

East Loveden Church and Parish News

MAY 2021

The East Loveden Group

Covering Ancaster,
Greylees, Heydour,
Kelby, Rauceby,
Welby and Wilsford



Rector: The Rev'd Georgie Machell

Copy for JUNE Church News by MAY 15th

at the latest please to:

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CONTACTS FOR THE RECTORY

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Alleluia He is Risen.

The season from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, is the most joyful time in the church's year. It is a time of rejoicing in the resurrection, of celebrating the possibility of new life, of seeing the world and all its people in a completely different way.

Easter is the constant affirmation that Jesus is what love looks like - that in Him, we see God. Pentecost is a time for each of us to hear God's personal invitation to live a baptised life.

For Christians, the Feast of Pentecost commemorates the day on which Jesus' disciples received the Holy Spirit. It was a moment in time when God broke into humanity to fulfil the promise that Jesus made to His disciples: "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name – He will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you." (John 14: 26).

The disciples and apostles were preparing for this coming through prayer. Before the coming of the Holy Spirit the apostles and disciples were timid, fearful. When the Holy Spirit came upon them, they changed. From timid disciples they were transformed into fearless witnesses of Christ. The flame of love, trust and truth lit inside them, encouraged them to immediately start announcing the Joyful News.

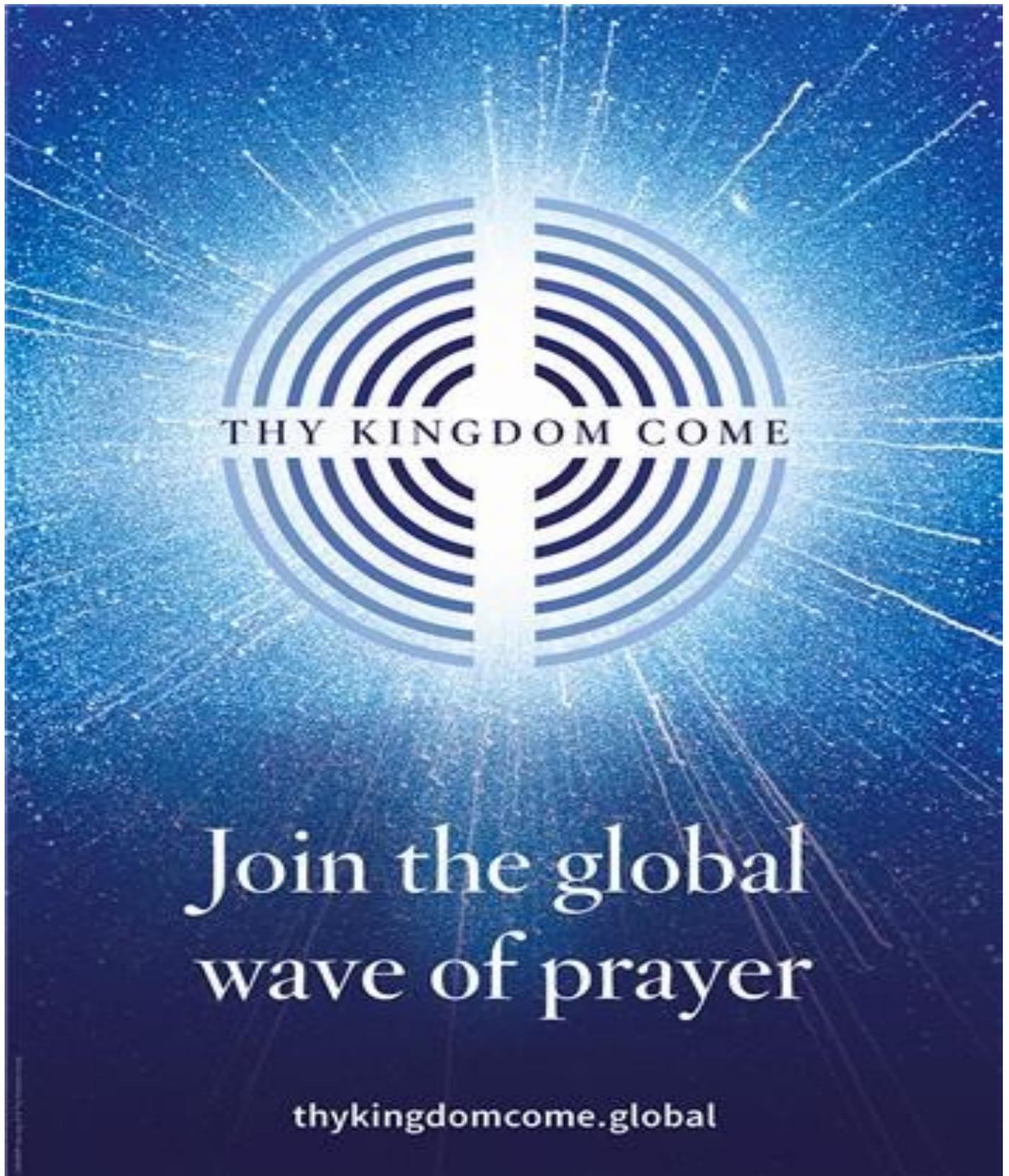
We are encouraged to have more trust in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We know how important trust is in life. Life on earth is unimaginable without trusting other people. We can only imagine what it would be like if we went through life doubting everyone and everything. Without faith life is endangered. When fearful, one feels endangered, as if one is being attacked by everyone. When fearful one feels one must defend oneself, attack and insult others to preserve one's own life. In this way one endangers not only interpersonal relationships with others but also destroys oneself.

