

WOLDMARSH PARISH NEWS



May 2020

40p

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A WORD FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Friends,

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

May I send you all my warmest Easter greetings, as we continue with the holy season of Easter. Looking back to Easter Day, it was for me, as for all of you, very different from the norm. We were not in Church, and we were not gathered as the church family or joined by guests in our celebrations. But I was determined to celebrate nonetheless. At the Rectory we began by celebrating Holy Communion on behalf of you all, in the garden as the sun came up, with the birds serving as our choir. And as we did so, with the new dawn gradually warming and illuminating our humble service, I felt very strongly Christ's desire for us all to share in his resurrection. Easter is for us all. New life, a new start, the possibility of being reborn into a more perfect world is a reality for every one of us. And this realisation should of course make us optimistic and hopeful about the future, and it should impact on how we live today. Because every new day is a mini resurrection, every set back but the setting of the sun before

KEEPING SAFE

The PCCs of Legbourne Woldmarsh are committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of the vulnerable within our church community, and also to encouraging an environment where all people and especially those who may be vulnerable are able to worship and pursue their faith journey in a safe way.

We try to make sure that people who have jobs in the church always behave well and in a way that is helpful to you. It is important that you tell us if something is upsetting you or if you are worried about something that's happening or something somebody is doing. We have specially trained people who you can talk to and who you can ask for help. These people are good at safeguarding. This means they look after everyone's safety. Caring for people is a very important part of our Christian life.

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or the Parish Safeguarding Officer:

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a new dawn.

Make no mistake, this current pandemic is a crisis and a hard one, but I have been deeply moved by how you are also making it a time for talking and thinking; for helping and healing; for reflection and resurrection. As the prophet Joel put it, it is a time for young and old together to 'have visions and dream dreams' (Joel 2.28). To search more deeply for what is good, and beautiful and true in life, and to treasure it with thanksgiving.

I have seen this very holy attitude already take root in our community, more effectively than any virus. By telephone, email and letter you have expressed to me how you are being challenged to value the simple things in life more; how you are becoming more grateful for the good things that we do have, especially the gift of the countryside around us, and how you are finding the forced disruption of routine an opportunity to give more time to yourself, to others and to God. Many of you have spoken about how you feel the connection between your situation and the Easter story, which of course largely took place in a climate of fear, behind locked doors. Christ conquered death by never giving up on love. I give thanks that you are doing the same.

Alleluia. Amen.

With assurance of my prayers,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Fr James', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Fr James

Please do contact Fr James If you would like to be prayed for/with or just need a chat or if you are unwell and would appreciate a visit, which could involve anointing for healing and/or the sharing of Holy Communion.

Please note Fr James' day off is Friday.

james.robinson@lincoln.anglican.org 01507 603 008

FROM THE EDITOR

It is strange having the magazine on the website. however, it would be impossible to print and deliver paper copies within the current guidelines. The magazine provides many useful functions, but it cannot be considered an essential item at this time! Once we are able to print and deliver without contravening guidelines, we will return to 'hard copy' and the magazine will no longer be on the website. If you have discovered us and would like to have a regular copy please contact the editors. You will be very welcome; any profit from the magazine goes towards parish expenses.

As we are online, I have rearranged the magazine so that articles and advertisements are separate. Some of our advertisers are not able to trade at the moment but we should keep their numbers available for 'after'. My technological skills are not good enough for me to put in an advert for the food bank at Trinity Centre Louth. It is possible to donate money online as well as food through the collecting points (such as local supermarkets). While many people have seen a drop in income, some of us are on a pension (so income is secure!) ...and have seen our summertime hobby curtailed. Could we donate the cost of the drinks in the bar after the match or show to a charity in need? You may have your own favourite charity that needs help.

The Louth Larder Bank details are " HSBC LOUTH'

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Please remember that we are here to help you. You are welcome to call Fr. James or myself. In a later article it is clear that I was a teacher. Schools are working really hard to support their students, but it is possible that sometimes you would like to ask questions now and not by email that will be answered later. I taught science to KS3,4 and 2 and have also taught KS3 Maths and some history and geography. I am quite willing to try and help students (and parents!) out.

This Months cover.

As we cannot visit any of the churches and cathedrals that provide substitute cliffs for peregrines I have found a picture of a peregrine on the MK Stadium, Milton Keynes.

Saint Peter.

