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Deadline for items to be submitted for next issue –
Monday 20th February; please submit items to Rev Kathy

FEBRUARY 2012

The Benefice of Hedon, Paull, Sproatley & Preston. Benefice Bulletin.

30p

Thoughts from the Vicarage

Yesterday, I caught up with the first episode of the excellent TV drama 'Call the Midwife.'

The newly qualified midwife arrives, to her surprise, at a convent which will be the residential base for her work. Asked by one of the nuns there 'Do you have a faith?', she responds, 'No, not really. I'm C of E.'

The drama is set in the 50s, a time when Britain was thought of as 'a Christian country'. What this seems to have meant was that most people were baptised, churchgoing was more a part of our culture, as were religious assemblies in schools, and perhaps the majority would tick a box marked 'C of E' on the census returns.

We now live in a time when many lament that Britain is no longer 'a Christian country.' But all too often, this is seen simply in terms of a lack of moral guidance and behaviour. People, seeing the slide of a moral code, want the church to function as a sort of moral police force and get the country back on track again.

Within a similar way of thinking, I often meet people who tell me that, although they don't go to church, they try to live 'a Christian life' and be 'a good person.'

All this begs the question of what it means to be Christian –either as a country or as an individual.

Somewhere along the line, so many have been left with the trappings of Christianity without any reference to faith and without any reference to the person at the centre of it all –Jesus.

To be a Christian is to have a relationship with the living God, through Jesus, and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Christianity is not a box to be ticked (here or in the after-life!) but a home to live in, a destination to be working towards. It's about us becoming the people God made us to be, about taking this world so badly gone wrong and doing our bit to turn it the right way up. Real Christianity can change hearts and minds in a way that no code of rules can.

But when we come alive with our faith, when we start to live it, when we worship God with our very souls instead of merely assenting to God's existence –then we find that our behaviour does change. We become more compassionate, more forgiving, more aware of others; we begin to treat other people as God treats us.

Christianity is not primarily about having a set of rules or even about being 'good'. What lies at the heart of Christianity is a person with whom we can have a real, life-giving and life-changing relationship, no-one less than the Son of God.

Yours in Christ, Kathy

ST AUGUSTINE'S, HEDON.

You are invited to a **Coffee Morning** at the home of Mrs. Joan Leese, 8b New Road, Hedon, on Tuesday 21st February, at 10.30 a.m. There will be a Bring-and-Buy and a raffle. Tickets are £1.50 each.

There will be a **Barn Dance** on Saturday 10th March, in the Alexandra Hall, starting at 8.00 p.m., through to midnight. Music is by the band "Top Notch". There will be a whisky roll, and tickets will be on sale for the raffle. The bar will not be open, so you will need to bring your own drinks and glasses.

Tickets are £9 each, including a Ploughman's Supper, and can be obtained from Hedon Carpets and Beds, in Watmough's Arcade, or by ringing Sue on 890292 or Barbara on 896478. The last Barn Dance was a very enjoyable event, so no doubt tickets will be sold quickly.

Flower Festival 4th— 7th May

Your help is needed in:

- * Sponsoring an arrangement, or donating money towards decorating the windows and pillars –please use a Gift aid envelope and mark it 'FF'
- * Arranging flowers
- * Helping with setting up/dismantling
- * Baking cakes for the 'Tea Room'
- * Serving/washing up in the 'Tea Room'
- * Making savoury nibbles for the Friday evening preview
- * Acting as a steward/being on the door to welcome people & give out programmes

The theme for the Festival is 'Wedding Anniversaries' and the format is as follows:

Thursday 3rd & Friday 4th May –setting up

Friday evening, 4th –Preview evening with wine & savouries

Saturday 5th –viewing 10am –4pm

Saturday evening, 5th. Concert by The Hull Male Voice Choir (profits being shared with The Coastguard Association)

Sunday 6th 11am 'Songs of Praise' service, with the Bishop of Hull. (See back of church for a chance to select your favourite hymns) -flowed by a bring-and-share lunch.

Sunday 6th –viewing 1pm –4pm

Monday 7th –Viewing 10am –4pm

Tuesday 8th –from 9am –dismantling.

Money raised over the weekend will be going towards a new staircase from the Bell Room to the Tower Top, so that we can improve access in the tower, and so generate more income.

If you can help, please contact Carol, Kathryn, Wendy or Val.

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

Emily May Davies
Tyler-Jay Clark

15th January
22nd January

All Saints', Preston
St Augustine's, Hedon

'Shine as a light to the glory of God the Father'

FUNERALS

Jean Ann Nelson (Hedon)

5th January

Chanterlands Crematorium

'May they rest in peace'

Psalm 117, by Mary Sidney, Countess of Pembroke (1561-1621)

Praise him that aye
Remains the same
All tongues display
Iehovah's fame.
Sing all that share
This earthly ball:
His mercies are
Exposed to all:
Like as the word
Once he doth give,
Rolled in record
Doth time outlive

The initial letters of the lines spell out the words 'Prais the Lord.'

The spelling of Jehovah is explained by I and J being the same letter until the late 17th century.

