



From the Curate

The Reverend Sonia Marshall

Dear Friends,

February 2nd is traditionally known as 'Candlemas Day'. Also known as the 'Presentation of Christ in the Temple', it reminds us of Mary's coming to the temple with the Christ child to give thanks for his birth, to purify herself and make the customary offering under Jewish Law. These days, when many people find it difficult to come to church on a weekday we keep it on the nearest Sunday, January 31st this year.

The feast brings to an end the forty-day season of Christmas and Epiphany tide. Most importantly though, it reminds us of Simeon's recognition of Christ as 'a light to lighten the gentiles'. In consequence, a custom arose of blessing the Church's supply of candles for the coming year on that day, hence 'Candlemas'.

The flower particularly associated with this feast is the snowdrop, which forces its way through the wintry earth to bloom around this time; with its pure white flower it has long been associated with the Blessed Virgin Mary. I am delighted that Deeping St James Parish Council has decided to mark the start of 'Deeping St James in Bloom 2010' with the planting of 3,000 snowdrops along the path leading to the church. Hopefully they will be a welcoming sight in the chilly days of February for many years to come.

Candlemas is one of the 'three days of blessing' in the Church's year, the others being the blessing of palms on Palm Sunday, and the ashes on Ash Wednesday, which falls this year on February 17th. As our thoughts turn to spiritual purification, do make a good start to Lent by coming to the Ash Wednesday Eucharist at 7:30 pm that evening.

Sonia Marshall.

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Vice-Chairman	Adrian Hallam	
Hon. Secretary	Roger Bridgeman	
Hon. Treasurer	Simon Marshall	treasurer@dsj.org.uk
Covenant Secretary	Peter Wilde	
Electoral Roll Officer	Richard Gamman	
Synod Members		
Diocesan Synod	Canon Niccy Fisher <i>The above plus</i> The Reverend Sonia Marshall	
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Church Coffee Group	Carole Mills Margaret Flegg	
Church Flowers	Pauline Brooksbank Christine Masters	
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in this month's priory news ...

Dear all,

I'm glad to say that our home-produced January cover was very well received.

I love the beautiful Children's Window we feature this month, especially when the sun streams through, as it did, amazingly, a couple of Sundays ago.

The window was designed by Jan Fisk in 2001. Jan drew and cut the stencils and bought specialist coloured gels ready for our children to create the window during their Good Friday activities. Needless to say, many adult leaders and helpers were also very busy that day. It was a mammoth undertaking. I'm sure you will agree that the results are truly uplifting.

If you have any ideas for future covers, please let me know. Also, if you know anyone who would appreciate a sample copy of Priory News, please tell me and I will let them have one.

Warmest wishes,

Bet.

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<u>Lent Items</u>	
Lent Ecumenical Course: (P10). Lent Lunches: (P10). Lenten Reading: (P7).	Judy Stevens writes about <i>DSJ in Bloom</i> , starting with Snowdrop Planting in the Priory Churchyard. (P8).
There will be a traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party in the Church Hall. (P12).	Knitter with spare time? Please help Carole Precey by making Knitted Teddy Bears. (P11).
Eucharist services and <i>bring and share</i> lunches are held on Fridays at Edenham. (P12).	The DSJ Exchange is dead – long live the Deepings Exchange: (P11).
Cooking with Margaret: Delicious blueberry pancakes this month. (P13).	Railway Weekend: Early notice of an April event not to be missed. (P13).
Children's Church: What have the youngsters been up to in January? (P9).	Cover picture: Children's Church window. Photo courtesy of Dave Washbrooke.

Thank you to those who have sent in articles for Priory News. Contributions and suggestions are very welcome. Please let us have your prayers, poems, comments, reminiscences and anything else you'd like to share. Please send copy to:

