

BISHOP'S LETTER: DECEMBER 2010

Christmas: Hoping against Hype

It surprises me that TV Soaps have to invent a Christmas story-line to bolster their ratings year by year. After all, the Christmas story itself has all the ingredients they need. An unexpected pregnancy with paternity issues at stake. The birth of a baby in less than ideal circumstances with visitors bearing exotic gifts from near and far. The friendly pub landlord is not backed up by community leaders who would rather see this dysfunctional family off their manor as soon as possible. Enough there to keep a Soap in story-lines without needing to invent new hyped-up versions.

Indeed, in many ways, Christmas spells hype in our current culture. But, of course, Christmas actually spells Hope. Hope can be in short supply when jobs are threatened, homes are at risk of re-possession and some of the poorest people in our society become ever poorer.

Yet the birth of Jesus counters a culture of hopelessness. It is about a new life being born into the world and that is itself a sign of hope. But when that new life is nothing less than the very life of God born anew in the world, then that changes everything into positive possibility – nothing can be quite the same again. Living takes on a new meaning as we seek to live in accordance with our Lord's example, whilst in the light of His death and resurrection, death can never again have the last word.

In life and in death there is renewed hope because of the birth of that babe in Bethlehem. No need for new story-lines when Christmas already tells the greatest story ever told.

This comes with my warmest good wishes to you all, and prayers for God's Blessing as you prepare to celebrate this great festival of hope and light and joy.

+ John Lincoln

ST MARY'S BELL RINGERS ATTEMPT AT THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN CUP CONTEST 2010

A visit to the church of St Mary, St Bartholomew and St Guthlac at Crowland in South Lincolnshire by our team of bell ringers took place on Saturday the 11th September to take part in the Lincoln Diocesan Guild ringing contest for the prize of either the plate or cup. In all seven teams entered the cup competition, from Messingham, Kirton in Holland, Market Deeping, Bourne, Alford, Lincoln Cathedral ringers for, as well as Barton upon Humber.

The ringing took place in the Abbey church of Crowland, which boasts the longest drop of bell rope in the county, ringing taking place from the tower floor, our team was fortunate to be placed fourth in the contests results. Messingham coming first, Kirton second and Lincoln Cathedral third, our team being only a few points behind the first placed team in the order and the only local team that entered. Market Deeping, Alford and Bourne being placed fifth, sixth and seventh.

The team of ringers comprised Jenny Bennett (treble), Hannah Guggiari (2), Linda Howden (3), Joan Barton (4), Geoff Bryant (5) and Andy Bennett (tenor), although closely behind the winners, hopefully next year they will be successful in gaining the prestigious cup.

Donald Kitching, Publicity Officer, St Mary's Bell Ringers

THANK YOU!

As we come towards the end of another year I should like to say a big thank-you to all of you who have helped to prepare, cook, serve and clear away at the celebration meals we have held – New Year, Mid-Summer and Harvest. I should also like to thank the wider group of people who have worked with the Social Committee in the organising, setting up and manning of stalls at the Garden Party and the Autumn Bazaar.

Without all of you none of these events could take place and your hard work is much appreciated.

Auriol Trubshaw PCC Social Committee Chairwoman

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES 2010

First, I must tell you that 124 shoeboxes went from St. Mary's on Monday 8th November, joining or being joined by collections from St. Peter's C/E School, from Barton Evangelical Church and from the Salvation Army. They looked grand, piled together in the back of the van. Within a day or so of my writing of this report, those boxes would be joined at the Grimsby sorting and distribution depot by around 3,000 boxes from the Faeroe Islands. This intrigued me last year, as I wondered how islands I had quite rightly assumed to be fairly sparingly inhabited, could produce so many. I had wondered whether some came in from the Danish mainland to which the Faeroes belong but, no, all the boxes are filled by the islanders and someone from the Islands who lives in Immingham, has told the warehouse volunteers that it is impossible to find an empty shoe box anywhere on the islands at this time of the year. I bet!