This month we are going to look at St. Peter. He is one of the most well-known saints, one of the twelve apostles. He was a fisherman, called by Christ. according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus saw Simon Peter and his brother Andrew fishing and called them to follow him. According to the Gospel of John Andrew found Jesus first and then encouraged Peter to follow him. Jesus chose to call Simon 'Cephas' a word that sounds like stone. Not only was Peter one of the first of the twelve called but he was always present. Even when Jesus only took two or three disciples with him, Peter was one of them.

What do we know about Peter? He was a fisherman and kept his boat even when he was a disciple. There was always a boat available to Jesus. If Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law, he must have been married. It also says a lot about Peter's mother-in-law that he could just turn up with 'a few mates' and she would feed them. Hospitality might be part of the culture but if it was all Jesus' disciples there were thirteen.

Peter was impulsive; more than once he spoke without thinking things through. He tried very hard to trust God but sometimes he was just too overcome with fear. That is what happened when he tried to walk on water. In other words, Peter was very like us. Many of the other saints I have written about have been in monasteries; Peter was in the world.

What happened to Peter? After the resurrection and ascension of Jesus it was Peter who addressed the crowd on the first Pentecost. Peter had a lead role in the disciples. He continued to be one of the leaders, along with James, brother of Jesus. They met with St. Paul. Peter had a vision that led to him baptising Gentiles, without the need for them to become circumcised. Some suggest that it is this that led to Herod beheading James and later imprisoning Peter. Herod would not have wanted to upset his Roman masters by allowing dissent to spread, and failure to worship the emperor was going against the Roman way and so treason.

Peter was freed from jail by an angel. He let the disciples know and then went to 'another place'. This is the last we hear of him in the bible.

However, legend has it that he was crucified in Rome. The letter of Paul to the Romans does not mention Peter. However, by the end of the first century there

was a tradition that Peter had lived in Rome and writings St Ignatius, an early second century bishop of Antioch support this tradition. St Clement of Rome , also from the late first century supports this

Supposedly Peter's remains are buried in catacombs on the Vatican hill. In the 4th century the Emperor Constantine had a basilica built there. The site he chose was on a slope, nowhere near as convenient as a nearby flat area of land. However, the basilica had to be built there as it was believed Peter was buried there. Amazingly, there have been archaeological excavations there , but no firm conclusions. Unlike many of the saints I have written about, there is no record of multiple (or indeed any) relics and so we have not had one group of monks or a local ruler 'relocating' the relics.

The 29th of June is the 'Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul' ; the Roman Catholic church has another four festivals associated with Saint Peter. He is the patron saint of Bakers, Bridge builders, Butchers, Fishermen, Harvesters, Cordwainers and Cobblers, Horologists, Locksmiths, Net makers, Shipwrights, and Stationers.

Jane Dickinson

It is with great sadness that we heard this week of the death of Jane Dickinson. It is impossible here to do justice to Jane's gifts and generosity, but she has been at the centre of our church life for many years. Her commitment to working with the young and reaching out to all in need will not be forgotten. And she certainly came to my mind when writing the above reflection about being courageous in the face of adversity. Due to current restrictions, the funeral will be attended by family only, but please do keep Jane and her husband John in your prayers:

*'Father, we bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.
Amen*



During all my years of answering the public's queries at the library service, at Louth Museum and as a county tourist guide I have confidently told enquirers that a Lancaster bomber carried a crew of seven: the pilot, flight engineer, navigator, wireless operator, bomb aimer, tail gunner and mid upper gunner. However, just before Covid 19 put an end to travelling about, Russell and I visited an excellent exhibition in Lincoln and it's caused me to reconsider this assertion.

The exhibition was at The Collection and was called "A Century of Valour", concentrating on 100 years of aviation gallantry. There was a great deal of interest, but it was the display about the Dickin medal which I shall especially remember. This award was established in 1943 by Mrs Maria Dickin, who also founded the Peoples' Dis-

pensary for Sick Animals, in order to recognise the contribution to the war effort being made by birds and animals.

Carrier pigeons had played a crucial role during the First World War in delivering messages from the front line. In February 1939 the National Pigeon Service was established. It invited owners of homing pigeons to provide their birds when needed. By November that year pigeons were serving operationally with the RAF.

