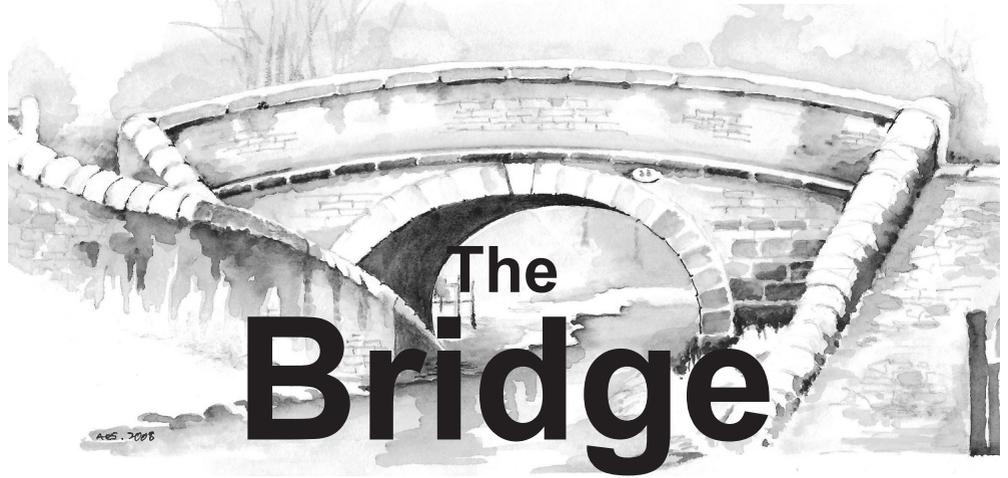
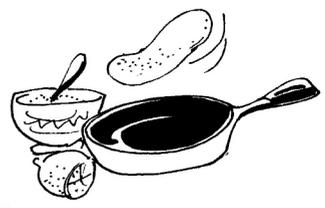


LENT
2023



50p



The Bridge

February 2023

**Parish magazine serving the communities
around the churches of
The Sibsey and Carrington Group
and
The Brothertoft Group**

Serving Sibsey, Frithville, Carrington. New Bolingbroke, Westville, Sibsey Northlands, Wildmore, New York, Brothertoft, Langrick, Kirton Holme, Hubbert's Bridge, Amber Hill, Holland Fen, Gipsy Bridge, Langrville, Anton's Gowt and those with connections to the area.

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www.achurchnearyou.co.uk

www.kirtonholmechurch.co.uk



The Sibsey Group of Churches can be found on Facebook. Search for 'Sibseygroupofchurches'.

Welcome to February 2023 edition

Just a reminder that if you wish to continue receiving a print edition of The Bridge the £5 annual subscription is due. Pay the person who delivers it or contact Mrs M. Everard or Mrs J. Orford to join the local distribution list.

The online edition continues to be published on the nine church websites.

The season of Winter is passing and the first signs of Spring with snowdrops, aconites and crocus are due to appear as the days lengthen. Still time for frost and snow. Time to venture out for walks and trips again perhaps.

With half-term in the middle of the month thoughts turn to keeping youngsters occupied for half-term - a snowdrop walk? Pancake making?

The Editor

Some Special Dates in February

- 1 World Interfaith Harmony Week
- 2 Candlemas
- 4 International Day of Human Fraternity
- 4 World Cancer Day
- 7 Safer Internet Day
- 9 National Toothache Day
- 11 International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- 13 World Radio Day
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 14 International Book Giving Day
- 15 International Childhood Cancer Day
- 17 Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 18 Real Bread Week
- 20 World Day of Social Justice
- 21 Shrove Tuesday
- 22 Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent
- 22 World Thinking Day
- 28 Rare Disease Day



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What's on Locally?

Regeneration Sibsey Village Hall 10.30am-11.30am	Every Monday
Amwes Archery Club Carrington Village Hall 6pm-7.30pm. Samantha & Alan, Phone: 07551 968962	Every Monday
Community Coffee Morning Kirton Holme Churchroom 10.00am – 11.30am	2 nd Monday
Coffee Morning 10am Sibsey Northlands Hall Tel 01205 750197.	3 rd Monday
Indoor Bowling Sibsey Village Hall 2-4pm	Every Tuesday
Indoor Bowls New York Village Hall 2-4pm Contact Ron 07951 313782	Every Tuesday
Coffee Morning Carrington Village Hall 10am-12noon	1 st Tuesday
Coffee Morning Holland Fen Hall 10.30am-12noon	2 nd Tuesday
Country Roads Quilters Sibsey Northlands Hall 9.30am - 4.30pm	3 rd Tuesday
Jive Class Hubberts Bridge Comm. Centre 7.30pm-8.30pm	Every Wednesday
Pilates Sibsey Village Hall 10-11am	Every Wednesday
Slimming World Sibsey Village Hall 5.30-7.30pm	Every Wednesday
Auctions Carrington Village Hall	Every Wednesday
Indoor Bowls New York Village Hall 2pm-4pm Contact Ron 07951 313782	Every Wednesday
Sibsey WI Sibsey Northlands Hall 7.15pm	2 nd Wednesday
Friendship Group/Coffee Afternoon Sibsey Village Hall 2-4pm	2 nd Thursday
Indoor Bowling Sibsey Village Hall 6-8pm	Every Thursday
Cinema@The Beonna , Benington 7pm	2 nd Thursday
Amber Hill WI 7.15pm	2 nd Thursday
Quiz@The Beonna , Benington 7pm - 11pm	1 st Thursday
Bike Night/Social Night New York Village Hall 5pm-8pm	1 st Thursday
Archery New York Village Hall 7-8pm Steve 07896 534578. All ages and abilities welcome.	Every Friday
Craft Afternoon 1.30pm-4.30pm Holland Fen Vill.Hall	Every Friday
Cash Bingo Sibsey Village Hall (see local adverts for times)	Last Friday of the month
Dog Training New York Village Hall 10am-12noon	Every Saturday
Dog Training New York Village Hall 10am-12noon	Every Sunday

Statistics for Mission 2021 published

Attendance at Church of England parishes rose sharply in 2021, compared to 2020, but continued to be affected by Covid measures, new statistics from the Church of England show.

Average weekly attendance, which includes Sundays and midweek attendance, grew to 605,000 in 2021 compared to 345,000 in 2020. But it was lower than in 2019, when average weekly attendance stood at 854,000 people. The number of baptisms and weddings grew in 2021 compared to 2020, with 26,500 marriages and services of prayer and dedication after civil marriage and 55,200 baptisms or thanksgiving services for a child.

Many churches continued to provide 'church at home' services in 2021, offered online, by phone, post, email, and other means amid a range of Covid restrictions. It comes as separate figures show the number of people praying online has continued to grow sharply over the past year with downloads of the Church of England's Daily Prayer audio at 3.2 million so far in 2022 – 62% higher than 2021 when it was launched. Total downloads now stand at 5.2 million. Daily Prayer audio – across the Daily Prayer podcast and app – has now reached more than 1.1 million unique listeners.

Meanwhile, figures from the Church of England's digital channels show that social media content – prayers, Bible verses, reflection content, good news stories and encouragement – have been seen more than 65 million times this year

so far. This amounts to approximately 1.3 million impressions per week, with content seen roughly 190,000 times a day. And the Church of England's national online service averages around 150,000 views a week, with an average of 300 written comments a week from regular online worshipping communities. The summary adds: "The pandemic continued to have an impact on the life of the Church of England, with some churches being closed for worship for parts of 2021 and some members of congregations continuing not to attend in-person services. This report indicates the extent to which things have 'bounced back,' but notes that further bouncing back is expected."

Number of Christmas services surged, as parishes welcome public

At the end of last year, the number of Christmas services advertised on the Church of England's church-finding website were up by more than a quarter on pre-pandemic levels.

