

BISHOP'S LETTER: NOVEMBER 2010

The Big Society

At a recent meeting of all the UK Bishops we were addressed by not one, but two Government Ministers responsible for promoting The Big Society. They were charming, at times eloquent and anxious to affirm the role of faith and faith communities in building a society conducive to the common good. But at the end of it all we were left little the wiser as to what The Big Society is, and how we might recognise it when we see it.

Sceptics see this vision as but a smoke screen for rolling back the State and cutting public expenditure by relying more and more on volunteers and local resourcing. Others are prepared to give the idea some benefit of the doubt. After all, don't local people know what is best for their locality, and isn't there a huge reservoir of good will waiting to be tapped as voluntary groups and committed individuals are freed from excessive top-down regulation in order to deliver services and enhance quality of life in the places where they live and for which they have a care? Isn't the up-coming Decentralisation and Localism Bill simply another version of love your neighbour as yourself?

It is certainly a fact that Churches across Lincolnshire have been promoting The Big Society in practice for many centuries – even if they did not describe it in those terms. We have not always trumpeted our achievements, and there is some truth in the observation that Anglicans go about doing good, and hope others will guess the reason why!

Taking with us into the Church the concerns which affect our local community, and then going out from Church strengthened to address those concerns is crucial to who we are as the people of God, and if Government has now seen the sense of that and chooses to re-brand it as The Big Society then all well and good.

However, there is a worrying contradiction at the heart of current policy initiatives. For The Big Society to work it needs to ensure that

volunteers are supported, resourced and sometimes trained to do what is being asked of them. Government cuts seem destined to impact severely on centrally funded voluntary sector agencies which provide that back-up, and take responsibility for ensuring overall good practice and accountability. As our Diocese relies more and more on Voluntary Ministers to take forward our mission, so we have invested more and more in the training and support of those Ministers. Like Grace, The Big Society is free – but it isn't cheap!

+ John Lincoln

A letter, with every blessing, from the Archbishop of Canterbury:-

Brothers and Sisters,

The journey from Advent to Christmas reveals two very different pictures of what it means to be a child in the eyes of God. First we see Jesus as a vulnerable infant born in a manger, and then we hear Simeon's witness that this helpless baby is a light that brings revelation to the world.

These messages – that children are both in need of our care and also individuals made in God's image and able to teach adults about God's kingdom- are at the heart of the work of the Church of England's Children's Society.

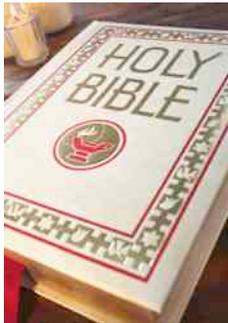
Each year the Society's Christingle appeal explores these themes through services and celebrations up and down the country, bringing together local churches and communities. A Christingle Service places children at the heart of the work of their worshipping communities, engaging them creatively with the Gospel message.

Last year 500,000 children shared in these services. This year once again I commend Christingle Services as a way of encouraging children and adults to worship together, responding to Jesus' message of love and care for the young and marginalised.

Make a note of ours in your diary on the Sunday before Christmas at 4p.m.

Reminder : That time of year has come round again for Mike and Margaret to collect in your Children's Society Boxes! Empty out all your loose change and make this year a record one. Thank you.

Anyone wishing to take "Every day with Jesus" bible notes for 2011, please contact Mr. Cowe (633413)



Beware the wanderings of Easter!

Only 2 years ago, in 2008, Easter Sunday was next to the earliest possible date of March 23rd. Next year, nearly here, Easter Sunday will not be until the next to the latest possible date of April 24th! What a jump in a mere three years. More next month.....

DBR

The Tree of Lights service organised by, and in aid of, Lindsey Lodge Hospice will be held at St. Mary's on Sunday 5th December at 4.00pm. All are welcome and refreshments will be served afterwards in the Hall.

AN ARTICLE FROM *EKKLESIA*

Wallace and Gromit lead aggressive secular assault on Christmas



'Tis almost the season to be controversial. Brace yourselves, because there will be no religiously themed postage stamps this Christmas. It has been announced that Wallace and Gromit have been chosen instead, to head aggressive secularism's latest assault on that most noble of great Christian institutions, the postal system.

