



From the Curate

The Reverend Sonia Marshall

Dear Friends,

It is a year now since Mark Warrick left for Stamford, and how quickly that year seems to have gone by! We now stand not only at the threshold of a new year but a new decade, the 'noughties', now being history as the 'teens' begin.

'Teens' are known for being problem years. We face difficulties not only as a nation and but also as a Church, finances being a particular concern. 2010 will see at some stage in the year a general election and, it may be, a change in leadership. As a Church we too await news about a parish priest for this congregation. As a nation we go forward trying to limit our impact on the environment in view of climate change; as a Church we share this concern but also have to wrestle with the impact of the environment on our ancient and historic place of worship.

The tasks ahead are great but so is the help we have in the rock of our faith, our Lord Jesus Christ. The God who raised Jesus from the dead is able to bring the most unpromising of beginnings to a successful conclusion. For our part we must be willing to trust him and to continue to work and pray to carry out his mission here in Deeping St James.

The churchwardens, P.C.C. and I join in thanking you as a congregation for all your support and encouragement over the past year and we look forward to working with you in the months ahead.

God bless you all in 2010.

Sonia Marshall.

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in this month's priory news ...

Dear all,

I hope you like the look of the new, "home-grown" magazine covers. We have a bumper edition this month – a great start to 2010. Thank you, all the regular contributors and everybody else who sent in articles for inclusion. Your work is always greatly appreciated. This month, of course, the aim was to print and distribute the magazine before Christmas. Thank you for getting your contributions in early, so that everybody has plenty of time to enjoy the content over the holiday period.

We have two special items this month:

The Deeping Ghost from Nancy Titman tells the story of the spooky apparition which appears every now and then in our village. Just the thing for a cold, dark evening.

For any of you who have not yet discovered Deeping Lakes, Adrian Hallam's delightful article, *Heavenly Oasis*, gives an insight into this beautiful nature reserve and how to get to it.

I look forward to receiving your submissions during 2010. I hope you all have a peaceful new year.

Warmest wishes,

Bet.

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Sue Marsh reports on the **ALTERnativity** lunch held at the end of November. (P-9)

A Christmas carol special from Philip Spratley in **Carol and Hymn Corner**. (P-16)

Potted Pork with Juniper and Thyme sounds good to me! **Cooking with Margaret**. (P-17)

The Deeping Ghost: a mysterious tale from Nancy Titman for the festive season. (P-12)

Adrian Hallam tells of his "**Heavenly Oasis**" on the outskirts of Deeping. Thanks, Adrian. (P-14)

News from the PCC: A summary of work done and to be done from Martin Fisher. (P-7)

Don't forget to reserve your place at the **Plough Supper** on Sunday 10th January. (P-11)

Tony Masters tells us more about the life of a churchwarden. **Warden's World**. (P-8)

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 **February** edition of Priory News **BEFORE** the deadline, **Wednesday 20th January**. Thank you for your help.

CHURCH CALENDAR JANUARY 2010

1 st	Friday		The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus <i>NO PRACTICES THIS WEEK</i>
2 nd	Saturday		<i>Basil the Great & Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishops & Teachers, 379 & 389</i>
3RD	SUNDAY		THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS (EPIPHANY)
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:00am	Sung Eucharist
		6:00pm	Evening Prayer
6 th	Wednesday	7:30pm	House Group
7 th	Thursday	9:30am	Holy Communion, followed by Home Communion
		7:45pm	Church Ladies' Fellowship
8 th	Friday	10:00am	Bible Study Group
			<i>Practice Night:</i>
		6:45pm	Choir
		7:30pm	Ringers
9 th	Saturday	11:00am	Wedding of Simon Fox and Gay Addy
10TH	SUNDAY		THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST (FIRST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY)
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:00am	Sung Eucharist with Holy Baptism
		6:00pm	Plough Service followed by Plough Supper
11 th	Monday	7:30pm	PCC meeting preceded by Holy Communion at 7:00pm
12 th	Tuesday		<i>Aelred of Rievaulx, 1167; Benedict Biscop, 689</i>
13 th	Wednesday		<i>Hilary, Bishop and Teacher, 367</i>
		11:00am	Holy Eucharist, followed by Deanery Clergy Chapter
		7:30pm	House Group
14 th	Thursday	9:30am	Holy Communion
15 th	Friday	10:00am	Bible Study Group
			<i>Practice Night:</i>
		6:15pm	Choir (Juniors only)
		6:45pm	Choir
		7:30pm	Ringers
17TH	SUNDAY		THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:00am	Sung Eucharist
		6:00pm	Evening Prayer
19 th	Tuesday		<i>Wulfstan, Bishop, 1095</i>
20 th	Wednesday		<i>Richard Rolle of Hampole, 1349</i>
		7:30pm	House Group
21 st	Thursday		<i>St Agnes, Martyr, 304</i>
		9:30am	Holy Communion
		7:45pm	Church Ladies' Fellowship
22 nd	Friday		<i>Vincent, Deacon, Martyr, 304</i>
		10:00am	Bible Study Group
			<i>Practice Night:</i>
		6:15pm	Choir (Juniors only)
		6:45pm	Choir
		7:30pm	Ringers