The *A Church Near You* website was advertising just over 23,850 services and other gatherings. And search engines saw a surge in people searching for phrases such as 'midnight mass'. All in all, an estimated 682,000 people visited AChurchNearYou.com in December, and around 80 per cent of these visitors were on the site for the first time.

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The unlikely patron saint of television

It was 65 years ago, on 17th February 1958, that St Clare of Assisi (1194-1253) was declared the patron saint of television by Pope Pius XII – on the basis that she had been too ill to attend Mass, but had still been able to see and hear it miraculously on the wall of her room.

St Clare was born Chiara Offreduccio in Assisi and was one of the first followers of St Francis of Assisi. Both her parents were from wealthy families, and her mother Ortolana was both generous and devout, eventually joining her daughter's monastery – as did two of Clare's sisters: one of them, Catarina, eventually became St Agnes of Assisi. After hearing St Francis preach, Clare became devoted to poverty, humility and love, and founded the Order of Poor Ladies, which eventually became known as the Poor Clares. She became quite ill towards the end of her life and was unable to attend church, but apparently the images and sounds of the Mass appeared in full on the wall of her room. She is also the patron saint of computer screens, sore eyes and embroidery. Clare wrote the first monastic Rule of Life known to have been written by a woman and in 1216 became abbess of San Damiano. The life of the sisters there consisted of manual labour and prayer. Reportedly they "went barefoot, slept on the ground, ate no meat and observed almost complete silence". Many places have been named after St Clare: Mission Santa Clara, founded in 1777 in northern California, gave its name to the valley where it is situated – now better known as Silicon Valley, home of computer technology.

Lost and found

(A simple poem about a dog, but so often this can apply to us as well!!)

Lost and found, what a wonderful sound
To a little dog like me,
I slipped my lead, I gave no heed
It felt so good to be free.

It's getting dark, I'm lost in the park
It's cold and starting to rain,
I should have stayed and never strayed
I'll never do this again.

Footsteps I hear, 'please do come near',
On my collar they see my name,
I'm put in a car, we're travelling so far,
Will life be ever the same?

A knock on the door, kisses galore,
Cuddles and pats on the head,
No more will I roam, I'm now safely home
And warmly curled up in my bed.

By Megan Carter

Spiritualist Evening

Sibsey Village Hall, Frithville Road, Sibsey, PE22 0SR



With Valentine's Day in mind...how do you define love?

A group of 4-to-8-year-olds was once asked: 'What does love mean?' The answers they gave were surprising for their depth of insight....

- "When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love." Rebecca - age 8

- "When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth." Billy - age 4

- "Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." Karl - age 5

- "Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your chips, without making them give you any of theirs." Chrissy - age 6

- "Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." Terri - age 4

- "Love is when mum makes coffee for my dad and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK." Danny - age 7

- "Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be

together and you talk more. My Mum and Dad are like that. They look gross when they kiss." Emily - age 8

- "If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate." Nikka - age 6 (We need a few million more Nikka's on this planet)

"My mummy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night." - Clare, aged 6

"Love is when mummy gives daddy the best piece of chicken." - Elaine - age 5

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day" Mary Ann - age 4

Answer to prayer

A small boy badly wanted a baby brother, so his dad suggested he pray every night for one. The boy prayed earnestly, night after night, but his prayers seemingly weren't answered. So after a few weeks, he didn't bother to ask anymore.

Some months later, his dad said they were going to see Mum in the hospital and he was going to get a big surprise. When they got to the room, the little boy saw his mother holding two babies. The little boy stood still for a moment, and then cautiously observed: "It's a good thing I stopped praying when I did."

Miscellaneous observations on life...

Marriage licence - the only permit taken out after the hunt is over.

It's easy finding reasons why other folks should be patient.

Families are often like fudge - mostly sweet, with a few nuts.

Some people cause happiness wherever they go. Others, whenever they go.

It is said that if you line up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to overtake them.

You can't have everything - where would you put it?

If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.

Love is grand. Divorce is a hundred grand.

Advert in newspaper: Home computer, as new. Never been figured out.

Be nice to your kids. They'll choose your nursing home.

The trouble with referees is that they just don't care which side wins.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

Is it true that you never really learn to swear until you teach a loved one to drive?

Miscellaneous observations on life in 2023

Born free. Taxed to death.

By the time you make ends meet, they move the ends.

Car service: 'If it isn't broken now, we'll break it.'

Chaos, panic, disorder. My work here is done.

Children are natural mimics - they act like us, in spite of all our attempts to teach them good manners.

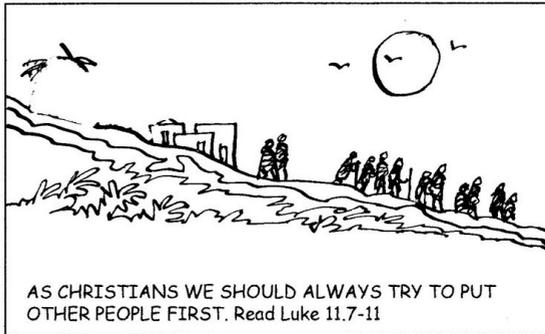
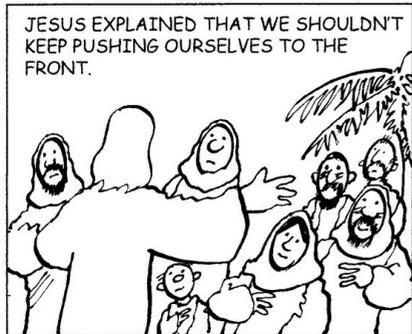
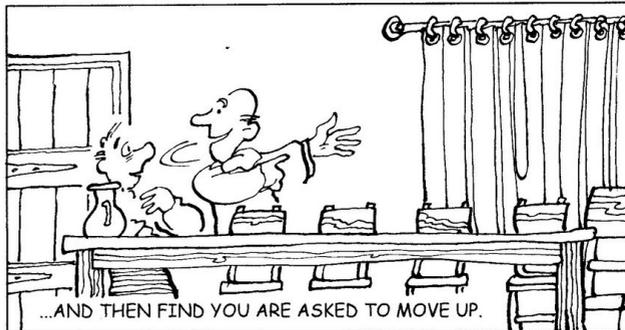
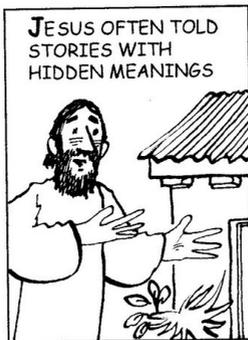
Common sense isn't.

Blessed are the peacemakers; they will never be unemployed.

The young person who worked so hard to graduate later wonders what the hurry was.

The cost of living is always about the same - all a person has.

Jumble & Bric-a-Brac Sale
at
St Margaret's Church Sibsey
Saturday 25th February
1pm-3pm
Raffle/Refreshments
Enquiries to 01205 750622
(answerphone)
Items needed - please call
Proceeds to the Church

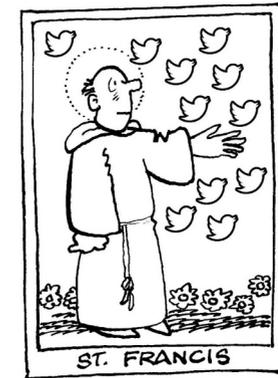


Love your pets wisely, but not too well

Your dog and cat should be allowed to be the wonderful animals that they are, and not treated as if they were small humans.

That is the advice of 'EthicsFirst', a group of campaigning vets and academics who are urging pet owners against the 'Disneyfication' of their pets, such as imposing dog jumpers and vegan diets on them. Dressing pets up like dolls and imposing unsuitable diets on them can cause problems that include anxiety, overheating, obesity, malnutrition and joint pain. Above all, EthicsFirst is urging owners not to put their pets through excessive medical treatment. Professor Eddie Clutton, who teaches veterinary anaesthesiology at Edinburgh University, urges owners to stop authorising vets to give their elderly pets prosthetic legs or gruelling cancer treatments. He argues that it would be kinder to ask

for euthanasia or less invasive treatment, because animals "experience life in real time" and do not have the capacity to accept pain and discomfort now, based on hope for the future.



