

June 2026

# St Denys Bulletin

The church is open daily from 9am

## 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

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

The Church of England has recently produced a small booklet – *Pilgrim places, Holy Lives* – for use in the weeks after Pentecost. Copies are available from the parish office for £3.50. This resource takes us, through a series of meditations, back to the beginning of the Christian story in this nation. For centuries the places associated with the saints who established the Christian Church in England were pilgrimage destinations. Pilgrimage may have been one of the casualties of the reformation when many of the shrines were destroyed, but the concept of pilgrimage has never faded. The recent book by Alice Loxton, *Eleanor*, tells the story of the 200 mile funeral from Lincoln to London following the death of Eleanor of Castile in 1290. Stone crosses were erected at each place the cortege rested overnight (many of which still exist today). Loxton walked this route as she researched for the book, and the finished work is a mix of history, travel writing, and pilgrimage.

In a land of motorways and dual carriageways, where speed is king, we can forget how ancient many of our roads are. I recently started reading *The North*

*Road* by Rob Cowen. This is also a mix of history, travel writing, self-discovery and (?secular) pilgrimage. It is the story of the London to Edinburgh Highway (now the A1) which has existed and shape-shifted since Roman times, although some sections are much older. The road north heads out of the city across land once owned by Clerkenwell Priory, by the 16<sup>th</sup> century the monks had established the Angel Inn (which in later centuries gave its name to a tube station). It was the first stopping point when leaving the city, and the Angel of the Annunciation was frequently petitioned for protection on the long and arduous journey north. Many of the coaching inns were originally off-shoots of monastic foundations and they are the forerunners of the *Little Chef* and the service stations of today. Many of the inns along the old North Road were called Angel. These ancient angels were joined in 1998 by Antony Gormley's *Angel of the North* watching over the ancient road at Gateshead.

The ancient roads of this land (The North Road,

Ermine Street, Icknield Way, Wattling Way, etc) were slow roads, tramped by feet of man and beast over the centuries. They were routes of commerce, armies, drovers and pilgrims. To walk a long route not only slows our progress it slows us too. We see things differently; the metronomic rhythm of our footfall can (and frequently does) affect our brain function, we think differently. For ancient pilgrims the journey was as important as the destination, which is perhaps why there as so many modern books about long distant slow journeys (secular pseudo-pilgrimages). The road – the journey is frequently used as a metaphor for life; the pilgrimage a metaphor for Christian discipleship. As we look afresh at the Christian beginnings in this land we will discover how their stories woven into the fabric of our landscape as much as the ancient roads and paths that contact towns, villages and hamlets.

## From the Churchwardens

Well, welcome to this month's Churchwarden's report.

### A BRILLIANT IDEA\*

One half of the Churchwardens has come up with a new vision to enhance the visitor experience to St Denys - the other half thinks it is a hallucination! The Jail!

Yes, we happen to be one of the very few churches in the country that has a "jail" in the churchyard. Wouldn't it be absolutely wonderful to be able to bring it back to life?

A couple of options may be available to us regarding fundraising. The Civic Trust and local Heritage Society have been contacted with a view of going forward. My vision, once redeveloped, would ultimately be to open the jail to the public on selected weekends of the year and provide our usual refreshments, including cakes, to raise funds for the church. With the power of social media and local newspaper coverage I truly believe it would attract a great deal of attention.

Obviously this idea is in the very early stages but it would be fantastic to hear your thoughts on this.

### MARKET PLACE BOLLARDS

During the Sunday service on the 24th of May we were unable to lower the bollards resulting in blue badge holders being unable to park in the Market Place. Lowering and raising the bollards is not an easy task and this is made more difficult when the keys get stuck or they are awkward to manipulate in the locking mechanism. We are in contact with NKDC regarding this problem. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused, but in truth, the current problem is out of our control. We are doing everything in our power to resolve this problem.

### Exodus 3.16-18 (NRSV)

Go and assemble the elders of Israel, and say to them, "The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying: I have given heed to you and to what has been done to you in Egypt. I declare that I will bring you up out of the misery of Egypt, to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey." They will listen to your voice; and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, "The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; let us now go a three days' journey into the wilderness, so that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God."

### REFRESHMENTS AFTER HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES

We hope you appreciate the new seating arrangements for the post service refreshments. The old round tables were proving a little on the large size and, one in particular, becoming very unstable. The arrangement does allow for greater flexibility of movement. Further improvements are still being discussed with a view to how best enhance the use of this area.

### FINALLY

Richard expresses his thanks for all of your birthday wishes. Special thanks must go to Rachel and Minion in providing the wonderful cake. It was a wonderful occasion and totally unexpected.

\*To find out which half of the churchwarden team isn't quite so enthusiastic you can enter the grand prize draw and become the first incumbent to review the jails hospitality. Entry to the grand draw is via a non-refundable deposit!



### An additional collect from New Patterns for Worship

God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water: refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## William Alvey School Bishop's Visitor Update

This week school is now on Half Term break including our second Bank Holiday Monday in May! In Assembly on the other Mondays since the Easter holiday we have heard more spiritually flourishing stories from some of the older children; the story of St George, patron saint of England and also the British Values of Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance of other faiths and none. Not easy to explain for very young children to understand but turned into a game by asking them to put up your hand if you think it is right to be kind (everyone!) and is it right to tell a lie (no-one!) for instance.

Also we heard all about how the school would celebrate Earth Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Staff and pupils were asked to wear green, reduce energy use, make the day as tech free

as possible and have a plastic free lunch. There was a whole range of exciting hands on activities for the whole school throughout the day.

Classes took part in eco themed lessons linked to the curriculum and outdoor learning activities as well as about caring for the environment and wildlife in the community.

