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addresses

What a month.....

It may be short, but it's fully formed. In case you're wondering, I'm talking about February, which this year we get for one day longer.

The month starts still in the Christmas season (Candlemas – 2nd Feb) and ends less than a week before Mothering Sunday. Crammed into there is the Sunday next before Lent and Ash Wednesday! All this is happening while Christmas presents lie around un-used or un-opened, and often un-thanked-for. So what is going on here?

Of course it's all due to the moveable feast of Easter, which is fixed as the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Vernal equinox (usually March 21st), and is very much aligned with the Jewish Festival of Passover. This however isn't a very modern, neat way of doing things. There has been talk recently of "standardising" the date of Easter, not only among the churches but with the secular calendar.

There are several options. One is to fix a date for Easter towards the beginning of April, irrespective of the Passover and full moons. This could help the business world, and help make terms more equal in schools. A second could be an early or late fixed Easter, with schools just having the "Easter weekend" as holiday. That could give the education world the opportunity to use the Holy Week and Easter stories at the correct times, and enhance children's knowledge. (Now, sometimes schools "celebrate" Easter at the end of the Spring term up to two weeks before the event!). A third option of course is to leave things as they are. This would please the traditionalists who say that "everything is being changed, and not always for the better." I'm sure others will come up with even more suggestions.

We will all have our opinions as to what should happen, if anything; however, the debate is not new. In 1928, Parliament passed the Easter Act, which fixed Easter as the first Sunday after the second Saturday in April. It has never been implemented, and would need a vote in both Houses of Parliament to be so.

My opinion is that it would be a great shame to divorce Easter from its Jewish roots. We must never forget that Jesus was himself a Jew, and that his knowledge of the Jewish scriptures was fundamental to his mission on earth. Yes, there are problems with a moveable Easter, but too many things are changed just for people's convenience while not enough thought is given to roots and origins.

So, enjoy February this year, with all its variety, and be prepared for interminable Sunday after Trinity – actually twenty two in 2016. Alan.

Magpie

Motley bird of paradise
Firing staccato cry,
Branded the thief
With a scapegoat lie.
My boundless jester
Awaits his cue,
To plunder cryptic stage.

Carol Jacklin 2015

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

George and Ethel Stockdale
Lauretta and Stanley Welch
Roy McWilliam
George Lambert
Sidney and Florence Hewitt
Gerald Hewitt
Hilary Ashton
Lucy Booty
Derrick Gibson
Jack Hoyle
Hannah Henson

Flowers were also given to the Church in memory of:-

Owen Stone
George and Jessie Holland
Monica Gray

Thank you

Belfry News

All eight of the bells at St Mary's church rang out on 49 of the 52 Sunday mornings in 2015 – a most creditable achievement and a record unlikely to have been achieved in many other towers in England. This speaks volumes for Barton's hard core of ringers who turn up Sunday after Sunday to fulfil every ringer's primary responsibility. The last year also saw the band ringing for a number of notable reasons – in January Barton hosted the Annual General meeting of the Northern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Bellringers; in March our bells rang out fully muffled to mark the reburial of King Richard III; in May Andy and Jenny Bennett organised an outing which took us to a number of splendid rings in the area around Bourne; in June the ringers commemorated the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta; in September a team of St Mary's ringers entered the Guild 6-bell striking contest; on 13 October the bells were again rung fully muffled prior to a service held to remember the 17 Barton soldiers who were killed at the Hohenzollern Redoubt during the Battle of Loos exactly 100 years previous. On this occasion the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire joined the ringers in the belfry; in November the bells were rung half-muffled on Remembrance Sunday and finally on 12 December there was ringing before the annual Lindsey Hospice service.

As usual Christmas proved to be a very busy time for St Mary's ringers but we were able to ring all of the bells on every occasion. The support of various visitors allowed us to ring in the New Year on 1 January 2016. [See picture – centre pages.]

Barton now has a band of ringers capable of ringing, often very well, a number of methods and almost, but not quite, has a local band capable of ringing more difficult pieces on Sundays and practice nights.

