

WHICH WAY WILL YOU GO?

I am just about old enough to remember decimalisation - or perhaps I should say that I have only a faint recollection of what a shilling, farthing, guinea etc is! I am sure that many of you who read this will be quite the opposite and will have spent many years of your lives working with currency that is now no longer current and usable; Times change.

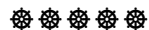
And we now face decisions about our future as a nation and whether we are 'part of Europe' or just 'a close friend'. In his programme on BBC Nick Robinson says: "Many voters feel baffled, dazed and angered by the confident, yet contradictory, assertions of the two sides in this debate. I tell them: "Sorry. No can do. I am not able to give you the answers you crave." There can be no facts about the future, only predictions. However, having said that, there **are** some facts when it comes to the past".

I am glad of that. I am glad that we can look to the past and learn the lessons of those who have gone before us. I am glad that we have traditions and a history that teaches us how to live life and make the most of it for future generations. I am also glad, and confident, that there are some truths that will never change and principles that we must always hold onto as dear and precious, unchanging and permanent. One of the most fundamental of these is best illustrated from The Bible:

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

I am not sure what will be the outcome of our referendum on 23 June. I do know that we and our children and grandchildren will live with the consequences of it for many years to come. But we can be assured that God will always be seeking our best interest, encouraging us to seek Him so that we will find 'our hope and our future'.

David



THE BISHOP OF GRANTHAM WRITES

Many of us will have experienced moments of awful isolation in our lives, or of panic, or of sheer joy. The range of situations, and of emotions, to which we can be exposed is huge. These things help to form the richness of human living. But in themselves they can sometimes be immensely difficult to handle.

Jesus' promise was to be with his friends. Although they experienced the crushing sadness of his death, and the huge sense of betrayal that most of them felt in terms of their own abandonment of him, they also experienced the joy of his resurrection and the happiness of new times spent with him. They would naturally have understood that his promise to 'be with them' meant that he would not physically leave them.

However, what Jesus meant when he said that they would not be left on their own was that the Holy Spirit would always be with them. It is the Spirit, the third Person of the Holy Trinity, that we celebrate during the month of May. Jesus is taken from us, body and all, but the Holy Spirit is poured out for us and on to us.

The Feast of the Holy Spirit is Pentecost. It happens at the end of Eastertide, and thus marks the very last transition that began weeks before when, on Ash Wednesday, we entered the wilderness in preparation for Holy Week and Eastertide to come.

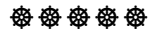
Coming 'at the end of things' Pentecost can sometimes seem to be almost an afterthought – a last gasp of celebration before the year turns fully green and 'normal time' resumes. I suggest that we should, however, try to see it as another moment of real transition, when, gifted with the Holy Spirit, God's people realise that they have all that they need in order to live their lives fully and without fear in the world.

The Holy Spirit is described in scripture as 'advocate' and 'guide'. He is the Person of the Trinity who is always there. No matter what our particular emotions may be in any moment, God is with us.

As we continue to grapple with population movement, with continuing unrest in so many parts of the world, and with the serious issue of the Referendum in our own country, to name but three things, I hope that we may draw strength, confidence and joy from the presence of the Spirit.

Our gracious God does equip us with all that we need to live our lives as disciples in the world today.

May God bless you this Pentecost and always,
Bishop Nicholas



ST GENEWYS

Monthly Draw

Winners in April were:

1 st prize	£50	E Schofield	(Entry 232)
2 nd prize	£20	P Bennett	(Entry 66)
3 rd prize	£10	K Bird	(Entry 129)

Next month's Draw will be made on 7 June.

Mary

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 15-21 MAY

Every news bulletin or newspaper carries some story about human suffering over and above what might be called the 'usual' list of murders, burglaries and traffic accidents. Maybe it is the effect of the latest act of terrorism – so far not in our own country; maybe it is of migrants camping in the rain and cold outside a razor-wired border crossing or reports of more drownings as inadequate and over-filled rubber dinghies capsize and sink in freezing seas; maybe it is the sight of eerily empty streets of bombed out towns re-taken from IS occupation; maybe it a disastrous flooding, earthquake or typhoon which makes the news. Perhaps these are happening so frequently that we become rather blasé when yet one more takes the headlines for a few days.

