

## DROUGHT, PRAYER AND HUMAN ACTIVITY

Earlier this year we had a spell of extremely dry weather and the water companies promptly proclaimed a hosepipe ban. Fifty or a hundred years ago, such a situation would have prompted the Archbishop of Canterbury to announce that we should pray for rain using the prayer provided in the Book of Common Prayer. Nowadays it is thought inappropriate to ask God to influence the climate. This is not due to any change in the character and powers of God, but to a change in our understanding of how God works. Without in anyway wanting to belittle or diminish our concept of what God can do, it is generally agreed by theologians that the first way to tackle a problem is by human agency. The problems of drought in this country should be tackled by increasing water storage facilities and improving infrastructure, enabling water to be moved easily and cheaply round the country. And we have biblical precedent for this. When there was a glut of corn in Egypt, Joseph told Pharaoh that the problem would be followed by a period of famine in which the crops would fail. Joseph's solution to the problem was not to tell Pharaoh to pray to the God of Israel to relieve the coming famine but to build barns and gather into them the excess crops and store them to provide for the future shortage.

The most urgent environmental disaster threatening the Earth is not an increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere due to human activity, as is widely believed, but the massive increase in human population that is expected within the next few years. No one has suggested that we pray to God to diminish the burgeoning world population. Instead we sensibly advocate dealing with the problem ourselves by restricting family size, as is currently being done in China, and by massively increasing the amount of land under cultivation and the quality of the crops that are produced.

Even our present world population could not have been sustained using the agricultural techniques of the Middle Ages. Our present food supply is due very largely to the selective breeding of food animals and crops, which has led to massive improvements in their yield. It is down this route that we have to go to improve the prospects for providing for the very large number of mouths that are going to have

to be fed. Whether the population of Western Europe likes it or not, this will involve the growth, particularly in the Third World, of genetically manipulated crops. God does not want an epidemic of deaths from starvation in the 2030s; he wants the intelligent beings in his creation to tackle the problem and deal with it sensibly.

Peter J. Large

Thank you all for your prayers, cards and also beautiful flowers, they were very much appreciated.

I am home again now.

Thinking of you all.

With love

Emmy Beacock

The Bishop of Lincoln writes.....

Many of you will be reading this during the month of August which for those of us in employment, and particularly those with school age children, is a time for holiday.

In my experience, I find that people tend to spread their holidays into July and September but even if you're not going away, August is a quieter month. There are fewer activities and it is an opportunity to rest and reflect on our busy lives.

The proper meaning of the word 'recreation' is to re-create. This time of year gives us a chance to sit back and reflect on our priorities.

The last few months have given us some interesting instances to think about: the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty's accession to the throne gave us an eloquent

example of someone whose life is dictated by duty; and the Olympics and Paralympics, which conclude during August, remind us of the dedication and hard work that young people put into their chosen vocation.

Even if we are not - as I am not - in the first flush of youth, the example of the Queen's dedication and young people's hard work and commitment can encourage us to think about how we ourselves can contribute to building community in our area: through work, through leisure or through our networks of family and friends. How can we help to build a better Britain and as Christians, how can we help to uncover the Kingdom of God in the light of the world?

Have a happy and restful August, but please use the opportunity to reflect on new opportunities and priorities.

+Christopher Lincoln:

### **MOTHERS' UNION NOTES**

Linda opened the meeting with our usual small service of a hymn, prayers and a reading from Genesis Ch 21 read by Catherine Fell. After notices Linda introduced our speaker Viv Rowett who spoke about the work with which she had won a competition in 2011. Viv is an Old Testament and Hebrew bible scholar and also an excellent and very talented textile artist. The theme of the Lancelot Andrewes art competition coincided with the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Bible. Artists were invited to translate themes from the stories of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar into contemporary culture. Viv's work was titled "A dress for Sarah and a dress for Hagar". The dresses Viv had made were modelled by herself and Sheila. Each dress told the individual story of Sarah and Hagar with a colourful multitude of patchwork pieces and stitches depicting all aspects of the two stories. Viv explained how different ideas came to her at all times of the day and night and in many different places, and how she put all the

thoughts together into the two dresses Viv's work also involved a lot of studying. Viv is now working hard for her own exhibition next year in Southwark Cathedral which will use the theme of the Psalms. How lucky we are to have such a multi talented lady in our midst. Viv was thanked by Catherine Fell for her interesting talk.

