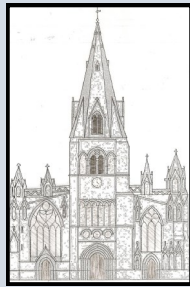


St Denys Bulletin October 2021



**From Mon 4th October, the church will be
open daily from 9.30am.
Morning prayer will be said (Mon-Fri) at
8.45am whenever possible.**

Prayer

(Collect for Harvest)

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; through 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. *Amen.*

www.sleafordparishchurch.co.uk

Welcome to the St Denys Bulletin!!

If you have an item you would like included in the St Denys Bulletin please email office.stdenys1@btconnect.com, by the Wednesday before the first Friday of every month.

Current Parish Office opening times
Mon, Weds and Fri 9-11am

OCTOBER SERVICES IN CHURCH

Sundays at 10am

Sung Holy Communion

Wednesdays at 10am

Said Holy Communion

Sunday, 3rd October

5pm Evensong

Sunday, 10th October

5pm Evening Prayer

Sunday, 17th October

4.30pm Confirmation Service

Sunday, 24th October

7pm Compline

Sunday, 31st October

5pm All Souls (see separate notice)

Sunday, 7th November

5pm Evensong

3rd Oct - Trinity XVIII (Harvest): Joel 2.21-27, Psalm 126

1 Timothy 2.1-7, Matthew 6.25-33

10th Oct - Patronal Festival and Dedication of the Heating System

Wisdom 3.1-3, 2 Psalm 126

Corinthians 6.4-10, Matthew 5.13-16

17th Oct - St Luke: Isaiah 35.3-6, Psalm 147

Acts 16.6-12a, Luke 10.1-9

24th Oct - Trinity XX1: Isaiah 5.1-11, Psalm 19

Timothy 3.14-4.5, John 5.36b-end

31st Oct - All Saints: Wisdom 3.1-9, Psalm 24

Revelation 21.10a, John 11.32-44

7th Nov - III before Advent: Jonah 3.1-10, Psalm 65

Hebrews 9.24-end, Mark 1.14-20

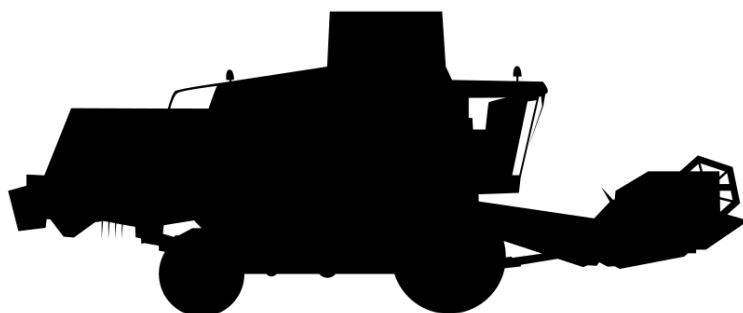
HARVEST

The season of Harvest Festivals has crept up on me rather unexpectedly this year! During July and August I watched the combine harvesters at work in the fields. Many of those harvested fields have already been ploughed and sown. All is safely gathered in (for this year) and we can begin to think about next year. But as I sit down to write the news is about shortages of haulage drivers, not only in this country but across Europe. There have been fuel shortages... I have found petrol stations without fuel and on one occasion I was limited to £25 worth of petrol. There is the threat of food shortages on supermarket shelves.

All of this is a salutary reminder that in our modern world the distance between farm and fork is very great. To get the grain from the grain store to the mill requires HGV drivers and lorries with fuel in their tanks. If we travel through the stages of production, wholesale and distribution before the product hits the supermarket shelves the road mileage is substantial.

Very often, at harvest time our focus is the farm... we thank God that the harvest has been gathered in. And it is right that we should do this. But in a world where so many live their lives in towns and cities the farm is something that is often viewed through rose-tinted spectacles and the window of a car. So long as there is food in the supermarket, what more do we need to know? The TV series *Clarkson's Farm* has highlighted how difficult farming can be but that is only the first stage in feeding a nation. When food is in short supply we become more aware of the basic necessities and our reliance on God. The passage from Matthew's gospel may be spoken to people who indulge with plentiful feasting but it reminds us all of our dependence on God.

