

Letter from the Vicarage

Dear Friends

Re-opening to new beginnings!

It is with great excitement that the doors of our churches which have been closed

except for worship are now re-opening their doors for private prayer throughout the day [at Sibsey and Holland Fen]. Candles can once again be lit for loved ones at Sibsey and events are now back as opportunities for community involvement.

Despite all the changes and difficulties facing the churches in the wider benefice, it is now time to rethink what we are here for and to consider what we can offer. We have been told that we must focus on Mission and Growth, and so that is what we shall seek to do over the coming years, but our approach to that must be done in a new way. New approaches are always challenging but they can also be exciting and that is what we must focus upon at this stage of our journey. When we generally think about growing the Church, we tend to think of ways which encourage other people to help us, however it is time for us to think differently.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Together in Christ

Called to love, to worship and to serve God

Very few people are attending worship, so clearly there is no demand for it, therefore we must market ourselves differently. Rather than seeking people to help us we need to consider how we can effectively help them.

If we can be seen to be a church which simply wants to be a useful resource to the local community, then we need to encourage people to see us in that way.

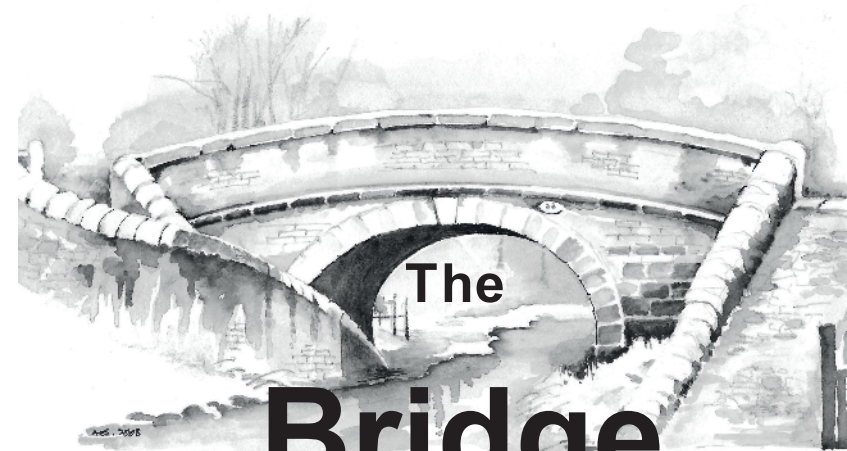
Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals are traditional opportunities, but could we also provide opportunities which reflect modern day living. With a bit of sky blue thinking how about welcoming new people who have moved into the neighbourhood by inviting them to a short service with refreshments so that they can meet others who are new too? How about using the churches to celebrate other key events, the passing of exams, or getting a new job!

There are so many things to celebrate in our lives and we can help people do that, simply by providing them with the opportunity to do so. After such a long time being confined in so many ways, let us re-open our churches offering new approaches, not just so that we can attract new

members



50p



Parish magazine serving the communities around the churches of The Sibsey and Carrington Group &

The Brothertoft Group

September  *2021*

Serving Sibsey, Frithville, Carrington, New Bolingbroke, Westville, Sibsey Northlands, Wildmore, New York, Brothertoft, Langrick, Kirton Holme, Hubbert's Bridge, Amber Hill, Holland Fen, Gipsey Bridge, Langrville, Anton's Gowt and those with connections to the area.



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www.kirtonholmechurch.co.uk

Twitter
[@TheBrid05277267](https://twitter.com/TheBrid05277267)



The Sibsey Group of Churches can be found on Facebook search for Sibseygroupofchurches

What's On this month

Lincolnshire Wolds and Coast Churches Festival 4-5th & 11-12th September

Over 130 churches open their doors to visitors. First weekend Skegness, Alford and Wolds and the second Horncastle, Revesby and many nearby.

www.lincswoldsandcoastchurches.org

Bike, Ride and Stride 2021 - Saturday September 11th

Get sponsored and visit as many churches as you can. More information from Sarah Roberts on 07760468052 or email Roberts.sarahm@gmail.com

<http://www.lincolnshirechurchestrust.org.uk/2016/07/ride-stride/>

Heritage Open days 2021 10th-19th September

Heritage Open Days celebrate England's architecture and culture by allowing visitors free access to interesting properties that are not usually publicly accessible or would normally charge a fee. It also includes tours, events and activities that focus on and celebrate the local heritage of the area. Heritage Open Days is England's biggest and most popular voluntary cultural event.

In Lincolnshire the theme is Voices of Lincolnshire - Stories Unheard. Full information at www.heritagelincshshire.org/heritage-open-days

Editorial

The Bridge has appeared monthly online on the nine church websites on 'A Church Near You' since April 2021 and it will continue to do so. However, all current subscribers will receive a printed edition this month and they can decide if they wish to receive a printed edition in future months. Subscriptions will be renewed in February when payment will be due for those wishing to continue receiving a printed version. Any new subscribers who would like to join the subscriber list phone Monica on 01205 750622. The online version of The Bridge will be free of charge with more pages than in the printed version (as online production costs are minimal). If you want to know when the online edition is published just follow us on Twitter @TheBrid05277267 or join the emailing list on the church websites. This month we have concentrated on including events taking place in the locality or nearby. 'Diary dates' section will re-appear in the future once more local events are confirmed. Autumn and Winter promise to be a challenge as respiratory illnesses become common and we hope everyone can keep safe during the colder seasons.

If you have an event coming up or you would like to advertise your business or service in The Bridge email thebridgemag@outlook.com

The Editor

Anxious neighbour?

If you have elderly neighbours who are on their own, it is worth bearing in mind that many of them will have been hit by pandemic anxiety. They may feel frightened to leave their homes.

Such is the finding of a recent study by the University of Cambridge and Imperial College London into the effects of the pandemic on the elderly.

So, any act of neighbourly kindness on your part may be most welcome. Helpful jobs such as tidying the garden, doing some shopping, running errands, and simply sitting outside with them over a cup of tea might be greatly appreciated.

If you can't sleep well, then walk

A recent study by the Universities of London and Sydney has found that brisk walking for 150 minutes a week may reduce the risk of an early death caused by poor sleep.

Lack of sleep has links to an increased risk of stroke, heart disease and cancer. But according to the study, published in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, exercise in line with the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines 'eliminated most of the deleterious associations' of poor sleep with early death.

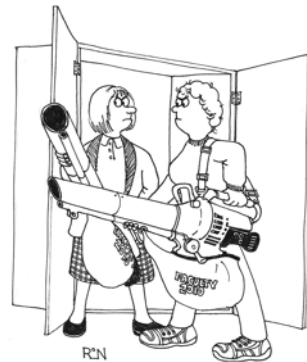
The WHO recommends 150 minutes brisk walking, or 75 minutes of running a week.

How much is that doggie in the rescue centre?

There are going to be a lot of homeless young dogs this autumn. That is because almost one in five people who bought a lockdown puppy last year are now thinking about giving up their new pet.

Research from The Kennel Club found that many owners are worried that they will be unable to give their dog a suitable home when they return to full-time work in the office. The result is a "looming welfare crisis faced by this pandemic pup generation."

The Kennel Club also found that many new dog owners want to see more places open up for dogs. Accessibility is becoming an increasing priority for dog lovers, and so the Kennel Club is calling on establishments from all sectors to become more dog friendly. The campaign 'Open for Dogs' is stressing the benefits of welcoming canines to businesses and workplaces.



Shifting the cobwebs in the North aisle required a faculty

and more money, as that will only come if the Church can show that it has something fresh and significant to offer.

So, as we re-open let us be different, for then we may well return to being important to the communities which we serve. Every blessing

Reverend Clive.

Garden Fete - 7th August 2021

A well-attended Garden Fete in aid of St Peter's Church, Wildmore took place under cover in sheds at Willow Farm, Dogdyke.

The event had various games and stalls included cakes, bric-a-brac, jams, plants, tombola and a raffle. Some much-needed funds were raised for the church and people were able to catch up with neighbours and friends in fresh air while having tea and cake while children played. Many thanks to Marilyn and Merv for hosting it, the volunteers who helped in any way and to everyone who attended. Some photographs of the event are shown on this page.





