

St Denys Bulletin

Dec 21 – Jan 22



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

Prayer

(BCP Collect for Advent)

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and 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

DECEMBER SERVICES IN CHURCH

Sundays at 10am

Sung Holy Communion

Wednesdays at 10am

Said Holy Communion

Sunday, 5th December

Advent II

8.30am BCP

5pm Evensong

Sunday, 12th December

Advent III

5pm Evening Prayer

Sunday, 19th December

Advent IV

5pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve

3pm Crib Service with Christingle

11pm Midnight Service

Christmas Day

10am Christmas Communion

Sunday, 26th December

St Stephen

10am Sung Communion

**Please note that there will be no mid-week communion on
Wednesday, 29th December.**

JANUARY SERVICES IN CHURCH

Sundays at 10am
Sung Holy Communion

Wednesdays at 10am
Said Holy Communion

Sunday, 2nd January
5pm Evensong

Thursday, 6th January
Epiphany
Time tbc

Sunday, 9th January
5pm Evening Prayer

Sunday, 16th January
5pm Evening Prayer

Sunday, 23rd January

Sunday, 30th January
8.30am BCP
5pm Evensong

Sunday, 6th February
5pm Evensong

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year! You may think this is a little premature, especially as we haven't yet celebrated Christmas, but this is the beginning of my year. Not everyone follows the same year. We might mark January 1st as the beginning of the new year but for teachers and others in education the 'new year' begins in September; for those in agriculture the 'new year' begins with ploughing and drilling. The church calendar, however, begins with Advent Sunday. The penitential season of Advent prepares us for Christmas... and the Christmas season moves seamlessly into the Epiphany Season which technically comes to a conclusion with the Feast of Candlemas – The Presentation of Christ in the temple – forty days after Christmas day. There follow a few Sundays (it varies from year to year) before we reach Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the penitential season of Lent. Palm Sunday and Good Friday are the prelude to Easter Day. The Easter Season lasts for 50 days and brings us to Pentecost (or Whitsun as we used to call it). And that's it: roughly half of the year has passed already and we finally enter ordinary time – the part of the liturgical that is Green – twenty-five weeks roughly speaking (it depends how early or late Easter is) that bring us back to Advent Sunday and the New Year. It is a pattern that I have followed for many years and marked out by the colours of the vestments: purple – white/gold – ((possibly a few green weeks) – purple – white/gold – green. There are the occasional 'Red' days thrown in mark certain saints, but that is the basic pattern. It sets a rhythm to the year that provides structure to our lives... and is fairly closely aligned with the agricultural year. I suspect that in antiquity the changing colours of the priest's vestments were as much a marker for ploughing, sowing, and harvesting as the phases of the moon and the length of the day.

But the church year is more important than what I have outlined so far, for this pattern embeds our life in a story. That story is of course the story of Jesus: his birth, baptism, presentation in the temple... the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the arrest, trial and crucifixion... the resurrection, ascension and the gift of the promised Holy Spirit. The story is told in two parts and each part is preceded by a penitential season (purple), a time of preparation of ourselves to hear again the story of what God has done for us.

At the beginning of the new year we prepare ourselves to hear again the story of Christ's birth – God with us! It is a phrase that can trip off the lips so easily that we sometimes need to stop and reflect on the significance of that fact – the light of Christ is with us now and shines in the darkness to bring into the light things that are hidden. We need the penitential season of Advent to examine ourselves and consider those things that we have kept hidden... for it is only when we are prepared to open ourselves up to God that we can truly celebrate Christmas and be joyful that God is with us.

Fr Philip

BIBLE VERSE

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."
Jeremiah 33.14-16

STAMPS!

We would be grateful for any used postage stamps, UK and overseas, which can help boost funds for the Leprosy Mission, as in previous years. (Please leave 5mm border where possible). There is a box at the back of the church or you can drop in at the Parish Office. Alternatively, please call 303443.

HIRE OF THE PARISH ROOMS

St Denys has two rooms available to hire - a hall for larger meetings and a smaller room.

More information and hire forms are on the website.
www.sleafordparishchurch.co.uk

Please contact the Parish Office (01529 413607
between 9 and 11am Mon, Weds or Fri for
availability.



Come and sing with

**Sleaford Choral
Christmas Carol Concert**
Saturday 18th December 2021
at 7.30pm.

St Denys Church, Sleaford.

Conductor: Rowland Lee.

Organist: David Shepherd

Tickets £10.00 u16 FOC available on the door



Registered Charity No: 518318
Find us at: sleafordchoralsociety.co.uk

TWO STEPS FORWARD - ONE STEP BACK

By Richard Clash (Churchwarden)

During November St Denys experienced two events which proved positive and has given encouragement to the “fit-for-purpose” nature of what the building can offer to the wider community.