Our own total of 124 boxes was very good and thank you all very much indeed for your efforts but can I ask you to put in even more effort next year so that we can keep our total high? A well-known member of our Church who has completed around 30 boxes for several years (33 this year!) has warned me that for health reasons she will have to scale down drastically in 2011. She has always collected items throughout the year but climbing to store them in her loft and then retrieving them, plus the physical effort of acquiring those items, is getting beyond her. If anyone out there who completes a box (or more!) could recruit another person to do one, or, if anyone would like to do one but lacks the time or the energy to do it alone, would you like to find a friend with whom you could share the task and, of course the cost? The ideal partnership is probably between someone who likes (!) covering the box and someone else who likes to squirrel suitable items away after visits to the seaside or to markets!

Incidentally, I recently watched a recording of an interview with a Romanian distributor of OCC boxes and he confirmed the fact that materially deprived children cherish their bright boxes long after the contents have been used and dispersed, as something which is their very own and a storage place for all sorts of meagre personal belongings and they don't see that part of the gift as inferior to the contents. He said that many children receiving a box for the first time

are astonished that there are things for them inside, in addition to the gift of the amazingly coloured box.

So – again - thank you all and I shall look forward to your contributions in 2011!

Rosemary Lamert

A CELEBRATION FOR ALL HALLOWSTIDE

..... and not a witch or a ghoul in sight! There were young gentlemen in dark suits, white shirts and bow ties, escorting young country girls in long skirts and peasant blouses or bright dresses – all with very white faces and “blood” dripping from their mouths and some with ugly-looking neck wounds: there were people of all ages dressed in funereal black and there was one lady wearing a cobweb shawl. If you looked in one corner of the dimly lit hall you might have seen an Eastern European gentleman – surely a count or a baron - wearing an opulent lounge suit and accompanied by his lady wife bewigged and equally gorgeously dressed, though also with a distressingly pale face. There was a very elegant Victorian gentleman and some equally elegant Victorian ladies, dressed for promenading or perhaps for a little genteel shopping – surely familiar to Bram Stoker in his time in Whitby. Darting round the room taking photographs with a very un-Victorian camera was a doctor in a white coat – Frankenstein perhaps? – or was he the other white-coated gentleman seated in conference with his nurse-assistant and yet another Victorian gentleman with something of a look of Peter Cushing? If you had been very quick you might have caught a glimpse of Count Dracula and his lady companion baring their fangs before they removed them for the more serious business of dining ... on conventional food.

For yes.... This was E-1-W's latest feast and did I say “conventional food”? Well, that depends on how often you eat from whole roast pig! There was also roast chicken and beef cobbler, to be eaten with roast and boiled vegetables. Puddings were rich and colourful and, as one diner standing next to me remarked, how often, nowadays, do you see the traditional blancmange sitting on a platter neatly turned out of its mould? and, actually, there were three of them, alongside the puddings and the trifles – a very 19th century display - the whole scene enhanced by ivy-wreathed chandeliers and candles, cobwebby candelabra and a small, very sinister-looking bubbling cauldron on the sideboard.

What can I say? Thank you very much E-1-W, for yet another enjoyable themed party on October 30th. I hope you all enjoyed the event and the preparations for it as much as everyone else seems to have done.

Rosemary Lamert – alias
Dracula's companion

The Rotary Club of Barton-upon-Humber
Invite Barton and District
Senior Citizens to a free
Christmas Concert
featuring
Barton and District Amateur
Operatic Society
and
Barton Town Band
*On December 12th at 7.00pm
in Baysgarth School Hall
(includes refreshments)*
*For Transport Assistance please contact
David Witter 632675*

Senior Citizens-
**On your own on Christmas Day, or difficulty in preparing your
Christmas Dinner?**

the Rotary Club can deliver one to your home on Christmas Day

Please contact David Witter 632675 by
Saturday 12th December, so that one of our members can contact you
beforehand to make delivery arrangements

DEADLINE

The absolute deadline for receiving copy for the
January Parish News is **Wednesday 15th December.**
Please try to submit articles before that date if
possible.

