



St Denys Bulletin

The church is open daily from 9am

November 2024

Services at a glance:

- Every Sunday 10am
Sung Eucharist
- Every Wednesday 10am
Said Communion
- Mon, Tues and Thurs
8.45am Morning Prayer
- 1st Sunday 5pm Compline
- 2nd & 3rd Sunday
5pm Evening Prayer
- 4th Sunday 5pm Evensong
- 5th Sunday 6pm
United Service

Directory: Vicar of Sleaford and Rural Dean

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The Parish Office

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Mon, Weds, Fri 9-11am

Churchwardens

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Letter from the Vicar, Rev'd Philip Johnson

Remembrance Sunday, this year in Sleaford, will be a little different. The remodeling of the Marketplace has meant we have had to be creative – we cannot do this year exactly what we have done every year for several decades. It can be very easy to become so wedded to a tradition (a particular way of doing something) that the tradition becomes more important than the symbolic act.

Remembrance Sunday is not about parades and marching bands, or standards (flags), or even about civic dignitaries turning up in black coats and chains of office to lay their wreaths. All of that is tradition. The symbolic act is a nation coming together in a collective period of silent reflection, recalling those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in time of war, and committing ourselves to learn from this horrific past. In this annual act of remembering we keep before us the horror of war and commit ourselves to work for a better world, where, in the words of the prophet Micah, nation shall not lift up sword against nation.

Every year since 1945, as the nation has gathered to Remember, British troops have been deployed on

operations around the world. There has only been one year since 1945 when no new names have been added to the list of British Service Personnel who have died (been killed) on active service. As I look at the world today – Russia/ Ukraine, Israel/ Palestine... Iranian involvement in both theatres of war... North Korean involvement in support of Russia – I wonder what the parallels might be with how the world felt in the mid-1930s. I wonder at what point localised conflicts may tip over into a third world war. War has been with us since earliest times but, as the renowned military theorist Carl von Clausewitz wrote, 'war is not an independent phenomenon, but the continuation of politics by different means'. An aggressor nation always has a political objective: more land, natural resources, or simply more power, and when these are taken by force others will seek to defend what they consider to be rightfully theirs. The war will only cease when conditions for diplomacy are achieved, and the warring nations can settle upon a compromise.

When Jesus said, 'blessed are the peacemakers', I wonder whether he had in mind the peace-keeping troops of the Roman Army. *Pax Romana* was brought about by quashing tribal in-fighting and insurrections, but that military force enabled economic stability and human flourishing. The world has not changed much in the past two-thousand years. We still need peace-keeping force in this world today to resist the military force of aggressors and create the conditions for diplomatic resolution to crises. But we work and pray for that day when all humanity will live in peace and safety, where the hungry and fed and all have access to justice. We remember the horrors of the world wars of the 20th century in order to learn from them as we face the challenges of our world today.

**SLEAFORD
KESWICK
BIBLE MINISTRY**
Friday, 8th November
7.30pm
Riverside Church
Ian Paul

From the Churchwardens

Lady Chapel update

Work has commenced on the Lady Chapel floor area. The original timber floor boards on the eastern side have been taken up and the joists showing considerable wood rot have been replaced with air-dried oak timber. The intention is to relay the original flooring, which remains in good condition. At this stage all the joists affected were found to be resting on soil - whereby the new joists have been laid on a water resistant membrane. Once this stage of the works is completed the central area of flooring will be examined for wood rot.

Crib/stable update

Work is underway for a replacement of the old Christmas crib/stable, which was damaged in last year's vestry fire and deemed unsuitable for future use. Local schools have been contacted and as a result three pupils from Sleaford Joint Sixth Form have designed a new stable and are now in the process of building the final design. The new stable will be

dedicated in time for the season of Advent. It has been a joy working with the schools on this project and we have been very impressed with the way the pupils and their tutors have approached this task.