Firstly, the church is now a lot warmer than the previous winter and, hopefully, will remain so in years to come. Following several years of on-and-off reliability the two gas boilers have been replaced by a more robust and efficient boiler. Very few things in life get me down but the heating in St Denys has always been a cause of great anguish and disappointment. No sooner had we a working heating system in place then something would start to go wrong and finding a company who could effectively look after the system proved difficult. Let's just say the experience has been patchy. Although the new boiler has been up and running since the beginning of October it wasn't until mid-November when the winter cold started to kick in it felt good to walk into the church for a 10am Sunday service and realized the outside temperature was far less than the inside. I'm not going to make claims to achieving domestic warmth but at least you can feel the heat and not end up shivering through a lengthy service.

Second step forward is the old sound system has had an upgrade. Out has gone the two mixing units to be replaced by a single unit allowing users greater flexibility and a far superior sound quality. Instead of relying on an old remote control, music can be selected via a tablet allowing the user to have more control over the system. The original system was installed during 2002 and more than likely past its sell by date - giving a rocky horror drama during a recent funeral service. When funds permit it is hoped to add further enhancements to the system, which may include full video facilities.

So what is the one step back: well, not wishing to be outshone by its siblings in the church the Parish Centre's boiler has given up the ghost. I understand this particular boiler has been on borrowed time for some while so its demise is not totally unexpected - just could have chosen better timing, like next year or the year after that.

... and in the future

Hopefully during 2022 we will have seen off the worst of the recent pandemic and can look forward to getting back to normal - which raises an interesting thought about what is normal. A typical dictionary definition of normal is: conforming to a standard; usual, typical, or expected. Well that just about covers every eventuality. Could be an interesting year.

Finally, if you are able, please support the various services being held during the Christmas festival and many blessings to you all during 2022.

SCHOOLS COLOURING COMPETITION

Two schools took part - The William Alvey School and Rauceby

Results

Year 1

Klaudija –William Alvey

Year 2

Fausta - Wiliam Alvey

Year 3

Zara - Rauceby

Year 4

Filip - William Alvey

Year 5

Grace - Rauceby

Year 6

Boe - William Alvey

Well done to everyone who took part and to the staff of the two schools
Alison Wickstead

The Artist's choice

I liked this picture because there was a real effort to BLEND colours and to show the dusk even though the finish was not perfect. Well done Lexi!

Alison Wickstead

William Alvey

Lexi Huton





St Denys, Sleaford Parish Church
Christmas Services 2021

CAROL SERVICE

Sunday, 19th December at 5pm

CRIB SERVICE and CHRISTINGLE

Christmas Eve at 3pm

MIDNIGHT SERVICE

Christmas Eve at 11pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Holy Communion at 10am

COMMUNICANTS' GUILD

The Guild's Christmas meeting on **Tuesday 21st December (2 pm)** will take its traditional form of carols and readings. This is always a most enjoyable occasion to which everyone is welcome. Do come along and join us.

KESWICK BIBLE MINISTRY

Riverside Church

Friday, 3rd December at 7.30pm

Rev'd Dr Deirdre Brower Latz

Deirdre is the Principal of Nazarene Theological College, Manchester. She has pastored in urban communities in the UK since 1996. She teaches in the area of practical theology focusing on issues relating to justice, the community, the church and Wesleyan theology.

Friday, 14th January 2022 at 7.30pm

Rev Ben Topham

Ben was a youth minister for the first seven years of ministry before being ordained in 2015. He served as the Associate Rector of St James' Gerrards Cross, before relocating to St George's Stamford where he oversees the day to day running of the church under the Rector, Martyn Taylor.

SERVICE ROTAS

Thank you to everyone who has offered to go on the various lists. The plan is to restart rotas in January. During December, Fr Philip will be doing some refresher training for readers, intercessors and sacristans.

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS



Charlotte Jane Maddison 7th November

Grace Emily Ashton 21st November

WEDDINGS

20th November 2021

Nathaniel Walter Bowcock and Kirsty Jennifer O'Neill

FUNERAL SERVICES

Roger Melvin Price 11th November

Ian Burchnall 17th November

MEMORIAL SERVICE

James Douglas Peter Duckett 26th November

Please remember them in your prayers

ST DENYS BEARS

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



It is such a delight to all of us when we hear such positive comments about the St Denys bears. On the whole everyone who comes more than once is complementary; which is a tribute to the helpers who are all so caring and “grand parently” with both the children and their carers.

We are building up to Santa’s visit so keep us in your prayers please.

Alison Wickstead

BRASS CLEANING After many years Jeanne Avidon has decided to step down from her much valued role, cleaning the church brass. Is there anyone who might be willing to take this duty on please?

STEWARDSHIP/REGULAR SCHEME We have been very grateful for our regular givers keeping us going over the continuing pandemic! If anyone would like to join either by standing order or weekly giving envelopes for 2022 please see my contact details on the back page. Brenda

"IT'S ABOVE YOU!" - OUR CLERESTORY

The stonework is thought to date from circa 1430 and to be contemporary with the rebuilding of the chancel in the perpendicular style. [The lines of earlier roofs can be seen above the chancel arch.]

