

Why do they do that.....?

Have you noticed how utterly incomprehensible other people's hobbies are? I know of enthusiasts who think nothing of spending hours on embroidery or knitting and while I'm always amazed by their skill, I can never understand what it was that got them interested in the first place. And then there are the lovers of particular sports. Fr Alan thinks nothing of freezing on the terraces through the coldest months of the year in support of Scunthorpe United, and Fr Gordon is one of several keen golfers in our congregation who will cheerfully belt a small white ball round a large green space for as many hours as it takes to get back to the clubhouse. I freely admit that I don't get it but I'm just as bad. My idea of a good time is hauling myself up a rock face or running a few miles when sane and sensible people haven't even heard the "ping" of their alarm. No doubt more than one unfortunate soul plodding off on the early shift has been startled by the sight of somebody running past them in freezing temperatures and muttered "Why does she do it?"

The reasons any of us take up particular sports or hobbies will be as varied as we might expect from such a range of people and interests, but all those hobbies in one way or another say something about who we are – what we're like. Easter – that greatest of all Christian festivals – does the same for God. It tells us what God is like. God is the ultimate agent of transforming love. He embraces the cross and in doing that he makes a symbol of pain, torture and degradation the ultimate emblem of redeeming love. As Jesus is raised on the cross he becomes salvation personified and his open arms are extended as an invitation to everyone, no matter who they are or what they've done, to be caught up in a love which death itself could not defeat. That's what God is like. It's what he does. We may have particular hobbies and interests. We may even be very passionate about some of them, which is a good thing and a necessary one if we're going to get better at them, but with God love isn't a hobby it's a permanent state. God is always love and always loving, and it's for that reason that we can approach him with absolute confidence and trust, no matter what our circumstances may be.

At Easter we rejoice in the triumph of love over death, and as we do that we're caught up in that same love and promised a place with God for all eternity, for no reason except the one that holds the created order together – that God is love. As Lent draws to a close and we approach the joy of Easter, let's be grateful that all of us, whether train-spotter or bungee-jumper, has a place in the heart of God and is loved for the unique and special

creation God has caused each on of us to be. A very happy and blessed Easter to you all.

Liz

Holy Week and Easter at St. Mary's

Sunday 13th April – Palm Sunday. Start from st. Peter's at 9.20.

Monday 14th april - Holy week said Eucharist – 7.00 pm.

Tuesday 15th April – holy week said eucharist – 7.00 pm.

Wednesday 16th april – holy week said eucharist – 9.30 am.

Thursday 17th april – Maundy thursday sung eucharist, stripping of altars and watch of prayer – 7.00 pm.

Friday 18th april - good Friday hour before the cross – 2.00 pm.

Sunday 20th april – easter day.

6.00 am. Dawn eucharist and breakfast

8.00 am said eucharist

9.30 am parish eucharist

6.00 pm choral evensong

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** is on Tuesday 29th April, following a celebration of the Eucharist at 7.00 pm. Numbers have dwindled rather at this meeting over the years; it may not necessarily be the most riveting evening of your life, but it is important in the life of the church. Please come and support it. Those not on the Electoral Roll who wish to be, should get in touch with Sue Wright.
Alan.

FROM THE REGISTERS:

BAPTISMS:-

Mar 23 Lily May Patricia GLEW daughter of Victoria THOMPSON & Gordon Andrew GLEW

Mar 30 Evie Jean RUSHBY daughter of Sarah Louise & Simon Peter RUSHBY

FUNERALS:-

Mar 4 Winifred Gertrude JAGGS-FOWLER

Mar 7 Isabella (Ella) NEWMAN

Mar 26 Michael GAMMIDGE

Mar 27 George Raymond MORTON

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

Tom Phillipson

Nicola Phillipson

Ruth Lawrence

Jack Lawrence

Marie Danson

Stan Robinson

Edna Bellamy

John Bellamy

Hugh McMahan

Denzil Blanchard

Bishop Christopher writes.....

As I write, many of you will currently be attending Lent groups as part of the diocesan lent course this year, entitled 'Faith at Work'.

'Faith at Work' is a clever title: it encapsulates our calling to live out our faith in whatever context we find ourselves – at work, home, school, church, etc. – and it also reminds us that faith itself is constantly 'at work' within us. As we go through life, each one of us is living out our calling to be a disciple of Jesus wherever God has set us. Thus our faith is informed by our life's journey. But the converse is also true: that journey as the people of God is informed by our faith, and so we can truly say that our faith is 'at work' within us.

