

WOLDMARSH PARISH NEWS



July 2020

40p

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A WORD FROM THE RECTORY



The Churches of Legbourne Woldmarsh

‘Bringing the good news of the kingdom of God’

Dear Friends,

I must admit to being a horse-racing man (but not a betting man, and by no means an expert so please don't ask me for any tips). I was therefore delighted to be able to watch the first 'Classic' races of the year recently, the 2000 and 1000 Guineas. The winner of the second of those historic races bore the name 'Love'. If I had been a betting man, I would have been duty-bound to back her, because of course, as our faith commands us to believe, love always wins. Indeed, 'God is love'.

If three words could sum up the Christian understanding of the divine then we have them here, and they are of great comfort. But these are not easy words spoken to lull us into self-complacency. Rather, they are given to challenge us. This is always what the Gospel does: it is sent to interrupt our everyday existence, to make us think, to question and to change.

The Scriptures tells us that 'perfect love casts out fear'. It also casts out pride. To be told that 'God is love', and that we only love 'because he first loved us' is deeply humbling.

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.

PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP YOU

The people who can help you are the parish priest (**Fr James**)
or the Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Helen Marsden **01507 481451** **hrmarsden2019@outlook.com**

Love is a debt we can never pay back. We can only acknowledge it and be generous with it in turn. The Gospel is very clear on this. Love is not some arbitrary emotion. It is what brings us into being and what saves us. Any failure on our part to show love is therefore an act of defiance against the nature and purposes of God: 'If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar'. It is not for us to choose whom to love and from whom to withhold it.

We are living in such strange times. There is plenty in the news and in our daily lives to make us anxious, angry or uncertain and to divide us. Christ came to help us in such times: to question these feelings and to help us move beyond them. To free us to be charitable in our judgements, generous and gentle with the gift of one another.

To go back to my racing metaphor, to do otherwise would be to put a lot of money (and much more besides) on a guaranteed loser! Or to put it a better way (in the words of Christ), 'those who live by the sword will die by the sword' (Matthew 26.52). In a broken and sinful world the only thing that brings us certainty is the knowledge that 'if we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.'

This is the purpose and meaning of every human life. Nothing else should get in its way.

With assurance of my prayers,

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

Fr James

COVID-19 AND THE CHURCH - UPDATE

We have received further guidance now on the reopening of churches. The level of risk and the strength of the restrictions still in place mean that most of our churches will have to remain closed.

However, from 21st June ALL SAINTS', LEGBOURNE WILL BE OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER ON SUNDAYS, 2 – 4 PM.
WEDNESDAYS 1 - 2.30 PM

No public worship is able to be offered yet and numbers in Legbourne Church will be limited to 4 at a time. 2 metres distance needs to be maintained between people at all times and hands washed upon entry and exit.

I hope that this offer will, in a safe and humble way, bring some comfort to you. Fr James will be in attendance during these times.

If you find the church closed then please forgive me: it may be that an emergency means I have to be elsewhere.

Obviously the situation is changing all the time. I will keep you posted!

In addition to this, St James in Louth will be open 10-12 on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

For those of you who may not have been told, Woldmarsh Parish Magazine has been unable to be printed and distributed for the past two months, for obvious reasons. However the magazine has still been put together and is available to read on our parish website.

Thanks go to our editors and contributors. If you would like to contribute an article or piece yourself then please contact Helen Marsden: hmarsden2019@outlook.com.

Our parish website is also a good place to look for updates. I also put on there prayer resources and notices:

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

If you would like to receive our weekly parish newsletter then please email me to let me know, and I will add you to the list. It contains a Bible reading, a reflection and prayer suggestions as well as any news and instructions how to join in our worship online or by the telephone.

Please know that I hold all our communities before God in prayer every day, and am here if ever you need me.

Fr James

01507 603 008

from the editor.

Thankyou to all who have submitted articles. The Black Lives Matter movement spurred me to look for BAME saints, only to realise that I have already written about one, although he was not minority ethnic in his own community! This search led me to the statues of 20th century martyrs on Westminster Abbey. I intend to write about these as well as the saints.