Useful Websites

St Augustine's:

A Church Near You:
www.achurchnearyou.com

Diocese of York:
www.dioceseofyork.org.uk

St Andrew's:

www.standrewpaull.wordpress.com
<http://standrew-paull.bravehost.com/>
<http://standrew-fundraising.bravehost.com/>

Making a good journey of it

At the start of the New Year a man was going on a journey to a distant country. He spent hours looking at maps, wanting the most scenic route. Should he go by plane, train or car? He spent days looking into the comfort of the seats provided, the leg-room, the restaurants he would be able to use, the entertainment on offer, and especially important to him, would the other passengers be good enough company?

In every way the man made sure that his journey would be perfect: a scenic route by good transport in total luxury, with great entertainment, superb food, accompanied by people he was happy to be seen with.

The trip itself would take two weeks at most – even by car. It was a one-way journey: the man would spend the rest of his life in the distant country.

Yet in all his preparations, the man concentrated solely on the trip itself. He never took thought of what he would do when he arrived. What about Passport Control in the distant country? Would he even be allowed in without a visa? Would he be suitable for life there?

Our life can be a bit like that. As we hurtle through the years, we can spend all our time trying to get an ‘upgrade’ on our careers, our homes, our cars, our social opportunities. We may indeed make our journey a fantastic trip – but what happens when we arrive? Are we ready for what comes after?

Jesus said: “I am the resurrection and the life: he who believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.” John 11:25-26

The need of the world is to listen to God.

Albert Einstein

ST ANDREW’S, PAULL.

Great news for the congregation and friends of the church of St Andrew! We have secured the funding through fundraising and grants for the installation of the new glass lobby within the main north door entrance.

Work will begin towards the end of January and the lobby should be finished for the opening of the “Riverside coffee shop” within the church on the 25th March 2012.

We hope this addition will help keep our heating bills down: fuel for heating is very expensive for this large building and eats up a great deal of our income. It will also promote a welcoming entrance with an open door approach and create a warm atmosphere for those wishing to spend time in the church whether for worship, pleasure, refreshments or learning about their heritage

We wish to thank all those who have supported the church events throughout 2011, all those who have helped promote the church as a community building and those who have given generous grants or contributions for such schemes to succeed. We would like to thank (defra) “LEADER” Coast, Wolds, Wetlands & Waterways (The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development Europe, investing in rural areas, supported by Yorkshire Forward the region’s development agency) for their continual support with funding. Without their support it would be hard for the building to survive in today’s society and also meet the social needs of the wider community. Thank you to those who give their time freely and do so much volunteer work for the good of others.

May God bless those involved and those who support the work of the church family, give them the strength to carry on and encourage them to share faith and love with others and in the community.

ST SWITHIN’S, SPROATLEY

A warm welcome to Gill Barratt, the new headteacher of Sproatley Endowed C of E school. There has always been an excellent relationship between the church and the school in Sproatley and this seems set to continue.

When you’re in St Swithin’s, keep a look out for the art-work which the children are going to produce each term.

Be kind. Remember that everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.

Harry Thompson

ALL SAINTS', PRESTON.

From Richard and Sue Thorp:

We would like to thank you for your support in helping to make the Christmas Tree display such a successful event. We had more new visitors than in recent years, which we can only attribute to people telling their friends and family about how nice it looked. A credit to those who have helped Sue and I in making it a display not to be missed. Thank you for your help. The event raised £849 from the visitor donations which has gone toward the improvements.

What's next? As you may already have heard, we hope to start with the improvements to the access at the west door by raising the path to the height of the floor inside the church, eliminating the step. We also plan to install a toilet and kitchen in the north-west corner of the church. These improvements have been designed to maintain the traditional appearance of the building. We are now short of just under £5000, so we intend to continue fundraising to meet the whole cost, £38,000 –or in the worst case, we will do as much work as we can pay for. We intend to start early in 2012 with these improvements. As a matter of interest, the last major improvement carried out at All Saints' was in 1881/1883. Time we caught up with things!

Once again, thank you for your support.

What it's worth

A man and his ten-year-old son were on a fishing trip miles from home. At the boy's insistence, they decided to attend the Sunday worship service at a small rural church. The father forgot to bring any cash, so he reached in his pocket and gave his son 10p to drop in the offering plate as it was passed.

As they walked back to their car after the service, the father complained. "The service was too long," he lamented. "The sermon was boring, and the singing was off key." Finally the boy said, "Daddy, I thought it was pretty good for 10p."

LENT GROUPS

Hedon & District Churches Together –Wednesday lunchtimes
Lunch: 12 noon Discussion : 1 pm

Lent lunches and discussion, using the York Lent Course 'Handing on the torch.'

Lunch donations to go to 'Medicin sans frontiers'

- 22/2/12 RC Presbytery, Baxtergate, Hedon
- 29/2/12 1 Chapelry Garth, Hedon
- 7/3/12 Methodist Chapel, New Rd, Hedon
- 14/3/12 Hedon Church Room
- 21/3/12 RC Presbytery, Baxtergate
- 28/3/12 Methodist Chapel, New Rd.

