



St Denys Bulletin

The church is open daily from 9am

May 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 304354 (New number)

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

On the morning of Easter Monday, whilst having a relaxed breakfast the radio informed the world that the Pope had died. This was a shock. A few weeks ago he had been seriously ill in hospital and many did not expect him to survive. But he recovered and seemed to be improving. He had audiences with numerous people including King Charles, and on Easter Day he had blessed the crowds from the balcony. We did not know that his appearance on Easter Day was against his doctor's orders.

At the time of writing the funeral has yet to happen but it will be broadcast around the world. I have been a little surprised by how much coverage there has been on radio and TV – it's not often that I turn on the radio in the morning to hear Gregorian chant and a commentary of an ecclesiastical procession from the Vatican to the Basilica! The detail that has been out into the public domain (and reported by major media outlets) is astounding. But two things have struck me in particular: the choice of a more simple coffin than has traditionally been used for popes and the

choice of Santa Maria Maggiore as the burial place rather than St. Peter's. St Mary's is one of the four major basilicas in Rome so the choice of this place is not about Pope Francis wanting a humble burial place, this was however his favourite church in Rome. He had a great affinity with Mary and would always visit Santa Maria Maggiore to pray when he was in Rome. During his papacy he shied away from the grandeur of the papal residence, choosing to live in a Vatican guest house when he was in Rome. His choices for his death reflect his choices in life. His spiritual home was St Mary's and he choose to be buried there rather than somewhere he felt less at home.

He has led the Catholic Church for twelve years during which time his concern for the poor has taken centre stage. The Catholic Church, like the Anglican Church, has

been through some difficult times during the last twelve years, but as I think back over his papacy I think not of the scandals that hit the church but of Francis' simplicity, humility, and spirituality. He was first and foremost a pastor. In the post-resurrection appearance to Peter, having asked Peter whether he loved him, Jesus instructs him to feed my lambs, tend my sheep – the work of a pastor. As the cardinals gather to elect the next pope, the Church of England will be following its processes to choose a new Archbishop of Canterbury. I suspect (and hope) that both appointments will come as a surprise – very often these processes do. My prayer, both for Canterbury and Rome, is that the person chosen is not bedazzled by the trappings of the office, but remains true to who they are in God; that they model a spiritual life of prayer to the church and to the world; that they feed the lambs and tend the sheep.

Fr Philip

APCM AND PARISH LUNCH

The APCM will be held on **Sunday, 11th May** at 11.30am in the Church Hall. This will be followed by a Parish Lunch, to which all are invited. Please bring your own drink (and glasses if possible).

From the Churchwardens

EASTER SERVICES

We were joined by the Bishop of Grantham, Dr Nicholas Chamberlain, during the Holy Week services culminating in Easter Day Holy Communion. Most of the services were well attended and everyone was appreciative of the wise words expressed by the Bishop throughout the week. A note of thanks has been forwarded to the Bishop's office and it would be nice to see him back at St Denys in the near future. One of the major concerns regarding festivities such as Easter is how the new parking arrangements in the Market Place would pan out. As it happens everything went well and all Blue-Badge holders were able to have direct access to parking. During Holy Week a funeral took place in the church - the first for almost six months. Again, everything went well with the funeral director's vehicle having easy access to the main West Doors - something which did not always happen when general parking was allowed in the square.

SPRING CLEAN

During the Easter Saturday a willing band of helpers spent the

morning cleaning, preparing flowers and generally making the church spick and span for the Easter Sunday celebrations. It is being suggested that this kind of activity could be repeated on a regular basis. We very much appreciate those who actively clean the church in their own time and the suggestion is in no way trying to outdo this valuable work. However, if there is a sufficient number of people who are interested in cleaning the church, say every six weeks or so, this may act as an additional benefit to the upkeep of the church building. If anyone is interested in this please speak to Sarah Stentiford.