Every year some Christians get up in arms over the Post Office policy with regard to its Christmas stamps. A few years ago, there was even [an alleged conspiracy circulated widely](#) by email that the post office had sent a secret memo to all employees (which no one could actually produce) telling post office workers to keep the religious stamps hidden, and only produce them if specifically asked for.

The scene has been well and truly set for another season of paranoia with the Pope's comments on the festive season (sorry 'Christmas') and the alleged drive to remove religion from public life.

The Post Office policy is to alternate religious stamps and 'secular' stamps each year. This year it's supposed to be the non-religious option. But I wonder if in fact we'll get some irate secularists up in arms too. Wallace and Gromit appear to be singing Christmas carols on one stamp, which does look rather religious. I understand that Wallace also recently attended an Alpha Course (lured by the cheese at the Alpha supper) and both are now regular church attenders. This could get nasty...

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

Oct 9th Jessica Sandra Jane BALDINGER daughter of Stacey Anne and Ross Peter BALDINGER

Oct 10th Jack Kevin CAMPBELL and Harry John CAMPBELL sons of Melissa Fay and Damian Peter CAMPBELL

Oct 17th Harvey William FOSTER son of Lyndsey Patricia STEELE and Alan FOSTER
Holly DINSDALE daughter of Karen and Ian Robert DINSDALE

Oct 24th Heidi Julie-Anne MULLER daughter of Maria Lesley and David Jonathan Charles MULLER
Jacob William Colin MUSGRAVE son of Rosemary and Richard MUSGRAVE

MARRIAGES

Oct 9th Ross Peter BALDINGER to Stacey Anne MILLS
Oct 23rd William Carl Simon PHILLIPS to Anne-marie SALE

FUNERALS

Sept 27th Annie HILLMAN

ST. MARY'S WEB SITE

On the St. Mary's Web Site (www.stmarysbarton.org.uk) there are two articles concerning the Pope's recent visit to this country. Why not conquer your fear of technology and find out more?

NOT TO BE MISSED.....

- Bazaar – Sat. 13th November 10 am – 12 noon
- Quiet afternoon lead by Sister Rachel – Sun. 21st November – 2 pm (also preaching at 6pm)
- Advent Prayers – each Saturday in Advent – starting 27th November – 11 am
- Advent procession by candlelight – Sun 28th November – 6 pm

COMIC CORNER

Things children said in exams about History:

- ❖ William the Conqueror landed in 1066AD and AD means after dark.
- ❖ Roman women built fires in their brassieres.
- ❖ Henry the Eighth had an abcess on his knee, which made walking difficult.
- ❖ Q. What is the Age of Pericles? A. I'm not sure, but I reckon he was about 40.
- ❖ John Calvin Klein translated the Bible into American so people in Geneva could read it.
- ❖ The Navy is sometimes called the Senile Service.
- ❖ Florence Nightingale never got any sleep for three years because she was continually being needed by soldiers.
- ❖ Marie Curie won the Nobel Prize for inventing the radiator.
- ❖ Queen Victoria was the longest queen. She sat on a thorn for 63 years[ouch!].

More next month.....

CHRISTMAS ART MARKET AT THE ROPEWALK.

Saturday, December 4, sees The Ropewalk playing host to its annual Christmas Art Market which spreads throughout the corridors the length of the building.

Around 40 artists throughout northern Lincolnshire will be taking part in the Art Market selling paintings, prints, cards, textiles, jewellery, ceramics and decorative glass at prices to suit everyone's pockets. Admission to the Art Market, which runs from 11am to 4pm, is free.

At Ropery Hall Christmas cheer starts on Friday December 3 with the welcome return of St Agnes Fountain who are making their 10th anniversary tour and then, for something completely different, Germany's Comedy Ambassador Henning Wehn and Otto Kuhnle, the funniest man from Düsseldorf, stage an authentic German Christmas Do on Friday, December 17, with comedy and carols!

