

ALL SAINTS CHURCH  
HOLBEACH

# ASHLINGS



FEBRUARY - MARCH 2020

[www.allsaintsholbeach.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsholbeach.org.uk)

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Deadline  
for the  
April - May  
edition is  
Friday 13th  
March



## Holy Week & Easter Dates

### Palm Sunday – 5th April

**10:15am** – Procession with palms from the old Library to the Church

**10:30am** – Holy Communion with a dramatised reading of the Passion Gospel.

### Monday 6th April

**7:30pm** – Compline with short meditation.

### Tuesday 7th April

**7:30pm** – Compline with short meditation.

### Wednesday 8th April

**7:30pm** – Compline with short meditation.



### Maundy Thursday 9th April

**7:30pm** – Holy Communion with foot washing, stripping of the altar followed by a vigil until midnight.

### Good Friday 10th April

**12:00pm** – Walk of Witness, starting from the Catholic Church and stopping outside the Co-Op and the old Barclays before finishing in All Saints Churchyard. This is a Churches Together Holbeach event.

**1:00pm** – Soup & bread Lunch at All Saints.

**2:00pm** – At the Foot of the Cross readings, hymns & prayer.

### Holy Saturday 11th April

**7:30pm** – Easter Eve Vigil at the Cross readings, psalms & prayers at the empty cross.

### Easter Sunday 12th April

**5:30am** – Easter Dawn Service in the Vicarage Garden.

An informal service with bonfire & watching the sunrise followed by breakfast.

**10:30am** – Eucharist for Easter Day.

**6:30pm** – Deanery Evensong.





## BRIGID, ABBESS OF KILDARE, C. 525.

1st February

Brigid is said to have founded the first female monastery in Ireland, at Cill-Dare: The Church of the Oak (Kildare)

in 470. The monastery became a 'double monastery' for both men and woman, and at Kildare this would have reflected the higher social standing of the nuns. Brigid became abbess of the monastery. She is portrayed as a personification of compassion, and it is reported that this was shown in that; her cows were reputed to give milk three times the same day, so that the poor could benefit.

Bishop Ibor had a vision the night before an assembly to be addressed by Brigid, in which he saw her as a reincarnation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Brigid was consecrated a Bishop by him. Brigid is a figure shrouded in mystery and legend, seen as a legend or seen as a way of Christianizing the pagan goddess Brig.

Brigid was greatly honoured in Ireland, medieval Irish literature had this,

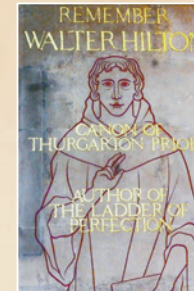
"It is she that helps everyone who is in danger: It is she that abateth the pestilences: It is she that quelleth the rage and storm of the sea. She is the Queen of the south: She is the Mary of the Gael." 'Book of Lismore, c. 1200'.

From the sixth century onwards, she is honoured in Ireland second only to Mary. Many Churches are consecrated in her honour.

## WALTER HILTON OF THURGARTON CANON, MYSTIC, 1396.

24th March

Born in 1343, Walter was canon of the Augustinian Priory of Thurgarton near Nottingham. He studied law at Cambridge, practising both canon law and civil law, before becoming a priest. Walter saw mysticism as an essential journey for the soul. He presented to his readers the eternal truth of the Gospel and the purifying work of the holy Spirit, but he did so in a way which sought to bring clarity, not confusion. His efforts to bring mystical theology into everyday English (from Latin) was opposed. Walter wrote for ordinary people who lived 'in the world' but who wanted to dedicate their lives to God, and the contemplation of the passion of Christ. Walter also stressed the role of the Church, the liturgy and particularly the Eucharist in the journey of the soul. He wrote God is love and charity, and when a soul is purified by the love of God, illumined by wisdom, and stabilised by the might of God, then the eye of the soul is opened to see spiritual things, and feel the touching, and speaking of the angels.



## Snowdrops

In the cold, dank January wood a snowdrop lightens our winter darkness with its soft gleam, tightly closed at first, its pale bud suddenly busts into wonderful green, laced-edge delicacy, fluttering bravely above the frost and snow. Lord, may we be like your snowdrop this coming Lententide: at first tightly closed in upon ourselves as we are once more drawn into the story of Christ's life and passion yet ready to bust out in joy and thanksgiving at the glory of Easter Sunday. May our faith shine out bravely, lightening the darkness of the world's winter so that it blossoms into the sprig of new life in Christ.

Alison Bayne



Snowdrop Walks at  
St Mary's Whaplode on 8/9th,  
15/16th and 22/23 Feb,  
with Refreshments in church.



## Observing Lent at All Saints



There are two services on  
Ash Wednesday 26th February  
To start 40 days of Lent

9.30 am Said Holy Communion  
with Ashing

7.30 pm Sung Holy Communion  
with Ashing



### Lent Lunches

Soup lunches every Saturday from  
12.00 - 1.00 in Lent starting Saturday  
29th Feb - 4th April to raise funds  
for our lent Charity: **The Tower  
& West Window Appeal**, £3 per  
person for soup, bread and cheese.



### Lent Course

Our Lent Course will run for 5  
consecutive Mondays starting at  
7:30 pm on 2nd to 30th March at  
the Vicarage. At the time of going  
to press the course has not been  
finalised; but full details and a sign-  
up form will be available in Church.  
We encourage you to think about  
joining, Rosamund will be very  
happy to chat with you if you would  
like more information or guidance.