He's been updated. He's now the patron saint of tweeting!

New Bolingbroke Town Hall Markets

Sundays 10am - 1pm

23rd April
21st May
25th June
27th August
24th September
22nd October
10th December

New York Village Hall

2nd March/ 6th April

5pm-7.30pm approx.

(First Thursday every month)

**Bike Night,
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Social Night**

Stalls, Raffle, Refreshments
See the Village Hall Facebook page
for more details.

King Charles's favourite dog breed surges in popularity with public

When Queen Elizabeth II died last summer, there was a surge in the number of people wanting to buy Corgis.

Now, as the Coronation of Charles III approaches, it seems there is a trend to buy Jack Russell terriers. King Charles III has long been a fan of Jack Russell terriers. He and the Queen Consort currently own two, Bluebell and Beth, whom they rescued from Battersea Cats and Dogs Home more than a decade ago.



A spokeswoman for the Kennel Club said: "Breeds certainly wax and wane in popularity – and there are a number of factors that can play a part, such as high-profile ownership."

Coronation Weekend Plans announced

Buckingham Palace has announced details of the ceremonial, celebratory and community events that will take place over the Coronation Weekend between Saturday 6th and Monday 8th May 2023. The Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort will take place at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6th May, 2023. The Service will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. As previously announced, the Service will reflect the Monarch's role today and look towards the future, while being rooted in longstanding traditions and pageantry. Across the Coronation Weekend, there will be further opportunities for people to come together in celebration of the historic occasion. On Sunday, 7th May 2023, a special Coronation Concert will be staged and broadcast live at Windsor Castle by the BBC and BBC Studios, with several thousand pairs of tickets to be made available via public ballot. The Coronation Big Lunch, at which neighbours and communities are invited to share food and fun together, will take place across the country on the same date. On Monday, 8th May 2023, members of the public will be invited to take part in The Big Help Out, which will encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas. Their Majesties The King and The Queen Consort hope the
/Continued next page.

Coronation Weekend will provide an opportunity to spend time and celebrate with friends, families and communities across the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth. Their Majesties are looking forward to marking the occasion with the public throughout 2023. Buckingham Palace announced last year that beacons were not expected to be lit for the Coronation and preferred that these be used to commemorate the 80th commemoration of the D-Day Landings in June 2023.

Sibsey WI Report

President Fenella opened our first meeting of 2023 by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. At our December meeting, the response for items for the Boston Women's Refuge was fantastic and the gifts had been presented. We heard about a few minor changes for Sibsey WI including the 'Lucky Squares' competition transforming into a Treasure Map, and steps being taken to ensure the security and safety of our members. At January craft, needle felting will again be available then Iris-folding paper-craft with an Easter theme in February and March. We are looking forwards to our first ever games afternoon when various board-games and cards will be available. The next coffee morning will be on Thursday 23rd March, with refreshments, a tombola and book and craft stalls. Our Supper Club will enjoy a Chinese meal at Albert's and there will be a trip to Blackfriars Theatre to see 'My Fair Lady'. Also, a Food

Safety for Catering course is taking place at Boston College in March. We were reminded to make our choice for this year's resolution and an invite had been received from Stamford WI to a talk on the 'Rutland Sea Dragon'. Our May meeting is a few days after the Coronation of King Charles so we will mark the occasion as well as holding our Annual Meeting and Resolution discussions.

The committee, some wearing 19th century Naval headgear, then cast us adrift - for the Sibsey WI version of 'Desert Island Discs'.... Eight brave castaways each introduced their choice of disc. From rock to classical, from choral to instrumental, we were transported into the lives of our 'celebrities' through music. Sweethearts, childhood memories and life experiences were recalled and related. As well as enjoyable music, members were privileged to share intimate, often emotional insights, into the personal meaning of the discs played. Each castaway was thanked and presented with a primula as they returned to dry land. Even our refreshments reflected the bounty of the desert island - delicious fresh fruit skewers. Linked to the subject of the evening, many interesting musical items were entered into the competition, ranging from a rain stick, to a penny whistle. If you would like to join us, guests are always welcome and you can find more information on our Facebook page or by calling Sally Grant on 01205 750486. In February we will hear from Kit Meggitt on a Country Kitchen in 1952.

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baskets, flowers, 25kg bags of potatoes and
vegetable orders or contact us on Facebook.

Seasonal orders taken for pumpkins, Christmas trees and holly wreaths.

Remembering Ukraine – one year on

24th February is the first anniversary of the war in Ukraine, which has seen nearly eight million people displaced and thousands killed. This winter is the worst in living memory for most Ukrainians, with medicine, food, water, and heating in short supply. If you would like to mark the first year by helping the people Ukraine, here are some charities from which you might choose:

The Disaster Emergencies Committee (DEC) is an umbrella group of UK charities.
<https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

Christian Aid was founded in 1945 by British and Irish churches to help refugees after the Second World War. Sadly, with war back in Europe, it is now back at work on the Continent.
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal-2022>

Barnabas Fund distributes food through local churches to Christians in the poorer areas, both in Kyiv and in rural regions.
<https://www.barnabasfund.org/gb/latest-needs/help-ukrainian-christians-in-their-hour-of-need/>

Samaritans Purse has been airlifting medical supplies into the country, distributed more than 45 million kilos of food, and built water systems providing more than 30 million litres of water.
<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/idr-crisis/crisis-in-ukraine/>

Fairtrade Fortnight 2023

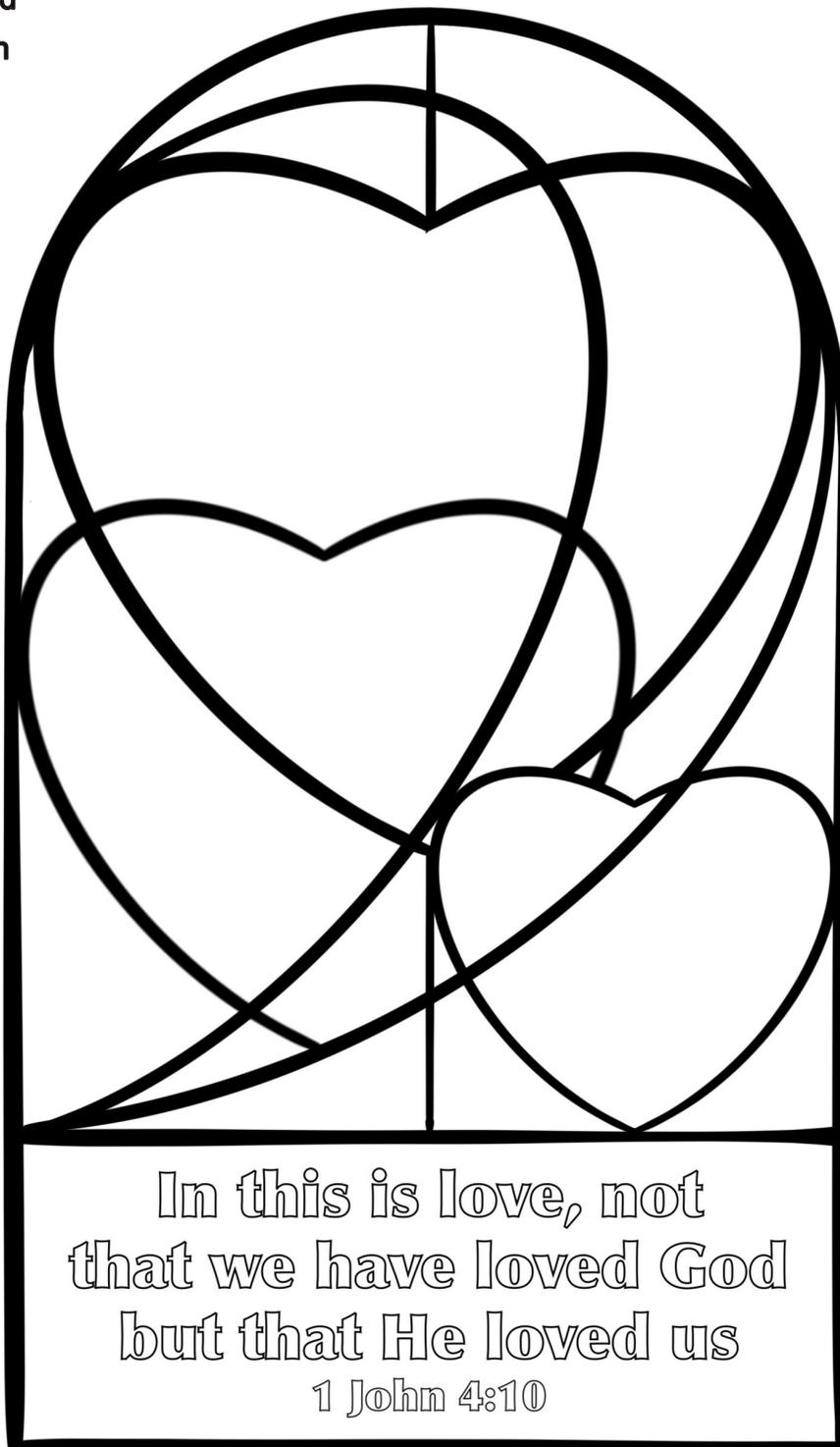
This year Fairtrade Fortnight runs 27th February to 12th March. It comes with a sombre reminder: climate change means that soon some of our favourite foods, such as bananas, cocoa and coffee could be harder to grow. And if that is combined with deeply unfair trade, then communities growing these crops will be pushed to the brink. This makes Fairtrade all the more vital – for all of us.

