

Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul
Serving the communities of Bourne
Dyke Twenty and Cawthorpe



PARISH MAGAZINE



JANUARY 2023

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WORSHIP AT THE ABBEY

'Thursdays at Ten'

Holy Communion BCP (Said)

1st January	Second Sunday of Christmas	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP (Said)
8th January	Feast of Epiphany	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist CW
15th January	2nd of Epiphany	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist CW
		6.30pm	Choral Evensong
22nd January	3rd of Epiphany	10.00am	Sung Eucharist CW
29 th January	Candlemas	10.00 am	Sung Eucharist CW
5 th February	3 rd before Lent	8.00 am	Holy Communion BCP (Said)
		10.00 am	Sung Eucharist CW

The Abbey is open for visitors and private prayer

from 10.00am until 5.30pm each day

Father Chris welcomes the names of those who are ill or awaiting an operation, so that prayers may be offered for them through the Sunday service sheet. We also continue to welcome the names of loved ones departed to be inscribed in the Abbey's Book of Remembrance

THE CHORAL EVENSONG TRUST has just relaunched its website to help you find a choral evensong near you. Just visit: www.choralevensong.org

During its seven years of existence, choralevensong.org has had 30,000,000 hits from 600,000 visitors, accessing services on offer at over 350 churches and cathedrals on Sundays, and every weekday in most cathedrals and many college chapels in Oxford, Cambridge and elsewhere. The website has grown to incorporate live streamed services, a 'Choir of the Month' feature and has begun to share services of Choral Evensong as far away as Australia. It also includes a listing of the comparable service of Choral Vespers in Roman Catholic churches, cathedrals and monasteries.

John Rutter, composer for the Royal Wedding and conductor, says "Choral Evensong gladdens the heart, ravishes the ear, and restores the soul – my favourite way of spending an hour with glorious music in a glorious building. Choral Evensong has been celebrated in Anglican churches since the sixteenth century. The charity's first website was launched on the Feast of St Cecilia (patron saint of musicians) in 2015.



A REFLECTION FOR EPIPHANY

'A cold coming we had of it, just the worst time of the year for a journey and such a long journey.' ('Journey of the Magi', T.S. Eliot).

In this poem, T.S. Eliot imagines the journey of the Magi to worship Jesus, as told in Matthew 2. This story is at the heart of our celebration of Epiphany, as we remember the astrologers from the East following a star to find the baby: *'Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.'* (Matthew 2:1,2).

The Magi provide a powerful picture of the journey we make in searching for God in our lives. Like them, it requires time and effort (they travelled for months) and will not always be easy! As they followed the star, so we are called to pursue God's light in our lives.

What does this say to us at the beginning of a New Year? Are we ready to go deeper in our relationship with God? Are we looking for new ways to use our time, treasure and talents for Him? It is a great time to offer these things to Him, and like the Magi, commit ourselves to pursuing Him. His light, through prayer, worship and His Word, will be our guide on the way.

T.S. Eliot used the imagined journey of the Magi to reflect on his own spiritual journey. It reveals the pain and doubts he experienced on his long and troubled journey to find the light of Christ. He describes finding Christ as a *'hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death'*. Are we prepared to make this journey for ourselves?

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'Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.' (Isaiah 43:19)

From the Abbey's Book of Remembrance for January

1st Hazel Morgan : 2nd Patricia Leverton : 3rd Jean Miller : 4th John Edwards :
6th John Bentley : Karen Paterson : George Pickett :
7th Myra Mason : Jill Kee : 8th Paul Bennet : Christine Orbell :
10th Dorothy Wright : 11th May Vaughan : 12th Constance King :
13th Robert Cripps : George Vickers : 14th Florence Treadwell : Rosita Leicester :
15th Gerald Swain : Sandie Rhodes : Pearl Holden :
16th Betty Colvin : Keith Barnard : 18th : Marjorie Munns :
20th Edwin Danby : Doris Hitchen : Philip Wells : Leslie Troop :
21st Michael Barker : 23rd : Elsie Cheetham : Elsie Chadwick :
24th : Patrick Carvath : Laura Brooks : Fay Gurteen :
25th Marjorie Smith : 27th Freda Thorold : 29th Kathleen Lambert :

OUR 'MAD' LIFE.



Bishop Hall wrote from Madagascar before the winter solstice.

As your days get shorter the summer days here grow longer and the rooster next door wakes me earlier and earlier. Now he is generally in full voice by 3 am. I do wish he would become someone's meal. I often think of Jesus saying to Peter, "Before the cock crows twice you will deny me three times." The denials either came very early or in very rapid succession if the cocks in Jerusalem were like their current Malagasy relatives. There was a lovely period of respite while the neighbours kept ducks instead of hens.