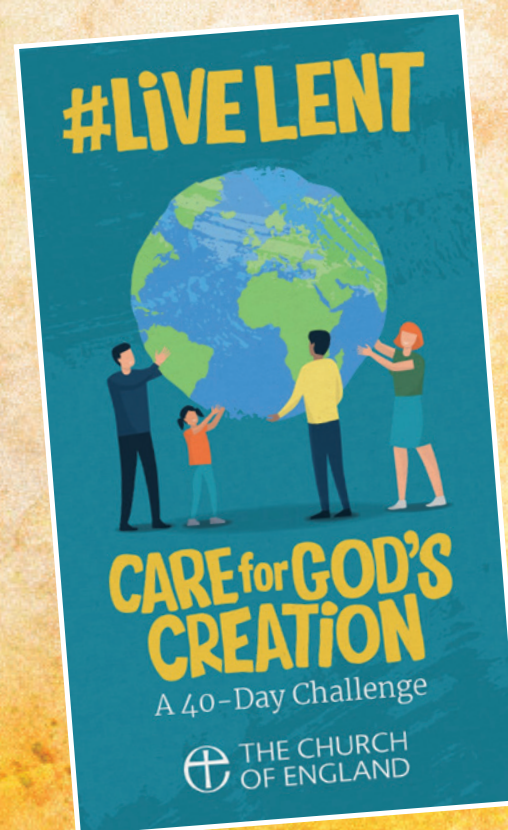
Monday 7.30pm at the Vicarage  
*Sign-up form at the back of Church.*

# #LIVE LENT

This Lent, we hope both adults and  
children might engage in God's plea  
for us to "Care for Creation". It is  
an opportunity for us to rebuild our  
relationship with our planet, and in  
turn with the God who is Lord of  
everything.

During this time, we hope you might  
engage in prayer, learn more about the  
remarkable world we have been given  
and build habits that last beyond the  
season to protect and honour  
the earth.

#LiveLent: Care for God's Creation is  
the Church of England's Lent Campaign  
for 2020. With weekly themes shaped  
around the first Genesis account of  
creation, it explores the urgent need  
for humans to value and protect the  
abundance God has created. This  
year's #LiveLent challenge offers  
40 short reflections and suggested  
actions to help you, your family and  
your church live in greater harmony  
with God, neighbour and nature. It  
has been inspired and informed by the  
Archbishop of Canterbury's 2020 Lent  
Book, *Saying Yes to Life* by Ruth Valerio.



There are so many ways to be  
involved with this year's #LiveLent.  
Sign up via the All Saints Website for  
free daily e-mail reflections, download  
the #LiveLent App, or order printed  
booklets for adults, families &  
children.

You will find everything you need to  
get started at:

[allsaintsholbeach.org.uk](http://allsaintsholbeach.org.uk)

## The Diocese of Lincoln



This letter was issued by our Bishops to all licensed Clergy and Readers in The Diocese, in response to the recent publication of the House of Bishops' Pastoral Statement on Civil Partnerships.

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Last week the House of Bishops of the Church of England published a Pastoral Statement on Civil Partnerships. Neither of us were consulted with respect to this document: we are not members of the House of Bishops. There has been considerable media coverage of the Statement, we have received letters, and an Open Letter has been published to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, which has been signed by quite a number of people from Lincoln.

We hear, understand and share the concern that has been expressed relating to the Statement's timing and tone. We both believe that the Statement as it stands has significant pastoral and missiological implications which clearly undermine the work of the Church today. We will bring all these concerns to the meeting of the College of Bishops in London from 29th - 30th January.

As bishops in the diocese please be assured of our commitment to you, God's people in Greater Lincolnshire, holding, we know, a range of views on so many issues, including the very sensitive ones that relate to the Statement. Please do contact us, on this or any other matter.

We continue to be immensely grateful to you for your prayers and support during what is still a highly pressured time for the Diocese of Lincoln and we continue to be inspired by the many examples of faithful, caring and loving mission, ministry and service that we see every day in the parishes, schools and congregations that constitute our diocesan family.

At this time, we both draw strength from St Paul's final words to the church in Ephesus, and we commend them to you as an invitation to prayer. Please substitute 'I' for 'we':

'I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.'

Ephesians 4.16-18

With every blessing,

The Rt Revd Dr David Court  
Bishop of Grimsby  
Acting Diocesan Bishop

The Rt Revd Dr Nicholas Chamberlain  
Bishop of Grantham

## Organ Concert by Daniel Moul

We are excited to give advance notice of a concert at **All Saints on Saturday 25th April from 4:00 to 6:00pm**, to celebrate the restoration of the choir organ, which was kindly funded by Clifford Godfrey in memory of his wife Iris.

Daniel Moul, is a renowned concert organist, recording artist and film presenter, known as one of the finest organists of our time. Daniel is director of the highly acclaimed organ department at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.



Daniel performs concerts around the world, broadcasts frequently on BBC Television and Radio and has recorded for various record labels.

Full details of the programme will be available in the next issue of Ashlings, but in the meantime, please be sure to put the date in your diary for this not to be missed event.



