

## RELIABLE OR NOT?

Well, what a December we have had! What December you may have thought! With warmer temperatures than in some late springs, you might have been forgiven for being a hedgehog or tortoise waking up early, popping your head out of your hibernation and thinking what on earth is going on! The weather is quite unreliable at the moment!

Not that it's only the weather - I've just got through my 3rd kettle in three years! It seems like nothing we buy these days is made to last, and unreliability is built into our consumer society, so that in ever shorter cycles we are required to purchase yet again another white good or electrical item!

Fidelity – faithfulness – reliability - certainty. Not qualities that, despite the many great advances in our 21st century world, we can be confident of.

And yet, one thing that we can rely upon as we progress into 2016 and all that it holds for us, is God's faithfulness to us. He is utterly reliable and certain. He will be there for us any and every time that we need Him. No one year consumer guarantee required here!!

The writer of the Psalms, some 2700 years ago said this:

"Give thanks to God and praise Him. The Lord is good; his love is eternal and his faithfulness lasts forever" (Psalm 100 v5).

Whatever our experience of life - work, people, family, friends - some faithful and reliable and some not - one thing we can be sure of in the year ahead is that, whatever life may bring to us, God is faithful in His love towards us and we can be ABSOLUTELY sure that He will be there for us, with His love ever toward us and His faithfulness a rock on which we can rely.

*David*



## THE BISHOP OF GRANTHAM WRITES

Dear Friends,

This letter comes with my prayers for you and for us all as this month we enter the season of Lent and begin to look towards Easter. This year I can genuinely say that Lent has come very quickly, because Easter 2016 is almost as early as it is possible for it to be.

I hope that in the 2016 rush into Lent we don't overlook the very special time that comes at the end of Epiphany and just before Ash Wednesday. The day in the Church's year that marks this time is the Presentation of Christ, February 2nd. On this day, we remember Jesus' parents taking him to the Temple and being greeted by Simeon and Anna. Old meet young in a holy place and St Luke records what happens in words of great beauty.

I invite you to find this passage and to read it for yourselves: Luke 2.22–40. Truth is spoken and recognised and there is a palpable sense of wonder and of joy. Old people's faithfulness is validated, as is the courage of Jesus' parents and his own coming role in the salvation of the world.

I particularly like the prayer that ends the service in church on the Feast of the Presentation. The minister makes three statements: 'We stand near the place of new

birth'; 'We turn from the crib to the cross'; 'We go to carry his light'; to each of which the people reply: 'Let us shine with the light of your love'.

To me, this prayer draws us into the turn that happens as we look away from the Christmas crib and towards the Easter cross. As Christ lived and died for us, so our life is now illuminated by his life – we who follow him radiate the light of his love in the world. We are no longer onlookers but participants with a purpose.

I am very much looking forward to my first Lent and Easter in the Diocese of Lincoln. I have been humbled and moved by people's kindness as I have taken up my responsibilities as Bishop of Grantham, and I am savouring the prospect of visiting parishes, schools and other organisations just as quickly as I can.

But in looking forward, I don't want, as it were, simply to get 'caught up in the rush' and forget what it is that I am doing and why I am doing it. And I very much hope that we might all be able to resist similar pressure whenever it occurs for each of us. We always need to remember that we are people with a purpose, the loved children of God, illuminated with the light of Christ, and not just those who rush from one thing to another, aimlessly.

My particular responsibility in the diocese is for ministry. This is a big and slippery word, and one that can regrettably sometimes be used rather bluntly. As I understand it, however, all Christians share in the ministry of the Church, by virtue of who we are, baptised followers of Jesus. In our daily lives, at work, with those whom we love, in our leisure, we are His people. If we can see this, and acknowledge the light that we all carry, then we will indeed be the disciples that Jesus would have us be.

May God bless you this month as we turn from the crib to the cross, shining with the light of Christ in the world.

