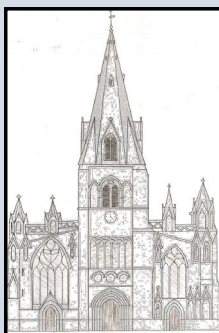


# St Denys Bulletin May 2022



**The church is open daily from 9.30am.  
Morning prayer will be said Mon, Tues,  
Thurs and Fri at 8.45am  
(whenever possible).**

## Prayer

(Alternative Collect for Easter III)

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:  
strengthen us also to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father. *Amen*

[www.sleafordparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.sleafordparishchurch.co.uk)

## **MAY SERVICES**

(Morning prayer is usually said at 8.45am on  
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday)

**Sunday, 8th May**

**Easter IV**

10am Sung Communion

**Sunday, 15th May**

**Easter V**

10am Sung Communion

**Wednesday, 18th May**

10am Said Communion

**Sunday, 22nd May**

**Easter VI (Rogation)**

10am Sung Communion

5pm Compline

**Thursday, 26th May**

7pm Ascension Service

**Sunday, 29th May**

**Easter VII**

10am Sung Communion

**Sunday, 5th June**

**Pentecost**

10am Sung Communion

There is no Evensong.

It will take place on **Sunday, 12th June** instead at 5pm.

## **CHURCHWARDEN'S ROUND-UP by Richard Clash**

### **THERE IS NOTHING NEW - JUST A DIFFERENT APPROACH**

In January 2010 the late Steve Jobs, CEO of Apple Inc., announced the first so-called tablet computer device - albeit under the intuitive description of an iPad. As always with Apple this was accompanied with much fanfare and how this device was going to change everyone's life style - a real game changer. Indeed it is difficult to disagree with the game changer claim but, putting things into perspective, the "tablet" concept had been around for some while. Amazon had produced its Kindle reader in 2007 which on the face of it looks very much like a tablet. Stretching the imagination further tablets have been around for many decades, usually pink, blue, white and in various shapes, which often accompany many breakfast tables, or for the more adventurous, night clubs - but that's digressing somewhat.

Going back to the more feely touchy variety, with the tap and read facility, there is no doubt these little devices have certainly changed the way the world receives the written word and all of the knowledge, true or false, that comes with it. During Philip's sabbatical I have personally found using a tablet when reading morning prayer invaluable. The sound system at St Denys can now be controlled via a tablet and many a priest will deliver their service via such a devise.

Of course, the smart phone, another Apple "invention" - surprisingly imposed on the world before the iPad and ably replicated by other tech companies - has come to dominate the touch and go phenomenon, but then they can be viewed as mini tablets, but nowadays with hugely increased technical resources.

But are these tablets new and have they totally changed the way we live or just given us a different approach to life? In the Old Testament, the book of Exodus refers to Moses receiving from God the "tablets of testimony". Now Moses was a pretty cool guy. Not only did he go up a rather high mountain to get said tablets, but he came with down with two of them. Either he was extremely extravagant or the information on the tablets was of particular importance. My guess the latter is true - bearing in mind many civilisations following on from Moses to the present day have built their judicial and moral codes on the information which Moses delivered to the Israelites. Admittedly Moses didn't have the ability to tap and read function which come with current devices, but my goodness, his were certainly a game changer.

*Continued from previous page*

### **HELPING WITH COMMUNION**

During the past couple of months two members of the congregation have been helping the visiting priest with the preparation and clearing of the communion vessels. It can be viewed as a variant on the duties a sacristan would normally carry out. If anyone would like to consider helping in this capacity during the 10am Sunday service please make yourself known to either a churchwarden or the parish office. A minimal amount of training would be required.

**FOOTNOTE:** A priest was halfway through a sermon when he saw a man asleep in the front row. He asked the fellow next to him if he would so kind as to wake him up, but the fellow said: "I'm sorry, father, but that wouldn't be fair." The priest said: "And why not?" The fellow said: "Well, you put him to sleep ... you wake him up!"

### **PRAYER LIST**

Due to confidentiality reasons , the list of those people to be included in prayers who are sick or recently bereaved cannot be mentioned by name.

If you have someone in particular who you wish to be included for prayer please could you let the Parish Office know.

A weekly prayer list will be produced and circulated by email to those who take Morning Prayer and others who pray at home and would like to include these people in their prayers. If you are not able to receive emails please let Pam Jakeway know so details can be provided.

The sick and recently bereaved will always be remembered at Morning Prayer.

### **MESSAGE FROM HAZEL STARKS**

I would like to say a heartfelt "thank you" to all the church family for the many messages, cards and beautiful flowers I received after my recent stay in hospital.