The windows are by James Powell and Sons of London. [Powell was a relative of Robert Baden-Powell, the Founder of Scouting.] The firm also began the production of what we know as 'Whitefriars glass', from the location of their factory. Incorporated are sets of initials of significant families connected with the church and the town, and you have probably wondered whom they represent. . They have been transcribed and identified by Dr. Wendy Atkin who writes: "Windows of north clerestory bearing initials of those who gave the windows in the 1870s - those on the north side and the three westernmost on the south side are the gift of Mr. Parry and commemorate his godchildren and those of his wife. The remaining five are offerings as thanksgivings for years of happy married life."

North side:

H.P./E.F.I.	HENRIETTA PARRY	EMMELINE PARTON INGRAM
T.P./L.H.P.	THOMAS PARRY	LUCY HERBERT PEAKE
T.P./H.P.J.	THOMAS PARRY	HENRY PARRY JACKSON
T.P./H.J.S.	THOMAS PARRY	HERBERT JOHN SYKES
T.P./A.S.I.	THOMAS PARRY	ADA SARAH INGRAM
T.P./M.S.Y.	THOMAS PARRY	MABEL STANLEY YERBURGH
T.P./M.A.P.	THOMAS PARRY	MARGARET ANNE PEAKE
T.P./C.K	THOMAS PARRY	CHARLES KIRK

South side:

R.Y./A.Y.	RICHARD & ANNE YERBURGH	
H.H./M.H.	HENRY & MARY HINE	
C.K./S/K/	CHARLES AND SARAH KIRK	
T.P./H.P.	THOMAS & HENRIETTA PARRY	
H.P./E.M.P.	HENRY & ELIZA MARY PEAKE	
H.P./A.C.Y.	HENRIETTA PARRY	ANNE CONSTANCE YERBURGH
H.P./H.M.P.	HENRIETTA PARRY	HENRIETTA MARIA PARRY
H.P./M.F.Y.	HENRIETTA PARRY	MARY FLORENCE YERBURGH

Mr. Michael Turland has observed that the names comprise an interweaving of members of various prominent Sleaford families.

Above you, then, there is far more than meets the literal and proverbial eye! *Douglas Hoare.*

WILLIAM ALVEY SCHOOL

Bishop's Visitor update

On Armistice Day, 11th November, I was invited to attend the school's special Assembly to remember the fallen. It began just before 11-00 o'clock when the whole school had assembled outside on the top playground in their class groups. It was the first time I had seen all the children and staff together since before lockdown. We had recorded music including Nimrod and the Last Post on loudspeakers and we all stood for the 2 minutes' silence. Each class had made a poppy wreath and they were carried forward and displayed on the fence in front of everyone. It was very moving and the children (all between 4 and 11) behaved really well considering their age. It is one of the memorable events of the school year. The only children missing were a small group who attended the ceremony in the Market Place with teacher Mr Robbins, which was held at the same time.

I have recently been thrilled to discover that one of the teachers now lives in our previous house that we left 22 years ago. Mrs Mason has done lots of research into historical events concerning the school, including the airship disaster and the air raid shelter museum re-furbishment. She recently received an NKDC Community Champion Award for her historical work in the school. The award ceremony took place at Doddington Hall near Lincoln. Congratulations to her!

The children have been busy in recent days raising funds for charity. The school raised £540 for Children in Need and £453-86 for the Poppy Collection. On 10th December they will pay £1 each to come to school wearing a Christmas jumper instead of uniform. This will be shared between Save the Children and Sleaford Larder. Thanks to everyone.

If you went to the Christmas Tree Festival in the Methodist Church last weekend, the school provided a beautiful tree called "We three kings" as part of the display. This event is always a highlight of the run-up to Christmas in Sleaford.

I'm sure the children will be making decorations for their classrooms and other areas of the school in the coming weeks, the Advent candle ring will be out, they will hear the Christmas story afresh as they open windows in their Advent calendars, they will sing carols and rehearse the Nativity play. They are also due to come to church for their annual Christmas service, which didn't happen last year of course. We pray that all will go well and we can all enjoy a safe and Happy Christmas!

Beryl Risdell

GROUPS MEETING IN THE CHURCH HALL

Bookings welcome through the Parish Office

For contact details please the Parish Centre noticeboard or email
office.stdenys1@btconnect.com

Group	Day	Time	Frequency
Keep Fit With Kimberley	Monday	9.30am and 10.30am	Weekly
St Denys Bears	Tuesday	9.30am	Weekly during term-time
Communicants' Guild	Tuesday	2pm	Third Tuesday of every month but not Aug or Dec
Sleaford Museum Trust	Tuesday	7.30pm	Alternate months on the 4th Tuesday.
St John Ambulance	Tuesday	6pm	Weekly
Arthritis Care	Wednesday	1.30pm	Fourth Wednesday of each
U3A: Wine Appreciation	Wednesday	7pm	Fourth Wednesday of each month
U3A: Dancing For Fun	Thursday	2pm	Weekly
WW	Friday	9.30am	Weekly
St John Ambulance	Friday	5.30pm	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

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