The Bridge

Parish magazine serving the communities around the churches of The Sibsey and Carrington Group

&

The Brothertoft Group

March 2019
# Parish Directory

**Rural Dean**
**Priest during Vacancy**
Rev Andrew Higginson  
Rest day: Monday  
Email: revonline@btopenworld.com  
01205 760480

**READER**
Nicola Bradbury  
Phone number 01205 480064

**METHODIST CIRCUIT MINISTERS**
- **Superintendent**
  - Rev'd Neil Vickers (Rest day Friday) 01205 355088
- **Minister**
  - Rev'd Julie Doddrell (Rest day Friday) 01205 316524
- **Retired Minister**
  - Rev'd Trevor Hancock 01205 319404

**Churchwardens**
- **Parish Safeguarding Officer**
  - Ms A. Sykes 01205 870794
- **Brothertoft**
  - Mr M. Harrison 01205 290575
- **Holland Fen**
  - Mrs K. Moss 01205 280404
  - Ms J. Orford 01205 280202
- **Kirton Holme**
  - Mrs T. Fountain 01205 290747
  - Mr M. Harrison 01205 290575
- **Langrick**
  - Mrs A. Bowhen 07800862190
  - Mrs M. Casey 01526 342039
- **Sibsey with Carrington Group**
  - Mr J. Grooby 01205 750591
  - Mr S. Spens 01205 750319
- **Wildmore**
  - Mrs J.M. Casey 01526 342039
  - Keyholder: Mrs W. Appleyard 01205 280716

**The Bridge – Sales and Distribution enquiries**
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- Brothertoft Group – J. Orford 01205 280202

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  - june.orford@mypostoffice.co.uk

**All material for The Bridge – editorial, adverts, pictures, volunteer enquiries, etc**
thebridgemag@outlook.com 01205 750336

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The Sibsey Group of Churches can be found on Facebook. Search for Sibseygroupofchurches.
Politics dominates the news as March 29th and our departure from the EU gets closer. However, longer days and Spring weather helps alleviate the long Winter season and there is more time to enjoy the outdoors. The clocks go forward on Sunday 31st March for the start of British Summer Time and longer summer evenings to look forward to.

Don’t forget ‘Pancake Day’ or Shrove Tuesday is on Tuesday 5th March and Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, is Wednesday 6th March. What will you be giving up for Lent? Details of a Lent Course are on page 7. Mother’s Day will be on Sunday 31st March in the UK. You will also find some details of Easter events for your diaries coming up in this edition too.

Looking ahead to holidays abroad if we do leave the EU on March 29th without a deal don’t forget your passport must have at least 6 months unexpired time on the date of arrival in the EU so must not be over nine and a half years from its start date. Worth checking now in case you need time to renew your passport.

The Editorial Team
Dates for your Diary

Car Boot Sale, indoors. Morning. Sibsey Village Hall. **Every Sunday**

'Exercise to music with Sophie', Holland Fen Village Hall **Every Monday**
(not Bank Holidays) 7pm Adults. £3.50.

**Cubs** Sibsey Northlands Village Hall. 6.30-8.00pm **Every Monday**

**Sibsey Singers** Sibsey Village Hall. 7.30pm **Every Monday**

**Felting Group** 1-3pm Kirton Holme Church Hall **Every Monday**
Contact Hannah 07855 281832

**Move It or Lose It** 10.30-11.30am Sibsey Village Hall **Every Monday**

**Frithville & Carrington Coffee Morning** 10am-12noon **Every 1st Monday**
Carrington Village Hall. Contact Ruth 07890539788

**Kirton Holme Community Coffee Morning** **Every 2nd Monday**
Kirton Holme Church Hall 10am-12noon

**Sibsey Northlands coffee morning** 10-11.30am **Every 3rd Monday**
Village Hall. All welcome. Not held in August.

**Short Mat Bowls** Sibsey Village Hall, 2.00 - 4.00pm **Every Tuesday**

**Gardening Club**, New Bolingbroke Town Hall **Every 1st Tuesday**
£1.50, includes a drink; Contact Sandra - 01507 568706 or Victoria - 0777 927309

**Bowling and Curling** 10am to 12 noon. All welcome. **Every 1st Tuesday**
Langrick Village Hall. Accessible facilities/games. Tea and biscuits. £2.50.

**Mother’s Union** St Margaret’s Church 7.30pm **Every 1st Tuesday**

**Brothertoft Village Hall Tuesday Club** 7.30pm **Every 2nd Tuesday**

**Country Roads Quilters** 9.30am-4.30pm not Dec **Every 3rd Tuesday**
Sibsey Northlands Village Hall. Tel Lis 07503 195808/Fenella 01205 750562

**Boston Parkinsons Cafe**, 10.30-12noon **Every 3rd Tuesday**
St Barnabas Day Hospice. Tel. Mary Osborne 01205 366036

**Pilates**, Sibsey Village Hall 10 - 11am **Every Wednesday**

**Sibsey Baby and Toddler Group** 9.30-11.15am **Every Wednesday**
Contact 07710998694, Sibsey Northlands Hall. Term-time.

**Bingo** Eyes down 7.30pm (not from Xmas to Easter) **Every Wednesday**
Hubbert’s Bridge Community Centre.

**New York Dog Training Club** 7-9pm, Lecture Hall **Every Wednesday**
£2.50 inc free raffle/drink. Show ring training/basic obedience. 01526 344467
Slimming World  at Sibsey Village Hall  Every Wednesday  
5.30pm & 7.30pm

Craft Club  Contact - Sheila Bent - 07904 165679  Every Wednesday  New Bolingbroke Town Hall, 7.00 - 9.00pm

Dolls House Club  Brothertoft Village Hall  7-9pm  Every 1st Wednesday

Sibsey WI  Sibsey Northlands Village Hall, 7.15pm  Every 2nd Wednesday

Short Mat Bowls  Sibsey Village Hall, 6.30-8.30pm  Every Thursday

Pilates  Sibsey Village Hall, 10am - 11am  Every Thursday

Bowls Club  7-9pm £2. Carrington Village Hall  Every Thursday  Contact Sean 01205 480 350

Beavers  Sibsey Northlands Village Hall 5.30-7.00pm  Every Thursday

Scouts  Sibsey Northlands Village Hall 7.30-9pm  Every Thursday

Kirton Holme & Hubbert’s Bridge Never Forgotten Club  
Kirton Holme Church Hall 2pm. Tel. Peggy 290208.