B.S.

PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE NO MEETINGS IN AUGUST.

Flower Rota  
Aug 12<sup>th</sup> Beryl Crompton  
Aug 26<sup>th</sup> Brenda Skinner

Sept 5<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Corporate Communion Reader Viv Rowett  
Sept 19<sup>th</sup> 2pm Speaker Wendy Dorrell MU Enterprises Reader and  
Vote of thanks Viv Rowett  
Sept 26<sup>th</sup> 2pm Prayertime Sheila Holt

### **St Mary's Ladies Group Golden Anniversary**

This took place at the Hallmark Hotel in North Ferriby, a lovely setting overlooking the Humber on what was a warm summer evening. Members of the committee had spent some time decorating the tables with lovely vases of golden roses. Yvonne Thompson, Sue Mitchell and Sue Southall had made and decorated a superb fruit cake and the Hotel put on a delicious two course meal – salmon fillet or chicken breast followed by fresh fruit salad or Eton Mess (not quite the version of it we are used to!) followed by coffee and the cake. We were welcomed with glasses of Bucks Fizz.

Sue Wright said Grace and after the meal we had a few reminiscences about the group; Pauline as the present leader cut the cake; the raffle was drawn and entertainment by 'Del Vikings' a local band played sixties music to which quite a few members took to the dance floor.

It was nice to see so many people there including guests Nora Thompson and Margaret Evison who are founder members of the group and Kathy Clapson who still is a member after 50 years. Let's

hope the group continues to thrive in the next 50 years as we now have the biggest membership ever with well over 100 members.

**A thought.....**

"When I was a kid I used to pray every night for a new bicycle. Then I realized that the Lord doesn't work that way so I stole one and asked Him to forgive me instead." -Emo Philips

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2012 – SHOEBOXES!**

Someone has already asked me whether we are taking part this year. To be honest, I have been so involved in preparing items for my own and other boxes that I forgot to confirm with you all that we would be taking part!

Anyway – I have ordered the all-important leaflets which should arrive shortly and it only remains for me to remind everyone to scour the seaside shops and the market stalls for suitable items. I have to share the fact that I found some delightfully taste-free hairbrushes with hollow handles containing tiny hair bobbles, in one of the pound shops in Scunthorpe. Any little girl would love them! Don't forget that war-like items and liquids are not acceptable and loose sweets would be a total pain to those who check the boxes at the sorting depot. Your leaflet will remind you of all this, as well as providing the necessary boy/girl/age group labels.

Happy shopping and box-wrapping!

Rosemary Lamert

*[Continued thanks to Rosemary for her diligence in this, and other, work, especially at this worrying time. Ed.]*

**Another thought.....**

On the afternoon of 7th July the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church turned its attention to same-sex relationships, specifically whether or not to allow civil partnerships to be registered in United Reformed Church premises. During an hour-long debate both sides of the argument were heard, but the Assembly agreed the resolution (that local churches were able to take a decision on whether to allow registrations to take place in there buildings) and in so doing

has become the first mainstream Christian denomination to allow same-sex partners to register their civil partnership in church."

**FROM THE REGISTERS:**

**BAPTISMS:-**

July 8 Roxanne Pamela BARRACLOUGH daughter of Michelle Louise & Shaun Patrick BARRACLOUGH

Kaycee-Mai Rebecca TAYLOR daughter of Claire Michelle COWLING & Wayne Mark TAYLOR

July 22 Lexie-Mae COULBECK daughter of Claire Louise & Tony Paul COULBECK

Mia Eve HOLLINGSWORTH daughter of Rachel Claire SHEPPARD & David Roy HOLLINGSWORTH

July 29 Louise Marie CRONSTAN (Adult)

Jenson Michael HANNA son of Louise Marie CRONSTAN & Ryan Anthony HANNA

**MARRIAGES:-**

July 28 Danny Brian CARTWRIGHT & Natalie SAUNDERS

**FUNERALS:-**

June 21 Ann Elizabeth GRAHAM

June 22 William Eric MARSHALL

June 28 Peter CONLIN

July 3 Robert Thomas (Bob) HAGAR

July 11 James William CARRICK  
Vera Dawn COOK

July 13 David Patrick HOWROYD

July 17 Declan Lee Grant SCAIFE

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

Clarence Robinson  
Jean Ward  
Casey L. Jones  
Nora Eden Gadie

### **St. Mary's Bellringers**

Routine ringing for services and practices continued at St Mary's throughout the last month but with the substitute of the practice for 12<sup>th</sup> June being held at St Peter's; practices will continue there for the last Tuesday each month during the summer.