ADVENT PRAYER & REFLECTION 2010

As Christmas appears once more over the horizon, we begin to make plans for the festive season. But before we get too carried away by lots of preparations, let's remember that before the celebration itself, there is a period of watching and waiting. Waiting can sometimes be as important an experience in our lives as the thing we are waiting for. Often, having to wait for things makes us appreciate them all the more. The period of waiting before Christmas is, of course, Advent. Advent lasts about four weeks, and is an opportunity for Christians to reflect upon some serious, as well as joyful, themes and ideas in our faith. To start with, we think about judgement and about our responsibility to live faithfully as Christians in our challenging world. We think also about how God comes to us. Then we turn our thoughts towards the coming of Jesus at Christmas and what that might mean for us. By the time we reach Christmas Day itself, we have had the opportunity to engage in some pretty heavy thinking about our faith! To help us on our Advent journey this year, we are trying something new at St Mary's. Each Saturday morning in Advent, starting on November 27th, we will be having a time of prayer and reflection in St

James's Chapel (that's the space tucked away behind the organ) and we invite you to join in. It will begin at 11am and will last about 30 minutes. Each session will be led by a different person, and may include reading, prayers, music and silence, all focussed on an Advent theme.

It is hoped that these four sessions will provide an opportunity for quietness and thoughtfulness in what might otherwise be an increasingly busy time. Please do come along and spend some quality waiting-time with others and with God.

Kathy Kurate

SHOE BOXES

PLEASE make sure yours is returned (filled!) by Sunday 8th November



PUBLICIZING PARISH EVENTS

I have been acting for some time now as the Parish Press Officer, having been asked to take on this role when I joined the Parish Communications and Media Group. It was suggested at the recent meeting of that group that it may be useful for me to say just a bit in the magazine about my role. Put quite simply, it is intended to facilitate publicity of both Parish events and events being organized by groups associated in one way or another with St Mary's. I can draft press releases, arrange liaison with the various media as appropriate for the event - and perhaps also suggest on some occasions that we may be able to obtain further coverage on related matters. A good example of that is the spin-offs that came from reporting that Kathy

had been awarded her MA from Nottingham University and mentioning that she did her dissertation on the theological case for vegetarianism. This led to a feature on that in the Diocesan Newspaper "Crosslinks" and also to an interview on Radio Humberside. If your group has an interesting story to tell, or some event that needs publicizing, then do get in touch with me, either by phone (01652-636445) or by email: gplumb2000@aol.com

Gordon Plumb

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

Lauretta and Stanley Welch
Rob. Marsh
Stanley Robinson
Frank R. Milner
Timothy Wilson.

TO ALL MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

It has been agreed that we should collect the year 2011 subscriptions during NOVEMBER so that the money will be banked in the 2010 financial year.

Joyce Gibson will be in the Hall vestibule after the 9.30am service on three dates to receive the money we collect. She will record the sum and issue a receipt straight away. She will also need the list of subscribers at the same time. The Sundays are: NOVEMBER 7th, NOVEMBER 14th, and NOVEMBER 28th. The subscription is £ 5.00 for the year.

We hope this system will work smoothly and help those who organise the financing of the Parish News. Please do NOT put money in the safe or through anyone's door. If there is a difficulty contact Joyce to arrange payment.

Many thanks for this valuable work on behalf of our church.

Mike Searle

CONFIRMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS 14TH OCTOBER

Following the Deanery Confirmation Service in St. Mary's Church on 14th October, during which a magnificent total of 31 candidates were confirmed by the Bishop of Grimsby, there were presentations in the Church Hall. Three members of Barrow Church were presented with Bishop's Certificates following their successful completion of this study course and then the Bishop presented an assortment of Bishop's Youth Achievement Awards and Church Children's Achievement Awards and credits to young people from St. Mary's.

Sam Wright was presented with a Higher Award and two Standard Awards as his total of credits has shot up through a very busy spring and summer to more than the 50 credits needed for the Higher Award. Jo Hepworth who recently celebrated her 19th birthday and so has left the scheme, achieved her stated ambition to reach a total of 150 credits, so achieving a second Higher Award. Charlotte Smith and Kerry Alliss have each been awarded two further Standard Awards and Corianne and Kirelle McManus, Ben Welch and Daniel Young were each awarded one Standard Award.

At the Church Children's Achievement Award level there were four presentations. For Katie Gregg there were two Green Awards for 10 credits each, Abbygayle Alliss received a Purple Award, the highest denomination at this level, for 50 credits, plus a Blue Award for her second total of 25 credits and three Green Awards. Matthew Hepworth and Chloe Roberts both received a Blue Award and a Green Award. Once again, the variety of activities pursued by the participants is astonishing though music, dance and other performance activities feature quite prominently, some of this completed within a church setting, some of it in the community. Campanology is on the list as usual, also sailing, tourist railway volunteering and the Scout movement! It was good that Barton's three young confirmees all received awards via one of the two schemes.

