

Let's give it up for Lent

We give up things for Lent, but at the same time Lent is about never giving up. It sounds as though we have got ourselves into a bit of a muddle about what Lent is for, but if we have then there is a good reason why.

On the one hand, Lent recalls Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness where he lived on very little, kept himself to himself and concentrated on preparing body and soul for the journey ahead of him. The least we can do is walk with him on wilderness way as a token of our commitment to follow him even at some cost to ourselves. So we use Lent as a time to give up something which matters to us in order to identify with Jesus in his period of abstinence.

On the other hand, the story which emerges most powerfully from Jesus' time in the wilderness is the story of his temptations. Tormented by hunger he was tempted to turn stones into bread; teased by the prospect of power he was tempted to pay the devil homage; tested by the opportunity to put on a spectacular demonstration of his divine nature he was tempted to throw himself off the Temple parapet into the arms of his guardian angels.

But he resisted all these temptations to give up on his allotted task and so give in to the allure of power, possessions and prestige which so besmirch the image of God in those he was sent to save. That is why Lent is also a time to strengthen our resolve and reinforce our defences against "sin, the world and the devil" to use the time-honoured words of the Baptism Service. It is sometimes tough to live the life of true discipleship, but the lesson of Lent is that we must never give up.

Of course, giving up and not giving up are not mutually exclusive alternatives. By joining Jesus in his time of abstinence we are also joining with him in his campaign of resistance. We give things up so as to concentrate on the spiritual resources we need to never give up on his call to carry our cross and follow him through the valley of death and onwards to the gate of glory.

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+John Lincoln.

Contents

Ash and it shall be given...	1
Financial Appeal for the Anglican Church in Zimbabwe	2
Mothers' Union Notes, Feb 18 2009	3
Christians hit cyber road for virtual Lent pilgrimage / Spring Cleaning	4
Ladies' Group February	5
March Diary	7
Parish Registers / PCC Minutes	9
Valentine's Day Supper	10
Deadly procedure, life-giving action	12
New County Choral Society / Revision of the Church Electoral Roll, 2009	13
Ropewalk Events and Exhibitions	14
Let's give it up for Lent	15



Copy Deadlines for the April edition.

Would all contributors note the following?

Thank you to the increasing number able to email lengthier articles direct to the editor.

Hard copy (i.e. hand/typewritten items, photographs, etc.) should be left in the Magazine file in the clergy vestry by Sunday March 15.

Electronic copy (physical) (floppy disc, data pen, CD-ROM) should be saved as *.rtf (text files) or *.jpeg (image/graphics) if at all possible and placed in the same file as above by the same date.

Electronic copy (email) should be sent in the same formats as above to davidrowett@aol.com by March 18th

Ash and it shall be given....

It's not that many years (but pre-Barton) since I was taken to task for 'empty ritual'. A lady bearing what I can only describe as a Capital Punishment expression bore down on me to upbraid me for entertaining these meaningless 'High Church rituals' – by which she meant the Rite of Ashing at the beginning of Lent. Then in the next breath she softened and said what a lovely thing it was that so many people had placed flowers at the site of a recent local tragedy, and that she was going along to put hers there as well....

Just like 'orthodoxy' is described as 'My Doxy' and heresy, or 'heterodoxy' as 'Anyone Else's Doxy', so 'Empty Ritual' means no more and no less than 'it doesn't do anything for me'. Father Holything's habit of hurling him/herself to the floor before the altar will strike Pastor Glossolalia as a bit odd, while he himself jabs his index finger heavenwards at every occurrence of 'Jesus' in a chorus – thus in turn nonplussing his Catholic counterpart. Two different rituals, each opaque to the other, but each expressing a sincere and deeply felt devotion, where an inner thirst for God expresses itself through a physical gesture.

So I resolutely defended the Rite of Ashing because it helps us use material things and physical acts to remind us of who we are and what we believe. Marked with the Cross of burned palm ash, we are reminded of our frailty – but since everyone's marked in the same way, we gain consolation that we're all frail together and that God can cope with it. It binds us together.

It's always been said that Christianity is one of the most materialistic faiths on offer – that is, it takes the world seriously. We do not live in bodies as imprisoned spirits, like the Greeks believed, but as embodied spirits. This is why Paul talks of a 'spiritual body' after the Resurrection – humans can't do without bodies, through which we know and are known, even in the Kingdom. And so we shouldn't be surprised if a faith which uses material things – wine, water, bread, oil – also leads us to express our faith through movements and gestures and actions, just as people express their emotions through gifts and flowers and embraces.