Market Place

Meetings with representatives from North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) have continued and one event which is being organized is to be held during the weekend of 21/22 December. Apart from NKDC arranging several activities, it is planned for the west facade of the church to be illuminated. During the weekend the church will offer teas, coffees and soup on both days. On the Saturday (21st) these will be served in the churchyard allowing Sleaford Choral Society to prepare the inside of the church for their evening concert.

Remembrance Sunday

The annual Remembrance Sunday Memorial Service will be a little different this year due to the restrictions imposed by the construction work on the Market Place. Limited access will be

available for wreaths to be laid on the Memorial and Market Street will be used for the gathering of various military units and organisations. Space will be made available on the south side of Market Street for the general public. On the 11th November the traditional ceremony around the Memorial will take place inside St Denys Church. Many thanks go to the British Legion staff who have been able to adapt these important ceremonies because of the Market Place works.

TV screens

It has been suggested, and some research has been carried out, to consider installing one or two large TV screens within the body of the church. There are several benefits in having TV screens within the church as they will allow people who are sitting in areas offering limited visual impact to have a greater sense of being part of belonging. The current feeling is to have TV screens on stands rather than being fixed to a column. This would allow us to change the position of where to place the screens for whatever reason and also enable to store them securely. The PCC will be given an opportunity to decide if this is a project worth pursuing.

Career of a former Assistant Curate

Horatio Spurrier was born in 1872, son of Thomas, farmer, at Barrow-on-Trent, Derbyshire. From 1856 to 1859, he studied at Oriel College, Oxford. - B.A. 1859. (He was nearly selected to row in the 1859 Boat Race!). Was ordained deacon in 1858 and priest in 1859, and was our curate in 1858.

He was then vicar of Shildon, County Durham from 1866. "In 1866, aged 34, he came north to Shildon and, unusually well liked for an Anglican vicar among the coalminers, he stayed." He was made a canon of Durham in 1901. In 1882, he took part against the Rev'd W.H.G. Stephens in a 'human' chess match on a board 15 yards square, "bellowing out orders to the pieces"! Shildon church was built in 1868, Mr Spurrier tapping the

foundation stone into place. "The £2,500 church came into use the following year, and Mr Spurrier remained as rector throughout his career. In 1887, he married Eleanor Cumby, the grand-daughter and heir of Captain William Pryce-Cumby, the hero of the 1805 Battle of Trafalgar, who lived in Heighington (DL5). Consequently, when he died, Mr Spurrier was buried in the churchyard.

Horatio's son, also Horatio, was appointed Vicar of Staindrop in 1923. His grandson, The Rev'd Horatio Sandys Cumby was appointed "Chaplain to the Forces, Second Class (temporary), Royal Army Chaplains Department" in January 1946.

I am sure other curates here followed fascinating careers. Perhaps I will unearth a few more somewhen.

Know your PCC Who am I?

1. Born within the sound of Bow Bells
2. Grew up in Finsbury.
3. A man of minor importance .

Answer next month

October - Keith Bailey

COMMUNICANTS' GUILD

The Guild's next meeting will be on Tuesday 19th November in the Church Room at 2 pm. Our speaker will be Guild member Stella Butler who will tell us about collecting Moorcroft Pottery.

You are most welcome to join us.



William Alvey School Bishop's Visitor Update

The school has just returned from the half term break and will be getting into gear for another busy session as it won't be long before the Christmas excitement and festivities take over!

The Assembly for Harvest on 4th October was a joyous celebration and a large collection of food stuffs had been gathered for Sleaford Food Bank. We made some words from the word "Harvest" including "starve" and "share" and were given some statistics about how the continents with the biggest populations in the world actually have the smallest share of the food grown and available. So in fact not very fairly shared at all! A lady from the Food Bank told us about what will happen to the food

collected and how it will be shared and distributed to needy people in the local area.

Later in the month we were encouraged to talk to someone if we have a problem, as mental health is as important as physical health and we can all help each other by being aware of how others are feeling and struggling. The Vicar came and reminded the children of the celebration of St Denys Day and his story.

