The Abbey Church of St Peter & St Paul serving the communities of Bourne Dyke Twenty and Cawthorpe



PARISH MAGAZINE







WORSHIP AT THE ABBEY

Thursday 4th	MU Corporate	Holy Communion BCP	10.00am
Sunday 7 th	2 nd Sunday of Easter	Sung Eucharist CW	11.00am
Thursday 11 th		Holy Communion BCP	10.00am
Sunday 14 th	3 rd Sunday of Easter	Sung Eucharist CW	11.00am
Thursday 18 th		Holy Communion BCP	10.00am
Sunday 21 st	4 th Sunday of Easter	Sung Eucharist CW	11.00am
		Choral Evensong	6.30pm
Thursday 25 th		Holy Communion BCP	10.00am
Sunday 28 th	5 th Sunday of Easter	Sung Eucharist CW	11.00am

The Abbey is open daily during the hours of daylight for visitors and private prayer.

We welcome the names of those who are ill or awaiting an operation so that prayers may be offered for them. We also continue to welcome the names of loved ones departed to be inscribed in the Abbey's Book of Remembrance. Contact Churchwarden Jennifer Maclean.

From the Abbey's Book of Remembrance for April Sarah Waters : 2nd Stuart Randall 1st 3rd Brian Dodd : Gwen Garner : 4th John Richard Rice-Oxley, priest 5th Sylvia Glover : Pauline Savage : Andrew Barnatt : Keith Watson : 6th Gillian West : 7th Eileen Atkinson Robert Woodman 8th Frederick Seymour : Robert Baker : Charles Glenn : John Smith : George Hobson 9th James Challis : Rowena Atkinson : 10th Leslie Fairbairn : Gillian Acland 11th Gerald Knight : Janet Faux : 12th McKensie Holme : Dean Spencer 13th Gwendoline Dandridge : 14th Patricia Moisey : 16th Phyllis Sutton 17th Margaret Scales : Derrick Fortescue 18th John Legge : Ann Tabor : Adrian Burgin 19th Bernard Jackson : Ellen Schwarz : 20th Benjamin Thorold 21st Rosslyn Edwards : Sonya Chorazek : Winifred 'Mary' Burdett Lister 24th David Pask : Harold Stephen Townsend 25th Samuel Danby : Barbara Stancer 26th Bridie Hurst : Douglas Clarke, priest : Marie Leaton 27th Jack Leaton : 28th Bernard Stubley : 30th Francis Hewitt

Dear Friends in Christ,

This year, as we enter the month of April, we find the annual feast of lamb and chocolate *(not together of course)* already passed. This year, the vagaries of the Church calendar mean that we have celebrated Easter 'early'. Next year things will be different. As we enter April 2025 we will be half way through Lent and looking towards a 'much later' Easter. However, there is an added frisson to the placing of Easter this year – it falls on the eve of April Fools' Day.



The association between 1st April and foolishness has been passed down many centuries. Chaucer makes allusion to it in the *Nun's Priest's Tale* in his *Canterbury Tales*, published in 1392. The origins of this fleeting celebration of human silliness go further back than that, and it is not focused on our country alone. The custom of setting aside one day a year for playing harmless pranks on our family, friends and neighbours is universal in the variations we find in many countries across the world.

As I was thinking about this month's letter, I came across this anonymous quote: *On April Fools Day, believe nothing, trust no one, just like any other day.* Given that April Fools' Day 2024 falls the day after our celebration of Easter I thought it was worth challenging this rather cynical view of life in general.

During Lent I have been leading a Deanery Lent Course. We have been reading and reflecting upon various incidents from the Last Supper, through the trial and crucifixion of Jesus to his resurrection and appearance in the locked room, as recorded in John's gospel. The moments we have read and discussed have contained several points that challenged the faith of the disciples: Jesus taking on the role of a servant as he washed his disciples' feet; Peter's assertion that he had never known Jesus; the betrayal, arrest and execution of Jesus; the discovery of the empty tomb; the appearance of the risen Christ and Thomas' uncertainty. The disciples, those chosen by Jesus himself and who had travelled with him throughout his ministry, found themselves in a state of confusion and fear as all the incredible prophetic statements about him were coming true before their eyes. They must have felt as if someone was about to spring out on them and say: *April Fool!*

Of course, no one was playing tricks on them. All that they had witnessed was a truth rooted in God's love for humanity. The ancient prophecies had foretold all that had befallen Jesus, the Son of God, who came to earth to share in the totality of the human

experience. Those divine promises had been around so long that, whilst they formed the basis of the Jewish faith, nobody believed they would really happen, and certainly not in the way they did. To truly understand the final days of Jesus' earthly life and the promised resurrection they, like us, needed to have faith.

