



St Denys Bulletin

The church is open daily from 9am

July / August 2025

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
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number)
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The Parish Office

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Letter from the Vicar, Rev'd Philip Johnson

23 years ago, on a bright, warm Sunday morning, I was ordained deacon in Chelmsford Cathedral. The following year, on an equally warm day, I was ordained priest. Both services were on the feast of St Peter & St Paul. In 2002 I was one of the 23 deacons who were ordained in Chelmsford. On the feast of St Peter & St Paul, this year, five deacons and one priest will be ordained in Lincoln Cathedral – I have no idea how many were ordained in Lincoln in 2002!

For many years ordinations have been arranged to coincide with the feast of St Peter & St Paul. In some ways it does make a lot of sense – it falls towards the academic year – but it does mean that curates go straight from training to ministry with barely a week in which to move house.

Theologically it is significant because Peter & Paul are foundational for our understanding of ministry, of that which God has called us to. Peter was the rock on which Christ built his church, Paul the missionary who carried the Gospel through the Roman Empire. One taught the faithful, the

other carried the Good News to those who had never heard.

For me, and many other clergy I suspect, the anniversary of their ordination is a time of reflection. When I was ordained that was part of a conscious decision to follow where Christ led me – I had no idea where I was being led to. My training incumbent used to say he had no idea what the church would look like in 25-30 years' time. He was not wrong! I had no idea I would be led to Lincolnshire. I had no idea I would get to serve God in the Falkland Islands. At Peterstide I think about those who have taught what it means to be a priest; about curates I have worked with; about clergy who have gone before me in the churches in which I have been called to serve. I think about all the churchwardens I have worked with over the years; the lay ministers, the organists and choirs, the PCCs. I think about those with whom I have worked, discerning their sense of vocation, several of whom are now ordained.

Perhaps it has something to do with the

Death of Pope Francis and the election of Pope Leo to the seat of St Peter, but this year I have been thinking of all those who have led the church as Pope. I have been reading two books to help me in this. One of the books is by Eamon Duffy (a Roman Catholic theologian and Church historian) and titled *Saints and Sinners*. Two things have struck me in my reading of the history of the Popes. The first is how apt the title of Duffy's book is. Some were very holy men, others were the exact opposite, and many were somewhere on the spectrum between saint and sinner. Some were good and others were not. More importantly, being holy did not always equate with being a good Pope. The second thing that struck me is how little we know about most of them; some are barely a footnote in history.

Frequently God calls and uses the most surprising people. God is capable of working through a sinner as well as he works through a saint. Neither Peter or Paul were that saintly – they had their faults. Gerard Hughes wrote a book entitled *The God of Surprises* – 23 years in ordained ministry has made me think that this is probably the best description of God.

Fr Philip

From the Churchwardens

All of those who attended church on 22nd June would have noticed our new gazebo has arrived. The gazebo was put to good use on the previous day during the finale of the RiverLight Festival. The Market Place was full of various activities and the summer solstice (longest day) turned up trumps with beautiful sunshine. We managed to raise the sum of £86, which was a little disappointing, but we have gained some good vibes through the ubiquitous learning curve.

On that note, Saturday 5th July we will be holding our annual "Celebrate Wimbledon" event with Pimms, Prosecco, Strawberries and Cream on offer. We would encourage you all to come and enjoy the occasion and show your support.

It is a lovely social occasion which we can all enjoy.



John George Buttifant, organist, 1865(?) - 1869 (?) by Douglas Hoare

The Musical Standard 2/7/1884, reported, 'On Thursday the 16th inst., an organist was elected for the Parish Church, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, the salary being £50 per annum. Five candidates for the appointment presented themselves (although a greater number had signified their intention of competing), and after a trial of skill of organ playing and reading music at sight, Mr John G. Buttifant, of St. Mary's, Newcastle-on-Tyne, was declared the successful candidate.'

In 1842, he was born in Carlisle (?), studied under the Cathedral organist, Henry Edmund Ford, and was at Newcastle 1862-1865.

After Sleaford, he was organist at Alton and Fisherton and a deputy organist at Salisbury Cathedral, and in 1882 became organist at Horsham parish church - 140 applicants for the post - retiring in 1907. He stayed in Horsham with his wife, Eliza, at Arthur Road,

RH13 5BG and was also organist of Mid-Sussex Lodge. Finally, the *West Sussex County Times*, 14/5/1921, recorded: 'DEATH OF MR J. G. BUTTIFANT - We regret to record the death of Mr J. G. Buttifant, which took place at his residence, 9, Arthur Road, on Thursday morning from pneumonia.

Barnacle, Daughtry and McCann will have to wait their turn.

William Alvey School Bishop's Visitor Update

There have been more reminders of "ow", "now" and "wow" moments in our lives in recent school Assemblies and how they are part of all our experiences of life and we have to learn to cope with them as we live and grow.

