

FROM THE EDITOR

When I googled 'Christmas', looking for an image for the front, among the trees, presents, baubles and santas it was not until page 13 of the results that I came across a sanitised nativity scene. Does that say something about our current attitude to the CHRIST of Christmas?

The Hitchhikers' Guide to the Galaxy would have you believe that 42 was the answer to life, the universe and everything; but what is your answer to life? What is the meaning of life for you? Do you feel that you, and all around you, are just the chance combination of atoms and molecules that are at the mercy of catastrophe and disease or do you feel that there must be a greater purpose for your life? In your heart of hearts do you wish that there was something outside yourself which gave sense to your life? If you do, you will be with the very great majority of human beings stretching far back into time. Over the centuries people have created their own pieces of carved stone or wood to which they attribute some form of deification and which they seek to influence (for their own benefit) by gifts, sacrifice and devotion. The 'gods' are against them and they have to be pacified or placated.

The message of Christmas, the message brought by and lived out by Jesus is that that is not so. He assures us that the world and us were created by a loving God; a God who gave us, his creation, a freedom of will. He is not a puppet master and we are not automatons. How can we believe his assurances? Well he said he would rise from the dead (resurrected not resuscitated) and he did. Many people who knew him testified to this. If that statement of his was true then perhaps all the others are as well. But I would say that, wouldn't I?

If you **are** looking for something beyond yourself, why not pop into a service this Christmas to be with and listen to God?

Bill

THE BISHOP WRITES

Dear Friends,

At its meeting at the end of September, the diocesan synod agreed that we should move forward together as a faithful, confident and joyful diocese.

While I hope that these three things – faith, confidence and joy – will help us to shape our common life as we discern God's will for our diocese in the years ahead, they also seem to me to be very relevant for the season of Advent.

In Advent, we prepare for the great gift from God that is coming: the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, through whom we receive redemption from our sins and fullness of life.

This gift, freely given by God, is the source of our hope and the ground of our faith. It is also a sign of God's faith in humanity, who loves us with a love that is far beyond anything we can imagine. In the life of Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, that we see that love come down to earth and made manifest in ways that we can begin to understand.

In all the glitz and glamour of the Christmas season it can be easy to miss this.

It is this faith in humanity, summed up in the birth in the stable in Bethlehem, from which we can take confidence to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, walking in his way and following his example. In him, the love of God is there for all to see. Through him, God has shown us the pattern for our lives.

May God inspire us with joy as we await the coming of his Son, Jesus Christ, and may I wish you a blessed and a holy Christmas.

Bishop Christopher+



ST GENEWYS

Christmas Events

We plan to sing carols around the village this year, starting from the church at 6.00pm. It relies, however, on the number of people willing to join us. We need a viable number to sing as well as others to knock on doors. Children are welcome as long as they are accompanied by an adult. We raise funds towards our annual donation to the United Society – a missionary charity.

We would also welcome a lot of help, including children and their parents, for tree decoration and Christingle making.

Monday 16 December

6.00pm Carol singing around the village

Tuesday 17 December

6.00pm Carol singing around the village

Saturday 21 December

10.00am decorating the trees and preparing the Christingles

Sunday 22 December

2.30pm Christmas Tree Festival – switching on, music, refreshments

4.00pm Christingle Service

Tuesday 24 December

11.30pm Midnight Communion

Wednesday 25 December

10.00am Christmas Worship



Monthly Draw

Welcome to new entrants in the Draw, thank you to all who have renewed their entry and good luck to everyone.

November winners were:

1 st prize	£50	D and C Coyle	(Entry 44)
2 nd prize	£20	W Swan	(Entry 25)
3 rd prize	£10	S Nottingham	(Entry 195)

The next Draws will be made on 3 December and 7 January.

Mary



SCOTTON CHRISTMAS WHIST DRIVE

As announced last month, the Christmas Whist Drive and Draw in aid of Village Hall funds will take place on Wednesday 11 December starting at 7.30pm. Entrance (which includes refreshments) is just £2 and all whist players are welcome.

If you can help by providing a prize for the Draw I would be happy to receive it. Despite the many calls on your generosity at this time of year, I hope you will also feel able to buy tickets for the Draw and support the event in this way. Your help will be much appreciated.

All proceeds go towards village hall funds and as you can read elsewhere in the Parish News, the village hall committee is hoping to renew some of the furniture and fittings in the hall. We hope to get some grant aid for this, but will also expect to use money from hall funds towards the improvements.

Apart from 25 December and 1 January, weekly whist drives will continue on Wednesday evenings.

Mary



EAU VALLEY SINGERS

The Eau Valley Singers will be holding a Concert for Christmas on Friday 6 December, 2013 at the Methodist Chapel in Scotter at 7.30 pm. The concert will include popular Christmas songs and well known carols as a lead in to the festive season.

At this concert the choir will be making a donation to charity as stipulated in our constitution. On this occasion we have chosen to donate to the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Joint Air Ambulance Service and a cheque will be presented to a representative of the service during the performance.

Tickets are £5 for adults and £2 for accompanied children under 12 years. The ticket price includes refreshments. There will also be a Raffle. It is anticipated that demand for tickets will be high therefore early booking is recommended. Tickets can be obtained by ☎763501 or emailing: eauvs2011@gmail.com



SCOTTON AND DISTRICT WI

You are invited to a Christmas Fayre in aid of WI funds on Saturday 7 December from 10.00am to 12 noon in Scotton Village Hall. Entrance is £1.50 (which includes seasonal refreshments) and there will be stalls for cakes etc and books as well as a raffle for a Christmas Hamper.

