



St Denys Bulletin

The church is open daily from 9am

February 2025

Services at a glance:

- Every Sunday 10am
Sung Eucharist
- Every Wednesday 10am
Said Communion
- Mon, Tues and Thurs
8.45am Morning Prayer
- 1st Sunday 5pm Compline
- 2nd & 3rd Sunday
5pm Evening Prayer
- 4th Sunday 5pm Evensong
- 5th Sunday 6pm
United Service

Directory:

Vicar of Sleaford and Rural Dean

The Rev'd Philip Johnson
01529 304348
revdphilip@aol.com

The Parish Office

Parish Administrator
Paula Ireland
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01529 413607
Mon, Weds, Fri 9-11am

Churchwardens

Richard Clash
07714 565678
Sarah Stentiford
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Safeguarding Officer

Angela Clash 01529
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Director of Music

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PCC Treasurer

Brenda Hitchcock
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Letter from the Vicar, Rev'd Philip Johnson

I am writing this letter on the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Only a few months ago, in early September, I visited the concentration camps with my son. It was somewhere he had wanted to visit, ever since learning about the 'Final Solution' and the holocaust in school history classes. There are two sites to visit. The oldest, Auschwitz, was a military barracks which is remarkably similar to the older barrack blocks at Cranwell, Waddington, Spitalgate (Grantham) or many other military establishments in this area. These barracks were transformed into a prison for those who were targeted by the Nazis. It was sobering to stand in a small courtyard between two barracks by the firing wall where hundreds of executions had happened. Although it continued to be used as a prison it rapidly became clear that it was too small for the numbers involved. A new camp, Auschwitz II (Birkenau), was built a few miles away. Birkenau is huge. The part which remains is huge – 346 acres and 13km of fencing – and that is only part of the original camp. Much of it was destroyed by the Nazis in an attempt to cover-up what they had

been doing. But the enormity of their crimes could not be erased. An eerie silence hangs over this site, part cemetery, memorial, and museum. It is sobering to know that over 1 million people were de-humanised in this place before their execution. For a site so large, death still hangs like a pall over the area: no birds are heard or seen, neither is there any other evidence of wildlife. It is as though the ground cries out in lament of the blood that is has absorbed. Back in the barracks of Auschwitz I you can walk through rooms crammed with the few meagre possessions that the victims had brought on the transport to their death: a room of suitcases, a room of shoes, a room of tin-plates, a room of human hair which had been shaved from their heads as part of the de-humanisation process. There are very few survivors of this and many other concentration / death camps still alive today but the need to remember what happened 80 years ago is even more important than ever. Jews around

the world are living in fear. Intimidation of Jews in cities like London and our universities is on the rise. The pro-Palestinian chant of 'From the river to the sea' is commonly heard. Few probably stop to ask the questions: Which river? Which sea? It is an easy question to answer. The river is the Jordan – the eastern boundary of the modern state of Israel – and the sea is the Mediterranean. In short, this popular chant is a call to eradicate all Jews from the area known as Israel. If that were to happen, we would be re-living the 1930s and 40s. There is no easy solution to the Isreal-Palestinian conflict, but if we learn one thing from the 1930s, it is that words and slogans lead to actions. The Nazi driven holocaust had its origins in university philosophy departments. Radical ideas led, in a few short years, to action resulting in the execution of millions. At the heart of the Ten Commandments is the dual injunction to love God and to love our neighbour. The desire to eradicate a whole people-group from a region says as much about how far we have fallen short of loving God as it does about politics and international relations

From the Churchwardens

It may now seem a while ago but a Happy New Year to you all. On that note we would like to mention all of the major works carried out during 2024.

Vicar's Vestry: after the fire the entire contents have been cleaned, plus a full redecoration including new carpet tiles. A reorganisation has taken effect justifying the phrase "a place for everything and everything in its place".

Parish Centre: all of the exterior woodwork has been sanded down and a new coat of paint applied. The patio has been cleared of all the clutter which has built up over a long period of time.

Lady Chapel: following the repair work to the roof we were able to undertake the repair work on the under-floor area. This has now been completed and a new carpet laid. In addition, the curtains have been professionally cleaned and rehung. The first mid-week communion service took place on 22nd January and it was lovely to see so many people there, especially Brynn Grant who carried out the majority of the works.

Stable: we were fortunate to

receive a generous donation for the replacement of the old stable. Joint Sleaford Sixth Form were approached to help with the design and build of the new stable, which has received rave reviews from members of the congregation.

Fund raising: during the year there were some good days and unfortunately, largely due to the Market Place works, some not so good. However, over £800 was raised towards the upkeep of the church.

Fence in churchyard: after a considerable length of time - gaining planning permission, agreeing the style of fence and obtaining faculty permission - the fence has been erected which provides security to the boiler room housing and several stained glass windows.

What to look forward to in 2025: following the 2024 Quinquennial Inspection (QI) the most urgent work to be addressed is making good parts of the nave roof - as exemplified by the bucket above the pulpit!

Other QI items: many of the recommendations in the QI report can be accomplished using our own resources, as in, volunteers.

Weeding the base of the church, including soakaways and staining all exterior doors with a suitable exterior varnish.