On two days of the recent spell of very hot weather we had a Y4 (aged 8/9) Church Schools Festival in St Denys' when about 150 children came each day on a Monday and Tuesday beginning at 10-00 and ending at 2-30 and including a picnic lunch! They came from different schools including the Alvey, St Botolph's, Chestnut Street, Ruskington, Rauceby, Leasingham and Kirkby La Thorpe. Each day began and ended with worship and singing all together then the children were split into smaller mixed school groups to take part in 6 different activities moving around the church in turn. Each group was accompanied by staff and helpers who came with each school. The activities ranged from observational drawing of anything they could see around them in church; learning the Lord's prayer

in sign language; rubbing letters on the stones and completing their names; using the New Life Church puppets (very popular!); comparing pictures of Jesus from different cultures around the world and learning about St Denys with the Vicar. The children spent about half an hour on each activity and they all seemed to enjoy a very happy, busy day. Thanks are due to all who prepared the church and activities beforehand and cleared and tidied up afterwards.

I gave some sunflower seeds to a Y1(aged5/6) class and they have been planted and are growing nicely after 2 weeks. They and I look forward to seeing how tall they manage to grow.

I went to a Choral Worship session and the Y6 leavers (aged 10/11) were given the chance to choose their favourite songs and hymns from their time in the Alvey and that included some Easter and Christmas ones sung in June!

The next few weeks will include Sports Days, visits to their new schools by the leavers and the whole school coming into church for Alvey Day just before term ends in July. On Saturday, June 28th the school is hosting the yearly Town Council's 1940's Day which is open to all and well worth a visit.

Beryl Risdell



Funerals Services

Please remember in your prayers

Gillian Anne Clarke

74 years

David Andrew Randall

72 years

Bible Reading

St. Matthew 16. 18 (NRSV)

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church!

The CW Collect for St Peter & St Paul

Almighty God, whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you in their death as in their life: grant that your Church, inspired by their teaching and example, and made one by your Spirit, may ever stand firm upon the one foundation, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FEEL GOOD & THRIVE

MARKET

Sleaford Market Place

DATE
SAT 12TH JULY
HOURS
**10AM
3PM**

Handmade gifts
massage
treatments

health & fitness
spiritual
lifestyle
fun!

FREE ENTRY

this event is from Lumina, helping fund the charity developmentplus who support people in Lincolnshire to thrive and not just survive.

Lumina
www.lumina.uk.com

developmentplus
www.developmentplus.org.uk

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)

JULY

Wednesday, 2nd July

10am BCP

Sunday, 6th July

10am Trinity III, 5pm Compline

Wednesday, 9th July

10am Said Communion

Sunday, 13th July

10am Trinity IV, No evening service

Wednesday, 16th July

10am Said Communion

Sunday, 20th July

10am Trinity V, 3pm Celebration of Lay Ministry

Wednesday, 23rd July

8am Said Communion - please note the time

Sunday, 27th July

10am Trinity VI, 5pm Evensong

Wednesday, 30th July

10am Said Communion

AUGUST

Sunday, 3rd August

10am Trinity VII

Wednesday, 6th August

10am BCP

Sunday, 10th August

10am Trinity VIII

Wednesday, 13th August

10am Said Communion

Sunday, 17th August

10am Trinity IX

Wednesday, 20th August

10am Said Communion

Sunday, 24th August

(Bishop Stephen will be presiding)

10am Bartholomew

Wednesday, 27th August

10am Said Communion

Sunday, 31st August

10am Trinity XI

Wednesday, 3rd September

10am BCP

Sunday, 7th September

10am Trinity XII

EVENING SERVICES

Due to decreasing numbers, from the beginning of August, the PCC have reluctantly made the decision to end the weekly Sunday evening services, including Compline and Evensong. There will be Compline and Evensong during July.

Tonight I shall rest when work is done.
Yea this day ends, with the setting sun.
It saw pain, some laughter, also joy and fun.
But now a promising new day has just begun.
I must lay out my cloth and with skilful hand.
Perform the work that our Lord has planned.,
It could be little, or it might be great.
But I shall rally spirit for His dear sake.
And, for those who are wandering blind.
I will search my heart until I find.
Tasks he's entrusting to me this day.
I will neither rest, sleep nor play.
'Til the sun sinks down at end of that new day.
No way!
Jenny Whybrow
(published with permission of the author)
Submitted by David Birks

COMMUNICANTS' GUILD

On Tuesday 15th July, members of the Guild will be meeting at 3 p.m. for tea at Pennells Garden Centre on London Road. There will be no meeting in August.

Disclaimer: Please note that the opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors. They do not reflect the opinions or views of St Denys PCC.