Finally, and unfortunately as ever, the cry goes out – Barton needs more people, young and older, who would be prepared to put in the time to learn this most interesting skill and so keep St Mary's bells ringing. Bellringing is a social activity and brings together a group of people of all ages and interests and gives exercise to the muscles and the brain. Please come along to our practice on any Tuesday evening where you can be sure of a warm welcome.

Six little stories

{1} Once all villagers decided to pray for rain, on the day of prayer all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella.

That's FAITH

{2} When you throw a baby in the air, she laughs because she knows you will catch her.

That's TRUST

{3} Every night we go to bed, without any assurance of being alive the next morning but still we set the alarms to wake up.

That's HOPE

{4} We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future.

That's CONFIDENCE

{5} We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children.

That's LOVE

{6} On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 60 years old.... I am sweet 16 with 44 years experience'

That's ATTITUDE

Have a good month and live your life like the six stories!

Ropery Hall events

This month sees the first visit by Simon Evans who will be on stage on Thursday, February 18, focusing his dry-as-a-bone wit on the economic situation here at home and abroad.

Simon is the host of BBC Radio 4's Goes to Market and star of BBC1's Live at the Apollo as well as a regular on Radio 4's The News Quiz and regularly appearing on C4's Stand Up For The Week, BBC's Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow, Live At The Apollo, The Apprentice: You're Fired! and Mock the Week.

Tickets to see Simon's show, which starts at 8pm, cost £14 in advance or £16 on the door.

Two days later, February 20, Ropery Hall hosts its re-arranged evening with author and columnist Virginia Ironside performing her one-woman show Growing Old Disgracefully that was postponed from the autumn. Starting at 7.30pm, tickets to see Virginia cost £12 or £14 on the door.

Next month, Wednesday, March 2 marks the 80th anniversary since the publication of East Riding author Winifred Holtby's best known novel, South Riding and Ropery Hall marks this event in a thought-provoking and dynamic show, Take Back Your Freedom.

As well as being a prolific writer Holtby, was also a political activist, journalist, reviewer and lecturer and everything she achieved in her tragically short life will be celebrated in this dynamic and thought-provoking show written and performed by Felix Hodcroft and Sue Wilsea (aka The Hull to Scarborough Line), that throws a spotlight on this remarkable woman and what she achieved in her tragically short life.

Tickets cost £6 or £5 for concessions and the performance starts at 7.30 pm

Ash Wednesday.....

Is on February 10th. There is a said Eucharist with Ashing at 9.30am and a SunGEucharist with ashing at 7pm

From the Bishop of Grantham

Dear Friends,

This letter comes with my prayers for you and for us all as this month we enter the season of Lent and begin to look towards Easter. This year I can genuinely say that Lent has come very quickly, because Easter 2016 is almost as early as it is possible for it to be.

I hope that in the 2016 rush into Lent we don't overlook the very special time that comes at the end of Epiphany and just before Ash Wednesday. The day in the Church's year that marks this time is the Presentation of Christ, February 2nd. On this day, we remember Jesus' parents taking him to the Temple and being greeted by Simeon and Anna. Old meet young in a holy place and St Luke records what happens in words of great beauty.

I invite you to find this passage and to read it for yourselves: Luke 2.22–40. Truth is spoken and recognised and there is a palpable sense of wonder and of joy. Old peoples' faithfulness is validated, as is the courage of Jesus' parents and his own coming role in the salvation of the world.

I particularly like the prayer that ends the service in church on the Feast of the Presentation. The minister makes three statements: 'We stand near the place of new birth'; 'We turn from the crib to the cross'; 'We go to carry his light'; to each of which the people reply: 'Let us shine with the light of your love'.

To me, this prayer draws us into the turn that happens as we look away from the Christmas crib and towards the Easter cross. As Christ lived and died for us, so our life is now illuminated by his life – we who follow him radiate the light of his love in the world. We are no longer onlookers but participants with a purpose.