24TH	SUNDAY		THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:00am	Sung Eucharist
		6:00pm	Evening Prayer
			Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins. To be held at the Catholic church in the evening. Time to be advised.
25 th	Monday		The Conversion of St Paul
26 th	Tuesday		<i>Timothy and Titus, Companions of St Paul</i>
27 th	Wednesday	7:30pm	House Group
28 th	Thursday		<i>Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Teacher, 1274</i>
		9:30am	Holy Communion
29 th	Friday	10:00am	Bible Study Group
			<i>Practice Night:</i>
		6:15pm	Choir (Juniors only)
		6:45pm	Choir
		7:30pm	Ringers
30 th	Saturday		<i>Charles, King and Martyr, 1649</i>
31ST	SUNDAY		PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE (CANDLEMAS)
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:00am	Sung Eucharist
		6:00pm	Evening Prayer
3 rd Feb	Wednesday		<i>Anskar, Bishop, Missionary, 865</i>
		7:30pm	House Group
4 th Feb	Thursday		<i>Gilbert of Sempringham, Monk, 1189</i>
		9:30am	Holy Communion, followed by Home Communion
		7:45pm	Church Ladies' Fellowship
5 th Feb	Friday	10:00am	Bible Study Group
			<i>Practice Night:</i>
		6:15pm	Choir (Juniors only)
		6:45pm	Choir
		7:30pm	Ringers
6 th Feb	Saturday		<i>Martyrs of Japan, 1597; The Queen's Ascension, 1952</i>
7TH FEB	SUNDAY		THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT (Sexagesima)
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:00am	Sung Eucharist
		6:00pm	Choral Evensong



REGISTERS FOR NOVEMBER 2009

BAPTISMS: We welcome into the Lord's family:

8th Grace Brooke Tarrant

FUNERALS: We commend to God's keeping:

16th John Dannatt Andrews, followed by cremation in Peterborough

30th Janet Barbara Fox, followed by cremation in Peterborough



Dear All,

Re: Church Floodlighting

I totally disagree with the view expressed by Dave Washbrooke (what do you think? December 2009).

As a relative newcomer to Deeping St James I never cease to be impressed at how beautiful the floodlit church looks. On returning to the village after dark it is a welcoming beacon - a sign that you are nearly home. Without exception friends who visit remark on how lovely the church looks when illuminated at night.

Apart from the aesthetics, the floodlit church must also be a safety feature, especially for users of the church hall in the winter evenings, in what would otherwise be a very dark and dismal part of the village. With late night vandalism apparently on the increase this must, surely, be a very useful and necessary feature.

Floodlighting the building also demonstrates to everyone that the parish church is at the heart of the community in Deeping St James.

So, I for one welcome the PCC's decision to continue with the floodlighting. Without any hesitation I say "Let there be light"!

John Marsh.

Dear All,

Re: Church Floodlighting

I thank John Marsh for his reply (see above) to my letter published last month. I note that he disagrees totally with the views I expressed; i.e. that:

“Not only does light pollution destroy our view of the night sky, it also wastes energy, thereby adding to air pollution and emissions of climate changing greenhouse gases.”

and that:

“There are also the effects on wildlife to consider.”

However, there is nothing in his reply to challenge either of these views.

John's first point is that the church looks beautiful when floodlit, which it does. It just seems to me that, in the light (ho-ho) of what we are all being encouraged to do to preserve the planet for our grandchildren, some reduction should, at least, be considered. The only criterion mentioned in *News from the PCC* in November's PN was the financial cost. It may be that light pollution and climate change were seriously discussed by the PCC but it was not reported.

As far as safety and security are concerned, I do not see the sense in shining lights into the sky in order to illuminate the ground. I'm sure that downward directed lighting, possibly with motion sensors to turn them on and off, would be more effective.

Floodlighting the Priory Church may demonstrate that the building is at the heart of one community in DSJ. Unfortunately, the message being sent to the rest of us is that the church seems to have lost sight of its duty of care for the environment.

Dave Washbrooke.



News from the PCC

November 2009

We met on 30th November for our last meeting before Christmas.

The main points of our discussions were:

- The need to make some further minor changes to the Baptism service, including making sure that our visitors had clear direction on what to do and when to do it! We also discussed the taking of collections at Baptism services, and decided to continue with the new system (ie taking the collection during the offertory hymn) for a couple more months before deciding whether or not to revert to having the collection plate available at the back of church. We also expressed the hope that all the changes (which make the service shorter and more streamlined) would encourage more regular attendance by our Church members.
- The Treasurer reported that another £5,000 had been paid towards our Diocesan Share and that his previous estimate that we would be about 20% short by the end of the year remained likely. £142.80 was raised at the Harvest Auction, and this was being sent to Christian Aid.
- A lot of work had been done in the past few months to reduce our heating and lighting costs. New tariffs had been negotiated with the utility companies and substantial savings would result from this, both in this year and throughout next year. Simon was thanked for the considerable amount of work he had done on this.
- Operation Christmas Child (the shoeboxes!) had been a great success, with a record number of boxes being filled. The Mission Committee was also congratulated on the result of the Craft Fair.
- We continue to wait for news from the Deanery and the Diocese about the filling of our vacancy for a Priest.
- We were given advance warning that we will need to repair the roof of the south aisle of the church in the medium term and various ideas for raising money for this were discussed.
- Sonia is keen to organise a course for potential Parish Visitors, particularly to assist in our contact with the lonely, the sick and the needy. The Pastoral Committee will be discussing this further.
- Other matters discussed included dry rot, possible changes to the layout of part of the south aisle and the need for a DSJ church calendar to avoid diary clashes (Cled Bennett will be organising this).

