

Getting old

My flesh and my skin hath he made old; he hath broken my bones.
(Lamentations 3:4)

I once read a poem by a famous Flemish poet about the frustrations of getting old. Here is a translation of the first verse:

I can't get used to growing old.
Youth's blazing fire is not yet cold;
It's burning still, deep in my breast
And day and night denies me rest.

The poet resents fiercely the physical discomforts and limitations that ageing imposes on us. Although racked by arthritic pain, he still lusts after young girls. This frustration is caused by the sensation that while we feel just as we always felt, we are unable to do what we always did. The body and the mind seem to be at loggerheads.

The problem is that if we apply cool reason to ageing, (something that is easy to do where other people are concerned, but very hard to do when it comes to ourselves), we would never do anything, we would just sit back and say that we were too old. But that attitude is going to lead us to becoming little more than querulous vegetables. On the other hand, if we tackle something that we would have done when younger, and fail, we may be exposing ourselves not just to frustration, but to actual danger, if for example we lose our balance and fall when up a ladder.

Everything that we do as we get older seems to require a risk-assessment before we begin! Learning to adjust our lives to the right balance of activity and inactivity takes a long time. But the people who manage this adjustment successfully seem to live to a much greater age than those who do not!

Peter Large

Coming up in March

- **Pilgrim Course every Tuesday (starting 4th March). Details elsewhere in this edition)**
- **Ash Wednesday, March 5th. Eucharists with Ashing: 9.30 am (said); 7.00 pm (sung).**
- **E1W “Harry Potter” themed meal. Saturday 29th March**
- **Mothering Sunday March 30th with St. Peter’s School**

FROM THE REGISTERS:

BAPTISMS:-

Jan 12 Alfie James ANDREW son of Rebecca Elizabeth BLAKEY & Steven James ANDREW

Jan 26 Ava Rose LAWTEY daughter of Vicky Jean PARKER-LAWTEY & Jonathan Mark LAWTEY

Sophie Elizabeth & Holly Sarah SIMMONS daughters of Sarah Elizabeth & Jason Paul SIMMONS

FUNERALS:-

Dec 30 Margaret HOLDEN

Jan 2 John Geoffrey PAINE

Jan 7 Enid May FIRTH

Jan 15 Terry HILLIER

Jan 16 Patricia Jean MITCHELL

Jan 17 Joan Elsie PEARSON

Jan 27 Jean Marion WALKER

Jan 30 Susan (Sue) Margaret HAY

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

George Clark
Jack Farrow
Roy Shepherd
Roy McWilliam

Flowers have also been donated in memory of:-

Owen Stone
George and Jessie Holland
Monica Gray

The Bishop of Lincoln writes.....

At the start of this new month, the long wait for the end of Winter nears its end as the arrival of Spring edges ever closer. And though we know that the warmer weather and all that Spring promises is coming we know, too, that we must wait and be patient for a little longer.

This month we celebrate the feast of Candlemas when we remember Simeon and Anna who waited patiently in the temple to see the Messiah. Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus into the temple as was the custom according to Jewish law and tradition, and Simeon and Anna were at last able to say they had seen for themselves the child who was the light of the world, and the salvation of the world. That was their calling and their task from God.

In a culture and society where so often we are often under pressure to be ‘doing’, it can be hard to engage in seemingly passive things like watching and waiting, as Simeon and Anna did in the temple.

And yet, their watching and waiting was anything but passive. Simeon and Anna were clear and focussed about their call and their task, and in their story there is a lesson for us all.

Standing as we are near the beginning of a new year, we have a fresh opportunity to reflect on our own call from God and to think about the tasks he has given us.

What is God calling you to do in this new year? How will you serve him in the months ahead?

+Christopher

Thank you.....from Katherine and Alex

Katherine and Alex would like to say a big thank you to all friends of Geoffrey and Rosemary Lamert who have made the past year as easy as it could be.