Every 2nd Thursday

Brothertoft Darby and Joan Club  1-4.30pm  Every 2nd Thursday

Home Crafts  Holland Fen Village Hall  Every Friday  1.30pm to 4.00pm. Phone 01205 280404 for details

Archery  New York Lecture Hall. 6.30-7.30pm.  Every Friday  Equipment provided. Beginners welcome.

Gentle Exercise to Music / Keeping Fit  Every Friday  Sibsey Northlands Village Hall 10.30am for 11am start.

Coffee Morning  New Bolingbroke Town Hall  Every 1st Saturday (except Jan)10am-12noon Tea/cake. Tel. Sandra 01507 568706

Bird Club Sale  Carrington Village Hall  Saturday every 4 weeks  £1 life membership £1 entry. Charity raffle. Barrie on 01205 280496 or 07775183816. Doors open 10am. Sale 1pm.

Royal British Legion, Sibsey and District Branch - Last Monday of the month, The White Hart, Sibsey at 7 pm.  Tel. 0784 087 8810 for details.

Coffee Morning  Langrick Village Hall,10am-12.30pm  Last Tuesday of the month  Tea/coffee and cake. £1.50.

‘Dates for your Diary’ continued on next page.
History Group  New Bolingbroke Town Hall  2nd Tuesday every other month 7pm (Nov, Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept)
Tel. Kathy 01205 480836

World Day of Prayer  Langrick Village Hall  2pm Fri 1st Mar
Quiz Night  Kirton Holme Church Hall 7.30pm £5 Fri 1st Mar.
Sibsey Village Hall Craft and Gift Fairs  10-3pm Sat 2nd Mar
Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Day  Tues 5th Mar.
Ash Wednesday - start of Lent  Wed 6th Mar.
Holland Fen Village Hall Coffee Morning  10.30-12 Tues 12th Mar.
Brothertoft Village Hall Tuesday Club  7.30pm Tues 12th Mar.
Lent Study Course begins. Langrick VH 2.30pm Wed 13th Mar.
Amber Hill WI  Hubberts Bridge Comm.Ctre 7.30pm Thurs 14th Mar.
Kirton Holme Never Forgotten Club  Thurs 14th Mar.
Holland Fen Village Hall Bingo. Eyes Down 7.30pm Tues 19th Mar.
Holland Fen Village Hall Garden Club  7.30pm Thurs 21st Mar
Whist Drive  Kirton Holme VH 7PM £5 Fri 22nd Mar.
Exhibition of Quilts Butterwick Church 10am-4pm Sat/Sun 23/24 Mar
Prize Bingo Evening  Sibsey VH 6.30pm Sat 30th Mar.
Quiz Night with Fish & Chips £10 Brothertoft VH 7pm Sat 6th April
Bach’s St John Passion  Lincoln Cathedral 7pm Sat 6th April
Quiz Night  Langrick VH 7.30pm Fri 12th April
Easter Coffee Morning  Sibsey Church 10-12 Sat 13th April
Boston Sinfonia Frampton Church £10/£12 7.30pm Sat 16th Apr.
Easter Egg Trail  Sibsey VH £3 10.30am-1pm Wed 19th Apr.

Join the Editorial Team

The Bridge is put together by volunteers. If you belong to a local group, or could source material, help type and format a few articles, maintain adverts and advertisers or collate information for this magazine we would love to hear from you. Send an email to thebridgemag@outlook.com with your details or to find out more.
NHP of Sibsey

Growers and purveyors of Fruit, vegetables and flowers
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Seasonal orders taken for pumpkins, Christmas trees and holly wreaths.

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Did you know that about one in eight British adults worry about not being able to afford enough food?
Recent research carried out on behalf of the Church Urban Fund has found that food poverty is a growing issue, with more families using food banks and children going hungry during summer holidays without their free school meals.
The Church Urban Fund’s Together Network is working to change this, but says: “We need your support: will you join the **Big Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday on 5th March 2019** and eat away at hunger?”

It is very easy to hold a Big Pancake Party, says CUF:
“Gather together some of your friends or family, eat pancakes, have a great time and raise funds for those in need.
“You could hold it in your home, school, church or community. It could be big or small, it could be on pancake day itself or on another day that works for you. We have plenty of ideas and resources to help. Just go to [http://www.cuf.org.uk/the-big-pancake-party](http://www.cuf.org.uk/the-big-pancake-party)

**Married**

I married an Irishman on St Patrick's Day."
"Oh, really?"
"No, O'Reilly!"

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**EXHIBITION OF QUILTS**

....and much more!

**ST. ANDREWS CHURCH, BUTTERWICK.**

**SATURDAY 23rd AND SUNDAY 24th MARCH 2019.**

10am to 4pm

Admission £1.50 to include tea/coffee and a slice of home-made cake.

Raffle, tombola, ‘find the egg’, crafters’ lucky dip, small hand-made items for sale.

PLEASE COME TO ENJOY FELLOWSHIP AND SEE THE TALENTS OF OUR AREA DISPLAYED.

For more information, contact  Ann 01205 760733; Marilyn 751120;  Carol 761705.
Lent Study Course 2019

The title of the Lent study course for 2019 is ‘Daring to See God’. It has been designed to make us think, to start to question, to start conversations with God, ourselves and others.

‘Where is he in our lives today?’
‘Do we feel loved by God?’
‘Does Jesus always deliver what we expect?’

We can all gain comfort from the familiar stories in the bible, but what happens when we are challenged to understand the meanings of those words. Do we feel out of our ‘depth’? I know I do sometimes and I need to understand in a lay persons terms to gain greater understanding, not in a theologians. So I am going to give the study course a try.

The Reverend David will lead these sessions and set the level at that for the members of the group, but do try to come to all the sessions and you will get the most out of it that way.

So, what have you got to lose? Come along and give it a try.