**St. Mary's Ladies' Group Outing to Harrogate on Thursday 11th
November 2010**

Standing at a very blustery bus stop we waited excitedly in anticipation of our visit to the Craft Fair at the Harrogate Show Ground, and then into Harrogate for a browse around the shops. Although our speed was reduced to 30 mph across the Humber Bridge because of the gale force winds, our journey was trouble free as we travelled through several showers on the way to the showground. On arrival it was still spitting as we entered the building but all this was forgotten as we espied all the wonderful goods on display. Where to look first, there were beautifully carved rocking horses, wooden toys and games, wraps, scarves, jewellery, knitted garments, gorgeous silk jackets, paintings, photographs, pottery – these were just some of the items on display. Then in the food section tempting pies, pickles, jams, cheese, wines, such a lot to look at in a short space of time.

At 1 o'clock we were back on the bus for the short ride into Harrogate. Although the rain had abated for a while we were nearly blown away by strong gusts of wind at one point. After a nice lunch (a few of us went to Betty's for a special treat) we headed for the shops with M & S proving very popular.

Then it was time to return to the bus for our journey home. Apart from a minor diversion over Boothferry Bridge because the Ouse Bridge was closed to high sided vehicles, we made good time and alighted from the bus with all our purchases, pleasantly tired but happy. A big thank you to Pauline Chapman and Kath Smith for all their organising, also to Radleys coaches for looking after us so well.

Jill Fraser

ROUSING END FOR 2010

An appearance by Snake Davis and The Suspicions ensures a rousing end to 2010 for everyone at Ropery Hall.

Taking to the stage on Thursday, December 30, the night promises to turn the clock back to the heady days of Tamla Motown and the American record label best known for its recordings of rock and roll, rhythm and blues and jazz, Atlantic Records.

Formed many years ago in the student bar of Leeds Polytechnic, band members Snake Davis, Davie Bowie and Mark Cresswell decided to reform The Suspicions after a lengthy break and now are a storming eight piece band guaranteed to get people on the dance floor with classic tracks from Atlanta, Motown and Northern Soul.

Details of the gig, which is standing room only, can be found on www.roperhall.co.uk Tickets cost £16 in advance or £18 on the door.

JUST A REMINDER

Carols Services at:

Eagle House	2pm Wed 8th December
Day Centre, Tofts Road	1-30pm Monday 13th December
Victoria House	7pm 13th December
St.Peter's Court	7pm 14th December
Beech House	2pm 15th December
The Willows	6-30pm Monday 20th December.

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS:

Nov 14th Abbie Louise WELSH daughter of Kirsty Louise BROUGHTON and Christopher James WELSH

Tylerjack Michael FLETCHER son of Leanne Rose BROUGHTON and Nicholas John FLETCHER

Nov 21st Emily Kate FRYER daughter of Victoria Kate POPPLETON and Daniel Christopher FRYER

Ava-Mai Elizabeth SEDDON daughter of Kayteigh Jayne HALL and Daniel Luke Charles SEDDON

Rowan Arthur EAYRES daughter of Lucy Susan EAYRES

MARRIAGES:

None in November

FUNERALS:

Oct 20th Michael TATE

Oct 22nd Mary Elizabeth (Betty) BRAILSFORD

Oct 25th Minnie Adelaide BOOTHBY

Oct 26th Pauline SALTER

Oct 27th Jack CARTLEDGE

Nov 8th Eva SUCH

Nov 9th Eunice Ada SMITH

Nov 12th Ivy Helen SPRAGGETT

Nov 15th Joan Garnet SHATFORD

A donation for Church flowers has been received in loving memory of
Peter Donald Grey

FROM THE TOWER

At the Remembrance Day morning Eucharist there was a dedication of a new set of bell muffles, which have been given by Linda Bromfield in memory of her husband Geoff who was tower captain here for many years. The dedication was attended by nearly all of St. Mary's bell ringers and on behalf of all our bell ringers I would like to thank Linda very much for the muffles, which are a fitting tribute and I am sure Geoff would have approved.