You can help three ways during this Fortnight. First, why not join an online *Big Fairtrade Get Together?* Hear Fairtrade farmers and other experts explain what needs to change, for a sustainable future. Secondly, *let your friends know* of any Fairtrade event in your area, from a coffee morning to a quiz night. Thirdly, buy Fairtrade whenever you can, from flowers to coffee, clothes to teas, plus lots else. For more information, visit <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk>

Keep the love going all year round

Valentine's Day is for February, but love is for all year round, and that is not always easy. Relationships have their ups and downs, and sometimes a bit of encouragement helps a lot. So this year, you may find Care for the Family to be worth a visit. Its blog, podcasts and other resources offer a wide variety of tips, advice and encouragement, and are aimed at supporting your marriage and your family.

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/support-for-you/family-life/couple-support/>



Sometimes it is wise to retreat

Lent is supposed to prepare us for Easter, but making time for spiritual reflection in our busy lives can be hard. One solution is to take a short retreat, at one of the many retreat houses or centres around the country.

It has been said that *"Retreats are for ordinary people at any time in their life. There are no expectations of you when you're there and you don't need to be a churchgoer."* Just step back, relax in quiet and calm, and allow yourself some time to reflect and grow in your relationship with God.

Jesus Himself started the idea, when He invited his disciples to *"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while"* (Mark 6: 31). His disciples needed to be alone with Him then, and they still need to be alone with Him today.

Retreat houses offer a warm welcome, and many are set in beautiful buildings with gardens. Most offer overnight accommodation and wholesome, home cooked food. Just visit:

<https://www.retreats.org.uk>

Discovering the double-helix of DNA

Seventy years ago, on 28th February 1953, British scientist Francis Crick and American James D Watson announced that they had discovered the double-helix structure of DNA.

Crick described this as finding the secret of life, but his wife did not believe him, because he was "always saying things like that". Nevertheless the discovery was revolutionary, leading to huge advances in biology and genetics.

The breakthrough came from a mixture, it was said, of "intuition, persistence and luck": it was based on wide knowledge of different fields of science rather than their own experiments. Crick had a background in physics and x-ray crystallography, while Watson's speciality was viral and bacterial genetics.

They owed a great deal to the pioneering high resolution x-ray imagery of Rosalind Franklin who, being a woman, did not receive enough credit initially and who died in 1958 of cancer, before she could receive the Nobel Prize awarded to Crick, Watson and her colleague, Maurice Wilkins.

Watson and Crick's findings appeared in a one-page item, with the understated title *A Structure for Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid*, in the British scientific weekly *Nature*. The impact of it was not felt immediately: it was not widely talked about until near the end of the 1950s.

Neither man was spiritually inclined. Crick, a humanist, was taken to church as a child by his parents, but by the age of 12 decided not to go any more as he preferred a scientific search for answers. Watson described himself as "an escapee from the Catholic religion".

Mothers' Union Lincoln Diocese Registered Charity Number 259980

Position of Diocesan Administrator

Lincoln Diocese Mothers' Union has around 500 members in branches and groups across the Diocese, including 120 Diocesan Members. We are actively involved in serving churches and communities in various ways, including through caring for the sick and elderly, food banks, messy church, Bishop Grosseteste student support, Knitting for Newborns, worship and prayer. We support the Worldwide Mothers' Union of 4 million members in 84 countries and are involved with national and international projects including the Clewer Initiative anti-slavery campaign and the United Nations Days of Activism against gender abuse.

WE NEED HELP with administration including secretarial and finance in support of the Diocesan President and other officers.

Role Purpose To provide secretarial and administrative support to Diocesan President, Trustees, Clusters, Branches and Diocesan Members in the implementation of the Aims and Objectives of Mothers' Union activities in the Diocese, and with links to Mary Sumner House, the Worldwide Headquarters of Mothers' Union.

Working Arrangements MU Diocesan Laptop to use, maintain and keep updated with Diocesan information. It is expected that you would predominantly work from home. MU Lincoln Diocese can offer an Honorarium of £250 per quarter plus clerical and travel expenses, to be reviewed annually by Trustees.

For more information please contact: Revd Sylvia Rice-Oxley, Diocesan President.
email: dpmulincoln@gmail.com



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From the Vicar

Valentine's Day reminds us of the importance of expressing our love to those close to us. But how can we go beyond simply offering flowers and a card? Jesus says: 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another' (John 13:34). How can we express love like Jesus in our everyday relationships to our partner, children, neighbours or work colleagues?

Listening

We need to listen to others, just as Jesus did. He asked questions of people and waited for them to process their answer. According to James, 'everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry' (James 1:19). How well do we listen to others? How often do we find ourselves already thinking of what we want to say before somebody's finished speaking? Listening takes time; don't rush it!

Touching

Jesus reached out to touch the untouchables in His world, including lepers, the sick and children. This was completely out of character for rabbis of His day. For us today, a warm handshake may be of value. Of course, it should always be an *appropriate* touch – helpful for the other person, not just for ourselves.

Speaking

Jesus' conversation was always full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Do we speak words of *grace*, by offering comfort, giving encouragement or expressing care and concern? However, we should also be ready to speak words of *truth*, in asking for forgiveness, seeking reconciliation or addressing conflict. As Paul urges us, don't avoid: 'speaking the truth in love'. Where is the challenge for us in expressing love this Valentine's Day?

