

May 2026

**Services at a glance:**

- Every Sunday 10am  
Sung Eucharist
- Every Wednesday 10am  
Said Communion
- Mon, Tues and Thurs  
8.45am Morning Prayer
- 5th Sunday 6pm  
United Service at one of  
the Sleaford churches.

**Directory:**

**Vicar of Sleaford  
and Rural Dean**

The Rev'd Philip Johnson  
01529 304354  
revdphilip@aol.com

**The Parish Office**

Parish Administrator  
Paula Ireland  
Market Place, Sleaford,  
NG34 7SH  
admin@sleafordparishchurch.co.uk  
01529 413607

Mon, Weds, Fri 9-11am

**Churchwardens**

Richard Clash  
07714 565678  
Sarah Stentiford  
07707 513225

**Safeguarding  
Officer**

Angela Clash 01529 410065  
or 0303 003 1111

**Director of Music**

Lee Mitton-Rooke  
lee.rooke@googlemail.com

**St Denys Bellringers**

sylvia.bird860@gmail.com

**PCC Treasurer**

Brenda Hitchcock  
01529 302775

# St Denys Bulletin

The church is open daily from 9am



## Letter from the Vicar, Rev'd Philip Johnson

On a Sunday close to St George's Day, hundreds of Scouts from across the district gather in Sleaford for their annual service. The Standard of St George is carried into this church; beavers, cubs, scouts and explorers renew their Scout Promise. Words such as hour and duty recited by the scouts, but this is built upon the foundation, begun with the beavers, where concepts such as 'being kind and helpful' instilled in the young scouts. In some parts of this country the flag of St George has come to be despised as a symbol of far-right thuggery and racism. Yet the scouts who march under the Standard of St George embody entirely different values from those with which the flag is sometimes associated.

The feast of St George is also the birthday of William Shakespeare, and the day is often associated with all things English. But St George is a surprising choice of an English Saint. St George was a soldier living in Palestine at the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century.

He was martyred in Lydda (modern day Lod, about 10 miles south-east of Tel Aviv) around AD 304, during the great Diocletian persecution. The iconography of George slaying a dragon is probably a conflagration of the story of St George with a myth from the area around Lydda which tells of Perseus slaying a sea monster. George was largely unknown in Britain until the 14<sup>th</sup> century, when soldier returning from the crusaders (attempts to reclaim once Judaeo-Christian lands from Islamic control and provide safe passage for pilgrims to Jerusalem) introduced the cult of St George. King Edward III dedicated the chapel at Windsor castle to St George.

The story of St George is much more than a simple struggle of good versus evil. It draws parallels between the discipline of military life and spiritual

service. It emphasises the moral virtues of honour, duty, honesty, integrity, service. One of the lectionary readings for the feast of St George is from the first book of Maccabees. It draws a distinction between the 'sinners' who strive for power and glory for themselves and to find it turn to ash, and those who down through the generations have endeavoured to walk in the paths of righteousness.

The flag we wave says much less about us than the values and virtues we exhibit day by day. As Jesus said, 'by their fruits you will know them'.





## From the Churchwardens

### ANNUAL CHURCH PAROCHIAL MEETING (ACPM)

On 10th May after the 10am Holy Communion service the ACPM meeting will be held in the Parish Rooms. To encourage more members of the congregation to attend we will be hosting our annual lunch after the meeting. This year instead of donations towards the cost of the lunch we have, unfortunately, had to put a charge of £10 per person. However, hopefully you will all know how nice an occasion our lunches can be. It will take the form of two courses plus teas and coffees included, followed by a free game of Irish Bingo wish should put a shine on everyone's faces. There will not be a raffle at this event due to the £10 charge. We would sincerely love to see as many people as possible supporting this event.

### NEW DOOR IN CHURCH

We have arranged with a woodwork specialist to submit quotes to provide door which will provide a secure area to store planned TV screens within the church. The TV screens will allow enhanced visual contact with the activities of various services, concerts and such like. At the time of writing we are still awaiting possible costs. One of the problems within the church building is that many areas only allow for restricted views of what is happening during an activity. When 350 or more people attend these events if you are seated with limited visual impact it can dilute the experience of being there. These days this experience can be enhanced by using TV screening allowing everyone to enjoy a full participation of the occasion. We are very conscious that in this day and age the church building must make full advantage that technology provides.

