

FROM THE EDITOR

Although it is still only October, Christmas is fast approaching and you will find some early warnings in this month's magazine with more detail next month. It may sound trite but it is worth remembering that Christmas does not begin with shopping, parties or lunches, it begins with **Christ**. Without Christ the celebrations at the end of December would simply be a mid-winter festival; there are some who would urge that this became the practice.

The media would have us believe that church attendances are falling, marriages are decreasing and that divorce is rising. This may indeed be statistically true but it should not be interpreted as automatically meaning that people were no longer interested in spiritual things. Humankind has always, and still does, recognised that there is something greater than themselves and are continually searching for that something which gives a meaning to life and living. They have, and still do, put their faith in a whole range of things that they worship, or to which they pray, in an attempt to ward off 'bad' things and seek 'good' things. These range from stones, through man-made statues to invisible beings. Many believe that the things they worship require gifts, dedicated service or sacrifice.

Most peoples on earth have some form of creation belief – that is they believe that the world they know was created and is run by the thing or 'god' which they worship. Two thousand years ago a man, who proved to be a great healer of the sick (and a worker of miracles), claimed to be the son of the fundamental creator God of our universe. He told people about God and the plans He had always had for his creation. He urged us to return allegiance to God, to be reconciled to God. The people of the day crucified him – as he said they would – but he was resurrected (not resuscitated) - as he said he would be - and for the last two thousand years people have found that when they turn to him they find the inner peace, great strength and meaning for their lives.

Whatever your feeling is about organised religion you need to come to a decision about Jesus, his life and what he said. He was the first gift to the world in whose memory we give gifts. That is where Christmas starts – with Jesus, the Christ or anointed of God.

Bill



THE BISHOP WRITES

What a fantastic summer we've had! The wonderful warm weather and those big, blue skies seemed to go on for ever.

However, there's no doubt now that things have changed and the season is turning. As I write, the bright blue sky has given way to grey as the rain pitter-patters on my window. Warm woollies and raincoats have been dusted down, and all around us the glorious green of summer is giving way to the browns, reds and yellows of autumn.

While I enjoy the summer, I also enjoy this time of year. Those changing colours which are all around us, the fruit on the trees and those fallen leaves crunching underfoot, are a reminder that human life is marked by change as much as it is by constancy. And as the light summer days give way to the darkness of winter that is coming, we are reminded, too, of our own mortality and the transient nature of this earthly life.

Our church calendar is a big help here, since at the beginning of this month we keep the festivals of All Saints and All Souls.

All Saints is a day when, as a church, we remember that great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us; the saints whose lives are an example and an inspiration to us as we try to live out our vocation as disciples of Jesus Christ in our time, just as they did in theirs.

All Souls - or as it is also known, the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed – is a time for us to remember our loved ones before God, giving thanks for all that they have given to us, and commending them to his unfailing love.

If there are services for these festivals taking place in a church near you, I encourage you to go along and take a full part in them. Both of them are an opportunity to examine our own Christian lives in the light of those who have gone before us, who have loved us and inspired us, and to dedicate ourselves once again to follow Jesus in the service of others and of God.

Bishop Christopher



ST GENEWYS

Monthly Draw

Winners in the September Draw were:

1 st prize	£50	D Thomas	(Entry 160)
2 nd prize	£20	D Crick	(Entry 211)
3 rd prize	£10	D & K Somers	(Entry 108)

Next month's Draw will be made on 5 November.

In the very first Draw back in November 1995 there were 236 entries; this number very soon rose to 245 and remained around about the same level for a good many years with the Draw making about £1800 a year. Now there are 185 entries raising about £1250 a year. Only a very few people have withdrawn their entry, but inevitably over the years a number of people have left the village or have died. There have fortunately been a number of new entrants as well but not enough to match those lost.

As you know, all the proceeds go to the St Genewys' Church Fabric Fund and go towards the cost of maintaining the church building in good order. New entrants are needed to halt the downward trend in numbers and I appeal to anyone who as yet does not have an entry to consider joining the Draw and so help keep our lovely parish church, by far the oldest building in the village, in sound condition. An entry costs just £1 a month - you can have as many as you like, and each month you stand a chance of winning £50, £20 or £10. Please get in touch with me at 22 Eastgate (☎ 762636) or any member of the PCC if you would like to take part in the Draw.