And more, perhaps. Repeated little acts shape our lives. Just as learning as children to say 'Thank-you' will probably make us more appreciative of others, so we shouldn't be surprised if little religious acts – things which punctuate daily life and 'bring us up short' from time to time to remind us who we are — start to shape us too.

Ropewalk Events and Exhibitions

The latest leaflet for events at Ropery Hall until early July has just been published and can be picked up from The Ropewalk.

The programme, which runs until Friday, July 3, includes live music, comedy, theatre and film. One of the highlights is Barton Film Week which runs from Monday March 23 to Saturday March 28 and starts with a Laurel and Hardy Night and continues with such films as *The Pianist*, *Sweeney Todd* and *Quantum of Solace*.

Other highlights include one of the country's leading young storytelling comedians, Terry Saunders, who is appearing on Friday, March 13. and Blue Lizard Theatre's innovative one-man play, *Simply Einstein* on April 3 which traces Einstein's story from his early days in Europe, through the glory years of *Relativity*, the Nobel Prize and international fame, to the disillusioned, philandering frustrated theorist he became.

Three new exhibitions open this month – What's My Line displaying work from the South London print studio, Artichoke, Miles Halpin: Map of the Universe showing steel sculpture based around ideas of mapping and Richard Godfrey's rich, glazed ceramics echoing the countryside and coast around his South Devon home.

The full line up can be viewed at www.the-ropewalk.co.uk

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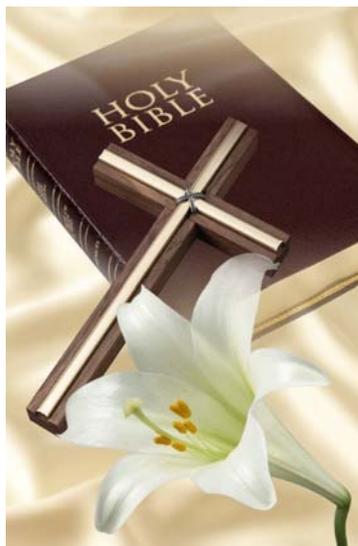
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New County Choral Society

CONDUCTOR
RICHARD MABBOTT

PRESENTS
AN EASTER CONCERT

TO INCLUDE
'Nelson Mass' – Haydn
'Cantique De Jean Racine' - Fauré
'Ave Verum Corpus' – Mozart



AT
ST MARY'S CHURCH,
BARTON-UPON-HUMBER

ON
SUNDAY APRIL 5TH, 2009
7.30 pm

SOLOISTS:
CHRISTINE STARR – SOPRANO
JOAN CROWTHER – CONTRALTO
ROBERT ULRICH – TENOR
ALEX HAIGH – BASS

TICKETS: £5 (£4 conc.)
Available from choir members,
or tel: 01652 632583

'Pegs to hang your hat on' was how John Betjeman described such things — so as the rituals of Lent and Easter beckon, the fasting, the foot-washing, the watching in prayer, — whether it's arm-waving or knee-bending or whatever that does it for us, let's hear it for ritual, and allow our bodies to express what our hearts believe — and so deepen that faith in us.

Fr David

Financial appeal for the Anglican Church in Zimbabwe.

USPG has been chosen by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to administer a financial appeal for the Anglican Church in Zimbabwe. The appeal, which was announced by the Archbishop of Canterbury at General Synod in his Presidential Address, will be officially launched on Ash Wednesday (25 February) and will enable the Anglican Church in Zimbabwe to reach out to communities that are facing a humanitarian crisis.

A joint statement issued by Archbishop Rowan Williams and Archbishop John Sentamu read: 'The deteriorating political situation in Zimbabwe is being accompanied by the worst humanitarian crisis the country has seen since independence.

'Many have died from cholera, starvation and HIV. A breakdown of basic civil infrastructure is slowly destroying a nation and causing unimaginable suffering. But while the government is failing, churches are struggling to feed the hungry and heal the sick. They are suffering alongside their communities, and they need our help.

'We, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, urge you to support this appeal. Please support the Anglican dioceses and parishes in Zimbabwe as they desperately try to witness to God's love and address mounting practical needs.

They concluded: 'How can any of us be silent when one part of the body is suffering?'