February Diary Dates			
<b>Saturday 1</b>	10.00	Coffee Morning	MBR
	10.30	Baptism preparation	
<b>Sunday 2nd February – Candlemas</b>			
<b>Sunday 2</b>	8.00	Holy Communion (BCP)	
	10.30	All-Age Communion	
	6.30	Deanery Evensong	
<b>Monday 3</b>	10.00	Crochet & Knitting Group	2 Park Lane
<b>Tuesday 4</b>	10.00	Bell Ringing Practice	
	2.30	Care Home Communion	Patchett Lodge
	7.30	Ministry Team	The Vicarage
<b>Wednesday 5</b>	9.30	Holy Communion	Lady Chapel
	10.00	Tea & Coffee	MBR
<b>Thursday 6</b>	2.00	Care Home Communion	Holbeach Hospital
	7.00	Prayer Group	9 Edinburgh Walk
	7.30	ALM Foundation Course	MBR
<b>Friday 7</b>	10.00	Community Larder and Cafe	Reading Rooms
	6.30	Junior Choir	
	7.15	Adult Choir	
	7.30	Choir Club	
<b>Saturday 8</b>	10.00	Coffee Morning	MBR
<b>Sunday 9th February – 3 before Lent</b>			
<b>Sunday 9</b>	10.30	Holy Communion (CW)	
	6.30	Deanery Evensong	
<b>Monday 10</b>	10.00	Crochet & Knitting group	2 Park Lane
<b>Tuesday 11</b>	10.00	Bell Ringing Practice	
	2.30	Care Home Communion	Beech Lodge
<b>Wednesday 12</b>	9.30	Holy Communion	Lady Chapel
	10.00	Tea & Coffee	MBR
	10.30	Home Communion	
<b>Thursday 13</b>	7.30	ALM Foundation Course	MBR
<b>Friday 14</b>	10.00	Community Larder & Cafe	Reading Rooms
	6.30	Junior Choir	
	7.15	Adult Choir	
	7.30	Choir Club	
<b>Saturday 15</b>	10.00	Coffee Morning	MBR

February Diary Dates			
<b>Sunday 16th February – 2 Before Lent</b>			See our Website for latest Diary Events
<b>Sunday 16</b>	10.30	Holy Communion (CW)	
	6.30	Deanery Evensong	
<b>Monday 17</b>	10.00	Crochet & Knitting Group	2 Park Lane
<b>Tuesday 18</b>	10.00	Bell Ringing Practice	
	7.30	Standing Committee	The Vicarage
<b>Wednesday 19</b>	9.30	Holy Communion	Lady Chapel
	10.00	Tea & Coffee	MBR
	2.30	Care Home Communion	Mayfields
<b>Thursday 20</b>	7.00	Prayer Group	9 Edinburgh Walk
	7.00	Ladies Group	Reading Rooms
<b>Friday 21</b>	10.00	Community Larder & Cafe	Reading Rooms
	2.00	Mother's Union	MBR
	7.15	Adult Choir	
<b>Saturday 22</b>	10.00	Coffee Morning	MBR
<b>Sunday 23rd February – Sunday before Lent</b>			
<b>Sunday 23</b>	10.30	Holy Communion (CW)	
	12.15	Baptisms	
	6.30	Deanery Evensong	
<b>Monday 24</b>	10.00	Crochet & Knitting group	2 Park Lane
<b>Tuesday 25</b>	10.00	Bell Ringing Practice	
	2.30	Care Home Communion	Nutten Stoven
<b>Wednesday 26</b>	9.30	Holy Communion with Ashing	Lady Chapel
	10.00	Tea & Coffee	MBR
	7.30	Sung Holy Communion with Ashing	
<b>Thursday 27</b>	7.30	ALM Foundation Course	MBR
<b>Friday 28</b>	10.00	Community Larder & Cafe	Reading Rooms
	6.30	Junior Choir	
	7.15	Adult Choir	
	7.30	Choir Club	
<b>Saturday 29</b>	10.00	Coffee Morning	MBR
	12.00	Lent Lunch	MBR

March Diary Dates			
Sunday 1st March – Lent 1			
Sunday 1	8.00	Holy Communion (BCP)	See our Website for latest Diary Events
	10.30	All-Age Worship	
	6.30	Deanery Evensong	
Monday 2	10.00	Crochet & Knitting group	
	7.30	Lent Group	The Vicarage
Tuesday 3	2.30	Care Home Communion	Patchett Lodge
	7.30	Ministry Team	The Vicarage
Wednesday 4	9.30	Holy Communion	Lady Chapel
	10.00	Tea & Coffee	MBR
Thursday 5	2.00	Care Home Communion	Holbeach Hosp
	7.00	Prayer Group	9 Edinburgh Walk
	7.30	ALM Foundation Course	MBR
Friday 6	10.00	Community Larder & Cafe	Reading Rooms
	6.30	Junior Choir	
	7.15	Adult Choir	
	7.30	Choir Club	
Saturday 7	10.00	Coffee Morning	MBR
	12.00	Lent Lunch	MBR
	7.00	CTEE Healing Service with team from Crowhurst	
Sunday 8th March – Lent 2			
Sunday 8	10.30	Holy Communion (CW)	
	6.30	Deanery Evensong	
Monday 9	10.00	Crochet & knitting group	2 Park Lane
	7.30	Lent Group	The Vicarage
Tuesday 10	10.00	Bell ringing practice	
	2.30	Care Home Communion	Beech Lodge
Wednesday 11	9.30	Holy Communion	Lady Chapel
	10.00	Tea & Coffee	MBR
	10.30	Home Communion	
Thursday 12	7.30	ALM Foundation Course	MBR
Friday 13	10.00	Community Larder & Cafe	Reading Rooms
	6.30	Junior Choir	
	7.15	Adult Choir	
	7.30	Junior Choir Club	
Saturday 14	10.00	Coffee Morning	MBR
	12.00	The Gathering & Lent Lunch	Reading Rooms
Sunday 15th March – Lent 3			
Sunday 15	10.30	Holy Communion (CW)	
	6.30	Deanery Evensong	
Monday 16	10.00	Crochet & Knitting group	2 Park Lane
	7.30	Lent Group	The Vicarage
Tuesday 17	10.00	Bell ringing Practice	
	7.30	PCC Meeting	MBR
Wednesday 18	9.30	Holy Communion	Lady Chapel