At the monthly meeting on Thursday 12 December there is to be a talk on a History topic and the competition is to "Wrap a Bottle" (contents not specified).

The following day members will be gathering for a Christmas lunch at the Ashby Decoy Golf club (12.00 for 12.30pm.)

The first meeting of 2014 will be on Thursday 9 January in Scotton Village Hall as usual, starting at 7.30pm. This is to be a fun evening with a bring-and-share supper and members are asked to bring a guest - husband, partner, friend - with them.

Mary



SCOTTON VILLAGE HALL

In August we reported some facts and figures from the village questionnaires. To recap, we distributed 255 questionnaires and received 140 completed forms representing 345 people. On

the basis of your replies we have developed an action plan with long and short term objectives under the three main headings.

Tennis Court - in the long term the aim is to resurface the court for multi-purpose use. This will not be immediate and will depend on funding being available. At present the net post has been replaced and the net reinstated so that the court is usable. We aim to install basketball hoops inside the court on both sides.

Outdoor Equipment - we will endeavour to obtain funding for five pieces of outdoor fitness equipment suitable for all ages and install these on the playing field. Also, we will place two new five-a-side football goals on the field and consider an extra piece of playground equipment for older children.

The Village Hall - the Committee agrees that a new Hall will be needed but this is a very long term objective. In the meantime we will repair and replace as necessary to keep the existing Hall in good order. We intend to:

- redecorate the inside
- replace the existing tables with 8 large folding tables and some small tables
- replace the fire door and the main entrance door (depending on funding)
- commission a heating/energy survey and consider possible alternative ways of heating the Hall
- consider purchasing more new chairs.

The car park has been tidied and overhanging trees have been trimmed.

A number of people suggested additional activities for the Hall such as yoga, quiz nights, pilates/fitness, children's club, bingo etc. The only evening free in the winter is on Saturdays, but most mornings and afternoons are available throughout the year. If you would like to start a new group with a leader we will support you in any way we can with promotion, advertising and hiring rates.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to help us by answering the questions and providing thoughtful and constructive comments.

Scotton Village Hall Committee



HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED THAT....

Nothing is as inevitable as a mistake whose time has come.

The solution to a problem changes the problem.

It is a mistake to allow any mechanical object to realize that you are in a hurry.

If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tyre, the next morning you will have a flat tyre.



SCOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the November meeting the following items were discussed:

Best Kept Village comment and marking sheets have been received and will be presented at the Annual Parish meeting.

Two separate planning applications were discussed. Clerk to contact WLDC as one application was not on the website when notified and when it was put on it was very hard to access.

There was no update available on either the formation of a History Group or plans for 100 year commemoration of WW1.

Councillors are to check that all streetlights are working correctly and also to check on the state of the potholes in the village. Clerk is to report several potholes on Crapple Lane.

Draft Core Strategy & Development Management Policies are available on the net.

Clerk is to contact WLDC and ask for a streetcleaning team to visit the village.

There were two nominations for Trustees of Luddington Trust and they were unanimously elected.

The Village Hall report was presented to the Council.

The budget for 2014/2015 was discussed and it was agreed that a precept of £5000 should be requested. The overall revenue budget was set at £6100 with £1100 being provided by council reserves.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 3 December 2013 at 6.00pm where all parishioners are welcome to attend.

Plea from Clerk – has anyone got a three or four drawer filing cabinet they don't want? It doesn't have to have a key, just be able to be filled with Parish Council documents! If anyone knows of one (guaranteed a good home) please ring ☎01427628417 or email bob_dimillward@yahoo.co.uk

Di Millward, Secretary to the Council



TOY APPEAL

Each year we collect Christmas presents for needy children. The Social Services then distribute these to children in Scunthorpe. Please either leave the present just inside the church or inside my porch at 4 Crapple Lane any time between now and **Sunday 8 December**. They will then be delivered to Social Services in Scunthorpe the following Monday morning (11th). **NEW** toys or gifts should be wrapped and clearly labelled whether for a boy or girl, and the age of the child it would be most suitable for. **Nearly new** toys should be left unwrapped. These will go to the Crosby Community Centre.

When you are next out shopping and you see a small gift that you think a child might enjoy playing with – crayons, crayoning book, toy car etc, why not pop it into your basket and make a needy child happy this Christmas? Many thanks.

Sue Keast



DECEMBER

1	1 st Sunday of Advent	10.00am 4.00pm	GROUP SERVICE MESSINGHAM GROUP ADVENT CAROLS NORTHORPE
8	2 nd Sunday of Advent	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Holy Communion, Scotton
15	3 rd Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship, Scotton

	of Advent	4.00pm	Carol Service, Northorpe
22	4 th Sunday of Advent	8.30am 2.30pm 4.00pm	Holy Communion, Northorpe Christmas Tree Festival Christingle
24	Christmas Eve	11.30pm 11.30pm	Midnight Communion, Northorpe Midnight Communion, Scotton
25	Christmas Day	10.00am	Christmas Worship, Scotton
29	1 st Sunday of Christmas	10.00am	Holy Communion, Scotton

JANUARY

5	Epiphany	10.00am	GROUP SERVICE SCOTTER
12	Baptism of Christ	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Holy Communion, Scotton
19	2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Morning Worship, Scotton
26	3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Holy Communion, Scotton

FEBRUARY

2	Presentation of Christ	10.00am	GROUP SERVICE, SCOTTON
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CHURCH CLEANING

The next cleaning day for **St Genewys** is on Saturday 14 December and Saturday 11 January 2014 at 10.00 am.

Cleaning and flower rota at **St John the Baptist:**

Dec 1/8	Mrs Mosey, Mrs Stephenson
Dec 15	Mrs Dunk