USPG General Secretary Bishop Michael Doe said: "USPG has long worked with the Dioceses of Zimbabwe, and we are delighted that the Archbishops have chosen us to administer their appeal for them. The Church in Zimbabwe is exercising a faithful and often courageous witness, and this appeal will enable them to reach out in practical ways to even more people. Thank you for your support."

Revision of the Church Electoral Roll 2009

If you are already on the Roll you need take no action unless, for instance, you have moved house since last year. Regular worshippers at St. Mary's aged 16 years or over are invited to complete one of the forms to be found at the back of the Church and to return it to one of the Churchwardens before Wednesday 4th March.

Mothers' Union Notes, Feb 18th 2009.

Our meeting was opened by Elinor who gave Sheila's apologies for her absence as she was away looking after her grandchildren. We sang hymn 487 – Jesus good above all other, (give us grace to persevere). This was chosen by Kathy Colwell our speaker who led us in prayers from the M.U. book followed by her chosen reading from Matthew 7 verses 25-34 ,” do not worry about tomorrow think only of today” read by Val Dukes.

Kathy spoke about how her “journey in life” led her to Barton on Humber. Kathy was born and grew up in East Manchester with her brother in a very happy family life. Her father was a Methodist preacher . Kathy herself went to Sunday school ending as a Sunday school teacher at the age of 16. Always fond of music she learned to play the clarinet which although perhaps being “a bit rusty” (Kathy's words) she can still play today! She enjoyed being in the youth group where she learned to lead and read in worship. From there Kathy went on to be Youth secretary in the Circuit then the District. Kathy studied Theology at Manchester University where she felt she fitted in very well. Whilst there she joined the ecumenical chaplaincy where she felt the first seed was sown in her journey towards the Anglican ministry. After teacher training Kathy taught R. E and English in 3 different schools 2 in Stockport and 1 in Louth, which she enjoyed very much .

Kathy went on to become a Methodist local preacher in 1990 .Then in 1992 she met David Redrobe who was also a Methodist preacher. In May 1993 she went back to University Chaplaincy where her return was very warmly welcomed. Kathy and David were married there in 1996. During her time in the chaplaincy Kathy was drawn towards Anglican worship.

In 1997 Kathy and David moved to North Somercotes where Kathy remained in teaching for a while, then went on to train as a lay reader in the Anglican church, being licensed in 2002. After being a lay preacher in the Methodist and Anglican church Kathy went on to explore the possibility of ordained ministry in The Anglican church and after 3 years training Kathy was drawn to choosing to train at St Mary's after being given a choice by the Bishop. In July 2008 Kathy and David came to Barton where they were made very welcome.

Kathy has always been aware of God's guidance throughout her life through other people. Looking back she can see a pattern in her journey , the prayer that has always been with her is the post communion prayer, “Father of all” the words having a special meaning.

Deadly procedure, life-giving action

"I have come to the conclusion that the making of laws is like the making of sausages – the less you know about the process the more you respect the result." So reported Frank Tracy in 1898 in his report on the Committee on Uniform Laws of the American Bankers' Association.

Now that sounds pretty mind-numbing stuff. But I raise you the General Synod of the Church of England. It's not just dull, but dull and infuriating at the same time. It's not a winning combination.

In February the Church of England's parliament debated once again the subject of women bishops, global capitalism, whether membership of the BNP is compatible with being an Anglican, and the deadly question of the covenant, a new set of rules for what counts as being a true Anglican which (though the higher-ups all deny this categorically) is designed to exclude the US church from the communion because it had the temerity to make a gay man a bishop.

Much of this is the church putting its worst foot forward. Question time allows petty doctrinal point-scoring or score-settling. Other speakers are so bound up with procedural obscurantism that they make the question of angels dancing on a pin look like a model of practicality and relevance. The only thing that keeps me from falling asleep is my anger at the wastefulness of the whole thing. So I trudge home in the rain deeply miserable about the state of my church.

Yet as I write, two dozen or so churchgoers are sitting in our back room, discussing new ways of raising money for AIDS orphans in Zimbabwe or the Christian Aid appeal for Gaza or the local homeless project. They visit the sick and help look after the needy. They offer a space for people to come together to share their hopes for a better world and to seek means for personal transformation. And then I remember once again why I do it all.

General Synod produces headlines. But this is not the true church. They are sat in the back trying to make a difference. And that church I will love forever.