I am very much looking forward to my first Lent and Easter in the Diocese of Lincoln. I have been humbled and moved by people's kindness as I have taken up my responsibilities as Bishop of Grantham, and I am savouring the prospect of visiting parishes, schools and other organisations just as quickly as I can.

But in looking forward, I don't want, as it were, simply to get 'caught up in the rush' and forget what it is that I am doing and why I am doing it. And I very much hope

that we might all be able to resist similar pressure whenever it occurs for each of us. We always need to remember that we are people with a purpose, the loved children of God, illuminated with the light of Christ, and not just those who rush from one thing to another, aimlessly.

My particular responsibility in the diocese is for ministry. This is a big and slippery word, and one that can regrettably sometimes be used rather bluntly. As I understand it, however, all Christians share in the ministry of the Church, by virtue of who we are, baptised followers of Jesus. In our daily lives, at work, with those whom we love, in our leisure, we are His people. If we can see this, and acknowledge the light that we all carry, then we will indeed be the disciples that Jesus would have us be.

May God bless you this month as we turn from the crib to the cross, shining with the light of Christ in the world.

+ Nicholas

Church Spring Clean

Our Annual Spring Clean will take place on Tuesday 22nd March (Tuesday in Holy Week) starting at 9am. If you can help for an hour or more at anytime 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 you can drink and as many biscuits as you can eat!!! Look forward to seeing you there!

Launde Abbey Quiet Days

On 4th April, at Launde Abbey, David Redrobe is leading a Quiet Day entitled "Saying Yes to God". It is the Feast of the Annunciation when we reflect on Mary's response to the knowledge that she would deliver a baby who would be Jesus. This is an important part of the Gospel on which to reflect and pray. Launde Abbey is a Christian Retreat House and Conference Centre. It is offered to the whole church and the wider community through the generous support of the Church of England Dioceses of Leicester and Peterborough, and every year welcomes thousands of visitors to a unique experience of warm hospitality and deep spirituality. Set in beautiful parkland of 450 acres on the borders of Leicestershire and Rutland, the Abbey has 39 en-suite bedrooms which can accommodate up to 78 people; full

conference facilities; comprehensive dining facilities; extensive cultivated gardens and a wonderful twelfth century Chapel (part of the original Augustinian priory). ☒

Launde Abbey, offers monthly Quiet Days for those who need to take some time out from their busy lives. The Quiet Days are open to all and you do not need any prior experience of retreat to attend. They are an opportunity to learn, to meet others, spend some recuperative time and to meet with God.

The outline for the days is usually as follows:

TIME ACTIVITY 10.00 Arrive and Coffee: 10.30 First Talk: 12.30 Midday Office: 13.00 Lunch: 14.00 Second Talk: 15.30 Eucharist: 16.00 Tea and Depart.

Price £20.00 per person, to include coffee, lunch and tea.

To book your place please ring: 01572 717254

To email your booking: laundeabbey@leicester.anglican.org.

Please indicate if you have any special dietary requirements.

Launde Abbey is 14 miles east of Leicester and is signposted in East Norton (just off the A47). Follow signs for Loddington, turning right at the eventual T junction in Loddington. Follow the road round and continue straight and in about one mile cross the cattle grid, where you will see Launde Abbey at the bottom of the hill on the right.

Launde is also easily accessible from the A1, through Oakham, (follow the signs to the railway station). Go over the level crossing, turning left, signposted Leicester. Take the second turning on the left, signposted Leicester and Braunston and continue through Braunston village. In about one mile turn left shortly after the Withcote sign, signposted Launde. Cross two cattle grids and you will see Launde Abbey on the left.

ShoeBox Appeal News

Our Shoebox New Year got off to a great start – we are already receiving donations, have new group members and are bursting with exciting ideas for our 2016 campaign!

The first event we have planned is a Coffee Morning on Saturday 20th February, 10:00 – 12:00 in the Church Hall. Please pop in and support us if you are able.

By request we are running our Teddy Bear Challenge again this year. (Knitting and crochet patterns are available at the back of the Church.) We are hoping that with a bit of extra time, a few more knitters on board and your continued support we may be able to reach that enormous (but not impossible!!!) World Record! (...on your marks, get set, knit!)