March Diary Dates			
	10.00	Tea & Coffee	MBR
	2.30	Care Home Communion	Mayfields
Thursday 19	7.00	Prayer Group	9 Edinburgh Walk
	7.00	Ladies Group	Reading Rooms
	7.30	ALM Foundation Course	MBR
Friday 20	10.00	Community Larder & Cafe	Reading Rooms
	2.00	Mother's Union	MBR
	6.30	Junior Choir	
	7.15	Adult Choir	
Saturday 21	7.30	Choir Club	
	10.00	Coffee Morning	MBR
	12.00	Lent Lunch	MBR
Sunday 22nd March – Lent 4 / Mothering Sunday			
Sunday 22	10.30	All-Age Communion (CW)	
	12.15	Baptisms	
	6.30	Deanery Evensong	
Monday 23	10.00	Crochet & Knitting Group	2 Park Lane
	7.30	Lent Group	The Vicarage
Tuesday 24	10.00	Bell Ringing Practice	
	2.30	Care Home Communion	Nutten Stoven
Wednesday 25	9.30	Holy Communion	Lady Chapel
	10.00	Tea & Coffee	MBR
Thursday 26	7.30	ALM Foundation Course	MBR
Friday 27	10.00	Community Larder & Cafe	Reading Rooms
	6.30	Junior Choir	
	7.15	Adult Choir	
	7.30	Junior Choir Club	
Saturday 28	10.00	Coffee Morning	MBR
	12.00	Lent Lunch	MBR
Sunday 29th March – Lent 5 / Passiontide			
Sunday 29	10.30	Morning Worship (CW)	
	6.30	Songs of Praise – Hymn Karaoke	
Monday 30	10.00	Crochet & Knitting Group	2 Park Lane
	7.30	Lent Group	The Vicarage
Tuesday 31	10.00	Bell Ringing Practice	
Wed 1st April	9.30	Holy Communion	Lady Chapel
	10.00	Tea & Coffee	MBR
Thurs 2nd April	2.00	Care Home Communion	Holbeach Hospital
	7.00	Prayer Group	9 Edinburgh Walk
Friday 3rd April	7.30	ALM Foundation Course	MBR
	10.00	Community Larder & Cafe	Reading Rooms
	6.30	Junior Choir	
	7.15	Adult Choir	
	7.30	Choir Club	



## Choir News

### Junior Choir Advent Stable Sleepover

Once again the weather was mild for the Junior Choir Stable sleepover, and no one suffered too much from the cold. Well done to Charlotte, Rosie, Paige, Tom, James, Gracie, Lily P & Timmy P who slept over along with leaders Kim and Terri and thank you to Matthew, Liam, Timmy, Lily A and Alesha who were able to join us as we sung carols around Arthurs Avenue – finishing up at Nick's Plaice Fish and Chip shop where our efforts were rewarded by a huge mountain of chips that were greedily shared when we got back, along with tomato soup, rolls, and hot chocolate with squirty cream & marshmallows.

They deserved it though after practicing really hard for the carol service and for the crib service as well.



Rosamund took the easy way out and slept in the Mary Bass Room – just in case any of the children got lost on their way to the toilet or got a bit scared and wanted to come indoors, of course! They didn't, but she did have to get up earlier than the other leaders and make them a cup of tea and get the bacon butties on the go.

Thank you to all those who so generously sponsored our young people; they deserved our support and raised a magnificent £335.



## Floodlight Sponsors

If you would like to sponsor the running of the church floodlights please contact Clare. It costs the church about £1000 a year to run the floodlights but for £10 you can sponsor a day in memory of someone or to celebrate a special occasion, or if you prefer your donation can remain anonymous.

Clare Stupples  
07771 531481

### February

1st - Birthday Memories of David Duncan from all the family

14th - In memory of Mr Kilby

15th - Happy birthday to Giles Taylor

26th - In memory of Mrs Kilby

### March

27th - In memory of George Hector

28th - In memory of Barrie Coaten



### Crisis Christmas Appeal

A total of £866.93 was raised for Crisis as part of our Christmas appeal, of which £335 was raised in sponsorship for the Junior choir stable sleep over.

*Thank you to all who contributed*



## BIBLE STUDY GROUP

*Will take a break for the duration of the  
ALM Foundation course which will be running  
on Thursdays from 6th February.*

*The Group will return later in the year*



*Happy New Year from all  
of us at William Stukeley  
C of E Primary School!*



### Stukeley University

This term sees the return of Stukeley University. We have many exciting seminars for the children to choose from including S-Factor, Stained Glass Art, Dinosaurs and Baking. The children can't wait for a Friday afternoon to participate in their seminars!



### Y6 Hilltop Visit

This term ends with Year 6 visiting Hilltop. We will look forward to telling you about how much the children enjoyed three days of climbing, teamwork and achievement next time!

### Lantern Parade

Children in Falcons and Eagles had the opportunity to take part in the Holbeach Lantern Parade. All of the children made their own beautiful lanterns, with the support of artists

Lou and Nadya, in school, and on the Friday evening paraded around Holbeach with them lit up. The children had a fantastic time making them and those that took part with their parents had an amazing experience.