Giles Fraser

our functional hall, with red hearts around the walls, red and pink balloons waving gently towards the ceiling on tethered strings and white-clothed tables decorated with a romantic theme, complete with red and pink paper napkins folded into heart-shapes. A smiling E-I-W member greeted each guest at the door with the offer of a glass of pink champagne punch and others hovered with trays of heart-shaped canapés. We then dined royally....

One of the adults who had assisted during the day gave a delightful word-picture of Jenny Hepworth, presiding in the kitchen, surrounded by her assistants who had busily prepared mounds of vegetables and performed other tasks under her slightly manic direction. No wonder there was mention of sore feet and obviously slower movements by clear-up time - though the smiles were still there. Meanwhile, thanks to these willing and energetic young people, a very good evening was had by all and many people had further honoured the occasion by appearing resplendent in red, pink, or glitter. Fr. David was elegant in burgundy bow tie and cummerbund, Viv was a fairy godmother, though I wondered at first whether she was Cupid. I had cottoned on fairly quickly to the fact that we were indeed celebrating St. Valentine!

On a more serious note - apart from the fact that our teenagers had given up their day to some magnificent preparations for the entertainment of others - they also gained, learning about catering, about facing the public (even when your feet have started to ache!), about groupwork and about themselves and their capabilities. It is good for their BYAA credit ratings and it may assist them when they are impoverished young adult students or householders looking for restaurant and bar work to keep the overdraft manageable! I would certainly give each of them a reference!

Rosemary Lamert

When American Anglican missionaries, whose church was then known as the Protestant Episcopal Church of the USA (PECUSA), went to Japan they tried to translate 'protestant episcopal' into Japanese to form the Protestant Episcopal Church of Japan.

Protestant was tricky, because of the argumentative element; 'episcopal' was traced back to 'elder'. The nearest Japanese they came up with was 'Church of old men who fall out with each other of Japan'.

The Japanese Anglican outpost became 'The Holy Catholic Church of Japan'.

Val Dukes gave a vote of thanks saying it was a privilege to have Kathy at St Mary's, and our parish is blessed by her presence.

March 4 th	9.30am	Corporate communion
March 18 th	No meeting	
March 25 th	LADY DAY, which is North Lincs Area Day	
	11am	Eucharist followed by Faith lunch at 12 noon
	2pm	Talk "What is The Mothers' Union doing in The Third World?"
March 6 th	2pm	Women's World Day of Prayer at Trinity Speaker Rev Felicity Couch

Christians hit cyber road for virtual Lent pilgrimage

The online journey begins on Ash Wednesday organised by the UK-based international development agency Christian Aid.

During Lent, Christians and others are being invited to take part in a virtual Israel-Palestine pilgrimage which transports travellers from their email inbox to the lands made familiar through both the Bible and contemporary - sometimes tragic - headlines. It has been backed by church leaders from across the denominations.

The Rt Rev Peter Price, Bishop of Bath and Wells, said: "If you can't go to the Holy Land in reality then the next best thing is this virtual journey. It's important for us to have a picture of the Holy Land today to understand better what Jesus was saying to us in the Gospel. His challenge to create a world of compassion, justice and truth remains a responsibility of all Christian people and all people of good will."

The online pilgrimage gives people the chance to watch short videos, go to photo galleries, read stories and pray in the places where Jesus preached. They also meet local Christians, Jews and Muslims living there today, hear their personal stories and hear how the conflict touches the lives of both Israelis and Palestinians, and learn how hard many people are working for peace.



Church Spring Cleaning.

Get your diaries at the ready – it's been set for Tuesday April 7th. Time to dig out your dusters!

Ladies' Group February.

Pauline welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for the amazing number of toiletries brought for the Women's Refuge in Gainsborough.

Veronica Fearn was the speaker at the first February meeting, giving us a demonstration of Thai Massage. Originating from Cleatham and having spent most of her life moving around, including 27 years living in Thailand, she has retired with her husband to Barton. She explained that for many years she had suffered from muscular and back problems and one day decided to have a massage in one of the local temple and walked out with a straight posture. So she decided to learn the art of Thai massage and spent hours in the temple learning the art.

Thai traditional massage has its roots in India and China. Because of the Indian influence through trading and marrying, Buddhism came to Thailand so temples and dispensaries were set up. Healing is an integral part of Buddhism- methods of carrying out the massage were inscribed into the stone tablets of the temple walls so they could not be forgotten.