# ST DENYS BEARS

**Every Tuesday, during term-time, 9.30am  
in the church hall**

Our delayed St Denys Bears Toddle has been redated to Tuesday am on the 17<sup>th</sup> May.

When I was asking our Mums what would be a good charity to support, "Tommys" the charity supporting neonatal health issues and the development of interventions to support those parents who are undergoing problems in conceiving and bringing healthy babies to term was selected. This year there has been quite a lot of talk about miscarriages in the national press, with some hospitals under special measures for their poor performance; and the plight of people who suffer from series of miscarriages with very little support and also the heartache that losing babies before they come to term can cause.

So we are raising money for "Tommys" who this year are featuring special support for the families who suffer from miscarriages Our toddle takes us walking, twice round the outside of St Denys Church and then once around the inside. And we hope to raise money for this. Please if you are offered a sponsor form could you be able to support us?

We hope for a rain free morning and an exciting Toddle!

## MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

This year, there have been some changes to Mothers' Union at St Denys. Following advice from the Diocese MU, small groups such as ours have been encouraged to be Diocesan Members and to become a Fellowship Group. Administration and finances will be dealt with by the Diocese, relieving us of the need to find a leader or treasurer. Fellowship Groups can choose to meet for friendship and support, so we plan to continue meeting on the fourth Tuesday afternoon of the month (except August and December), usually in the Church rooms. We will also continue to support St Denys in our usual ways such as baptisms, remembrance table, flowers etc. We would be pleased to welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Our next meeting is on **24th May** when we shall celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Members will share memories from the Coronation and through the Queen's reign, bringing any souvenirs we may have, and we may even have cake!

### BIBLE VERSE

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen".  
*Luke 24.1-5*

### COMMUNICANTS' GUILD

On **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May**, members will be visiting the Church of St. Mary and the Holy Rood, Donington, to see an exhibition relating to Captain Matthew Flinders RN who was born at Donington. Members will be travelling by car and there are two spaces available if anyone wishes to join us and needs a lift (otherwise by their own transport). Please speak to Pam Jakeway if you would like to attend. The visit begins at 2 p.m.

### FROM THE REGISTERS



#### FUNERAL SERVICES

Kenneth Bush	11th April 2022	Aged 92 years
Joseph Brindley Lockwood	22nd April 2022	Aged 80 years
Sybil Dyson	21st April 2022	Aged 98 years
Mark John Marsden	29th April 2022	Aged 54 years
Nicholas Michael Frost	4th May 2022	Aged 51 years

Please remember them in your prayers

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Here in Sleaford, we are used to the normal spelling “Denys”. However, in specific instances, eg. place-names [St.Dennis, Cornwall; St. Denys, Southampton; Coln Dennis, Gloucestershire], church-dedications, other variants are used. These include: Διονύσιος [Acts 17.34], Denis, Dennis, Dionysius [and variants, e.g St Dionis Backchurch in the City [replaced by Wren after The Great Fire, then demolished and ‘transferred to St. Dionis (\*), Parsons Green], Denijs, Dionigi, Dioinisio, or, in the Philippines, Dune.

Recently, I found this: “A little-known Irish saint is about to be wiped off the church calendars and to lose his place in the history books. But St Disen is not to be written off completely: he will stay on as patron saint of a village church in the south of England. The only church named after St Disen is in the small Devon village of Bradninch in the Diocese of Exeter. According to local lore, Disen was an Irish monk who stopped off in mid-Devon and built the church before moving on, like many Irish monks of the day, to Germany.

“Now, a new study by a history professor dismisses the notion that the parish has any claims to ancient Irish links. In fact, Prof Nicholas Orme of Exeter University says the whole story is based on “a romantic myth”.

In researching the dedication of English churches and their saint names, Dr Orme realised that Irish hermits were unlikely “to turn up in mid-Devon and found churches”. Dr Orme says there was no Irish saint by the name of Disen; to make it even more embarrassing for the parishioners of Bradninch, he says St Disen never existed. The church was named after St Denis until the last century, and the name was misspelled in the parish records by a dyslexic scribe in 1831.”

Make of that what you will!

(\*) Some the furnishings of the earlier church are now in its successor. The ‘Aga’ map of the City before the Great Fire depicts the medieval church.

*Douglas Hoare.*

# **WILLIAM ALVEY SCHOOL**

## **Bishop's Visitor update**

The school have now returned after the Easter break and are settling down for the summer term hoping that things can be a bit more “normal”. On Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April, in the afternoon, a very exciting event took place in the school hall for the first time in over 2 years! All the children and staff gathered together for a full school assembly and I was invited too. Three of the year groups of youngest children had never experienced it before and have to learn how to walk from their own classrooms in a line and sit quietly in rows for about half an hour. There are 650 children in the whole school and they only just fit! We heard about what we know of St George of England and saw his flag. Then we had the names and countries of the other saints of the UK, Andrew, David and Patrick, and saw how their flags are combined to make the the Union flag. It was great to hear them all singing and being together again. We are hoping this can happen regularly again on Fridays this term. Other assemblies will still be held in classrooms and linked virtually as they have been during the pandemic.