A special thanks to the Rev Alan Wright who has cared for the family throughout a difficult year and has conducted the funeral wishes of two close friends with professionalism and appropriateness. Also to Marion Guillatt for caring for Rosemary with the warmth and love of family. Many thanks to Hutson's for their advice and guidance, and Rev's David, Liz and Ernest for helping to make Rosemary's send off as special as she deserved. Also many thanks all those who assisted Marion with catering for the feast after the service, in particular, Amanda, Kerry, Abbygayle and Linda for serving teas and coffees so expertly.

Thank you too to the many friends who came to share in the feast afterwards from various counties and denominations. You did Mum proud.

Thank you.....from Brenda Skinner

Many thanks to everyone who gives cards to be recycled, also thank you to everyone who bought cards in 2013. The total cash raised on card sales for church funds was £275.

Half-term children's theatre at Ropery Hall

The Lincolnshire based touring children's theatre company, Rhubarb Theatre, will be bringing its new show to Ropery Hall during half-term.

The Flying Flapper, which will be performed on Tuesday, February 18, at 11am and 2pm in Ropery Hall, will be the perfect holiday treat for young people aged five years and over as well as the young at heart.

The show tells the story of the wonderfully inventive life of one of Britain's most daring adventurers, voted 1925 bravest woman in England - Pilot, Wing-Walker and Housewife, Doris Grimblebottom who seems to live an uneventful life.

Retired in her small cottage in the Lincolnshire countryside, the days seem a little lonely. But when her washing machine breaks down, Doris calls out the best handyman for miles around, Stan. Suddenly the opportunities for adventure and DIY seems limitless.

The Flying Flapper is an imaginative and fantastic story, full of inventiveness, humour, mask, puppetry, songs and live music.

Tickets for the show cost £4 or £3 for the under 16s.

40*

The above, with an asterisk, may seem an odd title. However those who follow cricket will know that an asterisk against a batsman's score means "not out". One person who follows cricket on the wireless (he's only just ditched his cat's whisker and crystal set) is Geoff Brown. The 40* however doesn't refer to any prowess at cricket; rather it means that he has been organist at St. Mary's for 40 years, and still continues to be so. As I know, 40 years is a long time to be doing one job, especially when that job involves being largely out of sight.

Geoff has played diligently all that time – his first service being rather nerve-wracking: a live BBC Radio 4 service for Epiphany. Over the years, he has *played* more hymns than most people *sing* in a lifetime – some of which he's liked, and some of which he's liked rather less. Latterly, Geoff's taken responsibility for the choir as well, which is what

happens in most churches. We have been very fortunate to have a separate organist for so long. It's always rather disappointing that so few people sit at the end of a service and listen to the organ voluntary which Geoff has (usually!) prepared so well. Perhaps as a thanks to Geoff we could all pay more attention to what he is playing. Thanks, Geoff for 40*. *[A picture appears in the centre pages of Geoff, so you know what he looks like!]*

Alan.

MOTHERS' UNION NOTES

Our Annual General Meeting for 2014 was held on January 15th at 2pm. This was to have been chaired by Father David Rowett but he had to be elsewhere at very short notice; he sent his apologies and a short report to be read out in his absence. Linda welcomed everyone to the meeting; we then held a short service, singing the hymn "Lord for the Years" then a reading from Luke 12 v27 to 37 read by Val Dukes followed by prayers said by Linda.

We then went on to the business of the A.G.M. Brenda Skinner read out the report sent from Father David who thanked everyone for being God's witnesses as members of The Mothers' Union and carrying out God's work. David thanked Linda, Brenda and all the committee for their work, Janet for refreshment provided and all those who had read, led prayers, done flowers, visited and collected money. These are all very important ways of serving God in the small things of life, apparently insignificant and which appear very ordinary but nonetheless very important. The minutes of the 2013 AGM were read and approved and agreed as correct.