**FRIENDSHIP
GROUP/COFFEE
AFTERNOON**

SIBSEY VILLAGE HALL

**THURSDAY, 9th SEPT
between 2-4pm**

**Monthly until December on
the second Thursday**

Harvest Supper

 **FRIDAY 24TH September** 

At 6.30pm
At New York Village Hall

2 Course Supper
Tickets: £10.00
Children 11 & under £5

 **Sale of assorted produce afterwards** 
Proceeds for
St Peters Church Wildmore
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Be careful with Covid, urges Bishop of London



The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, has encouraged churches and individuals to continue to take precautions to protect the vulnerable from Covid-19.

“Many will welcome the possibilities now before us. However, this is a difficult point in the course of the pandemic. Despite vaccination rates, cases are up, hospital admissions are up and long covid remains an ongoing concern. Therefore, our approach needs to be cautious and careful.

“Taking personal responsibility means taking precautions to protect those more vulnerable than we consider ourselves to be. Local church leaders know their communities and their own circumstances, and we will support them making local decisions to keep themselves and their community safe.”

Climate Sunday is this month

Sunday 5th September is being designated Climate Sunday, ahead of the UN’s climate change conference, COP26, in Glasgow during November. How should we approach the challenge of climate change?

We have damaged God’s creation: God delights in His creation: ‘God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.’ (Genesis 1:31). However,

we have damaged this world and impacted people, created in His image. The burning of oil or gas and cutting down forests is increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide that trap heat in the Earth’s atmosphere. The global average temperature could increase by 1.5°C in 2030, resulting in significant damage to our planet. Already, increasing temperatures are melting ice caps, raising sea-levels, changing rainfall patterns and creating extreme climate events. It’s the 70% of the world’s poorest population who are being impacted most!

Hope is found in Jesus: He has an intimate knowledge of the workings of creation. ‘*For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*’ (Colossians 1:16,17). Our hope for the future lies in what Jesus has done and continues to do in the world. He is the one who sustains creation and will bring everything to completion.

An invitation to respond: Simple everyday actions can help to sustain our planet, including recycling of waste, energy saving and changes in our lifestyle and diet to help the planet. We can fix our eyes on Jesus, as we pray for our world for our world leaders, gathering in Glasgow, asking that they may reach a good agreement for the future of our world.

Clergy and parishes at the heart of the Church of England – now and in the future

Following a series of recent articles and blogs speculating about the direction of the Church of England’s ‘Vision and Strategy’ discussions Dave Male, the Church of England’s director of evangelism and discipleship, said: “I am very aware that some recent commentary in media and social media purporting to set out the future direction of Church of England has caused real anxiety, hurt and pain to many.

“Some of this has been based on a fundamental confusion between the Church of England’s own emerging Vision and Strategy for the 2020s and beyond, which we will be discussing at the upcoming meeting of General Synod, and a separate initiative called Myriad to create 10,000 new lay-led churches - which is not a national Church of England project.

“It has been claimed in some places that there is a plan to dissolve the parish system, sideline or even replace trained clergy, especially paid clergy, or to get rid of our beautiful, historic church buildings.

“So I want to make it abundantly clear that the Church of England is committed, now as always, to the ministry of the whole people of God including to ordained ministry in our parishes.

“The Church of England has been undergoing a listening exercise to develop the new Vision and Strategy for the 2020s. While that is still taking

shape, it is already clear that it will be about spiritual renewal, rooted in theology and founded on prayer; renewing our commitment to being a church for everyone – for the people of England wherever they are - and a revitalised parish system.

“One suggestion floated in a recent Synod paper is that all of our dioceses and most of our 12,500 parishes will start something new in the next decade.

“We think this could result in perhaps 10,000 new groups of Christians meeting together in all spheres of their life – home and local community, work and education and even the social and digital realm.

“Most of the best new ideas in the past have arisen from parishes. Therefore, alongside parishes (and often flowing from them), we need to enable “the church” to form in the different networks in which we live our lives.

“Myriad is a self-funding initiative aiming to support the planting of 10,000 new, predominantly lay-led churches. It comes from the Gregory Centre for Church Multiplication which supports leaders, church teams and diocese across London, England and beyond as they multiply disciples, churches and networks. It is part of the CofE but works with many denominations and networks.

“If we can get this right; if we can come together, contribute to and play our part in a new shared vision for the Church of England in our time I am certain God will work through us to bring his good news to the people of England.”

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<https://boston.foodbank.org.uk>

Learning lessons from a graveyard

If you're looking for a quiet oasis away from the bustle and busyness of everyday life, there's a place where nature, heritage and the life histories of hundreds of local people are on peaceful display.

Take a walk in your local cemetery.

The chances are it's a place where nature abounds, where socially-distant peace can be found, and you can meditate on the deeper issues of life.

It's true that graveyards seldom feature in most people's favourite places to visit. Many find them morbid, reminding them of their own mortality.

Or they can prompt memories of loved ones no longer with us, and the sadness overcomes the happy memories of the life shared together. Others simply rush past cemeteries or graveyards, without even noticing that they are there.

But walk among the gravestones, read the inscriptions and you find the stories of people's lives.

Samuel Ryder, the Hertfordshire seed merchant who devised the United States v Europe Ryder Cup golf tournament, is buried in the cemetery opposite the church where I minister. When I visited recently, someone had left golf balls on his grave.

In the same cemetery, there are more than 200 plain white graves of local and Commonwealth service people who died during the two world wars, and a memorial to the many local

soldiers who died in the First World War.

To wander around any cemetery or graveyard is to enter into the lives of generations of families. To see the grave of the still-born baby close to the child who died in infancy, both near to the grandmother who died in her nineties. The husband and wife who died within months of each other, are alongside the wife who outlived her spouse by decades.

I'm always struck by how people are described. Most are defined by their family relationships – beloved grandfather, grandmother, father, mother, wife, husband, son or daughter.

Others are described by their roles in life – actress, golf professional or for the war graves, by their ranks. How long, I wonder, had the young men and women been in uniform before meeting their deaths – and being remembered ever after as soldiers? In some cases, it may have been just a few months.

What, I find myself asking, would I like to have written on my gravestone? How would each of us like to be remembered? How can long lives be summed up in the few words you can fit on a gravestone?

And what is it that we are doing in life that will be of lasting value? Cemeteries are places that can make you consider your own life and think about what is important in it.

The Revd Peter Crumpler

Associate Minister, St Paul's Church,
Fleetville, St Albans.

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Harry Secombe – genius for buffoonery



One hundred years ago, on 8th September 1921, Sir Harry Secombe was born in Swansea. The comedian, actor, writer, singer and TV presenter was one of the stars of the anarchic 1950s radio series, *The Goon Show*.

His family belonged to St Thomas Church, and his elder brother, Fred, became a Church of Wales priest. Later in life Sir Harry was a presenter of religious programmes, such as the BBC's *Songs of Praise* and ITV's *Highway*.

He met Spike Milligan during the war in North Africa and later bumped into him again at the Windmill Theatre, where he was doing comedy routines. There they also met Peter Sellers and Michael Bentine – forming the team that eventually produced *The Goon Show*. A natural clown with a “genius for buffoonery”, Harry was the focus, and he moved on to star in a series of films, including *Oliver!*

He was also a talented and popular tenor. He was knighted in 1981, referring to himself as Sir Cumference in reference to his size – he was later forced to diet for medical reasons, and died at the age of 79 of prostate cancer. His tombstone bears the inscription “To know him is to love him”.

Tim Lenton

NEW BOLINGBROKE ‘VILLAGE MARKET’

at the Town Hall

19th September

10am - 1pm

Various stalls inside and out

Monthly 24/OCT; 28/NOV;
& 12DEC Xmas market.

Eventful Sleaford 2021

Classic cars, town criers,
top cheeses, cool cycles,
climate action... free event!

Saturday September 4

There's so much going on in Sleaford all the time, but on Saturday, September 4 the town is jam-packed with events and activity held by organisers and partners. It's a great opportunity to get out and about, safely, outdoors and celebrate some of the best aspects of living, shopping and having fun in Sleaford – all for free.

www.heartoflincs.com/EventfulSleaford OR SCAN ME

European Union European Regional Development Fund | HM Government | SLEAFORD | North East Lincolnshire Council



National Garden Scheme

There are still a few gardens open during Autumn. Check the website www.ngs.org.uk



125 years ago

On 24th Sept 1896 F Scott Fitzgerald, American novelist and short story writer, was born. Regarded as one of the greatest American writers of the 20th century. Best known for his novel *The Great Gatsby*.