TV screens: Purchase of two large TV screens has been approved by the PCC which will enable us to provide enhanced visibility during large services and events. At present we are looking to identify a secure area within the church to store the screens when they are not in use. This will require faculty approval which may have the potential to delay the project.

Pew kneelers: all of the fabric covering the wooden pew kneelers to be removed. Over the years the fabric has decayed and broken up and in many instances create trip hazards.

Fundraising: this will continue on a similar basis as in 2024. Now the Market Place works are complete it is hoped this year to break the £1,000 barrier!

Finally

Sarah and Phil wish to thank everyone for your kind and loving support when they renewed their wedding vows last November. Much thanks go to Lee and the choir for their musical input with a special recognition to Ray who was able to translate Calon Lân into English.

Next month A day in the life of a Churchwarden.

SLEAFORD CONCERT BAND
perform
THE CHILDREN'S PROMS
LOTS OF SONGS YOU WILL KNOW!

Tickets £2 each
Parents welcome.
Year 3-6

ST DENYS CHURCH
THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY
6:30-7:30PM

DRESS TO IMPRESS FOR THE PROMS!

Bible Reading

Psalm 130

Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord.
hear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the
voice of my supplications.

SLEAFORD KESWICK BIBLE MINISTRY

7.30pm

Friday, 14th February 2025

Aaron Eime

William Alvey School Bishop's Visitor Update

We are already well into this new term and the excitement of the events running up to the Christmas holidays feels like a long time ago now. The school's Carol service in the church was a great celebration during that last week and the tree and decorations are long gone.

We celebrated the Feast of Epiphany on the first day back in January which happened to be the 6th. So the final part of the Christmas story – the journey of the 3 Kings to Bethlehem – was remembered.

We then returned to the Courageous Advocacy theme in the Assemblies led by the Headteacher and he has reminded the children about Martin Luther King and Mohammad Ali and the on-going fight for racial justice and equality for all.

One Monday, the Choral Worship (or hymn practice) had been changed from its regular Wednesday slot because Mr Farrington had another appointment. This is when the whole school comes together to learn new hymns/songs to be sung in services and assemblies. These practice sessions ensure the singing by the whole school is always fantastic to listen to. We even began to look forward to Easter with a mention of chocolate and eggs! That is still a long way off but you have to look forward and be prepared!



A Prayer for use on or Close to Holocaust Memorial Day

Eternal God, you hold all of our days in your hands. We remember the victims of the Holocaust. We lament the loss all who were killed in the Holocaust, the victims of Nazi persecution, and victims of other genocides. May our minds be clear and attentive to their memory. Help us to remember and recognise the sanctity of each human life, that all people are made in Your image. We pray that genocide and hatred will, one day, be no more, and that love will triumph over evil. In our prayers and in our actions, help us to show this love in the world today. *Amen.*

Thursday 20th February 2025
7pm

St Denys, Sleaford
Organ Recital



John Lyon

(Director of Music at Boston Stump)

Programme of works by a variety of composers from across the centuries

Tickets available in advance by scanning QR code below or on the door

Full Price £12



Refreshments afterwards included

Concession £10



COMMUNICANTS' GUILD

The next meeting of the Communicants' Guild will be held on **Tuesday 18th February at 2 pm in the Church Room.**

Our speaker will be Guild Leader Pam, who will tell us about a holiday spent in Italy.

You are very welcome to join us.

Church Services

(Morning prayer is usually said at 8.45am on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday)

Said Communion every Wednesday at 10am (1st Weds of the month is BCP)

Sunday, 2nd February

10am Candlemas, 5pm Compline

Wednesday, 5th February

10am Mid Week Communion

Sunday, 9th February

10am 4th before Lent, 5pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday, 12th February

10am Mid-Week Communion

Sunday, 16th February

10am Septuagesima, No evening service

Wednesday, 19th February

10am Said Communion

Sunday, 23rd February

10am Sexagesima, 5pm Evensong

Wednesday, 26th February

10am Said Communion

Sunday, 2nd March

10am Quinquagesima, 5pm Compline

ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll is due for renewal this year. Application forms will be available from the back of church. Digital copies from the Parish Administrator.

LENT LUNCHES

10th March - Our Lady

17th March - St Denys

24th March - Riverside

31st March - Salvation Army

7th April - Methodist Church

14th April - St Botolph's at New Life

Know your PCC Who am I?

1. At 15, my first paid Saturday job was in the office of the local C & A store.
2. My sister used to look after animals & birds that appeared on an ITV children's show.
3. My wedding was conducted by the retired Bishop of Tonbridge.

Answer next month

December - Douglas Hoare

Wander awhile, see dawn's wind stirring water
keening all possibilities and daily loveliness.

Feast your eyes eastward towards the sun,
glittering and radiating warmth from heaven.

Heating earth again, cooled in nightshade air.

Let it warm your heart, chilled by human wars

Watch starlings in their murmuration flights.

Be still and observe cattle peacefully grazing,

their homely heads warmly benevolent.

Stand enraptured on some lonely shore,

be humbled there and let the heart kneel.

Ever reflecting our saving God!

Jenny Whybrow

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Submitted by David Birks