Then followed the Leader's report, Treasurer's report and election of officers and committee. Rotas for Readers/vote of thanks for monthly meetings, readers for corporate communion, prayer time leaders and flower rota were circulated for volunteers. The subscriptions for 2014 have increased to £20 for each member, none of which stays at branch level, it goes straight to Lincoln for the work of The Mothers' Union, therefore it was agreed that we would have to ask for contributions at branch meetings to cover expenses for speaker's

fees, insurance, postage etc. On behalf of all the group Brenda thanked Linda for her leadership over the last year.

Refreshments were served by Janet Petch. Brenda Skinner

Feb 5th 9.30am Corporate Communion Reader Val Dukes
Feb 19th 2pm Speaker Ruth Blythe Introduction to "Women's World Day of Prayer"

Reader/vote thanks Sue Brumpton

Flower Rota:-

Feb 7th Linda Bromfield and Brenda Skinner

Feb 23rd Brenda Skinner

St. Mary's Bellringers

The bellringers would like to send everyone all good wishes for 2014.

Most of December and January have been fairly quiet months for the ringers.

The passing bell was sadly occasioned to be rung for the funeral of 15 year old Koen Allwood who tragically lost his life whilst crossing the road on his way home one evening.

The old ropes have now all been replaced thanks to Linda ably assisted by Rose and Geoff.

The ringers and their partners enjoyed a very good Christmas meal at The Coach and Horses. During the evening a presentation was made to Ro and Geoff Bryant in gratitude for all their hospitality throughout the year when they provide copious amounts of tea, coffee and delicious cakes, all of which oil the wheels for the absorbing debates that take place round their kitchen table... we have solved the world troubles several times over in this delightful atmosphere!

Ringling took place for the extra Christmas services in addition to the normal Sunday ringling. The bells were also rung to welcome the New

Year [See picture, middle page] after which Ro and Geoff kindly invited everyone to their house for further celebrations.

Geoff is currently teaching a new learner. If anyone else would like to learn please do be in touch with Geoff on 01652 632679.

The ringers' Tower AGM will take place shortly; the date is still to be confirmed.

Here is a link to a rather interesting bellringing article <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/lifestyle/10520214/Alan-Titchmarsh-the-bells-of-waiting-advent-rings.html>

Joan Barton

St Mary's Ladies' Group

Our December meeting was a Christmas buffet provided by Cook's of New Holland. We were then entertained by Alkborough Choir with a varied programme including arrangements by John Rutter, traditional carols to join in with, poetry, solos on the guitar and flute with keyboard accompaniment. Members enjoyed it so much they have requested a return visit for next Christmas.

Thank you to all those who came along to make Christingles for the service the Sunday before Christmas (which was enhanced by Janet's melt in the mouth mince pies.

Two new members were welcomed to the first meeting of the New Year and sadness expressed on the death of Jean Walker who was a founder member along with Ruby Tong, Marie Danson, Elinor Cartwright and Kathy Clapson.

Pat Mellows who is one of our forthcoming speakers has been awarded the B.E.M for her work raising money for 'Childline'.

Geoff Bryant then completed his trilogy of talks about beliefs and Ceremonies in Medieval England- this one about Death. He painted a lively, informative and sometimes humorous picture of the customs and beliefs from 1200 to 1530 and to the Reformation.

Most people believed that only a few souls went to Heaven, some directly to Hell but most into Purgatory awaiting the Day of Judgment. Certain preparations had to be made in life e.g. lead a good life, confess one's sins, pay tithes to the Priest, pay for special masses to be said, leaving money in ones will in the more churches the better. If this included the Cathedral, all the better. Doom screens erected between the Chancel and the nave depicted the scenes of what would happen to the soul in Purgatory. Various of these customs still exist at our funerals e.g.as many people as possible to pray for one's soul; death being the final battle between angels and devils, a mass on All Souls Day; use of oils to anoint the body etc. He illustrated the talk with many photos of murals, screens found in churches still today.