Before closing this report, it would only be right to mention the post-Confirmation party. I saw the spread in an empty Hall before the onslaught of many hungry people and it was not only a generous feast but extremely attractively arranged. For this we have to thank E-1-W,

some of whose members, though not all, are BYAA/CCAA participants. They did a magnificent job.

Rosemary Lamert

[Continued thanks to Rosemary for her hard work in co-ordinating the schemes in this parish. Ed.]



WILL AID

Will Aid is a fundraising campaign involving nine of the UK's leading charities (ActionAid, British Red Cross, Christian Aid, Age UK, NSPCC, Save the Children UK, Sightsavers, SCIAF and Trocaire) The objective of the campaign is simple but compelling: to encourage people to make a Will with a solicitor and at the same time raise vital funds for the Will Aid charities.

What's important about Will Aid?

The campaign involves:

- charities working together

- solicitors being generous and using their professional skills to benefit others
- large numbers of the general public at every stage of life creating security for their loved ones
- Will Aid is a powerful force for change. It has raised more than £8m million in donations for the Will Aid charities since it was founded in 1988 and many millions more in promised legacies.

Making a Will is straightforward, simple and an important way of protecting loved ones for the future. But many people die without having made a Will. When this happens, any belongings are distributed according to the laws of intestacy - a detailed impersonal set of rules that dictate where the money goes. By publicising the importance of making a Will, the campaign is helping people look after their own families as well as helping families in need around the world. Solicitors will draw up a basic Will without charging their usual fee. Will Aid solicitors hope the client will donate to the Will Aid charities the fee they would normally charge. The suggested donation level is £75 for a single Will, £110 for mirror Wills and £40 for a codicil. If there is additional work involved, for example estate planning, solicitors may charge their normal fee for the work.

Email: enquiries@willaid.org.uk website: www.willaid.org.uk

EEE – NUN – SEA -EH? – SHUN

Or.....How to speak real proper in church!

We all know, because we have heard, the imperfections in our present sound enhancement system. The Standing committee of the PCC is actively pursuing an update of that system, which could even be in place before Christmas.

However, the best system in the world won't compensate for sloppy speech. I list the "ten commandments" below:

1. **DO** speak *slowly* and *clearly*.
2. **DO** keep your head up so your sound is projected forward, not down at your feet.
3. **DO** try to make eye contact with your "audience".
4. **DO** read through your prayers/reading/notices etc beforehand.
5. If you are tall, **DO** consider removing the blue-carpeted stool. (and remember to replace it after you have finished!)
6. **DON'T** gabble or mumble.
7. **DON'T** speak quickly.
8. **DON'T** try too many "ad-libs" – they often don't work!
9. **DON'T** forget to switch the microphone on (and off again).
10. **DON'T** forget, what you have to say is important, and we all want to hear it.

Alan.

NEW YEAR FOR CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES

Yes, it's that time of year again!

The last Sunday in October brought us to the last envelope in the box. Many thanks to all who have given conscientiously and regularly. I hope you have received your new box.

This scheme is an essential part of the funding of St. Mary's Church, so if anyone else would like to start using this method of giving, please contact Geoff Brown or me.

Thanks also to those who use the Standing Order system and to those who started a Planned Giving way of supporting the Church recently. For any more information please ask Alan Mabbott, the treasurer; David Dukes, the Planned Giving Officer; Geoff or me.

"God has been generous to us; we are called to reflect this generosity"
Val Dukes

ADVENT BOOKLET

During Advent, we will be using a new booklet at the Eucharist. It has been put together from Common Worship by the Worship Steering group and contains all the material needed for the services. The "Ordinaries" (the unchanging bits) appear at the front; the "Propers" (the bits that change each week) are in the appendix. We hope this will make following the service in Advent easier. Further booklets will be provided for Lent and Easter.

Alan.

