

## **THE BISHOP OF GRANTHAM WRITES:**

### **The Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head...**

A routine conversation, with a well-dressed, groomed and beautifully spoken young man, revealed a surprising story: he had just got away from sleeping on the streets as a homeless man. There was no drug or alcohol abuse involved here, and there were no mental health issues; the young man had split up with his long-time partner and was forced to leave his flat in order to sever the relationship. Poorly paid in part-time employment, he could not afford a hotel room still less the deposit for a new flat or house. The answer was a tent on the riverside. Thankfully, this young man has now found better paid work and, being quite simple in everyday needs, has also got a new flat. He is one of the lucky ones. A recent Rowntree Foundation report (why not Google it?) suggests that around 75,000 young people become homeless each year, but the figures are difficult because only the folk who stay in touch with the agencies can be counted. Not all of these young people are sleeping rough as many are 'sofa surfing' and sleeping in friends homes on floors, but evidence suggests that a majority do spend at least a short period sleeping on the streets. Further studies make a significant link between homelessness and depression, familial violence and abuse and bereavement. The situation is exacerbated by the fact that there is a considerable social stigma attached to homelessness: amidst our pity, there is always the lurking suspicion that people have brought this upon themselves, deserve it because of bad management or actually like living an irresponsible life.

Homelessness in our own county of Lincolnshire is not as great a problem as elsewhere in the country, but it still exists and it is incumbent upon us to take it seriously. The Lincolnshire pattern is also what you may expect, with 6 homeless householders per 1000 in East Lindsey whereas South Holland has around 1.4 per 1000. As always, if we are not careful, out of sight can mean out of mind and we feel there is little we can do or say. Matters are made worse by the knowledge that support agencies like Lincoln MIND are now closing their doors because of recessionary cuts in funding. As economic factors kick in, the problem of homelessness and its attendant issues of mental and physical health and well-being are set fair to get worse.

So what to do? Well first, as Christian folk following one who famously declared that he had 'nowhere to lay his head', we can simply care and be the ones who recognise, not just that there is a homelessness problem in this country and our county, but also that homelessness happens to flesh and blood human beings like you and me and that 'there but for fortune go you or I'. In addition, there is good evidence that the various charitable organisations such as NOMAD and the YMCA do actually make a considerable positive contribution to supporting and helping the homeless through their problems and into homes. We can support them financially and they would be worthy recipients of giving from local parish church communities. However, all of this is first-aid and cannot address the long-term problem alone: this takes the political will of the people of our county to demand investment into

new home building, particularly in our rural areas, and to support our local Authorities in trying to meet the demands of the Homelessness Act of 2002. These are questions we need to put to those in power in our country and land.

+Tim



## **ST GENEWYS'**

### **Monthly Draw**

May winners were:

1st prize	£50	W Keast	(Entry 119)
2nd prize	£20	C Smithson	(Entry 75)
3rd prize	£10	C Nottingham	(Entry 53)

7 June is the date of the next Draw

### **Patronal Festival**

Sunday 5 June is our Patronal Festival or, if you like, the church's birthday. It is the Sunday nearest the St Genewys' day. Several things will be different on this Sunday. First, and most important, the morning service is at 11.00 am. The second is that we will have a guest speaker – Matthew Cooper, who is the Diocesan Historic Churches Support Officer. The third thing is that the service will be followed by a bring-and-share lunch at the home of Dave and Wendy Sterry. Everyone is welcome to the service and the following lunch – just bring something that you can put into the 'communal pot' towards the lunch. Savoury or sweet is up to you.

*Mary*



### **HATS ON FOR ASCOT DAY LUNCH**

Lindsey Lodge Hospice Scotter & Kirton Supporters' Group are holding a 'Ladies Ascot Day Lunch with Floral Demonstration' on Thursday 16 June at 12.00pm in Kirton Town Hall. Tickets cost £17.50 and include Glass of Wine, 2 Course Lunch & Coffee, and are obtainable by ringing Margaret Robinson (☎01652 649383) or Margaret Rider (☎01724 762185). All ladies welcome to dress up and enjoy the day.