Benefice Lent Course –Monday evenings - Hedon Church Room,
7pm

Using the Diocesan booklet, 'Hilarious Living'

- 20/2/12
- 27/2/12
- 5/3/12
- (No meeting on 12/3/12)
- 19/3/12
- 26/3/12

Please let me know if you're going to attend this one so I can order the booklets. Thanks, Kathy.

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

LENT

22ND ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us. The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19) The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

Ash Wednesday –services of Holy Communion & the Imposition of Ashes.

10am St Augustine's, Hedon
7 pm All Saints', Preston

Don't forget to bring last year's palm crosses to church in early February.

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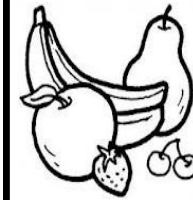
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Beyond the Benefice

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 2nd March

2pm

At The Methodist Chapel, Hedon.

'LET JUSTICE PREVAIL'

A service prepared by the Christian Women of Malaysia.

ALL WELCOME

Concerts in Churches

University of Hull Big Band

St Patrick's, Patrington

Sunday 5th February 7.30 pm

University of Hull Students

St Patrick's Church, Patrington

Sunday 4th March 3.00 pm

Organ Recital by Alan Spedding

St German's Church, Winestead

Sunday 29th April 3.00 pm

University of Hull Students

St Patrick's, Patrington

Sunday 13th May 3.00pm

Organ Recital by Paull Derrett

St Patrick's, Patrington

Sunday 3rd June 3.00 pm

Free entry to all concerts!

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

Each day this month please pray for those events which take place in our benefice and for all the people involved.

Wednesday 1st

Holy Communion

St Augustine's, Hedon

10.00 am

Sproatley PCC

Anne Garton's

7.30 pm

Thursday 2nd

Bible Study

The Vicarage

9.00 am

Sunday 5th -3 before Lent

Parish Eucharist

St Augustine's, Hedon

9.30 am

Morning Prayer

St Swithin's, Sproatley

9.30 am

Family Service & Baptism

St Andrew's, Paull

11.00 am

Holy Communion

All Saints', Preston

3.00 pm

Monday 6th

'Journeys'

Mandy Annison's

7.30 pm

Tuesday 7th

'Little Saints'

Hedon Church Room

2.00 pm

Baptism Preparation

Hedon Church Room

7.30 pm

Wednesday 8th

Holy Communion

St Augustine's, Hedon

10.00 am

'Home Communion'

Hawthorn House

11.00 am

Assembly (Kay & Joyce)

Paull primary school

1.15 pm

Thursday 9th

Bible Study

The Vicarage

9.00 am

Deanery prayer group

St Patrick's Patrington

2.00 pm

'Home communion'

Holyrood House

3.00 pm

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday 12th -2 before Lent

Parish Eucharist	St Augustine's, Hedon	9.30 am
Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Sproatley	11.00 am
Morning Prayer	All Saints', Preston	11.00 am
Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Paull	3.00 pm

Monday 13th

Health walk	St Andrew's, Paull	10.30 am
Hedon choir practice	Joan Annison's	6.30 pm

Tuesday 14th

School service	St Swithin's, Sproatley	2.45 pm
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Wednesday 15th

Holy Communion	St Augustine's, Hedon	10.00 am
'Home Communion'	Albemarle	3.00 pm

Thursday 16th

Bible study	The Vicarage	9.00 am
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Sunday 19th -Sunday before Lent

Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Sproatley	9.30 am
Morning Prayer	St Augustine's, Hedon	9.30 am
Family Service & Baptism	All Saints', Preston	11.00 am
Holy Baptism	St Augustine's, Hedon	2.00 pm

Monday 20th

Paull PCC	St Andrew's	11.30 am
Lent Course	Hedon Church Room	7.00 pm

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

Tuesday 21st -Shrove Tuesday

'Little Saints'	Hedon Church Room	2.00 pm
Paull Fellowship	Joyce Wigg's	7.30pm

Wednesday 22nd -Ash Wednesday

Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes		
	St Augustine's, Hedon	10.00 am
	All Saints', Preston	7.00 pm
Churches Together Lent lunch	RC Presbytery, Hedon	12 noon

Thursday 23rd

Mothers' Union	Hedon Church Room	2.00 pm
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Sunday 26th -Lent 1

Holy Communion	All Saints', Preston	9.30 am
Family service & Baptism	St Augustine's, Hedon	11.00 am
Evening Prayer	St Andrew's, Paull	3.00 pm

Monday 27th

Health Walk	St Andrew's, Paull	10.30 am
Hedon Standing Committee	Dorothy Winter's	1.30 pm
Lent Course	Hedon Church Room	7.00 pm

Tuesday 28th

Assembly	Sproatley primary school	9.00 am
Little Saints	Hedon Church Room	2.00 pm

Wednesday 29th

Holy Communion	St Augustine's, Hedon	10.00 am
Churches Together Lent lunch	1 Chapelry Gth, Hedon	12 noon