



From the Curate

The Reverend Sonia Marshall

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Milan! It was good while I was away to have visited this city where in 313 the Emperor Constantine issued an edict granting freedom of religion within the Roman Empire. The Edict of Milan put an end to persecution and paved the way for Christianity to become the predominant faith of the western world. The marble faced cathedral dating from the fourteenth century is spectacular but even more interesting for me were the remains of the first cathedral and baptistery going back to the mid fourth century – the time of St Ambrose, one of the four great ‘doctors of the church’ and a great influence on St Augustine. It was humbling to be reminded of the faith and freedom for which so many have fought (and died) and the task we have in handing on our belief in Jesus Christ to future generations.

It was a ‘packed programme’ while I was away and I return to an equally busy one for the Church. As I write preparations for the Rose and Sweet Pea Show are in full swing. They will be followed by the ‘Music on the Lawn’ evening on 3rd July, Junior Church prize giving on July 11th and last but by no means least, St James’ day on July 25th. Our patronal festival – the 871st – falls on Sunday this year and so we hope to make it a special one. There will be a joint celebration of the Eucharist at 10.00a.m. followed by a bring and share lunch and entertainment organized by the social committee. The day will end with Choral Evensong. Don’t miss it!

Sonia Marshall.

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in this month's priory news ...

Dear All,

By the time you read this, you will know whether or not the sun smiled on the Rose and Sweet Pea Show. Whatever the weather, thanks to Sue and John Marsh for

organising the fête and Richard and Andrea Gamman for arranging the horticultural show. Thanks also to everyone who helped in any way.

This edition brings Nancy's recollections of the Church Ladies' Fellowship to a conclusion. This has been a fascinating and unique piece of church history. Thank you, Nancy.

If you haven't got them already, you might still have time to get your tickets for Music on the Church Hall Lawn on 3rd July. See page 10 for details.

Please don't miss Geoff's letter on the "What Do You Think?" page. If you have any good ideas for making use of his generous donation, do please get in touch with him.

Warmest wishes,

Bet.

From the Curate	1
Parish Directory	2
In this month's Priory News	3
Church Calendar July 2010	4
Registers for May 2010	5
What Do You Think?	6
Wardens' World	7
News from the Tower	8
Just People	8
Children's Church	9
Pedal-Power Fund-Raiser	9
Memories of the Church Ladies' Fellowship	9
Mission Committee Car Boot Sale	10
Music on the Church Hall Lawn	10
The John Clare Society Festival 2010	11
Please keep them stamps rolling in!	12
Animal Magic!	12
Cooking with Margaret	13
From the Archives: July 2000	14
Rotas for July	14
Readings and Readers	15
Bishop's Letter	16

Animal Magic!: My report of a special morning with some interesting creatures. (P12).

Cooking with Margaret: A mouth-watering seasonal dessert for July. (P13).

Memories of the Church Ladies' Fellowship: The Warrick years! (P9).

The John Clare Society Festival 2010: Details of this exciting local three day event. (P11).

Wardens' World: A very special Christening. (P7).

Cover picture: Ocelot. [Photo courtesy of the Exotic Pet Refuge, DSJ.]

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 **August** edition of Priory News **BEFORE** the deadline, **Friday 16th July**. Thank you for your help.

CHURCH CALENDAR JULY 2010

THE 8:00AM EUCHARIST

During the meetings held between the Archdeacon of Lincoln, the District Dean and the Vacancy Steering Group, one of the items discussed was the attendance figures for services. Having considered the numbers attending the early service, it was suggested that it would be preferable to have two celebrations a month which were well attended rather than a weekly but more sparsely attended one. In addition, it was pointed out that for the half time position, which will now be advertised, a twice monthly celebration would be less onerous. The PCC have therefore decided, with effect from 1st July, to reschedule 8:00am services to the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Exceptionally, as St James' day falls on Sunday this year, there will be one joint celebration at 10:00a.m. for that week.

Sonia Marshall.