## **SCOTTON VILLAGE FETE**

This year's Fête is on Saturday 11 June from 2.30pm – 5.00pm in the Littlewood Playpark with all the usual games and stalls (and some new ones, too).

The Children's Fancy Dress Parade, open to children of Primary School age or younger, will be at 3.15pm followed by judging at 3.30pm prompt.

As ever, the success of the Fête depends on the support you give it and help is needed on the day. So, if you can spare even an hour, please get in touch with Dorothy Thomas (☎763136) or any member of the committee.

Raffle prizes may be taken to Jo Tear (24 Eastgate), Eileen Allison (Rectory Cottage, Eastgate) or Diane Lloyd (4a Eastgate). Chris and Adrian Wood (4 Northorpe Road) are collecting Tombola prizes.

Cakes or produce to sell would be welcome and should be taken to the Village Hall on the day. Mary Smith would be grateful for small cakes and buns for refreshments – again, take these to the Hall on the day.

And don't forget the Scotton Scarecrow Competition 2011. There were some amazing creations last year and we are looking forward to seeing what you come up with this June. Scarecrows will be judged in their own gardens during the week before the Fête and the winners will be announced at the Fête after the Fancy Dress judging.

If anyone has a garden gazebo that they would be willing to loan for the event then please bring it (them) to the playpark on Saturday morning.

Above all, people are needed in quantity to come along and have a good time, so please come to the Playpark on 11 June and bring family and friends with you.

*Mary*



## **SCOTTON VILLAGE HALL**

At the Scotton Village Hall Management Committee Annual General Meeting a decision was carried unanimously to increase the hall hiring rates by a small sum with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011.

The following are the revised rates, which still represent very good value for money compared to other event venues:-

Regular Users	£7 per session
Wedding Receptions	£50 Scotton residents/£60 others
Classes	£4 per hour or £7 per session
Dayschool	£12 per day
Discos/Parties/Dances	£10 per hour after 7pm earlier £7 per hour Scotton residents £8 per hour others
Other events	£6 per hour Scotton residents £7 per hour others

**There is a vacancy on Scotton Village Hall Management Committee if anyone is interested in volunteering their services. Contact any member of the Committee if you are interested** – or phone Stewart Smith, Chairman (☎762636) or Lynne Wetherall, Secretary (☎762048).



## **SCOTTON AIKIDO CLUB**

Aikido is a modern martial art that originated in Japan. Aikido was developed by Morihei Ueshiba (1883-1969) who based his art on a life-long study of several traditional fighting methods, principally Jujitsu and Kenjutsu. Aikido is non-violent, but not passive.

It uses primarily wristlocks, throws and pins. However, the wooden sword and wooden short staff are taught as a method of developing principles of centralization of power, extension, timing and mental focus. Techniques are learned through training with a partner, not an opponent and there are no tournaments or competitions. Skill in Aikido is dependent on development of technique and not size or strength.

Adult classes take place in the village hall from 7.30pm to 9pm on Sunday Nights. Please contact Greg Gough if you would like to attend (☎ 761286). Six week beginners' courses start regularly, first session is free.

*Greg Gough*



## **SCOTTON AND DISTRICT WI**

'Hearing Dogs' is the intriguing title of the talk to be given at the WI monthly meeting on Thursday 9 June in Scotton Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. The competition is for a 'Doggy Picture'.

On 29 June members are invited to a Summer Garden Party at the home of Lyn Marasco. For further details contact Karin Clarke (☎ 01724 761237).

*Mary*



## **NORTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL**

Great thanks are due to Northorpe's retiring councillors, Jane Little, Barry Pryor, Elizabeth Henson and Frank Mosey. They have served the village for many years as councillors, with Frank undertaking the role of clerk and councillor for a total of 42 years. A huge thank you is also extended to Ruth Bohin for her sterling work as Parish Clerk over a period of 21 years.