We meet next on 11 January. Do let me know if there are any items that you would like to have discussed.

Martin Fisher – Chairman.



Wardens' World

Recently the Linchfield Primary School held their Christmas concert in the church. There were two performances: one in the evening for parents and the older children and a morning performance for the younger children. I enjoyed helping with the setting-up, getting to know the teaching staff and attending to help ensure everything ran smoothly. The evening performance was particularly well attended, the church being packed and everybody enjoying the children's various musical offerings, with a few community carols as well. One of my own granddaughters (Megan, age 9) attended the morning performance and, not wishing to embarrass her in front of her school friends, when she entered the church I gave her only a guarded smile of recognition. However, on seeing me, her friend Emily loudly exclaimed to all and sundry "Look! That's Megan's grandpa!". We arranged retiring collections, with a suitably angelic-looking small child holding out the plate; only those possessing a heart of stone could walk past an Oliver Twist look-alike without sticking something on the plate and we raised over £150. At the time of writing we are due to host the DSJ County Primary School for a similar function and it is great to see the church being so well used, and hopefully becoming more familiar to the community it serves.

On a recent Sunday Christine and I had cause to visit the church of St Denys at Evington, near Leicester, where we were married in 1966. It always was beautiful, but even more now than I remembered. Brightly lit, comfortably heated, extensively carpeted, with gleaming pews and the smell of polish. On the end of each pew and at intervals along the choir stalls there are tall wrought iron candleholders in the form of tridents, each one keeping its three candles safely above and away from the worshippers. We were given a warm and sympathetic welcome since we were expected, being there to inter the ashes of Christine's father after attending the morning service. The churchwardens wore name labels to identify them, a good idea which we could usefully copy. During conversation a surprising coincidence came to light when we learned that one of the churchwardens is the niece of the late John Andrews of our congregation, whose funeral took place in our church recently. There was no choir so, apart from the hymns, most of the service was said rather than sung and the Gradual was a hymn rather than a psalm. The tunes to those few parts of the service which were sung were unfamiliar to us and had a distinct 'gospel music' feel. Oddly, at least to us, the notices were dealt with at the beginning of the service rather than the end.



St Denys Church, Evington, Leicester

In the following days I mused on the various differences between our worship and that at St Denys. Their service was bright, warm and welcoming, but it did feel rather like a service in a well-appointed drawing room, and hence lacked some of the tradition and mystery which our service engenders. Which service is best? Which is 'right'? Of course they are both right if they enable their congregations to worship in an appropriate and meaningful way; even so, perhaps there is something to be said for visiting other churches occasionally and experiencing other forms of worship, to be challenged to think differently, to bring the ideas of other congregations home. A wise person once said that the greatest benefit of living abroad for a time in other cultures is that one can return and see one's own country through the eyes of a stranger. Perhaps the same applies to churches.

The churchwardens (Richard, John, Roger and I) wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year.

Tony Masters.



News from the Tower

We hope all our readers had a very good Christmas and we hope that the New Year brings you good fortune.

There will be no ringing on the evening of Friday 22nd January as this is the date of our annual dinner.

The Bell Ringers A.G.M. will be held on 12th February in the ringing chamber.

Anyone wanting to learn or return to bell ringing is always welcome. Our contacts are:- Richard, Brenda or Mike.

Mike Gentle.



Children's Church

We had great fun at our Christmas party. Thanks to all parents who supported us and a special "thank you" to Margaret Flegg for her fantastic cake.

The children and leaders wish you all a peaceful 2010. We look forward to meeting again on 3rd January.

Andrea Gamman.

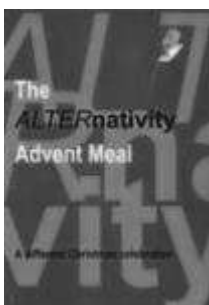


Priory Church Coffee Group

On Thursday 26th November coffee and mince pies attracted a large number of supporters to the Pre-Advent coffee morning held in the Priory Church Hall. Those who came were able to buy various goodies as well as competing in a Christmas Chocolate Tombola. Also there were prizes in a raffle and a lucky door ticket.

The committee wish to thank those that attended, also all the helpers. A grand total of £382.55 was raised for funds, which will be distributed at the coffee morning in May following the AGM in March.

Margaret Flegg.