EASTER EGG TRAIL

The local authority organised an Easter Egg Trail commencing from the Market Place. St Denys laid on refreshments serving teas, coffees and biscuits. While the trail was quite a success there was a very low uptake of people taking advantage of the refreshments on offer. We took the view that this was a learning curve and will judge each event taking place in the Market Place on its own merits as to whether offering refreshments is worthwhile.

CHURCH GUTTERS

During April the church gutters were cleaned and cleared of all the leaves that fell during the previous autumn. Normally this is carried out at the end of November but for various reasons it was decided to delay this task to early spring. Many thanks must go to Carl and Josh, who gave up a Saturday morning, in carrying out this work.

THIS MONTH'S CHALLENGE

Whenever a big project is debated and the subject of how to fund it is discussed very often someone will say: "Get a grant - there's loads of money out there." My thoughts on getting a grant is you need someone who has good financial skills, is prepared to spend a lot of time filling out forms, knows how to answer complicated questions, and able to cope with all of the setbacks that may come our way. In other words someone with a specialised skill. The challenge is: is there anyone within our congregation who can match those skills?

... and finally

The movie had a happy ending ... everybody was glad when it was over!

60 Years Ago by Douglas Hoare

28th May, 1965: my first PCC. Chair: Philip Mann; Secretary: Mrs Margaret Gosling, sister of Helen Bristow, who is first mentioned in the 1963 APCM minutes. (Little did I know I'd follow soon for the next half-century!)

Matters discussed included:
1) Organ rebuilding: Harrisons' fixed price of £9,210 was accepted. Work would start on 1st January, 1966. (For the latest price in 2025, venture to ask Lee somewhen!)

2) Parish share (= tribute / quota) for 1966: between £590 and £620.

3) The topic of the 1965 Lent discussions was "No small Change". (Think what changes *have* taken place here in the 60 years!)

4) Cleaning of church interior during the organ rebuilding: £4,300 by washing and £2,200 by steam.

Certainly the past is a very different country!



Church of England Collect on the death of the Pope

Father in heaven, we praise your name for all who have finished this life loving and trusting you, for the example of their lives, the life and grace you gave them and the peace in which they rest. We praise you today for your servant Francis and for all that you did through him. Into your hands, O merciful Saviour, we commend your servant Francis. Acknowledge, we pray, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Enfold him in the arms of your mercy, in the blessed rest of everlasting peace and in the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.



The Bishop's Visitor update will return next month

A TRIBUTE TO THE SWING ERA

MILLER MAGIC BIG BAND

Sat 24 May
St Denys Church, Steaford

Refreshments available

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

Miller Magic Big Band
Tel: 07739 340661

Find us on

7pm Start



Funerals Services

Please remember in your prayers

Derek Houlden
Aged 93 years

Bible Reading

St John 21.15 (NRSV)

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.'

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, 27th April

10am Easter II

Wednesday, 30th April

10am Said Communion

Sunday, 4th May

10am Easter III, 5pm Compline

Wednesday, 7th May

10am BCP

Sunday, 11th May

10am Easter IV, 5pm Compline

Wednesday, 14th May

10am Said Communion

Sunday, 18th May

10am Easter V, 3pm Civic Service, 5pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday, 21st May

10am Said Communion

Sunday, 25th May

10am Easter VI, 5pm Evensong

Wednesday, 28th May

10am Said Communion

Thursday, 29th May

7pm Ascension Day Service

Sunday, 1st June

10am Easter VII, 5pm Compline

Be still and smell the flowering May,
don't hasten quickly yet go on your way.
Maybe for a fair while - she'll stay.
Just listen to the morning's songs,
and set aside life's many many wrongs;
observe all that's good and true:
Now seek and find the child still inside of you!
Jenny Whybrow
(published with permission of the author)
Submitted by David Birks

COMMUNICANTS' GUILD

We shall be meeting **in the Church Room on Tuesday 20th May at 2 pm** to celebrate the Guild with tea and musical entertainment by Paul Breslin. As always, our meetings are open to everyone.