She explained how the massage deals with the muscular system which includes applying pressure along the meridian lines (energy lines) of the body called Chi. If these lines are damaged or broken then one becomes sick. Similar positions to those in Yoga are used to open up the joints and increase flexibility. She showed us how the heel of the hand, fingers, arm, leg and foot and even the whole weight of the masseuse' body is used to apply pressure. The end result is that one feels revitalised, circulation is improved, poisons are got rid of, the immune system is boosted and a quietness of the mind is achieved. In other words it is an holistic form of massage. It was pointed out that it is not suitable for those with artificial knees or hips, phlebitis, spinal fusion or heart problems.

Carol Brandrick-Dyke volunteered to have a massage and seemed to be refreshed afterwards. Veronica told us that she practises Thai Massage at the C.V. day Spa opposite Tesco and sessions usually last about half an hour.

Sue Mitchell thanked Veronica and said that she had found massage beneficial particularly after a long haul flight. Mary Akester, Ellen Butler, June Elliot and Julia Schofield won the raffle.

The first February meeting was entitled 'My life with Olive'. On arrival we all saw a table set up with needlework items so it was quite a surprise to



Valentine's Day Supper

About 40 people gathered on the evening of 14th February for a supper laid on by E1W (and their adult helpers). The Hall and tables were suitably decorated, and lighting suitably subdued – I don't know whether this was to prevent us from seeing what we were eating! What followed was an amazing meal. In addition to the advertised two courses, there were canapés and oysters, champagne punch and a starter of home-made soup or mussels in white wine. I had the beef bourguignon as a main course, but the others on offer looked just as appetising. A goodly crop of vegetables complemented the meat, and the profiteroles

and Pavlova which followed were positively sumptuous. Coffee and mints rounded off the repast nicely. An amusing touch was that three of the gentlemen (I use the term loosely!) received Valentine's cards, with an additional "Garment" which caused considerable hilarity. I doubt whether there are many parishes where the young people would be able to come up with an evening such as this – congratulations to them for their unique contribution to Parish life. We all look forward to the next occasion.



Alan W.

and

E-I-W had made the decision to celebrate the feast of SS Cyril and Methodius on February 14th - at least that is how Fr. David announced it beforehand . When we arrived, it looked very much more as though we were going to celebrate St.Valentine. Adult supporters had transformed

Parish Registers

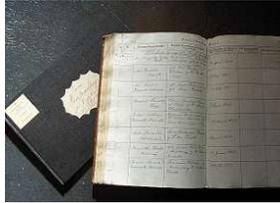
Baptisms:

- February 8** Jazmin-Rose Rebecca Cranidge, daughter of Jemma Shirley & Paul Sean Cranidge.
Jasmine Teal Hagar, daughter of Joanne Elizabeth & Lee Hagar.
- February 15** Kyle Alan Oldridge, son of Donna Marie & Stuart Paul Oldridge.
Taylor Lee Nigel Adams, son of Rebecca Frederica Adams.
Ben William Andrew, son of Sarah & Ian John Andrew.

Marriages: *None in February.*

Funerals:

- January 15** Claude Albert Drury Forester.
January 22 Colin Johnson.
January 29 Jane Rosemary Caroline ('Janie') Garfoot.
January 29 Victor Willerton.
February 2 Peter John Everett.
February 3 George Kenneth Parker.
February 6 Joan Corp.
February 10 Miles Thomas Hopper.
February 24 Ronald Coulam.



PCC minutes

The minutes of the PCC meeting of 26th January 2009 were approved by the PCC on 23rd February 2009 and are now available to read.

The 2009 Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual General Church Meeting of St. Mary's Church Barton will take place at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 31st March 2009** in the Church Hall.

Don't forget – a date for the diary! Rosemary Lamert, PCC Secretary.

find the 'Olive' turned out to be a lower arm prosthesis! Jan Martin told us she was born in 1949 in Scunthorpe hospital without her lower right arm as a result of the upper arm being against the wall of the womb restricting blood flow and therefore the growth of the arm. Tightly bundled up in a blanket her mother was not allowed to see her arm until she took her home or allowed to go to the baby clinic to be weighed in case it upset the other mums! Her parents fought to keep her at home and for her to attend Ashby infants' school as the authority wanted her to go to a school for 'deformed' children.

She had her first artificial limb at four years old and was the first to have one so young. This was very clumsy by today's standards and was attached by many straps and was very heavy. She was often discouraged at school from taking part in sports activities but persevered and could swim before other members of her class having been taught at home. She came top in the typing class in spite of being told she wouldn't be able to do it. Her mum always seemed to be at school fighting her corner.

