



# St Denys Bulletin

The church is open daily from 9am

July / August 2024

## Services at a glance:

*These are no evening services during August.*

- 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 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 25<sup>th</sup> November 1882 Iolanthe, a new comic opera, premiered at the Savoy Theatre in London was the fourth collaboration between W. S. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan and it ran for 398 consecutive performances. It was (and remains) one of the most popular G&S operas. I have been thinking about this opera, and one song in particular this week... and I write this before election day, so do not know what the political landscape will look like by the time it is read. The sentry song opens Act II and the sentry (Private Willis) is on duty outside the Palace of Westminster. The second verse of his song is rather amusing (When in that House M.P.'s divide, / If they've a brain and cerebellum, too, / They've got to leave that brain outside, / And vote just as their leaders tell 'em to. / But then the prospect of a lot / Of dull M. P.'s in close proximity, / All thinking for themselves, is what / No man can face with equanimity.), but it is the refrain that I wish to focus on. Private Willis is a philosophical sort of chap and through those long tedious hours of

sentry duty he reflects on all that he sees in the world around him and finding life quite comical, particularly from where he is standing, and he opines that nature contrives "That every boy and every gal / That's born into the world alive / Is either a little Liberal / Or else a little Conservative!" – I have omitted the fa-la-lahs with which he extends the song. Today we might replace Liberal with Labour, but the basic idea remains as true today as it was in 1882. The political commentator Matthew Paris recently used the image of rain falling on the relatively flat uplands of the Peak District, but which will eventually work its way to either the Atlantic or the North Sea, to make a similar point to Private Willis – there is something deeply engrained in each of us, such that we instinctively either lean to the Left or the Right. In the elections of this country, of France, of the USA – all of which are in the news at present – we see that natural divide

being fought over. Perhaps one thing that is different between the world of 1882 and today is the way we handle difference. Good debates that listen respectfully to alternative opinions and may even persuade us to see something different are becoming increasingly rare. Perhaps the hallmark of a good government is not so much about on which side the balance of power lies but in how both sides work together, by disagreeing well, to ensure the best outcomes for all. So, what of us? The prophet Jeremiah encouraged those who had been carried into exile in Babylon to pray for the country (and its leaders) where they now were. For if Babylon flourished, they too would do well. So as this new Parliament is formed let us commit ourselves to pray for all those elected, from whatever side of the political divide, for if collectively (government and opposition) they do well then, we as a nation, will flourish.

### COMMUNICANTS' GUILD

On **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July**, members of the Guild will be visiting Aswarby Park Gardens. There will be no meeting in August.

## From the Churchwardens

### Lady Chapel

It seems a very long time ago when some of the carpet within the Lady Chapel had to be taken up because of the condition of the floor area. Some of the joists which support the flooring have severe rotting. This is mainly on the eastern side of the chapel but one of the problems is how to ascertain the extent of the rot and how far along does the flooring need to be taken up and new joists inserted. It is quite an extensive research project and one that has to be attended with great care.

There is a plan in place but unfortunately it is going to take some while to complete the work. In the meantime the western side of the chapel appears to be in good order and at some stage the affected carpet on the eastern side will be removed to make the area look more presentable.

### Parish Rooms

The exterior of the Parish Rooms has had some repairs and a new

coat of paint. Some of the wood had deteriorated to the extent of needing replacing. This work is near completion and many thanks must go to Brynn Grant who has performed an excellent job in painting and replacing some of the old woodwork.

### Churchyard

Several people have recently commented on the state of the churchyard inasmuch the grass has grown quite high and the exterior spotlights seem to be on during daylight hours. The churchyard is classified as "closed" and therefore the responsibility for maintaining the management and exterior lighting rests with the local authority. Sleaford Town Council undertake the grass cutting duties and at this moment in time is experiencing a few staffing problems. Hopefully these problems will soon be resolved and the grass will be cut more regularly.

### Market Place

A meeting with North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) will take

place during July in order to get some steerage on the forthcoming construction works in the Market Place. We have many issues which need to be addressed and until this meeting has been held are not sure how the practicalities of the construction works and final outcome regarding disabled accessibility will measure up. Of any scheme of this nature there will undoubtedly be some disruption and possible inconvenience. It is our hope all parties involved, including surrounding businesses, can work together in finding the best possible outcome for all concerned.

### And finally ...

During the past few weeks there has been a few incidents relating to young people behaving in a disrespectful way within the church building. It involves just a small group of youngsters and a local school has been contacted with our concerns. It is worth noting - especially to anyone who acts improperly within the building - that you do become a film star overnight due to the effective CCTV system which covers the majority of the church entrance and nave areas.

It must be emphasised the vast majority of people, whatever their age, treat the interior of church with the utmost respect.



Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024

1pm

St Denys, Sleaford

Organ Recital



Fr. David Price (Thailand)

Programme to include works by  
J.S. Bach, Joseph Haydn  
and Marcel Dupré

Tickets available in advance by scanning QR code  
below or on the door

Full Price £10



Refreshments afterwards included

Concession £8



## Occasional Prayer for Parliament (1928 BCP)

MOST gracious God, we humbly beseech thee, as for this Kingdom in general, so especially for the High Court of Parliament, under our Sovereign Lord the King at this time assembled : That thou wouldest be pleased to direct and prosper all their consultations to the advancement of thy glory, the good of thy Church, the safety, honour, and welfare of our Sovereign, and his Dominions ; that all things may be so ordered and settled by their endeavours, upon the best and surest foundations, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations. These and all other necessities, for them, for us, and thy whole Church, we humbly beg in the name and mediation of Jesus Christ our most blessed Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*