Birds needed for immediate service returned to their civilian owner's loft which would be fitted with an alarm so that immediate attention would be given to their message container. Soon a loft was established at each RAF airfield to enable all bomber and reconnaissance aircraft to carry two homing pigeons in special water-tight containers. On board a Lancaster the birds were the responsibility of the wireless operator. If circumstances allowed they would be released from a stricken aircraft carrying coordinates of the crash site. Returning to the station at an average speed of 50 mph, their information was crucial to allow prompt recovery of surviving crew members, particularly if the plane had ditched at sea. So important was their role that an official cull of birds of prey was carried out along the east coast of England. Some birds battled severe weather conditions and injury to return, and several Dickin medal winners had more than one life-saving mis-

sion to their credit. Snow White was such a bird: she flew on about 100 ops with 460 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force, Binbrook, and was involved in rescues on three occasions.

One of the local recipients featured in the exhibition was Billy who flew from RAF Waddington and had been bred by Mr Joe Greenwood of Lincoln. He had first volunteered his loft and later bred the birds for service in RAF Waddington's loft. Billy was awarded the Dickin medal number 25 and his citation reads, "For delivering a message from a force-landed bomber, while in a state of complete collapse and under exceptionally bad weather conditions, while serving with the RAF in 1942."



Of the 53 Dickin medals awarded during World War II, 32 went to pigeons. There are several websites with information including the Royal Pigeon Racing Association where, under 'Pigeons in War' you can see all the birds concerned.

So, was I wrong? Well strictly, no, but I shall now always remember to mention those two winged crew supporters.

Jean Howard

From the Registers

St Vedast Tathwell; The funeral of Barbara Howard was held on February 14th .
The service was conducted by Rhona McEune

God's creation; look at the variety.

This month's activity for our younger readers uses science to explore creation. You will need to make yourself a 'quadrat'. This is simply a square frame, usually about 50 cm on each side. However, you can make a smaller one. Some quadrats are divided into smaller squares for more detailed calculations. We will not be doing that!



If you have old wire coat hangers, make a square from them. If not use card; cut four strips the same length and join the corners. If you use split pin paper fasteners you will be able to fold your quadrat for storage. You can even cut four strips from a piece of paper and make them into a square.

We are going to look at the variety of plants on an area of grass. Hopefully, everyone will be able to use their garden as we are supposed to be staying at home.

Instructions;

1) Stand on one edge of the grass and toss your quadrat so that it lands on the grass. (If you have a paper quadrat you may need to use a ball for the throwing and put your quadrat where it lands. What can you see in the quadrat?

¹ Now get down on your hands and knees. How many different types of plant can you see?

There are a number of different things you can do now. (for parents, I have tried to suggest ideas in order of simplicity)

- a) Find out if the same plants are everywhere. Stand where the quadrat is and throw it again. Repeat instruction 1. Do this as often as you like.
- b) Find out what the plants are; look at plant guides online or in books.
- c) Find out if the plants change according to the conditions. If you have some

shade on your lawn make a line of observations going across this so that you can see if there is any difference between light and shade.

d) Does the length of the grass make a difference? If you have some dandelions see if they are different in short and long grass. How tall is the flower stem? Do the leaves lay flat on the ground?

It is also possible to calculate the percentage of each plant in the lawn. If you want to do that and find out how to, please drop me an email.

¹This picture is of an area near Mount Hekla in Ice



land. The amount of fresh lava fields means that Iceland has only 50% plant coverage.

When we went to Iceland many years ago, I took a similar picture. The script went like this

Husband ‘What is that plant you’re taking a picture of?’

Me “ I’m not taking a picture of the plant”

Husband “But there is nothing else there”

Me “Precisely; This is to show my classes what ‘nothing’ looks like”

Nearby fellow tourist “Quadrats? I have the same problem”

Me “Yes”

and three other people started photographing lone plants muttering ‘good idea. fed up with being told the grassy field has nothing there!’ Don’t forget; grass is a plant!

Each plant has a part in God’s creation

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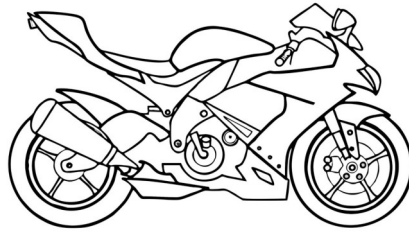
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<http://lincoln.ourchurchweb.org.uk/legbournewoldmarsh>

+ BENEFICE PRAYER +

All members of our churches are invited to pause and say this prayer every Saturday for our work and future flourishing

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; 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