

LIGHT *at the* DOOR

Welcome to the weekly newsletter for the Bain Valley and Woodhall Spa Group of Churches

Sunday Services - 20th July

Patronal Festival for St. Margaret of Antioch (Pisidia)

- **9.15am:** Morning Prayer at St. Margaret's, Langton (Patronal Festival)
- **9.30am:** Communion at St. Margaret's, Bucknall (Patronal Festival)
- **9.30am:** Morning Prayer at St. Michael's, Coningsby
- **11am:** Morning Prayer at St. Peter's, Woodhall Spa
- **6pm:** Evening Prayer at St. Margaret's, Roughton (Patronal Festival)

The Collect for this Sunday

For those commemorating St. Margaret: Almighty God, by whose grace and power your holy martyr Margaret triumphed over suffering and was faithful unto death: strengthen us with your grace, that we may endure reproach and persecution and faithfully bear witness to the name of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

For those not commemorating St. Margaret: Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The Feast of Saint Margaret of Antioch

Today, three of our churches celebrate the feast of St. Margaret of Antioch. The legends vary widely about Margaret, but in general, her story goes a bit like this. Margaret was born to a pagan father, but was raised by a nurse who introduced her to Christianity, so her father disowned her. As a young teen, she devoted herself to Jesus Christ, vowing to remain his bride for the rest of her life. A few years later, a wealthy man passed her way and requested to take her as his mistress. She refused, and he had her imprisoned and beaten. Her captors felt sorry for her and begged her to submit to the man, but she assured them that though they saw suffering, she saw her pain as "sweeter than cream". In her weakened state, she is believed to have faced a dragon - though some refer to the dragon as a demon or Satan himself. The dragon tried to swallow her and, with a cross she held in her hand, she defeated the dragon. Of course, this victory did not seal her fate. Still refusing to submit to the rich man, she was eventually beheaded.



News and events

St. Peter's, Woodhall Spa weekly Eucharist services are held every Wednesday at 9.30am, *but there is no service this week* (16th).

There is no Mothers' Union Communion service this Tuesday (15th) at St. Peter's, Woodhall Spa, but there will still be a meeting.

The wonderful Alwyn and Ros Killingsworth will be giving a talk about the war memorial window at St. Mary's Church, Kirkby on Bain. All are welcome to attend.

All our churches have dedicated websites on 'A Church Near You'. Simply Google 'ACNY'. Service, news and event information is added weekly - including this newsletter.

Our Priest in Charge

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SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

Reverend Sally Clifton: 07949 556494

The Woodhall Spa Group Safeguarding lead is Margaret Forman: 07931 574498

The Bain Valley Group Safeguarding lead is Tina Calvert 07718 884641

Childline: 0800 1111 | The Samaritans: 116 123

EDAN Lincs (Domestic Abuse): 01522 510041

Men's Advice Line: 0808 8010327 | Safe Spaces: 0300 303 1056

Elder Abuse Hotline: 0800 0699 784

Caring for God's Acre at Langton

Local students lend their hearts and energy to care for St. Margaret's Churchyard

This week we hosted a group of Year 8 students at Langton who worked in the Churchyard as part of their 'Frantic Fortnight' activities. Churchwarden Paul has written to the school to express his grateful thanks to them.

Paul said, "They were a joy to host and their teamwork and work ethic was a real credit to them. They were very easy to 'manage' and their output very clear".

Here they are with their 'rubbish' generated from weeding, pruning and general tidying up.



Back on top at Horsington!

Church cockerel returns after a repair and facelift!

If you've driven near to Horsington in the past year or so, the church may have looked a little odd. Half of the cockerel weathervane failed, but was thankfully recovered undamaged.

After the damage was assessed by the wonderful Zack Luetge from CDL Steeplejacks of Grantham, a successful grant application was made to the Diocese of Lincoln's Minor Repairs and Improvement Grant Fund.

After the List B permission was granted by the Archdeacon, the work was recently completed. Not only did Zack regild the cockerel, he and his team inspected the tower and took a series of photographs and videos of them in operation using a drone. You can see a video on Horsington's A Church Near You webpage!

Goodbye, Gavin... Welcome Ali!

With an imminent change to the areas of Lincolnshire our Archdeacons will have responsibility for, it means that the Archdeacon of Lincoln will no longer cover the Horncastle Deanery.

The Venerable Gavin Kirk has been our Archdeacon since 2016, providing our groups with great support and guidance.

Whilst a lot of his work has been completed in the background, it has not gone unnoticed by many of us, and we would like to thank Gavin for his friendship and hard work over the past nine years.

As a result of the area changes, we will now welcome the wonderful Ven. Alyson 'Aly' Buxton, although Aly will be retiring at the end of this year. Aly has been the Archdeacon of Stow and Lindsey since 2022 and is a friendly face to many already.



On this day in history

20th July

1969: NASA's Apollo 11 lunar module landed on the moon. Seven hours later, Neil Armstrong became the first person to step on the moon, followed by Buzz Aldrin.

1940: The British Legion held a parade in Woodhall Spa for ex-servicemen. With the Horncastle Town Band playing, the men processed through Woodhall Spa to the Petwood grounds where a service was held, led by the Rev. O.G.O. Larr, vicar at Woodhall Spa. "Onward Christian Soldiers", "Fight the Good Fight" and "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow" were sung.

1591: Anne Hutchinson was born in nearby Alford, going on to become a controversial figure in New England, USA. She remains a key figure in the history of religious freedom in England's American colonies, and the history of women in ministry, challenging the authority of the ministers. She is quoted as being "the most famous - or infamous - English woman in colonial American history".

Ecclesiasticus 51.8-12

Then thought I upon thy mercy, O Lord, and upon thy acts of old, how thou deliverest such as wait for thee, and savest them out of the hands of the enemies. Then lifted I up my supplications from the earth, and prayed for deliverance from death. I called upon the Lord, the Father of my Lord, that he would not leave me in the days of my trouble, and in the time of the proud, when there was no help. I will praise thy name continually, and will sing praises with thanksgiving; and so my prayer was heard: For thou savedst me from destruction, and deliveredst me from the evil time: therefore will I give thanks, and praise thee, and bless thy name, O Lord.

Psalms 15

Colossians 1.15-28

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.

He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him— provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints.

To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Luke 10.38-end

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.'

But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

Wellbeing Groups

Bucknall Men's Shed (Open to men aged over 16 from anywhere!). Bucknall Village Hall.
The next dates are: July: 17th, 29th. August 7th, 14th and 21st. 6.30-9pm (drop-in). It's FREE!

Bucknall Community Hub (Open to anyone, from anywhere!). Bucknall Village Hall.
Every Monday and Wednesday, 9.30 to 11am.
Just £1 for hot drinks and cake/biscuits.

Do you know any other great wellbeing or support groups worth mentioning? Let us know!

Your churches are here for you...

If you are interested in being baptised or married in any of our churches, please do speak with the Rev. Sall. Likewise, if you would like to discuss a grave reservation, we are here to help.
If you would like to support our churches, why not get involved? There's a range of roles available, or you could become a 'friend' of your local church, helping to keep it operating successfully.

Do you have any parish news, stories or photographs you'd like to share? If so, please get in touch! We are always glad to share your news or articles via this newsletter, or on our 'A Church Near You' pages! Please email them to: sally.clifton@lincoln.anglican.org