Meanwhile something seems to have happened to the mosque's loudspeaker as it has dramatically decreased in volume which, as far as I am concerned, is a matter for considerable thanksgiving as it now calls the faithful to prayer just after 4.15 am. My alarm goes off at 5 am which is still early by my standards but is now after dawn and a very pleasant temperature. Except on Tuesdays and Sundays (when I start the day with Morning Prayer) a cold shower starts the day's rituals. Again, the joy of summer weather is that the real chill has gone off the water. This is a great luxury both in terms of facility and water use. None of the clergy have anything like that. Most people buy their water by the jerrycan and it is expensive and often brown. I have just had a request from the new deacon in Mandritsara for a water allowance as their water has gone up in price. My immediate response is to sink a new well beside

the house we are building. (..... The well that I was so quick to suggest is much more expensive than usual as one of the reasons for the water shortage in the town is that there is rock on or just below ground level.)

By 6 am I am in the cathedral for Morning Prayer (Holy Communion on Tuesdays) which has a small but unpredictable congregation. Equally unpredictable is the number of hymns and canticles sung: some mornings the whole thing is sung and some days nothing is sung except a hymn. I embarrass myself by yawning in the midst of hymn singing. 6 am is not considered early for anything here; the secondary schools begin at 6 am and the primary schools at 7 am or 7.30 am.

Everyone waits for me to leave the church at the end of the service when I take my place outside and each member of the congregation kisses the episcopal ring and kneels for a blessing. When that tradition ceased with the pandemic I assumed that it had gone for ever, but somehow it has crept back. Only this week I reaffirmed that the custom is not obligatory. Why would the bishop not want to give us each a personal blessing? I am asked in reply. And so it goes on.

You may remember that the Mothers Union had a wonderful project to register births. Unless you are registered you don't officially exist and so have no right to education or health care. After initial enthusiasm on the part of the local authorities, and promises of co-operation right up to the day the project was due to begin, suddenly they called a halt "because next year there is a presidential election due and only the registration of voters is now to take up officials' time". We also discovered that one of the reasons why births were not registered in one area is that some officials are charging huge amounts for birth certificates. You cannot vote unless registered, of course.

Nothing daunted, in spite of having spent over two years and quite a bit of money on this project, the MU are putting this on the back burner and pressing on with another 'resilience' programme. They are currently distributing solar-powered lamps to homes without access to electricity or who cannot afford electricity. The vast majority of homes in the diocese are lit by one candle at night which is inadequate for children doing school work as well as normal household activity, and a fire risk. This has been enabled by a special grant from the American Episcopal Relief Fund.

It feels strange to wish you a Merry Christmas as we observe a very strict Advent and there is no tradition of Christmas cards or Christmas presents or Christmas dinner. I know many of you are stressed by the commercialisation of Christmas and getting ready – but I do miss it!

Churchwarden's Chat – January 2023

The New Year is traditionally associated with New Year's resolutions, usually of the 'must do better' variety, and often more short-lived than intended.

The PCC's resolution was to embrace technology associated with electronic payment, as increasing numbers of people no longer carry spare cash for donations at the end of a service, especially baptisms, weddings etc.

We now offer options of donating via a QR code and an electronic payment machine. We hope that the provision of these will encourage donations from those who rely on plastic and/or their phone. If you have a QR code reader on your phone, why not give it a try now?



The PCC Fundraising Committee*, of which I am a member, has been working hard to prepare information for those on the electoral roll about the state of the parish general fund. This is the fund from which we have to pay not only our 'share' to the diocese, but also our insurance, utility bills and other general outgoings. If we are to have the best chance of receiving a replacement for Fr. Chris when he retires this year, it is critical that we aim to pay our full share if at all possible. However, the parish, like so many others, has been badly hit by the combined effects of the pandemic, rising costs, and falling numbers of those donating regularly. If you are on the electoral roll then expect to receive your letter by the end of January; if not and you would like to receive one anyway, please just contact me.

Jennifer Maclean

*Spoiler alert! We are seeking to raise more funds.

CHRISTMAS 22



Looking back with joyful memory of the Crib Service, we were glad to meet so many people at the start of the festival. Friends and families left the scene that evening rejoicing after the long isolation of the pandemic

Christmas runs on into the new year. The model nativity at the entrance to the chancel reminds us of this, with figures of the holy family, shepherds, and the magi.