There was ringing at St. Mary's for one wedding, being that of Julian Rowett and Sophia Johnston and celebrated with the following handbell Quarter Peal.

Lincoln Diocesan Guild

Barton-upon-Humber Waters' Edge Visitor Centre, North Lincolnshire

Sunday 1 July 2012

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1-2 Andy Bennett

3-4 Geoff Bryant

5-6 Richard Hopper (C)

Rung during the Barton Arts Cultural Olympiad celebrations and to congratulate Julian Rowett (our Vicar's son) and Sophia Johnston on their recent marriage.

The tower open day on 14<sup>th</sup> July was very well attended; many visitors came along as a result of seeing the banner over the church porch.

Some came to the ringing room to see just what happens up there when we ring and were very interested to watch the bells on the TV screen as they moved; others were people who had rung many years fascinated to be given their first lessons. A number of people have expressed an interest to commence regular lessons.

Refreshments were served previously and wished to renew their skills. We were delighted to see quite a number of people who simply wanted to have a go for themselves including a group of young archaeologists who were working on a dig at Thornton Abbey, several of whom were from overseas and in the Church Hall and of course included a wide selection of delicious cake – obligatory for any ringers' gathering! Thanks were extended to everyone who had helped make the afternoon such a success, particularly Ro, a non ringer, who gave up her afternoon to help.

Joan Barton

### **HMS Pinafore at Thornton Abbey**

Two years after Illyria last delighted a sell-out crowd at English Heritage's Thornton Abbey the theatre company return to the venue as part of Barton Tourism Partnership's 2012 season of Performance in the Park.

Celebrating their own special anniversary this year – 21 years of open air theatre- Illyria will be performing Gilbert and Sullivan's HMS Pinafore on Sunday, September 2, with the Abbey Gatehouse as the backdrop. Last year the company raised the bar by becoming the first and only open-air touring company to add opera to its regular season with a successful tour of another Gilbert and Sullivan production, The Pirates of Penzance.

In the wake of this, this year they turn their hand to the wonderful comic opera which mocks great British institutions such as class, patriotism and the Royal Navy. The event, held by kind permission of English Heritage, starts at 6pm with doors opening an hour beforehand.

Tickets cost £14 for adults and £8 for students and the under 18s. They can be bought online by visiting [www.illyria.uk.com](http://www.illyria.uk.com), by telephoning The Ropewalk on 01652 660380 or by calling into the venue's Craft Gallery.

For further details email: [btp@the-ropewalk.co.uk](mailto:btp@the-ropewalk.co.uk)

## Over to you.....

It's that time of year again when parents are panicking about what to do with their children in the school holidays. I used to love the holidays because there was no clock watching for school leaving times or rushing them round to music lessons, dancing, swimming, choir practice etc. And I really missed them in September.

As a child I was never allowed to use the word 'bored' but told to find something to 'do'. Way back in the 60s we went off to the park on our own, down to Pebbly Beach on our bikes and made camp fires to cook beans and sausages, again without adults. I can even remember cycling to Limber with my best friend Jane!

We never had posh holidays – usually went to Grandparents who seemed so old and strict!! The highlight for me was spending time in a Methodist guest House in Bridlington!! Summer seemed endless and of course the weather was always hot!

Now children are wrapped in cotton wool and employers complain that young job applicants are unprepared for work as they lack self management skills such as problem solving, communication, recognising priorities, and managing their time.