Mary

Christingle & Christmas Tree Festival

This year the two events are to be held on the same day:

Sunday 22 December.

The proceedings will begin at 2.30pm, with the switching on of the lights, music and the serving of refreshments.

The Christingle service will begin at 4.00pm. All are welcome

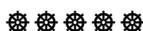
On Saturday 21 December at 10.00am we invite everyone to come along and take part in the preparation for the Tree Festival and Christingle. We will be trimming trees, decorating windows and making the Christingles. So come along children - bring your grownups and help make the church ready for Christmas.

Karin

Book exchange

The PCC is going to set up a book exchange in church. The object is to recycle books so that others can enjoy a good read. If you have books that you have finished with we invite you to bring them into church and put them on the shelves – the church is open every day from about 9.00am until dark. If you would like to browse these books and find one that interests you, please take it and leave a small donation (50p?). When you have finished the book feel free to keep it or return it to the shelves that others may read it. Any money raised will go to the fabric fund.

Bill



SCOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the meeting held on 1st October the following items were discussed:

Local History

Scotton resident Sally Siddell attended the meeting and explained that she had been given a copy of the Scotton History Book. For her own enjoyment she had started looking at ways to add to the content particularly as the book was now 30 years old. The Parish Council fully supported Sally's interest and willingness to update the book and it was agreed that it would be best if she could contact some of the original History Group members to find out their views. The Council also supported the idea that another History Group could be formed especially in the light of next year being the 100th Anniversary of the First World War.

Anyone interested in forming a local history group should contact: Sally whose email is: sally.siddell@gmail.com

Best Kept Village

The Council were not informed when judging had taken place and had received no comments or feedback. Other Parish Councils have experienced the same and CPRE are to hold a meeting with Parish Clerks to discuss the way this competition has been run this year. The Community Council are no longer involved and this has caused the problems.

Highways

All problems reported to Highways have been rectified. Mr Williams is to be thanked for cutting back a tree which was obscuring the streetlight.

Village Hall Report –by Cllr Clarke and Cllr Wetherall

The Village Hall survey has been discussed. The Committee are in agreement that they will carry out short term requests without losing sight of the long term plans.

The tennis court is now fit for play; basketball hoops, 5 aside goal posts for the field and outdoor exercise equipment are being priced. An energy survey is to be carried out on the hall and some repainting will be done. The Committee have taken on board all the replies received and have lots of decisions to make.

Luddington Trust

Two people have applied to continue acting as Trustees. The appointments will be formalised at the Parish Council meeting on 12th November 2013.

Carers' Group

Cllr Mirkin has put posters up inviting people to join a Carers Group but so far there has been little interest.

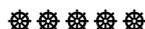
The meeting closed at 7.04pm and the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th November at 6pm.

SCOTTON AND DISTRICT WI

"Women in Agriculture" is the title of the talk to be given on Thursday 14 November to the WI meeting in Scotton Village Hall. The meeting starts at 7.30pm and visitors are always welcome, so do come along if you want to find out more about women in agriculture. The competition is "A Country Scene -in any medium".

Members are reminded that this will be the last chance to sign up for the WI Christmas lunch on Friday 13 December.

Mary



CHRISTMAS WHIST DRIVE

This year's Christmas Whist Drive and its accompanying Christmas Draw will take place in Scotton Village Hall on Wednesday 11 December at 7.30pm. Entrance will be £2. Tickets for the Draw will shortly be on sale at £1 for a book of four. All proceeds from the evening go towards Village Hall Funds for the upkeep of the hall. Any contributions or donations towards the prizes would be much appreciated, especially as I know there are many demands on your generosity as Christmas comes near.

Mary



SCOTTON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The club meets most Thursday afternoons from 2pm - 4pm in Scotton Village Hall for a game of bingo, a cup of tea and a chat, a game of dominoes and a small raffle. There are not many of us at the moment, so if you are free on a Thursday afternoon and would like a spot of company, do come along and give us a try. You will be most welcome. There is no age limit - upper or lower - and all we pay is just £1 a week each to cover the cost of expenses.