Fear paralyses one, while faith sets one free and brings with it security, peace and freedom. A child cannot live without trusting its parents. A child has trust in its parents and therefore can count on them and so grow. Jesus sets before us a picture of a child saying: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.." (Matthew 18, 3).

It is our lack of childlike faith in God which gives rise to our tenseness, frustration, anxiety, nervousness. We have the capability to believe, love and hope. The path to an encounter with God is prayer....God is waiting for us to finally trust and begin living.

Let us begin believing and loving so that we may get to know and encounter God and in doing so get to know and encounter ourselves and each other.

Rev. Georgie Machell



Thy Kingdom Come 13th May - 23rd May 2021

Join the global wave of prayer calling all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ.

THE PROBLEMS OF SMALL RURAL CHURCHES

Lincolnshire is the second largest county in England with over 600 churches, the overwhelming majority of which are in small rural communities. A century ago all of those churches would have had their own vicar and a full congregation twice a day on Sundays. Things change. Now less than 2% of the population are regular churchgoers and parishes are grouped together under a single vicar. In the East Loveden Group we are Ancaster, Heydour, Kelby, Rauceby, Welby and Wilsford and our rector is the Reverend Georgie Machell. We take it in turns to host a service of Holy Communion every Sunday and we would expect to see around 30 people in the congregation.

We mustn't complain, there are lots of other things to do on a Sunday, but it is harder and harder for those churches to keep going. People are often surprised when they learn that the church in the village receives no direct financial help from the Diocese of Lincoln; on the contrary, we have to send typically £7000 (known as "parish share") to Lincoln to pay for our clergy. Then we have to stump up for insurance, not cheap as many of our churches are Grade-I listed, maintenance, inspections, heating and lighting. Quite a bill and one many of us are no longer able to meet.

The Diocese of Lincoln has finally recognised that it faces a severe financial crisis and is looking for ways to reduce costs. A policy is slowly taking shape called Resourcing Sustainable Church and each stage is discussed and reviewed by working groups and by individual churches. One answer may be to decrease the number of active clergy, though this would mean each vicar or rector looking after even more churches and that could place an intolerable burden on them. Perhaps there might be a central pool of clergy that we could call on to lead our worship but that would strain to breaking point the close bond between vicars and their flock. Anyway, whatever solution is settled on there will still be a huge demand for money to pay clergy, accommodate and train them, and finally provide their pensions.

If the Diocese of Lincoln wants more money it will soon run out of other options, like selling off property and investments, and will need to turn to the churches. That's us. And the only way to do that is to increase parish share which most of us can't afford to pay at the present levels. A church has limited sources of income; apart from the occasional bequest they are the collection plate and planned giving. We are deeply indebted and very grateful to those people in the parish who are not themselves regular worshippers but like the idea of there being a functioning church in the village and have set up Direct Debits to us on which we can claim Gift Aid.

So, can we please reach out to you? Many of our churches have been around for hundreds, even a thousand, years and are little masterpieces of history and architecture. In some ways a church is like a pub - indeed, historically, many church communities did make beer - you may not use it much but you'd miss it if it closed. If you do feel like supporting us financially we would be very grateful. And you might then like to come along and see how your money is spent. You will find a friendly and welcoming group of people happy to see you.