We are cheating them nowadays of the chance to learn both practical and emotional skills that will keep them safe through life. Apparently there is a list of fifty things children should do before they are 11 ¾ years old. Here are some of them:-

- |                         |                                   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ❖ Climb a tree          | Play on a rope swing              |
| ❖ Fly a kite            | Set up a snail race               |
| ❖ Cook on a campfire    | Roll down a really big hill       |
| ❖ Build a den           |                                   |
| ❖ Play in the rain      |                                   |
| ❖ Eat wild blackberries | How many of these have you done?? |
| ❖ Camp out in the wild  |                                   |
| ❖ Make a mud pie        |                                   |
| ❖ Catch a fish in a net | Have a good month!!               |
| ❖ Throw snowballs       | S.W.                              |

An opportunity.....

Charming 2 Bed Cottage to rent on Castledyke South, Barton, DN18 5DQ

Fully refurbished, with new kitchen, new carpets and A\* rated energy efficient central heating system. Secure off road parking for one car. 1 The Shambles Cottages. Available now. Please contact the Landlord: Mark Dawson for more information.

Tel: 07867 800099 Email: [mark@homes2rent.co.uk](mailto:mark@homes2rent.co.uk)

## Whistling in the dark.

Not my turn to write the letter this month, but I'd like to share a piece of writing with you.

"Terry Leahy, in his book '10 words' begins by talking about truth, as the foundation for everything else that can come, and writes *"Organisations the world over are terrible at confronting truth. It is so much easier to define your version of reality and judge success and failure by that."*

Why does the Church have such a problem with truth and honesty?

My take on this is that it is because we have lost our way spiritually - and yet we can see the consequences around us of that state. We can feel that we have been mortally wounded, but we can't see where the wound was inflicted and so, in lieu of actually dressing the wound and healing it (allowing God to heal it) we throw ourselves into ever more frenetic endeavours to try and cover up the truth. We substitute social and secular agendas for the gospel to show to the world how righteous we are (as if the gospel could be reduced to being righteous); we throw away the inheritance of our liturgy for the mess of pottage that is children's entertainment, poorly done (as if the right way to worship God could only be properly discovered with the advent of Powerpoint); and we throw away the long, slow obedience of loyal, local discipleship for the 'because I'm worth it' pick and mix of the preferential rather than the penitential.

Is it any wonder that we are in the state that we are in?

I believe that the only thing that will energise the church and lead it out into the kingdom is a renewed appreciation of the gospel - a sense of confidence that what we share and why we share it is genuinely a

matter of real life and real death - and that that in itself will give the strength for mission, and allow the temperature of things like the women bishops debate to be lowered. "

This is from the 'Elizaphanian' blog (by a CofE priest), but seems to chime in with a lot of what we're talking about at the moment. For fifty years the Church has tried to halt decline by social activism, or entertainment, or consumerism. At last, perhaps, the Church may be waking up to the fact that all we have to offer is – the Gospel.

DR.

### St. Mary's Ladies' Group

St. Mary's Ladies Group visited Markenfield Hall near Ripon for their last meeting of the year. Tucked privately away along a mile-long winding drive (only just passable in a large coach!) just three miles south of Ripon, Markenfield has been described as Yorkshire's best-kept secret. Not visible from the road, a glimpse of the imposing east wall cannot be seen until visitors reach the old mediaeval road near to the top of the drive. But for a quirk of fate – and a Turnpike Act of 1777 – Markenfield would be one of the most recognisable houses in Yorkshire as the nearby A61 would run along this now-bridleway just 200 yards away.

It is one of the finest surviving early fourteenth-century English country houses; it was built by John de Markenfield, an associate of Piers Gaveston and a servant of Edward II. A license to crenellate was issued for Markenfield in 1310, the same year that John was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer. The house is an L-shaped castellated block, with a great hall that stands upon an undercroft and was originally reached by an exterior stone staircase. It is lit by two double-light windows with quatrefoil transom under their arched heads.

It has an impressive chapel which is used both by Catholics and Anglicans alike and services are held there regularly even if only a handful or people attend. Prince Charles has been a regular visitor.

In 1569 Thomas de Markenfield was involved in the pro-Catholic Rising of the North and was forced to flee to the Continent. Markenfield was confiscated and granted to Thomas Egerton, Master of the Rolls. Egerton never made Markenfield his principal residence, and it devolved to a farmhouse, preserving many features. Markenfield is now the seat of Lord Grantley.

Lunch was taken at the BlackaMoor Inn near Ripon which was excellent. We were very lucky with the weather and spent the afternoon in Ripon before returning home. S.W.