1st session  Wednesday 13th March 2.30pm
2nd session  Tuesday 19th March 2.30pm
3rd session  Wednesday 27th March 2.30pm
4th session  Wednesday 3rd April  2.30pm
5th session  Wednesday 10th April 2.30pm

All sessions will be held at Langrick Village Hall.
If you would like to attend please contact your churchwardens, there will be a small cost of £4 for the literature that accompanies the course.

Marilyn Casey

QUIZ NIGHT
Kirton Holme Church Hall
Friday 1st March 2019
7.30pm
£5 (includes Supper)
Sibsey WI

The February meeting of Sibsey WI was in its usual format with various items of WI business before the speaker.

There are several opportunities available through our Federation - Lincolnshire South - such as trying the sport of golf, a luncheon with a speaker on The Living Landscape from the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and a quiz in April. Volunteers are needed to help with the WI marquee at the Lincolnshire Show in June, for which schedules were available so members can decide whether they wish to enter any competitions there. We are also invited to share in the birthday celebrations of Amber Hill, a neighbouring WI.

In accordance with charity commission and WI rules, we agreed to support a local charity, The Butterfly Hospice and this year, a new venture will be a supper club in which members can experience different cuisines and restaurants.

‘Vita, Violets and Verse’ was the title of Trevor Rodgers’ talk with slides which entertained us with tales from gardens including Vita Sackville-West’s Sissinghurst and gardeners like Geoff Hamilton and Gertrude Jekyll as well as quotations and poems both amusing and thought provoking. There were even some from people who weren’t particularly fond of gardening like Oscar Wilde and Dylan Thomas. There was humour as well as day-to-day garden concerns such as green fly and we learnt that violet seeds are transported through a garden by ants!

There were a lot of entries in the monthly competition, this time on a colour theme, for an article in violet or purple. The winners chosen by the speaker were a cushion, a bunch of tiny violets and a beanie bear! A few members had dressed in purple and violet too!

In March, Sadie Hirst will present ‘Much ado about nothing’ and members who enter the competition will submit a Spring posy with herbs.

For more information, visit our website http://www.sibseywi.co.uk, contact Sally Grant on 01205 750486 or just come along to Northlands Hall on the second Wednesday of the month for 7pm.

Fenella Howard
The Royal British Legion –

Sibsey and District Branch

The branch meets at The White Hart, Sibsey on the last Monday of each month at 7pm (except August and December). New members to join the Branch are always sought and will be made very welcome, you need not have served in the military to be a member. For more information please contact the Secretary on 0784 087 8810 or email sibseyrbl@outlook.com.

Graham Ridley
Secretary, Sibsey & District Royal British Legion

World Day of Prayer
(A Women-led, Global, Ecumenical Movement)

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, at a church near you on Friday March 1st 2019 people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Slovenia.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world --- through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later. Take part locally on Friday 1st March at 2pm at Langrick Village Hall.

‘The Bridge’ Delivery Volunteers

Could you help in distributing magazine’s in the Sibsey and Sibsey Northlands area? The magazine is printed eleven times a year and delivered by a volunteer group of residents. The rounds are mainly just a pleasant walk and a car is not needed. If you could assist with a small round this would be much appreciated. An ideal opportunity to walk the dog and meet other people. Please contact Ann Maltby on 750263 or Pam Smith on 750336 for details.

Contributions to The Bridge

Thank you to all our advertisers and contributors. In order to get our edition to the printers on time please ensure material is sent by email to thebridgemag@outlook.com or phone 01205 750336 as early as you can usually by the 14th of the month before publication.

Be aware that the earlier contributions are submitted the greater the chance they will appear. There is so much going on to quickly fill up all available space.
Another Amazing Boston Sinfonia Concert

With the Stump not available as a concert venue during refurbishment, The Orchestra are playing their third concert of the season in the beautiful and historic St Marys Church, Frampton. PE20 1AD. There should be plenty of FREE parking, but the venue is smaller than the Stump so advanced booking is advised either through the Stump Shop PE21 6NW or on line www.bostonsinfonia.org.uk

On Saturday 16th March at 7.30pm Nigel Morley will conduct the Orchestra of over 60 members, the foremost orchestra in the East of England, playing 3 familiar pieces,

- Swan Lake Suite – Tchaikovsky.
- Ruslan & Ludmilla – Glinka.
- Symphony No 1 – Sibelius.

With such a large orchestra and a smaller venue, seating is restricted, so it advisable to book early.

Tickets are available £10.00 in advance, or £12.00 on the door, as usual under 18’s are FREE!

The Resilient Disciple

A rchdeacon of Boston, The Venerable. Dr Justine Allain Chapman, who writes our letter this month in the centre pages, has written a book, The Resilient Disciple: a Lenten journey from adversity to maturity (SPCK 2018, £7.99), which is being read by many people this Lent. Justine is also running some events related to the book (on 18th March and 6th April 2019), and details on these may be found here: https://lincolncathedral.com/forthcoming-events/called ‘The Resilient Disciple Quiet and reflective Afternoon’ in The Cathedral Centre.

PLEASE TELL ADVERTISERS YOU SAW THEIR ADVERT IN THE BRIDGE WHEN YOU USE THEIR SERVICES.
Brothertoft Group - 120 Club
February 2019 Draw - Winners

£25 Nicole Bogg  £15 Barbara Johnson  £10 Gill Shaw

This is the last draw for the 120 Club and the Group would like to thank all those who contributed. A new Draw (renamed Friendship Club) will commence in May and should you wish to participate in this Draw please contact a Churchwarden.

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The speed of change

Reflecting on the first two decades of this century, it’s amazing when you think about the speed of change. What is normal now, certainly wasn’t normal in the year 2000! No-one had heard of a selfie. Google was in its very early stages, but whoever thought it would come to be used as a verb? There was no Wikipedia, no Snapchat, no YouTube and no WhatsApp. Neither was there any Spotify, Skype or Facebook. And the list goes on - no Twitter, no Netflix, and no iPads. There was hardly a satnav to be found and no emojis to bring a smile or two. And what about photographs – we used to fill albums, but now a mobile phone can take super photos at the push of a button - and good quality! Talking about the cloud a few years ago and you knew it was threatening rain. If this kind of change is what a few years can bring, what on earth will it be like in, say, 2050? Many of the people who have resisted technological change will have passed on and every new generation will be tech-savvy. But let’s remember there are some things that never change. Surely you don’t need reminding what they are!