While this holds true throughout our lives, Easter brings it into sharp relief. The desolation of Good Friday and the absolute finality that it suggests are so enormous that they can leave us feeling cut off and adrift. A fissure is created, a gap opened up between what we *thought* we knew to be true and the place in which we now find ourselves.

It is when that kind of disjuncture happens that our faith really gets to work within us as we ask the questions about where the journey of faith is taking us, and what it is asking of each one of us.

No other event in the Christian story asks this of us in the demanding way that we encounter in the raw power of the Easter story – and no other event shows the extent of God’s love for us as the gift of the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter.

May God bless you and all those you love this Eastertide.

+Christopher Lincoln:

St. Mary’s Bellringers

The St. Mary’s Tower AGM took place in the ringing chamber on Tuesday 11th March before the usual weekly practice. Tower members were joined by Father David Rowett who opened the meeting with a short address thanking the ringers for their work; he was in turn thanked for his support.

Routine business was dealt with under chairmanship of the Tower Captain, Andy Bennett, who had previously indicated he wished to step down from the post at this AGM. Election for all officers had taken place by private ballot prior to the meeting, the results being as follows:

Tower Captain	Geoff Bryant
Ringling Master	George Thompson
Secretary	Rose Lennon
Treasurer	Linda Howden
Steeple Keeper/Clock Winder	Linda Howden
C&VAP Officer	Sue Thompson
Publicity Officer	Joan Barton

Thanks were extended to Andy for all his work during his time in office and Geoff was welcomed as the new Tower Captain. Thanks were also extended to all the other officers. Father David and Geoff will liaise about a suitable date for blessing of the new ropes. Joan will set up a Twitter a/c for the St Mary’s ringers which will give greater communication with other ringing organisations.

Forthcoming events include the outing to the Southwell and Newark area on 5th April, ringing for St. George’s Day on 23rd April and on 9th July to mark the 300th Anniversary of the passing of the Parliamentary Act of Longitude which led to the production of John Harrison’s chronometer. The AGM of the Northern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers will be held at St. Mary’s on 24th January 2015. Other events mentioned to ring for were Barton Bike Night and in November to mark the 100th anniversary of the hanging of the back (heaviest) four bells.

A very interesting and enjoyable simulator practice was held on 4th March.

Joan Barton

The Roperly

Roperly Hall is screening Frozen during the Easter holidays. The Disney film is considered by some critics to be the best Disney animated musical for some time.

Loosely based on Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale The Snow Queen it tells the story of a fearless princess who sets off on an epic journey alongside a rugged, thrill-seeking mountain man, his loyal pet reindeer, and a hapless snowman to find her estranged sister, whose icy powers have inadvertently trapped the kingdom in eternal winter.

Encountering Everest-like conditions, mystical trolls and a hilarious snowman named Olaf, Anna and Kristoff battle the elements in a race to save the kingdom. From the outside Anna's sister, Elsa looks poised, regal and reserved, but in reality, she lives in fear as she wrestles with a mighty secret - she was born with the power to create ice and snow. She fears she is becoming a monster and that no one, not even her sister, can help her.

The matinee screening is on Friday, April 11, at 2pm and tickets cost £4 for adults and £2 for children. The film is also being screened the previous evening starting at 7.30pm when tickets cost £4.

Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week.....

At St. Mary's both Christmas and Easter are marked by services at unusual times of day (or night). While many people attend the Midnight Mass at Christmas, the 6.00am Eucharist on Easter Day is more of a "well kept secret", in spite of the fact that of the two it is by far the more distinctive. We begin in the churchyard lighting the fire from which the Easter Candle will be lit before it is carried through the church to the sanctuary. Each of us carries a candle lit from the Easter Candle, and if we are fortunate, the beams of the newly risen sun, shining through the great East window, provide an even more powerful symbol of the risen Christ. After the service we have breakfast together in the church hall. It would be lovely to share both service and breakfast with more people, so why not give it a try?

Of course the 9.30 Eucharist on Easter Day is also special, but on such a day there's no harm in coming to church twice!

Geoff Brown

Rotary Club of Barton-upon-Humber

An Arts and Crafts Exhibition is to be held in the Lecture Hall, Holydyke, in Barton, on May 17th, 10am to 4pm. Local artists and craft makers are invited to display and sell their work - further details from "The Rotary Club of Barton-upon-Humber" website, from which you can contact us and make a request for space. There will be a small charge for tables or display areas and space is limited.

