

WOLDMARSH PARISH NEWS



*Children from St Margaret's enjoying a visit
to The Old Nurseries apple orchard*

NOVEMBER 2018

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A WORD FROM THE RECTORY

November is very much a month of remembrance. All Soul's Day, November 2nd, is the Christian feast when we remember those who have died. It follows on the heels of All Saints' Day, November 1st, when we celebrate the saints of the Church, whose life and example have drawn others to know and love God. Both feasts point to an important truth; that death is not an end but a change of life, and that those who have died here on earth live on, separated from us by only the thinnest of margins. The special prayer for All Saints Day talks about how all God's people, living and departed, are 'knitted together' by his love. That is why, despite the inevitable sorrow that this subject brings, I love these two feasts: they remind us that, through Christ, our loved ones have not been irreparably severed from us. If you are missing somebody at this time of year, or have recently been bereaved then please do consider coming to the All Souls' service at St James', Louth. And remember that I am always happy to talk.

Of course November is also when we remember all victims of war. This year is especially poignant as we mark the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One. There shall be an act of remembrance at All Saints' Church at 3pm on Armistice Day, with services either side of that in Strubby and Belleau. Please do join us to commemorate all those brave people. And as you do, remember that no one who surrenders their life for the sake of others ever dies in vain. As we join with the entire nation to mark the day when the guns fell silent on the Western Front, we look forward to the day when all such fighting shall cease, and the lasting victory of the Prince of Peace, for whom so many soldiers and saints have given their lives, shall finally be won.

With assurance of my prayers,

Fr. James

+ 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**

FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday November 5th ~ 10 – 11.30 ~ St Nicholas, Swaby

Coffee Morning – An new venture, and an opportunity to gather and get caught up over coffee: all welcome!

Saturday November 10th ~ 2.30 and 7.30pm ~ The Trinity Centre, Louth

WWI Centenary Concert by the Community Singers

STRUBBY SOCIALS

Wednesday November 7th ~ 2pm ~ Book Club

Wednesday November 15th ~ Lunch Club, meeting at The Splash, Little Cawthorpe

Thursday November 28th ~ Ladies Night Christmas treat

For more information about these events, to which all are welcome, please contact
Dot Webb ~ 01507 450205 or Margaret Farrow ~ 01507 450385

100 YEARS OF REMEMBRANCE

As part of the Nation's tribute to 100 years of remembrance, St John the Baptist, Belleau will hold a 6.30p.m. Evensong on Sunday November 11th.

This will include the bells being rung at the 'Nation's Ring out for Peace' at the coordinated time of 7.05p.m. Diana Stovin

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SWABY VILLAGE HALL

The Swaby History Group will be meeting on 15th November at 7.30p.m. in Swaby Village Hall. We will be finding out more about people who lived in Swaby in the past.

We are hoping to organise a Snowdrop Afternoon in the early Spring. If you have snowdrops and other Spring flowers in your garden and are willing for other people to admire them please contact

Beth King, telephone 01507 480711 or beth.swaby@gmail.com.

RAILWAY TAVERN NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

01507 480676

Christmas Bookings are starting to come in so if you have a date in mind give us a call and we can reserve it for you.

We have availability for a table of 6 and a table of 4 for one of our party nights on 12th December ... a 3 course Christmas meal plus disco to round off the evening priced at £23.00 per head.

Our calendars will be available to purchase soon but we are taking orders for them. An ideal Christmas Gift and as usual a donation from each one will go to 'When You Wish Upon A Star'.

POPPY APPEAL QUIZ - WEDNESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

A special quiz to help raise funds for The Royal British Legion and the Armed Forces Community, from 9pm. All welcome.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY LUNCH 11TH NOVEMBER

A special Sunday Lunch and a bookings only event.

Roast Beef or Chicken followed by homemade apple crumble or vanilla ice cream.

£10 per person but we will donate £5 to

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Registered Charity No 219279

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ST ANDREW'S SOUTH THORESBY
Forthcoming Events

Saturday 10th November

As you may know Lana Dales is working towards her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. On Saturday 10th November, Lana will be holding a Charity Coffee morning at St Andrew's Church. The time will be from 10.30 to 11.30 am. The proceeds will be going towards a very worthwhile cause The Children's Air Ambulance. We all hope that as many people as possible will come and support her. Lana is planning to cook her own biscuits and flapjacks so we will look forward to these!

