

The Bishop of Grantham writes:

Dear friends

I was sent an unusual e-mail the other day: it was a series of colourful slides taken from the Hubble space telescope and from the various probes that have been launched towards our heavenly neighbours. The images are truly magnificent and demonstrate how the countless billions of stars and planets can seem like specks of dust in the vast reaches of the universe, but when they combine together as a galaxy and become massive conglomerations, the size of which are beyond our ability to comprehend and encompass, they appear as massive, vividly coloured bodies resembling the shape of a crab or an ant. One particular image, taken from the Cassini probe, looks back over rings of Saturn to a small blue dot light-years away: it is the planet Earth. The image is accompanied with the following words...

All our wars

All our problems

All our greatness and misery

All our technology

Our art, our advances

All our civilisations

All our wildlife and flora

All races, religions

All governments, countries and states

1 billion souls in constant agitation

It is making the point that a lot of the problems, fears, anxieties and concerns that we have in our everyday life should seem insignificant when we get them into context and realise how small and petty they often are when confronted with the vastness of the universe. I am sure that this is true, and that our natural self-centredness seeks to put us at the centre of creation rather than realising that we are only one tiny part of it. But I wonder how this understanding plays out when we are faced with the ongoing troubles in North Africa and the Middle East? Of course, we must be concerned about the global issues raised by dictatorships and authoritarian governments; about regime change and the ultimate values of justice, peace and equality: these are the great concerns that we must all have and must be prepared to work for. Is there not, though, space for the small, powerless and insignificant? Other words come to my mind when I ask myself this question: *Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet no one of them falls to the ground unperceived by your Father. So do not be afraid, you are of more value than the sparrows.* In the middle of the clashing gongs of world-changing drama, we might also have a care and thought for the little people who are crushed and destroyed as regimes and world-orders fall and rise, for it is they who feel the pain and hurt and whose small moments on Earth are affected for ever.

One of the most important lessons we learnt after the First World War was that we must never have a disregard again for the importance of the life of the individual; no more should we debase humanity by seeing it as cannon fodder. The same fights for the rights of the individual are being played out today, not just in Libya but in our own land as well. In the name of the God who has counted every hair on our heads, the Church needs to be a lively part of that struggle.

With warmest regards

+Tim



ST GENEWYS'

Monthly Draw

March winners were:

1st prize	£50	D Holmes	(Entry 11)
2nd prize	£20	N Fowles	(Entry 39)
3rd prize	£10	G Slingsby	(Entry 236)

This month's Draw will be made on 5 April

Mary



CHURCH ANNUAL MEETINGS

This is the time of the year when our Churches hold their annual meetings. To some extent these are historical in that the first short meeting is an opportunity for everyone in the village to elect churchwardens for the coming year. The second meeting, open to everyone, is to receive the church accounts and reports from groups for the past year and for members on the Church electoral Roll to elect members of the Parochial Church Council. So everyone is invited – you will not be elected to anything without your prior permission.

St John the Baptist, Northorpe	7.00pm Tuesday 12 April
St Genewys, Scotton	11.15am Sunday 17 April

Both meetings are in the respective churches.



NORTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Mobile Library Service

We are pleased to confirm that Northorpe has been included on the new route of Lincolnshire County Council's mobile library service, which takes effect from 1 April. The mobile library will visit the village between **11.15am and 11.45am on Thursdays**. It will stop on Monson Road.

Ruth Bohin; Clerk to the Parish Council



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Our television screens and radio broadcasts have been full, recently, of news about Libya and the earthquake and Tsunami in Japan. Prior to that there was an earthquake in New Zealand, floods in Australia, an earthquake in Chile, an earthquake in Pakistan, floods in Sri Lanka and much more. We all remember the previous Tsunami in the Pacific, the floods in Pakistan and the earthquake in Haiti which are still having a major impact on the lives of the peoples in those regions. Couple this with the on-going impact of changes in

global weather patterns to rainfall patterns across the world leading to droughts and food shortages.

The need for us, despite the financial stringencies which are being applied by our government, to give generously from our comparative wealth does not diminish. While we may well dip into our pockets for specific disaster relief funds and take part in 'Red Nose Day' or Pudsey Bear antics to raise money we need to remember those other national organisations which continue to steadily raise funds to support as many in need across the world as they can.

One such organisation is Christian Aid. There will be the regular envelope collection in May and I ask that when the envelope drops through your letter box you will be as generous as you can in what you put into it. If you are a tax payer then please consider signing the Gift Aid declaration on the envelope so that Christian Aid can claim back the tax that you have already paid on the donation – it costs you nothing more.

