

FROM THE EDITOR

Following holidays, the magazine should now be getting back to the normal once a month. I am sorry if the previous dual-month magazines have been a problem.



THINGS ARE CHANGING – don't get caught out

As the churches in the South Manlake Group look to the future and plan their way forward together, we are changing the pattern of services across the Group. Importantly, each parish continues to be the local focus for the work of being church in the area but this needs to be balanced with a recognition that each parish is also a member of a Group. We will therefore worship, as a Group, on the first Sunday of every month. The Group service will rotate between Scotter, Scotton and Messingham and will always be at 10.00am. We hope that local congregations will be willing to go to another church on this Sunday and we will organise transport so that everyone will be able to do so. Please contact your churchwarden or PCC member if you would like a lift. We start, in April, at Scotter.

On the other Sundays in the month, Northorpe will have its 8.30am Service and Scotton, its 10.00am Service. The morning worship in Scotton, led by the Local Ministry team, will move to the third Sunday in the month. On the very occasional fifth Sunday in the month each church in the Group will 'do its own thing', although this initially is likely to be a Communion service.

We hope that the Group Service will become a vibrant time of worship and an opportunity to join and share with others across our group, on a regular basis.

Bill

THE BISHOP WRITES

These three words - 'what is truth?' – are famously uttered by Pontius Pilate when Jesus stands before him after being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. Pilate questions Jesus, and by the end of the conversation Jesus' fate of being condemned to death on the cross is more or less sealed.

Pilate's question has echoed down the centuries: 'what is truth?' Pilate recognised that 'truth' is not only a relative term, it's also ambiguous. Science and mathematics can seem to pin it down in an objective way, but that will only ever be part of the story. The complexity of human life is such that it can never be reduced to mere facts and figures.

Life is not clear cut and simple, and neither are the choices we all have to make as we live it. Those choices are affected by many things – where we are, who we are with, our circumstances and those of the people around us, and so on.

Many of us still struggle with this; it's tempting to think that it would be easier to be told what to think, to take refuge in absolutes. In reality, we know that life isn't like that. That's part of the challenge and the joy and the pain of being human. That means we have to take the time to ask questions, to form our own opinions and views, and then to exercise choice and judgement in the way we live our lives. When we think about truth as it relates to how we are with each other, how we interact with each other, there will always be more than one way to look at things.

As we make our way through the season of Lent, we are brought face to face with many truths: the truth of our own lives, if we are honest enough to examine them and hold them up to the light of God's love; the truth of our broken world, longing for the hope of divine healing and reconciliation; the truth of the depth of God's love for us, shown in the death of Jesus on the cross; the truth that out of despair, God's gift of new life is offered to us all in the promise and the joy of Easter Day. These are the truths to which Jesus came to testify. They are the same truths that you and I are called to proclaim as his disciples.

+Christopher Lincoln:



ST GENEWYS

Monthly Draw

The most recent winners were:

February

1 st prize	£50	R Connole	(Entry117)
2 nd prize	£20	J Tear	(Entry231)
3 rd Prize	£10	W Keast	(Entry 151)

March

1 st prize	£50	A M S Smith	(Entry 123)
2 nd prize	£20	R Walker	(Entry 225)
3 rd prize	£10	P Johns	(Entry 21)

The next Draw will be on 2 April.

Mary

Church Works

Many will know that last July we suffered a vandalism attack which damaged three windows – including a stained glass window in the south aisle. After prolonged procedures we eventual gained the appropriate permissions and all three windows have been repaired. Why not pop in and see the completed work – our restorer has done an excellent job! As a prudent precaution we are seeking permission to protect all our stained glass heritage by erecting mesh window guards.

By the time that you are reading this the work may well be finished and the outcome will be apparent but if it is not, we are lowering the cill to the gate to make disabled access easier. Lowering this level means that the sloping of paths to the doors needs changing. All the tarmac surfaces leading to, and around, the doors will have proper underlying foundations (currently the tarmac is laid directly on the soil) and will, hopefully, have a long life.

It is thanks to the generous, regular giving of many parishioners and the building up of the fabric fund through the monthly draw that we have the resources to be able to undertake this necessary work of maintaining and improving the heritage of which we are the current custodians. If any reader feels moved to make a regular gift-aided donation to the church then please contact me; and if any reader would like participate in the draw or increase their holding of 'numbers' then please contact Mary Smith or a churchwarden.

Bill



ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

The PCCs in Scotton and Northorpe will be holding their annual meetings this month. All residents in each of the villages are invited to attend but only those on the Church Electoral Roll may vote. This year is the time to completely renew this list so please contact your churchwarden or a member of the PCC to ensure that you complete the appropriate application form. At the Annual Meeting the PCC presents its annual accounts and the record of its stewardship of the church with which it is entrusted. At the meeting the churchwardens are elected for the coming year, as are the members of the PCC. This is an opportunity for you to have your say and to cast your vote. Do not worry that if you come to the meeting you will find yourself elected for 'showing interest' – nominations for all positions will have already been received. Do come along and share in the meeting.