1 st	Thursday	9:30am	Holy Communion
		7:45pm	Church Ladies' Fellowship Strawberry Supper
2 nd	Friday		Practice Night:
		6:45pm	Choir
		7:30pm	Ringers
3 rd	Saturday		Thomas the Apostle
		1:30pm	Wedding of Carl Robert Bradshaw & Sally Greatrex
		7:30pm	Music on the Church Hall Lawn (P10)
4 th	SUNDAY		FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 9)
		10:00am	Sung Eucharist
		6:00pm	Choral Evensong
5 th	Monday	7:30pm	PCC Meeting preceded by Holy Communion at 7:00 pm
8 th	Thursday	9:30am	Communion followed by Home Communions
9 th	Friday		- Sun 11 th The John Clare Society Festival 2010 (P11)
			Practice Night:
		6:45pm	Choir
		7:30pm	Ringers
10 th	Saturday	9:00am	Mission Committee Car Boot Sale at John Eve Field (P10)
11 th	SUNDAY		SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 10)
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:00am	Sung Eucharist with Holy Baptism and Junior Church Prizegiving
		6:00pm	Evening Prayer
14 th	Wednesday		John Keble, Priest, Tractarian, Poet, 1866
15 th	Thursday		Swithun, Bishop of Winchester, 862
		9:30am	Holy Communion
		7:45pm	Church Ladies' Fellowship Closing Service and Supper
16 th	Friday		Practice Night:
		6:45pm	Choir
		7:30pm	Ringers

18TH	SUNDAY	SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 11)	
		10:00am	Sung Eucharist
		6:00pm	Evening Prayer
19 th	Monday	Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, and his sister, Macrina, 394 & 379	
22 nd	Thursday	Mary Magdalene	
		9:30am	Holy Communion
23 ^d	Friday	Practice Night:	
		6:45pm	Choir
		7:30pm	Ringers
25TH	SUNDAY	EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 12)	
		JAMES THE APOSTLE (PATRONAL FESTIVAL)	
		(8 o'clock service combined with 10 o'clock service today)	
		10:00am	Sung Eucharist
		6:00pm	Choral Evensong
29 th	Thursday	Mary, Martha & Lazarus, Companions of our Lord	
		9:30am	Holy Communion
30 th	Friday	William Wilberforce, Social Reformer, 1833	
		Practice Night:	
		(Choir summer recess - next rehearsal: Fri. Sept. 3rd.)	
		7:30pm	Ringers
1ST	SUNDAY	NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 12)	
AUG		LAMMAS DAY	
		10:00am	Sung Eucharist with Holy Baptism
		6:00pm	Evening Prayer



REGISTERS FOR MAY 2010

WEDDINGS: *We congratulate:*

15th Trevor Edwards and Louise Newton

22nd John Gidney and Bridget Mary Duckett

FUNERALS: *We commend to God's keeping:*

14th Vivienne Carol Blunden



HOUSE GROUP

7:30pm Wednesdays
at 45 Crowson Way, DSJ.
All welcome!



Dear Editor,

Barn Owls

You wrote wistfully about the elusive nature of barn owls in our area in your introduction to the May edition. I have had many delightful encounters with them cycling early in the morning along the bank towards the Crowland water tower. They seem to enjoy pacing the bicycle sometimes as close as 10 metres and may glide alongside for quite considerable distances.

Richard Gamman.

[Yes, that is a good place for barn owls, Richard. We were once fortunate enough to be able to stop the car and watch one, sitting on a fence post, tuck into a vole. Further along Crowland Bank, towards Spalding, is also good for marsh harriers. Bet.]



Dear All,

“Working on the Building” – Geoff’s Party

May I say a huge thank you to those members of the church who attended my “Back to the Fifties” fiftieth birthday bash in June, and especially for your generous gifts of donations towards my chosen good causes. At the time of writing, with a bit of jiggery-pokery with unspecified donations and a bucket collection, my guests gave £150 to each of the Priory Church (for the continuing improvements to the Church Hall) and the Stamford Corn Exchange Theatre (the amount needed to sponsor a seat). We also should have about £300 for Macmillan Cancer Support in memory of my late brother, Chris. Thanks also to Ali Hitchborn for doing the raffle, which raised over £100 for her nominated charity, the Sue Ryder Foundation!

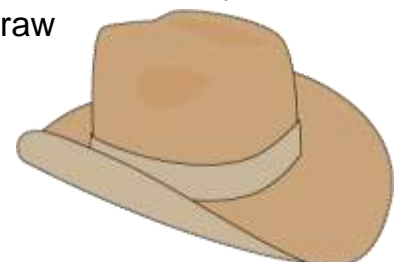
Incidentally, some of the band who played, Rusti Steel and the Star Tones, are members of the Pentecostal Church at Kettering, where Rusti’s father is the minister. Hence it didn’t take much effort for me to persuade them to learn “Working on the Building”, a gospel song I knew via Elvis Presley and frequently burst into while working on our own building, the Church Hall, and which I sang with them at the party!

