

LENT

By the time you read this we will be in the period of Lent. The period begins on Ash Wednesday when Christians traditionally went to church to have their foreheads marked with a cross made with ashes from last year's Palm Cross. A reminder that during Lent we reflect on our own mortality and that of Jesus – ending, as it did, on the Cross.

Ash Wednesday is preceded by Shrove Tuesday. Like several church festivals this was taken over from an earlier pagan festival. In this case, pre-Christian people believed that the change of seasons was a struggle between Jarilo, the god of vegetation, fertility and springtime, and the evil spirits of cold and darkness. People believed that they had to help Jarilo fight against winter and bring in the spring. The most important part of their celebrations was making and eating pancakes. The hot, round pancakes symbolized the sun. Christians developed the celebration into the last opportunity to eat rich foods and use up all the eggs, sugar and fats in the house before the fasting of Lent. In some countries the day is called Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) for similar reasons.

Traditional Christians have been encouraged to fast or to 'give things up' for Lent. You may well have decided to try to do without chocolate – as many do - but is this really a hardship? 'Giving up' is all a bit negative. Could we not be more positive? Could we not take something on rather than give something up? This might well be of spiritual benefit to us or of greater benefit to others.

You could, for example, put aside 1p on the first day, 2p on the second, 4p on the third, 8p on the fourth and so – you would amass a tidy sum to donate to a charity of your choice by the end of the forty days. You could attend locally provided Lent lunches and, again, contribute the full price to charity. You could discipline yourself to read your bible daily – try reading through Mark. The possibilities are endless!

Bill



THE BISHOP WRITES

This month the churches begin the season of Lent – traditionally a time of reflection and prayer when we reflect on our life as followers of Jesus.

During Lent the story of John the Baptist will be read in our churches. John is a fascinating character who risked being mocked not only for his eccentric dress and his bizarre taste in food (locusts and wild honey – but also for the controversial things he said, calling people to repentance. To 'repent' is to turn away, to change direction and do things differently.

John called his hearers to turn away from the mistakes of the past and to re-orientate life in the Christian way. That is the same vocation to which God, through Jesus and his church, calls us today.

As you know, the diocese has begun a Year of Discipleship, running through 2015, and I'm excited about the signs of growth and renewal in our churches which I hope will flow from this initiative. One of the things which set John the Baptist apart was that he was prepared to talk about things that matter – what it is to lead a holy life, how to reflect on our experience through a spiritual lens, how to talk about God, and so on.

I want all of us to be able to talk freely about our faith. My hope and prayer is that the Year of Discipleship will increase our confidence about doing that, and help us to find the words to share the love of God with those we meet in our daily lives, for our faith to be expressed

in lives of discipleship and service, enabling us to make a real difference to the life of our communities.

+Bishop Christopher



GROUP NEWS

For those who think they have the service rota off by heart – please note that the 3rd Sunday in March is Mothering Sunday and there will **not** be a Group Service that Sunday. There will, instead, be Communion Services at Messingham, Scotton and Northorpe and a Mothering Sunday lay-led service at Scotter.

Womens' World Day of Prayer is being held at 2.00pm in Scotter Methodist Chapel on Friday 1 March.

Lent Course

The remaining four sessions of this year's course centered round the film 'The King's Speech', will be:

- 1 Mar – Messingham Chapel
- 8 Mar – Scotton Village Hall
- 15 Mar – Laughton Chapel
- 22 Mar – Scotter Chapel

All meetings begin at 6.00pm with a short devotion and end at 7.30pm with drinks and a biscuit.

Holy Week

There are a number of additional services taking place in the week running up to Easter.

On Maundy Thursday we are holding a Group Passover Service (including a meal) - 6.00 for 6.30pm at the Eau Centre, Scotter. This is a Christianised version of the Jewish Passover meal that Jesus would have celebrated in the last meal he had with his disciples. Everyone is welcome but to help with catering please let Sue Keast or Joan Farleigh know.

On Good Friday there is a combined Anglican-Methodist service at Messingham Holy Trinity at 2.00pm and an hour's meditation - 'At the foot of the Cross' at 2.00pm in Scotton.

Scotter are holding a vigil from 6.00pm in St Peters – please drop in for as long as you like that evening.