Northorpe	Wednesday 10 April in the Church at 7.00pm
Scotton	Sunday 21 April in the Church at 11.15am

Both annual meetings will be followed by a short meeting of the newly elected PCC.

Bill



IN TRAINING

Not too long ago a large seminar was held for ministers in training. Among the speakers were many well known motivational speakers. One such boldly approached the pulpit and, gathering the entire crowd's attention, said, "The best years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman that wasn't my wife!"

The crowd was shocked! He followed up by saying, "And that woman was my mother!" - The crowd burst into laughter and he gave his speech which went over well.

About a week later one of the ministers who had attended the seminar decided to use that joke in his sermon. As he shyly approached the pulpit one sunny Sunday, he tried to rehearse the joke in his head. It seemed a bit foggy to him this morning. Getting to the microphone he said loudly, "The greatest years of my life were spent in the arms of another woman that was not my wife!"

His congregation sat shocked. After standing there for almost 10 seconds trying to recall the second half of the joke, the pastor finally blurted out "...and I can't remember who she was!"



WEATHER AFFECTS EVERYONE

Eustace Njeru, a farmer, lives in Mbeere South, Kenya, in an area where the climate is dry and unforgiving.

The difficult weather conditions mean his family often do not have enough to feed themselves; during dry periods, they just eat enough to stay alive.

Eustace is frustrated by the lack of information and training that holds him back from feeding his family.

Recalling their most recent experience of severe food shortages, he says: 'I was feeling hungry in my stomach and at the same time troubled in my heart as I knew there wasn't enough to eat. 'There's not enough rainfall. When you prepare for the rains they don't come, and then when they do, they come when you're not prepared, so the harvest is poor'.'

SALI (Sustainable Agricultural Livelihood Initiative), a Christian Aid partner, has just expanded into this area and Eustace has joined them.

SALI provide SMS texts to farmers with the local weather forecast, allowing them to plan and make decisions about their crops.

They also provide training and advice about how farmers can adapt their farming to avoid the disastrous effects of coping with little rainfall for their harvest. The benefits of SALI have already been seen in other parts of Mbeere, Kenya.

The project brings hope to Eustace: 'If I knew how the weather would be, in cases where there is going to be little rainfall, I would plant early. If I plant early, let's say in September, by December there would be something to eat when there has been little rainfall.

'But if I plant in November, when the rains are expected, and there is then little rain, we may have nothing to eat in December, and in January, too.'

We complain about our weather but its impact on our lives is minimal compared to the impact upon the majority of the world's population.

Helping a charity like Christian Aid provide local support, not simply handouts to relieve an immediate crisis, can be of real and lasting benefit to those many people with few resources and little to fall back on in time of need.

Christian Aid Week is 12-18 May. Please give generously in the envelope that you will receive.

Bill



SCOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the meeting held on Tuesday 5 March 2013 in the Village Hall the following items were discussed:

Planning – Council noted that the loft conversion Ref: 129489 had been granted by WLDC with conditions.

Village Caretaker – Mr Williams had cut back areas on the Recreation ground and tidied the sides of the snicket.

Best Kept Village – Community Council are no longer sponsoring the Best Kept Village Competition due to financial restraints. Clerk is to contact CPRE who host the event.

Annual Parish Meeting – this is the meeting of the Parish and not a Parish Council meeting. It is hosted by the Council and chaired by the Parish Council Chairman. This meeting will be held **on Tuesday 2 April** in the Village Hall at **6.00pm**. All organisations in the village have been invited to give a short report. If anyone has any item they would like on the agenda please contact the Clerk (email bob_dimillward@yahoo.co.uk or ☎ 01417

628417), who will be very pleased to hear from you. Please do come along to this YOUR meeting and make your views known. It is also a good opportunity to find out more about the various organisations operating in the village at present. We look forward to seeing you.

Items to be reported included rubbish near the bridge on Kirton Road and the dog bin on Eastgate.

Items which have been reported included the water leak on Scotter Road which has been repaired. Various potholes have been marked to be rectified; a broken light on Middle Street has been repaired as has a light outside the Church. The poor visibility of the turning onto Laughton Lane from the A159 has been reported and Highways intend to cut down some trees near this junction.

ACIS are going to put up a sign regarding the riding of bikes down the bank on Westgate and the police are attending all incidents. Please would parents ensure their children know how dangerous this practice is and that the perpetrators are actually committing damage to the area which the police are aware of.

The Tree Warden, Mr Ramsay, has taken receipt of a lot of trees which he intends to plant in various areas.