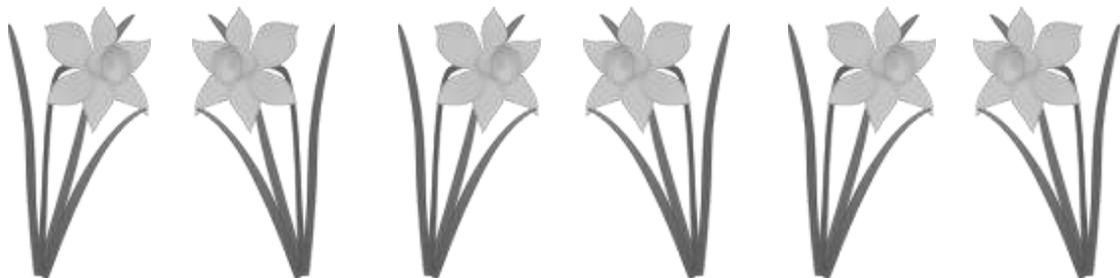
priorynews@dsj.org.uk

Please let us have your contributions for the **March** edition of Priory News **BEFORE** the deadline, **Thursday 18th February.** Thank you for your help.

CHURCH CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2010

3 rd	Wednesday		<i>Anskar, Bishop, Missionary, 865</i>
		7:30pm	House Group
4 th	Thursday		<i>Gilbert of Sempringham, Monk, 1189</i>
		9:30am	Holy Communion, followed by Home Communion
		7:45pm	Church Ladies' Fellowship
5 th	Friday	10:00am	Bible Study Group
			<i>Practice Night:</i>
		6:15pm	Choir (Juniors only)
		6:45pm	Choir
		7:30pm	Ringers
6 th	Saturday		<i>Martyrs of Japan, 1597; The Queen's Ascension, 1952</i>
7th	SUNDAY		THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT (Sexagesima)
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:00am	Sung Eucharist
		6:00pm	Choral Evensong
10 th	Wednesday	7:30pm	House Group
11 th	Thursday	9:30am	Holy Communion, followed by Home Communion
12 th	Friday	10:00am	Bible Study Group at 91 Manor Way, DSJ
			<i>Practice Night:</i>
		6:15pm	Choir (Juniors only)
		6:45pm	Choir
		7:30pm	Ringers
14th	SUNDAY		THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT (Transfiguration Sunday)
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:00am	Sung Eucharist with Holy Baptism
		6:00pm	Evening Prayer
16 th	Tuesday		Shrove Tuesday
		7:00pm	Pancake Party in the Church Hall
17th	WEDNESDAY		ASH WEDNESDAY
		7:30pm	Sung Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
18 th	Thursday	9:30am	Holy Communion
		7:45pm	Church Ladies' Fellowship
19 th	Friday	10:00am	Bible Study Group
			<i>Practice Night:</i>
		6:15pm	Choir (Juniors only)
		6:45pm	Choir
		7:30pm	Ringers
20 th	Saturday	Noon	Lent Lunch in the Priory Church Hall
21st	SUNDAY		THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:00am	Sung Eucharist
		6:00pm	Evening Prayer
22 nd	Monday	7:30pm	PCC meeting, preceded by Holy Communion at 7:00 pm
23 rd	Tuesday		<i>Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr, 155</i>
24 th	Wednesday	7:30pm	House Group

25 th	Thursday	9:30am	Holy Communion	
		7:45pm	Church Ladies' Fellowship	
26 th	Friday	10:00am	Bible Study Group	
			<i>Practice Night:</i>	
		6:15pm	Choir (Juniors only)	
		6:45pm	Choir	
		7:30pm	Ringers	
27 th	Saturday		<i>George Herbert, Priest, Poet, & All Pastors 1633</i>	
28th	SUNDAY		THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	
		8:00am	Holy Communion	
		10:00am	Sung Eucharist	
		6:00pm	Evening Prayer	
1 st Mar	Monday		<i>David, Bishop, Patron of Wales, 601</i>	
2 nd Mar	Tuesday		<i>Chad, Bishop, Missionary, 672</i>	
3 rd Mar	Wednesday	7:30pm	House Group	
4 th Mar	Thursday	9:30am	Holy Communion, followed by Home Communion	
		7:45pm	Church Ladies' Fellowship: AGM	
5 th Mar	Friday		Women's World Day of Prayer	
		10:00am	Bible Study Group	
			<i>Practice Night:</i>	
		6:15pm	Choir (Juniors only)	
		6:45pm	Choir	
		7:30pm	Ringers	
7th MAR	SUNDAY		THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	
		8:00am	Holy Communion	
		10:00am	Sung Eucharist	
		6:00pm	Choral Evensong (Plainsong)	



REGISTERS FOR DECEMBER 2009

BAPTISMS: *We welcome into the Lord's family:*
13th Oliver Philip Hales

WEDDINGS: *We congratulate:*
19th Luke and Michelle (née Mason) Richardson

FUNERALS: *We commend to God's keeping:*
18th Gwynfryn Davies



Dear All,

Re: Christmas Flowers

Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate the church this Christmas. It looked lovely, especially after the snow and the difficulty getting foliage from the gardens. May we keep up the good work in 2010.