Wilderspin National School & Barton Civic Society

Some things that are happening in April which readers might like to come along to include:

Easter Eggcitement - Saturday 5th – Sunday 20th April

An Easter hunt with a difference – for all the family to enjoy! Grab a basket then hunt for clues to test your family's eggcyclopaedic knowledge in the

School Library. Fun for the eggheads in the family. The price to shell out is £2 per basket.

Victorian Magic Lantern Show - in partnership with Barton Civic Society - Friday 18th April, 7.30pm

All the drama of this popular Victorian entertainment. Marvel at animated images – in blazing colour, and rare photographs of popular beauty spots from around the region accompanied by the lively and entertaining commentary of Magic Lantern Society projectionist, Andrew Gill.

Ticket prices, including refreshments: £7; Civic Society members, concessions & children £5; Family (2 children+2 adults) £15. Booking recommended.

Heritage Links - 51 Fleetgate Open Day - Sunday 20th April, 1.00pm – 4.00pm, Free

Combine a visit to the School with a tour by Barton Civic Society of North Lincolnshire's oldest house. Access courtesy of CHAMP. www.bartoncivicsociety.co.uk

w.wilderspionschool.org.uk

[e:enquiries@wilderspionschool.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@wilderspionschool.org.uk)

t. (01652) 625172

Mothers' Union notes

We opened our March meeting with a short service, after words of welcome from Linda. We sang "Eternal Father strong to save", a reading from Mark 4 v 35 to the end, "Jesus calms the storm", was read by Sue Brumpton, then prayers led by Linda. Sadly only a few members were present at this meeting, missing out on a very interesting speaker – Rev Ivan Howitt.

Ivan gave a power point display and spoke about his time as Chaplain to the Port of Hull. He gave a brief introduction first about himself, being ordained 28 years ago, "down south", moving "up north" from Kent. He was Vicar of

Hedon and Paull for 6 years before retiring to Lincolnshire, (which is St Mary's gain).

The title of Ivan's talk was "Around the world in 45 minutes", although this was all in the port of Hull, each ship he visited daily as chaplain was part of the country from which it belonged, each one being very different. There are three groups for seafarers' welfare, "Mission for Seafarers", "Sailors' Society", and "Apostleship of the Sea" each being run by different denominations. Ivan visited every ship in port daily especially on Christmas Day.

Life can be very difficult for seafarers, who need our prayers daily not just on "Sea Sunday", (which is on July 13th this year). Most ships are well run and the needs of the sailors well catered for, but there is often the exception, for instance coming into port badly in need of food and water!! Help is often needed with justice, welfare, counselling or communication with their families in lots of different circumstances.

As Chaplain, Ivan met people from all over the world and was welcomed on board, with only the occasional refusal. He finished by showing us a video, (with sound), of ships at sea in horrific conditions, with huge waves swamping the sides of the ships, (it was really scary) – saying every time you see a ship on the water think of those on board and their families, and offer a prayer to God for their safe passage through all the dangers of the sea.

After questions, Ivan was thanked by Sue Brumpton for a fascinating insight into the lives of those on board ships, the perils faced by sailors and the job of Chaplain to a sea port.
Brenda Skinner.

April 2nd 9.30am Corporate Communion Reader Brenda Skinner
April 16th 2.30pm Trinity Rally at The Trinity Methodist Church
April 23rd 2pm Prayer Time led by Val Dukes

Flower Rota:-

April 20th Easter Sunday Val Dukes /Brenda Skinner

Calling all scrubbers – or Let's give the church a Spring once-over.

The annual Church Spring Clean will take place on Tuesday 15th April (Tuesday of Holy Week) starting at 9.00 am. If you can help for an hour or more at any time during the morning, we would be delighted and very grateful to see you. Everyone is welcome and will be rewarded for their efforts with as much tea or coffee as you can drink, and as many biscuits as you can eat [What? In lent?]. Look forward to seeing you there.
Janet.

St. Mary's Ladies' Group

Firstly, thank you to the ladies who served refreshments after the Ash Wednesday service. Unfortunately they didn't have many customers as it wasn't announced or on the notice sheet!!! More for those who did come!!

At our second meeting of the month, the Rev. Sue Pegg, a Methodist Minister from Market Weighton, spoke to a large audience! She is a frequent contributor to the "thought for the day" slot on BBC Radio Humberside. She tries to 'make people giggle' as well as giving food for thought at ten to seven in the morning!

The theme of her talk was 'welcoming the stranger' which she illustrated with the experience of her manse being used for an episode of 'Where the heart is'.