6 March - Ash Wednesday: a good time to admit you are sorry

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:
‘I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance’ (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)
God is inviting you to come to him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

No teenagers, no pensioners!

Two words that do not occur in the Hebrew Old Testament – ‘adolescence’ and ‘retirement’.

TV

The mind is like a television...when it goes blank, it's a good idea to turn off the sound.

St Patrick

Why do people wear shamrocks on St Patrick's Day? Because regular rocks are too heavy.
If you are a resident of the Parish of Sibsey and you are in real need of something you cannot really afford, we may be able to help you!

Write to us explaining your present need, with as much information as possible.
The trustees are here to help if they can. Contact Mrs. Cherrie Bartlett, ‘The Caim’, Hardiway, Boston. PE21 9RU

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Sibsey Village Hall
Frithville Road

We are pleased to say we have Wi-Fi at the Hall. The password is available inside the building.

There is something for everyone at the recently refurbished Sibsey Village Hall.

Details can be usually found elsewhere in The Bridge.

The venue is ideal for special events and celebrations such as weddings, christenings, birthday parties and many other events using our facilities. Also ideal for Conferences, Training Days and many other business events.

FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT
Tel. 07976628218 (for Alison)

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If you are a resident of the Parish of Sibsey and you are in real need of something you cannot really afford, we may be able to help you!

Write to us explaining your present need, with as much information as possible.
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31 March - Mothering Sunday : 4th Sunday in Lent

There is an old Jewish saying: \textit{God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.}

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of ‘Mothering Sunday’ - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as ‘live-in’ servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how ‘Mothering Sunday’ got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mothers’ Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

Four tips to get fit for Spring

Spring is coming. If you feel you simply HAVE to do something about your body shape, here are some ideas. They will improve your fitness, energy levels and quality of life:

Aim to work out two to five times a week. Exercise for at least 20 minutes, lasting up to an hour. Some days you will have more strength; push harder. Other days you will feel more subdued; go easier.

Do a mixture of exercises. Include cardiovascular (running, walking), resistance training (using weights or just your body) and stretching. Warm up before each session, and cool down afterwards.

You’ll never be fit on junk food. Eat little amounts of nutritious foods at short intervals, and you’ll become stronger and fitter more quickly.

Surround yourself with like-minded people. You will encourage each other, whereas a couch potato may feel threatened at all your activity, and try and slow you down.
David Pickup, a solicitor, considers what happens if you are mistaken for somebody else...

But they don’t live here any more

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another… (Romans 13:8)

Suppose you move home and then start getting letters from a debt collecting agency about a person who used to live there? You then get people coming to your house or even the police looking for someone. You apply for a loan which is then refused. Do you start applying for more credit? Perhaps you find that a person you were in a relationship with has used your address to get credit?

If you get letters clearly addressed to a person who does not live at your address you can write ‘return to sender’ on the unopened letter and then post it. You can sometimes find out if it is a debt collecting letter by googling the PO Box address on the envelope. If it keeps happening write, ‘Return to sender; Joe Bloggs does not live here!’ and date it and then take a photograph of the envelope.

You can also challenge the accuracy of personal data held about you by an organisation and ask for it to be corrected or deleted. This is known as the ‘right to rectification’. Clearly state clearly what you believe is inaccurate or incomplete and explain how the organisation should correct it. You can complain to the organisation and if this does not work then you can report it to Information Commissioner. If it is an ‘ex’ who has let you down, you still need to correct any incorrect information that someone might hold. Was he or she getting packages sent to your home?

If you are refused credit you are entitled to know why. Do not just fire off lots of credit card applications as this may make the situation worse.

As always, this is a light-hearted guide to a complex area. Always get advice from a solicitor or advisor such as Citizens’ Advice or the Information Commissioner. The Money Advice Service is a very good source of advice.  

David Pickup

Rebels with knitting needles

The young are rebelling again – this time, it seems, against the digital age. A recent study of 18-to-21-year-olds found that 83 per cent prefer to read a printed book rather than a tablet. They are also discovering the joys of knitting, fishing, and fruit picking, doing crosswords, and gardening. Privilege Insurance, which conducted the research, said it was great to see the younger generation “defy stereotypes and expectations.”
How to strengthen your family

With Mothering Sunday this month, we praise our mothers for all the good that they do for us. And it is good to remember what a precious thing a good family can be.

Here is one tip to strengthen your family: give your children TIME. Turn off your smart-phone for a couple of hours and *do things together*, play with them, read to them, cook with them, help them develop any talents that they have. Simply enjoy their company.

Easter Coffee Morning

The Easter Coffee Morning at St. Margaret's Church will be held on **Saturday, 13th April** from 10am 'til 12noon.

The Real Easter Egg

Don’t forget to pick up your real Easter Egg. Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has an Easter story book in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and supports charitable projects.

This year the Original and Dark eggs are plastic free. There is also a chance to win £200 worth of book vouchers, and free education resources to download.

Buy your milk chocolate egg for £4.50 from Angela Sykes, phone 870794, or from the regular Fairtrade stall in Sibsey Church.

Commercial Advertising Rates in The Bridge

The Bridge is funded by magazine sales, subscriptions and commercial adverts. Non-commercial / charitable adverts are given free space where space allows. Commercial adverts cost: Half page per annum £90; Third of a page £60 per annum; Sixth of a page £30 per annum; Pro-rata rates may be applied for shorter periods. Occasional/ one-off one-sixth of a page/small adverts £5 per edition. Full page commercial advertisements will no longer be accepted due to the pressure on space. Please email us if you wish to advertise. The editorial team / PCC reserve the right to decide if an advert is suitable for *The Bridge* or sufficient space is available.
Turn back the clock with our fun and friendly exercise classes to improve your

✓ balance and confidence
✓ mobility and flexibility
✓ strength and independence

Take back your confidence and vitality by joining us at SIBSEY VILLAGE HALL every Monday 10.30am - 11.30am.