Mon 1 st Nov	10.15 am		Toddler Time
	2.00 pm		Staff diary meeting (Birchdale)
	8.00 pm		Prayer and reflection review(82 W. Acridge)
Tues 2nd	9.30 am		All Souls' Day Requiem Eucharist
	2.30 pm		Service at The Willows
	7.00 pm		United Prayer
Wed 3rd	9.30 am		Said Eucharist (MU Corporate)
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group meeting
Thurs 4 th	9.30 am	- 11.30am	Open Door
Fri 5 th	5.00 pm		E1W meeting
Sat 6 th	11.00 am		Young Peoples' Church
	Shoe	boxes to	be returned by tomorrow.
Sunday 7th Nov		3 before Advent	
	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	10.00 am		Communication Com. (Birchdale)
	10.15 am		Toddler Time
	2.00 pm		Standing Committee (Vicarage)
	7.30 pm		Teaching evening (Hall) Bp. Grimsby
Wed 10 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at Eagle House
	7.15 pm		Ministry meeting (Birchdale)
Thurs 11 th	9.30 am	- 11.30am	Open Door
			Ladies' Group Outing
Fri 12 th	5.00 pm		E1W meeting
Sat 13th	10.00 am	- 12.00 pm	Bazaar
	Evening		Foden's Band Concert
Sunday 14th Nov		2 before Advent	Remembrance Sunday
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	11.30 am		Town Remembrance Service
	4.00 pm		Baptisms
	6.00 pm		Evening Worship
Mon 15 th	9.30 am		Deanery Chapter (Scawby)
	10.15 am		Toddler Time

		am	Home Communions: St. Peter's Court and Victoria House
Tues 16 th	7.00 pm		Eucharist (Healing and Wholeness.)
Wed 17 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Mothers' Union
	2.00 pm		Service at Beech House
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group meeting
Thurs 18 th	9.30 am	- 11.30am	Open Door
	am		Home Communions
Fri 19 th	5.00 pm		E1W meeting
Sat 20 th	11.00 am		Young Peoples' Church
	5.00 pm	- 8.00pm	Deanery Youth Service
	Parish	News	Copy deadline
Sunday 21st Nov		Christ the King	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Family worship and Baptisms
	2.00 pm		Quiet Afternoon – Sister Rachel
	6.00 pm		Parish Eucharist – Sister Rachel
Mon 22 nd	10.15 am		Toddler Time
	7.00 pm		Eucharist and PCC
Tues 23 rd	7.00 pm		Deanery Synod (Barnetby)
Wed 24 th	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Mothers' Union prayer Time
Thurs 25 th	9.30 am	- 11.30am	Open Door
Fri 26 th	5.00 pm		E1W meeting
Sat 27 th	11.00 am		Young Peoples' Church
	11.00 am		Advent Prayers 1
Sunday 28th Nov		Advent Sunday	
	8.00 am		Said Eucharist
	9.30 am		Parish Eucharist
	6.00 pm		Advent Procession by Candlelight
Mon 29 th	10.15 am		Toddler Time
Tues 30th	7.00 pm		Eucharist (Andrew – Apostle)

Please note: the Parish News copy deadline in December will be Wednesday 15th.

ST. MARY'S LADIES' GROUP

The lighter side of the Law - Commander Terry Slocombe.

An hilarious talk given by retired police Commander Slocombe about his time in the police force kept us enthralled!! He has been married for 40 years and is still blessed by his wife for the surname!!!!

He worked for the West Riding Constabulary beginning his career as a cadet answering phones and making tea and thanks his parents for not having criminal records so he could join!! He had to have a medical, an exam and was told to be on parade in black shoes (thought he would be a bit cold in just shoes!) but had a uniform. Unfortunately he got into trouble as the shoes he chose were winkle pickers!

He was posted to Shipley to Manor Lane Police Station and met his wife-to-be who lived at 162 Manor Lane!!! He got hit by the police Inspector for waving to her on the way past and not concentrating.

His first assignment was removing a goat from the bowling green and putting it in the pound. He thought he had done a good job only to be told by the sergeant to take it back as they were not allowed goats – only dogs!

In the early days mobile phones were like bricks! There were Police boxes (Tardis) on the street corners which had phones inside. The helmets in 1960 were made of cork which warped in the rain and he carried a truncheon. Also the whistle was pathetic. He had firearms training but you were not allowed to carry bullets with the gun - what good was that!

He wasn't always well behaved as a boy - he joined the church choir because he knew they got paid a shilling – he wasn't a good singer so left with his money! He started playing truant at 15 (in the Geography lesson) so he went off somewhere else to avoid the local Bobby, usually to Bradford. He also got free meals and to collect them you had to have a raffle ticket. So he decided to sell the tickets for fourpence.

To complete the talk he dressed up in all the 'kit' –SOCO suit, flippers, helmet, gas mask and carried his gun- what a sight!!!