Once they have been superseded by the next headline, it does not mean that the original issue has gone away or the problem has been resolved. Doesn't any little problem that we might have here in our villages, in rural Lincolnshire, simply pale into insignificance in comparison with what so many others are having to contend?

In addition to these headline grabbing incidents - the problems of on-going terrorist occupation; weather related food problems; health issues related to polluted water sources; exploitation of the poor and landless by the rich and powerful; corrupt governments and self-centred dictators - continue in many areas of the world. Some of these worldwide issues can only really be affected by United Nations or governmental involvement. Alongside these major actors there is a plethora of charities, international and local, that respond both to sudden emergency and continuing relief work. Such a charity is Christian Aid.

Once again there will be a house-by-house village collection seeking donations in support of this charity. You may well support other charities - and thank you for that – but even so I would ask you to think very carefully about the needs of so many people around the world and how this charity seeks to alleviate those needs. Please put aside a pound or two (the cost of a Sunday paper) NOW, ready for when the familiar red envelope drops through your door and have it ready when the collector calls. If you currently pay income tax, please complete the gift aid declaration

on the envelope to allow Christian Aid to claim another 25p on every pound you donate – at no additional cost to you.

Bill

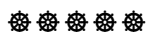


SCOTTON & DISTRICT WI

The new president, Chris Sylvester, welcomed 25 members and one visitor to the April meeting. The speaker for the evening, Cath Fordham, gave an illustrated talk about the Physic Garden at the Old Rectory in Epworth. We were told of its conception, planning and final completion in 2006. Local volunteers and businesses were very much involved with the planner and the local school played an important role in the concept of accessibility for all. The philosophy behind the garden was based on the writings and book of John Wesley where he advocated his ideas for a healthy lifestyle using herbs in medicines to assist well being. The garden continues to thrive and expand with many more types of trees and plants for visitors to enjoy.

The next meeting, on 12 May at 7.30pm, is an Open Evening with invited guests from other local WIs and any visitors will be most welcome. The speaker, Madi Grout, a curator of period costumes at Normanby Hall, will give a talk on 'Costume through the Ages' Come along and enjoy.

Karin



SCOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

The **Annual Assembly** was held on Tuesday 6 April. The meeting, while hosted by the Chairman of the Parish Council, not a Council meeting. Prior to the formation of Local Councils, all Parishes were responsible for their own area and in fact 'Beat the Boundaries' once a year. They also held a yearly Assembly which, when Parish Councils were formulated, was deemed by law to continue and to be hosted by the Parish Council. As then, this meeting is when all the organisations give a report on their past year's work.

Reports received in 2016 included:

- Friendship Club given by Mary Smith.
- Whist club given by Mary Smith.
- Village Hall given by Chris Musgrave.
- Aikido given by Mark Schofield.
- Bowls club submitted by Peter Jackson.
- Goldstar Motor Cycle club given by Malcolm Clarke.
- Eau Valley Singers given by Christine Musgrave.
- Art Group given by Chris Wood.
- Luddington Trust submitted by Revd D Langford.

Other business

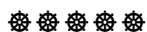
Parishioner requests - Bus Shelter; Litter; Christmas Tree; Defibrillator.

Best Kept Village - despite getting excellent marks last year, the village once again failed to gain an award. The Parish Council decided not to enter for the year 2016 as no constructive criticism was given and the Parish Council do not know how further achievement can be made.

Election of Allotment Wardens

For a full record see the Telephone Kiosk, Council Noticeboard or the Parish Council website:

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



WEST LINDSEY OPEN CHURCHES FESTIVAL 2016

The 2016 Annual Open Churches Festival will be on 7/8 + 14/15 May. Over 80 churches in West Lindsey will be open to visitors and our churches in Scotton and Northorpe will be involved on the second weekend. For more details of the festival, check the excellent new website:

<http://www.churchesfestival/info>

St Genewys Church will be open on Saturday 9.00am-5.00pm and on Sunday 11.00am-4.00pm.

The Musical Worship Group will play on Saturday afternoon between 3.00 and 4.00pm. 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.