Happy New Year.

Pauline Brooksbank and Christine Masters.



Dear All,

Re: Church floodlighting

On first reading the views of various people regarding Church floodlighting, I remember how I felt when I moved into Deeping St James, nine years ago. My husband was still in our previous area not be able to retire for a further six months, this meant I was on my own. I found the spire illuminated as it was, a great comfort, as I turned into Broadgate Lane, in fact I still do.

Light pollution, green issues aside sometimes it is peoples' comfort from small things that need to be taken into account.

Eileen M. Day.

Dear Bet

Re: Church floodlighting

I was pleased to see the article that John Marsh wrote in the Priory News. It is good to see the church lit up.

It seems to me that Dave has seen John's response and used his family connection to repeat and re-emphasise his opinion. Is this really good editorial practice?

Kind regards

Steven Gilbert.

[Dear Steven,

Thank you for your email.

When I published Dave's first letter, in the December PN, I was anticipating a flood of correspondence on the subject of the effects of floodlighting on the environment and what, if anything, the PCC and people of DSJ thought should/could be done. I was pleased to see John's email arrive early in December but was somewhat disappointed that it was the only one received related to this subject.

Dave was concerned that it might seem unfair if he included a reply to John's letter in the January PN, as anyone else would have to wait until the February PN for publication. My view was that, if no other related correspondence arrived, then it would be acceptable to include a reply. The effect would be to shorten the elapsed time for the subject to run its course and might even trigger further responses from the readership. I do not consider this in any way to be unacceptable editorial practice.

Bet Washbrooke – Editor.]

Dear All,

Re: The Vicarage

Before her letter in December's *What do you think?*, Carole Mills had written to the Bishop of Lincoln in November, airing her concerns. Her letter was answered by The Venerable T R Barker, Archdeacon of Lincoln, whom the Bishop had asked to reply on his behalf. The three main paragraphs of the Archdeacon's letter read as follows:

“There are no plans to demolish the Vicarage in Church Street, Deeping St James. I am surprised that this has been reported to you as a decision, and would be most grateful if you would reassure anyone who may have suggested this to you. You can be further reassured that it would be almost impossible to obtain permission for the demolition of a listed building in a conservation area.

“The Diocese of Lincoln, like any charity, must ensure that its assets are used in the most effective way for its main purposes. Therefore, we cannot justify the very heavy expense of maintaining some of our older parsonage houses. It is also unfair to ask clergy, whose stipend is still relatively modest, to bear the cost of living in houses where the cost of heating, cleaning and garden maintenance may be beyond their means.

“The Vicarage at Deeping St James has been recognised as ‘unsuitable’ as a parsonage house for some years, and so the Diocese of Lincoln will be looking for a house that will better serve the needs of any priest who will be appointed to serve in the parish.”

[Carole is on holiday at the moment, so I have posted this on her behalf.

Bet Washbrooke.]



Lenten Reading

The choice of Lent books gets wider each year. There really is something for everyone. I list below a small selection of titles:

Title	Author	Comment
Our Sound is Our Wound	Lucy Winkett	Archbishop's choice. Joins religion and music.
The Gospel in the Willows	Leslie Francis	Kenneth Grahame's story as base.
Lent for Everyone: Luke	Tom Wright	Uses this year's gospel.
Be Happy!	Peter Graystone	40 day journey to happiness.
A Bit Like Jesus	Robin Gill	Interest in ethics
Love Life Live Lent	Various	Family orientated prayers, activities, recipes.
Alive!	Dan Clark	For enquirers.
The Things He Said	Stephen Cottrell	Uses sayings of Jesus.
Christ and the Chocolaterie	Hilary Brand	Classic based on the film.
A Way Through the Wilderness	Paula Gooder	Help in crises.

Sonia Marshall.