FIRST SESSION FREE

For more details phone REBECCA on 01205 750265 or email Rebecca.Guillain@moveitorloseit.co.uk
WORSHIP ROTA

Road HoG - see website www.roadhogbus.org.uk

Friday 1st March
2.00pm Langrick Village Hall World Day of Prayer

Sunday 3rd March
10.30am Sibsey  Morning Worship with New Name
10.45am  Holland Fen  Communion

Wednesday 6th March  Ash Wednesday
7.00pm Langrick  Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday 10th March  First Sunday in Lent
9.00am  New Bolingbroke  Communion
10.30am  Sibsey  Communion
10.45am  Kirton Holme  Communion

Sunday 17th March  Second Sunday in Lent
9.00 am  Sibsey  Communion-Methodist led
10.30am  Carrington  Communion with baptism
10.45am  Langrick  Morning Worship

Sunday 24th March  Third Sunday in Lent
9.00am  Frithville  Communion
6.30pm  Sibsey  Evensong
10.45am  Brothertoft  Communion

Sunday 31st March  Mothering Sunday/ Fourth Sunday in Lent
10.30am  Sibsey  Family Communion
10.45am  Wildmore  Communion

Sunday 7th April  Fifth  Sunday in Lent
10.30am  Sibsey  Morning Worship With New Name
10.45am  Kirton Holme  Communion

OUR MISSION STATEMENT
Together in Christ
Called to love, to worship and to serve God
The cracks are where the light gets in

The other day I was very cross with myself for getting a parking ticket. I knew why it happened – I hadn’t looked at the sign and I just assumed there wouldn’t be parking restrictions on a Sunday morning. But it really happened because I was preoccupied and rushing. I had too many things to do and not enough time to do everything. The parking ticket was a signal to me that cracks were appearing in my carefully constructed life.

For St Peter it was a cockerel that was the signal that things were going terribly wrong. As we approach Easter we remember the story of how Peter denied Jesus three times. Jesus was arrested at night and Peter followed after him, but then lost his nerve and pretended he didn’t know him. When the cockerel crowed, Peter remembered Jesus telling him this would happen and Peter broke down and wept.

Leonard Cohen (1934–2016) in his song ‘Anthem’ famously writes that ‘There is a crack in everything, that’s how the light gets in’. When cracks appear in our lives they often signal a time when light can emerge. Peter is usually described as the disciple who denied Jesus three times, but Peter’s failure and brokenness is not the end of his story. The light got into Peter’s story because of what he remembered in the darkest place and what he learned.

When the cockerel crowed he remembered that Jesus knew him well enough to know that he would let him down. But it wasn’t the only thing Peter remembered.

Peter remembered that Jesus predicted that he would suffer and die – it wasn’t all his fault. Peter remembered the time when Jesus rescued him from drowning in Lake Galilee and pulled him through. Peter remembered that at the Last Supper Jesus had also told him that he had prayed for him, that his faith would not fail.

After a long dark night the cockerel reminded Peter he had let Jesus down but it also heralded the break of day. Peter’s experience and hope meant he was restored and became a great pastor.

My parking ticket signalled a crack which I should notice, and as I have done many times before, readjust my timetable to be more life giving. When you next notice a crack in yourself or another, remember there is a space now, for the light to come in.

The Ven. Dr Justine Allain Chapman Archdeacon of Boston
Bach’s St John Passion Concert

Lincoln Cathedral Choir accompanied by Northern Baroque are joined this year by some talented soloists: Guy Withers: Evangelist, Jacob Phillips: Christus, This year’s conductor will be Lincoln Cathedral’s Director of Music, Aric Prentice.

The St John Passion and St Matthew Passion are two of Bach’s most famous pieces of sacred music, telling the Biblical story of Jesus’ crucifixion. Despite both Bach’s settings of the Passion lasting more than two hours, they were written to be used as part of a Lutheran church service – he wrote the St John Passion, for the Good Friday Vespers service of 1724, and the St Matthew Passion three years later. Rather than expecting the audience – or, rather, congregation – to sit back and take in the music, Bach included a number of hymn-like chorales within the solo sections, so everyone could participate in the worship. Listen to the simple ‘Erkenne mich, mein hüter’ from the St Matthew Passion: this tune is repeated throughout the oratorio, sometimes in a lower key to reflect a sadder mood. While the words speak for themselves, telling the all-important Easter story, Bach’s multiple layers of musical meaning in both the St John and St Matthew Passions mean it’s possible to enjoy the music on a number of levels. The text tells the story on its own, but it’s Bach’s (often hidden) techniques that bring the music to life.

Lincoln Cathedral, Sat, 6 April 2019, 7pm-10pm. Tickets available from https://lincolncathedral.com/forthcoming-events/j-s-bach-st-john-passion/

The ticket prices are between £10 and £20 each.

Olny srmat poelpe can raed tihs.

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulaclty uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. Its the phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mind. Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can stil raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey ltteer by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig! And I awlyas tghuhot slpeling was ipmorantt!

(Yes, it is amazing that you only need the first and last letter of a word in the right place to be able to read what is written.)
Gone forever?

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend who has been with us for many years. No-one knows its age, as its birth records were lost long ago in bureaucratic red tape. It will be remembered for having cultivated many valuable lessons, such as ‘life isn’t always fair’ and ‘maybe it was my fault.’ It lived by sound financial policies, such as ‘don’t spend more than you earn.’ Its health deteriorated when well-intentioned but overbearing guidelines were introduced. When parents failed to control their unruly children, they attacked teachers for a lack of discipline. It declined further when teachers found they had to get parental permission before giving essential treatment to a sick or injured pupil. And it seemed like the last straw when a burglar could sue for assault when you were simply defending your own home.

It wasn’t surprising when it gave up the will to live after someone failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot and, after spilling some, received a huge settlement. Its death was preceded by several other relations named Truth, Trust, Discretion, Responsibility and Reason. Regrettably, other things have now taken over – things like I Know My Rights, I Want It Now, Someone Else Is To Blame and I’m A Victim. Not many attended its funeral because so few realised it had slipped away. Sorry, but I don’t think I told you my friend’s name……Common Sense.