### Staff Pantomime

Our Christmas term ended with a surprise staff pantomime of Aladdin. A group of eighteen willing volunteers made up the entire cast. The children gladly booed and cheered along as favourite characters that we all know and love were brought to life on stage. Our thanks go to all of the staff who ensured the term ended with a festive surprise for the children.



Office - 01406 422102

Head Teacher -  
Mr T W Emery



**Spring Term 1** - After the excitement of Christmas we returned to a Spring Term filled with new experiences and activities for the children to take part in and enjoy.

**Exciting Learning** this term for all of our key stage groups. Early Years topic is "Will You Read Me a Story". They will be looking into traditional tales, fairy tales and more modern stories. The topic will end with a Fairy Tale Ball.

**Key Stage 1** are being "Street Detectives", they will look at the local area in comparison to other cities in the UK and abroad. Exploring maps is just one way to gather information about places.

**Lower Key Stage 2** are looking at Burps, Bottoms and Bile. This is a science based topic that looks at the digestive system, including teeth. A Dental Health Nurse will also be visiting to talk about oral hygiene.

**Upper Key Stage 2** will be transported back to the Ancient Egyptians. They will discover the rituals of mummification and the afterlife, their Ancient Gods and customs. They will also explore the River Nile and its importance as well as looking at artefacts and their effectiveness in revealing the past.

**The Mini Police** - We are very proud to be a Mini Police School and across Year 5 & 6 we have a total of 9 Officers. They help on the playgrounds and assist the dinner staff and help the younger children play. They also take part in exciting activities that show them the role of the Police within their community and the different roles within the Police Force. They have taken part in a CSI activity, when they learnt about being Crime Scene

Investigator's and had to investigate a break in at the School, the hall had been broken into! They had to wear crime scene suits and search for evidence, they took finger prints and swabs, which they had to place in evidence bags. They have lots more activities to take part in through the rest of the year.



**Chinese New Year** - The Children in Key Stage 1 enjoyed a Chinese Dance Workshop. They learnt a dance routine, did a Dragon Dance and learnt about Chinese New Year. They all had great fun and really enjoyed it.



**Sporting Initiatives** - We are still actively involved in a range of sporting activities. As well as taking part in enrichment days we also take part in a number of competitions. By the time you read this we will have competed in Volleyball and Tchoukball competitions.

*We hope that everyone has a lovely half term and we look forward to seeing you all next term.*

Holbeach Primary Academy -  
01406 422397 or  
enquiries@holbeachprimaryacademy.co.uk  
Holbeach Bank Academy -  
01406 423375 or  
enquiries@holbeachbankacademy.co.uk

Executive Principal - Sue Boor  
Office - 01406 422397

## Mission & Outreach Group

### The Gathering

At our January Gathering we enjoyed delicious homemade soup and warm crusty bread followed by a selection of fresh fruit together, as we caught up on how life was for us all at the moment. We listened to a short bible reading about the conversion of St Paul and then based our conversations around what Jesus had seen in Saul and how we thought it would be possible to change that much and what we would like God to change in us.

The Gathering is hosted by the All Saints Mission & Outreach Group and held on a Saturday lunchtime approximately every five to six weeks. We get to know each other over a simple meal and follow this with looking at a short bible passage and having a bit of a discussion, followed

by pudding and shared prayer. Shane & Natalie, Kevin & Martin, Marion, Sara, Carol, Sall and Rosamund between us either prepare and serve the lunch or host one of the tables to help guide the discussion. Please do come and join us, bring a friend or neighbour, everyone is made very welcome.

**Next dates for your diary**  
**12:00 pm at the Reading Rooms**  
**Saturday 14th March, 25th April**  
**and 6th June**



The Gathering

### Carols in the Pub

On the evening of 18th December, a small group of us met up at the Horse & Groom for what will hopefully become an annual get together, for Carols in the Pub. Kim kindly played the accordion as our Mission & Outreach Singers (Judy, Natalie, Shane, Marion, Mike, Rosamund, Martin & Kevin) belted out the carols. This year we were better placed in the Pub, so we could be seen and heard and didn't get in the way of those needing access to the bar! It was lovely to see all the patrons really joining in with the festive singing. Notably you could have heard a pin drop when Rosamund made a short address and said prayers



Carols in the Pub

as everyone listened intently in silence, as they were led in prayer to remember those who were no longer with them and to bring their joys and sorrows before God; the Lord was truly with us. We finished the evening on a light note, with Jingle Bells & Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, which got everyone animated. We then distributed free copies of the Follow the Star booklet to everyone to give them the opportunity to join the Christian journey over the 12 days of Christmas.