Snowdrop Planting in the Priory Churchyard

“The Snowdrop, in purest white array, First rears her head on Candlemas day”



Midway between winter solstice and the spring equinox, in many traditions thought of as the beginning of Spring, Candlemas on February 2nd is also known as Ground Hog Day, who is thought to emerge on this day to check his shadow. A time for new beginnings, this is also the traditional day for planting snowdrops in the green. As Deeping St James enters the *Britain in Bloom* competition for the first time with *Snowdrop Planting in the Priory*

Churchyard as its launch event, it is doubly appropriate that this should be the day that the campaign is officially launched.

Spearheaded by the Church Ladies Fellowship and especially by Pat Abel, who has beautifully embroidered a Snowdrop Tablecloth as a way of raising funds for the purchase of 3,000 snowdrops, the planting in the churchyard follows a tradition; returning pilgrims in mediaeval times bought back the prized plants from the Middle East and then planted them around the holy places where they lived - there is always a fabulous display in Uffington churchyard, for example.

Considered to be a lasting legacy of the Deeping St James entry into the *Britain in Bloom* competition, the holes for the snowdrops are to be dug by members of the Rotary Club of the Deepings and the planting itself to be undertaken by the Cubs and Scouts of Deeping St James. To round the evening off, a Snowdrop Supper - soup and rolls from the kitchen of Margaret Flegg are to be served to all who have had a hand in this first project of this very special ‘in bloom’ year and the raffle for the winner of the Snowdrop Tablecloth will be drawn.

There will be a celebration in words and flowers of the History of Gardening in Deeping St James in the Priory Church during the weekend of the Rose and Sweet Pea Show.

All important judging of the East Midlands in Bloom competition will take place in July and it is hoped that as many residents as possible will enter the spirit of the competition, paying even more attention to their front gardens this year and planting an unusual container in your garden that can be considered to form part of the entry. Of course, you can participate without competing but to enter the *DSJ in Bloom* sponsored category for the planting in a most unusual container in the Rose and Sweet Pea Show, please let me know:

judy.stevens1@btopenworld.com and I will make sure that your name goes forward. The container can be static as our judges are roving!

If you would like to help with our entry in any other way, please get in touch as well and if you can identify a piece of land near your home that is unloved and uncared for - let us know and maybe together we can lavish some attention on it and then so take the Judges in that direction!

Judy Stevens.

News from the Tower



The "Shower From The Tower" wish to pass on their sincere thanks to Bet and Dave for taking on the task of producing the Priory News. Your time and efforts to improve the magazine are much appreciated so thanks again for what you have achieved. *[Aw, shucks! - Ed.]*

Thanks to all the youngsters who have taken a great interest in bell ringing and are all making very good progress. We welcome anybody else who has rung in the past or who wishes to learn. Please contact: Richard, Brenda or Mike.

Mike Gentle.



Children's Church

We came back from our Christmas break on January 3rd. Since then we've concentrated on "talking about Jesus."

We've listened to stories about how Jesus' news was spread throughout the world.

We've conducted some experiments about light and made peg people to help us remember about how Lydia was welcomed into the Church.



Some of the older children help us to do our activities each week.



"My favourite is making things ... and then breaking them apart!"

There have been lots of things to make as well.

We conducted a survey to find out what we like to do best at Children's Church. The results were: cooking is number 1 (especially Knickerbocker Glories); 2 was stories; 3 was making things (especially when we use glitter and glue); and number 4 was the Christmas Disco!



Erin enjoyed making a purple Lydia ...



... and Alice made a hat to go on top of her Alice Band.

Words by Adam and Daniel.
Photos by Esther Image Bank Ltd

Ian has obtained the permission of the parents of all children shown in photographs in the above article for their pictures to be published in Priory News.

Bet.

Ian Templeton.



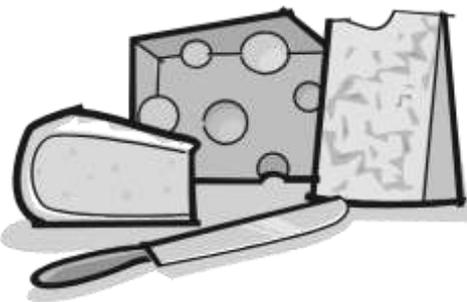
Did You Know?