Current gardens listed include Woodlands, Fotherby on 5th September and 3rd October; Inley Drove Farm, Sutton St James, Spalding on 25th and 26th September and Goltho House, Wragby on 26th September. Other gardens include the National Trust's Gunby Hall. Pre-booking advised.

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning
24th September 2021

EVERY CAKE AND EVERY COFFEE MATTERS

We couldn't do what we do without Coffee Mornings like this. The money you raise today will go towards:

Physical support
We provide information to help people with cancer make their best decisions about treatment, and guidance about dealing with its effects.

Financial support
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Emotional support
We're there for people with cancer at diagnosis and beyond, providing reassurance for them, friends and family.



When someone splashes you

... a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs gushing out ...
Deuteronomy 8:7

You have just been to church to get some more parish magazines and take them to the village shop, as they have sold out again. It is raining hard, and the main road is flooded again. A car drives through the puddle, soaking you from head to toe. You go home muttering to yourself, irritated that now you have to change your wet clothes.

There are worse things in life than being soaked by a car, but it is not nice, and it could even be an offence. Inconsiderate driving is defined as driving 'without due care and attention, or without reasonable consideration for other persons using the road'. A person using the using a pavement could be included as someone using the road.

The Road Traffic Act 1988 goes on to say: 'A person is to be regarded as driving without reasonable consideration for other persons only if those persons are inconvenienced by his driving.'

If you are soaked, then you certainly are inconvenienced! If you yourself are convicted of careless or inconsiderate driving, then you could be fined up to

£5,000, and your driving licence endorsed with 3 to 9 points.

Who is to blame for the flood? If a drain or a roadside ditch is blocked or not repaired then either the owner of the land adjoining the road or the highway authority, usually a local authority, may be responsible. It may depend on whether the ditch is part of the highway. But certainly floods on roads can be dangerous: vehicles may try to avoid the water and then collide with other traffic.

If there is an area near you which regularly floods, it may be worth contacting the local parish council or highways department to see if they are aware of it. Public authorities have limited resources, but it may help to tell them. As always this is a lighthearted guide, and if in any doubt get advice.

David Pickup, a solicitor.

Local Road Closures

Subject to change. Main road, New Bolingbroke 13-17/9; High Ferry Lane, Sibsey 5-6/10; Leagate Road, Antons Gowt 13/9-1/10; Mere Booth Road, Antons Gowt 6-8/10; Beck Bank, Kirton Holme 7-9/9; Sutterton Drove, Amber Hill 28-30/9; Northlands Road, Westville 5-7/10. Latest roadworks information on <https://roadworks.org>

Contributions to The Bridge
 Thank you to all our advertisers and contributors. Please ensure material is sent by email to thebridgemag@outlook.com as early as you can. To go into the print edition by **16th of the month before publication**. If received by the **25th of the month before publication** it will appear in the next online edition.

World Wide Fund for Nature celebrates 60 years

The World Wildlife Fund (now the World Wide Fund for Nature) was founded 60 years ago in Switzerland, on 11th September 1961. It is now believed to be the world's largest conservation group, working in wilderness preservation, and reducing human impact on the environment.

A group of distinguished scientists, conservationists and businessmen, including Sir Peter Scott and Sir Julian Huxley, put the organisation together and chose its original name and the famous panda logo. It changed its name to the World Wide Fund for Nature in the UK and several other countries in 1989, but it still uses the initials WWF all over the world in advertising campaigns.

The late Prince Philip has been President of both the UK and international branches, and he was concerned particularly with encouraging faith communities to involve themselves in the environment. This led to a major conference in Italy in 1986, resulting in huge global publicity and tens of thousands of faith-led environmental initiatives around the world.

Although there has been criticism centring on the placing of environmental issues above human rights in some areas, the WWF now has more than five million supporters worldwide, working in more than 100 countries and supporting around 3,000 projects.

Dead Sea Scrolls – brought to light 30 years ago

Thirty years ago, on 22nd September 1991, photographs and transcripts of the Dead Sea Scrolls were made available to scholars generally for the first time.

The Scrolls – ancient, mostly Hebrew or Aramaic manuscripts of leather, papyrus, and copper – were first found in 1947 near the shore of the Dead Sea. They come from various sites and date from the third century BC to the second century AD.

The decision by the Huntington Library, which is in San Marino, California, to make the Scrolls public was hailed by its director, Dr William A Moffett, as a bold move “equivalent to breaking down the Berlin Wall”. Up to that time access to the scrolls had been restricted to a fairly small group of ‘authorised’ scholars.

The Huntington photograph collection was created by philanthropist Elizabeth Hay Bechtel in 1980, with Robert Schlosser taking the actual pictures. After her death in 1987 they became the property of the library, with no agreed restrictions on their use – unlike the official collections, which certain experts reserved for their own use “to ensure scholarly accuracy”.

Last year the Museum of the Bible, in Washington DC, confirmed that all 16 of the fragments it owns are modern forgeries.

Tim Lenton

Orchard Crumble

As our orchards, trees and hedgerows are full of fruit here is a recipe that might help use some of the glut of fruit at this time of year.



Ingredients

- 400g apple , peeled, cored and cut into small pieces
- 400g stoned plum , cut into chunky wedges
- 2 tbsp sugar , any type
- 300g fig , woody stalks trimmed, quartered
- 300g blackberry or brambles, washed well
- cream, custard or ice cream , to serve

For the topping

- 140g plain flour
- 140g wholemeal flour
- 175g butter , cut into small pieces
- 100g soft brown sugar

Method

STEP 1

First make the topping. Put the flours in a bowl with a pinch of salt, then rub in the butter with your fingertips to form crumbs. Stir in the sugar with a fork, and chill until needed.

STEP 2

Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/ gas 4. Tip the apples, plums and sugar into a big saucepan with 50ml water and cook, stirring, for about 5 mins, until the apples are soft and juicy. Stir in the figs and blackberries, and tip into a baking dish. Scatter over the crumble and bake for 45-55 mins until the topping is golden and the fruit is bubbling.

Sarah Cook

The pandemic has affected us all.
Collections are down
Fundraising is down
Activities and visitors are reduced
Donations are welcome towards the work and maintenance of the churches in The Sibsey with Carrington Group
Just use the QR code to make your online donation. Thank you.



How different churches cope with adversity

When a Methodist minister falls down the stairs, he picks himself up and says, "That was an experience, how do I learn from it?"

When a Catholic priest falls down the stairs, he picks himself up and says, "I must have done something really bad to deserve that."

When a Presbyterian minister falls down the stairs, he picks himself up and says, "That was inevitable, I'm glad it's over."

When a Baptist minister falls down the stairs, he picks himself up and says, "Which one of my deacons pushed me?"

When a vicar falls down the stairs, he picks himself up and says, "Will I need a faculty to get the staircase repaired?"

Miscellaneous musings on daily life...

The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once...

Ask advice but use your common sense. - *Yiddish proverb*

Kind: someone who could tell you all about his operation – but doesn't.

Government expert: one who complicates simple things.

Farm: a portion of land covered by a mortgage.

Nothing is as inevitable as a mistake whose time has come.

I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here. - *Stephen Bishop*

They never open their mouths without subtracting from the sum of human knowledge. - *Thomas Brackett Reed*

He has the attention span of a lightning bolt. - *Robert Redford*

Sharp tongues have a way of sharpening other tongues. - *E Stanley-Jones*

Deficit: what you've got when you haven't as much as if you had nothing.

If I understand what the economists are saying, the situation is hopeless – but improving. - *Herbert V Prochnow*

Some people just can't unbend and be human until misfortune has taken the starch out of them.

Our eyes are placed in front because it is more important to look ahead than to look back.

The average person works themselves to death so that they can live.

Church of England provides digital resources

There are a range of new and existing Christian resources available for people to engage with at this difficult and challenging time in the life of the nation and the world:

Weekly service broadcasts - these be made available each Sunday through the Church's Facebook page, website and YouTube.

Time to Pray app - everything you need for Prayer During the Day, with variations according to the day of the week and the season of the Church's year. Download for free.

