



St Denys Bulletin

The church is open daily from 9am

May 2024

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
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

In some places on Ascension Day the choir will climb the tower to sing an Ascension Day Carol or Motet. This is perhaps more common in places like Oxford or Cambridge, and it does require a tower! Our spire, grand as it is, does not provide the flat space protected by battlements, with easy access that you get with a tower. In some places this tradition is marked in the early morning (7.30 or 8.00 am) in other places it is sung at noon. St John's College, Cambridge has been known to take a brass quintet up the tower with the choir to augment their joyous caroling.

Although it always falls on a Thursday, Ascension is one of the most important days in the Church's year (rather like Ash Wednesday or Good Friday).

The disciples are left on a mountain top looking up

into heaven and as a choir sings out from the tower our eyes are instinctively drawn skywards to see where the singing is coming from.

It is true that the disciples could not stay on the mountain top – they had to return to 'normal' life – but something significant had happened. They had been told that Jesus would return in the same way that he had left them and as a result they lived the rest of their lives with their eyes looking heavenward, metaphorically speaking.

It can be so easy for us to get bogged down in the things of this world that we fail to lift our eyes heavenward. The news can be fairly depressing at times and illness or anxiety can dominate our thoughts. Lifting our eyes heavenwards can

change our perspective. It can take us out of ourselves and enable us to see things differently. Last week I went on a short walk to get some space and time for reflection. First I heard the distinctive birdcall and as I lifted my eyes I watching the enchanting dance of two lapwings looping in the air.

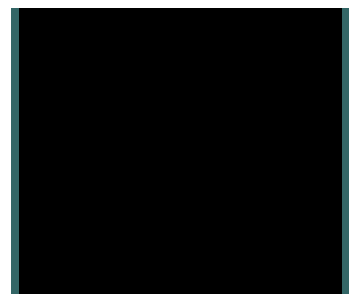
It was a precious moment of beauty that I was privileged to watch, and in that moment I could think of nothing other than the lapwings. I completed the walk in a completely different frame of mind, giving thanks to God for the beauty of the world in which we live. Ascensiontide reminds us that we need to lift our eyes away from the things of this world that weight us down and look towards the heavens and give thanks to God for his goodness.

The Ascension Day service will take place at St Denys on Thursday, 9th May at 7pm.



Collect for Ascension (BCP)

GRANT, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens; so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.



From the Churchwardens

Vicar's Vestry (formally known as Top Vestry)

During April the Vicar's Vestry was redecorated allowing us the opportunity to re-evaluate the layout of various pieces of furniture. After careful consideration much of the furniture has been repositioned and consequently everything is better positioned to allow for more logical storage use. It will take time for those who use the vestry to familiarise themselves where items are kept but the overall emphasis is achieving a more efficient and user-friendly storage space. It is our intention to carpet the floor and this will most likely happen within the next few weeks.

Lady Chapel roof and floor area The repairs to the roof area have now been completed and as a result we can concentrate on repairing the floor area where some of the supporting joists have

become insecure. A contractor has been instructed to undertake the floor repairs and once these have been completed a decision on how to cover the floor area will be made. Hopefully, the Lady Chapel will be open to public worship and general use during the summer months.

Market Place Following an earlier meeting with representatives from North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) we are awaiting further notification and advice of how to manage access to the church when the Market Place is being redeveloped. NKDC have indicated work on the Market Place will commence on 19 July and should be completed by mid-December 2024. NKDC have shown a willingness to work alongside us with regard to how these works will affect the church and it is intended discussions will take place during May/July.

Additional lighting

An opportunity was taken during the Vicar's Vestry redecoration to fit three additional spot lights within

the nave of the church. A new LED spot was installed above the kitchen door area and two spots in the West end of the nave, which have been out of action for many years, have been replaced, also with LED units.

Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM) The APCM was held during April and both Richard Clash and Sarah Stentiford were re-elected as Churchwardens. It is a privilege to serve St Denys in the capacity of Churchwarden, although the task can often feel daunting. Sarah has completed her first year in this role and looking back there have been several challenging tasks we have had to address. We look forward to another 12 months of whatever may befall our lot and appreciate the encouragement and support from the entire congregation.

Finally ... The Quinquennial Inspection (QI) has now been completed and we await the report during May. For the first time a drone was used to investigate the more difficult places around the various roof areas of the church. Further details on the state of the church fabric will be available in the June Bulletin.

A Closer Look

NEGLECTED(?) NORTH AISLE

from Douglas Hoare

Most people attending services in our church tend not to see the north aisle. However, there is much of interest therein.

1. As mentioned in a previous article, there is the evidence of a change of plans when one presumes, the transept was added around 1380(?).
2. St. Mary's Chantry: founded in 1271 at the east end before the transept was built and owned at least 89 plots of land locally (We know who the donors were and details of its services). In the floor are two clearly expensive grave-slabs. (Further east is the black and white marble tomb of a Robert Carre, died 1682, and the famous coffin lid of Yvette de Rouceby.)
3. Ends of six metal bars in the floor (3x2): were they part of a screen or of a pillar supporting the north gallery?

4. The 1853 arcade with the large statues. Note, too, the arch at the east end with round capitals.

5. The black gravestone with its inscription, still - if ever - to be deciphered.

As ever, please, any information from any source would be very welcome.

Know your PCC Who am I?

1. I'm teaching myself to play the bassoon. One of the girls is very vocal in critiquing my technique;
2. My childhood nickname was "Trilby," after my favourite hat; and,
3. I once voted Liberal (before I met my wife).