As followers of the risen and ascended Christ we are called to have faith; we are called to go beyond the very human attitude of seeing is believing. Furthermore, we are called to engage with another detail from John's account of Jesus appearing before the incredulous disciples in his risen state. John writes: ... Jesus said to them, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' In these few words we, like those first disciples, are urged to set aside our human scepticism, accept the peace that Christ offers us, receive his Holy Spirit in and around us, and take up the challenge to go forward as faithful disciples and apostles of our risen and ascended Lord and Saviour. There is no foolishness in this, just a joy and sense of fulfilment that is rooted in our trust in the one who never plays tricks on us - not even on 1st April.



With every blessing to you all,

Fr Stephen

The Resurrection is the central theme in every Christian sermon reported in the Acts. The Resurrection and its consequences were the 'gospel' or good news which the Christians brought; what we call the 'gospels'... were composed later....The miracle of the Resurrection, and the theology of that miracle, comes first: the biography comes later as a comment on it. - CSLewis in 'Miracles'

Churchwarden's Chat

Last month I explained why, even with a new vicar of Bourne, the main service won't return to 10.00am. Clergy still need to celebrate at more than one church on Sundays, and that only works if there are common worship times across the Local Mission Partnership (deanery). It reminds me of the words of John Donne:

"No man is an island, entire of itself.

Each is a piece of the continent, a part of the main." Donne was exploring the theme of inter-connectedness, our human need for social contact and the impact that has on those around us. He was a cleric in the 17th century but his insights are timeless. What would he say of our parishes in the twentieth century?

"No parish is an island, entire of itself.

Each is a piece of the LMP, a part of the whole."

Our LMP covers a large area across South Kesteven, ranging from Old Somerby and Ropsley in the north, beyond Witham on the Hill in the south, from the Pontons and N&S Stoke with Easton in the west, then east into the fen stopping just shy of West Pinchbeck. Just 3 stipendiary (paid) priests minister in this large area. Yes, they're helped by self-supporting and retired clergy, but it is a tall order even with that support. The LMP needs 4 stipendiary clergy, but the pledges from each parish, which are used to pay the 3 stipends, do not cover even three posts. Unless or until pledges increase -and they in turn depend on the generosity of regular givers - the likelihood of a fourth priest is slim. As they say, you do the maths.

Jennifer Maclean



The World Day of Prayer Service was held on the first Friday in March at the Methodist Church. Each church in our town was represented. The service this year was written by the Christian women of Palestine about four years ago – this world event takes long preparation! We were all moved by the thought of what was happening in Palestine as we met together to pray their service.

MARGARET'S PAGE

When I was at school, I was no good at art. I gave it up as soon as I possibly could because I did not get on with the teacher. I remember very little about art classes when I was at primary school – the curriculum in those days was very different from the present day. I remember quite clearly making things with plasticine when I was at the infant school, but I do not remember ever learning to paint. We must have done some in my final year because I do remember one very strict rule – never use pink and yellow together. The teacher was the headmaster's wife and a real dragon. Even today, if I wear pink and yellow at the same time, I look up to heaven and say "Sorry, Mrs. Dougan."

My niece, Jennifer, takes after me in many ways and is brilliant at art so, when I retired, I decided to join the U3A art group. I learned more from Ann Horn, the tutor, in two years than I had ever learned at school. My love for painting has grown ever since and I still belong to the U3A group which meets every Tuesday in the Church Hall. Next Tuesday we are having a visit to Egleton Nature Reserve at Rutland Water, where we have the use of a classroom overlooking the water. We hope to be able to draw and paint from life a variety of birds on their winter visits. I am not too optimistic. We have been twice before, later in the year, and the birds seem to have a wonderful system of communication enabling them to pass on the message, "Keep away from Egleton this Tuesday. That lot from Bourne are coming over for the day!" Never mind; we know we will enjoy our visit and it will be quite a challenge to paint 'Non-existent birds in the rain.'