Daytime prayer and Night prayer service audio - building on the existing daily prayer feed, this includes daytime prayer and night prayer for each day. It will be available as a downloadable app in the coming weeks.

Live streaming services from churches - AChurchNearYou.com now lists hundreds of churches offering livestreams of services from across the country.

The BBC's Daily Service and Sunday Worship

Prayer for the day - each day the Church of England publishes audio and text of the Prayer for the Day.

Smart speakers – daily prayer and audio content can be accessed via our smart speaker apps.

Mental health reflections – 13 daily reflections that seek to provide hope, reassurance and comfort.



For further information about all the digital resources please visit www.churchofengland.org and look at the guidance about coronavirus and digital resources.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Daily Hope, introduced by Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services or access digital resources during the period of restrictions in mind.

All calls to this phone service are free.



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a church  NEAR YOU | THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

We went online over a year ago with well over 100,000 views on the nine church websites since then. Each month between 11,000 to 15,000 page views occur. Material on the 'A Church Near You' (ACNY) church websites for Sibsey, Frithville, Carrington, New Bolingbroke, Wildmore, Langrick, Brothertoft, Holland Fen and Kirton Holme is updated each week with Reverend Clive's reflection, a Morning Worship for use at home, details of local services, weekly news updates and videos. Similar updates take place on the Sibsey Group of Churches Facebook page. Most changes occur weekly in time for Sunday.

Weekly newsletters from New York and Frithville Primary Schools are added during term-time.

Online donations are now possible on the Sibsey Group churches' websites.

If you want to be notified when updates occur please join the email distribution list available on the ACNY websites. Please invite others to join. If you have any material to go on a church website please let Reverend Clive know.

You can send Reverend Clive a message through each ACNY church website through the 'Get in Touch' section.

Don't forget to look up the recorded weekly national service released at 9am every Sunday on the Church of England website, You Tube channel and Facebook.

Hoodies in the office?

What will keep us safer in the office as we return to work? Better ventilation. And in many cases that is best achieved by more open windows, all winter. And that could mean wearing something warmer to work – such as a woolly jumper or hoodie.

Such is the conclusion of a report from the Royal Academy of Engineering on how to reduce the risk of infection indoors. It was commissioned by Sir Patrick Vallance, the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser.

As one scientist put it: "If someone is comfortable and working effectively wearing a woolly jumper or a hoodie, why do we need to get worried about it?"

HERITAGE LINCOLNSHIRE

AVIATION FOR THE NATION

A Series of Talks on the
Lesser Known History of Flying in Wartime



Small Airforces of the British Empire:
How small empire airforces played their vital part in World War Two
Wednesday 1st September - week 1



Mechanics in the Air: The unknown story of the Air Arm of the British breakdown rescue service, the Automobile Association
Tuesday 7th September - week 2



That's an odd one:
unusual and weird aircraft designed by the Allied and Axis forces in World War Two
Wednesday 15th September - week 3



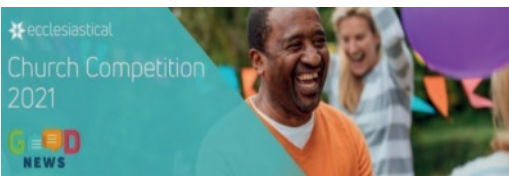
Mongrels of the air war:
The story of aircraft, other than the Spitfire and Hurricane, that fought the Battle of Britain
Wednesday 22nd September - week 4



**Single Tickets £5 HTL
members / £7 non-members
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Book online at <https://www.heritagelincnolnshire.org/shop/tickets/>

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Church Competition 2021

Your church has the chance to win £1,500 as a regional winner and then another chance to take home the national prize of £6,000! Take a moment to reflect on how far your church has come in such challenging times and in this there may be good news to share. This could be those moments, projects or events that have reminded you of the creativity and the ingenuity of your church community. No story is too small

Think about how your community pulled together in the last year or so. What nuggets of joy have there been? If your idea could inspire other churches... share your good news.

Write a headline, a short story of 250 words and send us a picture or video that captures your good news.

What your church could win

Once you submit your entry, your church will automatically be entered into the regional competition where each regional winner will receive a prize of £1,500.

The grand final of the competition will see one of the five regional winners crowned the national winner and receive an additional £6,000. That is two chances to win!

www.ecclesiastical.com/church/competition/

New Agricultural Chaplains on the BBC

Reverends Alan Robson, Lee Gabel and Al Jenkins, some of our county's Agricultural Chaplains chatted on County Lincs, (15th August) with Sean Dunderdale on BBC Radio Lincolnshire. Alan is the long-standing full-time Chaplain for the agricultural community and Lee and Al have recently joined the team part-time alongside their parish roles.

You can still listen to it on BBC Sounds www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p09qmyt1



Alan talks about significant issues facing the farming sector such as climate change and changes to subsidies, (7min 45 sec) and Al and Lee (51 min 20 sec) are introduced as part of an enhanced rural chaplaincy team to support the county in making sense of the challenges it faces, working alongside Lincoln Rural Support Network.

65 years ago. On 16th Sept 1956 Play-Doh went on sale in the USA. It was originally sold as a wallpaper cleaning compound, It was then relaunched as a modelling compound when the inventor's nephew discovered that nursery school children were using it to make Christmas ornaments.

The Boston Stitches

On Friday September 24th, at Bicker Village Hall, we will get together to celebrate the first meeting of The Boston Stitches as an independent group, new venue, new era! 9.30 am until 12.30 pm.

And for those unable to attend daytime meetings, we are looking to begin a second group which will meet on the fourth Thursday evening of each month. On Thursday September 23rd, from 7.30 pm until 9.30 pm we will be at Bicker Village Hall for a trial run, to see if there are enough people interested in making this work. Let's hope we have a good number attending.

www.thebostonstitches.com

Email: thebostonstitches1@gmail.com

Coalmines and Spa Water



A talk commemorating 200 Years of Woodhall Spa 1821 – 2021

17th September, 2021, 7.00 pm
St Peter's Hall, Woodhall Spa
Tickets £5.00

Please contact Sue Stennett for details
01526 352703 sue.stennett1@btinternet.com

Woodhall Spa Heritage Committee



Help find the next Bishop of Lincoln

The diocese of Lincoln has started the process to find the next Bishop of Lincoln. There is a survey you can complete to give your views as to the attributes of the person who could fill the role. The survey can be found on the Lincoln diocese website at www.lincoln.anglican.org/News/we-are-looking-for-the-new-bishop-of-lincoln



...er Vicar, it's about that flower Mrs Brindle's brought back from her foreign holiday...

PRIZE BINGO AFTERNOON

Sunday 12th September

Sibsey Village Hall

Doors open 2pm - Eyes down 3pm.
Admission £1(including refreshment)
U16's must be accompanied

Books and Flyer £1 each

Proceeds to the Village Hall

Coffee Morning

Carrington Village Hall

Tuesday September 7th
10 -12 am

Monthly

Church Services and Events

Sunday 5th September

10.30am Sibsey Holy Communion
10.45am Kirton Holme Holy Communion
2.00pm Holland Fen Baptism

Sunday 12th September

9.00am New Bolingbroke Holy Communion
10.30am Sibsey Morning Worship
10.45am Langrick Holy Communion
2.00pm Brothertoft Baptism

Sunday 19th September

10.30am Sibsey Holy Communion
10.45am Wildmore Morning Worship
6.00pm Carrington Sung Evensong

Sunday 26th September

9.00am Frithville Holy Communion
10.45am Brothertoft Family Service with Baptism

Sunday 3rd October

10.30am Sibsey Morning Worship
10.45am Holland Fen Holy Communion

Notes

1. *Services taking place are subject to clergy or lay persons being able to attend to lead the service. Last minute changes or cancellations may occur.*
2. *Use of face coverings is optional but welcomed. Hand sanitizer will be provided. Singing is permitted. Contact details may be taken for 'Track and Trace' purposes. Seating may be allocated to allow social distancing. Movement around the church may be restricted to ensure people feel safe. Refreshments after the service may be provided.*
3. *Holy Communion will only take place if licensed clergy are available. Members of the congregation will remain seated and the priest will move around.*

From The Registers

Baptisms

1st August St. Margaret's Sibsey: Blake Nicholas Clawson
1st August St. Margaret's Sibsey: Brody James Clawson



Weddings


None this month

Funerals

17th August St. Margaret's Sibsey: Carol Anne Bolland aged 68
26th August St. Peter's Wildmore : Daphne Horry aged 77

Memorial Services can be arranged for those lost during the pandemic lockdowns/ restrictions. Contact the Vicar to make the arrangements.