### UKRAINIAN CONCERT

On the 7th May the church will be hosting a Ukrainian concert under the label "Bless My Homeland For Ever". This allows us an opportunity to support our Ukrainian friends. It would be nice if as many of us can attend to support this musical event. Teas and coffees will be offered throughout. For more information visit the website: <https://juriifedynskvj.wixsite.com/kobzaring-the-world>

### NEVER SURPRISED

Buildings such as St Denys never fail to produced pleasant surprises. Recently we were contacted by a group of students who wanted to examine the fabric for details of graffiti. At first it seemed a strange request as the only graffiti which the

Churchwardens were aware of was a few scratches in the spiral staircase to the South Transept roof. They run on the lines of: "Kilroy was here" and most are dated from the late eighteen hundreds. But surprise, surprise, the students claimed the church is littered with graffiti and, sure enough, when they arrived were able to show us the many instances on the masonry how much graffiti exists. You need a special torch to see most examples but the building is absolutely full of exquisite examples of ancient patterns, inscriptions and pictures.

### ... and finally

From a publication entitled "Dad Jokes". I once bought a dog from a blacksmith. As soon as I got it home it made a bolt for the door.

A TRIBUTE TO THE SWING ERA



**MILLER MAGIC  
BIG BAND**

**Sat 16 May**  
St Denys Church, Sleaford

Refreshments available

Tickets £10  
Available from  
Sleaford Jewellers  
Tel: 01529 302845  
(Cash only)

Miller Magic Big Band  
Tel: 07976 300056  
Email: millermagic65000@gmail.com

7PM Start






**7 MAY - 18:30**

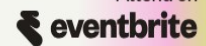
St Denys Church  
Sleaford

This is a free concert but donations are welcome on the night to help the family continue their journey through the UK.

## THE JURIJ FEDYNSKYJ FAMILY PRESENTS: BLESS MY HOMELAND

By The Community Lab Initiative CIC

Attend on



### The Collect for St George

God of hosts, who so kindled the flame of love in the heart of your servant George that he bore witness to the risen Lord by his life and by his death: give us the same faith and power of love that we who rejoice in his triumphs may come to share with him the fullness of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



### Funerals and Memorial Services

*Please remember in your prayers*

Mr James Brian Godwin 88 years  
Mr Malcolm Tuplin 87 years  
Mrs Ann McGillivray Pakey 79 years

### CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The March Box opening total amounted to £381.37 this year.  
Many thanks Brenda  
Box Co-ordinator.

### I Maccabees 2.61-64 (NRSV)

And so observe, from generation to generation, that none of those who put their trust in God will lack strength. Do not fear the words of sinners, for their splendour will turn into dung and worms. Today they will be exalted, but tomorrow they will not be found, for they will have returned to the dust, and their plans will have perished. My children, be courageous and grow strong in the law, for by it you will gain honour.

## 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)

### MAY

**Sunday, 3rd May**

10am Easter V

**Wednesday, 6th May**

10am BCP

**Sunday, 10th May**

10am Easter VI

**Wednesday, 13th May**

10am Said Communion

**Thursday, 14th May**

Ascension Day 7pm

**Sunday, 17th May**

10am Easter VII

**Wednesday, 20th May**

10am Said Communion

**Sunday, 24th May**

10am Pentecost

**Wednesday, 27th May**

10am Said Communion

**Sunday, 31st May**

10am Trinity Sunday

6pm United Service at St Botolphs

**Wednesday, 3rd June**

10am BCP

### COMMUNICANTS' GUILD

The next meeting of the Guild will be held in the Church Room on Tuesday 19th May at 2 pm.

Our speaker will be Alan Knight who will be giving an illustrated talk about his visit to Yellowstone National Park.

You are most welcome to join us.

### APCM AND PARISH LUNCH

The APCM will be held on **Sunday, 10th May** at 11.30am in the Church Hall. This will be followed by a Parish Lunch, to which all are invited. There is a sign up sheet on the noticeboard. Please bring your own drink.

To and fro by jove: yes we'll rove - to and fro  
Beginning slowly, off we go.  
Up and down - up and down.  
Round and round, now mind how you go.  
Why and when, to and fro? Where do we go?  
Do you know? - being dizzy I dunno!  
Even so, ever onwards we plough.  
More to and fro, then up and down.  
Spinning round and round - but not too high,  
nor too low - round and round again we go.  
Where to now? - maybe by now you know  
Around the maypole at Wellow!  
Jenny Whybrow  
(published with permission of the author)  
Submitted by David Birks