

HOLIDAYS AND JOLLYDAYS!

By the time you will be reading this, it is likely that you will be basking in the afterglow of an Easter weekend and hopefully enjoying that welcome event that arrives each year- Easter holidays! Yes, along with Christmas holidays and Summer holidays, they are those moments when we can take a deep breath from the 'busyness' of our lives, the business of 'doing', and enjoy for a while that peace of 'being'. Being a dad, being a mum, being a friend, a son or a daughter, instead of simply being an employee or a work horse! Time to pause and take stock of what really matters most to us in our lives. Space to look afresh into the face of those dearest to us and remember what life is really all about. Opportunity to recalibrate and remind ourselves of what is most important to us. Modern life can so often reduce our sense of value and self-worth to how much money we earn, where we live, what our 'status' is at work and in society, what car we drive and the things that we have and 'own'.

And yet the message of Easter is that we all have value, inherent in our humanity. Value as children of God, loved and cherished by Him, pre-eminently demonstrated by the message of Good Friday and Easter Day, when God demonstrated our worth and His love for us in the death of Jesus Christ and his subsequent resurrection when Jesus took the consequences for us of our sins and he dealt with our wrongdoing and promised us new life and new opportunities.

So as you read this on your Easter break, and hopefully(!) feel the warming spring sunshine 'kiss you on the cheek, just take a moment to pause and reflect on how valued you are to God and how He cherishes you, so that even when we return to the busyness of life- we know and are assured of, his care for us.

David

THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN WRITES

As I sit down to write my letter to you, I do so in the same week that many of our clergy and readers have been preparing to preach on the anointing of Jesus at Bethany. It's a familiar story from the gospel of John, which tells of Mary taking a jar of expensive perfume and, in a moment of seemingly reckless extravagance, pouring the sweet-smelling perfume over the feet of Jesus before wiping it away with her hair. This apparent waste horrifies Judas Iscariot, who will go on to betray Jesus and hand him over to the Jewish police, and ultimately to the occupying Roman Army to be crucified.

It is a poignant and powerful story of human love and generosity, jealousy and betrayal. I encourage you to reach for your bible and read the story again for yourself, because it is also a wonderful illustration of the generous and extravagant God whom you and I profess, and whose love is most perfectly expressed for us in the death and resurrection of Jesus, which we celebrate at Easter.

In her care for Jesus, Mary's actions speak of love and generosity, of honouring Jesus. By contrast, Judas is consumed by jealousy, spite and, ultimately, betrayal.

The irony is that both Mary and Judas are needed in our story: Mary's extravagance points to the overflowing generosity of God, which we see most profoundly in the death and resurrection of Jesus; it is Judas' betrayal of Jesus that leads to Jesus' death, making the resurrection possible. Then, as now, we find the best and the worst of humanity existing side by side.

In this, the story mirrors the reality of life as you and I live it today. However, the message of the resurrection is that goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death. The challenge for all of us is to hold fast to the values of love and compassion, generosity and service, particularly when the prevailing culture around us makes it hard to do so, and jealousy and spite, hatred and betrayal can seem to have the upper hand.

I wish you a blessed and a happy Easter.

+Christopher Lincoln:



BENEFICE MATTERS

You will know that there is usually a charge to enter Lincoln Cathedral, except for services, that is. However, there is now a complimentary scheme whereby each local parish can access two free passes to the cathedral for the benefit of parishioners who wish to, for example, visit the cathedral to share in exhibitions, (or simply enjoy the worship space) such as the current Lent Exhibition of art:

(<http://www.lincoln.anglican.org/news-events/news-stories/passion-in-paint-until-easter-day-27th-march-2016/>).

For ease of access to the passes, I hold two each for Messingham and Scotter and Bill holds two each for Scotton and Northorpe. We have the opportunity of accessing the cathedral whenever we need in multiples of one or two (or a car full) and whenever we should want. From my memory, the entrance fee for 'tourists' is usually £6 so it should be a big saving for those members of our congregations who would want to access the Cathedral for personal or parochial issues and diocesan items instead of feeling obliged to pay as a 'tourist'. Clearly, we will be able to take as a group up to 8 on a 'free entry' basis should we choose.