We were also asked for a challenge for our ‘non knitting’ supporters... As every girl loves to sparkle we came up with a ‘Bobbles, Beads and Bracelets Challenge’. We have a huge (77 litre) treasure chest which we aim to fill with jewellery and hair accessories (either hand made or shop bought).

Each month we will be appealing for help in collecting specific shoebox items which we regularly find ourselves short of. Our February items are Soap & Flannels. We will of course be grateful for donations of wool, fabric, ribbon and any other shoebox items too.

Thank you for your continued support, prayers and generosity, it is very much appreciated!

Julia Wilson

St. Mary's Ladies' Group

Geoff Bryant came to talk to us about Dr. Thomas Kirk who practised in Barton 1921-1964 and wrote a detailed diary of his experiences during the War. Dr. Kirk was born in Hartlepool and grew up with his family in Seaton Carew. When he was 9 his father died in 1908, and Tom came under the care of his uncle and sent to Giggleswick School, and later, in 1917 to Newcastle Medical School. He was sent to Gosport to serve as Surgeon Probationer and escorted troops to France, finishing his studies when the war ended. His uncle bought the practice of Dr. Morley in Barton and installed Tom as locum. He married Peggy in 1923 and they lived on Whitecross Street before moving to the corner of Marsh Lane and Burgate. Peggy was also a doctor and after having 2 children she joined the practice after one of the other doctors went to war.

Tom began his diary in 1939, just before the start of the war and details his home visits and baby deliveries, the weather and the news from the front. He discusses

sending his children to Canada or USA, setting up a public medical service which predated the formation of the NHS. He seems to have worked long hours and travelled many miles to visit his patients who appreciated his efforts and paid him in several different ways! By the end of May 1945 all the doctors had agreed to join together and form what became Central Surgery.

Tom continued to practice in Barton until 1964 and died in 2004. He was active in retirement, writing novels and plays and performing in local drama groups with Peggy until she died in 1974. His children became doctors, Peter went to Australia and died 2 years ago and June worked in Newcastle. His diary was published by the Civic Society in 2013 and is freely available.

Nancy Birtwhistle paid us a return visit to talk about her year after winning The Great British Bake-off, and started by telling us of some highlights. She was invited to the National TV Awards where she stayed at the Savoy and was taken to the O2 Arena for front row seats next to Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood. Nancy explained that Red Carpet entry meant the car taking you inside the arena so the posh clothes don't get spoiled and there are photographers everywhere. She was amused by seeing the audience behaving perfectly whilst being televised but getting up and walking around while the advert breaks were happening!

Other highlights were visiting Media City in Salford where more people are employed than in the BBC in London, and making the themed birthday cake to celebrate 30 years of Eastenders. Although a courier had been booked to deliver the cake Nancy preferred to take the cake herself and thus had the chance to meet the cast.

There were one or two lowlights which showed the need to have her own agent to oversee arrangements and contracts etc, with Nancy now being on the books of an experienced lady. Other activities have included opening fetes, running a pop-up restaurant in London's Borough Market to highlight food wastage, performing at the BBC Good Food Show with Brian Turner and demonstrating from Aberdeen to Cornwall at the Eden Project.

The future is uncertain even though Nancy now has upwards of 300 recipes. She will be demonstrating on a cruise ship as part of the onboard entertainment and writes a weekly blog. But her drive and enthusiasm is undimmed and she is enjoying every minute and making the most of her opportunities.

GD

Over to you.....

Once again I was listening to the Radio and a reference was made to the Toc H which has recently celebrated its Centenary. Some of you will know that the Toc H has a building on Chapel Lane and as a child I was always fascinated by the 'Lamp' on the window. I had only seen lamps like that in Aladdin!