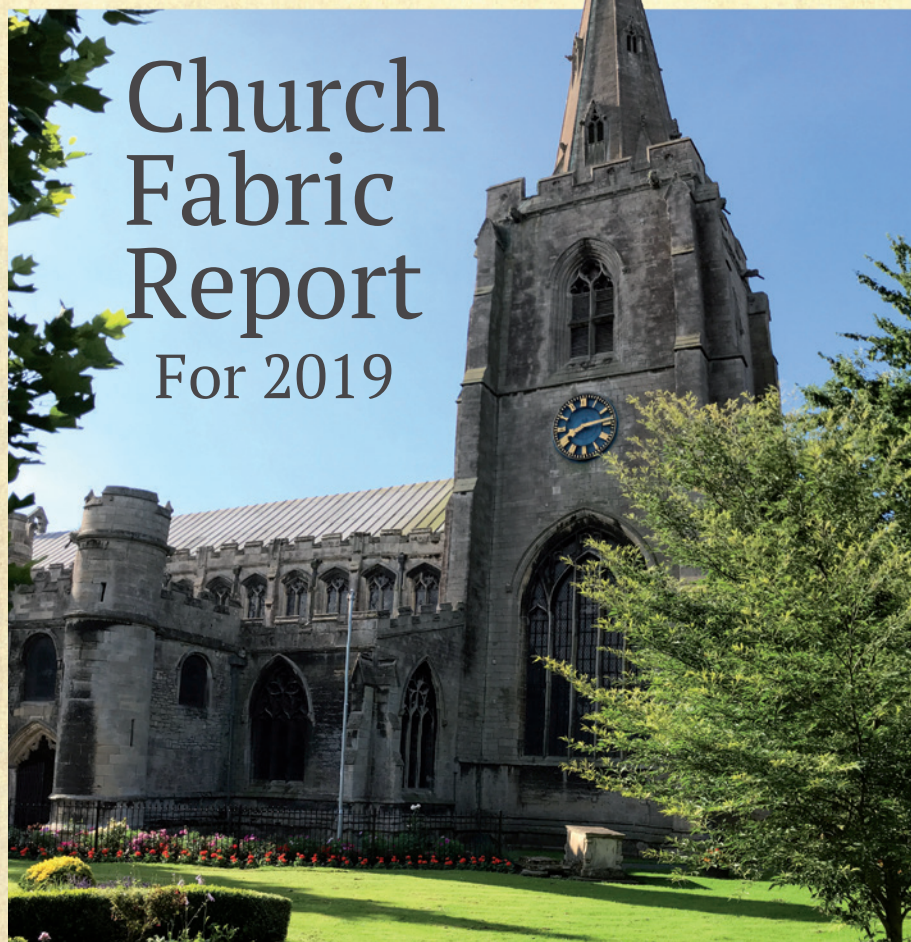
### Songs of Praise Hymn Karaoke

On Sunday 29th March at 6:30 pm, the Mission & Outreach Group will be running this event to try out something new at All Saints. Instead of the Be Still service on this particular 5th Sunday evening, we will have a Songs of Praise style Hymn Karaoke (don't worry there will be no solos, it will all be congregational singing). Hopefully this will encourage congregational singing which will spill over into our 10.30



services. It will be joyful, lots of fun and based on your favourite hymns and worship songs. Please, please, do try to support this new initiative. If it is successful we hope to do make it a more regular event and will be looking to adapt and develop it as we go along. We look forward to welcoming you, bring family and friends even if they don't normally come to church.





Once again a big thank you to anyone who has helped in any way with the upkeep of the church during 2019, your continued support is most welcome. Much has been achieved during the year with a great deal of effort put in by all who have freely given their time.

The Saturday Gang met on 5 Saturdays throughout the summer between April and September. We all worked very hard to keep the slate borders clear, dead headed flowers, cleared weeds and fallen leaves, created a rose garden with stepping stones, located and painted a metal seat by the rose garden, painted further sections of the metal

railings in Church Walk and continued work on the north porch gates and more.

In February the upper drainpipes were removed and repaired by Conservation Leadworks which has solved a number of leaks on the lower roofs. A new lower door was fitted on the north porch tower and the tower window replaced.

At the beginning of the year work for the Tower Project was put out to tender and in April the initial Faculty application was made for work to be done on the tower, west window and drainage. It took a great deal of time, patience and effort before the Faculty was finally granted on the 27th November. The real work starts now and that is to raise the funds needed to complete the works.

Our thanks go to Philip Mears for building the display cabinet for our Matchstick Church. The church was built by Maurice Clarke in 1979 and had spent most of the time since on top of a cupboard in the vestry gathering dust. It finally went on display in church on the 4th October. Since then the visitor information has been updated incorporating the research done by Linden Secker into Maurice Clarke's family history.

On the 31st July our old and defunct internal CCTV system was replaced with a modern system which uses infrared to record clear images in the dark giving our church that extra security.

National Churches Trust are running a 2 year project recording the number of visitors to churches who participate in the project. The PCC decided that we would take part in the project and purchased a digital counter which was installed on the 2nd December. The figures are reported calendar monthly and you may be surprised to know that 2977 people were recorded as entering the church in December. The true figure would probably be slightly higher as it cannot cope with groups of people entering at the same time. The main benefit from our point of view is that the numbers recorded can help when applying for grants which we are now in the process of doing for the Tower Project.

Last but certainly not least the Choir Organ. Our thanks go to Clifford Godfrey for this very generous gift he has bestowed upon us. Mr Godfrey wanted to fund the restoration of the Choir Organ in memory of his late wife Iris and we will be forever grateful. Not only did he fund the project but organised most of it too. A Faculty application was made and was granted on the 30th August. Work began immediately and was completed by Malcolm Spink and his colleagues just in time for our carol service on the 22nd December.

**Churchwardens**  
*Mick Boylan & Carol Hellen*



## All Saints Ladies Group

At the November meeting All Saints Ladies Group had invited Trudie Mason for a musical evening. She sang some delightful solo items and with encouragement we joined in the choruses. It was a very lively and enjoyable evening. Sharon proposed a vote of thanks. Arrangements were finalised for the Christmas lunch at the Spalding Golf Club for Wednesday 11th December. Refreshments were then served and the raffle drawn.