Lincolnshire Police have a new non-emergency number. For all non-emergency issues, please call them on 0300-111-0300.

For emergency calls, please continue to use 999. An **emergency** call is defined as any enquiry that relates to any of the following:

- violence being used or threatened
- a crime is in progress or an offender has been disturbed
- a non-injury road collision causing serious traffic congestion
- a danger to life
- an injury road collision

Bet Washbrooke.



Lent Lunches

The first Lent lunch in the Deepings will be held between noon and 1:30pm on Saturday 20th February at the Priory Church. Further lunches will be held at the same time weekly, as below. Lunch will consist of soup, bread and cheese, tea or coffee. Donations go towards the work of Christian Aid and CAFOD.

February		March	
		6 th	Open Door Church
20 th	Priory Church	13 th	St Guthlac's Church
27 th	Methodist Church	20 th	Catholic Church

Bet Washbrooke.

Lent Ecumenical Course for 2010

York 2010 Lent Course: "When I Survey Christ's Cross and Ours"

This year Deeping Churches Together are running three concurrent courses over five weeks:

- Mondays: 7:30pm Catholic Church (commencing 22nd February);
- Wednesdays: 7:30pm Green School – St Guthlac's Church (commencing 24th February);
- Thursdays: 10:30am Open Door Church (commencing 25th February).

The cost is £4.50 per head to cover all course material, which will be payable at the first session. If you wish to take part, please sign the form in church to indicate which day of the week suits you best.

Sonia Marshall.



A big “Thank You” to our Distribution Team

My special thanks to our valiant distributors, who braved the snow and ice to deliver January’s issue of Priory News. They’re usually unsung heroes, so thanks to every member of the team:



Geoff Armstrong
Pat Feek
Christine Masters
Pat Smith

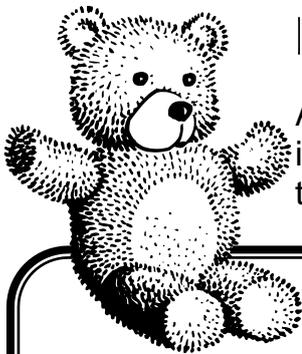
Jessie Battle
John Fisher
Chris Payne
Josie Waghorn

Joy Cunningham
Elizabeth Halley
Alison Roberts
Val Wilde

Joan Dyke
George Knowles
Jean Shepherd

Doris Bellairs.

I couldn’t agree more, Doris – and a big “thank you” to you for co-ordinating everything. *Bet.*



Knitted Teddy Bears

Are there any knitters out there with time to spare? A colleague of mine in Scotland organises help for children in need, for whatever reason, throughout the world. She asks:

CAN YOU HELP?

Calling all Knitters! Could you spare an hour or two to knit a little teddy? Doctors who treat children in the third world or war torn countries are asking for them as they have found that children who have their own teddies to cuddle in their cots get better quicker than those who don’t have one. Each child keeps his own teddy and can take it home, so the doctors need a continual supply.

With the disaster in Haiti in the news at the moment I know that she could use as many as people can make. If anyone has time, please let me know and I can forward the pattern and instructions. If necessary, I probably have wool as well but, from my experience, knitters are never short of wool! Please email me on carol.precey@lineone.net. Thank you.

Carol Precey.



Deepings Exchange

You might remember the DSJ Exchange Yahoo! community group set up by Mark Warrick a few years ago. The group fell into disuse following Mark’s departure but has recently been reborn as the Deepings Exchange under new ownership. Bet and I became owners of the group following Mark’s move to Stamford but we didn’t give it the time and effort it needed to thrive. We were more interested in developing Priory News, which we inherited at the same time.

The new owners, Judy Stevens and Roy Dennis, have really got things moving again in a very short time. If you live in or around the Deepings or just have an interest in the area, the group can be found at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/deepings-exchange/>

Further assistance is available from Judy Stevens (judy.stevens1@btinternet.com) and Roy Dennis (roy.dennis@ukonline.co.uk).

Dave Washbrooke.



Fridays at Edenham

Every Friday there is a celebration of the Eucharist in the Stable Chapel at 12 noon. The service lasts around forty-five minutes and has an emphasis on quiet reflective prayer. It also includes a short talk on the day's scripture readings. This is followed by a *bring and share* lunch for those able to stay.