Roger Lord (Tower Captain)



ST. MARY'S LADIES' GROUP

Linda Patrick (wife of our previous curate, Charles) brought along her collection of Christening gowns through the ages. These have been used since the C16.

It was usual for the baby to be totally immersed. If not baptised it would go straight to the devil. The Godmother would take the baby as the mother would still be confined to bed. Originally a baring robe would be used rather like swaddling clothes and up to seven feet long mainly to keep the baby warm. In the C18 babies were sprinkled over the head with water.

Linda's oldest gown dates from 1820 using cotton lawn or muslin, pin tucks, a high yoke and of course hand made. A V-shaped yoke with the point out signified a boy and in, a girl. Manufactured lace began to be imported from India. In Edwardian times gowns changed overnight to high necks and shorter bodices. In the 1960's nylon became popular. Examples of all these were passed round, some very valuable.

Linda now makes gowns through her company 'Little Doves' set up six years ago and has established a link with Scotland making gowns with various crests and tartans. They take 18 hours to embroider and 15 hours to make!

A lovely way to spend the day!

We had our popular Beetle Drive at the beginning of November. Sixty members took part in the game and all that could be heard were the dice landing on the tables in a rush to be first to complete the 'beetle'. I think prizes could have been given for the artwork or indeed for the rare breeds which emerged!!!

Pauline Brown was the champion scoring 353 out of a possible 398!! Hot dogs were served at the end and the raffle was won by Cheryl, Christine and Janet.

David and Viv Rowett gave a superbly illustrated talk on their recent Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella.

- Camino pilgrimage begins all over Europe-even a stained glass window in St Peter's means pilgrims could have gone from here.
- Santiago means Saint James.
- Pilgrims are given a 'passport' so they can stay in the refugios (hostels) and they are stamped daily.
- Viv emerged in full pilgrimage gear including a stick to deal with unruly dogs.
- She kept a journal containing her blister artistically made into a shell.
- Viv travelled by bus three days-pinned a note to her leg whilst sleeping on a bench, waiting for David, to point out she wasn't a tramp.
- Shells are a symbol of the pilgrimage identifying pilgrims to the locals.

- Shell symbols used to indicate the route.
- Lots of medieval pilgrim bridges.
- Carvings in abundance and priceless statues left in open churches.
- A fountain dispensing red wine.
- Lifelike statues of David!
- Amusing toilet signs.
- Refugios could be luxurious or very basic (like youth hostels way back.
- Abandoned worn out or uncomfortable boots on route.
- A crowded square at Santiago-everyone queuing up to receive their certificate for completing the journey.
- An ornate giant thurible on a 53 foot chain-no health and safety (a good job Gordon not there!!)
- St James Statue in the square to see you on your homeward journey.
- David and Viv were thanked by Pauline for their interesting account.

Dec meetings-

1st Dec. Helen Danson -Thornton's Chocolates

15th Dec. Christmas Celebrations at Elsham Golf Club

17th Dec. 10 a.m.-Christingle making,

BUY YOUR
RELIGIOUS
CHRISTMAS STAMPS
At Barton Post Office
Ask for them at the counter

Shades of Autumn

Penny Archer sent this view from her window of Father Brown's Cherry tree in all its Autumn glory. She bought it as a sapling many years ago at the Church Bazaar.

God's creation for all to see-
the beauty of this cherry tree!
The glory of golds, yellows and reds.
This Close and all who see
I pray you to enjoy this tree
It is indeed a painter's dream
Leaf licking leaf like its set on fire
God's creation, God's desire
Living, dying in all its Glory.
God's reflection everywhere!