[See pictures, middle pages]

S.M.

Over to you.....

With reference to 'watching and waiting' in **the Candlemas** service it is true that nowadays in our busy lives there seems to be no time for this. Even having a few minutes to read seems an impossibility for some people. As you know I am a great fan of listening to the radio especially in the early hour of the morning and was interested to hear Rev Mary Vickers (Industrial Chaplain for North East Lincolnshire) tell this story:-

There was a man who owned a wood yard and he sorted his men into two groups to see who could fell the most trees .After a day's work he came along to assess their work and was surprised to see that one group's wood pile was far higher than the others.

'How did you manage that?' he asked.

The group replied 'We kept stopping for 15 minutes every hour to sharpen our axes!'

Didn't Jesus say that we should work for six days and the seventh should be a day of rest?

Have a good month.....

S.W

The Search

Jesus Christ lives today
He is near to guide the way
How to find the golden key
So that he can talk to me.

JESUS DIED FOR ME

Bended knees to knock the door
Holy Spirit in me pour
Humbly talking to the Lord
Firm belief in His word.

DIED TO SET US SINNERS FREE

Sincere intentions deep inside
Surely he will be the guide.
Answers come by various means
As my trust on Jesus leans.

GUIDE AND HOLD ME EVERY DAY

Hard indeed it is to give
My whole self and how I live
If only I can open out
And full of Alleluias shout.

AS I STUMBLE IN THE WAY

Come Holy Spirit, come to me,
Set this poor sinner's spirit free.
Use me to serve Thee every day
So I may all my sins repay.

HOLY SPIRIT LIVE IN ME

Dennis Cowe

Wilderspin National School Museum

Out With the Old

During 2012/13, for the first time, the number of visitors to the Museum exceeded 10,000!

This included a record of almost 8,000 public visits of whom 20% were children, and over 3,900 children and teachers who took part in our schools programme. In addition, private hire of the premises involved an additional 9,000 people who took part in adult education classes run by the Barton branch of the WEA, or meetings of the Barton Flower Club, Barton Belles WI, the Alzheimer's Society memory café and the Khedrubje Buddhist Meditation Centre.

Overall then, almost 21,000 people visited or used the School last year, and, since we opened in 2009, 75,000 people have visited or used the site. Of these, 44,000 have been museum visitors.

Great going for a building that some people thought was beyond use in 2005! And all due to the work and commitment of well over 100 volunteers past and present, and countless others who support our work in many different ways.

In With the New

The Art Twelve Exhibition of paintings, mixed media and textiles by local amateur artists continues throughout January. The art on display is available to purchase and some of the artists, who are all local, will be available for a chat on each Saturday between 11 am and 1pm. During 2014 we will be redisplaying part of the museum and with the help of former pupils and staff from both Barton's Church Schools – on Queen Street and St. Chad's on Waterside. We will be using the School Log Books to shed light on life in Barton during the First World War and the involvement of former pupils and staff in the conflict. WEA courses this year include: "Medieval Britain", French classes, "Music in U.S.A." and "The Welsh are a Musical Nation- Are they Not?" And we will be having more craft and vintage fairs which proved so popular last year.

www.wilderspinschool.org.uk

Tel (01652) 635172

Oh dear.....

A very large man was squeezing lemons in the market place, shouting that he would take the person for fish and chips who could squeeze much more juice than he could. A little thin man took hold of a lemon and squeezed it so much that the lemon resembled a small wash leather, "How did you do that?" asked the large man. The little man replied, "I work for the Inland Revenue".

'What time is it Mr Wolf?'

I remember some fifteen years ago a vicar being interviewed by the BBC about the latest financial crisis to hit the CofE. 'Well,' he said, 'we've known for years that the wolf was coming.'

There's a tendency to see the Church as always talking about money, but for the most part parsons and wardens are not holidaying on their yachts in Cannes – it's all about sober financial realities. And I'd be failing you all if I didn't make it clear that the wolf has finally arrived at the doors of St Mary's.