When we met for our Christmas lunch members and guests were given a warm welcome. Our lunch was enjoyed and the waitresses were helpful and friendly. Sharon proposed a vote of thanks. After exchanging greetings for a Peaceful and Happy Christmas we made our way home.

On Thursday 16th January, we met in the Reading Rooms at 7pm. Sharon welcomed us and wished everyone a good year for 2020. The Reading Rooms had new window blinds, this has improved the atmosphere of the room, also some new chairs, and repairs in the storeroom completed. New smaller folding tables will soon be at the hall. Thank you to The Snarey Trust committee for the work completed.

After a short business meeting Sharon introduced Martin Dickinson. Martin

gave a presentation about the Life of a Village Policeman, dating back to early 1900, when his Grandfather George enrolled with the Lincolnshire Constabulary. He served in many of the local villages including Long Sutton. Martin brought the original handcuffs, a writing desk and number of documents. During World War I George was enlisted in the army. We were shown the medals awarded during his service, a New Testament and leather identification tags. He returned to police service after the war ended. Finally retiring after 25 years 285 days service. Sharon proposed the vote of thanks for a very interesting talk.

Refreshments were served and the raffle drawn.

The next two meetings will be held on Thursday 20th February 7pm a Cookery demonstration by Anthony Grunwell, and on Thursday 19th March 7pm when Dave Staines will talk on how to Grow your Begonias. Both at the Reading Rooms. We welcome visitors and guests for small charge of £1.

**For information contact Leader Sharon Cole 425636 or Secretary Rita Norris 423474.**



## Regular Parish Events



### All Saints Prayer Group

Meets on the  
1st & 3rd Thursday  
at the home of Pam Rix  
9 Edinburgh Walk

**6th & 20th February  
5th & 19th March**

7.00-8.30 pm - 01406 420417

All Welcome



What better way to start the week than knitting and crocheting, chatting, and drinking tea?

Come and share or learn a skill, get or give help with a pattern, laugh, put the world to rights and begin the week with old and new friends.

We would be pleased to welcome you.

For more details speak to

**Val Arnold, phone 01406 424503**

The group meets on Monday Mornings  
10.00 am at 2 Park Lane.

## Women's World Day of Prayer

**Friday 6th March**

'Rise, Take your mat and walk'

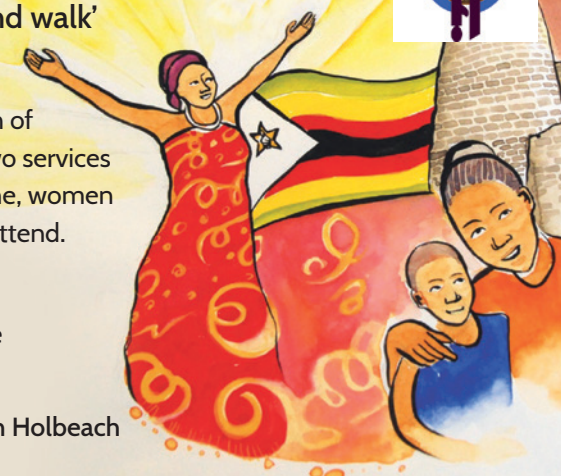
This year's service has been put together by the women of Zimbabwe. There will be two services in the deanery and everyone, women and men, are welcome to attend.

10:30 am

St Matthew's Sutton Bridge

2:30 pm

Holy Trinity Catholic church Holbeach





# Birth Parable

This is the modern parable that Rosamund shared in response to the readings we had on the third Sunday before Advent as we thought about heaven and what it might be like to come face to face with God.

'I know that my redeemer liveth' said Job.

This is a story about twins conceived together in their mother's womb. The spark of life in both of them grew and, as they developed, they became aware of one another. They experienced their own life and knew and saw that life was good.

They laughed and rejoiced, and one said, 'We are lucky to exist, to be alive, and to have this world.' The other replied, 'We are fortunate to have Mother and to have each other.'

They stretched and turned in this world of theirs and began to explore. One found the umbilical cord that came from Mother and began to realise that they owed to her not only existence, but the nourishment by which they lived and survived each day. The other commented, 'How great is her love that she shares all that she has with us.'

Weeks turned into months and they were contented, but as they gradually grew larger, they noticed changes in each other. One asked, 'What does this mean?' 'It means that we are getting near birth,' the other replied.

An upsetting chill crept over the two and they were both afraid, for they knew that birth meant leaving their world behind; everything that they ever knew and were sure of. One said, 'If it were up to me, I would live here forever.' The other had noticed that there had been someone in the womb before them, and said, 'We must be born. We cannot stay in this place for ever.'

'Do you think there is life after birth?' the first one asked. 'There just couldn't be. If we left this place we would have to remain attached by this life cord. I would

rather stay here. Have you ever talked to anyone who has been born? Has anyone re-entered the womb after birth?' 'No,' he continued, 'If the purpose of conception and all our growth is that it is all ended in birth; then life is absurd.'

Resigned to despair, the child stabbed at the darkness with unseeing eyes and went on speaking .... clutching the umbilical cord to his chest, he said, 'If it is so, life is absurd, and there is no Mother!' The other one protested, 'There is a Mother. Who else gave us this world and nourishes us?' 'We get our own nourishment,' the first replied, 'And our world has always been here. And if there is a Mother, where is she? Have you ever seen her? Does she ever talk to you? No! We invented her because it satisfied a need in us; to make us feel secure and happy.' This argument went on for a long time. One sulked angrily, and the other, trusting in Mother, resigned himself to birth.