As friends and families left the scene that evening, younger members of the congregation would remember the carols sung as they had carried each figure forward to be placed at the crib. Others would remember the readings from the prophets and the gospel narratives.

Most people are familiar with the story of the nativity, but what eventually happened to the baby Jesus?

His family were refugees for a time, escaping the ruthless genocide of a suspicious despot afraid of his own demise. Their escape, occasioned by intelligence from astrologers and learned scholars, was delayed until the way was clear to return home. His parents' tender care contrasts with the violent political framework of their world.

If our heavenly Father loves the world, what happens when He lives among us (then and now) in that same violent framework?

Sadly, we do not see peace in the world and the resources of the planet are diminishing under an inexorable change of climate, while the economic fallout of the pandemic rolls on.

The Christmas story has got to have a better sequel than this.

And it does!

How do we explain this to our children and young people?

All contributions carefully appreciated.

Malcolm

malcolmpugh@btinternet.com

SCIENCE AND MIRACLES



Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge, writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

We live in a world where we can expect the sun to rise tomorrow and the milk to pour out of the bottle when we tilt it over our cereal. But for God, the properties of matter and the biological processes that we know and read about in textbooks are simply the usual ways He works. If He chooses to do something unexpected to demonstrate something about His character, His relationship with us, and His purposes, then He will.

A group of 14 UK-based science Professors wrote to the Times in 1984, saying that “We gladly accept the Virgin Birth, the gospel miracles, and the Resurrection of Christ as historical events. We know that we are representative of many other scientists who are also Christians standing in the historical tradition of the churches.” For the non-believer, I would suggest a thought experiment: if God exists, why should He be bound by the same laws of physics as us?

Professor Christine Done is an Astrophysicist at the University of Durham. In the book *True Scientists, True Faith* (Monarch, 2014) she writes: “Even when I was an atheist I used to get cross at discussions...on how all Jesus’s miracles could be physically explained. To me, once you have believed in a God, a supernatural being, then it’s obvious that supernatural stuff could happen, since any God who can make the physical universe and its laws can presumably suspend those laws in any time and way He chooses.”

There are also miracles which appear to be a case of wonderful timing. The wind blew all night, and the Israelites crossed the Red Sea on dry land, for example. The biblical writers don’t seem especially interested in distinguishing between wonders that seem to break the usual rules of how things happen and those that don’t.

Many in Jesus’ audiences were not won over by His wonders. Most of the people in the crowds who ate the food He produced out of nowhere were quite happy to turn on Him when the religious authorities decided He was dangerous. We can only make sense of something unexpected, such as an answer to prayer for healing, in the context of a growing relationship with God.

The exciting task for a Christian is to explain what this interaction looks like, and to demonstrate what ‘your kingdom come’ looks like in our communities. God works through us in words, works *and* wonders.

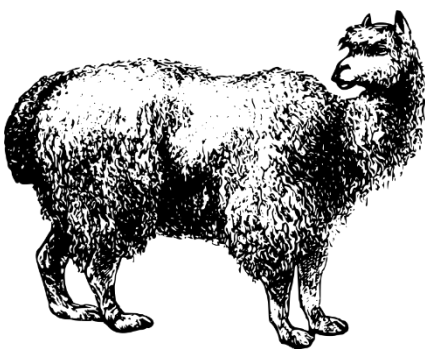
Margaret's Page

By the time you read this Christmas will be over so I'll start by wishing you all a happy New Year..

I am writing this a week before Christmas and have spent most of last week meeting various friends and relations delivering presents. I had hoped to use this page to write about my wonderful visit to an alpaca farm near Belton but unfortunately I was very disappointed. My niece, Susan, had asked me to drive over to Grantham where she lives with her son and husband, arriving by 9.30. so that we could go on from there to see the alpacas. At the time we made the arrangements the weather was beautiful but I spent the days before glued to the weather forecast in fear of freezing fog. I was lucky and the fog postponed its appearance until the next day.

It is three years since I last went to their house as we normally meet elsewhere, so I got to the right part of the estate and realised that I could not complete the journey. They live in a tiny cul-de-sac which cannot be seen from the main street and there had been a lot of new building since my last visit. I was on the point of using my phone to ring them for instructions when I was saved by a husky! (Yes, you read it correctly.) My great-nephew has a beautiful black and white husky and he was just going for his morning walk with Richard. I couldn't recognise Richard as he was so muffled up in thick clothes, but I knew there wasn't likely to be another husky living in that area, so I was able to ask the way.