ALTERNativity

An 'Altemativity Lunch' was held in the church hall on Saturday 28th November. Nearly 50 people attended primarily from St Guthlac's but also from the Catholic church and local non conformist churches as well as eight members of the Priory Church.

The lunch comprised of a series of readings and Taizé chants interspersed by the different courses. An empty space was kept at the top of the table for

the arrival of Christ. The service was led by Kate Brown, a lay reader from St Guthlac's, and others read the various readings.

The alternative lunch has arisen as a result of Kate, Ann, Dorothy and others from St Guthlac's going to Spring Harvest and developing their ideas from their experiences there. The lunch has been held at St Guthlac's previously but this year it was decided to open it up to members of other local churches.

The lunch was an uplifting experience and intended to be an opportunity to meet others from local churches to celebrate the beginning of advent.

Sue Marsh.



Pudsey Bear Coffee Morning 2009

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who so generously supported the Pudsey Bear Coffee Morning back in November. We raised an amazing £164.32, which I banked the following week, giving the receipts to Simon. This annual event helps remind our children that others may not always be as fortunate as themselves and helps them understand the spirit of

Christian giving in our daily lives.

We would also like to thank the Social Committee who support the children in running this activity by providing the coffee and Pudsey biscuits, washing up and generally encouraging the children and leaders to continue supporting this charity.

Lastly, thank you Margaret for making such a fantastic Pudsey Bear cake for our "Guess the Weight of The Cake" competition, which was won by Beryl Willett.

Hope to see you all there next year!

*Johanna Jones and Andrea Gamman
on behalf of all the children and leaders at Childrens Church.*



Rose and Sweet Pea Show 2010 Grand Draw

June may seem a long way away to most people but I have to finalise the main raffle prizes in the next month or two in order to get the raffle tickets printed.

If you have any suggestions for companies/shops to approach for raffle prizes, please let me know. The main prizes (generally the first 3-5 prizes) are set out on the ticket with the name of the company/shop that donated them. This is good advertising for those companies/shops, as the tickets can be circulated not only in the Deepings area but further afield. Even if the prize donated is not one of the main prizes, the company/shop will be acknowledged in Priory News and on the church website.

Also, if you have anything that you think would make a suitable prize I'd be pleased to hear from you; or indeed, if you would like to contribute financially towards the purchase of prizes, that would also be welcomed.

As you all know, the raffle is one of the main fundraisers (it generally makes around £1,000) for the church and it is important that the prizes are attractive and tempt people to buy.

This is not 'my' raffle - it is being done on behalf of the church and any assistance with it would be gratefully appreciated.

I look forward to hearing from you. I can be contacted at church.

Sue Marsh.



Mission Committee Craft Fair

When Bet wrote to me on 5 December asking me to write a short piece about the Christmas Craft Fair, it came as something of a shock to realise that this was held only just over two weeks ago. It seems much longer; and although the actual event has faded into the past (could it be because we all have so much else to do in the run up to Christmas?), what hasn't faded is the wonderful, friendly atmosphere of the Fair itself.

The Mission Committee would like to thank all who supported us – by attending, by eating Giorgio's tempting food, by manning stalls, by wielding tea-towels, by buying raffle tickets, by donating cakes (or buying them) and, of course, by purchasing some of the tempting goods on offer at the various stalls. All this helped to make the event one of the most popular in the district – indeed I think I turned away over 20 would-be stallholders – they kept phoning and asking for a table long after the Fair was fully-booked.

As you probably know we raised about £500 for Mission – there are so many causes needing help that that sum is really only a drop in the ocean, but every little helps. So a big THANK YOU again!

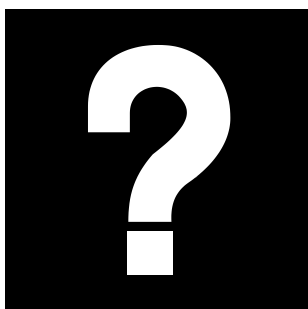
Anne Smart.



Plough Supper

On Sunday 10th January the traditional Plough Supper will be held in the Church Hall following the evening service. Please add your name to the list in Church if you are attending.

Margaret Flegg.



Did You Know?

If you miss the post in DSJ you might still be in time to send your letter or parcel from the Royal Mail office in Papyrus Road, Werrington, PE4 5PE.

I don't know how long it's been there but I only discovered its existence a few weeks ago and it saved my bacon!

Phone first (01733-382500) to check opening times.

Bet Washbrooke.



The Deeping Ghost

One evening towards the end of the summer of 1936, as my cousin Mitzi, my friend Mary and I set off from our homes in Eastgate, Deeping St. James to walk to the Pictures in Market Deeping, we little thought it would be a night that we should remember for the rest of our lives. We paid 1/3d for our tickets and enjoyed a full programme, advertising trailers of forthcoming attractions, a feature film, Pathe Gazette news items and the main film. When we left the Cinema it was dark but there was moonlight, so we strolled along the familiar way home, chattering about the film, the film stars and all the things that girls of eighteen are interested in.