Canon Paul Hardingham

The Never Forgotten Club

Members met in the Church room on Thursday 8th December 2022 to enjoy their Christmas Lunch. The lunch was prepared and served by all the members. After lunch a few Christmas poems were read and a bit more reminiscing, we finished the afternoon with Christmas Cake provided by Reggie and Joan to wish them well in their new home. The January meeting was held on Thursday 12th January 2023, when members enjoyed a choice of leek and potato soup made by Mo, or carrot and coriander soup made by Fay. Followed by sticky toffee pudding made by Hilary or apple pie made by Glynis. The next meeting will be Thursday 9th February. *Hilary.*

Sibsey WI

COFFEE MORNING

Thursday March 23rd 2023

10am - 12 noon

Northlands Village Hall

**Refreshments, Crafts, Books
and Tombola.**

Proceeds to WI funds

All Welcome

Church Services and Events

Sunday 5th February

10.30am Sibsey Morning Worship
10.45am Langrick Holy Communion

Sunday 12th February

10.30am Sibsey Holy Communion
10.45am Wildmore Morning Worship

Sunday 19th February

10.30am Sibsey Morning Worship
10.45am Holland Fen Holy Communion

Wednesday 22nd February – Ash Wednesday

6.30pm Frithville Joint Service

Sunday 26th February

10.45am Brothertoft Morning Worship

Friday 3rd March - World Day of Prayer

2.00pm Langrick Village Hall

Sunday 5th March

10.30am Sibsey Morning Worship
10.45am Kirton Holme Holy Communion

Sunday 12th March

10.30am Sibsey Morning Worship
10.45am Langrick Morning Worship

Sunday 19th March - Mothering Sunday

10.30am Sibsey Holy Communion
10.45am Wildmore Morning Worship

All services will be conducted to be Covid-safe. Face coverings optional but welcome. Hand sanitiser will be available. Refreshments may be served if volunteers available. Anyone not taking communion may receive a blessing from the priest.

Brothertoft Group Friendship Club

December 2022 Draw

£50 - Meryl Smith
£50 - Richard Foster
£50 - Anastasia Bowen
£50 - Andrew & Julie Lawrence
£25 - Heather Shaw
£25 - Caroline Piggins
£25 - Katie Moss
£25 - Judith Fields
£15 - Katherine Nundy
£15 - Claire Nundy

Friends of St Margaret's Church, Sibsey

December 2022 300 Club Draw

1st £25 Mr L Hunt (No. 224)
2nd £15 Mr L Birt (No. 078)
3rd £10 C Reams (No. 100)

£1000.00 prize Mr J Wade (No. 174)

Time for a Smile

One Sunday, when my granddaughter was about two years old, her daddy and mummy made their Communion at my local church and took her up with them for a blessing. Arriving back in our pew she said in a loud voice: "Granny, the man has said his prayers on my head, and he has a lovely dress on."

Notice in a church hall where a sale of second-hand clothes was in progress: 'Ladies may have a fit upstairs.'

Marriage is a very good way to promote civilisation – according to Socrates, if you get a good partner, you will be happy; if you get a bad one, you will become a philosopher.



This month sees the first anniversary of the death or funeral of the following **parishioners**. We remember them and their families and friends at this time.

Maurice Kirk

Linda Beckett

Valerie Jaggard

Roy Fountain

Prayer Requests

If you would like prayers said in church for you at a time of illness or upheaval this can be arranged. If the request is for another person the prayers will not be said in public for confidentiality reasons. Contact the clergy or lay ministers listed inside the front cover.



Boston Community Transport are a small charity based in Boston who provide a transport alternative to the residents of the Borough.

Volunteering opportunities available! We would love to hear from you!

Volunteer Driver - Do you have a little or a lot of spare time? a full, clean, driving licence and your own car? Our volunteer drivers take our customers wherever they need to get to. You will receive 45p per mile for your expenses. Hours to suit you. A good opportunity to meet new people and give back to your community - DBS carried out by us FOC.

Fundraisers - To assist with fundraising events and promoting our charity. A good opportunity to meet new people and raise money for our charity. Hours to suit.

Trustees - serve on our Board, which meets six times a year. They oversee the charities governance, strategy and decision making. The positions are ideal for business professionals who have limited time available and wish to carry out a valuable role in the community, but anyone is welcome to apply.

For more information contact our friendly team in the office.

Tel: 01205 360183 www.bostonct.org.uk Email: office@bostonct.org.uk or admin@bostonct.org.uk
Office hours: 9am-2pm Monday – Friday or leave a message anytime



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Some hints about prayer this Lent

Prayer is instinctive for human beings, even those who don't regard themselves as religious. You are standing at a bus stop in the wind and the rain, thinking 'I do hope the bus will come soon'. It's an inner yearning. It defies logic: either the bus is coming, or it isn't. But we all do it. It's instinctive and it's the raw material of prayer. Hoping for something better is basic. Like all instincts, it needs to be trained.

To whom do we pray? What you pray, and the way you do it will be shaped by your view of God. Christian prayers are fashioned by what we know of Jesus and what He taught about prayer.

We pray by invitation. Again and again, Jesus encouraged His companions to pray. A couple of His parables on the subject have been misinterpreted as instructions to persuade a resistant God to do what we want. Have a look at Luke 18, verses 1-8, about a widow whose perseverance finally persuaded an unwilling judge to rule in her favour. The lesson is that God is *not* like that! Similarly, an unwelcome neighbour who persistently calls for help in the middle of the night gets what he wants (Luke 11:5-13). The lesson? If tenacious lobbying can overcome human unwillingness, *how much more* our gracious God will heed His children's cry.

Pushing at an open door. Jesus is already praying for us. So, when we start to pray, we step on to an already moving staircase. Sometimes prayer seems tougher than it need be. Jesus invited us to be linked to Him, in the way an inexperienced bullock is yoked to a mature ox. Have a look at Matthew 11:28-29, which concludes "for my yoke is easy and my burden is light". When Marion Bartoli unexpectedly won the 2013 Women's Wimbledon final, she said "I believe if you put all your heart and effort into everything you are doing, then God is there to help you."

Is your prayer on the right lines? Try adding "for Christ's sake" at the end. "Please let my marrow win the Gardening Club competition"? No. "Not my will but yours" is the key. So when praying, don't give God instructions, just report for duty.

The Ven John Barton



"But look", said Martin, "Maltasers have hardly any chocolate on"

Are you looking for romance?

If so, you might like to visit Christian Connections, an award-winning Christian dating website. It has won the public-voted *Daters' Favourite Site* and *Best Niche Site* awards three years running.

With 22 years of experience, the site helps you to create some meaningful connections with like-minded Christians. Once you have met them, who knows what may happen? <https://www.christianconnection.com>

How to give your children a head-start in life

Make sure they learn and memorise their times tables. Knowing any multiple up to 12 times 12 is a “basic building block for success in life”, according to experts. That is why times table tests for Year 4 pupils in England were introduced last year.

The schools minister, Nick Gibb, calls knowing your times tables an “immensely valuable skill” that has personally helped him both as a chartered accountant, and also in just figuring out the “best multi-pack supermarket bargains.”

Being bored is good for you

Being bored is a good thing – in fact, it can stimulate you to greater creativity. But keeping boredom at bay with endless scrolling on social media will ensure that your creativity is stifled.

So say researchers at Bath University. They warn that endlessly distracting yourself to avoid “superficial boredom” has the effect of preventing your mind from entering the deeper state of “profound boredom.” In this state of malaise, you are in “existential discomfort” which in turn can stimulate you on to develop new passions and skills.

As one researcher explained: “This research has given us a window to understand how the ‘always-on’, 24/7 culture and devices that promise an abundance of information and entertainment may be fixing our ‘superficial boredom,’ but are actually preventing us from finding more meaningful things.

“Profound boredom may sound like an overwhelmingly negative concept but, in fact, it can be intensely positive if people are given the chance for undistracted thinking and development.”

The new study was published in the journal *Marketing Theory*.

The real reason that women do more housework than men

Academics at the University of Cambridge have come up with a theory as to why women do more housework than men.

They call it the ‘affordance theory’, which says that men view unwashed dishes and unmade beds as a simple mess, without feeling the need to do anything about it, while women are instilled

with an instinctive urge to tidy if they see clutter. The difference is rooted in early social training, it is thought.

The Cambridge University philosophers explain: “for any given domestic task, that task can afford acting on for an agent. A floor can afford sweeping, dishes can afford cleaning, mess can afford tidying, a crying infant can afford nappy-changing, and so on.

“We suggest that for many domestic tasks, women are more likely to perceive the corresponding domestic task affordance.”

Prof Paulina Sliwa, a philosopher at the University of Vienna, agrees. “Neuroscience has shown that perceiving an affordance can trigger neural processes preparing you for physical action,” she said. “This can range from a slight urge to overwhelming compulsion, but it often takes mental effort not to act on an affordance.”