A highlight was a Garden Design Challenge and all pupils created a new design for part of the school garden. Each class chose one design to submit and a final winner was selected from these. It is hoped the new garden will be created to look like this one. No doubt the day will remain a proud memory for everyone who was involved.

With the good weather arriving just in time for Half Term I hope all children and staff will be able to enjoy some time in nature and the outdoors before returning for the busyness of the last few weeks of this School Year.

*Beryl Risdell*

### HALF A CENTURY AGO

by Douglas Hoare

PCC meeting, Tuesday, 15th June, 1976, 7pm until 8.56pm.

Weather: Intermittent light rain.  
Present: 14, Familiar names included the late David Hitchcock, Dick Bristow, (father of Helen), and myself. The late John Virden sent an apology.

Items discussed, inter alia, were:

- Stewardship Campaign: 43% increase in covenants
- No choir at August evensongs
- Sung *Gloria in excelsis* at Sung Eucharist: this item took 75 minutes to discuss! Some people felt they could not join in the Nicholson setting..... Merbecke's instead? Congregational practices? 'Use Nicholson until 18th July, then say the Gloria until Merbecke was 'ready'.

(Today's congregation, thankfully, is more musically 'savvy' - Murray, Sumsion, Smith in F and the Advent / Lent miscellany.)

Were the 'good old days' so good?



### Funerals and Memorial Services

*Please remember in your prayers*

Mr George Shields 82 years  
Mrs Ann McKenzie 92 years  
Mr John Cameron 88 years

### COMMUNICANTS' GUILD

The next meeting of the Guild will be held in the Church Room on Tuesday 16th June at 2 pm.

Our speakers will be Alan and Margaret Gilliam who will be showing us examples of Garments from the Holy Land.

You are most 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)

### JUNE

#### Sunday, 31st May

10am Trinity Sunday

6pm United Service at St Botolphs

#### Wednesday, 3rd June

10am BCP

#### Sunday, 7th June

10am Trinity I

#### Wednesday, 10th June

10am Said Communion

#### Sunday, 14th June

10am Trinity II

#### Wednesday, 17th June

10am Said Communion

#### Sunday, 21st June

10am Trinity III

#### Wednesday, 24th June

10am Said Communion

#### Sunday, 28th June

10am St Peter & St Paul

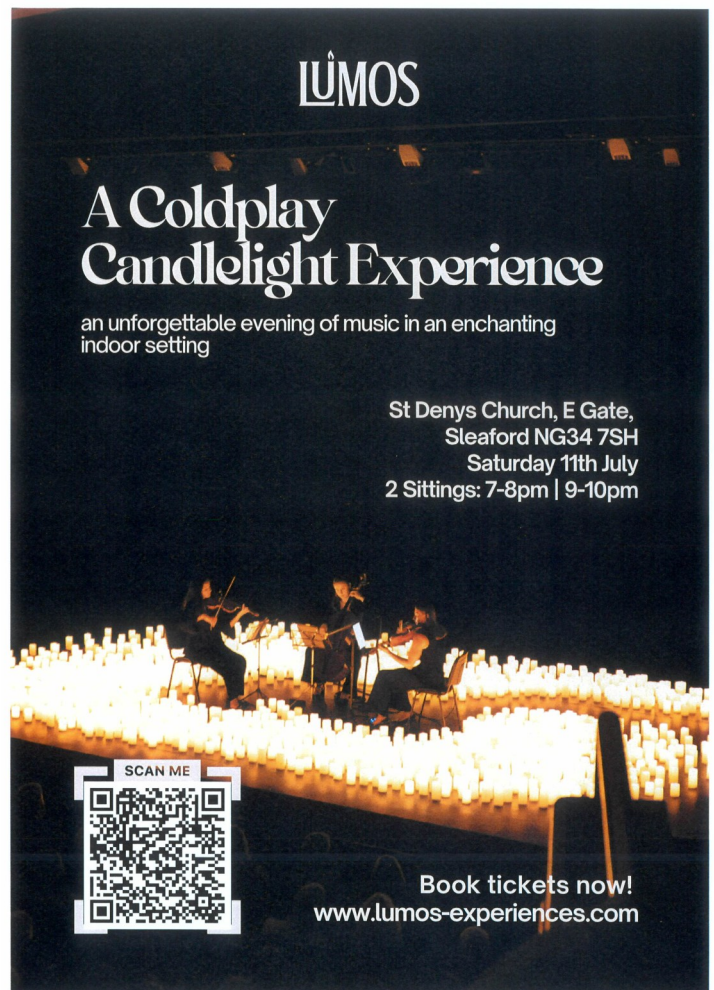
#### Wednesday, 1st July

10am BCP

#### Sunday, 5th July

10am Trinity V

No words were said, but that soft look  
I see passing 'tween lovers eyes,  
touched my heart with it's tenderness.  
Filling my soul with sweet surprise.  
I'd imagined that love was fleeing this defile  
I believed insistent noise and manic pace  
had startled that sweet child  
sending suchlike flying from this place.  
But, oh! - I'm glad 'tis not so,  
despite subtle dictatorial politics of control  
and occasional hurricanes that blow  
with biting winds that chill;  
Tender sweet love will never ever go,  
it doth continue and will remain still.  
Jenny Whybrow  
(published with permission of the author)  
Submitted by David Birks




LUMOS

## A Coldplay Candlelight Experience

an unforgettable evening of music in an enchanting  
indoor setting

St Denys Church, E Gate,  
Sleaford NG34 7SH  
Saturday 11th July  
2 Sittings: 7-8pm | 9-10pm

SCAN ME



Book tickets now!  
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