The days passed and they grew more still as birth seemed near at hand. They both became fearful of what birth might mean. They were afraid of what they did not know.

And then one day, rhythmically squeezed and pushed, they crashed through into that world they did not know existed. They blinked and gasped in the bright light and dry air. When they were sure that they had been born, they opened their eyes and, seeing for the first time, found themselves cradled in the warm and loving arms of Mother. They lay open-mouthed, awe-struck and utterly overcome by the love, beauty and truth that they had only ever had the merest inkling of before.

*Author unknown*

## Holbeach Community Larder & Cafe



### Food Bank and Cafe

35 people joined us for Christmas day at the Community Larder, along with 15 or so volunteers who helped transport, serve and entertain our guests as well as sitting down to eat with them. A huge thank you to Karen and the rest of the Slator family who masterminded all the catering. It was a wonderful and sociable occasion and was, as far as we could tell, hugely enjoyed not just by the guest but also by the volunteers. Thank you too to Helen and Eric who provided the entertainment both beforehand and between courses. Everyone finished off with a game of Bingo.



#### Food Bank

**10.00-1.00 every Friday**

Food parcels available for those in need

#### Hot Lunches

**Served from 12.00 - 1.00**

**(Free or for a small donation)**

**Holbeach Reading Rooms**

**(next to the old library Church Street)**

Do you .....

Live alone

Have poor cooking facilities

Have limited cooking skills

Feel lonely & prefer company

Have nothing much in the fridge

Need a hot meal

**Come and see what our team of volunteers have on the menu today and meet some new friends.**

#### Always Needed

Please leave items in the black tub at the back of the church.

Contact Rosamund Seal - 01406 424989

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| • Dried Milk          | • Pasta Sauces           |
| • UHT Milk            | • Cereal                 |
| • Tinned Custard      | • Shower Gel             |
| • Savoury Rice        | • Hand Soap              |
| • Tins Potatoes       | • Toilet Rolls           |
| • Noodles             | • Dog & Cat food         |
| • Jam                 | • Cup-a Soup             |
| • Tinned Rice Pudding | • Toothpaste             |
| • Tinned Steak Pies   | • Tinned Fruit           |
| • Gravy Granules      | • Tinned Tuna & Sardines |
| • Tinned Cold Meats   | • Washing Powder         |

We will be welcoming Reverend Michaela Dean and Mrs Christine Pearl as members of All Saints Branch at the February meeting which starts at 2:00 pm on 21st February, Sally Clifton will lead us in Lenten reflection.

The March meeting on the 20th will be based on the Annunciation. Both meetings to be in the Mary Bass Room. Lady Chapel Flower arrangers to be agreed for February and none in Lent.

The Mothers' Union is a worldwide Christian organisation dedicated to promoting marriage and family life. It has 3.6 million members in 76 countries. The Mothers' Union was started in 1876 by Mary Sumner, the wife of an Anglican vicar. It is open to all baptised men and women and encourages all members to attend church and to read the Bible regularly. If you are interested in joining, please contact Joyce Fines on 01406 420160. We look forward to welcoming you to be a part of a wonderful worldwide organisation.



## Save Your Stamps for Holbeach Mothers' Union

Don't forget to continue saving your stamps for All Saints Mothers' Union. Just leave your stamps on the table at the back of the church and we will see that they are used to support this important Charity. All the stamps collected over the last year were recently delivered to EACH and they were very grateful for all our efforts.

EACH supports families throughout their experience of caring for children with life-threatening conditions and complex healthcare needs. EACH maintains three hospices situated in Ipswich, Milton and Quidenham.



## Ring out the Old, Ring in the New

On New Years Eve, a small group of us met at 11:30 pm on the Bell Tower Platform, to join in with a short liturgy as we prepared to say goodbye to 2019 and welcome 2020. It was a reflective service during which the readings told of the arrival of the Wise Men as we placed their respective figures into



New Year! The Bells rang out for a full 20 minutes in all, the centre of Holbeach could have been in no doubt that New Year had arrived. We rounded off the celebrations with mulled wine and mince pies, before heading off home in the wee small hours of a fresh and brand new year. A big thank you to our Bell Captain, Michael Slater, and his team for making it all possible.



the nativity (a rather beautiful hand carved nativity set from Rosamund). We observed a period of silence and said prayers as we approached the New Year, and our bell ringers started to Ring out the Old, Ring in the New. It was a delight to experience their skilful art close up, as we wished one another a Happy



### From the Parish Registers

#### Baptisms

We welcome into the church family:

26th Jan - Ethan Rudd

#### Funerals

We offer our sympathy to the families of:

22nd Nov - Annie Limming

10th Jan - Pamela Gray



## Counselling in Holbeach

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[natalieblanchflower@gmail.com](mailto:natalieblanchflower@gmail.com)



[www.natalie.blanchflower.org.uk](http://www.natalie.blanchflower.org.uk)

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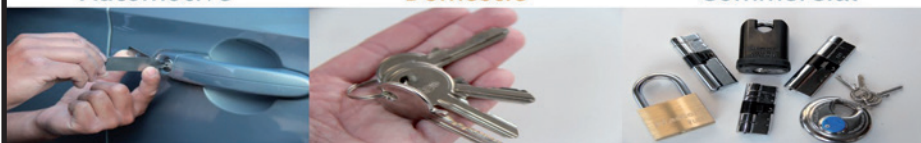
Call Martin On 01406 709089  
Mobile 07767 476101

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