+ Nicholas



## **DIOCESAN NEWS**



The next Archdeacon of Lincoln

The Bishop of Lincoln is pleased to announce the appointment of the Revd Canon Gavin Kirk, Precentor of Lincoln, as Archdeacon of Lincoln.



## **ST GENEWYS**

### **Monthly Draw**

Winners in December were:

1 <sup>st</sup> prize	£50	D Morrison	(Entry 114)
2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	£20	A C Hickling	(Entry 161)
3 <sup>rd</sup> prize	£10	E L Saxby	(Entry 153)

Prizewinners in January were:

1 <sup>st</sup> prize	£50	P Fowles	(Entry 152)
2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	£20	M S Ferguson	(Entry 205)
3 <sup>rd</sup> prize	£10	S Chafer	(Entry 55)

Next month's Draw will be made on 2 February`.

*Mary*

**Thank you to:**

- all those who gave a present for children in Scunthorpe who are helped by Social Services.
- all those who came to the Christingle and donated to the Children's Society.
- the valiant few who turned out to sing carols round the village. Unfortunately the numbers on both nights were too few to make it a viable operation. We'll try again next year.

*Bill*



**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST**

**From the records**

The funeral of Nancy Mosey took place on Saturday 16 January. Our thoughts and prayers are for Frank, Lizzie and the family.

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It did, however, have its funny side – Murphy's Law?



**WHIST DRIVES**

Thanks go to everyone who helped in any way with the Christmas Whist Drive and Draw; this raised over £550 for Scotton Village Hall funds, a record amount. Weekly whist drives continue in the Village Hall each Wednesday evening at 7.30 pm.

Each year there is one evening when the proceeds from the whist drive go to the Sheffield Area Kidney Association rather than to Village Hall funds. The “Kidney Whist Drives” were started by a former regular whist player who had kidney disease and this year’s will be on Wednesday 16 March. Once again, your support for this – donations, or prizes for a raffle, would be much appreciated. Thank you.

*Mary*



## **SCOTTON AND DISTRICT WI**

The guest speaker at this month’s meeting on 1 February will be talking about something of importance for everyone “Security Home and Outdoors”. The competition that evening is “Limerick for a Burglar” – an intriguing title. As always, visitors will be welcome at the meeting which starts at 7.30pm in Scotton Village Hall.

Don’t miss the Coffee Morning in aid of WI funds to be held on Saturday 6 February in Scotton Village Hall from 10am to midday. Entrance is £1.50, and as well as an opportunity to buy homemade cakes and preserves there will be a raffle and a tombola – and of course a chance to sit and chat while enjoying your coffee.

*Mary*



## **VILLAGE HALL**

### **Quiz Night**

The Village Hall Committee would like to say thank you to all who attended the Quiz night on Friday 4 December. The evening was a great success and a grand total of £201.00 was raised towards the new village hall windows.

A special thank you must be said to the WI members who donated a hamper for the raffle and mince pies for the break.

Thanks also go to all those who helped on the night with setting up the hall and serving the refreshments.

From donations and other events that have been held we have now reached an amazing total of £989.01 towards the window fund.

More fun events will be held in the New Year. Details will be in future Parish Magazines.

*Chrissie Wood*

### **The Eau Valley Singers**

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee I would just like to thank all the members of the choir for their very generous gift – thank you

*Mark Schofield (Chair)*



## **VALENTINE COFFEE MORNING**

### **SCOTTON VILLAGE HALL**

Scotton and District cordially invite you to

Valentine Coffee Morning

Saturday 6th February, 10.00am - 12noon.

Along with coffee/tea and famous WI cakes, there will be various stalls including a bottle stall, a cake stall, a bran tub and a Raffle  
Please do come along you are assured of a warm welcome.



## SCOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Council held their first meeting of 2016 in the Village Hall on 5 January.