I love birdwatching at Egleton and also enjoy the other nature reserve at Lyndon on the other side of the water, where, at the right time of year, you can see through a telescope ospreys building nests and feeding their young. Some of you may remember Constance Briggs, an ardent bird watcher who helped to protect and establish the colony of ospreys at

Rutland. It was a bitter blow to Constance when she became housebound and no longer able to see her beloved birds. In later years she became rather difficult and so lost many friends, but she had a hidden heart of gold which I knew from experience. She recently died a very lonely death and was cremated without a funeral. Some of those who knew her discussed the situation with Bourne's Baptist minister and he is arranging a memorial service at the Baptist church on Tuesday, 22nd April at 2p.m. I would be delighted if anyone who knew Constance could join me there.

Bourne National School Trust Fund

Many of you will have passed the old National School in North Street without giving it a second glance. Now used by the local Conservative Association, it provided the first primary education in the town.

Opened in 1830, it was built on land donated by the Marquess of Exeter with the building financed by fundraising and public subscription. It remained open until the introduction of state education, being replaced in 1877 by the present school in Abbey Road. Since then, it has been used for various purposes until sold in 1987. The proceeds of this sale were put into a trust now administered and managed by a body of trustees.

The constitution of the trust gives the trustees the authority to provide funds in promoting education in the doctrines of the Church of England, and also social and physical training, of children and young people up to the age of 25 and who are resident or who have a parent or parents resident in Bourne. The trustees are keen that the local community is aware of the existence these funds and that they are used wisely and fairly in fulfilling these aims. If you would like further information, please feel free to contact the Chair of Trustees, Bill Peasley, via email, at wpeasley@btinternet.com.

From a newspaper report : October 1829

'The stone-laying ceremony began with a procession through the town with the marquess's steward with the vicar, Rev. Joseph Dodsworth, and many leading citizens. The bells of the Abbey Church rang out as wine was spilled over the foundation stone and distributed to everyone present. Afterwards the company adjourned to the Bull Hotel (now the Burghley Arms) where twenty guests sat down to a celebration dinner.'

What headstones are for

In the 1950s, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, visited the church of Scotland in Dumfries. As she was walking though the graveyard after the service, she asked the Lord Provost, who was with her, why the headstones were so large? He replied, "To hold them doon, Ma'am."



EASTER AT CHRISTMAS

Service in the armed forces can take many forms, sometimes leading to distant places. Christmas Island lies in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, where we once witnessed the nuclear tests of 1957-8. My recollection of these events is still vivid. It was Easter and church services were held on the island in an appropriately designed building on a solid foundation with an over-reaching wooden frame covered with palm leaves. In the tropical heat of the island, this simple building was cool and spacious. The chaplain encouraged men to use it for fellowship and while it provided a space for spiritual renewal, the coincidence of Easter and weapons testing was poignant. The joyful notes of the resurrection contrasted with the awesome sight of a weapon of mass destruction.

Only 12 years before these tests, the Second World War had ended with the nuclear bombings on Japen. I was a nine-year-old child in 1945, who remembered the blitz. I had tried to imagine the horror of such a destructive inferno enveloping a whole city.

The tests of 1957 proved a weapon of even greater force and showed an awesome picture of the power released. We witnessed the awesome possibility of nuclear destruction. The subsequent Cuban missile crisis (and the "War Game" film) then brought the world to the sober possibility of mutually assured destruction. Sixty years later, we wonder what has prevented this holocaust.

A few years ago, I was able to deliver a talk about the Christmas Island tests it to a congregation of church people, amongst whom were some Japanese Christians. From the land of the rising sun, they had seen the devastation of the conflict in their own land. They had also seen the triumph of the risen Christ. We now shared the same ambition to make this known throughout the world.

With best wishes for a peaceful Easter,

Malcolm

THREE EPISCOPAL PICTURES



On 27th February the Bishop of Grantham came to the Abbey to license Father Stephen Buckman as the new Vicar of Bourne in a memorable and joyful service.

L to R: Arch-deacon Justine Allain Chapman of Boston : Father Stephen : Bishop Nicholas : Father Peter Lister, associate priest at the Abbey.