Flower rota - Langrick church
Sept M. Kirk



This month sees the first anniversary of the death of the following parishioners. We remember them and their families and friends at this time

Stephen Campbell Neave

If you would like to add someone's name to the Book of Remembrance in St Margaret's Sibsey contact the churchwardens.

Prayer requests

If you would like prayers said in church for you at a time of illness this can be arranged. If the request is for another person the prayers will not be said in public for confidentiality reasons. Contact the Clergy or Lay Ministers listed inside front cover.

Sibsey Village Hall

Current regular activities booked in the hall are listed below. For any new bookings call Alison on 07976628218.

Day	Time	Activity
Monday	10.30-11.30am	Regeneration
Tuesday	2-4pm	Indoor Bowling
	7-9pm	Fit4Life
Wednesday	10-11am	Pilates
	5.30-7.30pm	Slimming World
Thursday	6-8pm	Indoor Bowling
Friday	9-5pm	NHS

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Nationwide digital churchyard mapping project begins

The first of 19,000 churchyards will be surveyed as part of a Church of England project to create a free digital map of every grave and feature in every churchyard in the country.

The ancient church of St Bega on the shores of lake Bassenthwaite in the Diocese of Carlisle is the first

churchyard to be scanned by surveyors using sophisticated laser equipment, as part of the national programme.



A new website will go online next year giving free access to the map which is expected to be of special interest to local community groups, family history researchers, and conservationists.

The website will also chart biodiversity and green technology.

The Church of England has partnered with Cumbrian-based surveying company Atlantic Geomatics who will use back-pack mounted laser scanners to quickly and accurately map churchyards. They will also photograph all the visible headstones.

It will aim to digitally survey the majority over the coming seven years. Data on burials will be combined with other information, such as the National Biodiversity Network Atlas, to present the most complete picture of churchyards to date.

The project will come at no cost to parishes or dioceses in the Church of England and parishes will have free

access to the map through a new web-based record system which is set to launch in Spring 2022. There will also be the option to subscribe to additional services.

Substantial funding for the programme has been given by Historic England, with the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Caring for God's Acre supporting the pilot phase, as well as support from genealogy research websites, all of which has allowed the basic service to be made available to parishes free of charge.

Operatives will aim to survey around nine or ten sites a day using back-pack mounted laser scanning equipment, GPS and cameras. Taking tens of thousands measurements every second the surveyors will then process the data to create accurate maps of each churchyard.

Bishop Andrew Rumsey, a lead Bishop for church buildings said: "This impressive national project will make a huge difference to those researching family history, as well as easing the administrative burden on parishes. It will improve management of burial grounds, and make information more fully accessible than ever before, supported by additional services by subscription for those wishing to go further."

Church by church, and diocese by diocese, hopefully all Anglican churchyards will be surveyed. The online interactive map will also map biodiversity in churchyards, including ancient trees and plant-life, as well as green technology such as solar panels.

HERITAGE LINCOLNSHIRE

Hedge Laying History

Thurs 23rd September
7pm

Hedges are not a common site across the world. Then, why does the British Isles contain so many of them?

Discover the history of these wildlife corridors and find out why our countryside is cut into segments by lines of trees. The speaker will give an overview of the history of hedges in Britain, and explain their role, their value and their pride of place as one of the most iconic features of the landscape.

There will also be time to talk about how a hedge can be made and managed including a look into the craft of hedge-laying and the tools and techniques used.

David has amassed thirty years experience of planting, laying and caring for hedges. Join him in a voyage through time and muddy fields.

Magic and Folklore of Trees

Thurs 21st October 7pm

Wearing mythology, magical practices and tales of woodland wisdom will advise on tree care and the everyday usefulness of woodland products.

Trees provide a unique insight into our relationship with the natural landscape and have been an important part of our culture for tens of thousands of years.

The speaker will take you on a journey from the legends and myths of trees found in the modern landscape. We will look for tree spirits and gods, superstitions and practical counsel from our ancestors and ask questions such as just why there is such an affinity between people and trees, even today.

Tickets are individual
 £5 members /
 £7 non-members
 Combination ticket
 £10 members /
 £15 non-members

Book online at https://www.heritagelincnolnshire.org/shop/tickets/

HERITAGE LINCOLNSHIRE

Corn Dolly Workshops

to be held on Friday 24th September OR Saturday 30th October
Both at The Old King's Head, Kirton at 10am – 1pm

You will be constructing a corn dolly called a Sunspray, this is a traditional lucca design which was made as a house protector. It is constructed by joining three beehive level corn collies together making an intermediate design.

Please bring a pair of scissors and a ruler (not a tape measure)

During the workshop you will also learn about the development and folklore that surrounds this disappearing country craft.

Tickets
 £18 HTL members /
 £25 non-members

Book online at https://www.heritagelincnolnshire.org/shop/tickets/

HERITAGE LINCOLNSHIRE

Coastal Saltmaking in Lincolnshire

c. 1300 BC – AD1600

by Tom Lane

Tuesday 28th September 2-4pm
Online talk

£5 for members / £7 non-members

For almost three millennia salt was made on the coasts and in the adjacent salt marshes of Lincolnshire. This course aims to examine where and how the seawater was turned into salt. Moreover, we will question why salt was made in such quantities, what it was used for and by whom. We will examine changes in saltmaking techniques over time and ponder the 'special' qualities of those engaged in the saltmaking process.

We will learn

- Why salt, which appears to be little more than a food flavouring these days, was a highly significant and necessary product that changed the lives of prehistoric communities
- Why saltmaking appeared to virtually die out in the later Roman period
- Why salt was important in the ceremonies and rituals of the medieval church and in folklore

Individual Tickets
 HTL Member price £6
 Non-members £8
 Combined Tickets for four Talk
 HTL Member price £18
 Non-members £25

Book online at https://www.heritagelincnolnshire.org/shop/tickets/

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Tickets are individual
 £5 members /
 £7 non-members
 Combination ticket
 £10 members /
 £15 non-members

Book online at https://www.heritagelincnolnshire.org/shop/tickets/

Remembering Dante

Dante Alighieri, the Italian 'supreme poet', died 700 years ago, on 13th September 1321. Regarded as the most important poet of the Middle Ages, he is best known for his *Divine Comedy*, widely considered the greatest literary work in Italian and an influence on such English writers as Chaucer, Milton and Tennyson.

Born in Florence in about 1265 but exiled from the city in 1301 amid political turmoil, Dante – a forerunner of the Renaissance – established the use of the vernacular instead of Latin in literature and helped standardise the Italian language.

His work and life were inspired by his love for Beatrice Portinari, whom he first met as a child: he claimed to be overwhelmed by her beauty. He never knew her closely, and when he was 12 his family arranged for him to marry Gemma, a member of the powerful Donati family. But Beatrice remained his inspiration, appearing in the *Divine Comedy* as a guide and depicted as semi-divine, in the style of a muse-like guardian angel.

The word *Comedy* does not indicate humour, but belief in an ordered universe: in this case it depicts a pilgrimage from Hell to Paradise, beginning with moral chaos and ending with a vision of God.

Tim Lenton

Battle of Britain Recalled

September, of course, is when we remember the Battle of Britain – on the 15th, to be precise, the

anniversary of the day on which the Battle turned in Britain's favour and Hitler realized that it would not be possible to invade without incurring huge losses from air attack. Covid permitting, the Spitfires will be up in the sky this month, and we will watch in wonder and gratitude.

Spitfire

The heavens ring with Merlin's roar
 We gaze in wonder from the ground
 To see a great old aircraft soar
 And marvel at the engine's sound.

The Spitfire loops and rolls and dives
 We smile and gasp and clap and cheer;
 The pilot shows his skill and strives
 To make us think he has no fear!

No fear – but eighty years ago
 Young men of barely adult age
 Sat in those planes, true courage shown
 They flew into the battle's rage.