Roy drove us deep into the countryside until at last we arrived at the alpaca farm. My great-niece and her son Harry met us there and we headed for the coffee where we enjoyed a very welcome hot drink before we headed



out for a walk along the farm tracks to see the alpacas. As you probably remember I have encountered alpacas before and I love stroking their beautiful soft fur. They are just like living teddy bears with a lovely friendly nature (not like their cousins, llamas, which are fond of spitting at you). At this farm there were 99 alpacas but as soon as they saw us coming they headed to the other side of their paddocks and made it clear that

they wanted nothing to do with us. I didn't even get near enough to take a decent photo. I was very disappointed.

We got back into the cars and headed for Belton Garden Centre where we had a lovely lunch and were able to complete our Christmas shopping. I can highly recommend it to you.



"That's two t's in Matthew", said Osric

NEW YEAR – NEW FORMAT !

26 questions each starting with a different letter of the alphabet - **not** in alphabetical order.

- 1) Surname of the original presenter of TV's "Count-down".
- 2) Superman's wife. 3) Capital of Canada. 4) Main ingredient in hummus
- 5) Word denoting the first note on a musical scale.
- 6) Surname of the author of "Fifty Shades of Grey".
- 7) Name of the cow in "The Magic Roundabout". 8) Home city of the "Taj Mahal".
- 9) Type of toad found in western Europe, with a yellow stripe on its back.
- 10) TV's Gabby Logan's maiden name. 11) Botany is the study of what?
- 12) Of what are there a cavendish, a red and a ladyfinger?
- 13) Largest sea on the planet. 14) Human nail plates are made of this.
- 15) One of the murder weapons in Cluedo.
- 16) Calming colour associated with xanadu?
- 17) Caves where the "Dead Sea Scrolls" were found.
- 18) Type of owl named after a mountain range.
- 19) --- Ibrahimovic, Swedish footballer. 20) "Albatross" was No 1 hit for?
- 21) Colourless, odourless, noble gas element?
- 22) German name for this element is "Jod". 23) Gary and Martin Kemp were in which band? 24) Collective name for records played on (eg) a gramophone.
- 25) Pacific, Atlantic and Greenland are 3 types of this flatfish.
- 26) Borough of London that contains Kew Gardens.

You will also find a female christian name somewhere in successive first letter answers. December answers:- 1)Delta 2)Darkest Hour 3)Digital 4)Dawn 5)Disaster 6)Dragon fruit 7)Dodge 8)Duran Duran 9)Devil Wears Prada 10) (Neil)Diamond 11)Doha 12) Danube 13)Don Quixote 14)Dad's Army 15)Debonair 16)Delaware 17)(Len) Deighton 18)Diminuendo 19)Dvorak 20) Do They Know It's Christmas

WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY 2023

Saturday 7th from 9 – 12noon in the Hall. NIBBLE & NATTER
Stalls to include books, raffle and refreshments. Proceeds to Abbey Church

Monday 9th in the Abbey THE JULIAN GROUP
30 minutes of prayer and contemplation.

Wednesday 11th in the Hall at 2.15pm MOTHERS' UNION

Our AGM. New members wishing to join us will be welcome. Open to all.

*Thank you to all members who completed Christmas cards. These have been delivered to Digby Court along with pairs of bed socks knitted with love by Mary Partridge during lock down and will help to keep many feet warm during this winter.

*The toiletries and cleaning materials collected for the Women's Refuge were also gratefully received at the Boston office. Thank you. With new families fleeing Domestic Abuse these items and vouchers will be gratefully received.

*On February 1st we are holding our mothers' Union Lunch 12 for 12.30, in the church hall. This was a great success last year so we are repeating it. Lunch will consist of a choice of two hot casseroles with jacket potatoes, apple pie with custard or cream, cheese and biscuits and hot and cold drinks provided.

Members are invited to bring a friend , Please contact Elizabeth 422512 or Merryn 423232 to book your place(s) by 20th January. Cost £12 each

Wednesday 18th in the Church Hall from 2 – 4pm

KNIT AND SEW FRIENDSHIP GROUP

All most welcome

THOUGHT FOR FOOD

John Paton brought Christianity to the people of the Pacific Islands. He taught them about the love of God and faith. Years later some Communists arrived and told the people they had been listening to mere fables and lies. "There is no God."

"Well, you should thank the God that you do not believe in," the Chief retorted. "For if you had arrived before John Paton, we would have eaten you!"

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Cover photo by Jonathan Smith.

A suitably chilly January picture of the southern side of the Abbey.