We came by the High Locks, past the Bridge and when we reached the clapper gate by the Manor, we decided to take a short cut down Church Walk instead of going down the street. It was a bit eerie beneath the tall trees of the Manor garden; everything looked different as we passed Mr. Quartermaine's allotment and the little gate into the Park. Walking by the cemetery we could see someone coming towards us; as he got nearer we were surprised to notice that he was wearing a wide brimmed black hat and a long flowing black cloak, and although it was not raining had an umbrella up. Strangely enough we were not afraid, though it seemed very peculiar, as we neither heard nor felt any movement of the long cloak as he passed us. When we had got by we all turned round to have a better look at the odd stranger; but there was nothing to see - the 'person' had vanished into thin air.

We all saw exactly the same thing and none of us was scared although we knew that we had seen something extraordinary, supernatural in fact.

My cousin, my late friend and I have told of this encounter hundreds of times over the past sixty years. No one ever disbelieved it, nor did anyone ever claim to have seen the dark spectre or indeed to have heard of any similar sighting. Imagine my amazement when Joy Baxter, who researches items of Deeping news in old newspapers, said that a black ghost had been seen in 1898.

The 28th April issue of the Peterborough Express has a headline; -

A DEEPING GHOST

Mysterious Movements of an 'Object in Black'

'Some amount of excitement has been created in Deeping St. James by the report that a ghost had been seen in the main street in the vicinity of the Churchyard it also transpired that about a year ago a strange object covered in black was seen by two or three persons early in the morning on two or three occasions. At that time it was described as being of medium height, but its exact form could hardly be determined as the witnesses kept at a respectable distance'. The object glided along by a wall and disappeared through some boarden gates.

Also a Market Deeping resident, 'whose veracity no one would dare to question' saw an apparition about 5ft. tall near the Vicar's School. 'I could not see head nor feet as it was arrayed - if the word can be used - in black. I could see no movement of feet as it glided away before me, neither the swing of any arms as the vestment was apparently loose and reached to the floor'. Again it disappeared before his eyes.

By the 12th May, the village must have been buzzing with speculation about the Ghost, for the Peterborough Express reported that the story of the Deeping Ghost had been chronicled in many of the daily Newspapers and the majority of them agree that a 'Ghost in

Black' is a novelty. The Birmingham Mail ventures to suggest that it is the spirit of a Deeping Undertaker.

From the Peterborough Express of 19th May the headline reads; —

The Deeping Ghost seen again watched by two residents.

'A Friday apparition again'

Two men saw an object moving by the side of the wall near the passage leading to the Churchyard. It glided silently along, nothing being seen of arms or legs. It is again described as being of medium height and all in black. Suddenly it altered its course and proceeded towards the roadway, passing within a few yards of them and then was lost to sight. They followed the direction it had taken and again saw it near the wall. It glided along until it came to the passage and suddenly disappeared from view.

The Peterborough Express of 9th June reported 'Another appearance of the Deeping Ghost, when, on Saturday night two residents experienced another scare from the darkly clad visitor who has been prowling about of late. They observed a black object upon a wall near them. They stood for a moment watching it and although somewhat startled, followed it as it glided away in the direction of the Cross, and ultimately vanished. The witnesses entered the Queen's Head and told the assembled company of the affair. Several ventured out to discover the whereabouts of the visitor, but failed to see anything. The appearance has again caused much excitement in the town'

For several weeks the 'visitor in pitchy' black laid low, but obviously the inhabitants were nervous and in a jittery state because in the 'Express' of 8th September we read 'One night last week, a female inhabitant of Deeping St. James was considerably startled near the Church. The night was very dark, and as she passed the entrance to the Churchyard someone or something came behind her and apparently touched her. In a great fright she commenced to run and her screams brought people to the windows of their houses. She endeavoured to get into a yard, the object still pursuing her, but seeing the lights of a public house, she ran in. She cannot describe the object that startled her, but many have put it down to the Ghost.

The Express of 17th November headed the column

'Reappearance of the Ghost'

but it seemed to be trying to keep interest in the topic going, for the cyclist riding home near the 'Cuckoo', who thought he had seen the ghost, discovered that it was really a donkey that had strayed onto the road. Someone else declared that the ghost scare is all a lot of nonsense, the black object must be a dog wandering about the village. Another man said that he had laughed heartily about all the scares, but he was turning the corner of the road to the Station when from the direction of the hedge he heard a sound and saw a figure in black standing about four feet in height. He dare not advance but threw a stone and the figure vanished.

In the paper of the 24th November a Correspondent writes at length expressing the opinion that the Ghost is but a figment of the imagination of nervous and superstitious folk. However, the column concludes with the story of another sighting of the Ghost. 'It appeared to be moving along the passage which leads to the Churchyard and could only be seen dimly because of the distance'. To make sure of its existence a resident followed at a short distance, but found that it disappeared before it reached the Churchyard.