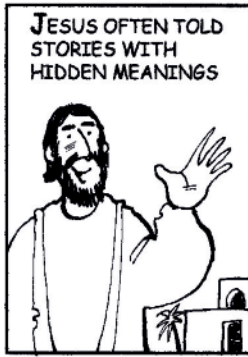
They too would loop and roll and dive
 Not to impress a watching crowd
 But so that Britain might survive –
 And hist'ry shows they did us proud!

So many died within those planes
 The watchers would with horror see
 A blazing trail of smoke and flames
 As brave men died to keep us free.

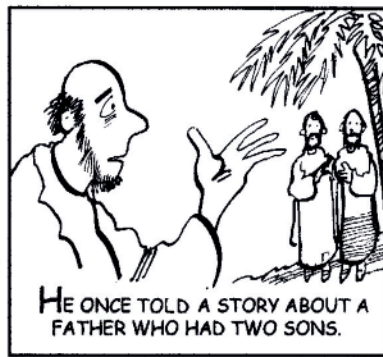
Yes – watch the Spitfire, and rejoice
 Rejoice to see the pilot's skill.
 Remember those who had no choice
 But met the foe with iron will.

By Nigel Beeton

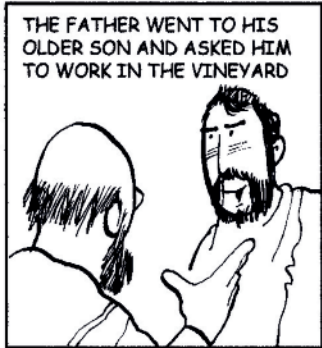
The tale of the Two Sons



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



HE ONCE TOLD A STORY ABOUT A FATHER WHO HAD TWO SONS.



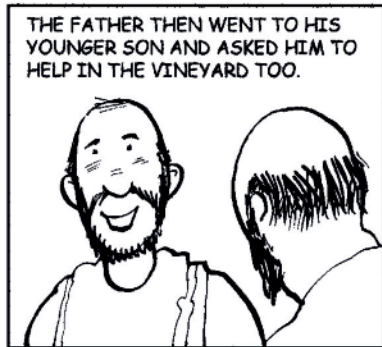
THE FATHER WENT TO HIS OLDER SON AND ASKED HIM TO WORK IN THE VINEYARD



'NO I WON'T' SAID THE OLDER SON...



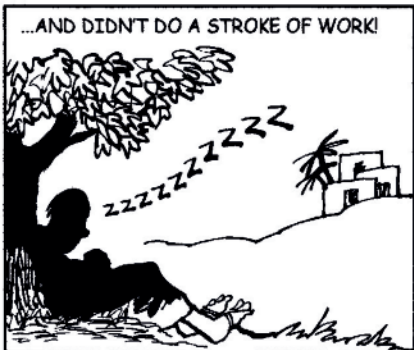
...BUT THEN HE CHANGED HIS MIND AND WENT AND HELPED.



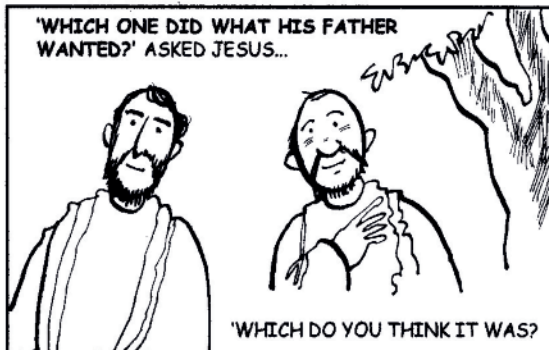
THE FATHER THEN WENT TO HIS YOUNGER SON AND ASKED HIM TO HELP IN THE VINEYARD TOO.



'OF COURSE I WILL' SAID THE YOUNGER SON. BUT HE PROMPTLY FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT....



...AND DIDN'T DO A STROKE OF WORK!



'WHICH ONE DID WHAT HIS FATHER WANTED?' ASKED JESUS...

'WHICH DO YOU THINK IT WAS?'

In praise of motorway services

What have you got in common with the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and Eric Clapton? You have all visited the Watford Gap Services on your way up or down the M1.

Back in the early 1960s, the M1 transformed the way that bands could travel, and visiting the service station was an integral part of their trip. In the 60 or so years since motorway services opened, they have also become part of life for tens of millions of us.

Motorway services not only provide a much-needed break from the road, they are also a great place for people-watching. All sizes, shapes and varieties of people can be found in one. As one journalist put it: "a motorway service station is the ultimate human zoo."

Not everyone used motorway services back in the 1960s. Many people just pulled over onto the hard shoulder and unpacked a picnic. There was even the true story of the family who pulled their car onto the central reservation of the motorway to have lunch – and survived to tell the tale.

Motorway services also confused people. One distraught couple, heading north, reported their car had been stolen. The police found they had crossed the pedestrian bridge, and then could not find their car in the south-bound car park.

Today there are 111 service stations in the UK. The law states that they must not be more than 28 miles apart, or 30 minutes of travelling time. By law, they must provide two hours of free parking, free toilets, and a free play area for children.

The first two motorway services were Watford Gap and Newport Pagnell, both of which opened in early November 1959, along with the M1.

Children and tea-drinking

Put the kettle on. Children should begin to drink tea from the age of four, in order to combat later stress, obesity and heart disease.

So says the results of a recent study which appeared in the *Nutrition and Food Technology* journal. It says that green tea and the more traditional black tea contain compounds which can aid concentration and cognitive function.

As one doctor said, "Including three cups of black tea daily as a part of a healthy lifestyle could help to preserve physical and mental health in childhood... and into old age."

Parents could offer tea as a substitute for sweet and sugary drinks for children.



"Mike composes all his sermons on his iPhone – he uses something called Predictable Text..."

New York Village Hall
2nd September 5pm - 8pm
(First Thursday every month)

Bike Night/Social

Classic bikes, cars, tractors welcome.
 Auto jumble/stalls. Refreshments available. See the Hall Facebook page for more details and photos.

All welcome

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The Parable of the Weeds
 (Matthew 13.24-30)

Ever wonder why there is both good and evil allowed in this world? Jesus told a parable that touched on this subject – it is called the Parable of the Weeds. It runs like this: Consider the world as if it were a field where a Farmer has sown good seed. But then an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat. So when the wheat came up, so did the weeds. What to do? Instead of destroying the weeds, and thereby risking the wheat, the Farmer tells his reapers to wait and let both wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest. At the harvest he will instruct the reapers to gather up the wheat, but to discard the weeds. So do not despair when evil seems to thrive in this world – there is a reckoning still to come, and justice will be done.

Shed Roof Damage

The roof of the shed at St Peter's Church, Wildmore (see below) has been badly damaged by falling branches and age. If anyone thinks they could help with repairs please contact Marilyn the churchwarden.



Amber Hill W.I Report

June Orford President, welcomed members old and new to the first face to face meeting of 2021. After the singing of Jerusalem the minutes of the Annual Report were read. The vacancy on the committee was filled. Members were told that the raffle and competition would resume from next month.

The President introduced the speaker for the evening Nigel Coe who talked about how he and his wife opened a shop in Horncastle selling 500 different types of sweets. He talked about the history of sweets. Members were given a sample bag of some of the sweets they sell to try. The talk definitely bought back lots of memories from childhood and it was nice to know that lots of the sweets are still available.

June Davy thanked the speaker and tea and biscuits were served. This gave everyone a chance to catch up as it had been so long since the last face to face meeting.

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 10th September 7.30pm.** at Hubberts Bridge community centre.
Claire Goulding



Female clergy

In 1992 the Church of England voted to allow the ordination of women. Since 2014 they have also been able to become Bishops. The percentage of female clergy across all denominations in the UK in 1992, the first year it was counted, was 7% (of which 5% was Church of England).

By the year 2000 it was 10% for all denominations, by 2008 19%, by 2016 21% and in 2019, the latest year available, it is 24% (but 29% for Church of England and 23% for their senior clergy).

The Salvation Army has the largest proportion of female officers - an estimated 49% in 2020. The United Reformed Church has also had a high percentage – 36% in 2020.

Likewise in 2020, the Methodist Church of Great Britain had 36%, and the Church of Scotland had 28%. In 2020 the Baptists had 15%, New Churches (especially Vineyard, Newfrontiers and Pioneer) 16%, and Pentecostals 15%. The Roman Catholics and the Orthodox have no women priests at all.