In Madagascar, Bishop Hall Speers travelled through mud and potholes in the episcopal Hilux but also took to the air in a tiny Cessna belonging to the Mission Aviation Fellowship to reach a far corner off the .diocese.

He also travelled to a Confirmation by dugout canoe, admiring the expertise of his paddler and enjoying the quiet of this 'wow moment'.





'I was intensely aware of how wonderful creation is and the expertise of people who live in these watery places. Just being alive in this calm world was great.'
But sitting absolutely still for an hour and a half did result in an aching back!

CROSSWORD FOR APRIL

ACROSS

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the -' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
- 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30)
- 10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)
- 11 'Your heart will and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
- 13 Muslim holy month (7)
- 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
- 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)

22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)

- 24 'Go to the , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
- 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

DOWN

- 1 My for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
- 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
- 3 'His sons will prepare for war and a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
- 4 'Let not the string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
- 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
- 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
- 7 'But Christ is faithful — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
- 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
- 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
- 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
- 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
- 17 'They gave him — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
- 18 'Weren't there three men that we and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
- 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
- 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
- 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

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Solution page 13



Mothers' Union members were pleased to prepare Posies for Mothering Sunday. Just enough to go round plus two for elderly MU members Joyce Reason and Connie Glover.

With Easter nearly upon us, we are pleased to provide eggs for our young Attendees.

The next meeting will be on April 3rd when we have arranged to visit the **Don't Lose Hope** Shed. Starting at 2.15pm -3pm then back to the Hall for Refreshments and reflection on what we have heard.

Most of you will be familiar with The Shop and the Café but what goes on in the Shed? It's not all about Men. Come and find out! Visitors welcome. Elizabeth 01778 422512

OUR 'MAD' LIFE Bishop Hall Speers writes from Madagascar



Where was the Bishop going by dugout? To bless the new church of St Mary the Virgin at Ambario.

Next day I left my hotel at 5.45 am . . . there was a crowd waiting to welcome the bishop off the canoe and escort me with singing and dancing to the church. We arrived to find the church full and only 15 minutes before the scheduled start of the service but I was ushered into the nearest house and a very welcome breakfast of rice, beef and coffee served. I needed it. The service started just after 9 am and finished just before 2.30pm. Never a dull moment except perhaps the bishop's sermon.

We started off with a grand procession around the exterior of the church as I blessed it at the corners and then formed up in front for the cutting of the ribbon and the bishop knocking three times on the doors. I get a childish thrill out of this ceremony as the metal tip of my crozier makes a resounding noise on the iron doors. This had been carefully rehearsed with the Dean inside ready to unbolt the doors and dramatically fling them open.



Surrounded by a host of cameras I whispered to the Archdeacon "Scissors". He loudly repeated the command only to be told that he had them. He suddenly remembered that he had them and had left them in the church. By this time all outside had guessed the

problem and there was laughter as the Archdeacon tried to communicate unsuccessfully with the Dean inside who was not going to open the door until there were three loud bangs... A happy moment of innocent farce as the Archdeacon phoned the Dean and scissors were slipped through a side door.

A packed church with overflow congregation enjoyed singing with, as so often, several choirs. The leader of the Antsohihy choir announced in perfect English that the next item was dedicated to the bishop and was about the love of God that unites us even when we are far away across the world. Sitting behind them I couldn't make out a word but each verse was greeted with thunderous applause. The service ended with lively dancing which was incredible as it was well after lunchtime and I was struggling to keep smiling and clapping. I had to have a lie down before eating.

These meals consist of mammoth quantities of rice and boiled ox. No vegetables or fruit. The great pleasure is to eat until you can eat no more.

And so back to the dugout then the Hilux . .

We calculated that if we kept going we would be back in Mahajanga about 1 am. Mercifully there was no rain but it was pitch dark before we got very far and were stopped by the police and informed it was too dangerous because of the risk of bandits for a lone vehicle to continue and we would have to wait until there were at least 5 to form a convoy... *The Bishop eventually arrived home at dawn*.

Love and Prayers

+Hall

hallspeers@gmail.com

Crossword solution

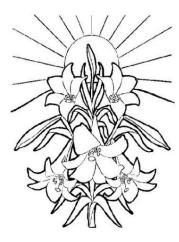
ACROSS: 8, Transgressors. 9, Out. 10, Ephesians. 11, Throb. 13, Ramadan. 16, Nearest. 19, Neath. 22, Childless. 24, Ant. 25, Excommunicate.