Sunday 18th November

On this Sunday, we are holding a new service of worship for people of all ages. It is still called 'Celebrate God' and run by Helen Marsden. Some children bring their parents with them and some come by themselves.

We have some of the usual items in a church service, readings, prayers, hymns and some more unusual songs but we always finish with craft and refreshments. The service is held from 9.00 am to 10.00am. We will be pleased to see you.

Saturday and Sunday, 1st and 2nd December

We are holding one of our popular Winter Craft Fairs on the first two days of December, in St Andrew's Church. It will be from 10.00am until 4.00 pm. There will be numerous opportunities to find presents for your friends and family and the usual refreshments and raffle available. We would be grateful for contributions of cakes and raffle prizes and hope to see as many of you as possible.

Friday 21st December

We are holding our Carol Service on the 21st December, starting at 7.00pm. We will be singing a lot of your favourite carols; so come and join us. More details in the December issue of our parish magazine.

Rebecca and Sandy

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SWABY VALLEY HONEY (Update)



Honey from our bees in Valley Lane, Swaby, is available now. It comes in a variety of sizes, from 300gms to 454gms, priced from £3 - £4.50.

There is a limited quantity of golden, creamy rape honey from spring. The summer's honey is runny, with the fragrance and flavour of the summer flowers growing along the bees' 3-mile flight paths from our garden.

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LETTER FROM BISHOP DAVID

*“they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more;
but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees,
and no one shall make them afraid.” (Micah 4:3b, 4a, NRSV).*

These are words which speak of a future hope, a world at peace, a real peace, and not just the absence of conflict, a sense of wellbeing, of living in harmony with the world we've been given to share, of wanting the best for those we've been given to share that world with.

Words I was reminded of recently in conversation with a Russian Second Lieutenant on one of the ships at Immingham Docks, as he spoke in broken English of what he saw as the natural desire of all peoples to live like that and his frustration at what he saw as the leaders of the nations, his own included, in failing to be able to achieve that.

And they are good words as we remember this month the ending of the Great War, the world's first example of what became known as 'total war.' 'It'll all be over by Christmas' the British Army were told – 1,568 days later, 888,246 British lives were lost. Nine to 15 million lives lost in total. Sixty-five million men from 30 countries involved. The 'War to end all wars' was what was hoped for then.

As Christians we know that ultimately the challenge of peace is not one of political solutions, important as they may be, but one of dealing with the human heart.

That is actually what the passage in Micah looks forward to. A time when all men and women look to the '*mountain of the Lord, the house of the God of Jacob*' and have their hearts and minds transformed by him, which then brings in that universal peace, which we all long to live in.

That's the ultimate vision, the ultimate hope – but until then, being peacemakers, peacemakers in the different places we find ourselves in is something each of us is called to do, and something our world still desperately needs.

With every blessing.
Bishop David



The Churches of Legbourne Woldmarsh

‘Bringing the good news of the kingdom of God’

Services and Notices for NOVEMBER

Worship

Thursday November 1st 7.30pm ~

PATRONAL FESTIVAL EUCHARIST FOR ALL SAINTS DAY

Followed by a cake and a glass of fizz!

Sunday November 4th

10.30am ~ All Saints', Legbourne

Holy Communion

6pm ~ St James', Louth

All Souls' Service

Saturday November 10th

10am ~ All Saints', Legbourne

Taize Prayers

Sunday November 11th

10.30am ~ St Oswald, Strubby

Holy Communion with Act of Remembrance

3pm ~ All Saints', Legbourne

Act of Remembrance

6.30pm ~ St John the Baptist, Belleau

Evensong with bell ringing for the Armistice

Sunday November 18th

9am ~ St Andrew, South Thoresby

Celebrate God, Children's Church

10.30am ~ All Saints', Legbourne

Holy Communion

Sunday November 25th

10.30am ~ St Vedast, Tathwell

Holy Communion for the feast of Christ the King

Morning Prayer is said (all being well) at 8.45am

Monday ~ St Nicholas, Swaby

Tuesday ~ St Vedast, Tathwell

Wednesday ~ St Oswald, Strubby

Thursday ~ St Andrew, South Thoresby

Evening Prayer is said (all being well) 4.15pm, Monday – Thursday ~ All Saints', Legbourne

All are welcome to attend and participate in these simple, however infrequently, and even if you wish only to sit quietly and listen to the readings and prayers. Fr James is usually available to hear confession or for conversation immediately after morning prayer (or by appointment.)