It has been suggested that we should be making more use of our improved Church Hall for social events. As a lover of vintage music myself, I have suggested something from the 1940s, ’50s or ’60s or maybe some folk music. Any ideas to the Social Committee, please. As my party shows, these things can be nice little fund-raisers! Which brings me back to this £150. I understand that I have to specify what it should be used for; so, if any Church Hall users have an idea, please ring me or write to me and I will draw one out of my cowboy hat!

Thank you all again.

Geoff Armstrong (8:00 service server).

[Well done, Geoff. Here’s to the next fifty! Bet]





Wardens' World

Thanks to the Parish Council, as part of 'Deepings in Bloom' we are to have some compost bins provided at the south-east corner of the church, which will tidy-up the area where we presently keep our rubbish and recycling. I am pleased to say that, again thanks to the Parish Council, the surfacing on the church hall car park is to be renewed at the end of June. This will further enhance the surroundings of the church hall, already looking so much better with its new notice board and flower containers.

A few weeks ago Christine and I went to the church of St Nicholas at Hornsea to attend the christening of Samuel, the first child of my niece, Nicky. The circumstances were a little unusual. To begin with, Nicky is in her forties (sorry to mention a lady's age, but it is relevant) and she has been blind from birth. Her husband has had a few health problems of his own in recent years, so it seems to me that having a child, never something to be taken lightly, is in the circumstances an act of significant courage and hope, and the extended family turned out in force to celebrate and show their support.



Nicky, Dave and Samuel ...
(Picture courtesy of Tony Masters.)

Nicky has a guide dog, Simba, and both are well known at the church because Nicky has a fine soprano voice and sings in the choir, although Simba is not encouraged to join in. As you would expect of a guide dog, Simba is normally extremely well behaved; however, when the service began, another guide dog appeared at the back of the church and, as the choir marched in, Simba ran back past them to greet his canine friend. Much amusement ensued as the dogs were rounded up during the opening hymn and persuaded to resume their normal duties. Nicky sang a solo and led the choir for part of the service



... and Simba, Nicky's guide dog.
(Picture courtesy of Tony Masters.)

and all was going well until the time came to take communion, whereupon I experienced two minor but significant ways in which St Nicholas' church differs from our own. Firstly, the communion rail is about six inches higher, and secondly the

surface where one kneels is extremely hard. Consequently as I dropped to my knees there was an audible thud, followed by stifled groans of agony. The vicar's eyes widened slightly as he met my agonized expression – was this the outward sign of a soul in torment? – Well, possibly, but my recollection is more of the purely physical sensation of two knees in torment together with serious concern about what would happen when I tried to revert to the perpendicular.

The rest of the service went well. Little Samuel was duly doused and we all trooped off next door to the village hall, where the church ladies did us proud with a magnificent buffet lunch, following which Simba went round hoovering up the crumbs. As we drove home across the Humber Bridge, I reflected on a remarkable day; a lovely church, a christening properly celebrated, a splendid meal, a joyful family reunion, a great bridge to wonder at, and two sore knees – the memory abides and the knees have recovered. Oh, and Maggie Thatcher was quite right – there is no such thing as 'society', only families.

Tony Masters.



News from the Tower

We have had a little problem with the tenor bell, in that the clapper pin broke and the clapper fell out - end of ringing tenor for a couple of weeks. However, thanks to two engineering companies in the area, the job was soon fixed. A new pin made and a slight modification to the clapper and we were able to refit it and we are

now back to our six lovely bells.

Work on de-rusting and repainting the bell frames is still in progress. Unfortunately, these tasks take up quite a bit of time to complete. If you have any spare time and would like to give a little assistance then please contact Richard.

We welcome anybody who has rung in the past or who wishes to learn. Please contact: Richard, Brenda or Mike.

Mike Gentle.

Just People

The youth group has chosen a name for itself! After much debate we settled on 'Just People'. Those of us who were keen on this name liked the double meaning of simply being people and being people concerned with justice.