### **“Thank you” from Alan.....**

- ✓ For supplying me with Tesco (and Sainsbury) tokens. Wootton St. Andrew's Primary School this year collected well over 30,000 Tesco tokens, with help from friends of St. Mary's and Tesco itself. This is three times what we usually get.
- ✓ For helping to raise £190 at the Sports' Chaplaincy UK Coffee Morning. Many friends made cakes, provided raffle prizes and helped on the day. Especial thanks for prizes to J.E. Benson and Son, Junction Square, Crisp and Fresh and Euronic.

### **Three pleas from Alan.....**

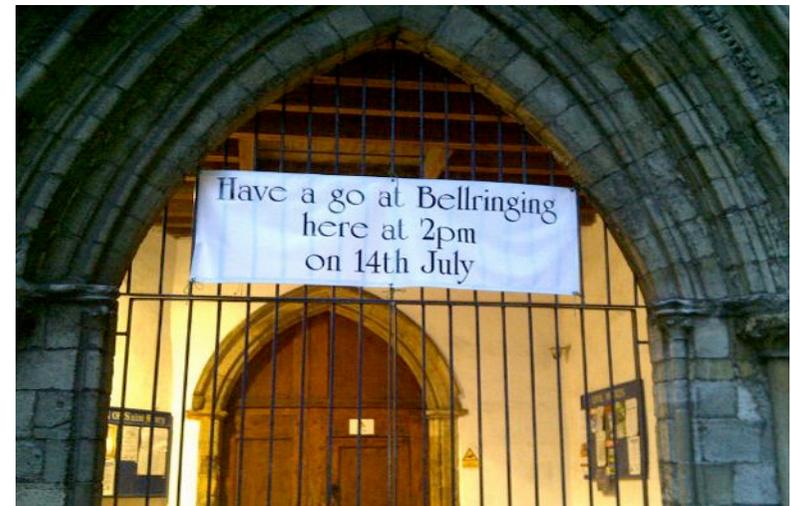
- ❖ We need more members in the choir. If **you** can sing, or if you know someone who may be interested, then September is a good time to join, in the run-up to Christmas – please let me know.
- ❖ If you use the microphone in church (ie if you are a Minister, reader or intercessor), **please** remember that every time you bang on the lectern/pulpit while the microphone is on, the noise is magnified throughout the church. Please try to ensure you find your page/shuffle your papers **before** turning the microphone on!
- ❖ We really need one or more responsible adults to help with Toddler Time on a rota basis. Again please contact me if you are interested.



Alan with Simon Wright, a Scunthorpe United photographer, and Martin Vickers, MP at the Coffee Morning for Sports' Chaplaincy UK; the ever-faithful Linda looks on from the kitchen.



An excited Amanda with E1W's Olympic tickets



A successful advertisement

Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> August	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6.00 pm		Prayers before the Blessed Sacrament
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio divina
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>		<b>For the Transfiguration</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>2.30 pm</b>		<b>Service at The Willows</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>		<b>Evening Prayer</b>
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	10.00 am		Diary meeting(vicarage)
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at Eagle House
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio divina
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>		<b>For the Assumption</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>4.00 pm</b>		<b>Baptisms</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>		<b>Evening Prayer</b>
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	7.00 pm		Exploring Prayer (St. James's Chapel)
<b>Wed 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Assumption of the BVM</b>	<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	2.00 pm		Service at Westbridge House
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup>	am		Home Communions
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio divina
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>		<b>Trinity 11</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>		<b>Sung Evensong</b>
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	am		Home Communion at St. Peter's Court & Victoria House
	<b>PARISH</b>	<b>NEWS</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Wed. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
<b>Fri 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Bartholomew</b>	<b>Said Eucharist</b>

Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio divina
	2.00 pm		Wedding
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>		<b>Trinity 12</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>11.30 am</b>		<b>Baptisms</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>		<b>Said Eucharist with hymns</b>
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at Beech House
	7.00 pm		Wedding Rehearsal
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup>	1.00 pm		Wedding
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	11.00 am		Lectio divina
	12 noon		Wedding
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept</b>		<b>Trinity 13</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>2.30 pm</b>		<b>Service at The Willows</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>		<b>Sung Evensong</b>