There is no need to book – just turn up. This service happens throughout the year except for Good Friday and the last three Fridays in August.

Bet Washbrooke.



Pancake Party

On Tuesday 16th February at 7:00pm there will be the traditional pancake party in the Church Hall. Please add your name to the list in Church if you are wishing to attend.

Margaret Flegg.



Plough Service and Supper

Following the church service of blessing the plough and the seed, on Sunday 10th January the Priory Church Social Committee organised the traditional Plough Supper in a very cosy and warm church hall. Despite the snowy weather those attending were treated to a fine supper. Hot soup was added to the menu of potted meats with a selection of cheeses with home made bread. This was followed by a hot pudding and coffee.

The evening did not end there, as Philip Spratley, together with Ken and Margaret Wainwright, Geoff Armstrong and Liz Spratley, provided us with a montage of music and sketches, which proved very entertaining. The Social Committee wish to thank those who attended and supported us despite the conditions.

Bill Flegg.



Railway Weekend



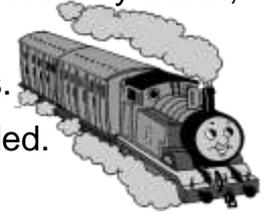
The Priory Church will be holding a Railway Weekend on 24th and 25th April 2010 in memory of the late John Andrews.

There will be model layouts of different gauges in the church hall and a second hand stall. In church there will be an interior of a working signal box with regular demonstrations of how it works and an opportunity to try out your hand. Also in church there will be continuous DVD, an exhibition of photographs, together with railway relics and nostalgia. On display will be one of two surviving share issue for the Market Deeping Railway which, of course, never materialised.

Lunches and snacks will be available as well as tea, coffee and soft drinks.

Everyone! Do not plan anything for this weekend as you may well be needed.

Philip Spratley.



Cooking with Margaret

BLUEBERRY PANCAKES

Ingredients

- 200g Self-raising flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 egg
- 300 ml milk
- knob of butter, melted
- 150g punnet blueberries
- sunflower oil or a little butter for frying,
- golden or maple syrup to serve.

Makes 10.



Margaret Flegg.

Method

1. Mix together the flour, baking powder and a pinch of salt in a large bowl. Beat the egg with the milk, make a well in the centre of the dry ingredients, then whisk in the milk to make a thick smooth batter. Beat in the melted butter, then gently stir in half the blueberries.
2. Heat a tsp of oil or a small knob of butter in a large non-stick frying pan. Drop large tablespoons of the batter into the pan to make pancakes about 7.5cm across – you should have space to make 3 - 4 pancakes at a time. Cook for about 3 mins over a medium heat until small bubbles appear on the surface of each pancake, then turn and cook for a further 2-3 mins until golden. Pile up on a plate and cover with kitchen paper to keep warm whilst you cook the others. Serve with golden or maple syrup and the remaining blueberries.

ROTAS FOR FEBRUARY

		Servers	Sidespersons	Intercessions
Sun 7th	8:00am	Geoff Armstrong	* See below	
	10:00am	Chris Halley Paul Boswall	Team F: Doris Bellairs, Christine Masters, Val Wilde	John Marsh
	6:00pm	John Sellars		
Sun 14th	8:00am	Paul Boswall	* See below	
	10:00am	Simon Marshall John Sellars	Team A: Doris Bellairs, Mary Hamilton, Vivien Hamilton	Niccy Fisher
Wed 17th	ASH WEDNESDAY			
	7:30pm	Sung Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes		
		Chris Halley Simon Marshall		Sonia Marshall
Sun 21st	8:00am	Geoff Armstrong	* See below	
	10:00am	Paul Boswall John Sellars	Team B: Joy Cunningham, Ann Meekings	Tony Masters
Sun 28th	8:00am	Geoff Armstrong	* See below	
	10:00am	Simon Marshall Chris Halley	Team C: Cled Bennett Adrian Hallam, Tim Hitchborn	Bet Washbrooke
Sun 7th Mar	8:00am	Geoff Armstrong	* See below	
	10:00am	Simon Marshall Paul Boswall	Team D: Kim Hallam, Graham Hardy, Trevor Harwood	Martin Fisher

* Sidespersons for 8:00am services are George Knowles and Ken Rimmer.