Services and Notices for DECEMBER

Advent and Christmas 2018



Worship

Sunday December 1st

9am ~ St Andrew, South Thoresby-

PATRONAL FESTIVAL EUCHARIST FOR ST ANDREW'S DAY

10.30am ~ All Saints', Legbourne

Holy Communion for the First Sunday of Advent

Fr James will give a short introductory talk on the Gospel of Luke immediately after the service. Luke's Gospel is the primary Gospel to be read in the new Church year, which begins today!

Saturday December 8th

10am ~ All Saints', Legbourne

Taize Prayers

Sunday December 9th

10.30am ~ St John the Baptist, Belleau

Holy Communion

Sunday December 16th

9am ~ St Andrew, South Thoresby

Celebrate God, Children's Church

10.30am ~ All Saints', Legbourne

Holy Communion

Sunday December 23rd

10.30am ~ St Martin, Withcall

Holy Communion



Fr James is usually available to hear confession or for conversation immediately after morning prayer. Otherwise this can be done by appointment.

Christmas Services

Seasonal refreshments will be available after each service, and all ages are most welcome.

Friday December 14th 6pm ~ St Martin, Withcall-
Christmas concert and carols with the Community Singers

Wednesday December 19th 6pm ~ The Wagon and Horses' Pub, South Reston
Carol Singing, with the Community Singers

Friday December 21st 7pm ~ St Andrew, South Thoresby
Village Carol Service

Saturday December 22nd 5pm ~ St Nicholas, Swaby
Village Carol Service

Sunday December 23rd 4pm ~ St Peter, Raithby
Family Carol Service

CHRISTMAS EVE 4pm ~ All Saints, Legbourne
Children's Crib Service

CHRISTMAS DAY 8.30am ~ St Peter, Raithby
Holy Communion
10.30am ~ St Oswald, Strubby
Holy Communion

Sunday December 30th 10.30 ~ St Edith, North Reston
Holy Communion for the First Sunday of Christmas

Other Events

Saturday December 1st 10 - 12 ~ Legbourne Community Hall
All Saints' Christmas Fair

Monday December 3rd 10-11.30 ~ St Nicholas, Swaby
Coffee Morning

Saturday December 1st and Sunday 2nd 10 – 4 ~ St Andrew, South Thoresby
Christmas Fair

Sunday December 9th 3 ~ St Oswald, Strubby
Christmas Event, with a visit from Santa at 4!

Please do contact Fr James

if you have anything you would like to be included on next month's notices

If you would like to be prayed for/with.

If you are unwell and would appreciate a visit, which could involve anointing for healing and/or the sharing of Holy Communion.

Fr James Robinson: james.robinson¹³@lincoln.anglican.org 01507 603 008

'HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS'

BY STUART REDER

On September 30th, 'Simba's 3 month's summer vacation ended when he broke cover just as his owner's were walking by with their three ponies, and ran down my drive and into my back garden, out of sight. I couldn't say he wasn't here when they asked me if he was around and thanked me for looking after him. They collected him later that day, but not before he had shot out through the cat flap and down the garden, when he saw them stood here with the cat basket. Thankfully, he didn't jump over the wall into the field and they managed to catch him and take him away protesting loudly in his basket. He had been here since the beginning of July, roaming the area at night and sleeping inside throughout the day.

He had found the life he wanted, quiet, away from all the other animals, dogs, cats, children, babies and, most important getting that special 'one to one' attention that he enjoys so much as he purrs, trills and paddles his feet up and down, looking into my face. Why me? I really don't know why, with all the other bungalows etc., he chases here in the first place, especially with Millie chasing him off but, he did and, as in our lives, you can't always have what you want, until the next time?!

I managed to get Millie to stay in after several attempts on one windy night, but she's back outside again now sleeping under the hedge, or on the outside front door mat, partly sheltered by the bungalow overhang. At the moment she is curled up asleep like a hedgehog, on the wet front lawn with the jackdaws hopping about around her. I had 16 in the back garden the other day and, several ducks are back. They stick their necks up and come running, when they see me through the window, for some corn from the pet shop. After Millie had seen me putting plants in the neighbour's garden a time or two, she adopted it as part of her garden and lies under their van to see anything coming in, which can't see her, and then chases it out! The other night it was the fox she had let walk around her on our front lawn picking up any bits it could find but, chased it over the wall and out of the neighbour's garden, across our lawn and out through the hole in the hedge (that the badgers have made) on to the road!!