DOWN: 1, Utmost. 2, Easter. 3, Assemble. 4, Archer. 5, Isis. 6, To hand. 7, As a son. 12, Hoe. 14, Monastic. 15, Apt. 16, Nuclei. 17, A piece. 18, Tied up. 20, Ararat. 21, Hatred. 23, Dome.

The Bible version used in the crosswords is the NIV.

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EASTER LILIES - GIVEN IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES.



Thank you to everyone who donated monies in memory of loved ones as listed below and thank you also to those who have arranged them. There is a wonderful display in St. Paul's Chapel arranged by Marilyn Roberts and the whole Abbey is beautified with flowers for Easter.

Audrey Bloodworth : Charles Bloodworth : Maurice Brewster : Mona Brewster : Roy Brewster : Noel Broughton : Geraldine Casbon : Daren Causton : Shirley Clark : Douglas Clarke : Henry Cole June Cole : Ivy Coleman : Harry Coleman : Gerry Colyer : Daniel Dagger : Alan Danby : Ivy Danby Margery Ellen Danby : Samuel Roy Danby : Edwin Samuel Danby : Ian Darby : Ellen Dynes : Peter Dynes : Don Faux : Janet Rosemary Faux : Tom Freeman : Patricia Friend : Kaye Goodall : Cyril Gray : Jim Gray : Marie Gray : Marjorie Gray : Emily Green : Jane Green : Percy Green : Dudley Guppy : Alan Hart : Benjamin Henry Hart : Bessie Hart : Cynthia Hatfield : Ethel Hicks : James William Hicks : Betty James : Jim James : Bill Johns : Emma Johns : Lilian Johns : Gladys Johnson : William Johnson : Alan Richard Jones : Joan Jones : John Jones : Clarence Roy Kelby : Carole Kitchener Robert Kitchener : Albert Knowles : Elizabeth Knowles : Florence Knowles : Molly Knowles : Frank Lamb : Elva Lamb : Sheila Lee : J. Mc Gregor : Peter Morris : Pauline Nelson ; Fred Norville : Jessie Nunn ; Patrick English Nunn : Peter Edward Oakley : John William Osborne : Frank Page : Patricia Page : Bernard Partridge : Mary Partridge : Robert Partridge : David Pask : Howard Peasley : Emily Revill : Janet Revill : Joseph Revill : Rodger Revill : Eric Roberts: Maisie Roberts Daisy Farrow Robinson : George Ernest Robinson : Charlie Roffe : Eva Roffe : Patricia May Salmon : Audrey Scotney : Bernard Scotney : Leah Scott : Marie Scott : Alan Shaw : Catherine Sibborn : Frank Sibborn : Janet Staples : Leslie Sutton Phyllis Sutton : John Taylor : Nicola Theaker : Mary Ward : Doris Wells : Samuel Wilkinson Cecil William Wright : James York

*Monday 1st April in the Choir Vestry at 10am

JULIAN GROUP

Meditation, prayer and music

*Wednesday 3rd in the Hall from 3pm See page 11 for full details

MOTHERS'UNION

* Friday 5th in the Methodist Church at 7.30pm

STAMFORD CONCERT SINGERS

Tickets £6 available at the door. Includes light refreshments.

* Saturday 6th in the Hall 10am – 12 noon

NIBBLE & NATTER

Stalls to include Books, Raffle and Refreshments. Proceeds to Abbey Church Funds. Everyone welcome

*Wednesdays 10th and 24th in the Hall at 12noon

ABBEY LUNCHEON CLUB

*Wednesday 17th in the Hall from 2 – 4pm

KNIT AND SEW FRIENDSHIP All most welcome

*Thursday 18th in the Abbey at 7pm

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Elections. Reports of Church Organisations. Discussion of Church Affairs.

* Friday 19th at 34 Arnhem Way from 10 - 11.30am

THE ABBEY AT HOME

Christian fellowship and discussion by invitation of Rev. Sylvia Rice-Oxley

AND A TIP. .

Here's a sure-fire way to cross off every item on your To-Do list:

Do the chores first, then write them down and then cross them off!

The Abbey and Parish Church of Ss. Peter & Paul

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