Time for a Smile

The vicar’s wife was always keen to maintain a youthful appearance. Looking around the shopping mall for a cotton nightgown, she thought she would try her luck in a store known for its hot lingerie. To her delight she found just what she was looking for. Waiting in the line to pay, she noticed a young woman behind her holding the same nightgown."I see we have the same taste," she said proudly to the smart young thing behind her. "Yes," she replied. "I'm getting this for my grandmother’s 70th birthday."

Two volunteer ladies were cleaning the church after a busy weekend of activities. One lady said to her friend, “I really like this vacuum cleaner we use here; in fact I like it so much that I decided recently to sell mine and ask for a new one for Christmas.” Her friend asked, “What was wrong with the old one?” The lady replied, “all it was doing was gathering dust.”
Kirton Holme and Hubbert’s Bridge Never Forgotten Club

A presentation of a flower arrangement to Pam and Mo on behalf of the Club to commemorate their Golden Wedding Anniversary kicked off our meeting off on 14th February off to a good start. Then it was time to start making decisions regarding our programme of events for the coming year. Several ideas were submitted to the members including organ recitals, pantomime visits and the like, but the only firm decision made was to organise a boat trip on the Norfolk Broads. The date of 11th July was decided upon for this event and arrangements will be made accordingly.

Following a game of our new style Bingo, tea and delicious cakes were served and with this the meeting came to an end.

We were reminded us that at our next get-together on 14th March we will be partaking of a lunch and members were asked to assemble at the Church Hall at 12 noon in order to begin the meal at 12.30pm.

Will members please remember to inform Peggy if they are unable to join us.

Jenny Leafe

John Would Charity

The JOHN WOULDTS CHARITY Trustees still require a Clerk. This is a small Charity which helps the residents of Sibsey if they find themselves in need through a variety of circumstances. Trustees usually meet approximately. four times a year unless there are unusual matters to discuss. The Clerk prepares an Agenda, produces Minutes for the meetings and carries out the wishes of the Trustees.

If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Cherrie Bartlett, The Caim, Hardiway, Boston, PE21 9RU (Tel: 01205 356193).

Local road closures - B1184 Station Road, Sibsey 3-15/3; ‘Seven-mile Straight’ Frithville-New Bolingbroke 21/1-8/3. Holland Fen 26/11-8/3. Diversions will apply. Latest roadworks information on https://roadworks.org
The next 30 years of world religions

How will the world change with respect to religion over the next 30 years? What will the map of world religions look like in 2050?

A link-up between the Global Christian Database in Gordon-Conwell University and *Operation World* staff on the Lausanne website suggests the following trends in relation to population:

- A third of the world will still be calling itself Christian in 2050.
- A high rate of growth in Islamic countries (because of high birth-rate) will bring Muslim numbers almost up to Christian numbers.
- All the other religions (Hindus, Buddhists, Chinese religions) will be a smaller percentage then.
- The non-religious parts of the world will shrink because their birth-rates are low.
- The number of young people under 15 will be roughly the same then as today, around two billion, but the over-60s will more than double from under a billion today to over two billion then.
- Half the world lives in a city today; by 2050 it could be two-thirds.
- Four out of every 10 Christians in 2050 will live in Sub-Saharan Africa, and another four elsewhere in the Global South. The remaining fifth will be in Europe or North America.

The key determinants then over the next thirty years will most likely be greater urbanisation, increasing Muslim dominancy and ever more older people.

These trends will also most likely occur in the UK, and are in fact already happening, and projected to continue. In 1960, 78% of the population lived in an urban area; by 2017 it was 83%. In 2001 just 2.7% of the UK population was Muslim, in 2011 it was 4.4%. In 1991, 16% of the UK’s population was 65 or over, in 2016 it was 18%, and by 2041 it is projected to be 25%.

Africa is probably the continent that will change most in the years ahead. It is still the poorest continent – 37 out of the world’s 40 poorest countries are in Africa. Already a fifth, 20%, of the world’s young people (under 15) are in Africa; by 2050 that proportion will rise to a third, 33%. If they were...
“disciples of Jesus [they] could be a power for good; unemployed and angry they could be the fuel for civil wars.” Already a quarter of the world’s Christians are African, by 2050 that could be two-fifths, 40%. “In great prayer meetings, in faithfulness to the Bible, in starting new churches at home and overseas, Africans are changing the world.”

Sources: Praying for the World, Week 2, 2019, Lausanne website,

Help a toad to cross the road

This month common toads all over the country will be on the move, heading back to the breeding ponds where they themselves were spawned. Sadly, many will never make it, because of busy roads.

If you like toads, you can help them by joining the Toads on Roads project. It keeps a sharp eye out for ‘migratory crossings’ on certain roads. It helps the toads to cross safely, by coordinating local Toad Patrols who will actively help the toads get across the road, and also putting up road warning signs for motorists.

Toads on Roads has been running for more than 20 years, and saved thousands of toads. If you would like to know more, become a Toad Patroller, or register a toad crossing, please go to: https://www.froglife.org/what-we-do/toads-on-roads

World Water Day is 22nd March

Clean water is one thing we take completely for granted. After all, when did you last turn on the tap and expect filthy water to come out? But sadly, bad water is still a daily reality for billions of people. The United Nations wants to help them by ensuring that everyone can access clean water by 2030. It is part of the so-called ‘2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’, and an enormous challenge.

Meanwhile, this year each one of us can do at least something to help on 22nd March. A donation to Water Aid will help provide safe water to marginalised communities worldwide. Simply go to: www.wateraid.org/uk

Filling The Vacancy

Adverts have been published in The Church Times, Pathways and on Lincoln Diocese website for a Vicar of the Brothertoft and Sibsey and Carrington Groups of Churches. If suitable applications are received the interviews will take place shortly. Otherwise the role may be re-advertised at a later date if no suitable applicants emerge. Applicants learn more about the role, the area and accommodation in the Parish Profile provided with the advert.

