

Trust me - I'm a Bishop

There are many possible responses to this plea, ranging from: "You must be joking - I did that once and I won't make that mistake again", to "Of course I will because being trustworthy is part of what being a Bishop is all about".

Probably most people will position themselves somewhere between these extremes of pathological suspicion and unconditional confidence when it comes to trusting Bishops - or anyone else for that matter. But why is trust so important? Well, the whole of our Banking system depends on it and recent events have raised all sorts of questions about the extent to which money-marketeers can be trusted to deliver efficient and fair economic outcomes without strict regulation. Demands for regulation imply increasing erosion of trust, so trust matters.

So, what is trust? The very word has the gift of warming the heart and casting out fear. It is a feel-good word, but we note that it is rarely unconditional. It makes assumptions about the reliability and benevolence of other people which we are seldom prepared to concede without putting in place some fail-safe provisions lest our assumptions prove to be misplaced. This is because, human nature being what it is, individuals will tend to pursue their own interests. Co-operation cannot be assumed, yet we do continue to trust other people even when this would appear to be rather risky in a climate of self-centredness and greed. This commitment to go on trusting people may be purely pragmatic - how could a modern economy, democracy or Church continue to operate without some degree of trust being conceded? However, it may be attributable to something much more fundamental about what it means to be human.

We live in relationship with one another and where there is no trust, there can be no relationship. Trust is fundamental to life in community, and it is fundamental to what we call faithfulness. Faith is a disposition of the mind and will to entrust oneself and one's interests to the reliability and benevolence of another. When that "other" is God, then faith is the ultimate expression of trust and it is our faith in the unconditional trustworthiness of God which enables us to entrust ourselves to others in the sure and certain hope that, even if that trust does prove to be misplaced, underneath are the everlasting arms.

Trust me, I'm a Bishop - but only if you trust God even more.

+ John Lincoln

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Copy Deadlines for the December edition.

Would all contributors note the following?

If at all possible, electronic copy is greatly preferred - it reduces the editing task enormously.

Hard copy (i.e. hand/typewritten items, photographs, etc) should be left in the Magazine file in the clergy vestry by Sunday November 16.

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 November 20th

The wages of sin is debt.

Reading this weekend a fascinating article about the collapse of the economy in the 18th century as a consequence of the 'South Sea Bubble', I was struck by the way in which we manage not to learn the lessons of the past. According to the author of the piece, it all began innocently enough with someone getting a contract for trading in 'The South Seas' (as opposed to Southsea, the Hampshire resort). On the back of that grew ever more outlandish schemes until eventually someone offered a share flotation on a scheme which (and I quote) "A company for carrying out an undertaking of great advantage, but nobody to know what it is." It sold out in three hours, and the perpetrator set off for the continent that night £2,000 the richer, never to be seen again. And then in a matter of weeks it all fell apart.

Sounds familiar?

I'm not going to add to the ever-increasing chorus of 'I told you so's'. Rather it struck me how often human beings are afflicted by a sort of madness which mistakes illusion for reality. The First World War depended so much on the sleight of hand which turned 'honour' and 'glory' into Gospel virtues, and a strange absolutising of money - surely the biggest act of faith the world has ever seen - over all other considerations (I mean, how DO you put a financial value on a landscape - yet they did, destroying SSSI's at the rate of more than one a day in the '80s) in our own time.

November, then, comes as a sobering month, asking us to re-assess what is real and what is illusion. All Saints asks the question of what it is to lead a glorious human life - and the title of Ralph Vaughan Williams' great tune to 'For all the saints' gives a clue. 'Sine nomine' it is called, 'the nameless'. Greatness and celebrity, we might conclude, may well be uncomfortable bedfellows. Remembrance Sunday will always call to mind 'Lions led by donkeys' and raise uncomfortable questions about 'Just Wars'. And the end of the month sees the festival of Christ the King, reminding us of where the centre of the universe really lies, and with its reading of the parable of the sheep and the goats from Matthew 25 recalling us to consider where real humanity lies.

There is a great theme in literature where someone is duped to give up the worthwhile and the valuable for the tawdry and the worthless - you'll find it in the Faust story (Goethe or Marlowe, take your pick, to give one example). In the fall-out from the banking crisis, we might do well to ask some hard questions of the way our world assesses what's worthwhile - and what is not.

His duties as a captain include renewal of wedding vows ceremonies, committal of ashes to the sea and of course hosting the captain's table where amongst others V.I.P's, people who cruise regularly and travel writers are invited. Two places are left for interesting people met around the ship who he would like to talk to again.