Her biggest ambition was to join the R.A.F. but they were worried about her fighting- she said it would be O.K. because if she lost her arm she had another at home! So she ended up working at the steel works as a typist.

She showed us how her limb is attached by suction and we were shown several for babies and small children. She has one where the fingers can be moved by the use of electrodes but finds it awkward so doesn't use it. She has devised ways of holding her needlework and does all kinds of activities from yoga to dancing, having a spare arm for 'best' as they soon get dirty. They cost on average three thousand pounds. She never asks 'why me?' and makes a joke of it like when people ask her to 'give them a hand'- she does so literally! She made up stories as a child of it being eaten at the zoo by a lion!! She has never been affected by her arm having been born like that but perhaps it would be different if one had lost an arm in an accident.

So why 'Olive'? Well that was a nickname given to her arm by a boyfriend and it stuck.

Jan was thanked by Diane Askew who said her positive attitude was an example to us all.

The raffle was won by Kath Lambert, Laurean Weakley and Brenda Skinner.

Sue Wright.

March Diary

March 1st - First Sunday of Lent

- 8.00 am Said Eucharist.
- 9.30 am Parish Eucharist.
- 11.15 am Sunday Club.
- 2.30 pm Service at the Willows.
- 6.00 pm Choral Evensong.

Mon. 2 10.15 am Toddler Time.
8.00 pm Prayer & Reflection Group meets at Kathy & David's, 82 West Acridge

Tue. 3 7.00 pm Said Eucharist.
7.00 pm *United Prayers at St. Augustine's.*

Wed. 4 9.30 am Said Eucharist.
12-1.00 Lent Lunch (*proceeds to Christian Aid*).
6.30 pm Tower AGM at David & Viv's.

Thur 5 10.30 am House Eucharist. (Ann Chapman, 45 Westfield Rd)

March 8th Second Sunday of Lent.

- 8.00 am Said Eucharist.
- 9.30am Parish Eucharist
- 4.00pm Baptisms.

Mon. 9 10.15 am Toddler Time.
2.00 pm Standing Committee meets at David & Viv's.

Tue. 10 7.00 pm Said Eucharist.

Wed. 11 9.30 am Said Eucharist.
12-1.00 Lent Lunch (*proceeds to Christian Aid*).
2.00 pm Service at Eagle House.
7.15 pm Ministry Team Meeting.

Thur 12 10.30 am House Eucharist. (*chez Guilliat, 65 Haven Road*)

March 15th Third Sunday of Lent.

- 8.00 am Said Eucharist.
- 8.30 am *Prayer Breakfast at St. Mary's.*
- 10.00 am Family Worship & baptisms.
- 6.00 pm Parish Eucharist.

Mon. 16 10.15 am Toddler Time.
Home Communion at St. Peter's Court (10.15) & Victoria House (11.00).

2.00 pm Worship Review Group @ David & Viv's.
Tue. 17 7.00 pm Said Eucharist for wholeness & healing.

Wed. 18 9.30 am Said Eucharist.
12-1.00 Lent Lunch (*proceeds to Christian Aid*).
2.00 pm Service at Beech House.

Thurs 19 Home Communion.
10.30 am House Eucharist. (Dennis Cowe, 10 Stephen Crescent)

March 22nd Fourth Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday.

- 8.00 am Said Eucharist.
- 9.30 am Family Eucharist.
- 6.00 pm Sung Evensong.

Mon. 23 10.15 am Toddler Time.

Tue. 24 Home Communion at The Willows.

7.00 pm Said Eucharist.
7.30 pm Extraordinary PCC meeting with the Archdeacon.

Wed. 25th 9.30 am Said Eucharist.

Lady Day 11.00 am MU North Lincs. Lady Day service.
12-1.00 Lent Lunch (*proceeds to Christian Aid*).
Thur 26 10.30 am House Eucharist. (host - tbc)

March 29th Lent 5

- 8.00 am Said Eucharist.
- 9.30 am Parish Eucharist
- 6.00 pm Sung Evensong.

Mon 30 10.15 am Toddler Time.
2.00 pm Standing Committee at David & Viv's.

Tue 31 7.00 pm Said Eucharist.
7.30 pm Parish AGM in the hall.

Morning Prayer is usually said at 9am Monday-Thursday in the St. James' Chapel.