### **Current membership**

The current members of the Council are: Neil Montgomery (Chair); Paul Marasco (vice-Chair); Brenda Dunk (also Village Champion); and Lyn Marasco. We would like to extend a warm welcome to both Marascos, who are new members. April Harrison is the new Parish clerk

We would like to co-opt 3 more members. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact April Harrison (☎01724 762515) or one of your Parish Councillors.

### **At the May Council meeting.**

In future, minutes of each meeting will be on the Northorpe Parish Council website:

<http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Northorpe>

Various items were discussed including:

a) Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

At the Annual Parish Meeting a suggestion of organising a Diamond Jubilee Celebration was made. Although not until 2012 it is hoped Northorpe residents may be interested in meeting to arrange an event. If you would be interested in helping to organise a celebration please contact April Harrison (☎01724 762515).

b) Village Bunting for events

Lyn Marasco has asked for any unwanted material, cottons or clothing that could be recycled and made into bunting to use within the village. If you have anything to spare which you feel could be put to good use please contact Lyn Marasco (lyn.marasco@tiscali.co.uk)

c) Mobile Library NEW service

The mobile library service has started visiting Northorpe. It will stop on Monson Road (the end closest to Scotton). It will arrive at 11.15am, departing 11.45am. The next three dates will be:

9 June

7 July

14 August

Further dates, up to March 2012, will be issued in this magazine and put on the Northorpe Parish Council notice board.

You can get the latest news on the service by contacting customer services centre on 01522 782010 or by visiting the website ([www.lincolnshire.gov.uk](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk))

*April Harrison, Northorpe Parish Clerk*



### **NORTHORPE PLAYING FIELD - update**

Everything regarding our application for the final stage of the Playing Field's new equipment is with the panel that judge the application and we await more information.

Thanks to all those that turned out to help remove weeds and add pea gravel to the verge – as well as new plants. It looks much better. As always, a big thank you to Gus and his loyal tractor.

We are looking to have a fête in June and would like your ideas and interest level.

If there is anyone interested in joining the Playing Field Group, please email: (Brenda-dunk@fsmail.net)

*Neil Montgomery*



## **NORTHORPE VILLAGE HALL**

We have been successful in obtaining a number of grants for the upkeep of Northorpe Village Hall. The inside has been painted, and it has new curtains being manufactured. There are new toilet facilities installed and a new kitchen being fitted as you read this.

We are still looking to instigate indoor bowls at 7.00pm on Monday nights. Please show your support. There is now a pool table and badminton. Please let us know if you are interested in these facilities.

If you require more details please email;  
(northorpevillagehall@hotmail.co.uk)

A website is also being developed to inform people about facilities in the village. This can be found at:  
(www.northorpe.com).

If anyone is interested in joining the Village Hall Committee, please contact us.

*Neil Montgomery*



## **NORTHORPE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Other than the lead that was recently stolen from the church roof, there is nothing much that affects our immediate area.

*Neil Montgomery*



## **CHURCH SERVICES**

### **JUNE**

5	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	8.30 am <b>11.00 am</b>	Holy Communion, Northorpe Holy Communion, Scotton
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## Our Patronal Festival

12	Day of Pentecost	8.30 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Holy Communion, Scotton
19	Trinity Sunday	8.30 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Holy Communion, Scotton
26	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Trinity	8.30 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Morning Worship, Scotton

## JULY

3	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Trinity	8.30 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Holy Communion, Scotton
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## CHURCH CLEANING

The next cleaning day for St Genewys is on Saturday 2 July at 10.00 am. Please come and help.



## LCC LIBRARY SERVICE - Delivering Library Books to Your Home

Are you unable to access your library or mobile library service because of disability, age, or ill health? You may be able to have books delivered to your door. To check if you are eligible call ☎01522 782010.

*Margaret Rider*