He also described cruising in Alaska to Glacier Bay and how a permit is required to pass through this area and strict rules have to be adhered to e.g. no smoke or noise to be made by the ship. He told us how ships have a full time environmental officer to ensure everything is recycled.

The most popular cruises are to the Caribbean especially in the winter.

Captain Pedder joined the 'Windstar' Cruise Company three years ago. His yacht is called 'Wind Spirit' and he works three months on/three months off. It sails to the Virgin Islands where, of course, Richard Branson lives for some of the time, and hire a private island. Lovers of water sports are catered for with a special platform at the stern. He told us that Captains are nicknamed for different reasons- being strict- 'Captain God', for being concerned about their tan- 'Captain Hollywood', but hopes he will be known for his guitar playing. Indeed he rounded off the evening by playing a piece called 'Romancer' on his classical guitar for which he has tuition locally when he is on leave. Andrew was thanked for his talk by Angela Duke.



Captain Pedder's yacht "Wind Spirit"

Ladies' Group

October 1st- Harvest Supper- Pauline welcomed everyone including the guests-Alan Wright, Viv Rowett and the new curate Kathy Colwell. Once again 'Cooks' of New Holland provided a superb buffet supper for seventy three members and guests. It consisted of delicious home cooked ham, beef, chicken and pork, a variety of salads including coleslaw, potato, green salads and pasta accompanied by hot new potatoes. Desserts 'to die for' and not for those counting Calories, included fresh cream Pavlova, strawberries, chocolate gateau and toffee cheesecake all served with cream if so desired!!!! The Committee set the tables beautifully and served wine or fruit juice whilst Cooks set out baskets of various homemade breads – cheese, walnut and olive. The evening concluded with a raffle won by amongst others, Margaret Searle, Brenda Skinner, Jean James, Marie Watson and Audrey Cole and a general knowledge Quiz. This was won by the team consisting of Alan Wright, Margaret Searle, Kate Lumley, Jill Wilson, Margaret Walker and Kathy Colwell. Beryl Crompton thanked the committee for arranging such a successful evening.



Margaret Searle & Kathy Colwell



Ladies enjoying the supper

At the second October meeting entitled 'Life on the ocean wave' we were given an insight into the experience of cruising. Captain Andrew Pedder, a Bartonian who attended St. Peter's and Baysgarth Schools, began his seafaring career in 1980. He sailed on the Q.E.2 in the 90's from Southampton to New York and described the facilities on board ship from shops such as Harrods, to a deck specially allocated for dog walking aptly named 'Doggie Deck' which even has a lamp post!!

He also said that his favourite yacht is the Royal Yacht Britannia which he likes for its simple elegance.

Memorial Evensong

for Rev'd Prebendary Chad Varah CH

On Sunday 23rd November at 6.00pm, there will be a special evensong to mark the passing last year of Chad Varah, a son of the vicarage here in Barton, and, among other things, founder of The Samaritans.

Chad's daughter, Mrs Felicity Harding, will be present and Chad's nephew, Rev'd Canon Paul Varah, who many of us remember, will be preaching. The Mayor of North Lincolnshire is attending.

Everyone is very welcome to come to the service; it would be a kindness to mention this to those who may remember the Varah family, but who do not usually come to church. Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

Fr Alan.

Will Aid

During November, many solicitors have teamed up with nine charities - Actionaid, British Red Cross, Christian Aid, Help the Aged, NSPCC, Save the Children UK, SCIAF, Sightsavers International and Trocaire - to offer a basic will-making service, where the usual fee will be waived and an equivalent donation invited instead.

Keith Ready in Barton is participating in the scheme, and more details can be got from him, or from www.willaid.org.uk



Church flowers

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

June Byron

Joe Atkin

Shirley Creasey



Quotes

"The church ... cannot be content to play the part of a nurse looking after the casualties of the system. It must play an active part both in challenging the present unjust structures and in pioneering alternatives." - Donal Dorr

"Selfishness ... feeds an insatiable hunger that first eats up everything belonging to others and then causes a creature to devour itself." - Dom Helder Camara

MI5* eat your heart out.

Cloaked in secrecy, the black-hatted cabal of the PCC plot secretly to conceal the true workings of St. Mary's from the innocents in the pew. Well, not quite — PCC meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend (though clearly they cannot vote), although it's a rarity that someone wants to add to the list of meetings they go to! But PCC minutes are public documents, and anyone who wishes to find out what the PCC is up to is welcome to have a copy.