Fr Philip



EMBRACE - THE MIDDLE EAST

I joined Embrace the Middle East on line on 25th September 2021 for our Annual Embrace Day, which is normally held in London. The speaker was Dr. Alia Abboud whom I met on my last visit to Lebanon, she works with the Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development in Beirut. (LSESD) They work with all the Lebanese churches helping the 2 million refugees from Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Sudan and some other places. Her work is with the development branch of the Society called Middle East Revive and Thrive (MERATH).

Alia told us of the very desperate situation in Lebanon, there is no end to the downward slide. The Lebanese lira has devalued by 90% so effectively the churches' income has reduced by 90% and Lebanon's needs are greater than ever. The pandemic has hit very hard, the loss of life has been great. Few are vaccinated and there is virtually no social distancing, it is not possible in the conditions in which they live. Embrace have provided 100,000 masks but that is only a drop in the ocean for their needs. (my words, not Alia,s).

There are no safe places for education, they are too crowded. Lebanon has more refugees per capita than any other country in the world.

The churches in both Lebanon and Syria work together but they are out of their comfort zone. They are running food banks. The people are traumatised, hungry and grieving and the FCDO budget cuts will have a significant effect on all the refugees, 2.5 million children alone are displaced in Syria.

Alia says that their partners, of which Embrace is one, are resilient and selflessly serve those around them, their faith is unfailing All of our partners are Christian but no-one of any faith is ever turned away. They always say 'God will provide'.

On a personal note - I have visited the schools which Embrace have provided in the middle of two of the large Syrian refugee camps in the Beqaa Valley just a few kilometres from the Syrian border, and two of the churches which provide food and clothing. We provide education to as many as possible. These people are camped on land belonging to Lebanese farmers who can no longer earn a living from the land so want rent which these people cannot pay. The majority cannot legally work, they have no United Nations work permits. What little work they can find is illegal and is casual on the land, cleaning or building. There is very little electricity or clean water or toilet facilities. I have visited over 20 of Embrace's projects in the Holy Land but Lebanon is in a very dire situation, as is Gaza.

The Palestinian crisis is just as bad. When I was there, 448,599 refugees were registered but there were many more unregistered, they are in danger. They have no access to Lebanese medical services or hospitals, if you are seriously ill you just die. Lebanese Red Cross and Embrace have mobile medical units which go round the 12 Palestinian camps throughout Lebanon but their help is limited. Palestinian children can go to school. I found everything that I saw here upsetting and I still cannot forget the suffering that all these people were going through. The situation is now far worse than it was then. Since the blast in the port of Beirut last year there are now many thousands of Lebanese people without homes adding to the already drastic situation in beautiful Lebanon.

To return to our online meeting. At the afternoon service the preacher was Dr. Nabil Costa. He said that Jesus gave them hope. They must, as a church bring hope to those struggling to survive, they are broken hearted. Jesus came to comfort, that they might have life. We represent Jesus, the more we help the more we represent Him. Church life is very different now, we must accept all people - one family in Christ. Jesus came for all. God cannot work through us until He works in us. We must stand with them and give hope in hours of need. In the blast, the church in Lebanon was a major help in all always. Freely we have received, freely we must give.

Minyon Prescott



ALL SOULS DAY

Sunday, 31st October at 5pm

In place of the usual Family Remembrance service, this year it will be a Pandemic Memorial Service to remember all those who have died during the pandemic and for whom a normal funeral or memorial service was not possible.

We will not be reading out a list of names this year but there will be an opportunity during the service to come and light a candle to remember your loved ones. All are welcome.