In 2013, for the first time, we failed to pay our way. We will not be sending our full contribution towards our running costs to Lincoln, a situation which, if every parish did the same, would be disastrous. We can't realistically make up the balance from reserves: they'd run out very quickly and leave us a few years hence in a worse state than we are now.

Expenses are kept tightly controlled: our Parish Share - about the same as the absolute minimum pay for a headteacher - is small compared with what we get in return – my pay, training and housing, support in various ways for our clergy, wardens and readers, legal advice, safeguarding support and so on. The diocese already subsidises us heavily from historic income. But even given all that, we can no longer balance the books, and it's not a situation we can live with for very long.

No doubt there are all sorts of explanations for why we are where we are. It's also true to say that the Gospel is about more than our bank-balance, and that St Paul didn't draw a stipend from the Church Commissioners (though he did say that labourers deserve their wages). However, if we want to continue to serve Barton as we have done for the past few centuries, there's now a real financial challenge facing us which neither belt-tightening nor fetes will address. The bit of stewardship which congregations always shy away from – realistic giving — stares us in the face.

It's a difficult reality which is now sitting on our own doorstep. We are the people given the task of choosing whether the Church of England here can survive in anything like its present form. The ball is very firmly in our court.

Fr. D.

Pilgrim.

A reminder that the 'Pilgrim Course', described in December's magazine, will be running in the parish with the first session on Tuesday March 4, beginning at 7.00 in the Vicarage. It does look to be an excellent way of deepening our faith, and comes with very strong support from right across the Church of England's very wide spectrum. It also has the advantage of having been written specifically from a CofE standpoint, aware of how our own tradition works.

There is a course book associated with this which we'll need to order. If you would like to take part, will you please let us know by Tuesday 21st February.

More oh dear.....

A rogue painter offered to paint the outside of the vicarage, having first of all watered down the paint. One night it poured down and all the paint ran down the house.

The vicar met him in the street and said, "Repaint and thin no more".



The Doom screen in Wenhaston Church, Suffolk



The Last Judgment 1435



Shelterbox in use in the Philippines



Our organist, Geoff Brown, not quite as we normally see him.



Our Bellringers at the New Year ring

Sat 1 st February	11.00 am		Lectio divina
Sunday 2nd Feb		Candlemas	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	2.30 pm		Service at The Willows
	6.00 pm		Choral Evensong
Mon 3 rd	9.30 am		Toddler Time
Wed 5 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist (MU Corporate)
	2.00 pm		Service at Eagle House
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group
Fri 7 th	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 8 th	11.00 am		Lectio Divina
Sunday 9th Feb		4 before Lent	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	6.00 pm		Evening Prayer (said)
Mon 10 th	9.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	7.00 pm		Teaching evening
Wed 12 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at Westbridge House
	7.00 pm		Deanery Synod (Scawby)
Fri 14 th	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 15 th	11.00 am		Lectio divina
Sunday 16th Feb		3 before Lent	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	6.00 pm		Sung Evensong
Mon 17 th	9.30 am		Toddler Time
Tues 18 th	7.00 pm		Said Eucharist
Wed 19 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Mothers' Union
	2.00 pm		Service at Bech House

	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group
Thurs 20 th	am		Home Communions
	Parish	News Deadline	
Fri 21 st	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 22 nd	11.00 am		Lectio Divina
Sunday 23rd Feb		2 before Lent	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	11.30 am		Baptisms
	6.00 pm		Said Eucharist with hymns
Mon 24 th	9.30 am		Deanery Chapter (Hibaldstow)
	9.30 am		Toddler Time
Wed 26 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
Fri 28 th	5.00 pm		E1W
Sat 1st March	11.00 am		Lectio divina
Sunday 2nd Mar		Sunday before Lent	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	2.30 pm		Service at The Willows
	6.00 pm		Choral Evensong