Just before the holiday I spent a great day in church with the three Y1 (aged 5/6) classes. They came to look around the building as part of their RE lessons. They went all around looking at the windows, finding various objects, counting things and generally learning about the church, answering questions on their sheets and being excited about being out of school! Questions like – how many friends does Jesus have with him on the reredos behind the High Altar and who are they? Do you know there is a book on the High Altar made by some of the Alvey children before covid? It is very interesting. Have a look if you've never seen it.

I hope there are going to be some more days like that this term and other events we used to look forward to as well.

*Beryl Risdell*





# *Sleaford Choral*

## *Spring Concert 2022*



### *The Armed Man*

*with British pieces forming a tribute  
to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee:*

*St. Denys' Church Sleaford*

*May 14<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm,*

*Tickets £10.00, incl. Finger Buffet.*

*There will be a retiring collection for the people of the Ukraine*  
[sleafordchoralsociety.co.uk](http://sleafordchoralsociety.co.uk)

## **EMBRACE The Middle East**

### **What is the Ceremony of Holy Light?**

Most Christians outside of the Orthodox Church know little of this, but it is one of the most sacred rituals in the Orthodox Church and dates back to at least the 8th century. On Holy Saturday the Holy Light is said to miraculously appear in the tomb of Christ in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Tens of thousands of pilgrims from around the world flock to Jerusalem.

The ceremony begins at 10.00am in the Armenian Church of St James. Church leaders process to the Holy Sepulchre. At 11.00am the key is handed to the Patriarch for the procession and then handed back to the Muslim doorkeeper (the same Muslim family have held the key since the 12th century), he opens the door and those lucky enough to get through can enter. The atmosphere inside is described as electric. Pilgrims carry their candles with which to receive the Holy Light. From mid morning there is singing, dancing and beating of drums. At 1.00pm silence falls and the Civic Authorities make their way to the tomb. They enter the shrine to make sure there is no fire in there. They then seal the shrine with wax; this represents the sealing of the tomb by the Roman soldiers. The crowds then start to chant 'Christ is Risen' in many different languages. At 1.45pm the procession walks round the tomb three times and the seal is broken; an unlit oil lamp is placed inside on the stone where Christ's body lay. The Patriarch in a plain white alba enters the tomb carrying two bundles of unlit candles each containing 33 small candles to represent Christ's 33 years on earth. He kneels before the stone and recites an ancient prayer. All lights are extinguished in the church and the crowd wait in silence; the time varies from year to year from a few minutes to much longer. No-one, except the Patriarch knows how the candles are miraculously lit but the Patriarch emerges from the tomb with the candles alight into the crowd and the flame spreads around the church to all candles. Opinion varies on what happens, some say a light comes down from heaven; others say the fire emanates from the stone itself.

The Orthodox Easter is the week after ours as they still follow the Julian calendar.

*Minyon Prescott*

## GROUPS MEETING IN THE CHURCH HALL

Bookings welcome through the Parish Office

For contact details please see the Parish Centre noticeboard or email  
[office.stdenys1@btconnect.com](mailto:office.stdenys1@btconnect.com)

Group	Day	Time	Frequency
Keep Fit With Kimberley	Monday	9.15am and 10.15am	Weekly
St Denys Bears	Tuesday	9.30am	Weekly during term-time
Communicants' Guild	Tuesday	2pm	Third Tuesday of every month but not in August.
Mothers' Union	Tuesday	2pm	Every fourth Tuesday but not August or December
St John Ambulance	Tuesday	6pm	Weekly
Arthritis Care	Wednesday	1.30pm	Fourth Wednesday of each month
U3A: Wine Appreciation	Wednesday	7pm	Fourth Wednesday of each month
WW	Friday	9.30am	Weekly
St Denys Choir (Church)	Friday	7pm	Weekly
St Denys Ringers (Church)	Friday	7.30pm	Weekly

# **SLEAFORD PARISH CHURCH**

## **Rural Dean of Lafford, Vicar of Sleaford**

(currently on sabbatical - please contact  
the Parish Office who can direct your  
query to the correct person)

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 0303 003 1111 opt 2  
safeguarding@lincolnanglican.org

## **Director of Music**

Lee Mitton-Rooke  
lee.rooke@goolemail.com

## **PCC Treasurer**

Brenda Hitchcock  
01529 302775

## **Vicar of Quarrington**

The Rev'd Mark Thomson  
01529 306776