He rounded off the evening by saying his talks were done to raise money for two mini buses which are hired out to schools, scout groups etc.

He was thanked for his entertaining talk by Angela Duke.

Wendy, Kath and Jean won the raffle.

November meetings are the Beetle Drive, Viv Rowett's Santiago Pilgrimage and the outing to Harrogate Craft Fair.

Sue. W.

OVER TO YOU.....

Continuing the theme of 'Thank you' (which a few people have made comments on recalling their own similar experiences) I thought I would reflect on the thanks given to their rescuers by the Chilean miners. As some of you will be like me and unable to sleep through the night, I turned on the T.V. to see the first of the miners to emerge from the capsule and the ensuing elation by all around him. Then the miner who brought up a bag of 'rocks' to distribute amongst the crowd including the President of Chile (whom someone commented on was milking the situation - would our government not do the same - Tony Blair certainly would have done!)

The outstanding feature was the sense of community - family and friends setting up camp and not giving up. The singing of the national anthem - how many of our miners could stand and sing unaccompanied what seemed to me a very complicated tune - watching at our Civic service recently not even some of the Councillors could manage two verses!!!

The most moving part was the way the foreman would not emerge until the last of his shift had been rescued – he was likened to a captain of a ship - and was duly thanked by all.

Why is it we humans have to wait for a disaster to gather together? At funerals we often hear people say "We should get together as a family more often." We all lead busy lives I know - but perhaps we should make more time for our family, friends and community (what fun we had at the street parties for Royal occasions). Above all continue to say thank you to God for enabling people to rescue others and come up with ideas like the capsule used for the miners and pray that all the miners will recover and continue with their daily lives.

Sue. W.

HOPE

Jesus is the risen Lord,
Crucified by Roman horde,
Bloody nails in hands and feet
Body wrapped in burial sheet.

Died to set all sinners free,
That means folk like you and me.
By His death forgiveness offered
Everlasting life is proffered.

Jesus is alive today,
Walks with us to show the way.
All amid our stress and strife,
Guides us in our daily life.

If we talk to him quite often,
Harsher tones of life will soften.
To us his boundless life will flow
And happiness within us glow.

Love thy neighbour as thyself,
Build up stores of inner wealth.
Then in times of desperate need,
Through all perils He will lead.

Faith invested in His word
Means our prayers will be heard.
If we lack this simple trust
All our schemes are worthless dust.

Praise our Lord's great sacrifice,
to free us from our sins and vice.
Holy Spirit flow through me
And keep me ever close to thee.

Dennis Cowe

MOTHERS UNION NOTES

Our meeting on October 20th was opened by Sheila with words of welcome to members and guests and especially our speaker Reverend Gordon Plumb. We sang hymn "Teach me my God and King" followed by a reading from Corinthians 13 v 4 -13 read by Iris Ward. Sheila said prayers then gave out notices and apologies before passing over to Gordon who spoke about the artistry, design and craftsmanship in stained glass windows. The processes used today are very much the same as used in the 12th century although we have the help of more modern equipment. Gordon chose to speak and show pictures on the work of Helen Whittaker a modern artist designer who shows her special gifts of love and inspiration in all the windows she has made. These include a window at St Mary's Lockington in East Yorkshire depicting the parable of the sower which shows seed falling on good soil, using colours of yellow, blue, red, green and shades of white. There is even a harvest mouse amongst the ears of wheat and the makers mark, date and initials of the designer. There is a protective layer of glass on the outside. Nowadays the glass is cut using a diamond cutter which is very accurate and the glass is fired at 700 degrees centigrade in an electric kiln which keeps a very accurate temperature. During the middle ages a hot iron was used for cutting, but they were very clever people as seen in stained glass around the country. Gordon showed a selection of Helen's work :- The east window at St Mary and St Lawrence at Ellerton, this depicts scenes from nature, flora and fauna of the area, coats of arms of past local families, and a priory of 1203. This is one of Helen's best. Next a window in Wood Green London of World War one used a mixture of old and new glass. St Nicholas of Dunnington, the local parish church depicts fishermen, fish, nets, stormy seas, a large anchor, Christ on the cross, a dove representing the Holy Spirit, angels holding the signs alpha and omega. The border contains designs by local schoolchildren and a record of the donors. Helen was commissioned by The RAF club in Piccadilly to make a window showing the history of the RAF. The window shows many planes, a helicopter, parachutists, plotters in an operations room and pilots of world war two. The Centre of Peace and Reconciliation in London shows St Ethelburga as an abbess, this window was virtually destroyed in 1872 by an IRA bomber. Helen used fragments of the original glass in her work on this