The 1st December issue brings the story to a conclusion by declaring

'The Ghost Laid'

We have received a mysterious communication about the 'Ghost' it has been captured by Mr Robinson, landlord of the Three Tuns, Deeping. We are informed that it has turned out to be of a more substantial nature than a shadow. The feat of capturing the 'Apparition' has not been disclosed but residents of the district can now move about at night without apprehension. Probably the Ghost will be placed on view, and if so it would certainly be a draw.

This was no doubt a talking point, and good publicity for the Three Tuns, but it does not help in solving the mystery of the Black Ghost.

Footnote

When we got home and described the ghost we had seen, my father, who was a native of Deeping St. James said, 'Why you have seen the Reverend John George; he looked just like that and he took a walk up the Church Path every night'.

The Reverend John George died on 31st January 1898; the first report about the Black Ghost appeared in the Peterborough Express on 28th April of the same year.

Nancy Titman.

This article first appeared in "Glimpse of the Past", published by Deepings Heritage, 1998.



Heavenly Oasis

Hidden away in the far corner of Deeping St James is a small piece of wildlife heaven, known as Deeping Lakes. I often enjoy taking a peaceful relaxing walk around this varied and lively nature reserve. Like us, wildlife comes in all colours, shapes and sizes, all contributing to the life of this special place.

You may hear a sharp whistle, followed by a quick glimpse of vivid electric turquoise blue, as a Kingfisher breaks cover and skims across a lake, less than a foot from the surface. How such a brightly coloured bird can be so elusive, especially when it is bright orange underneath, is a mystery. It is not all about the nice birds, some of the more common birds can entertain too. The Mute Swan can be seen in great numbers, hundreds at some times of the year. Or simply an individual paddling by the hide and showing he can paddle equally as well with one leg, while waving the other out to one side, as he can with two. Aren't they clever! Their beautifully ornate white body and wings are pulled along by their smoothly sweeping slender 'S' shaped neck that is often off white up to their bright orange and black painted bill. This looks like it has been placed on the wrong bird, until you see them, elegant and sophisticated, with their wings raised and curled up behind them and the necks drawn back. Almost the opposite or negative of this is the Black Swan, which is as sooty black as the Mute is white. Sometimes a pair of these can be seen, possibly escapees from Peakirk. These too, have a misplaced bill. Not as painted and decorative as that of the mute. The dull bright red bill stands out against the monotone black of the body and neck. This foreign looking swan does not appear to fit in, but then again, if you had seen thousands of Black Swans on the water as you grow up, perhaps the white mute may look equally as foreign. When the Black Swan takes off, you are in for a surprise. Hidden under the sooty black exterior are two large brilliant white wing patches. Where have they hidden them!

Another bird found on the water but much smaller is the Little Grebe (Dabchick). It plays hide and seek with you as it dives from the surface, reappears a little distance away and then dives again. Each bird has its own way of behaving that is often used to identify them. The common Great Tit can be seen in its natural environment where it behaves like a security alarm. If you walk close to it, you will hear a sharp alarm call letting everything know you are there, before you have even seen it. You will probably see its brilliant bright white cheek, surrounded by the broad jet black border covering his head and this also splits his bright yellow chest in half. Once he has raised the alarm, he will tend to follow you as you continue to walk creating a mobile warning system until he gets bored or you have moved off his patch.



Great Tit (*parus major*)

The Green Woodpecker is another bird you may hear and probably see. If you disturb one, you will hear a loud laughing almost chuckling as it flies bouncing away. Strangely, this wood pecker is found on the ground where it hunts for ants and grubs. It is olive green back with a beige face stretching down underneath. This is finished off with a large dark surrounding to the eye and what looks like a crimson flat cap. It must come from up north.

Along with these fairly common birds, this expanse of lakes, open ground, woody bits and river bank also attract some rarer birds. This summer a Yellow-Browed Warbler was seen. This was the first time this bird has been seen in this area ever. Global warming or just a strong wind - who knows? This was such a rare bird, I could only indentify it as "Warbler???" and had to rely upon an expert who saw and photographed it a few days later to clarify its identity. In the last few years a Ring Ouzel (like a blackbird with a bright white bib), Little Egrets (like a small white Heron with black legs and yellow feet) and other less common but nicely named birds have come to see us.

A real treat is to watch a Barn Owl, all square bulky head, quartering low along the trees, heading as much sideways as forwards with its slow silent wing beats and ghostly white and golden buff colouring. How does this stay in the air? It is an awesome sight that makes the cold worthwhile. In contrast, during summer months Hobbies can be seen whizzing along trying to catch dragon flies and the occasional swallow or swift. These are built for speed, a sort of cross between a kestrel and a giant Swift but much prettier. If it is close enough, you may be able to see its black moustache or rufus leggings.



Grey Squirrel
(*sciurus carolinensis*)

Some of God's other creatures also make the most of this heavenly oasis in Lincolnshire. You are almost bound to come across a Grey Squirrel, monkeying around in the branches or hiding nuts at the bottom of a tree. Stand still and see who moves first, you or it. You may even see a scrawny looking Fox skulking across a path and disappearing as if he had never been there. Or you may see the sheep and cattle that graze there from time to time to help manage this nature reserve naturally. This whole area is carefully managed for us by the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. If you want to help keep this and other areas like it,

available to all and future generations, you can contact them and offer a contribution. This can be financial, volunteer a helping hand or rake, or just to let them know it is appreciated.