How do these percentages compare with female leadership generally? Globally there are 21 women serving as the head of state or government in 193 countries, which is 11%. In the UK, of the top FTSE 100 companies only 5% of the CEOs are women. Of the MPs returned in the 2019 general

election, 34% were women. In the UK regular Armed Forces, 11% are women.

One can always make other comparisons, but by these few examples, the percentage of female ministers is at least comparable to, if not better than, other sections of British society.

Dr Peter Brierley

Five things we've learnt about Truth in the pandemic

I'm involved in a project rooted in the Church of England's St Albans diocese, north of London. We bring together people from a range of backgrounds and faiths to address the question 'Where is Truth now?'

A vital issue for us from recent months has been 'How has truth fared during the pandemic? Here are five key points.

Truth can save your life.

Knowing the truth about the Covid-19 virus and vaccines gave vital protection during the pandemic. The advice of scientists, health professionals and researchers has been widely sought out and debated.

But we've also seen a rise in conspiracy theories, anti-vaccination campaigns and growing confusion as people challenge the extent of the pandemic, and whether Covid-19 is really a threat.

(Continued on page 35)

Thanking God for our blessings

Our winter barley ripened quickly this year, and soon the combine harvesters were rolling here on the Northumberland / Scottish Border.

As the first trailer load of grain came into the shed, I ran my hands through the golden grains, offering a short prayer of thankfulness as I savoured the smell of fresh cut barley. It was a good harvest.

I've often reflected on the Old Testament festival of the Firstfruits, where the Israelites offered the very first sheaf of the spring harvest to God (Leviticus 23:9-14). I think this act required great faith, as they trusted God for a fruitful harvest to come, something that was far from certain, given their utter dependence on the weather.

I'm not sure about you, but I'm always up for giving thanks *after* the event. I'll sing 'Come ye thankful people come' and rejoice that "all is safely gathered in", but am I able to trust with anticipation for what is *yet to come*?

The festival of the Firstfruits reminded God's people that everything they had came from Him. I am reminded that I must learn (and relearn) to trust in God, who has proven His faithfulness to me, over and over again.

Perhaps right now as a church community or an individual you're waiting for a certain event, standing on the cusp of a new initiative, praying for a certain outcome or anticipating a long-held vision becoming reality. Let's all keep trusting that whatever the challenge, however things turn out, irrespective of what we anticipate, God is going before us and has secured the Firstfruits of an even greater harvest through Jesus, as He rose from the dead.

Just as the grain offering to God in the Old Testament anticipated a harvest to come, Paul reminds us that Jesus' victory anticipates an even greater bodily resurrection and eternal peace (1 Corinthians 15:20-22).

As we continue our journey with Jesus through the challenges of each day, let's do so with a deepening faith and trust. In the meantime, bring on the harvest - I'll see you on the other side!

Alistair Birkett

Director of Rural Ministries for Scotland and Northern England.

You can read more at:

<https://www.ruralministries.org.uk/blog/anticipatingtheharvest?>

20th anniversary of 9/11 – looking back on the horror

The TV pictures looked like some macabre video game, with toy aircraft crashing into matchbox towers. Then incredulity turned into utter dismay. This was real: the most powerful nation in the world had been invaded by 19 airborne Islamic terrorists, with devastating effect. Nearly 3,000 people died.

The US government announced a war on terror. Futile invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan followed, with more loss of life.



9/11 was 20 years ago this month. Five years later, coordinated suicide attacks on London's transport system were carried out, also by Islamists. 52 people of 18 different nationalities were killed and more than 700 were injured. In 2017, 23 people died and 1,017 were injured in the Manchester Arena bombing. There have been other terrorist murders; at least three plots have been foiled during the coronavirus pandemic.

Today, the MI5 estimate of the threat of a terrorist attack in the UK hovers between substantial and severe.

The world isn't as secure as we had once hoped. In addition to the menace of unconstrained violence, our planet is silently protesting against centuries of abuse, and we're only just waking up to our accountability as stewards. At the same time, we must come to terms with the knowledge that Covid-19 and its variations are permanent additions to the list of deadly diseases to be held at bay by immunisation. There will be more to come.

Our forebears, who lived in even riskier times, drew strength from Psalm 91:

*You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust."
For He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence ...*

The Psalm is no panacea, or divine guarantee of earthly immunity, but the assurance that God holds the whole world in His hands and His ultimate purposes will not be thwarted.

The Ven. John Barton

Men and the TV remote

Men don't want to see what's on television. They want to see WHAT ELSE is on television.

Just how dangerous is cannabis?

If you have a child or grandchild, it's quite possible they will have tried cannabis. Known in various forms as pot, weed, skunk, Ganga and marijuana, it's the most widely used illegal drug. One in three 17-year-olds have experimented with it and some are now regular users or addicts. Described as the 'gateway drug', one in 10 cannabis users have gone on to hard drugs.

Some claim it's a harmless recreational practice, less damaging than alcohol. It has been legalised in 18 American States, including California. Take a tourist bus tour of San Francisco, and your guide will point out the shops which are licensed to sell the drug. It is argued that the illegal use of pot was so widespread that licensing its sale was the only way to break the chain of criminal activity involved with its production and distribution. The American TV documentary series *Murder Mountain* suggests otherwise.

Recent research has cast doubt on the 'harmless' claim: not only does early use of cannabis increase by 37% the chances of depression in adulthood, but the drug actually causes long-lasting damage to the thinking skills and behaviour of developing brains - worse than teenage drinking. Regular use may affect the respiratory and immune systems and even the ability to

procreate. Whether or not it causes cancer is an open question, but it is usually mixed with tobacco, which is undoubtedly carcinogenic.

Evidence that cannabis may reduce certain kinds of pain has been examined by the Multiple Sclerosis Society, which reports that although cannabis may benefit some with MS, it has been linked to mental health problems such as anxiety, memory loss, panic attacks and psychotic episodes.

Just before he died in 2020, Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks published *Morality*, a searching and sober analysis of behaviour in the West. In a chapter on widespread drug use, he wrote "I think of the lives that might have been saved, if figures of authority and influence had cared enough to say 'No' more firmly."

The Ven. John Barton

A Time to Change Together

(TTCT) sets a vision for a transformed church in Lincolnshire over the next five years. We are called to reimagine the local church, to secure its future and help it flourish. TTCT is underpinned by the 15 recommendations and commitments of Resourcing Sustainable Church (RSC) that were approved by Synod in May 2021.

Full details are online at www.lincoln.anglican.org/ttct

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Social media algorithms stand accused of spreading misinformation faster than reliable facts and corrections.

Truth comes from trust.

Knowing who to trust is one of the fastest growing challenges facing anyone wanting to know more about the pandemic and its causes.

While faith in doctors and scientists is generally good, trust in politicians has remained low, and scepticism and confusion are growing.

Truth can be found on your doorstep – but not always.

Local information has become more important, especially during lockdowns. But with local newspapers and radio in decline, neighbourhood social media networks have been taking their place, spreading information – not all of it verifiable and sometimes incorrect.

Often, it's fear that drives our response to the stories we read. We eagerly consume stories highlighting a new 'threat' from Covid or scapegoating people not keeping to the lockdown rules. We respond emotionally, 'with our gut' – rather than our brain or intellect.

Truth has to be valued and protected.

Reliable, trusted journalism has been at a premium. ITV News journalist Julie Etchingham defended the role of the media during Covid-19. The news presenter, a practising Roman

Catholic, explained: "Many in our front-line services and the wider public are demanding answers. We are there on their behalf."

In December 2020, Yorkshire Post editor James Mitchinson, published his response to a reader who believed social media posts over his newspaper's reports. The open letter, headlined 'Do not believe a stranger on social media who disappears into the night' sets out the contrast between verified public interest journalism and disinformation posted online.

Truth can be complicated – and that's ok.

Throughout the pandemic, politicians have spoken about 'following the science.' This, they have said, has guided their decision making. Yet scientists can have a range of views, based on similar research findings. It's in the discussion and debate that scientific truth arises.

People accept that the 'scientific evidence' is not always straightforward. We know that truth can be complicated, from our own daily lives. So politicians who level with their electors about the complexity of the decisions are often received with more credibility.

In continuing to ask the question "Where is Truth Now?" our modest project is helping to keep the conversation going – and encouraging others to do the same.