As Bishop's Visitors we have had one of our regular meetings together recently. I was not able to go to the one in Sleaford as I had another appointment on the same

day so I went to the one held at Edward King House, which is next to the Cathedral, arriving by taxi from the train station as the cathedral clock struck 10-00 and just in time! It is lovely to meet other BV's from around the diocese and compare notes about our schools and the activities we get involved with. We were brought up to date about future plans and new visions by the Deputy Director of the Board of Education for the Diocese, Lynsey.

Beryl Risdell



Collect for Remembrance Sunday

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm. As we honour the past may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. Amen.

Bible Reading

Micah 4.2-3 (NRSV)

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; 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 anymore...

COFFEE MORNING

**Saturday, 23rd November
10.30am to 12.30pm
Church Hall**

There will be mince pies, mulled wine, coffee or tea, a cake stall, gifts, cards and a raffle.

The proceeds will be shared between St. Denys and Embrace.

It would be great to see everyone there..



Funerals and Memorial Services

Please remember in your prayers

Joyce Zealand
Aged 80 years

From the newspapers

November 1891

It has been resolved to heat the Church of St Denys continuously during the winter months, to prevent damage to the organ and fabric.

June 1865

See article

'Career of a former Curate'

Testimonials have recently been presented to the following clergymen: Rev Horatio Spurrier M.A. Oriel College, Oxford by inhabitants of New Sleaford - a pocket communion service and a purse of guineas, on the termination of his duties in that parish, whence he proceeds to a curacy at All Souls' Langham Place.

Church Services

(Morning prayer is usually said at 8.45am on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday)

Said Communion every Wednesday at 10am (1st Weds of the month is BCP)

Sunday, 3rd November

10am All Saints, 5pm All Souls Day Service including Faure's REquiem

Wednesday, 6th November

10am BCP

Sunday, 10th November

Remembrance Sunday

9.30am Sung Communion 5pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday, 13th November

10am Mid Week Communion

Sunday, 17th November

10am Second before Advent, 5pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday, 20th November

10am Mid-Week Communion

Sunday, 24th November

10am Christ The King, 5pm Evensong

Wednesday, 27th November

10am Mid-week Communion

Sunday, December 1st

10am Advent 1, 3.30pm Christingle (Riverside Precinct)

Wednesday, 4th December 10am BCP

A vale of tears may conceal a veil of love,
if we would only apprehend the Holy Dove.
Tempests roar and the world is black.
Even so, love keeps leading us safely back,
into sheltered havens where the sun is warm,
and biting winds shall do no harm.
There in sacred peace, sad tears may fall,
our brave heart trembles and we feel small.
Yet know we're not alone. God feels our
pain,
holding us close till we're strong again.
God accompanies us, tho' our path be steep,
embracing us whilst we weep.

Jenny Whybrow

(published with permission of the author)

Submitted by David Birks



All Souls Day Service

St Denys Sleaford Parish Church

Sunday
3rd
November

Rehearsal
2pm

Refreshment
break
4pm

Service 5pm

Come and sing
Fauré's
magnificent
Requiem

GABRIEL FAURÉ
REQUIEM
R.S.C.M.

DIocese of Lincoln
faithful · confident · joyful

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



SLEAFORD CHRISTMAS MARKET

SUN 1st DECEMBER 2024

11:00am - 4:30pm

Live Music & Entertainment
Father Christmas & his Sleigh
Walkabout Characters
Horse Carriage Rides
Fair Rides & Games
Balloon Modelling
Face Painting
Food & Drink
Trade Stalls

Outdoor Christmas Service
3:30pm
Riverside Shopping Centre

Christmas Tree & Town Lights Switch On
4:30pm
Riverside Shopping Centre

Official opening in Eastgate Car Park at 11:00am

Event to be held in Eastgate Car Park, Eastgate Green, Navigation Yard, Town Hall & Riverside Shopping Centre.

Disclaimer: Please note that the opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors. They do not reflect the opinions or views of St Denys PCC.