Thankfully, no cars were coming and she sat and watched it go up the road. Then, she sat on guard, back in here, making sure it didn't come back! If I saw her sleeping outside like she does when the weather is poor at someone else's place, I would think "Why do they leave that poor cat outside" but it's what she wants, and you can't make Millie do what she doesn't want to!

Some cats prefer to be outside and, hopefully, like last year she will come in through the winter months. I saw the smoke billowing up into the sky from the 'Conisholme' stack fire and felt so sorry for the farmer with the winter feed etc not so long after the drought. I'm hoping it wasn't done deliberately by someone with

no thought for other people's property. If it was, imagine the tears if you destroyed something of theirs like stamping on their mobile phone or iPad?

It's amazing how you can live in an area all your life and still discover something new. So it was when I attended the funeral of the friend who died of lung cancer after eventually managing to get a 'Call Connect' booking without having to walk to Theddlethorpe School or Stain Lane crossroads to get picked up, but it took half an hour and nearly did my head in! It turned out I knew the 'in laws' of the couple next to me in church so we got talking about the potato picking days on the farm and being in the Pantomimes at Trusthorpe. Someone who had come over from Nottingham gave me a lift to the burial and back to the bungalow for a very tasty spread with home made cakes and, very soon I had made some more friends so, who cares about the ones who don't speak and act like 'mardy kids' instead of grown ups! I certainly don't and, in any case they have gone now and the new neighbours are friendly enough and have already given me a lift when they saw me walking.

They have 6 dogs I'm told but, up to now I've only heard one the odd time and then they stopped it, so as long as all 6 don't bark at once I should be O.K.. It was a good job we followed the hearse or I would have gone in completely the wrong direction because I'd never heard of the burial ground and you don't see it from the road so, from being a child, I've been past it on the bus to Louth and never knew it existed. It's called 'The Stump', (not Boston) and is the old tower of a church that once stood there in Saltfleetby. It's a wonderful place to be laid to rest, rooks calling from the big trees, sheltered by shrubs, a high hedge and so peaceful. His wife had arranged with her really nice neighbours to bring me home, who like these stories she hands on to them. Sadly, his wife has to have an oxygen cylinder with her all the time but was so pleased to meet me at last and have a chat about the stories so, as they say, in spite of the sad occasion 'The day went well' and I managed to get my grass cut for the wheelie bin when I got home.

We did have a laugh about the small church entrance, bricked up now, when I said they must have been little people to get through it, or did penance crawling in on their hands and knees. It turns out 'The Tower' has sunk into the ground.

It wasn't an elephant I saw next in Mablethorpe on roller skates, it was 'Frodo', not from 'Lord of the Rings' but, a 'cockatoo' with his little nappy on sitting on the shoulder of a lady on her mobility scooter on the sea front! I stood and chatted as he kept looking up sideways at me, worried he might fly off, but he was on a tether and had only flown up once when a dog jumped up at him, she said.

Cheers, All the best,
Stuart

Jean and Nigel welcome you to the

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<u>Thursday:</u>	Steak Night, two steak meals and a bottle of red wine for just £16.95
<u>Friday:</u>	Fish and Chip Special, Haddock Chips and Peas served all day at just £6.25

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DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

On Sunday 30th September, I helped out at the Holy Communion Service at my local church St Andrew's at South Thoresby, as part of my volunteering work for my Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award.

On the day before the service I baked some ginger Farling biscuits and plain flapjack to take for the congregation to have with their refreshments after the service, this was a surprise!

On the day of the service my role was to hand out the hymn books and the service sheet to people as they entered the church and guide anybody to a seat if required.

During the service led by Father James I read out a reading from the Letter of St James to the congregation, I felt quite nervous beforehand but I felt it went ok.

Before the end of the service I assisted with the collection. Once the service had finished, I shared my baking with the congregation and handed out the refreshments. I think they enjoyed it.

Lana Dales

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, LEGBOURNE

Firstly, a huge thank you to all those who supported the Harvest Supper this year. We raised the fantastic amount of £1,200. This was through the hard work of so many people, too many to name, but if you bought, sold or gave prizes to the raffle this means you. Those who contributed to the supper and helped on the night, this means you too and as I said, so many to thank!

Our next fund-raising event is the Christmas Fayre in the Community Centre on Saturday 1st December 10-12. More details later.

Unfortunately, there has been some dog fouling in the churchyard again. Please clean up after your dog. Thank you.