PLEASE TELL ADVERTISERS YOU SAW THEIR ADVERT IN THE BRIDGE WHEN YOU USE THEIR SERVICES.
Prayer for help and healing

Father,
You are always loving, always generous and kind to your children. Please have mercy on us as a nation at this time of turmoil and division. Help us to be tolerant and understanding of those who have different, sincerely-held opinions.
And guide our leaders so that your will be done in our country and in our relationships with each other and with Europe and the rest of the world. Lord, have mercy on us, forgive us and heal us.
In Jesus name,
Amen.

HOLLAND FEN CHURCH
JUMBLE SALE
Monday 22nd April
(Easter Monday)
10am – 12noon
(Jumble is required phone Katie on 280202)

HOLLAND FEN EASTER ACTIVITY DAY
at
Church and Village Hall
Tuesday 16th April
11am – 2pm
Children with parent/carer
Bring your own lunch

Prize Bingo Evening

A prize bingo evening will be held in Sibsey Village Hall on Saturday, 30th March. Doors open at 6.30pm - 'Eyes down' at 7.30pm. Books £1 each (6 for £5), Flyers £1. Entrance £1 (includes tea/coffee and biscuits). All Welcome!

Thought for the day

FOR THE WIND PASSETH OVER IT AND IT IS GONE
Psalm 104:16

"The vicar's looked at the weather forecast and is preparing us for another roof-appeal."
What are the benefits of becoming a School Governor?
Being a governor is an enormously challenging and rewarding opportunity, which can be summarised as:
• Sense of satisfaction through knowing all children will benefit from your efforts.
• The opportunity to develop new skills and to strengthen existing ones.
• The opportunity to gain understanding in key areas such as curriculum, finance, personnel and the fabric of the school.
• Working as part of a team.
  Making a real difference for our children!

The importance of School Governors
School Governance is the most important volunteering role in education. An effective governing body is a source of enormous strength to a school.

What makes a good School Governor?
Probably the most important quality is the desire to make a difference to our children’s lives and then:
• An ability to work in a team.
• A desire to take an active part in the public and social life of the school.
• A keen interest in the work and welfare of the school.
• A willingness to challenge and inquisitiveness to question and analyse.
• A strong commitment to the Governor role and to improving outcomes for children.
• Some time to get involved.
Depending on the type of school various types of governor are needed; parents, staff, co-opted / community, local authority and foundation governors. You have skills and experience that are needed by schools.

Sibsey Free Primary School - New Governors Required
Two governor vacancies need to be filled - a local authority and also a co-opted community governor. If you would like to join in this important role, please contact Mrs. Angela Sykes, Clerk to the Governors, for an application form and further information. She can be contacted at the school, or by telephoning 01205 750335, or by email angela.sykes@sibsey.lincs.sch.uk

Gipsey Bridge Academy - New Governor Required
A vacancy has arisen for a governor on the Governing Body. It would ideally suit someone with an interest in developing the school further with commitment, enthusiasm and willing to question and act as a critical friend. If interested please contact the Headteacher, Tracy Cockram, or the Chair of the Trust, Sean Westaway. Further information can be found online at www.gipseybridgeschool.co.uk/governors/
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toenails & Diabetic foot care
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home visits
suewoodcock2017@outlook.com
Phone: 01205 870195
Savoy Cinema Boston (Dates and times may change - please check)

The Sleeping Beauty: Bolshoi Ballet 2018/19
Sun 10 Mar 15.00

Three Little Pigs: Bite-sized Ballet  U (60 mins - £5.90)
Sun 24 Mar 12.15 and Sun 30 Mar 11.00

Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund presents The Great Escape with Dan Snow - Live Gala Sun 24 Mar 18.00

Diana Ross: Her Life, Love and Legacy
Tues 26 Mar 19.45

An Ideal Husband: Oscar Wilde Season
Wed 27 Mar 19.30

La Forza Del Destino: Royal Opera House
Tues 2 April 18.15 and Sun 7 April 14:00

Full listings, further details including synopses, gift vouchers, tickets, prices and performance dates and times by phone 01205 363634 or online www.savoyboston.co.uk Kid’s Club on Saturday, Sunday at 10.15am and daily throughout school holidays. £2 admission for all.. Silver Screen Club exclusively for ‘over 50’s’ is every Wednesday at 11.30am including the film, tea and coffee for £4.

Competition

You could win two free tickets to see a live broadcast from London’s West End’s Vaudeville Theatre of ‘An Ideal Husband’ showing on March 27 at 19.30 starring Edward and Freddie Fox, Susan Hampshire, Frances Barber, Eve Best and Anne Reid in the cast. The prize is worth up to £31.

Email your answer to the question to competitions@savoyonline.co.uk with the heading ‘The Bridge Competition - March 2019’ (this is vital otherwise your entry will not be seen) with your name, village and phone number (to arrange pickup of your prize). Deadline for entries is Wednesday 20th March 2019. The winner’s name is published. The winner will be randomly drawn from all correct entries received. Good Luck!

Question:

Which theatre in London is performing ‘An Ideal Husband’ by Oscar Wilde for this live screen event?
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All makes of oil boilers serviced & repaired
Oil heating tanks replaced
Home 01205 367700
Mobile 07889 107771
www.sj-heating.co.uk
Stephen Brown entertained us at our meeting on 14th February and it certainly was entertaining. Mr Brown’s talk was entitled “It’s hell on wheels” in which he gave us an insight into his career as a driving instructor. There were numerous funny quotes and anecdotes that he’d recorded over the years and he also gave us an update on how the current driving test is constructed. He concluded with a little sketch (with the aid of Joyce) of a fictitious driving lesson very reminiscent of Bob Newhart and just as funny.