MOTHERS' UNION NOTES

Our meeting was opened with the singing "Forth in Thy name O Lord we go" followed by a reading from Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 v 1-15 read by Val Dukes. Sheila then said prayers, gave out notices and apologies before passing over to our speaker Viv Rowett. Viv is an Old Testament scholar and she spoke about the book of Ecclesiastes and how it had played a large part in her life. When she was 21 she translated the book from Hebrew to English, now in book form and takes pride of place on her bookshelf. Ecclesiastes is a strange book of the bible - part of "wisdom literature". Some say it was written by King Solomon but the words and phrases were a lot later than the time of Solomon. It is like someone's notebook-looking for the meaning of life. It has a framework with, in the middle, "words of a real person". Viv made a doll "Cloth Q" - each part of clothing reflecting a meaning found in the book of Ecclesiastes. According to some bibles it is written by Coheleth the Hebrew word for teacher. It must have been written by someone with the time and wherewithal to write!! Probably "a wealthy layabout" to use Viv's words! This doll is actually "Cloth Q the 2nd" as "Cloth Q 1st" was made for a tutor of a course on Ecclesiastes that Viv attended some years ago. This book of the bible is full of enigmatic sayings, wise thoughts and good advice which still

has a lot of meaning for life today. Viv was thanked by Val Dukes for an absolutely fascinating talk made more memorable by the use of the visual aid of "Cloth Q 2nd".

Brenda Skinner

Dec 1st 9.30am Corporate Communion Reader Iris Ward

Dec 15th 2pm Carols and readings. £1 parcel, mince pies

Flower rota

Christmas Elinor Cartwright

N.B. A.G.M Jan 19th 2011. Subscriptions due £16.50. This money is used for MU work at home and abroad.



E1W Eucharist Teaching Service.

E- Eucharist – a celebration begun about two thousand years ago.

V- Vestments- appropriate for communion services

E- Enquiring minds- questions we would all like to ask about ceremony and liturgy

R- Reserve sacrament –reference to the sacristy and the continuous light

Y- Young people, confirmed or not, taking an active role

O- Observations about ritual

N- New members and old

E- Expressions of faith

W- Worshipping with songs requested by the group

E- Exceptional behaviour of the young people and participation

L- Learning that worship is multisensory- incense in abundance
C- Clergy- Alan, Liz and David answering sometimes difficult questions

O- Openness to God through worship and intercession.

M- Meaningful experiences

E- Everyone given food for thought including the adults.

This is a brief insight into what happened- I was privileged to be there too. If you are interested in the meaning of all the ritual, symbolism etc. in the Church services there will be a teaching evening in the New Year given by the Precentor of Lincoln Cathedral, The Revd. Canon Gavin Kirk.

S.W.

LADIES IN WAITING

One of the flower arrangers stopped me in St Mary's the other day to discuss the Christmas displays, and said, 'I can understand why we don't do flowers in Lent, but it seems a little odd not to have them in Advent.' I replied (as any good waffler would when caught out) that it was traditional, and that the contrast between Advent and Christmas was maintained by keeping things stripped down like that - but she had made an astute observation which many folk overlook. Advent *isn't* the same as Lent.

Lent reflects the ancient period of final preparation for baptism among early Christians. First it was a week, and eventually lengthened out to

the forty days. Advent is a rather different preparation: it's not preparing for the challenges of living the Christian life, but rather looks to a time when those challenges will be transformed into life in the visible presence of God. As we look towards Christmas and recall how people were able for a few years to live in the visible presence of God-in-Christ, so we can be encouraged to remember that living in God's presence isn't just part of a remote past and a distant country, but is the end point and purpose of all human beings.

The darkness of Advent isn't a darkness of sorrow for our frailties, but one of hope and looking to a future of hope and of promise. Perhaps we *shouldn't* put flowers out for Advent - but the Advent season most certainly shows us the buds and first green shoots of eternity.

Fr David

Beware the wanderings of Easter!!!

Episode 2

Episode 1 drew attention to the opposite extremes in the years 2008 and 2011.

Because next year's Easter will not occur until April 24th, it will be almost as late as it can be. This has not happened since 1859, and will not happen again until 2095.

As for the almost as early as possible date of March 23rd. in 2008, this happened as 'recently' as 1913, but will not happen again until 2160.

More information next month!!!

D.B.R.

[You may know that the date of Easter falls on the first Sunday closest to the first full moon after the Spring Equinox. Ed.]

OVER TO YOU!

Alan's article from last month on speaking/reading in public led me on to think about pronunciation and expression.