First PCC has to have agreed they're accurate. July minutes are approved in September, and can be seen from then on. There is a bit of a delay, just in case the line, 'The motion that "PCC finds the priest in charge to be a black-hearted buffoon" was put to the vote and carried unanimously' proves in retrospect not to have been perfectly accurate (There was one abstention). That's 'one of those things', we're afraid. And if you aren't a PCC member, the condensing of a two-hour meeting into a couple of sides of A4 may make some of the contributions a bit opaque (what on earth IS - or was - the 'MAP group?'), so you may need to ask someone what it means.

But please - we operate an 'open shop' here, and if you'd like to see PCC notes, just ask.

* MI5 has recently been running a recruitment campaign via 'Facebook' by the way. Did anyone join up?

EVENTS AT THE ROPERY HALL

The Singing Sous' Chefs

An evening of comedy, à cappella soul and time travel is being served up at Ropery Hall on Thursday, December 11, with the remarkable Singing Sous' Chefs, who will be bringing their own unique brand of entertainment. The trio, described as being like Dr Who but without the intrusive glamour, will be helter-skeltering down the continuum of Time, through Space, across History – and back again before last orders!

The three chefs have already featured on Rick Stein's Food Heroes, Glastonbury Festival Comedy Marquee and Edinburgh Festival to name but a few.

On a more traditional note, the local charity Katie's Concerts will be bringing the 2008 season at Ropery Hall to an end with their own version of Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' on Saturday, December 20.

For more details go to www.the-ropewalk.co.uk

What Did The Mission Committee Ever Do For Us?

Fans of Python's 'Life of Brian' will remember the scene where the Freedom-fighting incompetents gather together to denounce the Roman occupation of Judea, beginning with the words 'What did the Romans ever do for us?' — and some embarrassing moments later the speaker is presented with a list - a water supply, roads....

Since the Mission Committee never puts out things in its own name, being rather a sort of bucket into which all the jobs which don't fit into Hall, Social, Standing and the rest get shoved, you might well ask 'What did the Mission Committee ever do for us?' And 'Mission', because it reminds everyone of street corner preachers, or bands of roaming monks knocking on doors, isn't always recognised in its subtler forms.

So to clarify what we've been up to in the last year or so, if you've noticed any of the following, they all began life in Mission Committee discussions.

- The disability-friendly handles on the hall, the acquisition of a ramp, and the keeping of the main door open to permit wheeled access during the day;
- The Church Prayer Pilgrimage guide.
- The revision of the mission statement.
- Operation Christmas Child (the shoe-box appeal) and the Travelling Crib.
- The clearing and re-ordering of St. Chad's chapel.
- Development of the parish website.
- Lent courses.
- The series of A5 leaflets introducing aspects of St. Mary's, and the Parish Cycle of Prayer.
- Support for youth work, including BYAA, CCAA and E1W.

Which isn't bad! There's more in the pipeline including work on ecumenism and on preparing children to receive Holy Communion (the agenda's always too big to handle), and - best of all - it's a committee headed by a layperson, not a dog-collar!

Mothers' Union Notes.

Our meeting on Wednesday October 16th was a "Hymns of Praise " in memory of our friend Marjorie ,who usually arranged this particular meeting. Everyone wrote down their favourite hymn on a piece of paper which was then selected at random from " The Hat ". After the first hymn Elinor began with prayers, then readings and poems were read out by Elinor, Linda, Brenda and Val. These were read in between each of the selected hymns. This selection of hymns and readings was enjoyed by everyone , leaving us all with happy memories of Marjorie .

5th Nov MU Communion Reader: Iris Ward
19th Nov Speaker: Rev Alan Wright
26th Nov Prayer time Kath Lambert
Altar flowers for November Kath Lambert

Operation Christmas Child – Shoe Boxes 2008 Campaign

We would also ask you to deliver the boxes to us by SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9TH. The later dates advertised on the leaflet are for drop-off centres and I am not sure whether there will be any of these in Barton. You can, of course, deposit your box with us at an earlier date than at drop-off centres!

Rosemary Lamert

Christmas Bazaar

This will be on November 15th, and as usual we implore you to offer all your unwanted precious metals, antiques, works of art, vintage wines etc. to sell. Failing that the odd cake or bottle for the bottle stall????

Fairtrade chocolate advent calendar

If you want a fairtrade chocolate advent calendar, then look no further than the Divine Milk Chocolate Advent Calendar. Every year the fairtrade chocolate calendar has a beautiful new illustration of the nativity.