Things are changing rapidly. I suspect the church website will be the place to look for up-to-date information...once the guidance to go with the political announcements is available!

The front picture is of a puffin. Covid has meant I was unable to go on our annual trip to York as the Eboracum festival was cancelled. This also meant I did not get my annual 'puffin fix' at Bempton Cliffs

Below is a Thank You from one person helped by the community. I am sure John's thanks can be echoed by others. My thanks to all who are helping. In any way. It is a good job I pay a fixed rate phone bill!

Helen

Dear magazine.

These have been interesting and very difficult times.

I cannot visit the supermarket in my wheelchair and also observe the distance rules.

I have been rescued by several good local people.

So my thanks go out to Jean Howard, David Start, Paul and Beccie who I had not met before, Mark the taxi driver from Louth and especially Fiona and Phil who have all been remarkably kind to me and several other wrinklies!

Also my Nurse friend Rob from the St Barnabas Hospice.

I have managed every week through the neighbourly kindness of these kind people.

Thank you all so much.

With kindest regards

John Hurd

Esther John.

She was born in India, to an Islamic family in 1929 and named Qamar Zia. She attended a government school as a child and from the age of seventeen a Christian school. The transparent faith of one of her teachers awoke her curiosity and she began to read the Bible. The book of Isaiah led to her deciding to be a Christian. At the partition of India her family migrated to the new country of Pakistan.

She made contact with, Marian Laugesen, a missionary in Karachi. She asked for a New Testament and continued to develop her faith. Seven years later Qamar Zia feared that she was to be forced into an arranged marriage. She ran away and found her way back to Karachi and Marian Laugesen.

For a while she worked in an orphanage and this was when she took the name 'Esther John'. Her family pressed her to return but a year later she moved to the Punjab and worked in a mission hospital. She felt a calling to teach and so she entered the United Bible Training Centre in Gujranwala in September 1956. When she completed her studies in 1959, she moved to Chichawatni and worked in the surrounding villages as a missionary, living with the Whites, an experienced missionary couple. She taught women to read and worked with them in the cotton fields. Her relationship with her family, who lived far away swung between calm and tense.

On 2nd February 1960 she did not answer the call to breakfast and Mrs White found her dead in bed with dreadful head injuries. So bad were the injuries that the police suspected a crime of passion. On reading her diaries for clues, the police inspector remarked, " Esther did indeed have a lover. It was a man named Jesus. This girl was in love with your Christ'. She was buried in the Christian cemetery in Sahiwal and later a memorial chapel was built in front of the nurses' home at the local hospital.

Galley Hill Farm



Galley Hill is now open for 'pick your own' . For up-to-date information on availability check on the website 'www.GalleyHillFarm.co.uk'. You will need to check on 'calendar'. They are operating a one way system at the entrance and social distancing. Payment is by card. However, bring some cash for their charity jar as they are unable to hold their regular charity event this year. (the strawberries are delicious and the tayberries make great jam!)

All Saints Church Legbourne

I hope you are keeping safe and well during these strange times. It is hard not seeing family and friends, especially our grandchildren. I know I cannot wait for a special cuddle from them.

Sadly, three members of our village community have passed away. Mrs Jean Cooper, many of you will remember her as Aunty Jean who ran the village playgroup. Mrs Jane Dickinson who ran Sunday Club at church and helped at East Wold School for many years. Mrs Pat Brumpton, who was a great supporter of church activities and could usually be found running the cake stall and serving the cakes at the regular coffee mornings and fund-raising events.

They will all be greatly missed; we send our prayers and sympathies to their families and friends.

I must thank all those of you who have given so generously to the Louth Community Larder. The collection box can be found in the church porch which is always accessible.

Hilary King

From the registers

Little Cawthorpe: Mr John Lill 3rd April 2020

Legbourne: Mr Brian Ward 19th May 2020

The Story behind one Gravestone

Since the fitting of sat-navs to cars, many more people will have realised that leaving Tathwell towards the A16 means driving up 'Poverty Lane'. Although we'll never know for sure it's thought the name relates to the fact that travellers between Wold and Marsh could avoid two toll-houses on the turnpike roads by cutting through Tathwell. One of those toll-houses still exists, the handsome angular building on Horncastle Road, Louth, but the other one, a roadside construction just south of the present cottage at Kenwick Top, has disappeared. From the opening of the turnpike south from Louth in 1765 until 1875, a toll-keeper and his family lived there to collect the tolls set by Act of Parliament.