David

ST GENEWYS

Monthly Draw

March winners were:

1 st prize	£50	C Wood	(Entry 91)
2 nd prize	£20	A Curtis	(Entry 4)
3 rd prize	£10	S & D Lingard	(Entry 107)

The date of next month's Draw is 5 April.

Mary



SCOTTON FETE 2016

The village fete will be taking place this year on the afternoon of Saturday 11 June at the village hall and play park.

We will also be looking to run the Scarecrow competition again this year which will run the week before the fete.

Stay tuned to the next edition of the Parish News for more information.....

Mark Schofield, Chairman



“KIDNEY” WHIST DRIVE

The special whist drive on 16 March raised £155 for the Sheffield Area Kidney Association. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way with this. Our normal weekly whist drives (7.30pm in Scotton Village Hall) continue each Wednesday evening until the end of April; do come along if you fancy a friendly game of cards.

Mary

West Lindsey Open Churches Festival 2016

The 2016 Annual Open Churches Festival will be on 7/8th and 14/15th May.

Over 80 churches in West Lindsey will be open to visitors and our church in Scotton, St Genewys, will again be taking part. For more details check the excellent new website:

<http://www.churchesfestival.info/>

What's on at St Genewys Church

We will be open on the second of the weekends;

14-15 May, Saturday 9am-5pm • Sunday 11am-4pm.

We are working together with the Scotton Art Group to have an **Arts and Crafts display** featuring the work of local residents.

The **Musical Worship Group** will play on Saturday afternoon between 3 and 4pm. Please come along to listen as you look round or to join in with our worship songs. It will be an informal session. We'd love to see you.

Guided visits to our tower roof will be available if conditions allow.

Display your art or craft work

We are appealing for any art or craft work to display at this event. Please help to make this an interesting event for visitors to our church. We will provide notice boards or tables; just let us know what you need. The event will have stewards for the whole time the church is open.

If you are willing to bring items along then get in touch with:

Joan Farleigh (Scotton Church) ☎762494

Chrissie Wood (Art Club) ☎763535



SCOTTON PARISH COUNCIL - Tuesday 1 March 2016

- The water leak on Eastgate has been repaired.
- Clerk is to contact ACIS again to establish ownership of land on Westgate by Dooks Close. The Council would like to provide an electricity supply in order that the village could have a Christmas Tree on this area.
- The Council were sorry to receive two resignations and these have been notified to WLDC.

The next Council meeting, an ordinary meeting to follow the Annual Assembly, will be held on Tuesday 5 April in the Village Hall at 6.00pm.

Future dates - 3 May Annual Parish Council Meeting; 7 June; 5 July; 6 September; 4 October; 1 November; 6 December.



SCOTTON & DISTRICT WI

The Annual Meeting in March welcomed 25 members and Ann Lendrum our WI Advisor. Jean Renton the outgoing President reminded everyone of the events of our really busy previous year.

The outgoing committee was thanked by Mary Smith for all their hard work on behalf of all the members. A new president, Christine Sylvester, was elected and the new committee introduced to everyone. The new programme for 2016/17 was outlined by Denise Butler. It is very varied and will hopefully suit a variety of tastes and interests

The next meeting will be on Thursday 14 April at 7.30pm when the speaker will be Cath Fordham. The title of the talk is 'The Physic Garden'. The information will cover aspects of planning, creating and planting such a garden, and much more.

Come along and visit us, you will be made most welcome.

Karin Clarke

APRIL

3 2nd Sunday of Easter 10.00 am-**GROUP SERVICE, MESSINGHAM**

10 3rd Sunday of Easter 8.30 am Holy Communion, Northorpe
10.00 am Holy Communion, Scotton

17 4th Sunday of Easter 8.30 am Holy Communion, Northorpe
10.00 am Holy Communion, Scotton

24 5th Sunday of Easter 8.30 am Holy Communion, Northorpe
10.00 am Morning Worship, Scotton

MAY

1 6th Sunday of Easter 10.00 am **GROUP SERVICE, SCOTTON**



CHURCH CLEANING – SCOTTON

The next church cleaning session will be on Saturday 30 April at 10.00am. Please come along and help if you can. The more people the quicker it gets done! Many thanks, Sue

NORTHOPE

Apr 3 Mrs Henson
Apr 10/17 Mrs Booth
Apr 24/May 1 Mrs Summers