Sleaford Keswick Bible Ministry

A member of the Keswick Fellowship
"for you are all one in Christ Jesus"
Galatians 3:28



Next Meeting:
Friday 8th October
7:30pm
Riverside Church
(Southgate, Sleaford)

Speaker: Rev Dr David Hilborn

Topic: Endurance & Joy:
Trusting Jesus in Tough Times
(Hebrews 12:1-3)

About our Speaker:

David is Principal of Moorlands College, a Dorset-based interdenominational evangelical college. He was previously Principal of St John's College, Nottingham and Assistant Dean of St Mellitus College. He was Head of Theology at the Evangelical Alliance UK for nine years. He currently chairs the Evangelical Alliance's Theological Advisory Group. He has authored or edited several books. David is a Londoner and is married to Mia, with two grown-up children. He loves cricket, reads a lot of autobiographies, and enjoys walking on the Dorset coast.

SPARE AN HOUR OR TWO EACH WEEK?
WANT TO HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
LIKE TO CHAT? ...

... THEN EVERGREEN SLEAFORD
WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Evergreen Sleaford is a free befriending organisation operating within a 10 mile radius of Sleaford, offering friendship to a lonely, isolated elderly person.



Call us on 07707 260822 or email
info@evergreensleaford.org.uk for
more information.

Sleaford Caring Trust - Registered Charity Number 1148040

COMMUNICANTS' GUILD

Members of the Guild were pleased to be able to meet in September after the long break. Discussions were held as to the future of the Guild and the main decision made was that future meetings would be held on the 3rd. Tuesday of the month in the Parish Room (as before) but at **2p.m.instead of 7 p.m.**

Our next meeting will be on **Oct. 19th (at 2 p.m.)** when we look forward to welcoming Alan Harris, a WWII veteran as our speaker. He is a most interesting person and as usual the meeting will be open to anyone interested to hear Alan's talk. Do come along and join us.

SPONSORSHIP WITH COMPASSION

Since 2007, when he was eight years old, we have sponsored the education of Gilbert who lived in Rwanda through Compassion UK Christian Child Development. Gilbert graduated from the scheme in June this year at the age of 22, and we sent him a letter of congratulation as he hopes to continue his studies. It was decided that we would like to continue with the scheme but would like this time to sponsor a girl. Our new child is called Girihirwe, who also lives in Rwanda and was eight at the beginning of August. She is the eldest of three girls and her photo together with a the first letter received are displayed on our Mission Partners board in church near the Trinity Chapel (previously the Children's Corner). As we receive further pictures we will be able to update the board and watch her progress as we did with Gilbert.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Now that things are slowly returning to some sort of normality, the pattern of worship is slowly resuming too.

To enable this to happen, it will be necessary to establish a rota of volunteer helpers and so any offers of help with the following would be gratefully received (even if only once a month). *Thank you.*

- *Readers*
- *Intercessors*
- *Crucifers*
- *Serving Assistants*
- *Collection Counters*

Please let either the Parish Administrator know if you are able to help. Tel: 01529 413607 / office.stdenys1@btconnect.com

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who supported our little Sunday morning stall. It raised £250 for church funds.

Gwen & Bernard

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

Sophia Louise

12th September



FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

Ralph Frederick Cawood

90 years

Please remember them in your prayers

ST DENYS BEARS

Every Tuesday, during term-time, 9.30am in the Church Hall.



OUR THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE BEEN PRAYING FOR OUR NEW GROUP:

We have a lovely, happy team and already have 11 children signed up and enjoying all of our activities. I think that Rose would have been delighted with the latest ideas we have and the enthusiasm we all feel that it should continue to grow and thrive.

Alison Wickstead

PATRONAL FESTIVAL THOUGHTS

Despite my several decades of research into our patron saint and his cult, I still discover unknown churches and facts about our St. Denys. Let me share a few.

There are two churches sharing the dedication with St Mary - in Torquay and in Portslade, West Sussex.

§ Our Lady Help of Christians and St. Denis, St. Marychurch, Torquay.TQ1 4NY [1878-1881]. The following is from the website: historicengland.org.uk: “The Church of Our Lady, Help of Christians and St Denis in Torquay, a Roman Catholic church of 1865-9 by Joseph Hansom, is listed at Grade I In 1867, William Potts-Chatto, local landowner of The Daison, a nearby country estate, offered to build the community a church, to Our Lady and St Denis, in thanksgiving for his infant son, Denis’s, recovery from a serious illness.”