The winner of the Single Flower Competition was Thelma Fountain, Joyce Barker was second and Maureen Taylor, third. The results of the tor car competition were as follows: - 1st Joy Benton, and Cindy Smith and 3rd Joyce Barker

Our next meeting will be on 14th March

Jenny Leafe

25 years of ordaining women

25 years ago, on 12th March 1994, the first 32 women priests in the Church of England were ordained. It happened in Bristol Cathedral, and Bishop Barry Rogerson ordained them in alphabetical order; so Angela Berners-Wilson was considered the very first woman to be ordained. She is now chaplain at the University of Bath and prebendary at Wells Cathedral. The youngest was Karen MacKinnon, now spiritual care manager at Southampton Hospital. Ten years later, one in five priests was a woman. Of the 542 candidates entering training this year, more than half (274) are women, which is 19 per cent more than last year.
AGM was on 5\textsuperscript{th} February. The year’s activities and audited accounts were presented. 2019 is the final year of a triennial term for the officers and the present committee who have served many more 3-year terms than is stated in the constitution, will stand down. Members were asked to consider during the coming year the future of the Branch should no new committee be found for 2020 and beyond. Sibsey is one of the larger branches in the area with a fairly consistent membership of 20. It would be very sad to close down. A solution must be found before the end of 2019.

Next meeting is 7.30pm on Tuesday 5\textsuperscript{th} March. The planned speaker is unable to attend due to illness. However a replacement will be found. New members and guests always welcome. Thanking everyone for their support. 

\textit{Chris, Kay, Janice, Pauline, Yvonne and Dotty}

\textbf{Your Church Needs You - 2019 Church Electoral Roll}

Every parish must have a Church Electoral Roll. The Church Electoral Roll is the register of electors for a parish. In the same way that being on the civic Electoral Roll allows members of that roll to vote in parliamentary and local elections and referenda, joining the Church Electoral Roll means that people can vote on Church matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and stand for election to the Parochial Church Council (PCC). Being on the Electoral Roll does not make a person a member of the Church; simply regarding a particular parish church as one’s spiritual home does that. In fact, a condition of joining a Church Electoral Roll is that the person is already a member of the Church through baptism.

Every six years, every parish is required by law to prepare a new Electoral Roll, and this will occur in 2019. This process must be completed by the end of March 2019 so if you want to join please contact a churchwarden (see inside the front cover for contact details). You can download a form for enrolment following this link


The Electoral Roll has to be completely rewritten this year (not just updated) so anyone who has been on the current Roll must also re-apply this year.
Wordsearch

This month’s wordsearch is based on 20 words that can be associated with 25 years of ordaining women.

The clues are in the article on page 30.

Answers next month.

Sudoku

The classic Sudoku game involves a grid of 81 squares. The grid is divided into nine blocks, each containing nine squares. The rules of the game are simple: each of the nine blocks has to contain all the numbers 1-9 within its squares. Each number can only appear once in a row, column or box.
The Maze

Find your way from the top to the bottom.

I am stockpiling, just in case...

It was Lent, so they took it back.

February Sudoku Solution

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February Wordsearch Solution

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PBPOYDEIBPNNMG
TNWFRMLSIANHR
WTLETAPRPPBSNS
TWTNSDMPOSIYAF
NFTAGERAWDMIA
ANOITATNESERPVP
DECVRYNJLLSRLR
AEAAOTETDTCYII
BTNLPPMNNHRLGT
SCDDMSAMTSRHC
EELBICTPJBATI
SWEYEASAHOEEEB
AWSYADETYNDFNA
PUBLICITYGCI
```
Baptisms “Members together of the Body of Christ’.
None notified

Weddings “Those whom God has joined together”
None notified

Funerals “May they rest in peace”.

January 24th Frederick Samuel Hunt (Fred) aged 87 of Carrington with burial at Carrington Church.

Brothertoft Church 8th February 2019
Curtis Aaron Gagg (Bowens)

This month sees the first anniversary of the death of the following parishioners
We remember them and their families and friends at this time

Wendy Margaret Smith
Flower Rotas

St, Margaret’s Church, Sibsey

Not notified.

St. Peter’s Church, Frithville

Mrs. A. Palmer & Mrs. B. Crawford

St. Margaret’s Church, Langrick

Lent - No flowers.

The Book of Remembrance

In St Margaret’s Church, Sibsey, there is a book of Remembrance. Any resident, or former resident of Sibsey is entitled to have their name recorded in this. There is a page for each day of the year and entries are limited to two lines, usually recording the year of death, the name and other brief information.

There is a fee of £15 payable to the PCC. If you wish to remember someone in this way please contact the PCC Secretary or Churchwarden.

Prayer requests

If you would like prayers said in church for you at a time of illness this can be arranged. If the request is for another person the prayers will not be said in public for confidentiality reasons. Contact the Clergy or Lay Ministers listed inside front cover.
On how to edit a church magazine

From: The Rectory, St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

So, your vicar has appointed you to be the magazine editor; I wonder what you have done to offend him. I appointed our magazine editor 20 years ago, after her dog dug up my rose bed. Sadly, she seems unaware that I gave it to her as a penance and has been happily carrying on ever since. She has even developed a nasty persistence when it comes to chasing me for a vicar’s letter every month. Becoming editor has brought out the tyrant in her.

I applaud your hope that your magazine will be a great force for good in the community, but I fear you may be disappointed. You will hardly believe this, but many readers of our magazine seem to ignore my pastoral letter altogether, and instead scan the adverts for plumbers and undertakers – and even for both - if there has been a major burst in their pipes.

In any case, here are some editorial tips to bear in mind: if you want to keep any piece of church information confidential, then publish it in your magazine. On the other hand, if you accidentally transpose the names of the ladies responsible for the altar pedestal and lectern on the flower rota, it will be spotted within seconds of publication. And you will not be easily forgiven.

Staffing rotas can be helpful, so that people know who to blame when anything goes wrong. Reports of meetings of monthly groups are also welcome, because not everyone who goes to these meetings can stay awake the whole time, and thus a report informs them about the bits they slept through.

Always include a list of contact details for all the church officers, but don’t worry if you mix up their various phone numbers. In fact, it can help get people talking to each other, because in order to reach the PCC Secretary, they will have had to phone most of the other PCC members first.

My final piece of advice is to omit any deadline for submission for the following month. A deadline is like a red rag to a bull, and simply incites people to break it. Whereas if you have them a bit worried that they may be left out, they will get you the copy in good time.

I wish you many happy hours reading badly written copy, fending off fearful poems, and stalking your own vicar, in vain hopes of getting his clergy letter.

Your loving uncle, Eustace
Stephen Northgraves
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