and has made some extremely good friends throughout the trip. She thoroughly enjoyed the project, specifically interacting with the orphans. She showed excellent determination throughout this challenging phase. Kerry also shone throughout the trekking phase, appearing to take it all in her stride. She has been

more than willing to try new foods and to stretch herself, much to her credit.”

We as a church are very proud to have such a young lady in our midst, and we congratulate her on her achievements.

Alan

Response to Article on The Curriculum (last month)

I couldn't let Peter Large's article about History, Geography and Mental Maths go without a comment. As a Primary School teacher I tend to agree with him about the History and Geography. A lot of time is spent on the social aspects of life in Tudor, Victorian times and most recently in Britain since 1930-around the Second World War. Visits to Gainsborough Old Hall, The Wilderspin School and Eden Camp to re-enact how people lived, ate, lessons they learnt, rationing etc. are experienced. Certainly not the politics of it all. This happens at Secondary school. In Geography, climates, rivers, the locality etc are covered. He is right that their knowledge of where places are locally or world- wide is minimal. (I always remember whilst teaching at Winterringham Primary school several children were not sure where Scunthorpe was and some had never been!!)

On a more positive note, Mental Maths is very important. The importance of Times Tables has come back into fashion. Children have mental maths every day in their numeracy lessons and by the age of 11 have to be able to answer questions in 5, 10 and 15 seconds according to their difficulty. Some aspects of numeracy such handling data (graphs, pie charts, Venn diagrams etc.) are done from the age of 6 and algebra and percentages at age 10 – long before they used to be (I didn't do these until I went to the Grammar school.)

Technology plays a large part in Education. Even at Primary Level most children have access to digital cameras to record evidence for their projects from the start of school. Computers play a large part-from 7 years onwards they have the use of Laptops, in some cases being allowed to take them home to use. Some have Kindles to

encourage them to read-this is more exciting to them than having a book!! So we have to move with the times, although to some people this is not acceptable.

P.S. The national Curriculum for History is about to change- you can look at this online and for all the subjects to see what is taught and at what age.
S.W.



Kerry has a experience with an elephant (left); an orphanage boy in a donated Scunthorpe United top (right)



A group of orphanage children



By contrast, the opulence of a temple



A Memorial on the Killing Fields



Archbishop Justin with Freya and Abbygayle at Walsingham