The Divine logo across the top of the calendar and the numbers on the doors are picked out in gold. The reverse of the calendar brings extra delights for children, featuring the the story of a Kuapa Kokoo producer as well as a fun activities for children to complete. A Divine fairtrade milk chocolate heart is hidden behind every door.

New Year for Christian Stewardship Envelopes

The last Sunday in October brings us to the end of the year of the Stewardship Envelopes. Many thanks to all who have given conscientiously and regularly.

The scheme is an essential part of the funding of St. Mary's Church; so if anyone else would like to start using this method of giving, starting in November, please contact either of the Churchwardens — Geoff or Val. Thanks go also to those whose Planned Giving is done by using the Standing Order system. Again, if you would like to start using this method, please ask one of the Churchwardens, or Alan Mabbott, the treasurer, or David Dukes, the Planned Giving Secretary.

"Each should give what they have decided in their heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7.

Wilderspin National School, Queen Street Community Preview Opening 29th November 10.00am - 4.00pm



The former Church School on Queen Street will re-open thirty years since the building closed its doors to pupils in 1978. As part of the Barton Christmas Festival, the unique Wilderspin Schoolroom and playground, authentically restored to their 1845 condition, will be open for this special anniversary day.

Children's Christmas activities and family fun throughout the day, refreshments and a chance to buy stocking-fillers.

The School will open permanently in the New Year at a date to be announced.

Further details: Ian Wolseley (Tel. 01652 660445).

E1W Wild West Night



It will be a long time before I recover entirely from encountering the moustachio'd Tom Smith on entering the Hall. And anyone with a working knowledge of Mel Brook's 'Blazing Saddles' will always approach authentic Western food with trepidation. Furthermore, the awful effects of cactus juice (as in 'One Tequila, Two Tequila, Three Tequila, Floor') prompted some to wonder whether one particular table was auditioning as an alternative choir.

But a very good time was had by all, and in these days of digital thingummies pictures of the



events were being traded furtively around Church first thing the following morning. So our thanks once more to E1W, ably steered through the intricacies of cooking by Jenny, for an entertaining evening with a difference, and a hat-tip (?stetson-tip?) too to Sheriff Steve and his faithful Indian Scout Marion and their pals for the décor, authentic down to the tipi, the 'little house on the prairie' corner, and saloon doors, and to Cardsharp Adrian, raking it in in the corner.

So how will they follow THIS one? There are rumours, be warned.....

Information regarding the Efforts of the Barton upon Humber St Mary's ringing team's exploits in the Northern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Striking Contest, held on Saturday the 13th September at St Chad's, Dunholme, a six bell tower.

There were two events held, the first was the contest for the Messingham Cup, presented to the team with the least mistakes.

Participating teams being Messingham (13 mistakes), Bourne (15), Gainsborough (17), Lincoln Cathedral (31), Market Deeping (33½), Swinshead (34½), Welton (40½). The cup being held by the local team at Messingham.

Swinderby Eagle Wen Plate.

Participating teams being Swinderby (12 mistakes), Alford (13), Ripplingdale (14), Barton upon Humber(17), Scotter (19), Market Deeping (23), Willingham (30). The plate being won by Swinderby, closely contested by Alford.

The Barton upon Humber team comprising Joy Lord, Daniel Young, Rose Lennon, Hannah Guggiar, Geoff Bryant, Roger Lord. A very good effort with our team coming a creditable fourth place, Geoff Bryant calling the changes for the chosen method of 'Call Changes', which was rung for the full ten minutes allowed for each team in the contest.

D J Kitching, Publicity Officer, St Mary's Church Bell Ringers

Archbishop urges Christians and Muslims to create fairer lending

The Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams has said greed is the root cause of the current economic crisis and he has called on Christians and Muslims to work together to decide upon a fairer system of borrowing and lending - writes Martin Revis.

"The Christian tradition has always been cautious about interest and for many centuries it was very much of one mind with the Islamic tradition, but after the 16th century that changed," Williams, the leader of the worldwide Anglican Communion, said at a media conference in London recently, following a three-day meeting in Cambridge of Christian and Muslim scholars and clerics.



St Mary's Bell Ringers' Up-date

On Saturday 27th September 2008 the Barton upon Humber St Mary's Church bell ringers undertook their autumn practice trip to visit and gain experience from ringing at other bell towers within the close vicinity. This time we travelled to All Saints, Market Weighton for the first of our visits, a fine church with a splendid ring of eight bells which were in top class order. The ringing was good and enjoyed by the shoppers out for the

morning which turned out to be sunny and fine.