Although Easter Sunday is a 'first' Sunday there will **not** be a Group Service but each church will have its own Easter Communion Service.



ST GENEWYS

Monthly Draw

February winners were:

1 st prize	£50	S Knox	(Entry 47)
2 nd prize	£30	E Whitworth	(Entry 52)
3 rd prize	£10	M Toyne	(Entry 214)

Next month the Draw will be on 13 April.

Mary

Church Notice Board

For many years we have been used to using the notice board made by George Brown and he has kept it up-to-date as incumbents and churchwardens have changed. Over the years the woodwork has gradually succumbed to the weather and the time came when the board needed to be renewed. The PCC has been very fortunate to enlist the help of another skilled craftsman in the village.

Dave Small has made us a new notice board. Have you noticed it?



It is slightly larger than the previous one giving us more space to display notices. Dave has incorporated the cross which Peter Stanton made for the old board and has designed a 'frame' for it which reflects the shape found in the windows of the church. If you are passing, have a good look at it. The dovetail joints at the corners are, I am told, a sign of the good workmanship. Thank you to Dave and we hope that the notice board will be a focus of interest for many years to come.

Bill



'KIDNEY WHIST DRIVE'

Scotton's annual whist drive in aid of the Sheffield Area Kidney Association is to be held on Wednesday 18 March at 7.30pm in Scotton Village Hall. As usual it will be accompanied by a raffle and any donations towards prizes for either the whist drive or the raffle would be most welcome at 22 Eastgate or you can contact me (☎762636) if you would like me to collect anything from you. Weekly whist drives continue to 29 April. *Mary*



SCOTTON AND DISTRICT WI

Thursday 12 March is the date for our WI's Annual Meeting, the occasion to look back over WI events of the past year, to elect the committee for 2015-6 and to look forward to the year ahead. 2015 is a doubly significant one for Scotton and District which this year will be celebrating its 80th birthday (in December) and also the 100th anniversary of the WI movement in Great Britain. Make sure you come along to the Village Hall on 12 March to hear what is planned. As always, visitors will be welcome at the meeting which starts at 7.30pm,

Mary



TOLETHORPE SHAKESPEARE THEATRE TRIP

This year our trip to Tolethorpe will be to see:

Romeo and Juliet on Friday 14 August

The cost per person is £25 and includes a tip for the driver.

The coach will pick up from Brigg, Scunthorpe, Scotter, Blyton and Gainsborough starting from Brigg at about 3.45pm. The pick up times will be confirmed nearer the date.

Let me know as soon as possible if you would like to come:

☎01724 763190 or ☎07769048866

susan_keast@hotmail.com

Sue Keast



EAU VALLEY SINGERS

Musical Director and Pianist Vacancies

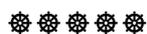
The Eau Valley Singers are a local, mixed voice community choir formed in the spring of 2011 who meet weekly in Scotton Village Hall on Monday evenings for two hours from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Currently approximately 20 members sing in 2-3 part harmony to a varied repertoire, in order to give concerts, sing for local groups and donate to local charities.

Sadly, both the Musical Director and Pianist will be leaving the area, so the choir is looking for two enthusiastic, dynamic and versatile individuals to provide musical direction and support.

A small remuneration is available, subject to negotiation and available funding.

If you are interested, please contact the Choir Chairman, Mrs Pat Mirkin for further information.

(☎ 01724 763501 or e-mail: mirkin.p@btinternet.com)



SCOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the meeting held on Tuesday 3 February the following was discussed:

Broadband provision - Council are awaiting further information

Invite from WI Planting of Centenary Rose – 21 February at 10.00am. Coffee will be served.

Salt Bins – The one on Dooks Close is to be replaced. Mr Williams has checked all the bins.

Resident Query re Gritting Routes – reply from Highways circulated. Only main access routes are to be gritted.

Street Lights - Pole number always needed to report a fault. Clerk to source map.

Horse Sign at Recreation Area. Clerk to source new sign to read: No Horses, No Motorised Vehicles.

Potholes – Clerk to report potholes on Church Lane.

Audit – Clerk to ask Mr Smith if he would carry out internal audit.

Room Rent – Cheque authorised £88.

