

ST DENYS CORONACLE

May 2021



BIBLE TEXT

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you - that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem..." *St. Luke 24.45-47*

MAY MESSAGE

by The Rev'd Philip Johnson, Vicar of Sleaford

The month of May is framed by bank-holidays – May Day and Whitsun (the old name for Pentecost). The actual bank-holidays may have become a little disconnected with the historic celebrations in terms of both the dates and traditional customs, secular and religious. This year, dancing around a maypole will be impossible even in those villages that do still have a maypole. With our traditional celebrations of May Day and Whitsun the feast of the Ascension can get a little lost. It is always celebrated on a Thursday so not an ideal day for a bank-holiday, that is unless you live, for example, in France, where it is a public holiday. In France it is not uncommon to take the Friday off also, making for a long weekend. The consequence of this is that Ascension has a much higher profile in France than in Britain.

Ascension Day is important – it is one of the most significant days in the Christian year. It marks the fact that Jesus' work on earth is completed. He returns to the throne of heaven and the disciples – the church – awaits the gift of the Holy Spirit that will mark the beginning of our work. But that earthly work of Christ is framed by a common theme (much as the month of May is framed by bank-holidays). Jesus' earthly ministry begins with John the Baptist preaching about sin and offering baptism as a sign of repentance... his ministry on earth ends by telling the church that 'repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations'. Then after blessing the disciples he ascends to heaven. John prepared the way for Jesus, Jesus did his work of atonement, and we have received the task of proclaiming repentance and forgiveness throughout the world.

So, what does that mean? It can be so easy to say sorry without meaning it, or to focus on institutional or structural sin and neglect the personal aspect. The word 'sin' means to miss the mark, to fall short in following the way of the cross. If we are to proclaim repentance it must begin with us, seeking daily to follow Christ more closely and walking the way of the cross.

Fr Philip

PRAYER (CW Collect for The Ascension)

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

CHURCH WORSHIP

Public worship continues at 10am every Sunday. with a said communion service.

The church will also be open for private prayer every Wednesday during May, 10am - 12pm.

BIBLE READINGS

Easter VI

Acts 10.44-end; Psalm 98
1 John 5.1-6; John 15.9-17

Ascension Day

Acts 1.1-11, Psalm 47
Ephesians 1.15-end; Luke 24.44-end

Easter VII

Acts 1.15-26, Psalm 1
1 John 5.9-13; John 17.6-19

Pentecost

Acts 2.1-21; Psalm 104
Romans 8.22-27, John 15.26-27& 16.4b-15

Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6.1-8, Psalm 29
Romans 8.12-17, John 3.1-17

APCM

Sunday, 16th May 2021

The APCM will take place in church, after the 10am service. The Annual Report may be viewed on the website, or if you require a hard copy please ask at the Parish Office. Nomination forms are also on the website and can be downloaded or alternatively, there are some at the back of church.

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

There will be a service in church at 7pm on
Thursday, 13th May

THY KINGDOM COME

To cover the period between Ascension and Pentecost we have ordered copies of the Prayer Journal by the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell. They are available from the back of church.

CHRISTIAN AID

Envelopes will be available for donations during May, from the back of church or in the Coronacle if you receive a hard copy. Please return them to church, if possible, but if you would like yours collecting please let the Parish Office know. Alternatively, they may be posted through the letter box at the Parish Centre.

William Alvey School

Bishop's Visitor update



The school has returned from the Easter break with all the same Covid arrangements and restrictions in place as before, so still not school as we used to know it! This is number 80 of my updates for you, as of course we normally have 10 issues a year of the magazine, and I'm beginning my ninth year as their Bishop's Visitor.

The school has acquired some very old and fragile copies of the St Denys magazine from 1949 which make very interesting reading. Many names I recognised even though my time at St Denys only goes back to 1977. The vicar was Canon Waudby, the organist Eric Sibley, and among other names E. Smeeton, E. Sommers, Miss Bagg, Miss Beavis (one time head at the Alvey) and Miss Vidal, names some of you might recognise. There was a paragraph about our "beloved William Alvey School" and the service in church to commemorate the Founder in August that year, obviously the forerunner of our present day Alvey Day service held at the end of the Summer Term.

Mr Tapley brought me one of the old magazines on one of his visits to my driveway to chat!

I am invited to be one of nine guests from the school to go to the service at Hull Minster on 22nd August this year to commemorate the R38 Airship Disaster in 1921 and the death of former Alvey boy, Charles Penson, whose medals the school have recently acquired. I do hope I will be able to go to that. The date of a service in Sleaford is also in the diary to remember that tragic event one hundred years ago. The school have also acquired a stirrup pump for their WW2 Air Raid Shelter Museum. There are pictures in the Wasp, the online newsletter if you are able to access it. The St George's Day edition included a piece from me about him, and contributions from the Vicar and the local Scout Leader about the virtual camp for the scouts held that weekend, as there could be no big parade in church again this year.

Some news about Bishops, past, present and future. Last month we heard the news of the death of Bishop Robert Hardy, Bishop of Lincoln from 1987-2001, whom many of us will remember. More recently it was announced that the current Bishop, Christopher is to retire at the end of this year. So we shall have a new Bishop of Lincoln in 2022.

Beryl Risdell

HMRC scams are becoming increasingly believable and here's how to spot them

HMRC scams have been around for years tricking people into transferring money or giving up personal information.

Although HRMC scams are nothing new, they are becoming more complex and believable. People are starting to wise up to scams, so the scammers need to put more effort into their attempts and they are getting very good at it, whether it be very convincing phone calls using a professional and polite manner to trick you into trusting them and giving up information, using fear of fines or criminal action taken against you or very well constructed emails. They know that many people aren't particularly familiar with HMRC practices and procedures and are incorporating that aspect into their scams.