A knock at the manse door one night resulted in the family home (at that time in the Colne Valley, with beautiful views)being transformed – furniture removed, cling film swathing the carpets, walls painted and an invasion of young people, film crew and actors.

Sue showed slides of the transformation and her account of the days filming (the family were barred from downstairs from seven a.m. to seven p.m.) as both interesting and amusing.

A mutual interest in each other's 'jobs' developed, with the film crew telling her about their lives living in caravans etc and seeking her pastoral care whilst they learnt to think differently about "vicars" and the church. The whole

experience seemed to have been a dream when everything was restored to normal in the house.

Rev. Sue concluded that we should always be ready to welcome the stranger because we never know what might ensue, adventure or not.

Shan thanked her on behalf of the members who all appreciated her warmth and vivacious personality.

S.M.

Over to you

Attending the Diocesan meeting for Bishop's Visitors recently, we had quite an interesting debate about R.E. instigated by the newly appointed Education advisor, Gillian Georgiou's power point.

- R.E. is an academic subject- not an easy option!
- It has attainment targets and is assessable.
- It is not for proselytising.
- It covers different faiths and ways of life.
- It engages with Christianity at different levels.
- It looks at people who do things which 'cost' them in different ways (visible faith in action).

R.E. is not:

- Collective worship.
- Prayer/reflection areas.
- P.S.C.M.E. (personal, social, cultural, moral education.)

Is this your perception of R.E.?

In a Christian country, do you think we should spend time on other religions?

Does it help us to understand others who live here now?

I leave this with you.....

S.W.



Alan Spedding (pictured above many years ago about to give an organ recital at St. Mary's) was the organist and Master of the Choristers at Beverley Minster for 42 years. Previous to that, he had been my choirmaster at Kingston Parish Church, so I have known him for many years. He was very influential in musical circles (secular as well as sacred) in East Yorkshire and beyond. Sadly he died recently at the age of 70. Alan

[Photo courtesy of David Lee.]

Tuesday 1st Apl	7.00 pm		Pilgrim Course
Wed 2 nd	9.30 am		Said Eucharist (MU Corporate)
	10.30 and 11.15 am		St. Peter's School in church
	7.00 pm		Ladies' Group
Fri 4 th	5.00 pm		E1W
	6.00 pm		Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
Sat 5 th	11.00 am		Lectio divina
	4.00 pm		Thanksgiving for Marriage
Sunday 6th Apl		Lent 5	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	2.30 pm		Service at The Willows
	6.00 pm		Sung Evensong
Mon 7 th	9.30 am		Toddler Time
Wed 9 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at Eagle House
Fri 11 th	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 12 th	5.00 pm		E1W
Sunday 13th Apl		Palm Sunday	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	8.30 am		Prayer Breakfast at Sally Anna's
	9.30 am	Start at St. Peter's Church at 9.20 am	Parish Eucharist
	6.00 pm		Said Evening Prayer
	7.30 pm		New County Choir
Mon 14th	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	7.00 pm	Holy Week	Said Eucharist
	7.00 pm		Service at St. Augustine Webster
Tues 15th	9.00 am		Church cleaning
	11.00 am		Chrim Mass (Cathedral)
	11.30 am		Service at Trinity Methodist
	7.00 pm	Holy Week	Said Eucharist
	7.00 pm		Service at Salvation Army
Wed 16th	9.30 am	Holy Week	Said Eucharist
	All day		Ladies' Group outing
	2.00 pm		Mothers' Union
Thurs 17th	am	Maundy Thursday	Home Communions

	7.00 pm		Sung Eucharist and Watch of prayer
Fri 18th	11.00 am	Good Friday	Service at St. Augustine Webster
	2.00 pm		An Hour before the Cross
Sunday 20th Apl		Easter Day	
	6.00 am		Dawn Eucharist of Easter
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	6.00 pm		Choral Evensong
	Parish	News	deadline
Wed 23 rd	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at Westbridge House
	2.00 pm		MU Prayer Time
Sat 26 th	11.00 am		Lectio divina
Sunday 27th Apl		Easter 2	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	11.30 am		Baptisms
	6.00 pm		Said Eucharist with hymns
Mon 28th	9.30 am	George, Martyr	Toddler Time
Tues 29th	7.00 am – 7.00 pm	Mark, Evangelist	Day of Prayer at Salvation Army
	7.00 pm		Eucharist and Annual Parochial Church meeting
Wed 30 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at Bech House
Thurs 1st May	9.00 am	Philip and James, Apostles	Said Eucharist