If you get half an hour or so, it can be found either by following the track along the river at the end of Eastgate, where the road bends sharply to the old Deeping St James station.

Once over the railway crossing, follow the path on the bank around the fields until you see an entrance gate on your left. Alternatively drive across the railway crossing at the old Deeping St James station, past the Pet Refuge and, as the road bends sharply left to go to Crowland, turn right into the gate and you will find a large car park at the end of the track (watch out for the hump and the pot holes). If you do not want to face the cold or wind that is around at the moment, you can sit in your car and look out across a number of lakes. I am sure a number of things will find you interesting and come closer to you once they are familiar with your car.

The Bird Watcher.

Deeping Lakes are a Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust reserve.
www.lincstrust.org.uk



Carol and Hymn Corner

Favourite Carol Snippets

Away in a manger



Like *O Little Town* and *We three kings* this carol has an American origin. In the latter half of the nineteenth century in Philadelphia some lovely words of unknown origin were discovered.

Away in a Manger was first published by one of the Philadelphian newspapers.

The editors thought that it would be a good thing if a tune could be found for it. This proved to be easier said than done. Eventually the newspaper decided that the fairest way would be to organise a competition.

A young carpenter named William James Kirkpatrick, a member of the American Episcopal Church, who had wandered over from Pennsylvania looking for work, saw the advertisement and decided to have a try. It was this tune which won the competition and ensured that his name would be known everywhere.

Ding Dong Merrily on High



In this next great favourite carol it is the tune which came first. Here we have a French Connection and one with music from the king's court. Many of our dances have reached us through France and this anonymous one is a good example.

The tune is called a *branle*, which means swinging from side to side. It is probably the Elizabethan equivalent of the *twist* or *shake rattle and roll* that some of our older readers took part in the 1960's [*Not so much of the "older", Philip - Ed*]. The word in English became 'brawl' although this word has come to mean something different and rather naughty today. Charles Wood adapted the tune to words by Rev G R Woodward.

Gloucestershire Wassail



*Wassail, wassail, all over the town
Our toast it is white and our ale it is brown
Our beer it is made of the white maple tree,
With the wassailing bowl we'll drink unto thee.*

This is a secular carol and, like many of the same name, sung outside church at Epiphany-tide. Centuries ago and even as recent as living memory villagers would, at the end of the Christmas period, make a circle round the barn and toast the animals as it was absolutely

vital that the stock all had healthy young the following year. Otherwise there could be great poverty and hardship for the whole family during the following winter.

Some of the best wines and country ales were poured into a large dish called a wassail bowl. The women would stir the potent brew until they were satisfied all had been effectively mixed and then bring the bowl and contents carefully to the barn and distribute it by means of a ladle into each person's cup. The animals would be toasted in turn and called by their names. In the Gloucestershire version Cherry and Dobbin are horses, Broad May, Fillpail and Colly are cows.

When all of the animals had been toasted the villagers would move on to the next farm and repeat the process depending on how many could still stand upright!

The word Wassail comes from the old English 'Wes Hal' be thou whole and thus a salutation for a festive occasion. So, if you would like to keep the tradition at home or during the Peace on 3rd or 10th January, shake hands and say "Wes Hal".

Philip Spratley.

Thanks for letting us have these items at such short notice, Philip.



Cooking with Margaret

Potted Pork with Juniper & Thyme

To be served at the Plough Supper
on 10th January 2010

Ingredients

- 400g minced Pork
- 50g smoked streaky bacon, chopped small
- 1 clove garlic crushed
- ¼ teaspoon ground mace
- 1 heaped teaspoon chopped thyme leaves
- 8 juniper berries
- ½ teaspoon whole black peppercorns
- 1½ tablespoon brandy,
- ½ teaspoon salt
- extra thyme sprig and juniper berries to garnish.

Method

1. Preheat oven to 150°C gas mark 2.
2. Place the pork, garlic, mace and thyme in a mixing bowl.
3. Using a pestle and mortar, crush the juniper berries and peppercorns – not too finely. Add these together with the brandy and salt to the mixing bowl and mix thoroughly.
4. Now pack the mixture into a 570ml (1 pint) pudding basin, place thyme sprig and berries on the top before covering with a double sheet of foil, twisting it to make a lid.
5. Place on a baking tray then into the oven to cook slowly for 1½ hours.
6. Then remove it from the oven and place a heavy weight on top to firm it up and leave to get cold before transferring to the fridge.
7. This can be made ahead and frozen for up to a month.

Margaret Flegg.