Revd Peter Crumpler

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Sudoku challenge

Enter numbers into the blank spaces so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9 without repeats.

		7		6				3
1	6		4		3	9		
			1				8	
7	8							
9	2		8		4		6	1
							7	2
	1				2			
		8	9		1		3	6
2				3		1		

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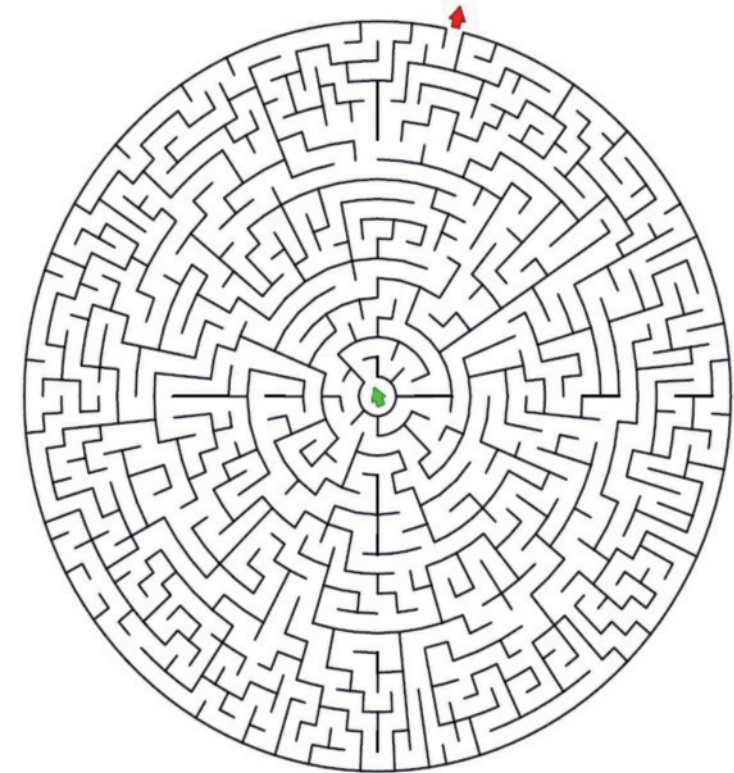
Wordsearch

Find the 22 words hidden in this Wordsearch puzzle.

The clues can be found in The Parable of the Weeds on page 17.

R	E	N	N	T	E	N	G	R	O	W	
R	M	N	W	D	G	A	K	S	D	R	E
H	A	O	A	A	N	I	R	H	E	E	E
T	S	W	T	L	N	E	V	A	E	H	D
N	T	H	E	G	E	O	P	G	R	T	S
S	E	L	D	N	U	B	U	R	N	E	D
R	R	O	E	I	E	N	I	A	R	G	L
D	M	M	E	P	T	R	S	V	D	O	E
E	Y	T	S	E	V	R	A	H	S	T	I
E	I	S	E	E	N	N	G	O	O	D	F
W	V	N	D	L	T	E	O	O	N	O	G
H	L	O	H	S	B	A	R	N	E	M	A

Maze Find your way from the centre to the top.



Solutions for August edition

L	N	U	N	W	R	O	L	A	O	L	L	E	W	O
S	P	W	P	E	T	E	R	A	D	I	A	N	T	T
I	B	E	L	O	V	E	D	W	E	L	L	I	N	G
N	O	I	T	A	R	U	G	I	F	S	N	A	R	T
A	O	I	O	D	S	A	N	O	S	T	N	T	O	N
I	W	T	M	N	S	U	D	O	X	E	N	N	H	E
I	L	A	M	F	F	E	N	B	V	H	S	U	W	W
O	A	U	C	L	A	A	F	O	E	P	N	O	O	E
M	E	U	T	I	O	N	C	S	L	O	D	M	M	M
L	N	M	O	D	O	W	E	E	I	R	N	D	H	G
T	A	M	N	N	O	M	A	A	J	P	J	S	O	E
N	P	D	O	N	A	S	W	L	A	O	P	S	M	O
S	R	L	O	J	E	E	O	I	H	T	A	E	J	E
I	E	A	O	D	N	I	K	N	A	M	I	T	S	U
A	I	E	E	N	G	A	J	G	E	I	A	D	E	A

3	8	9	1	6	5	2	7	4
4	2	7	3	9	8	6	5	1
6	5	1	2	4	7	3	8	9
5	7	6	9	1	3	4	2	8
1	3	4	6	8	2	5	9	7
8	9	2	5	7	4	1	6	3
7	6	8	4	5	1	9	3	2
9	4	3	7	2	6	8	1	5
2	1	5	8	3	9	7	4	6

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Time for a Smile

A young man rang his mother to announce, with great excitement, that he'd at last fallen in love and was contemplating marriage. He went on: "Just for fun, I'm going to bring over my girlfriend and two of her friends. I would like you to try and guess which one I'm going to marry."

The mother agreed. So, the next day her son arrived at his mother's house with three beautiful young women. They sat on the sofa and chatted for a while with the family.

When his mother went out to the kitchen to put the kettle on for tea, her son followed her. "Okay, mum," he said. "Guess which one I would like to marry."

She replied at once: "The one in the green dress." Her son was astonished and asked how on earth she had guessed. The mother shrugged. "That's easy. I don't like her."

A man went into a drop-in medical centre where the diagnosis was done by a computer. The patient keyed in his symptoms. The machine whirred and buzzed for a few seconds and then presented its findings on the screen. It said simply: "There's a lot of it about."

My three-year-old was saying his nightly prayers in a very low voice. "I can't hear you," I finally whispered. He said firmly, "Wasn't talking to you."

The sentence, 'Are you as bored as I am?', can be read backwards and still make sense.

The new Bishop wanted a bird's eye view of his new diocese, so he had an idea. He rang his local airfield to charter a flight, and was told that a twin-engine plane would be waiting for him. Arriving at the airfield, the bishop spotted a plane warming up outside a hangar. He jumped in, slammed the door shut, and shouted, "Let's go!"

At once the pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and took off. Once in the air, the bishop spent several minutes enjoying the views, and looking for local landmarks. Finally, he instructed the pilot, "Fly down the valley now and make low passes so I can take pictures of some of the best of the old parish churches."

"Why?" asked the pilot.

"Because I'm the new bishop," he replied happily, adjusting his camera, "and I want some good aerial views of my diocese."

The pilot was silent for a moment. Finally he stammered, "So, what you're telling me, is, you're NOT my flight instructor?"

Before setting off on a business trip to Birmingham, I called the hotel where I'd be staying to see if they had a gym. The hotel receptionist's sigh had a tinge of exasperation in it when she answered.

"We have over 100 guests at this facility," she said. "Does this 'Jim' have a last name?"

Why is it that everyone can remember their childhood phone number, but can't remember the password they set up yesterday?

The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

On the perils of taking a wedding

From: The Rectory, St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

As with many of your ideas, your intentions are admirable; it is just that they don't work.

So it was with the recent wedding in your church, where you allowed the happy but quite mad young couple to try and imitate the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. It was kind of them to want to celebrate Will and Kate's recent 10th wedding anniversary, but it did not seem to occur to anybody that your church, converted from a 1960s warehouse, is fractionally less impressive than Westminster Abbey. And I feel that a backdrop of a car park and canal make a poor substitute for the Houses of Parliament and the Thames. Finally, even 43 very enthusiastic young people can hardly pretend they are a congregation of several thousand.

However, I do applaud your decision to invite me to take it, in order to impart a degree of gravitas to the proceedings, though of course I would not presume to upstage the Archbishop of Canterbury. (Although were he to ask my advice on how to run the Anglican Church, I have several helpful suggestions to hand.) But even I struggled to keep things on a proper course when the bride, lacking a horse-drawn carriage, simply walked up the lane with her ancient pony. (Which then tried to bite me at the church door!)

Her arrival was greeted with music. I will pass no comment on this, as the Bible says we are to make a joyful noise, not necessarily music, unto the Lord. I am sure that drums and kazoos and guitars all have their place – somewhere or other.

It was a pity that the groom, unlike Prince William, had not thought to get to the church on time – or indeed, at all. It was fortunate that the bride's mother found him in that pub nearby, or really, we would have struggled to complete the wedding.

Your Loving Uncle, *Eustace*



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