The key to a happy life

Your mental health is the biggest single predictor of your personal happiness. So, suffering from depression or anxiety disorders can devastate your life.

Finding love is also a vital ingredient for happiness. “People need to be needed, and to be in meaningful relationships”, says a recent study by the London School of Economics. It goes on: “Happiness is hugely affected by the ethos of a society, which affects

everyone in it. For example, happiness is higher in societies where people trust each other. Freedom is also a crucial determinant of happiness.”

The report also found that a boost in income, or more education, did not significantly affect our overall well-being. Having good mental health and someone to love were far more important.

Breathe deep

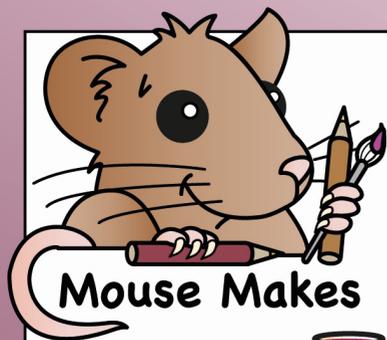
Now here’s a trick that you probably haven’t tried before: next time you forget something, try taking some deep breaths.

It seems that inhaling stimulates our brain, creating electrical activity where emotions, memory and smells are processed. In a recent American study, individuals were able to identify a face two seconds more quickly if they were breathing in through the nose, rather than breathing out.

The study was carried out at Northwestern University in Chicago, and it may also explain why we breath rapidly when afraid. “If you are in a panic state, you spend proportionally more time inhaling. Faster breathing could have a positive impact on brain function and result in faster response times.”

175 years ago

On 21st Feb 1848 the Communist Manifesto was published in London. It was written by Karl Marx, with the assistance of Friedrich Engels.



Mouse Makes

What did Jesus give thanks for and share?

Matthew 26:27

What did Jesus say this represented?

His _____
Matthew 26:27-28



- SUPPER
- LAMB • LORD
- DISCIPLES
- TOGETHER
- EVENING
- ROOM • JAR
- WATER • TWELVE
- JESUS • CHRIST
- NIGHT • TOOK
- THANKS
- BLESSING
- BROKE • GIVEN
- COVENANT
- DRINK • EAT
- FORGIVENESS
- SINS • HOLY
- COMMUNION
- EUCCHARIST

What was the special meal Jesus was preparing to eat?

Matthew 26:18



What did Jesus take, bless and break?

Matthew 26:26

What did Jesus say this represented?

His _____
Matthew 26:26



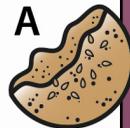
Jesus instructed his disciples to continue to break bread and share the cup "in _____ of me."

1 Corinthians 11:24-25



O R F B R O K E J H O L Y C
 R O O M B C U P T O O K E H
 L O R D R U B A W G D J A R
 T E G J E S U S E E R E T I
 M U I N A N E S L V I S O S
 L C V C D E C O V E N A N T
 B H E O C I N V E N K B I B
 L A N M W A T E R I L L G O
 O R E M E M B R A N C E H D
 O I S U P P E R I G O S T Y
 D S S N M U G I V E N S H D
 E T D I S C I P L E S I N S
 B S T O G E T H E R W N A
 T H A N K S K L A M B G

Find the words from the questions too!



Talking theologically...

Jesus asked His disciples who men said that He was. And one of His disciples replied: "Master, thou art the supreme eschatological manifestation of omnipotent ecclesiastical authority, the absolute, divine, sacerdotal monarch."

And Jesus said, "er - What?"

What NOT to give her for Valentine's Day:

1. A box of chocolates, clumsily rearranged, because you ate all the caramel ones.
2. Any food item with the words: 'diet', 'light', or 'high fibre' on the label.
3. Anything you ever gave another woman, including your mother.
4. Any household appliance or power tool.



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MORE

5. A gift certificate.
6. Cash.

Latest survey shows that 3 out of 4 people make up 75% of the world's population.

This true story concerns the visit of a visiting preacher to a little village chapel... 'He was a few minutes into his sermon when, without warning, about twenty square feet of thick and decayed Victorian plaster fell from high on one wall and crashed into a group of empty pews below. As the dense fog of dust began to settle, and it became clear no one was injured, the minister prepared to resume his sermon. Then he paused, and looked heavenward and in a slightly pained voice, asked: "Was it something I said?"

Upcoming Events at Sibsey Village Hall

Events are subject to change at Committee's discretion.
Keep up to date on our Facebook page!

Monthly Cash Bingo

Doors open 6.30pm
£8 for Main Event Book
& £100 Jackpot Flyer

- Friday 28 October
- Friday 25 November
(£200 Jackpot in November)
- Friday 27 January
- Friday 24 February
- Friday 31 March
- Friday 28 April

Monthly Farmers Market

- 9am - 1pm
- Saturday 5 November
- No market December
- Saturday 7 January
- Saturday 4 February
- Saturday 4 March
- Saturday 1 April

Friday 18 November.....80s & ABBA Night with The Dreambelles
Adults £5 Under 16s £2. 7.30pm - midnight

Sunday 20 November.....Christmas Craft & Gift Fair
Free entry. 10am - 4pm

Sunday 11 December.....Christmas Prize Bingo
Doors 1.30pm Eyes Down 2pm. Families welcome.
£1 per book of 12 games. Flyer £1 for 3. Raffle.

Sunday 18 December.....Children's Christmas Party
2pm - 4pm. £5 per child includes a present

Saturday 21 January 2023.....Soul & Motown Night
DJs Martin Topley & Mick Jay. £5 OTD. 7.30pm - midnight

Saturday 4 February.....50s Rock'n'Roll Night with Boston Jive
Live band Rockin Em. DJ Mr Big Feet. Tickets £10. 7.30pm - 11.30pm

Friday 17 February.....Spiritualist Evening
£10 entry. 7pm - 10pm

Friday 10 March.....Quiz Night
Teams up to 6. £2 per person. 7.30pm - 10pm.

Saturday 18 March.....Revolver
Tickets £5. 7.30pm - midnight

Saturday 15 April.....Northern Soul & Motown Night
DJs Martin & Elaine Topley. £5 OTD. 7.30pm - midnight

Licensed Bar at all evening events.

For tickets or to hire the hall please call 07976 628218



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The John Woulds Charity

If you are a resident of the parish
of Sibsey and you are in real need
of something you cannot afford
we may be able to help you.

Write to us explaining your present
need, with as much information as
possible.

The trustees are here to help if
they can!

Contact Mr. John Wigner,
'The Gables', Frithvile Road, Sibsey.
PE22 0SY. Tel. 01205 751318.

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Cost of living crisis: 2.6 million seek help from churches and faith groups

Nearly three million adults in the
UK are estimated to have sought
help from church or other
religious organisations since the
start of last year, as a result of the
cost-of-living crisis, according to
research published.

New findings show that, overall,
almost four in 10 (38 per cent) of
UK adults sought help last year
because of the squeeze on living
costs. Family and friends were
the most common source of help,
at 24 per cent and 14 per cent
respectively.

However, the polling by Savanta,
for the Church of England, also
found that five per cent of UK
adults, approximately equivalent
to 2.6 million people, sought help
from churches or other religious
organisations.

Six in 10 of those who sought
help from churches and other
religions said they had received
free food or groceries (60 per
cent). Half said they received
low-cost food or groceries (50 per
cent) or hot food (48 per cent),
and four in 10 (40 per cent) said
they had been provided with
warm spaces.

The survey showed that, overall,
61 per cent of UK adults said
they had *not* sought help in 2022
as a result of the cost-of-living
crisis, but this figure fell to 24 per

cent of 18-to-24 year olds and 30
per cent of 25 to 34-year-olds.

When early last year the Warm
Welcome campaign was
launched, it was supported by
thousands of churches and other
public buildings, which are
opening their doors this winter to
provide a warm space for people
amid surging energy bills.