WISHING YOU ALL A PEACEFUL 2010

ROTAS FOR JANUARY

		Servers	Sidespersons	Intercessions
3 rd	8:00am	Geoff Armstrong	Rita Gostick	
	10:00am	John Sellars Simon Marshall	Team A: Doris Bellairs, Mary & Vivien Hamilton	Martin Fisher
10 th	8:00am	Paul Boswall	Bet Washbrooke	
	10:00am	Chris Halley Simon Marshall	Team B: Joy Cunningham, Ann Meekings	Bet Washbrooke
	6:00pm	John Sellars		
17 th	8:00am	Geoff Armstrong	Jane Thompson	
	10:00am	Paul Boswall John Sellars	Team C: Cled Bennett, Adrian Hallam, Tim Hitchborn	John Marsh
24 th	8:00am	Paul Boswall	Noreen Scattergood	
	10:00am	Chris Halley Simon Marshall	Team D: Kim Hallam, Graham Hardy, Trevor Harwood	Richard Gamman
31 st	8:00am	Geoff Armstrong	George Knowles	
	10:00am	John Sellars Simon Marshall	Team E: Liz Bridgeman, Bill & Margaret Flegg	Anne Smart
7 th Feb	8:00am	Geoff Armstrong	Jessie Turner	
	10:00am	Chris Halley Paul Boswall	Team F: Doris Bellairs, Christine Masters, Val Wilde	John Marsh
	6:00pm	John Sellars		

		OT	Readers	NT	Bread & Wine
3 rd	10:00am	John Worthington		Trevor Harwood	Bill & Margaret Flegg
10 th	10:00am			Roger Bridgeman	Christine Payne Ann Meekings
17 th	10:00am	Richard Gamman		Ann Bennett	Cled & Ann Bennett
24 th	10:00am	Graham Hardy		Tony Masters	Pat Feek Doris Warner
31 st	10:00am	Bet Washbrooke		Liz Spratley	Martin & Niccy Fisher
7 th Feb	10:00am	John Marsh		Niccy Fisher	Dick & Anthea Wray

	Sunday Coffee	Church Flowers	Church Cleaning	Brasses
3rd	Bill & Margaret Flegg	Pauline Brooksbank		
10th	Diane Templeton Johanna Jones	Jane Thompson	Dick & Anthea Wray	
17th	Val Wilde Doris Bellairs	Ann Bennett		Bill & Margaret Flegg
24th	Pat Feek Doris Warner	Doris Warner	Josie Waghorn Joy Cunningham	
31st	Liz Spratley Linda Sellars	Margaret Flegg		Val Wilde
7th Feb	John & Sue Marsh	Eileen Day	Pat Feek Doris Warner	



READINGS FOR JANUARY

3rd	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS (EPIPHANY)			
	Morning	Isaiah: 60 1-6	Ephesians 3: 1-12	Matthew 2: 1-12
10th	THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST (FIRST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY)			
	Morning	Isaiah 43: 1-7	Acts 8: 14-17	Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22
17th	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY			
	Morning	Isaiah 62: 1-5	1 Corinthians 12: 1-11	John 2: 1-11
24th	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY			
	Morning	Nehemiah 8; 1-3,5-6,8-10	1 Corinthians 12: 12-31	Luke 4: 14-21
31st	PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE (CANDLEMAS)			
	Morning	Malachi 3: 1-5	Hebrews 2: 14-18	Luke 2: 22-40
7th Feb	THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT (Sexagesima)			
	Morning	Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-25	Revelation 4	Luke 8: 22-25
	Evening	Psalms 147: 13-end	Genesis 1 – 2:3	Matthew 6: 25-end



Bishop's Letter

Dear Friends

For God's sake give and take

One day Jesus sat watching as people put money into the Temple collection box. Many of the rich were making large contributions. Then a poor widow came and put in two small coins - just a couple of pence. Jesus turned to His Disciples and told them how she had in fact given more than all the rest, because what they gave, they wouldn't miss; but she gave what she couldn't afford - she gave her all.

This story challenges and disturbs us.

It challenges us because we who are relatively rich know that Jesus has us in His sights. He knows that we give less than we can afford.

It disturbs us, because the Temple authorities were apparently prepared to take the widow's pence and so leave her with nothing to live on. Jesus commended her generosity - but surely the religious leaders should have been less ready to take her money and more ready to give her a share of what the rich had contributed.

Christian stewardship of money should always be a matter of give and take. Whilst 2010 will be a year when special efforts will be made to help us all to take Christian Giving seriously, whether to the Church or to Charity, it must also be a year when we make it easier for those in most need to receive their share of what we have at our disposal.

The Archbishop of Canterbury once asked: "For whom is your wealth good news?". If the answer is "me and mine", then we fall well short of what would be an appropriate Christian response to that question. Whether we are talking about surpluses on our personal Current Accounts or our Deanery Share Accounts, the challenge is there: for whom is your wealth good news?

Christmas is a time of giving. But why stop at Christmas? Every day is Christmas Day insofar as we receive many gifts from God including, above all, the gift of life itself. So make every day a giving day, then those who need to take because they cannot give will be able to do so. And there will be plenty left over to fund the mission and ministry of our Church as well as those many other good causes which are so dear to our hearts.

Don't give in order to receive - that way giving simply becomes another way of purchasing! Give so that others can take what they need, just as we take from God what He provides to meet our needs day by day.

+ John Lincoln