However I got to know more about it as my mother, as a Local Preacher, was often asked to go and speak there. Having not heard anything more about it until recently, I decided to look into what it is all about. Tubby Clayton, an Army Chaplain was sent to France in 1915. His real name was Reverend Phillip Byard. He was then sent on to the town of Poperinge in Belgium. Sitting a few miles back from the trenches around Ypres (nowadays known by its Flemish name Ieper), Pops, as the soldiers called it, was a busy transfer station where troops on their way to and from the battlefields of Flanders were billeted. Tubby was instructed by his senior chaplain, Neville Talbot, to set up some sort of rest house for the troops.

Renting a hop merchant's house, temporarily vacated by its owner, to use as his base, Tubby decided to steer away from the traditional church club and set up an 'Everyman's House'. It was named Talbot House in honour of Gilbert Talbot (Neville's brother) who had been killed earlier in the year. Of course, soldiers being soldiers, Talbot House soon became known by its initials TH, and then, in the radio signallers' parlance of the day as Toc H. It opened on 11 Dec 1915.

Tubby ensured the house was open to men and officers alike. He created a library where soldiers could check-out a book by leaving their cap behind as a ticket. Tubby was a shrewd man and knew that no soldier would dare report for duty without a cap so he always got his books back. There was a large kitchen where much tea was consumed, a beautiful walled garden where men could sit and forget about the war for a while, and eventually, in the attic hop loft, a chapel where regular services were held. It was this chapel or Upper Room which became a focal point for many and was known as the 'heart' of the House. Some had their confirmation here and many attended their first communion in this special place. Sadly, for many, their last communion would be held here.

For most of the Great War, Talbot House offered an oasis of sanity to the men passing through Poperinge. Not only could they socialise but Tubby also organised debates and concerts. Men could post messages for their missing comrades and

hope they too might stop at Talbot House and see them. What was clear though was that the Talbot House promoted a special feeling of fellowship with those who rested there awhile.

When peace came, Tubby was sent to England to find premises for a Test School for soldiers who wished to be ordained (eventually settling on the old Knutsford jail). However, the Fellowship of Talbot House was strong in Tubby's heart and in 1919 he finished his work at Knutsford to return to London. His dream was to open a new Talbot House where the fellowship and camaraderie of the original house could be rediscovered. Gathering around him many of the men who had passed through Talbot House during the war, he set about his plans. The first committee met in November 1919. They decided to drop the name Talbot House as there was already such a place in South London, so they adopted the soldier's nickname of Toc H as the new name for their movement. All those who had visited Talbot House during the war became the Foundation Members (including a small handful of women).

Acquiring a house in Queensgate Place, Knightsbridge, Tubby opened the first of Toc H's hostels which was to be home for men coming to London for work and having nowhere to stay. The house quickly proved too small and within a few weeks they moved to a larger house in Queensgate Gardens which was named, army fashion, (Talbot House) Mark 1. Within the Mark, men could share the fellowship that Tubby so wanted to rekindle. Soon, the Marksmen, as they became known, took to carrying out some form of service in the community near the Mark and so two primary aims of Toc H, Fellowship and Service were being fulfilled. As men left the Marks (there were already three in London by early 1921) and returned to their home towns, they set up groups of Toc H to carry out service locally. After a period of probation a group would be elevated to a branch and (after they were introduced in 1922) granted one of the famous lamps.

The earliest statement of the aims of Toc H was drawn up by Tubby with the Rev 'Dick' Sheppard of St Martin-in-the-Fields, and Alexander (later Sir Alexander) Patterson early in 1920. It was revised in 1936 and again in 1967. It is known as the Four Points of the Compass and is now summarised thus:

1. **FRIENDSHIP:** To love widely.

To provide members with opportunities to develop a spirit of understanding and reconciliation.

2. **SERVICE:** To build bravely.

To enable members, with their varying gifts, to serve their fellows.

3. **FAIRMINDEDNESS:** To think fairly.

To bring to members the knowledge and experience of others.

4. **THE KINGDOM OF GOD :** To witness humbly.

To work for a better world through the example of friendship, service and fair-mindedness.

Tubby's most famous motto which he had places on the door was:- 'All rank abandon ye who enter here'.

I found this very interesting-I hope you do too!

p.s. does anyone know if the building is still used by the Toc H or is it now redundant?
S.W.