Income and Expenditure in hand as at 3/02/2015 - £8603.42

The Village Hall report was given by Cllr M Clarke

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 3 March in The Village Hall at 6.00pm

Parishioners are always welcome to attend any meeting where there is time set aside for any queries or suggestions.

Di Millward, Clerk to the Council



NORTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

At the last meeting of the Council Lynn Dunk was confirmed as the new Clerk. A training course attended by the Chairman and Clerk gave advance notice regarding the introduction of a Transparency Code for Councils.

The Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment and Asset Register are all currently under review.

There is still a problem with dogs straying within the village. Unfortunately your local council no longer have the power to deal with this. However West Lindsey District Council do have a statutory duty to deal with the problem, which has been reported to them. If you need to report straying dogs please contact:

Tim Fenton, Community Officer
West Lindsey District Council
Guildhall
Marshalls Yard
Gainsborough
DN21 2NA
(☎ 01427 675182
email: Tim.Fenton@west-lindsey.gov.uk)

The next meeting of the Council will be on Wednesday 4 March at 6.30 pm in the Church, and all are very welcome to attend.

Lynn Dunk, Clerk to the Council



SCOTTON VILLAGE HALL

Are you a community minded resident?

Have you ever thought about becoming more involved in village life?

We especially need young and enthusiastic volunteers who can bring new ideas and look to the future development of the village hall and play park for the next generation of users.

There will soon be various opportunities for people to assist in the work of the village hall and its future, so if you are interested in helping in any way, please tell the current Treasurer, Malcolm Clarke (☎761237), Chairman, Mary Smith (☎762636), Secretary, Lynne Wetherall (☎762048) or speak to any of the following committee members:- Peter Jackson, Carol McWhirter, Pat Mirkin, Mark Schofield, Christine Sylvester, Dorothy Thomas, or Chrissie Wood.

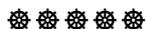


APOLOGY

In last month's issue of the Parish News, a vital few lines expressing thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the Christmas Whist Drive and Draw were inadvertently omitted and the report somehow stopped in mid sentence. Thank you to everyone who supported the event – by coming to play whist, by buying or selling Draw tickets or by donating prizes. £454.50 was raised for Village Hall funds and your help was much appreciated.

Mary

(Mea Culpa – Ed)



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SCOTTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE THURSDAY 26 MARCH 2015 AT 6.00PM IN SCOTTON VILLAGE HALL

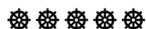
Public attendance is welcomed and encouraged, so do come along and listen if you can! An agenda will be placed on the notice board at the front of the village hall for information.

Littlewood Play Park

The new outdoor gym equipment was, at last, installed just before Christmas, and despite a few installation issues that now seem to be resolved, the equipment seems to be well used by all age groups, especially as the weather improves (many of you have realised that it is useful to take along a towel to dry the seats on dewy mornings).

Although the mats are a little unsightly for now, we are assured that they will soon become settled and grassed over so that they will be barely visible and will be able to be mowed over once the grass begins to grow through in the spring.

Lynn Wetherall, VHMC Secretary



Changes to Electoral Registers

Changes to electoral registration means each person must apply separately and register details individually. To make sure your vote counts, your name must be included in the electoral register. Under the new Individual Electoral Registration system, you now take individual responsibility for your own registration.

The quickest and easiest way to register is online: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

MARCH

1	2 nd Sunday of Lent	10.00 am	GROUP SERVICE, SCOTTON
8	3 rd Sunday of Lent	8.30 am 10.00 am	Communion, Northorpe Communion, Scotton
15	Mothering Sunday	8.30 am 10.00 am	Communion, Northorpe Communion, Scotton
22	5 th Sunday of Lent	8.30 am 10.00 am	Communion, Northorpe Communion, Scotton
29	Palm Sunday	10.00 am	GROUP SERVICE, NORTHORPE

APRIL

3	Good Friday	2.00 pm	'At the Foot of the Cross', Scotton
5	Easter Sunday	8.30 am 10.00 am	Communion, Northorpe Communion, Scotton

CHURCH CLEANING

The next cleaning day for **St Genewys** is on Saturday 4 April which will include decorating the church for Easter.

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

Mar 1/8	Mrs Summers (no flowers, Lent)
15/22	Mrs Ralph (no flowers, Lent)
Mar 29/April 5	Mrs Mosey/Mrs Stephenson