If you missed out last time, **guided visits to our tower roof** will again be available if weather conditions allow. To echo those immortal words: 'Come up and see me sometime!' The proceeds from these visits will go towards the cost of the re-roofing.

We are working together with the Scotton Art Group to have an Arts and Crafts display featuring the work of local residents. Why not 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

St. John the Baptist Church in Northorpe will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm on both Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 May. Light refreshments will be served and the organ will be available to be played by members of the public.

If any local resident could spare an hour or so over the two days to help with manning the church please contact Lynn Dunk ☎761488 or email mrslynnjunk@yahoo.com. Any help would be greatly appreciated.



TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

Please note it will be necessary to impose a temporary restriction to all vehicular traffic on Church Lane near to Holly Tree Lodge Care Home from 10 – 12 May to allow essential maintenance by Anglian Water.

D Clark

for Executive Director, (Communities)



BEST POSITION FOR EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Three ministers sat discussing the best positions for prayer while a telephone repairman worked nearby.

"Kneeling is definitely best," claimed one minister.

"No," another contended, "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven."

"You're both wrong," the third insisted, "the most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor."

The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Sorry," he blurted out, "but the best praying I ever did was hanging upside down from a telephone pole."



SCOTTON FETE 2016

Hello everyone, it is that time of year again when preparation for the village fete begins.

For those who do not know the date of the great event it is

SATURDAY 11 JUNE 2.00pm – 5.00pm

It is to be held as usual in the village hall and on the play park.

We are looking for helpers to volunteer on the day to look after stalls, games and refreshments. It doesn't mean the whole time, just whatever you can spare or would like – anything is much appreciated.

The raffle is being organised by Emma Schofield and Sharon Markham, and tickets will be on sale in the next few weeks. If you would like some to sell please contact Emma:

☎07833 925005

Can we also ask for donations of cake for the cake stall and refreshments and also prize donations for the raffle and tombola. Again everything given is much appreciated and as you know all proceeds from the fete go towards the upkeep and refurbishment of the hall and playpark.

If you need more information or would like to volunteer or a place to leave donations please call

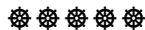
Mark Schofield ☎ 07795 481285

Emma Schofield ☎ 07833 925005

Also the Scarecrows are coming back to Scotton



If you would like to take part in the Scarecrow competition please have yours on view outside your house/garden from **Sunday 5 June**. Judging will be on **Thursday 9 June** with the announcement of the winner during the fête. Any scarecrows are welcome (no set theme), so let the ideas flow



LIVING HISTORY

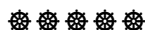
A few residents intend to form a Living History Group. A wonderful history book exists which was produced some years ago. This is now part of history as, in a short while, will we all. We would like to record the people living here now, as well as using the many resources available on the Net, to build up a snapshot of Scotton through the ages until the present time.

We don't know yet whether this group will meet in an afternoon or an evening - or a mixture of both. What we do know is that Scotton, like everywhere is evolving. The landscape is different to a hundred years ago or even 20 years ago as open spaces are filled with housing and farmers use different machinery and grow different crops. The group intend to record the changes as they have happened.

We would love to use any material which would be made available to us and we would very much like older residents to allow us to record their memories. We welcome any interested parties - researchers or photographers, any age, any gender. We feel this is an ideal year to produce a book as it is the Queen's 90th birthday.

We intend to form the group in September after the long and hot summer we are going to get and will have a prior meeting at the end of August to discuss the how where and when.

Please contact Di Millward on 01724763032 or email bob_dimillward@yahoo.co.uk for more information.



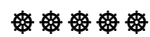
MAY

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

8	7 th Sunday of Easter	8.30 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Holy Communion, Scotton
15	Whit Sunday	8.30 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Holy Communion, Scotton
22	Trinity Sunday	8.30 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Morning Worship, Scotton
29	1 st Sunday after Trinity	10.00 am	GROUP SERVICE NORTHORPE

JUNE

5	2 nd Sunday after Trinity	10.00 am	GROUP SERVICE SCOTTER
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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

May 1	Mrs Summers
May 8/15	Mrs Ralph
May 22/29	Mr Mosey/Ms Stephenson
June 5	Mrs Dunk