Leaving Market Weighton we travelled by car to St James, Nunburnholme which is a small hamlet set deep in the Yorkshire Wolds in a sheltered valley within a predominantly farming area. The church being on the outskirts of the hamlet in green fields. The church was a small stone building within a tidy graveyard, well worth a visit for it's simplicity, the bells a fairly heavy six set in ground floor ringing chamber. Which unfortunately had a tall stone Saxon Memorial set directly in the middle of the ringing chamber. This obscured the ringers from one another to some extent, but the venue and challenge was enjoyed for the pleasantly sounding bells.

After enjoying a light lunch in Pocklington we visited All Saints to ring their eight bells, although they were well maintained and up-to-date, the tower was subject to some movement which disturbed several ringers. This church is very well endowed and the experience was most enjoyable, on a very warm Saturday afternoon we treated all the busy shoppers to a memorable musical experience.

From Pocklington we travelled to North Cave to re-visit All Saints, a church previously equipt with a ground floor ring. This has recently been changed to a first floor ring with a smart ground floor meeting room set beneath. This was a six bell tower, and the bells fitted with shorter, newer bell ropes, a good expression of the various methods we have was given for the benefit of the youngsters playing in the adjoining children's park.

We gave a one hour performance at each venue consisting of beginners exercises and advanced methods, our band comprising regular ringers from St Mary's and in this case two visitors from Hexham.. Many thanks to our ringing instructor, Geoff Bryant for organising this trip, which went seamlessly from venue to venue.



November Diary

November 2nd - All Saints' Sunday.

8.00 am Said Eucharist.
 9.30 am Family Eucharist.
 11.15 am Sunday Club.
 6.00 pm Choral Evensong.

Mon. 3 9.00 am All Souls' Day Requiem Eucharist.

10.15 am Toddler Time.

Tue. 4 7.00 pm United Prayers at St. Augustine's

Wed. 5 9.30 am Said Eucharist.
 2.00 pm Eagle House residents' service.
 7.30 pm Ladies' Group.

November 9th - 3 Before Advent - Remembrance Sunday

8.00 am Said Eucharist.
 9.30 am Parish Communion.
 11.30 am Service of Remembrance
 4.00 pm Evening Prayer and Baptisms.

Mon. 10 10.15 am Toddler Time.

Tue. 11 7.00 pm Said Eucharist for wholeness & healing.

Wed. 12 9.30 am Said Eucharist
 2.00 pm MU meeting.
 2.30 pm *Service of thanksgiving for Chad Varah CH at St Paul's Cathedral.*

Saturday 15th Christmas Bazaar.

November 16th 2 Before Advent.

8.00 am Said Eucharist.
 10.00 am Family Worship & Baptisms.
 6.00 pm Parish Eucharist.

Mon. 17 9.30 am Said Eucharist. (*Deanery Chapter meeting afterwards.*)
St. Hugh

10.15 am Toddler Time

10.15am Home Communion, St Peter's.

11.00am Home Communion, Victoria House.

Tue. 18 7.00 pm Said Eucharist for wholeness & healing.

Wed. 19 9.30 am Said Eucharist.

St Hilda 2.00 pm MU Prayer Time

7.30 pm Ladies' Group.

Thu. 20 Home Communion

November 23rd Christ the King (Sunday Next before Advent)

8.00 am Said Eucharist.
 9.30 am Parish Eucharist.
 6.00 pm Memorial Service for Chad Varah.

Mon. 24 10.15 am Toddler Time.

Tue. 25 7.00 pm Said Eucharist.

Wed. 26 9.30 am Said Eucharist

November 30th First Sunday of Advent

8.00 am Said Eucharist.
 9.30 am Parish Eucharist.
 6.00 pm Advent Procession.

From the Registers.

Baptisms.

October 19th Alexander James Pearson, son of Sarah Joann & Steven Pearson.

Amber Louise Lawtey, daughter of Michelle Louise & Gary James Lawtey.

Josie Rose Whorton, daughter of Bethany Jane & Daniel John Whorton.

Marriages. None in October.

Funerals.

October 7th Ivan Winston Garfoot.

October 21st James Bolton.

October 24th Jeffrey Elm.

October 31st Ruby Tong.



Services at The Willows & Eagle House

Wednesday 19th November 2.00pm. Eagle House.

Wednesday 17th December 2.00pm. Eagle House - Carol Service.

Sunday 2nd November 2.30pm. The Willows.

Sunday 7th December 2.30pm. The Willows.

Tuesday 23rd December 6.00pm. The Willows Carol Service.