The scams vary between offering people tax rebates or targeting business owners and self-assessment taxpayers in particular, increasing their activity in line with HMRC around assessment deadline. This also allows them to use the deadline to create a sense of urgency and press people into falling for their scam using the fear aspect of social engineering. If you have an accountant, always speak to them first.

COVID relief grants are another angle they use, often sent by text messages, whereas the real HMRC will contact people via a letter in the post regarding SEISS grants informing them they will receive a phone call within 10 working days.

Scammers know that people tend to have a certain level of fear for the HRMC, often triggered by their lack of knowledge of HMRC practices. It's that same lack of knowledge that also allows people to fall for the email, text or phone call scams. HMRC will only contact you by post initially and never contact you out of the blue. Also remember that emails and numbers can be spoofed to look like they came from HMRC so you can never be sure even if the email address looks genuine.

Here's some advice on how to spot HMRC scams – it's likely to be a scam if:

- It's unexpected, there's a sense of urgency or is time sensitive, a financial incentive is offered such as a refund, grant or tax rebate, the call, email or text is threatening in nature or they are asking you to transfer money.

. What to do if you are unsure or suspect a scam:

- Call the HMRC directly to confirm and, if someone has called you, don't be afraid to hang up.

If it is business related, speak to your accountant first if you have one before taking action, otherwise contact the HRMC directly. Report any scams or phishing emails to HMRC [online](#) or email them – phishing@hmrc.gov.uk.

Examples of known HMRC scams ; Guide to HMRC communications

The St Denys Mace by Douglas Hoare

Often unnoticed is the St. Denys mace at the east end of the north “canons” stalls. How did it come to be there and to remain mostly unappreciated? Briefly, the background is this: At Easter, 1936, The Revd. John Durham Denis de Vitré was asked to take the services since the Vicar, William Norton Howe, was ill. As a token of his appreciation, De Vitré presented a mace to our parish church. This consisted of “pieces of medieval carving from a church in Sussex of which he was the patron”. (*)

Who was John Durham Denis de Vitré? Here is a selection of the fruits of my research hitherto. A list of his male ancestors runs thus: 1] Paul Denis de Saint-Simon, 1649-1731 from Paris,, whence he emigrated to Quebec; 2] Guillaume Emmanuel Theodore Denys de Vitré, 1693-1730, from Quebec; 3] Théodore-Mathieu Denys de Vitré, 1724 [Quebec] - 1775 [England]; 4] Matthew Theodosius Denis de Vitré, 1794 [Cumberland] - 1870 [Sussex(*)]; 5] Henry Denis de Vitré, 1831 [Mazagon, India] - 1906 [Wantage]; 6] John Durham Denis de Vitré 1870 [Wantage] - 1951 [Great Yarmouth].

De Vitré was born in Wantage in August, 1870. His education was at Radley College, Oxfordshire, 1884 - 1889; Christ Church College, Oxford, 1889-1892 [where he rowed for the College]; Ely Theological College, 1893; ordained deacon in 1893 and priest in 1894. After curacies in Tottenham [1893-1896] and Firle, Sussex [1896-1898], he was appointed Chaplain to Her Majesty's Fleet, 22 April 1898. He fulfilled this role from 1898 until 1919.

His service with the Royal Navy can be described as “eventful”. In the 1911 Census he is shown as the Royal Naval Chaplain at Shotley, Ipswich, Suffolk. Much of his ministry was on HMS Triumph and HMS Canopus [amongst other places in The Mediterranean including the Dardenelles campaign 1915-1916]. From 1916-1918, he was the first chaplain at RN and then RAF Cranwell, his name being the first on the list of senior chaplains above the Revd F.W.R. Metcalf. From 1919 until 1922, he is recorded as being “In Patagonia”, and from 1923 until 1927, he was rector of Stickney. His last recorded living was as vicar of West Hendred, near his birthplace of Wantage, 1930-1935, by which time he was 65. He most likely retired to 5 The Esplanade, The Hoe, Plymouth. The last mention of De Vitré I have found was his death on 1 May, 1951, at the Royal Naval Hospital, Great Yarmouth.

Apart from our St. Denys mace, De Vitré donated materials to the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford, which notes him as a “Field Collector”. Also, the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, holds the papers presented in 1938 by him. They consist of letters and drafts of letters concerning his service but most of the collection is concerned with his family.

Next time you see the mace, spare a thought for John Durham Denis de Vitré and give thanks for his ministry and his generosity.

(*) Matthew Theodosius retired to Portslade, Hove, West Sussex, and it may be that the carvings came from either St. Andrew's or St. Nicholas's in that village.

SLEAFORD PARISH OFFICE

Sleaford Parish Office is now open for visits on **Mondays and Fridays 9am until 11am**. From 17th May this will include Wednesdays too.

The Parish Administrator will be working from home on Tuesdays and Thursdays and may be contacted by email office.stdenys1@btconnect.com or 01529 488409 (working hours only please which are 9am-12pm

LIVESTREAMED / ONLINE SERVICES

To view, either follow the link from the church website www.sleafordparishchurch.co.uk, A Church Near You or search YouTube for Sleaford Parish Church

Alternatively, Daily HOPE is a **free phonenumber** of hymns, reflections and prayers. Ring: 0800 804 8044

FUTURE PUBLICATIONS

The next Coronacle will be published on
4th June 2021

Sleaford Parish Office
01529 413607 / office.stdenys1@btconnect.com

www.sleafordparishchurch.co.uk
Rev'd Philip Johnson - 01529 304348
Twitter: Sleaford Vicar @ VicarSleaford
Facebook: Sleaford Parish Church