The Bishop of Durham, Paul
Butler, who speaks for the
Church of England on welfare
issues, said: "Churches have
been providing a lifeline to people
struggling to balance their
household budgets and provide
for their families through food
banks and food clubs and other
forms of hospitality for many
years.

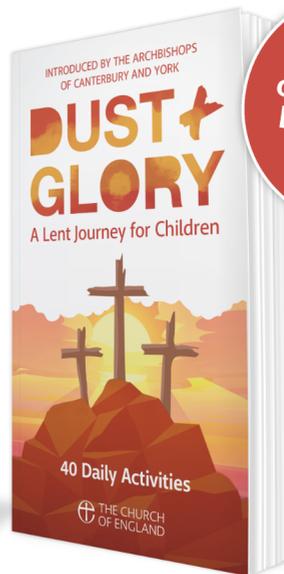
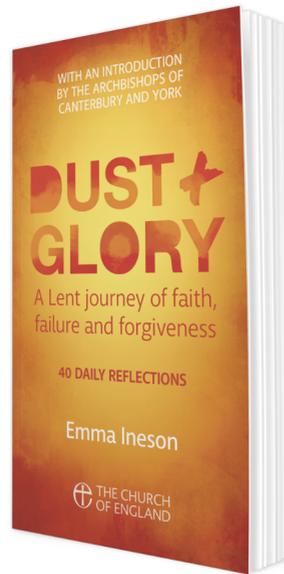
"The cost-of-living crisis has seen
churches step up this support,
with many providing warm
spaces through the Warm
Welcome campaign this winter
for people struggling to heat their
homes.

"The figure of nearly three million
people seeking help from church
or other religious organisations
since the start of this year is
almost certainly an underestimate
of the extent of the support, as
many visit church-run food banks
and food clubs in order to provide
for their families and wider
households."

75 years ago,
On 21st Feb 1948 NASCAR was
founded at Daytona Beach,
Florida.

DUST + GLORY

A Lent journey of faith, failure and forgiveness



The Church of England's Lent theme for 2023

40 daily reflections, Bible readings and actions to help us find God in the mess of everyday life.

Available as booklets for adults and children, an app for Android and iOS, by email or smart speaker.

Find out more at CofE.io/DustAndGlory



“Unmet need is described as needing help but not receiving any help”

Healthwatch Lincolnshire wants to listen to your concerns. If you are interested in sharing your experience, drop us a line and we will arrange a convenient time to get in touch.

There are a wide range of groups of people we would like to talk to, but if you don't fit into the following groups, we still want to hear from you.

Is this you? Do you have time to share your experience.

- An adult with a learning disability waiting for a social care needs assessment
- An adult with a physical disability waiting for a social care needs assessment
- An older person (over the age of 65) waiting for a review of their care package
- A child or young adult (under the age of 18) with social care needs moving support from children to adult's social care
- A young unpaid carer (a child or young person under the age of 18) trying to access care for a loved one
- An adult unpaid carer trying to access care for a child
- An unpaid carer trying to access care for an older (over the age of 65) loved one
- An unpaid carer trying to access financial support for themselves
- An unpaid carer trying to access non-financial support for themselves
- An older person (over the age of 65) living in a residential care home

- An adult (under the age of 65) living in their own home receiving social care support
 - An adult who uses direct payments to fund their care
 - An adult funding their own care, who can no longer afford support
 - An adult with a social care package who has been discharged from hospital
- If you would like to share your experiences of health or social care services, you can do so below (Let us know which of the above applies to you)

Get in touch, Call us on: 01205 820 892, email- info@healthwatchlincolnshire.co.uk or **Have your say | Healthwatch Lincolnshire**



Elections 4th May 2023

All parish councillor seats and East Lindsey District Councillor and Boston Borough Councillor seats are up for election in May 2023. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, district or borough councillor it is expected that the District/Borough Councils will hold some awareness sessions in February.

Candidates must be over 18; a British, Commonwealth or EU citizen; and at least one of the following 1) on the electoral register of the parish or 2) a tenant or owner of land or property in the parish for at least 12 months, or 3) your main or only place of work is in the parish for last 12 months, or 4) lived in the parish for 12 months.

You do **not** have to be a member of any political party just interested in improving your community. If there are more candidates for the number of seats available an election will take place but if there are fewer candidates nominated to fill all the seats the candidates will be elected uncontested. If there remain any vacant seats after election they can be filled by co-option. After election free training about being a councillor is available.

Nominations to stand as a candidate must be submitted by appointment in person by 4th April 2023 to East Lindsey District Council or Boston Borough Council. More information for potential candidates is available at www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Note: East Lindsey District Council offices have moved to: The Hub, Mareham Road, Horncastle LN9 6PH from 23rd January 2023.

The Electoral Commission



No ID? You can apply for free voter ID
Find out more at
electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID
or call 0800 328 0280

From 4 May 2023, voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in elections.

From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections.

If you don't have accepted photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate. You can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate on www.gov.uk or by contacting your local Electoral Services team at your district council.

You do not need photo ID to vote by post.

This month's recipe: A Bible puzzle (King James AV Bible)

Ingredients:

1. ½ lb of Judges 5:25 (the last food in the list)
2. ½ lb of Jeremiah 6:20
3. 1 tablespoon of 1 Samuel 14:25
4. 3 of Jeremiah 17:11
5. ½ lb of 1 Samuel 30:12
6. ½ lb of Nahum 3:12 chopped
7. 2 oz of Numbers 17:8 blanched and chopped
8. 1 lb of 1 Kings 4:22
9. 2 Chronicles 9:9
10. a pinch of Leviticus 2:13
11. 1 teaspoonful of Amos 4:5
12. 3 tablespoons of Judges 4:19

Method

Mix 8, 9, 10 and 11, and put them aside.

Beat 1, 2 and 3 to a cream.

Then beat in 4, one at a time.

Add 5, 6 and 7 and beat again.

Add 12.

Bake in a low oven for 1½ hours

Who owns the engagement ring if you split up?

He also said, "Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out ...Don't go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed." Ruth 3:15,17

QUIZ NIGHT
Kirton Holme Church Hall
Friday 10th February
7-30pm
£6 (includes Supper - bring your own drinks)
Booking essential - Tel Mick 290575

A Jewish family left Judah to go to Moab. The son married a local girl called Ruth but he died. Ruth decided to return home with her mother-in-law. Back in Judah she meets and later marries a rich man. A typical boy meets girl story with plenty for lawyers to ponder as the couple make their plans together.

In this passage Ruth gets what amounts to a pre-engagement gift – some barley for her mother-in-law. But if you are planning on a Valentine's Day gift or even engagement, flowers or chocolates may be better than grain. Whatever present you buy your loved one, the law says that you have a thirty day right to return it, if it is not of satisfactory quality. In other words, it must not be faulty or damaged, be fit for purpose and must match any description given by the manufacturer. This does not apply to perishable goods like flowers.

Supposing things go well on Valentine's Day, and you propose. If you change your mind later, the good news is that you can no longer be sued for breach of promise of marriage. The bad news is that if you give an engagement ring, then the law presumes this is an absolute gift. So, if you later break up, you cannot get it back unless you made it clear that it would be returned if the marriage did not take place. If the ring was a family heirloom it may be possible to argue this.

While still down on one knee on Valentine's Day, you could, of course, make it clear, preferably in writing, that if the engagement is called off then you want the ring back. However, if you are as unromantic as this, perhaps you should stick to gifts of barley grain! As always, this is a rough guide to English law and if you are worried about engagement rings and other material aspects of love and marriage, you should get advice.