window. The west window of Worksop priory shows St Cuthbert holding the crowned head of St Oswald and otters at his feet. At St Mary's in Bramall lane Sheffield is a pilgrimage window with a copper sculpture either side of a man and woman, the colours in the glass represents earthly and spiritual pathways of pilgrims on life's journey. This window was dedicated by the Archbishop of York. There is also a pilgrim window in Beverly Minster on the south wall in the serenity centre. Helen's work shows a spiritual message in all her windows and also the love and inspiration of the gifts she possesses. Gordon was thanked by Iris Ward for his talk and the wonderful selection of stained glass window pictures.

Brenda Skinner

Nov 3rd 9.30am Corporate Communion Reader Iris Ward

Nov 17th 2pm Speaker Viv Rowett Reader and Vote of thanks Val Dukes

Nov 24th 2pm Prayer time Leader Linda Bromfield
Flower Rota

Nov 14th Carolyn Smith

Nov 28th Advent Sunday

SOUND ADVICE.

Those who remember Ernest's farewell will recall the entertainment which accompanied it, particularly the reference to the clicks, burps and squeals of our unsound sound system.

Well, here we are six-and-a-bit years down the line and still being hiccuped at Sunday by Sunday. But there is a glimmer of light on the horizon – or whatever the audio equivalent of that might be.

In the last couple of years some 'unseen' work has been done. You may not be aware that the entire loop system was refurbished, but the replacement loop (which covers the chancel and St James', unlike the old one) and driver have been appreciated by those who use a 'T' enabled hearing aid. The two thousand pounds cost of this was met from two generous donations, plus a fund-raising morning organised by Kath Lambert.

We now believe that we are able to complete the refurbishment by turning our attention to the input (microphone and receiver) side of things and to the speakers and cabling. We have received a very generous donation which should pay more than half of the cost of the

remaining work, and a twelve-month interest-free loan which will provide the balance so we can get the work under way as soon as it receives approval (and hopefully before prices and VAT go up).

We will then have a year in which to raise what will amount to about £1500. It may sound a lot, but from our usual Sunday attendance of (say) 80 adults, it amounts to a Mars bar/first class stamp/half a bag of liquorice allsorts a week.

PCC do feel the work's important. If readings, sermons and notices aren't audible, a lot of our work is undermined, and we hope that you'll agree and be able to help with raising the balance.

A WALK ON THE DARK SIDE.

When E1W, the Church Youth Group announced that the theme of our autumn social would be 'Dinner with Baron Frankenstein', there must have been a few expectations that the Scunthorpe Telegraph would scurry to our doorsteps in search of a juicy story about dark goings on in Church.

So far budget cuts stories seem to have the edge in the papers, but you might be forgiven for wondering 'Why Baron Frankenstein?' and 'What has that got to do with a Christian Youth Group?'

Well, the answer's simple enough: Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein' along with other novels from the Victorian Gothic era, deal with uncomfortable questions about life, knowledge, personality and the legitimate moral boundaries of science. That's why Frankenstein, Dracula and Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde will survive long after the gorier modern horror stories are forgotten. And that's why they're a good way in for young people to study these huge moral questions.

But to that I add another question – 'What can these tales tell us about ourselves?'

In Christian circles ever since the second century there has been a belief that the truth of God is to be found, not only in Bible and Church teaching, but also in works which at first glance may even look non-religious. The Gothic novels, written when Christians felt comfortable exploring deep themes through uncomfortable stories, are good ways of opening up the issues which concerned them. All the debates which went on in Victorian society – what is it to be human (in the wake of Darwin); who are we (after Freud's thinking on personality); are there

limits to science (inspired in part by Volta's work on 'Animal Electricity')
— were examined in the context of rattling good stories.

All Saint's All Souls, Remembrance Sunday, Christ the King, and the beginning of Advent are part of the fabric of November, and each of them poses different questions. How are we to understand the mystery of death? What is it to be a worthwhile human being? To what extent is violence a legitimate response to a situation? What does it mean to accept Christ as King? And so on and so on. Perhaps a good read of some apparently unlikely old tales might get us thinking?

Fr David