Simon Davey
Church Warden at Wilsford

ASCENSION

And if I go,
while you're still here...

Know that I live on,
vibrating to a different measure
--behind a thin veil you cannot see through.

You will not see me,
so you must have faith.

I wait for the time when we can soar together again,
--both aware of each other.

Until then, live your life to its fullest.

And when you need me,
Just whisper my name in your heart,
...I will be there.



BENEFICE PRAYER

Heavenly Father

As we put our trust in you, send Your Holy Spirit to bring vision to our planning, and guidance and direction for the future of our churches.

May we be the salt and light to this place as we embrace our diversity and work together in unity to make disciples of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PRAYER for MAY

Heavenly Father

In this month of May we celebrate both the glorious Ascension of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ and the giving of the Holy Spirit to His first disciples. They were empowered to live lives of sacrificial love.

We pray that, by God's grace, we may be given that special gift and show the compassion of Jesus, in some small part, in our daily lives.

Amen

	FROM THE REGISTERS	
FUNERALS		
ANCASTER	MALCOLM DAVID BRATTON	6th April
HEYDOUR	ANNE DUFFIN	29th April
	Please remember them in your prayers	

PC & PCSOs for

Neighbourhood Watch and Lincs Alert schemes has discontinued and is now replaced by a scheme called Next door.

You can register for free on nextdoor.co.uk and receive community/crime updates and alerts for your village.

Crime stats for your village and crime prevention advice can be found on POLICE.UK.

Type your village/street name to find reported crime states for your community you can view this as much as you wish.

PCSO Colin Ironmonger 07973 845 622

PCSO Nic Woolerton 007973842786

Please note that police mobiles are not manned 24 hours a day.

In an emergency continue to ring 999

or to report crime and less urgent matters dial 101.

Sleafordruralsouth@lincs.pnn.police.uk

AROUND THE PARISHES

ANCASTER

The church will be open for private prayer or contemplation from 14:00 to 15:00 on Thursday May 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th.

Subject to government Covid regulation changes Subject to government COVID-19 regulation changes

Please would you continue to leave any donations for the Food Bank at the door of 17 Ermine Street and they will be taken to the Food Bank on days when it is open or if not to a donation box at one of the supermarkets.

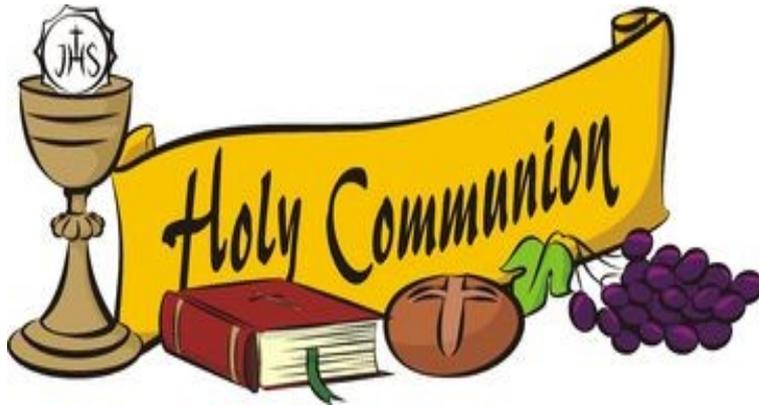
Thank you.

WILSFORD

St. Mary's Church, Wilsford is pleased to be open for Private Prayer every Wednesday between 9.30am - 10.30am. The usual rules of social distancing, the wearing of masks and sanitising hands on arrival and departure will be in place. Everyone is welcome to

attend who wishes for a peaceful time for prayer and contemplation.

EAST LOVEDEN GROUP



**We are offering Holy Communion
[in one form only] in these services.**

10:00 unless stated otherwise

MAY 2ND KELBY

MAY 9TH WELBY

MAY 16TH WILSFORD

MAY 23RD HEYDOUR

MAY 30TH RAUCEBY

JUNE 6TH ANCASTER

**TO PROTECT EACH OTHER PLEASE
WEAR A MASK IF YOU ARE ABLE.
SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE OBSERVED
AS WELL AS COVID-19 SAFETY
MEASURES IN PLACE. ALL WELCOME.**