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Remembering the Munich Air Disaster

The Munich air disaster took place 65 years ago, on 6th February 1958, when a plane carrying the Manchester United football team (known as the Busby Babes), plus support staff and journalists, crashed while attempting to take off from a slush-affected runway at Munich-Riem Airport. Altogether, 23 people were killed, including eight players. The Elizabethan-class Airspeed Ambassador, British European Airways Flight 609, crashed on its third attempt to take off. It had landed at Munich on its way from Belgrade to Manchester because a non-stop flight was beyond the range of the aircraft. The Babes had just beaten Red Star Belgrade in a European Cup match.

Engine problems had caused the first two take-off attempts to be aborted, but the pilots decided to try again because of scheduling issues. This time the plane was slowed by slush and failed to take off, smashing off the runway and into a house. A parked fuel truck was hit and exploded: only 21 of the 44 on board the plane survived

The pilot began evacuating passengers, and star goalkeeper Harry Gregg helped pull survivors – including a baby, its pregnant mother and two of his teammates – from the wreckage. A devout Christian at the time – he was said to have lost his faith when his wife and daughter later died of cancer – he became known as the hero of Munich.

His courage has been hailed by many, particularly in Serbia – home to the rescued Lukic family – but also back at Old Trafford, and at his own home in Ulster. He died in 2020.

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH, SIBSEY

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**Coffee, cake, bargains and books -
ALL WELCOME!**



Sudoku Challenge

Enter numbers into the blank spaces so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9 without repeats.

						7	2	
				9	5		3	
6	7			3	2	9		
9				1				
4	1	6				7	9	5
				6				1
		3	1	8			4	6
2		7	4					
8	4							

Wordsearch

Find the words hidden in this wordsearch puzzle. Clues can be found in the story below. There are 25 words.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, 40 days after Christmas. Jesus is described in the Bible as the Light of the World, and so early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas. The story can be found in Luke 2:22-40, where Simeon makes his great declaration of faith and recognition of Jesus. Simeon's 'Nunc Dimittis', is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer.

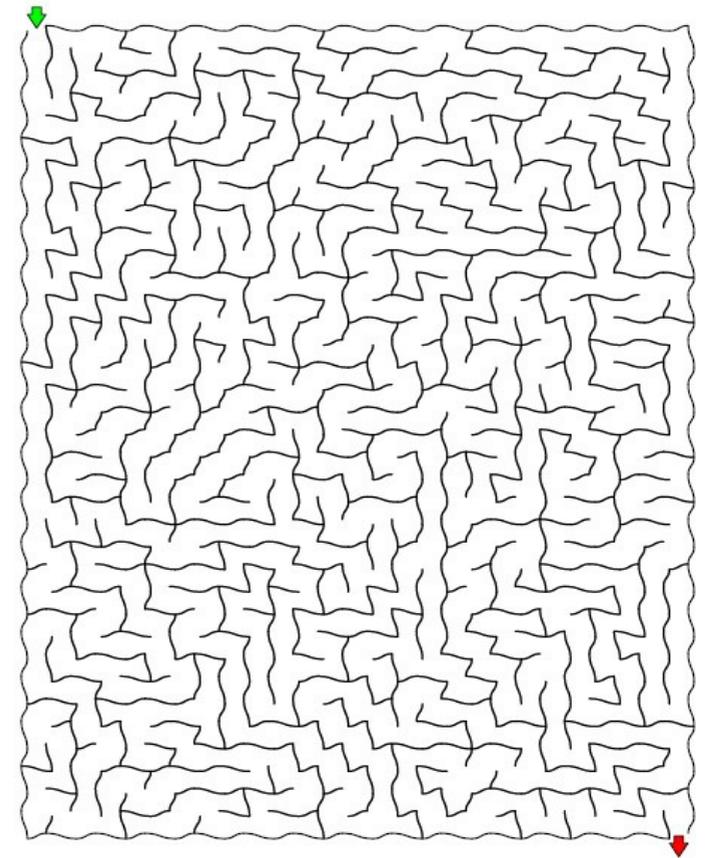
D	L	R	O	W	J	E	W	I	S	H	P	N
N	E	O	S	L	O	R	D	Y	R	R	A	D
N	O	I	T	A	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	R
O	U	S	F	V	M	E	A	S	H	I	P	Y
E	L	N	I	I	G	E	E	A	T	S	E	W
M	S	R	C	T	R	N	L	I	O	P	A	W
I	T	O	J	S	T	U	I	D	M	A	R	Y
S	H	D	R	E	S	I	P	N	N	S	A	B
E	G	N	M	F	S	U	M	R	E	A	N	A
Y	I	P	R	Y	B	U	E	I	A	V	C	B
N	L	T	A	L	O	N	S	E	D	Y	E	Y
E	N	D	I	D	Y	S	M	R	Y	D	E	S
C	E	C	I	F	F	O	R	T	Y	V	E	R

Maze

Find your way from the top to the bottom..



"He moved here after the PCC voted to lower the church heating bill. He says it is warmer out here."



Solutions for December edition

O	R	S	H	O	U	U	G	U	I	S	T
U	E	T	R	O	G	N	N	W	O	R	C
J	I	H	J	T	N	S	E	N	A	B	N
O	E	N	G	H	I	S	W	E	M	E	A
D	K	S	R	O	G	L	H	K	E	A	I
O	A	T	U	N	E	O	O	S	U	R	
C	P	R	I	S	O	N	E	R	S	T	E
E	R	O	K	A	L	M	V	B	I	Y	H
H	N	F	E	N	S	E	E	N	A	R	T
S	G	M	O	D	E	E	R	F	H	A	A
R	U	O	V	A	F	S	E	H	S	A	F
E	R	C	D	S	B	E	S	T	O	W	M

1	5	7	3	2	4	8	6	9
2	3	4	9	6	8	1	7	5
6	8	9	1	5	7	4	3	2
5	1	8	4	7	6	9	2	3
7	4	6	2	3	9	5	8	1
3	9	2	5	8	1	7	4	6
9	7	1	6	4	3	2	5	8
8	2	3	7	1	5	6	9	4
4	6	5	8	9	2	3	1	7

St James the Least of All

The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

The Rectory
St James the Least of All



On why rural churchgoers like to freeze in church

My dear Nephew Darren,

Winter certainly exposes the difference between those of you who live in cities and us rural folk. While you bask in your centrally heated flat, with every modern convenience that could be imagined and complain about the half an inch of slush that makes your life so inconvenient, we country folk wear overcoats in our houses, open all doors and windows to let the heat *in* and battle through snow drifts, measured in feet, to get the morning paper.

Colonel Wainwright has acquired a new toy: a snow blower, of sufficient power that I believe it could clear the Antarctic. He kindly volunteered to clear the paths around the church. Working outwards from the church door, the path to the church soon became snow free. Unfortunately, he only realised when his job was complete that the blown snow then formed a five-foot drift under the lychgate. We now have to climb over the churchyard wall and negotiate buried gravestones before we can reach his pristine paths.

Miss Margison, ever meaning to be helpful, decided to unfreeze the pipes in the church hall. A blow torch was not the ideal solution, although the resulting burst did make some rather attractive ice sculptures round the kitchen equipment. The village badminton team that uses the hall has now temporarily changed sport, to ice hockey.

Inevitably, our congregation has soared these past few weeks. There is nothing like adversity for making people want to prove they have the moral fibre to overcome it. Much satisfaction seems to be obtained on discovering who has *not* dared venture out, which is taken as judgement on their strength of character. The Prentices upstaged most people by arriving on a sleigh. Mr Prentice was warmly wrapped in a travelling rug, while his wife pulled it. As her husband explained, he couldn't possibly let the pony work in such conditions.

What I momentarily thought was applause during my sermon was merely people keeping their hands warm and the hymns were drowned out by the stamping of feet. Our organist complained that the cold made his fingers so numb that he couldn't play properly – although I didn't notice that things were much different from normal.

No, my dear nephew, you continue to fret about your church heating dropping to temperate, and a few flakes of wet snow obliging you to close your carpark for health and safety reasons. We shall continue to triumph heroically over adversity and return home after Mattins, feeling we have proved our Christian commitment by being utterly uncomfortable.

Your loving uncle, *Eustace*

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