We have been advised by the Lincoln Diocesan Office that there have been a number of metal thefts from churches in Lincolnshire. Their advice is:

BE AWARE – *be on the alert for suspicious activity around the church and, if applicable, the village it serves and REPORT IT using 101.*

If you think a crime is in progress ring 999.

It is important to report any crime as 'heritage theft' as this can have an impact on sentencing.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

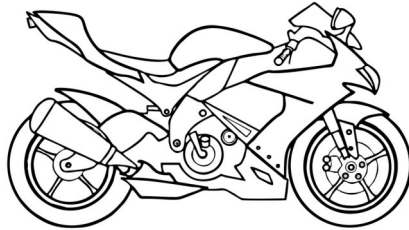
There will be a short Act of Remembrance by the War Memorial in the churchyard at 3p.m. on Sunday 11th November. Everyone is very welcome.

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THE SWABY SUNDAY SCHOOL FUND

“Do you live in Swaby and are you starting university, further education or an apprenticeship?

The Swaby Sunday School Fund (set up with some of the money from the sale of Swaby School) gives grants to people who match these criteria. If you are starting this year, or have started, and didn't apply for a grant last year please contact Helen Marsden - email at front of magazine.

If you get the magazine and know of anyone who would be eligible for a grant please make sure they know about it.

Helen

“How do you see the Bishop's vision of faithful worship, confident discipleship and joyful service growing under your ministry in these parishes?”

This was the question put to me by the Bishop when I went for interview for the job which I now hold. It is a good question, and one that I continue to ask myself. I hope that you do to. Our Churches face many challenges: a world that is less in tune with the Christian faith and the constant pressure (financial and legal) to keep our buildings safe and usable to name but a couple.

I do not have all the answers, but I do know that these challenges will get the better of us unless we keep constantly at the forefront of our minds what our purpose is. If we forget *why* we are here then we will begin to question why we are bothering. As the Bishop's question reminds us, we exist as a Christian community not primarily for the upkeep of historic buildings or for the maintenance of our social lives: we exist to draw one another, and the communities in which we live, to God, through our worship, discipleship and service. We are doing God's work, and so we are free to be joyful and confident in what we do in his name.

I have chosen as a sort of motto for us a line from Scripture that I think will help us to keep our focus on what we are miraculously called and enabled by God to do. It comes from Luke, chapter 8 (and the observant among you will already have seen it on the posters, notices sheets and website):

‘bringing the Good News of the Kingdom of God’

The text originally describes the ministry of Jesus Christ amongst the villages of ancient Israel. Jesus travelled around these various communities preaching and reaching out. It is our sacred duty and joy to continue his work, aided by the Spirit, in the villages of Lincolnshire. As God's pilgrim people we move around our churches for worship, being prayerful, active and present in all of our communities.

Accompanying this motto is a new logo, which is a beautiful depiction of the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove, taken from a stained-glass window in Legbourne Church. Primarily this is to remind us that the Holy Spirit is with us, that we do not labour alone or in vain, even if the fruits of our labours are not always immediately visible.

There is another reason why I have chosen the dove as our logo. When preparing for my interview with the Bishop, and thinking about our group of parishes, I was struck by its dispersed nature: 9 open churches, covering a span of 15 miles, across wold and marsh, containing 25 pockets of population. How to make sense of it?

Actually, there is a way: if you look at the outline of the benefice, you will see that it actually resembles a bird in flight, with Raithby and Woldmarsh parishes each shaped like an outstretched wing, either side of Legbourne parish as the body. So we are literally shaped by the Holy Spirit! But more than that. This image shows us how we need each other, as a bird needs all its parts in working order to take flight. If we are to survive and thrive as Churches, bringing the good news to a world that so desperately needs it, then we must joyfully and selflessly commit to working and worshipping as one.