Mr S Smith has once again agreed to act as internal auditor.

The next meeting of the Council will be a short meeting following the Annual Parish Meeting.

If anyone has any items for the website would they please contact the Clerk. The website can be found quite easily by Googling 'Scotton Parish Council' or from a link on both WLDC and County Council websites.

Di Millward, Clerk to the Council



NORTHORPE

Parish Council

The Annual Parish Assembly was held on 6 March. Although the councillors were in attendance, there were no members of the village. You are very welcome to approach and discuss village issues with your councillors, who are keen to hear your views. You could attend a meeting. The dates of future meetings are:

Wednesday 8 May

Thursday 4 July

Wednesday 4 September

Wednesday 6 November

Meetings start
at 7.00pm

Councillors' details are on the Northorpe PC website and village notice board.

At the March meeting it was agreed to start the rural cinema. The first film to be a PG or 12a rated. Children will need to be accompanied by an adult. The equipment has been purchased by accessing grants: this also includes a license to show films and a year's subscription to 'Love Films'. Further information will be advertised on the village notice board and around the village

There is a vacancy for a councillor. If you would like to know more contact any of the councillors to discuss the role. Meetings are held in the village hall 6 times per year. Becoming a councillor is a great way to be involved in the village community.

The council would like to thank the volunteers who salted the village pavements and homes when it snowed. This was very much appreciated.

Spring is now here and the planters in the village are ready to be replanted. Bulbs and plants have been purchased and if you would like to help you are very welcome. Volunteers to keep the village a pleasant place are always welcomed. The planters and seats will need treating to protect them from the elements too.

April Harrison, Clerk to the council

The Eminson Play Park Update

Like last year, Northorpe is entering the 'Best Kept Village' competition. The planter in the park and those around the village will soon be re-planted. The verge bordering the park will also have its annual make-over. If you would like to be involved in these activities, please contact April Harrison or Julianne Montgomery.

A handy-man/woman is still being sought in order to undertake a variety of small jobs each month around the village. We are still investigating the legalities of this though.

A number of activities are planned for the park during the summer, such as a fête and a BBQ. Funds are being secured for a number of activities to be run during the summer to entertain children and allow older people to get to know each other.

A group was set up to oversee the purchase and installation of equipment for the playing field. Now that this has been completed the responsibility regarding the playing field has been transferred back to the Parish Council.

For more information about the park, please follow events on Facebook or email northorpeplayingfield@hotmail.co.uk.

Neil Montgomery

Northorpe Village Hall

BT have finally installed a phone line into the village hall that will be adapted for broadband by the time this goes to print. This is an initiative from WLDC and there is no cost to the Village Hall for this service.

The rural cinema project will start shortly. Fire safety and other risk assessments have been carried out. The cinema project is where children and their parents can watch a film on a large screen at no cost. For safety reasons a parent needs to be there with their child.

A number of people have completed their CRB checks. If anyone wants to be involved in this project, or any other project relating to the Hall, please contact us on: northorpevillagehall@hotmail.co.uk.

Neil Montgomery



GIFT AID AT LINCOLN CATHEDRAL

Lincoln Cathedral now offers a gift aid scheme. If you are a UK taxpayer and are able to gift aid your entrance charge, as a thank you we will give you a free annual pass. This pass enables free entry into the Cathedral for one whole year and includes ground, roof and tower tours throughout the year, when the tours are available.

If you are not able to gift aid you can make your entrance charge a donation and still receive a free annual pass.

For more details please contact our visitor services office –
☎ 01522 561600 or by email: visitors@lincolncathedral.com.

We thank you for your support and hope that you will be able to visit soon and make the most of your wonderful Cathedral.

Ruth Paynton Visitor Service Team Leader



SCOTTON AND DISTRICT WI

Teresa Hill is to be the guest speaker at the next WI meeting on Thursday 11 April in Scotton Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Teresa will be advising on 'Health and Beauty' and talking about the benefits of Aloe Vera. The competition is for 'A Health Tip'. As always, visitors will be welcome.

Mary

CHURCH SERVICES

APRIL

7	2 nd Sunday of Easter	10.00 am	GROUP SERVICE , Scotter
14	3 rd Sunday of Easter	8.30 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Holy Communion, Scotton
21	4 th Sunday of Easter	8.30 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Morning Worship, Scotton
28	5 th Sunday of Easter	8.30 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion, Northorpe Holy Communion, Scotton

MAY

5	6 th Sunday of Easter	10.00 am	GROUP SERVICE , Scotton
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CHURCH CLEANING

The next cleaning day for **St Genewys** is on Saturday 30 March at 10.00 am. Please come and help.

Cleaning and flower rota at **St John the Baptist**:
April 7/14 Mrs Ralph

April 24/31
May 5

Mrs Mosey/Mrs Stephenson
Mrs Dunk



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