Answer next month
April - Pam Jakeway





William Alvey School Bishop's Visitor Update

Since the middle of April we have been back in school for the new term.

I have taken the Reredos Book which is kept on the High Altar to school, to show to Mr Farrington, the Head-teacher, as it was made before his time at the school and he had not had a chance to read and look at it until now. It was a project by a small group of Y5s (aged 9/10) in 2017/18 with myself and the previous Head and input from Douglas Hoare (our resident historian!) Some slight details of information have been added and the contact details for the school up-dated. It is now back where it belongs.

If you have never looked at it, it is an explanation and history of the pictures along the High Altar of Jesus and the disciples set in the Lincolnshire landscape. Well worth a look!

We have had some more assemblies of "ow", "wow" and "now" moments from children including the history of the growth of ladies football and clips from the Lionesses World Cup victory! We've also had some more children (one from each year group) recommended for Sleaford Rotary citizens awards certificates and badges. Some amazing stories of what the children have achieved and have been rewarded for. Recently I went to a regional Meeting of Bishop's Visitors from

this area, held in Sleaford and led by Lynsey Norris, the Deputy Director of Education in the Diocese. We have regular meetings to be updated by the Board of Education and to exchange news and ideas. Several of us had enjoyed our whole school services in our churches telling the story of Easter from Palm Sunday to the Resurrection and found the experience memorable and had had some real "wow" moments! I also recently attended a meeting with our new Bishop Stephen with local Readers and ALM's. The head-teacher has also attended a commissioning service in the Cathedral for Head-teachers new to church schools in the Diocese. So lots going on. *Beryl Risdell*

SLEAFORD CONCERT BAND & SLEAFORD CHORAL SOCIETY
present

HEROES & VILLAINS

Saturday 11th May at 3pm
St Denys' Church, Sleaford

Refreshments Available

Tickets: adults £7.50, children (5 - 16) £4.00 and under 5s free
Available from: www.ticketsource.co.uk/sleaford-concert-band
(use the QR code supplied)
Sleaford Jewellers, 69 Southgate, NG34 7TA
or by phoning 07908 093415
A limited number of tickets should be available on the door



Funerals and Memorial Services

Please remember them in your prayers

Michael William Laming Brown

Aged 89 years

Eric Lack Aged 80 years

From the newspapers May 1931

ST DENYS, SLEAFORD ANNUAL

RUMMAGE SALE In the CHURCH HALL Thursday, May 7th

At 6 p.m.

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS
WELCOME**

**A CART will be sent to collect
on WEDNESDAY, MAY 6th, if
notice is given to**

Miss Morris

23, Grantham Road: or

Mrs Howe

The Vicarage

(Hon Secretaries)

Bible Reading

The Acts of the Apostles 1.9-11 (NRSV)

As they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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, 5th May

10am Easter VI, 5pm Compline

Wednesday, 8th May

10am BCP

Ascension Day Service

Thursday, 9th May 7pm

Sunday, 12th May

10am Easter VII, 5pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday, 15th May

10am Mid Week Communion

Sunday, 19th May

10am Pentecost, 6pm Pentecost Praise at New Life

Friday, 10th May

5pm Twinning Service

Wednesday, 22nd May

10am Mid-Week Communion

Sunday, 26th May

10am Trinity, 5pm Evensong

Wednesday, 29th May

10am Said Communion

Sunday, 2nd June (RSCM Music Sunday)

10am Trinity I, 5pm Compline

I come at day-break and again at eventide.
Here, at twilight, - in stillness and quietude.
I come to converse; as before a holy rood.
softly, silently with snowdrops, small wild daffodils;
some birds, rabbits and the shy roe deer.
In this, nature's sanctuary, twixt night and day.
There is peace, a sense of calm,
the world is gone, or yet to come.
A breathing space,
Yea, a thin restful place
wherein to listen and pray.
Amen

Jenny Whybrow

(published with permission of the author)

Submitted by David Birks

COMMUNICANTS' GUILD

The Guild's next meeting will be held in the Church Room on Tuesday 21st May at 2 pm. Our speaker will be Guild member Sue Parsons who will tell us about her Travels In Iceland. You are most welcome to join us.

At the April meeting, members enjoyed a presentation by Jane Wright from Mary's Meals, a charitable organisation which operates a feeding programme in some of the world's poorest communities, by providing a daily school meal to encourage the children into education. From a small beginning in Malawi in 2002, they now feed 2¼ million children in 18 countries. The charity is running a "Pray in May" campaign and they invite all of us to pray with them that their work will continue to flourish and grow.

Northern Bell Orchestra

In concert with

The Pilgrims Steel Band

Saturday 25th May 2024

Doors open
18:30
Concert starts
19:00

St Denys' Church
Sleaford
NG34 7SH

£10 per person
Under 16s FREE



A Service of Thanksgiving for

Sleaford Twinning Association

(celebrating its partner links with towns
in France and Germany)



St Denys, Sleaford
Friday 10th May 2024
5pm
All welcome

FUNDRAISING LUNCH

There will be a two course meal plus tea or coffee served in the Parish Hall on **Saturday 25th May at 1.00pm**. Tickets are £12 each and can be purchased from 28th April from Minyon or the Parish Office. Proceeds will be shared between St.Denys and Embrace. We hope to see you there. Last day for purchasing tickets will be 19th May. It is a ticket only event.

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.