Fr James

• 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

WITHERN METHODIST SERVICES

Sunday 4th November	Mr. E. Leigh
Sunday 11th November	Mrs J. Taylor - <u>10.00 a.m.</u>
Sunday 18th November	Rev. P. Greetham - (Sacrament)
Sunday 25th November	Miss D. Horn

All services are at 10.30 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

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- 15th Cool Vintage – Afternoon Tea Concert
- 15th I Got Gershwin presented by Robert Habermann
- 17th Lest we Forget – following Remembrance Day Playgoers presents an evening of music to remember those who gave their lives for our country and generations.
- 24th Robin Windsor – The All Fun Farewell Tour

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ST MARGARET'S SCHOOL NEWS, WITHERN

St Margaret's School, Withern. PTA sponsored walk **by Billy Patchett, Year 6**

St Margaret's school children did the annual sponsored walk on Friday September 28th. This tradition has been going on for many years, since 1983, but used to be an amazing 8 miles. However, now it's just over 3 miles. All the children in Key Stage 2, as well as lots of the younger children, walked to Gayton Le Marsh, and we were joined by many family members too. It was a beautiful sunny day. We all stopped at the house of Mrs Bullivant, the school administrator, for biscuits and juice before heading back to school. A whopping £577.42 was raised for PTA school funds, to help pay for school trips, books and so on. Thanks to everyone involved.

The fun Entertainment Night **by Logan Metcalfe, Year 6**

On Friday 12th October, Withern School PTA arranged an entertainment night. They gave the children sweets, popcorn and apple juice, then they watched Captain Underpants. They raised a good £170.39, and everyone was dressed in pyjamas, which raised another £70! To end with, we played a raffle and musical statues, and everybody had a great time!

Apple Juicing Day **by Oliver Clough, Year 6**

Withern St Margaret's Primary School Class 3 had a visit to an orchard near Wragby called The Old Nurseries. Our day started on a bus to the orchard. Everyone was excited to see the chickens and their brood of chicks, and then the owner, Mr. Davey, gave us a tour of the orchard. He showed us a tree called "The Christmas Red" and there is only one left in the world! He explained how to graft new trees from old ones, which was very interesting. After that, we collected apples, pressure washed them, cut them up and used the apple press to make juice. Everyone had a packed lunch and some apple juice. Oliver, aged 10, said "I liked seeing the machinery and tasting the juice. It was really nice. Logan, aged 11, said he would like to go back again soon!

Carter-Ann Mahdavi, Class Teacher, St Margaret's Primary School,

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DID YOU KNOW... CADWELL VALE

When people ask where exactly I live, I now know that 'Tathwell' is not the best reply. I begin with, 'Do you know where Cadwell Park is?' and that gets them into the right geographical area. The follow-up is then, 'Well, Cadwell Park is in the parish of Tathwell and that's where I live.'

There are possibly residents in Tathwell who are unaware that this is the case. Despite being one of the most visited destinations in the county, the beauty of Cadwell Park is still unappreciated by many local people.

Cadwell appears to have been in separate ownership to the rest of Tathwell for a long period. During most of the nineteenth century it was home to a branch of the Allenby family who came from Maidenwell. They possibly lived in the Georgian house which still stands in the middle of the track and is Grade II listed, though it has not been used in some decades. Later a new house was built. It was referred to as Cadwell Hall and is thought to have been designed by Louth architect James Fowler. Samuel Allenby and his wife Melba nee Beevor raised three daughters there, Mary Melba, Annie Sophia and Louisa. Samuel owned all 1,153 acres, was Lord of the Manor and a Justice of the Peace.

Melba died in 1879 and Samuel in 1893. They are both buried at Tathwell. The land and house passed to their elder daughter, now Mrs Pellew, but she seems not to have moved home from Cheltenham.

The property changed hands in 1930s when it was bought by Mansfield Rhoades Wilkinson ('Manty') of Louth, grocer and game dealer, with a shop in Eastgate. His intention it is said was to harvest the rabbit population for sale in the shop. His son Charles was mad on motorbikes and in 1934 he organised his first race on the property using the carriage drives to make a circuit. The family have shown me the first account book, revealing that he bought mattresses to wrap round the trackside trees, though whether this was to protect riders or trees I'm uncertain!

His idea was an overwhelming success and the racetrack has flourished ever since. In time for the eightieth anniversary one of the long time office staff at the course began researching the history. This resulted in a most successful exhibition at Louth Museum. Recently a self-guided trail has been completed: a leaflet leads you around nine information boards which reveal much interesting history of both the estate and the racetrack.

From the road it is impossible to appreciate how delightful the valley is. Although admission must be paid for big events, on most days anyone is welcome to visit free of charge. A copy of the leaflet can be collected from the office and you can walk around. Excellent facilities include toilets and a café which also displays photos of the many famous riders who've appeared there. Quiet is not necessarily guaranteed since they have many 'track days' when any bikers can take to the course for the fun of it, but it's great fun to watch too.

Jean Howard