Shhhh.....

Lent is upon us and it would be a very useful discipline if we could all maintain silence for five minutes before the Eucharist services on Sundays, Tuesday and Wednesdays. This helps us collect our thoughts, to enter the service more prayerfully, and to give everyone a little space to remove themselves from the troubles and cares of this world. Of course, it's not a bad discipline at other times of the year as well!
Alan.

Bible recipes for troubled people (submitted by Margaret Searle)

If you have a fit of the Blues read---Psalm 23

If people seem unkind to you read-St John ch 15

If your pocket book is empty read—Psalm 37

If you are discouraged about your work read---Psalm 126

If you are out of sorts read---Hebrews ch12

If you are losing confidence in anyone read---1Corinthians ch13

If you cannot have your own way in everything read---St James ch3

This was given to a fourteen year old girl prior to her leaving home.

The lady is now in her nineties.

Lent Lunches

Homemade soup and crusty bread will be served as usual during Lent, every Wednesday from 17th February to 23rd March. We do hope you will be able to join us and enjoy the food and fellowship in the Church Hall. Last year we raised over £1,000 for Christian Aid, after Gift Aid was included. So if you are a Tax-payer there are small forms to complete if you wish to increase your donations.

Also, if you cannot come to the lunches, donations are very acceptable! Sadly Sue Brown will not be able to join us this year selling her cakes, cards and other items, due to a family bereavement. Our thoughts and prayers are with her.

So please come and join us if you can to raise as much as possible for Christian Aid.

Val Dukes

From: 'Christian Crackers Through the Year':-

At the end of his pre-Lent sermon the Vicar suggested, as an example to the rest of the community, the congregation should worship in an unheated church for the whole of Lent.

As they made their way out into the chill Sunday air the Vicar addressed one member of the congregation asking, 'What have you decided to give up for Lent?'

'Church', she replied firmly!!!!!!

Shooting oneself in both feet.

Imagine two sister-organisations. One's allowed its offices to be used for torture and executions. The other opened its offices and resources to a group previously excluded, but didn't wait for everybody else to agree. Which of the two deserves criticism?*

For 20 years or so the Anglican Church in the USA (and Canada, and elsewhere) has been moving towards full acceptance of faithful gay relationships. The Anglican Primates' Meeting in January has responded to this by excluding the US Church from full participation in Anglican affairs for three years.

Given that the arguments over the rights and wrongs of gay relationships have largely ceased in the West, I guess that many folk, within the Church and outside it are thinking, 'Why are Christians so obsessed with sex?' New figures show CofE Sunday attendance has now dropped below a million; I can't help but feel this will make connecting with the remaining 98% of the country even more difficult.

Many Anglicans, including clergy, are struggling with this statement. I trained for the priesthood with the Labour MP Chris Bryant, a man of great integrity and moral courage, who has now given up on the Anglican Church altogether. He will not be the only one. And among those who are unconvinced that LGBT relationships have a proper place within the Church there are many deeply unhappy with the heavy-handedness of the Primates' statement.

It is hard not to reject the Church when it does something we believe wrong. Over the centuries it has spoken up for slavery, the subjugation of women and capital punishment as all being part of the divine order, and it's disturbing if we're setting off down that path once more. But perhaps the words of the Canadian priest Henri Nouwen might just help keep some of us going:

"When we have been wounded by the Church, our temptation is to reject it. But when we reject the Church it becomes very hard for us to keep in touch with the living Christ. When we say, 'I love Jesus but I hate the Church,' we end up losing not only the Church but Jesus too.

The challenge is to forgive the Church. The challenge is especially great because the Church seldom asks for forgiveness, at least not officially. But the Church as an

often fallible human organisation needs our forgiveness, while the Church as the living Christ among us continues to offer us forgiveness."

Please hold in your prayers all those, on all sides of the debate, have been wounded by events of the last few weeks. The Church needs them.

*To the best of my knowledge the Rwandan Church's part in the 1990's genocide was never 'punished' – that would have been to blame the Rwandans for a failure of the whole Church. The killings were recognised with shame by all the Churches as a sign of its own failure over many years to heal ancient divisions.