A discussion followed interviews on Look North as to how people pronounce certain words e.g. how would YOU say :-
'Schedule, garage, mischievous, says' ?

When the BBC began broadcasting, presenters were given a handbook of how to say the words-cut glass accents to sound like the Queen!!

This led me on to think how various professions are typecast on T.V but if you think about it all clergy on or off TV often sound the same-usually dreary!!! How often are we lulled by the voice in church to switch off!! Or even have a nap!! (Present company excepted!!) Gone are the days of tub-thumping but at least it made one listen. (My Grandpa, an old fashioned local preacher, was good at that!)

So whoever you are talking to, keep your listener interested by your vocal expression!!

Have a good month!

SW.

CHRISTMASTIDE SERVICES

Sunday 19 th	4pm - Christingle Service
Friday 24 th	6pm - Carol Service
	11.30pm - Midnight Mass
Saturday 25 th	8am - said Eucharist
	9.30am - Family Communion
Sunday 26 th	8am - said Eucharist
	9.30am - Parish Eucharist

**THE EDITORS WISH YOU ALL A BLESSED
CHRISTMAS.**



December Diary

Wed 1 st	9.30 am		Said Eucharist (MU Corporate)
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group meeting
Thurs 2 nd	9.30 am	- 11.30am	Open Door
Fri 3 rd	5.00 pm		E1W meeting
Sat 4 th	11.00 am		Young Peoples' Church
	11.00 am		Advent Prayers 2
Sunday 5th Dec		Advent 2	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	2.30 pm		Service at The Willows
	4.00 pm		Tree of Lights Hospice service
Mon 6 th	10.15 am		Toddler Time
	2.00 pm		Staff diary meeting (Birchdale)
	8.00 pm		Prayer & Reflection (82 W. Acridge)
Tues 7 th	7.00 pm		Churches Together (St. Augustine)
Wed 8 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Eagle House Carols
	7.00 pm		W.I. Carols
	7.30 pm		Ministry meeting (Birchdale)
Thurs 9 th	9.30 am	- 11.30am	Open Door
Fri 10 th	5.00 pm		E1W meeting
Sat 11 th	11.00 am		Young Peoples' Church
	11.00 am		Advent Prayers 3
Sunday 12th Dec		Advent 3	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Baptisms
	4.00 pm		Evening Worship
Mon 13 th	10.15 am		Toddler Time
	1.00 pm		St. Peter's School rehearsal
	1.30 pm		Tofts Road Carols
	7.00 pm		Victoria House Carols
Tues 14 th	2.00 pm		St. Peter's Court Carols
Wed 15 th	Parish	News	Copy deadline today
	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Mothers' Union Carols
	2.00 pm		Beech House Carols

	2.00 pm		St. Peter's School Carols
	7.00 pm		Ladies' Group Christmas meeting
	7.00 pm		Service at Brigg for Bishop John
Thurs 16 th	9.30 am	- 11.30am	Open Door
	am		Home Communions
Fri 17 th	5.00 pm		E1W meeting
Sat 18 th	11.00 am		Young Peoples' Church
	11.00 am		Advent Prayers 4
Sunday 19th Dec		Advent 4	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	4.00 pm		Christingle service
Mon 20 th	10.15 am		Toddler Time Christmas party
	am		Home Communions: St. Peter's Court and Victoria House
	11.30 am		Children's team meeting (vestry)
	6.30 pm		The Willows Carols
Tues 21st	10.00 am		St. Peter's and Wootton Carols
	2.00 pm		Bowmandale Carols
	7.00 pm		Said Eucharist (St. Thomas)
Wed 22nd	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	10.30 am		Castledyke Carols
	7.00 pm		Choir Practice
Thurs 23 rd	9.30 am	- 11.30am	Open Door
Fri 24th	Christmas	Eve	
	6.30 pm		Carol Service
	11.30 pm		Midnight mass of the Nativity
Sat 25th	Christmas	Day	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Family Communion with carols
Sunday 26th Dec		St. Stephen	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
Wed 29 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
Sunday 2nd Jan		Christmas 2	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	10.00 am		Joint service at Trinity Methodist