As I transcribed details from the gravestone of JACOB GAINSLEY I knew there was some special reason why his name was especially familiar, but it took the coincidence of an email to Louth Museum to remind me why that was. I'm grateful to Ruth Gatenby, Hon. Archivist at the Museum, for sharing both the enquiry and her research with me.

On the evening of Thursday 30th May 1844 toll-keeper Jacob Gainsley, his wife Ann and son Henry (nick-named Hur and nineteen years old) were in the toll-house when 37 year old William Markham called. He didn't owe a toll as he was on foot, but asked for a cup of water and a biscuit. Markham made to leave but he had recognised Jacob as the man who had reported his brother, who was subsequently fined, for riding on the shafts of his wagon, so decided to settle the grudge he'd been harbouring. Turning back into the dwelling he bought another biscuit and a bottle of ginger beer. Unseen he locked the door and pocketed the key, took down from a peg a pair of loaded pistols and fired one at Gainsley. The shot missed so he took a hammer from his pocket and struck Gainsley around the head. The ensuing violent struggle involved Mrs Gainsley and their son. The attacker was only overpowered after he had fired the other pistol at and used a razor on Hur Gainsley. Markham escaped and although bleeding himself made his way across country to Bilsby where he was taken in by a friend, Mrs Desforges.

Two days later Superintendent Campbell and an assistant from Louth police, having successfully discovered the identity and whereabouts of Markham, arrived at Bilsby to arrest him. On hearing their voices he attempted suicide by cutting his throat with the razor.

At the end of July he had recovered enough to appear at Lincoln Assizes where he was found guilty of shooting with intent to kill both Jacob and Hur Gainsley, and wounding with intent to kill Ann Gainsley. He was ordered to be transported across the seas for life.

He arrived at Port Stanley, Van Diemen's Land in February 1845 but was granted his ticket of leave, a form of licence to begin a new life, ten and half years later. He subsequently married a much younger wife and had a family of one son and six daughters. At the age of seventy he enrolled in the Southern Tasmanian Volunteer Artillery and served until his death at the age of 85. Corporal Markham, now a much respected citizen, was interred with full military honours, his coffin beneath the Union Flag drawn on a field gun carriage by two horses to the cemetery at Sandy Bay. Along the wharf every ship lowered their flags to half-mast and 2,000 people were drawn to pay their respects. It is his great, great grandson who has written to Louth Museum requesting more details of the circumstances of the case, and who is pleased to point out how Markham paid his debt to society and turned his life around.

Perhaps hastened by the trauma of the dreadful attack Jacob Gainsley died the following March and his daughter Sarah who was only 29 when she passed away shares his Tathwell grave.

SACRED
to the Memory of
JACOB GAINSLEY
who died March 23rd 1845
Aged 65 Years
Also
SARAH GAINSLEY
Daughter of the above
who died June 24th 1846
Aged 29 Years

ELLIOTT

LOUTH *



Our research into the Gainsley family has, however, revealed that they were hardly pillars of society. Jacob at one stage used the alias of Golney, Ann Gainsley had been found guilty of receiving stolen goods and Hur served a number of terms in

jail for burglary. Further, Ann would appear to be Jacob's second 'wife' for Jacob had himself been sentenced to transportation for bigamy, though it seems unlikely that he served his seven year sentence.

Although Gainsley descendants have a grave to relate to, sadly this is not so for Markham's family. The exact location of his grave is unknown as Sandy Bay cemetery is now the site of a school and sporting oval.

Jean Howard

* Elliott of Louth was the mason who made the headstone – another area of research!

Do you know?

Last month; What links Bury St Edmunds and Lincoln?