		OT	Readers	NT	Bread & Wine
Sun 7th	10:00am	John Marsh		Niccy Fisher	Dick & Anthea Wray
Sun 14th	10:00am			Cled Bennett	Peter & Val Wilde
Wed 17th	ASH WEDNESDAY				
	7:30pm	Sung Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes			
		Peter Wilde		Simon Marshall	Joy Cunningham Carole Mills
Sun 21st	10:00am	Joy Cunningham		Martin Fisher	Christine Payne Ann Meekings
Sun 28th	10:00am	Adrian Hallam		Liz Bridgeman	Diane Templeton Caroline Herron
Sun 7th Mar	10:00am	Bill Flegg		Trevor Harwood	Doris Bellairs Christine Masters

	Sunday Coffee	Church Flowers	Church Cleaning	Brasses
Sun 7th	John & Sue Marsh	Eileen Day	Pat Feek Doris Warner	
Sun 14th	Ann Bennett Penny Hebblewhite	Sue Marsh		Sonia Marshall Nancy Titman
Sun 21st	Bill & Margaret Flegg	LENT	Bill & Margaret Flegg	
Sun 28th	Diane Templeton Johanna Jones	LENT		
Sun 7th Mar	Val Wilde Doris Bellairs	LENT	Liz Spratley Sandra Jones	



READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT (Sexagesima)				
Sun 7th	Morning	Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-25	Revelation 4: 1-11	Luke 8: 22-25
	Evening	Psalms 147: 13-end	Genesis 1 – 2:3	Matthew 6: 25-end
Sun 14th	THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT (Transfiguration Sunday)			
	Morning	Exodus 34: 29-35 (8:00am only)	2 Cor 3:12 - 4:2	Luke 9: 28-36
Wed 17th	ASH WEDNESDAY			
	7:30pm	Sung Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes		
		Joel 2: 1-2,12-17	2 Cor 5:20b - 6:10	Matthew 6: 1-6,16-21
Sun 21st	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT			
	Morning	Deut 26: 1-11	Romans 10: 8-13	Luke 4: 1-13
Sun 28th	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT			
	Morning	Genesis 15: 1-12,17-18	Phil 3:17 - 4:1	Luke 13: 31-35
Sun 7th Mar	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT			
	Morning	Isaiah 55: 1-9	1 Cor 10: 1-13	Luke 13: 1-9
	Evening	Psalms 12; 13	Genesis 28: 10-19a	John 1: 35-end



Bishop's Letter

Dear Friends

Candle Power

For centuries people lived by candle light, chandlers were held in high regard, and candle-stick makers took their place alongside butchers and bakers in the nursery rhyme catalogue of key workers.

Of course, electric light has seen off the candle for most day to day purposes, but yet lighting a candle remains powerful as a symbol of hope, prayerful and even defiance. It is indeed better to light a candle than curse the darkness, and the capacity of a small candle to enlighten even the darkest of dark spaces speaks of hope in the face of formidable odds.

That is why people light candles and place them on pricket stands at Cathedrals and Churches in ever increasing numbers. And that is why the candle lit daily for the hostage Peter Moore in Lincoln Cathedral throughout his ordeal attracted so much attention during his captivity and on his return home. That small flame became a beacon of light and life in a dark death-dealing world. It became something of an icon carrying the good will and prayers of those who may never have met Peter Moore, but who sensed some kind of solidarity with him and his family through those months and years.

So it is that Candlemas on 2nd February has become one of the iconic festivals of the Christian calendar. During the darkness of winter it speaks of light and new life as the days lengthen and the first signs of Spring start to appear. But above all, Candlemas speaks of the incarnate Christ born amongst us at Christmas and now calling us on to journey with Him as the light of the world through the dark days of Lent and Holy Week to victory over darkness and death on Easter Day.

As a Diocese, and as individual disciples, let us be drawn to the light of Christ as we embrace our future confident that the Christmas spark, fanned into a Candlemas flame, will blaze the good news of God's glory amongst us when

"The Candles call us to hope and to pray
As Christmas meets Easter on Candlemas Day".

+ John Lincoln

Harvest Appeal 2009: May I take this opportunity to thank those Parishes which donated so generously to the Shepherd Food Ministries' Appeal during the Harvest season last year. This will be greatly welcomed by those taking this crucial work into the new year.