§ Our Lady, Star of the Sea and St Denis, Portslade [1912]. On this church’s website, the local historian, Judy Middleton, writes: “It was to Father Kerwin [the first parish priest] that Mrs Catherine Broderick came with the idea of donating enough money to enable a church to be built. Her husband Denis, died in 1911, and it was his last wish that a church should be built for Portslade Catholics – hence the church’s dedication to Our Lady and St Denis.”

Further less obvious churches are, amongst others,

§ In Hungary, Szentdienes (S. Dionysium Teleki) occurs in a charter of 1287 as Telwky. “According to the surviving traditions, the image of St. Denys was rescued from Somogyvár Abbey during the Tartar invasion and hidden in the village by the Benedictine monks, and later the image remained in the settlement and became the patron saint and name of the village. Szentdienes lies south-east of Szigetvár and some 8 miles south-west of Szentlőrinc.” San Dionisio, Usulután, El Salvador; St Denis’ Catholic Parish in Joondanna, Western Australia.

To these and to all churches who share our dedication - not least the Bishop of Saint-Denis, Pascal Lannoy and at the Cathedral-Basilica, Jean-Christophe Helbecque, Elorian Atsima Ngari and Vincent Lascève - we send our greetings and the assurance of our continuing prayers this Denystide.

Douglas Hoare

SPIRIT OF PLACE & VIRTUE SIGNALLING AS CONCERNING FATH

By David Birks

W.H. Auden coined 'Topophilia' as a word describing 'Love of Place', a rather different concept from that of 'Space'. **Place** is a distinct location; and occasionally a special site that we might engage with. Perhaps of itself it's one that may stimulate a spiritual infold through hallowed usage or unique topography.

Alternatively, **space** can be a planning quantity, specified to represent shapes as abstractions from targeted physical settings. In such instances it becomes a bespoke developer's template for hierarchically ranked allocations, positional amongst draft proposals.

Place, then is always unique; but one which in special cases recollects a sacred atmosphere: whereas **public spaces** can be unexceptional, posing reduced meaning to individuals inside their communities.

Today's developers usually prioritize **valuable space** very economically, ignoring spirituality altogether. Additionally they're sometimes politically influenced towards overbearing styling, intended to impress and subdue beholders, but often they're just commonly depressing.

Now, you may have heard of **Virtue Signalling**. It's a modern posture, otherwise described as 'Political Correctness': Celebrities and public figures affirming and broadcasting apparently rational affinities with doctrines posited by inferred righteous majorities; but actually unrepresentative of broad opinion. Their insincere, yet apparently virtuous declarations are simply vanities dressed up and really intended to court applause.

From ancient antiquity **place, topography** and **genuine consensus** of understandings have all played a central part in religious life; countless pilgrims begetting powerful senses concerning locations, beliefs and belonging therein. The modern tendency to downplay religious faith recurrently but subtly utilizes virtue signalling and by shifting emphasis away from the importance of place, in favour of 'rational' economic space. It all stems from an unwarranted assumption that the science renaissance truly displaced God.

SLEAFORD PARISH CHURCH

Rural Dean of Lafford, Vicar of Sleaford

The Rev'd Philip Johnson
01529 304348
revdphilip@aol.com

The Parish Office

Parish Administrator
Paula Ireland

Parish Office Opening Hours

Mon, Weds and Fri 9-11am
01529 413607
office.stdenys1@btconnect.com

Churchwardens

Richard Clash
07714 565678
Philip Starks
01529 307144

Safeguarding Officer

Angela Clash
01529 410065
Or Diocese - 01522 504081
safeguard-
ing@lincolnanglican.org

Director of Music

Lee Mitton-Rooke
lee.rooke@googlemail.com

PCC Treasurer

Brenda Hitchcock
01529 302775

Vicar of Quarrington

The Rev'd Mark Thomson
01529 306776