Fr. David

Beyond Patience Strong

This year, Christmastide's forty days scarcely ends before Lent begins. The connection between Christmas and the Cross is something to which generations of Christian writers have drawn our attention but it's rather gone from the 'baby's birthday' consciousness .

The English poet UA Fanthorpe has something to say on this.....

The Wicked Fairy at the Manger

My gift for the child:

No wife, kids, home;
No money sense. Unemployable.
Friends, yes. But the wrong sort –
The workshy, women, wimps,
Petty infringers of the law, persons
With notifiable diseases,
Poll tax collectors, tarts;
The bottom rung.
His end?
I think we'll make it
Public, prolonged, painful.

Right, said the baby. That was roughly

What we had in mind.

The google group 'stmaryspoetry' exists as a forum to talk about the poems.

Open All Hours

We know from both the visitors' book and from the prayer board that our keeping of St Mary's open is greatly appreciated both by tourists and by those in need of a quiet space. It's probably one of our most appreciated gifts to the town.

Most of the time we have little or no trouble, but we have had a few incidents recently with the same band of three 12-13 year-old boys, who, despite a strong warning have continued to be occasional nuisances. Naturally we'd like to nip this in the bud, especially if they egg one another on to do something really silly which they might later regret. So please, if you're around, just keep an eye open.

Louth Male Voice Choir

This very good and very professional choir will be giving a concert here in St. Mary's on Saturday 12th March at 7.30pm in aid of Linsey Lodge Hospice. Tickets are £10, to include wine and canapés and may be purchased from Alan Wright, Christine Patterson or any member of the Barton Lindsey Lodge Committee. They are also available on the door. The event is kindly sponsored by Barton Rotary Club.



Ringing in the New Year 2016

Left to right : Donald Kitching, Richard Hopper, Neil Jacques, Andrew Lord

Geoff Bryant, Linda Howden, Alan Frost (visitor from Weymouth),

Sally Hewitt. Ruth Kitching, Maureen Frost (visitor from Weymouth)

Church

Spring Cleaning



Tuesday 22nd March

9.00am

Please join us

Mon 1 st Feb	9.30 am		Toddler Time
Wed 3rd	9.30 am		Said Eucharist (MU Corporate).
	10.15 am		Diary Meeting (Vicarage)
	2.00 pm		Service at Beech House
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group
Thurs 4 th	2.00 pm		Service at Eagle House
Fri 5 th	6.00 pm		Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
Sat 6 th	11.00 am		Lectio divina
Sunday 7th Feb		Sunday next before Lent	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	2.30 pm		Service at The Willows
	6.00 pm		Choral Evensong
Mon 8 th	9.30 am		Toddler Time
Wed 10th	9.30 am	Ash Wednesday	Said Eucharist with Ashing
	7.00 pm		Sung Eucharist with Ashing
Thurs 11 th	2.00 pm		Service at Westbridge House
Sat 13 th	11.00 am		Lectio Divina
Sunday 14th Feb		Lent 1	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	4.00 pm		Baptisms
	6.00 pm		Said Evening Prayer
Mon 15 th	9.30 am		Toddler Time
			Home Communion week

Tues 16th	7.00 pm		Said Eucharist
Wed 17th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Mothers' Union meeting
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group
Sat 20 th	10.00 am – 12noon		Operation Christmas Child Coffee Morning (Hall)
	11.00 am		Lectio divina
		Parish	News Deadline
Sunday 21stFeb		Lent 2	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist and Baptism
	6.00 pm		Said Evening Prayer
Mon 22 nd	9.30 am		Toddler Time
Wed 24th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
Sat 27 th	11.00 am		Lectio Divina
Sunday 28thFeb		Lent 3	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	11.30 am		Baptisms
	6.00 pm		Said Eucharist with hymns
Mon 29 th	9.30 am		Deanery Chapter (Barnetby)
	9.30 am		Toddler Time
Wed 2nd March	9.30 am	Chad	Said Eucharist (MU Corporate)