Mary



NORTHORPE VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

I would just like to thank every one who took the trouble to fill in the questionnaire I posted through your doors. We have had some very good feedback with many ideas of what some people would like to use the Hall for. They include yoga, quiz nights, food theme nights, flower arranging, Zumba slimming classes, keep fit and many more. We did a knock-on-doors survey in July just to see what you wanted to happen to the hall, as it was under threat of being sold as the PCC could no longer afford to keep it going when their insurers raised the liability insurance to over £900. The outcome was that the majority of you didn't want to lose the facility and was happy for the Parish Council to take it over.

Things didn't get moving very quickly during the summer due to holidays. However, I would just like to let you know that we are pursuing it; there is just a lot of red-tape to go through. In case any one is concerned about the insurance and wondering if you will end up paying through your council rates let me assure you this will not happen. We have checked with the Parish Council's

insurance company and we would be covered for the hall at no extra cost. The building insurance we would look for would be the cheapest price for the best cover. The building is currently insured.

If all goes well we will be having a Christmas party for the children in the village, we had planned a barbecue but not being able to use the hall for toilets etc it had to be postponed, so the money will be spent on the party instead. I have also been approached to have a Christmas bazaar, so fingers crossed.

Brenda Dunk, Parish Council Chairman



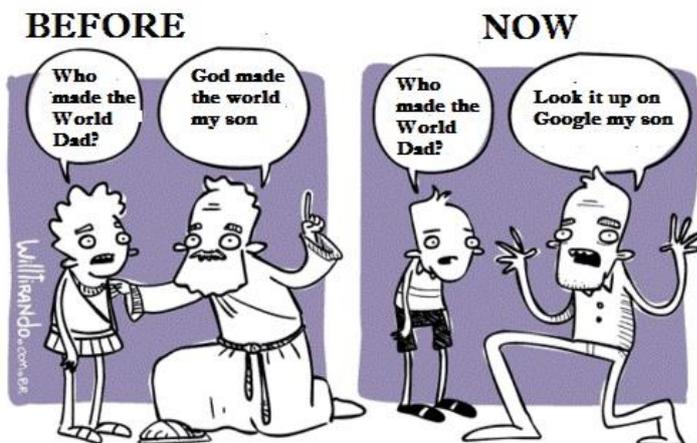
TOY APPEAL



Each year we collect Christmas presents for needy children. The Social Services then distribute these to children in Scunthorpe. This year is no exception and anyone who would like to donate a present for a needy child can either leave the present just inside the church or inside my porch at 4 Crapple Lane any time between now and **Sunday 8th December**. They will then be delivered to Social Services in Scunthorpe the following Monday morning (11th). **NEW** toys or gifts should be wrapped and clearly labelled whether for a boy or girl, and the age of the child it would be most suitable for. **Nearly new** toys should be left unwrapped. These will go to the Crosby Community Centre.

When you are next out shopping and you see a small gift that you think a child might enjoy playing with – crayons, crayoning book, toy car etc, why not pop it into your basket and make a needy child happy this Christmas? Many thanks.

Sue Keast



SERVICES

NOVEMBER

3	All Saints	10.00am 4.00pm	GROUP SERVICE SCOTTON GROUP ALL SOULS SERVICE MESSINGHAM
10	Remembrance Sunday	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Holy Communion, Scotton
17	2 nd Sunday before Advent	8.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Morning Worship, Scotton

24 Sunday next 8.30am Holy Communion, Northorpe
before Advent 10.00am Holy Communion, Scotton

DECEMBER

1 1st Sunday 10.00am **GROUP SERVICE**
of Advent **MESSINGHAM**
4.00pm **GROUP ADVENT CAROLS**
NORTHORPE



CHURCH CLEANING

The next cleaning day for **St Genewys** is on Saturday 9 November at 10.00 am.

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

Nov 3 Mrs Summers
Nov 10 Mrs Eminson
Nov 17/24 Mrs Ralph