The subject of cars parked on pavements was once again raised. Several residents are wheelchair users and some have walking frames. It is increasingly difficult and dangerous for them to get about the village because of having to leave the pavement and negotiate kerbs. The Council have contacted the police and asked for them to visit. Please could all residents park considerately.

District Councillor Pat Mewis explained an initiative from WLDC whereby all villages are asked to register their heritage areas

and items of interest. This information will be collated to form the basis of a tourism drive by West Lindsey.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 2 February in the Village Hall at 6.00pm. Everyone very welcome to attend.

*Di Millard, Clerk to thje Council*

Subsequent to the meeting the Parish Council have been in contact with the police who are now patrolling the area with regard to badly parked cars. The police have issued this statement:

**"despite not wanting to issue fixed penalty notices to badly parked motor vehicles, when pedestrians have to take to the roadway in order to get by, we will act robustly."**



## WHERE WAS IT IN THE VILLAGE?

It was the roof end of the old school on Eastgate.



## THE TEMPEST

This year we shall be visiting the Stamford Shakespeare theatre at Tolethorpe on Friday 26 August to see Shakespeare's The Tempest. If you would like to join us the cost per person is £25. The coach will pick up from outside the telephone box on Westgate at approximately 4.15pm and return around midnight. If you are interested please contact me on ☎763190 or 07769048866 or [susan\\_keast@hotmail.com](mailto:susan_keast@hotmail.com).



## THE EAU VALLEY SINGERS

We spent pre-Christmas bringing some cheer to local communities. Singing carols and other favourite Christmas songs in local pubs at Scotter, Scotton and Susworth. Thanks to the generosity of the patrons more than £360 was raised over the period. The money will be used to help purchase replacement windows for Scotton village hall.

A presentation was made to the village hall committee at the Three Horseshoes in Scotton after the Choir had entertained the locals on 10 December.

The Eau Valley Singers have donated over £800 to local good causes during 2015 .

For details of the choir see our web page; [www.eauvalleysingers.com](http://www.eauvalleysingers.com) or look us up on Facebook.



### **I AM A SEENAGER -- a Senior teenager**

I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later.

I don't have to go to school or work.

I get an allowance every month.

I have my own pad.

I don't have a curfew.

I have a driver's license and my own car.

I have an ID that gets me into bars and the wine store - I like the wine store best, and I don't have acne.

The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant, they aren't scared of anything -- they have been blessed to live this long, so why be scared

Life is good! Also, you will feel much more intelligent after reading this.

Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. People do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains, scientists believe this also makes you hard of hearing as it puts pressure on your inner ear. Much like a computer struggles as the hard drive gets full, so too, do humans take longer to access information when their brains are full.

Researchers say this slowing down process is not the same as cognitive decline. The human brain works slower in old age, said Dr. Michael Ramscar, but only because we have stored more information over time. The brains of older people do not get weak. On the contrary, they simply know more.

Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is NOT a memory problem, it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.



### **FEB**

7	Sunday next before Lent	10.00 am	<b>GROUP SERVICE, SCOTTON</b>
14	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	8.30 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Holy Communion, Scotton
21	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent	8.30 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Holy Communion, Scotton

28 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of 8.30 am Holy Communion, Northorpe  
Lent 10.00 am Morning Worship, Scotton

## **MARCH**

6 Mothering 10.00 am **GROUP SERVICE, SCOTTER**  
Sunday



## **CHURCH CLEANING – SCOTTON**

The next church cleaning session will be on Saturday 6 February at 10.00am. Please come along and help if you can. The more people the quicker it gets done! Many thanks,  
Sue



## **MRS MALAPROP LIVES**

I've got nobules on my fingers because of arthritis.

We ate some toasted beagles.

We went on the ventricular railway.

She has absolutely no insistency.

I could try some homotherapy.

It made not one eye hooter of difference.

The bride and groom were at the head of the progression

It's best to go with Cunard or P&O, not one of the nom de plume ones.

We had a nice little tart a tit

I'm used to sorting out my boiler, I'm quite averse to it.