## William Alvey School Bishop's Visitor Update

June has been a busy month for me in school activities starting with the Y6 (aged 10/11) Church Schools Festival at the Cathedral. This is 8 days of visits to the Cathedral by church schools from all over the Diocese by children who are leaving their primary schools this term for their new secondary schools in September. I joined 2 members of staff and 14 children to travel to Lincoln for a day of activities, beginning and ending with worship in the Nave. We went singing in the Chapter House, finding out things in the Education Centre and on a tour of the Cathedral. I was the only one who knew my way around the building so I became the guide for our group. I made sure we found the Imp! We ate our picnic lunch at our seats in the Nave. Two more similar days have been spent in St Denys church with all the Y4's (aged 8/9) from local church schools in and around Sleaford, including William Alvey, St Botolph's, Heckington,

Leasingham, Rauceby and Kirkby la Thorpe. They took part in 6 different activities each day beginning and ending with worship and a picnic lunch in the nave. Had you come in you would have found the church a hive of activity!

In school assemblies we have had the Vicar telling the story of the good Samaritan and children acting out the characters – an “ow” moment relieved by help from someone unexpected, more about the sleeping bags being made for the homeless from recycled crisp packets in school and also about how the Air raid Museum in the school came to being. This was one of the attractions at the 1940's Day hosted by the school for the town on 29<sup>th</sup> June. On 1<sup>st</sup> July, Mrs Fuller led an account of the school's visit to Marquette lez Lille, Sleaford's twin town in France. Fifty two Y5 and Y6 children (aged 9 to 11) and 7 members of staff made the 10 hour

journey by coach, staying in a hostel and spending time in the school which has previously visited the Alvey. The children told us all about the visits and friends they made, the activities they were part of, and trying out their language skills. They had obviously enjoyed the experience immensely. The last few weeks before the summer holidays are likely to be busy as well as there will be Sports Days (lets hope for fine weather!), the Y6 leavers concert and the Alvey Day Service when the whole school comes to church to celebrate the end of term and remember William Alvey. Normal school work goes on as usual as well of course.

We wish the children well who will be leaving the school this term and going on to their new secondary schools next term and look forward to meeting the new little ones joining them.



### Funerals and Memorial Services

*Please remember in your prayers*

Rose Evelyn Harriss  
Aged 88 years  
Elsie Gladys Mapletoft  
87 years

### Bible Reading

#### Jeremiah 29.4-7 (NRSV)

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; ... But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

### From the newspapers July 1893

Choir Union - It has been decided to hold the first festival of United Choirs in the deanery of Lafford on Thursday, Sept 21. Our correspondent writes: Lovers of church music hope that this is the beginning of several such meetings. A more appropriate place than the beautiful church of St Denys at Sleaford could not be desired; but if the idea of improving choral singing in rural parishes should be appreciated by the clergy and those in charge of village choirs, there is no reason why these festivals should not be held annually in other parish churches such as Heckington for instance, under an able choir master like Sleaford now possesses. No more efficient an praise-worthy man than Mr Barnacle, organist of the Sleaford parish church, could be found for the post.

# 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, 7th July**

10am Trinity VI, 5pm Compline

## **Wednesday, 10th July**

10am BCP

## **Sunday, 14th July**

10am Trinity VII 5pm Evening Prayer

## **Wednesday, 17th July**

10am Mid Week Communion

## **Sunday, 21st July**

10am Mary Magdalene, 5pm Evening Prayer

## **Wednesday, 24th July**

10am Mid-Week Communion

## **Sunday, 28th July**

10am Trinity IX, 5pm Evensong

## **Wednesday, 31st July**

10am Mid-week Communion

## **Sunday, 4th August**

10am Trinity X,

## **Wednesday, 7th August**

10am Said Communion

## **Sunday, 11th August**

10am Trinity XI,

## **Wednesday, 14th August**

10am Mid-week Communion

## **Sunday, 18th August**

10am Trinity XII,

## **Wednesday, 21st August**

10am Mid-week Communion

## **Sunday, 25th August**

10am Bartholomew,

## **Wednesday, 28th August**

10am Mid-week Communion

## **Sunday, 1st September**

10am Trinity XIV, 5pm Compline

## **Wednesday, 4th September**

10am BCP

## **Sunday, 8th September**

10am Trinity XV, 5pm Evening Prayer tbc

## Know your PCC

### Who am I?

1. I'm from a family of Liverpool and Brentford fans but support neither.
2. My parents met working in Sainsburys; Dad was a trolley boy and Mum worked in the finance office.
3. I failed Grade5 theory because I wanted to watch an England match in the World Cup in 1998.

Answer next month

June - Minyon Prescott

Love - far exceeds trite words displayed in some Valentine menagerie.

Love embraces hope; but also hurt and agony.

Truly, love is in the ordinary of everyday.

It's a carriageway through joy and pain, then in peace, conveys us home again.

Verily, love requires us all the more, to hold on and yes - endure.

Passionately we await dawn's fragile light, to break each cold and fretful night.

Love - is in the birds first morning call.

Love indeed - needs not words at all.

Jenny Whybrow

(published with permission of the author)

Submitted by David Birks



St Denys Sleaford celebrated RSCM Music Sunday on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June with congregational choices of hymns for the Eucharist. We also learnt and sang the new hymn "Sing to the Lord" which was written especially for this year's celebration. In place of the usual Mass Setting, we sang the Gloria, Creed, Sanctus and Agnus Dei to hymn versions meaning that in total we sang 11 hymns! The service ended with Finlandia as the voluntary, which also contains a hymn tune that many people know.

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.