Answer; The Magna Carta;

How come? Lincoln Castle holds one of the only four surviving original copies. (another is in Salisbury Cathedral and two are in the British Library)

Bury St. Edmunds? This was where the Barons met to discuss their plan and what terms they wanted. It was necessary to present a united front but, without telephones, internet or much literacy they needed to meet face to face. However, this had to be in a way that did not arouse suspicion. A trip to the shrine of England's patron saint was not unusual and if all the barons arrived at once, it was possibly a feast day. The barons discussed their plan in the great abbey. However, a monk on an upper level heard and recorded the event. The abbot does not appear to have let King John know!

Patron Saint? Surely that is St George? Maybe now but not then!

This month; Do you know who was the first non-Caucasian martyr for Christ?

For our younger readers.

This month's activities are again to do with creation.

1; sit or lie quietly in the garden. How many different types of bird can you hear?

You don't have to identify them, just note the number of different songs. However, if anyone can identify the one with a single pitched 'whirr'; that one woke me up today!

2; How many different creepy crawlies can you find. You might have more than one type of bumble bee (you can tell by the colour on their 'tail') but don't get TOO CLOSE!

St Edmund; Patron Saint of England

St Edmund was an East Anglian King who lived from about 841-869 AD. His family line is unclear. The most likely theory is that he was the nephew of King Æthelstan of Kent, Æthelstan's sister being Edmund's mother. The Vikings destroyed much written evidence. However, coins suggest that Edmund succeeded Æthelweard, probably while still a minor.

Later writings make Edmund a good king. Local History has that Edmund offered sanctuary and friendship to a shipwrecked Viking. However, when this Viking returned to Scandinavia, he knew all the weak points of the kingdom.

The Vikings invaded with the Great Heathen Army, captured Edmund and gave him the opportunity to recant his Christian faith. Edmund refused and was put to death by being shot with arrows. This was the worst death the Vikings could give him. In their belief system this would have prevented Edmund going to Valhalla as he did not die with a sword in his hand. Myth tells that the Vikings then cut off Edmund's head and threw it into the undergrowth. While Edmund's followers were searching for the head, they heard a voice calling 'here, here'. They followed the voice to find that it belonged to a wolf guarding the head! Meanwhile the Great Heathen army had moved on to confront King Ethelred and his brother, the future King Alfred.

Where the battle between Edmund and the Vikings took place is unknown. The Oxford dictionary of Saints confidently write that it was at Hellesdon, Suffolk. Hellesdon is in Norfolk. Other scholars suggest Hoxne, of the Hoxne hoard fame. Local History in Suffolk also makes a case for Bradfield Combust, just outside Bury St. Edmunds.

Edmund was buried in a wooden chapel and later, after the Viking rulers were converted to Christianity, moved to the abbey in Beodericsworth (now called Bury St. Edmunds). His cult grew and he became patron saint of England. He was replaced for two reasons. The Norman elite were not comfortable with a Saxon king as patron saint and then Richard I was rather taken with St George, who was the patron saint of soldiers and whose cult Richard had come across on crusade.

St Edmund has a number of patronages, but it appears we should have asking him to intercede for us these last few months. He is the patron saint of pandemics, protection from the plague and also the patron saint of kings.

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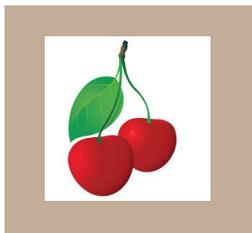
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Please do contact Fr James If you would like to be prayed for/with or just need a chat or if you are unwell and would appreciate a visit, which could involve anointing for healing and/or the sharing of Holy Communion.

Please note Fr James' day off is Friday.

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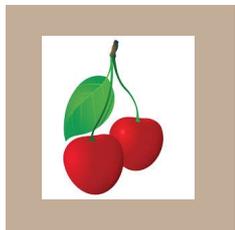


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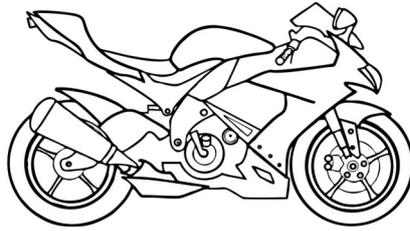
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Please note Fr James' day off is Friday.

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

For more information on the life of our community please visit our website:

<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