Please fill the envelope immediately you receive it and put it by your front door ready for when the collector calls.

Thank you.

Bill



SCOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Summary of Council Meeting held on 28 February 2011

- There are still vacancies for Councillors and the whole Council faces election on 5 May. Nomination papers are available from the Clerk, the closing date for submission to WLDC being 4 April.
- The Council were informed that there have been instances of hare coursing and theft of oil. Residents are urged to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police.
- It was agreed that the phone box on Westgate should be repainted and used as an information centre for notices.
- There have been complaints regarding dog fouling. Would dog owners please act responsibly and pick up after their animal. The Council will contact the dog warden if the problem persists. The dog warden has the authority to issue fines.
- The new footpath is now in situ on Beck Lane and will be monitored by Highways.
- The next meeting of the council is on Monday 28 March at 6pm in The Village Hall and the Annual Assembly will be held on Monday 18 April at 7.00pm. This is the Parish meeting and is an ideal opportunity for residents to raise any concerns or ideas and also to enjoy light refreshments.

For information regarding any of the above, please contact the Clerk, Mrs D Millward, (☎ 7628417) or email (bob_dimillward@yahoo.co.uk)

SCOTTON VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Scotton Village Fete - Scarecrow Competition

The Scarecrows are returning to Scotton! But this year there is one big change - the Scarecrows will not have to get themselves to the Village Hall for judging, they can stay at home.

The rules are very simple:

1. Make a Scarecrow - any design, any theme, any size
2. Display it somewhere in the Village during the week starting 6 June 2011
3. Make sure your Scarecrow can be seen from the road - if not, let us know
4. Judging will take place at the Scarecrow's home during that week
5. If you don't want your scarecrow judged, please let us know
6. There will be awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd best Scarecrows as decided by the Judge(s)
7. Winners will be announced during the afternoon of the Fete on Saturday 11 June

Straw will be available from Dorothy Thomas at Cherry Cottage, 10 High Street during May if required.

Any questions - phone Doro (☎763136).

Malcolm Clarke



MOBILE LIBRARY VAN

In case people are unaware, the monthly Library van visits are changing from Mondays to Thursdays at 10.30 - 11.00am in the village hall car park.

They will be attending:

14th April	12th May
9th June	7th July
4th August	1st September
29th September	27th October
24th November	22nd December
19th January 2012	16th February
15th March.	

Margaret Rider



JUNIOR TENNIS COACHING

Tim Browne from Scotter has very kindly agreed to come and be our tennis coach for this year. A first taster session/ meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 4 May at 6.00 p.m. at Scotton court - we can decide at the meeting which day/time suits most people for future sessions.

Age range: junior to secondary school age (we may run 2 sessions). Younger children are welcome by arrangement

Cost per session: £2.50 (same as last year)

What to bring: racquet if you have one, drink and suitable footwear (trainers)

And also - Tim has offered to run beginner/improver coaching sessions for adults during the daytime (Friday pm suggested).

For more information, or if you are unable to come on the 4th, contact Debbie Scarf (☎764526)

Debbie



SCOTTON & DISTRICT W.I.

The March meeting was our annual meeting. It was very well attended and members were able to hear the full itinerary of the past years events and speakers. It had been a full and varied programme that had marked our 75th year. Janet Arrand was voted in as our president for the forthcoming year. The new programme was announced with again many varied events and speakers arranged.

The April meeting will have as its speaker representatives from the Air Ambulance Service coming along to tell us of their work. It promises to be a very interesting evening so come along and join us. You will be most welcome

Karin



APRIL

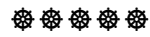
3	Mothering Sunday	8.30 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Holy Communion, Scotton
10	5 th Sunday of Lent	8.30 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Holy Communion, Scotton
17	Palm Sunday	8.30 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Morning Worship, Scotton
22	Good Friday	2.00pm	'At the foot of the cross' - a devotional meditation, Scotton
24	Easter Sunday	8.30 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Holy Communion, Scotton

MAY

1	2 nd Sunday of Easter	8.30 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Holy Communion, Scotton
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The next cleaning party for St Genewys is Saturday 23 April, ready for Easter. The more hands the less onerous is the task.



IDIOT SIGHTING IN FOOD SERVICE

My daughter went to a local Taco Bell and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for 'minimal lettuce.' He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg lettuce.

From Kansas City