Sadly our meetings in June were not blessed with good weather. Paul Boswall arranged an intriguing treasure hunt for us in the Church and surrounding area but on consecutive Sundays we had heavy cloudbursts that turned the clue sheets into blotting paper. By the time you read this we will have taken on our counterparts in

Market Deeping in a games evening at the Rectory garden. Look out for the sports page in the next issue for the results.

Richard Gamman.

Children's Church

As always at this time of year the children's groups have been hard at work preparing their projects for the Rose and Sweet Pea Show. We have taken as our theme 'our wonderful world' and the children have been very creative in interpreting that title. At the time of writing Helena Gamman is getting very excited at the prospect of her forthcoming coronation as Rose Queen. We hope to have some pictures for you in the next edition of the Parish magazine.



Andrea Gamman.



Jacob presents Deeping Lakes warden, David, with a cheque for £120. [Picture courtesy of Jacob Boswall. Permission to publish given by Paul Boswall.]

Pedal-Power Fund-Raiser

In April Jacob cycled around the Peterborough Green Wheel in a day to raise money for this valued local amenity which many of us enjoy.

Thank you to everybody who sponsored him. The total Jacob raised was £120.

Paul Boswall.

[Congratulations, Jacob. Bet.]

Memories of the Church Ladies' Fellowship

The Rev Mark Warrick's wife, Alison, was a busy housewife and teacher. She didn't have time to take much part in the Fellowship, so we carried on as usual but with full support from the Vicar, who appreciated the good eatables on offer at our meetings.

One of the special events of the CLF is the annual fund-raising lunch, which Mrs Margaret Flegg and the committee organise in March. It is always a fantastic three course meal, catering for at least 60 people. The proceeds go to the chosen charity of the year.

One talk that really impressed me was given by a lady who embroidered the gold thread on to Guardsmen's tunics. She told us that, when the Welsh Guards 'leek insignia' on the collar of Prince Charles' tunic got damaged, the collar was detached and was sent to her so that she could renew it. She also said that today it is too expensive for the gold embroidery work to be done in England. It is done by men in Pakistan.

In recent times we have had some interesting meetings, especially those in the Church when the Hall was out of commission and we drank our cups of tea in the children's corner. There were talks by an osteopath, a homeopath and a marathon walker.



Mark and Alison.
(Picture courtesy of Bet Washbrooke.)

These days we cannot afford to hire a coach for our outings, so we rely on members' cars for transport and find places like Mr Watts Ecological Farm at Deeping St Nicholas, the Water Taxi or the Gypsy Museum at Spalding for our outings.

The members of the Church Ladies Fellowship look forward to their fortnightly meetings. It is a good thing that they did not become the Mothers' Union or Canon Knight's prediction would have come true. We would like to welcome new members, especially young women, to bring new ideas and vitality to our

ranks.

Nancy Titman.

Mission Committee Car Boot Sale

The Mission Committee are holding their Summer Car Boot Sale to raise funds on Saturday 17 July. This will take place at the John Eve Field (opposite Tesco), Godsey Lane, Market Deeping. An ideal opportunity to clear out those cupboards!

Gates open to sellers at 8:00am and to buyers at 9:00am. For further details or to book a pitch, please contact me.

George Smart.



Music on the Church Hall Lawn

Saturday 3rd July at 7:30pm



You are invited to an evening featuring Cambridge Brass and Brian Dawson. Cambridge Brass will be performing a wide variety of music from Baroque to Joplin and come highly recommended by some of our committee. Brian Dawson is an accomplished piano accordionist and will be entertaining us with a selection of the music and folklore of Lincolnshire.

The Church Hall Lawn gates open at 7:00pm and you are invited to bring your own picnic, tables, chairs, wine and candelabras to join in what we hope will be a lovely English summer's evening.

Tickets are available on the gate but also in advance from Johanna on **345261**, Bill on **347197** and Tim on **380872**, at a cost of:

Adults: £6.00
Concessions/Children: £4.00
Family Ticket
(2 adults /2 children): £15.00

All proceeds will go to the Church Hall Funds. We are also running a raffle and, if guests want to go all out for an evening with a difference, then they are free to come in evening dress!

Johanna Jones.



The John Clare Society Festival 2010

Celebrating one of England's most famous poets
Friday 9th – Sunday 11th July at Helpston: All welcome

Friday 9th Midsummer cushion ceremony – guided walks – folk music
Saturday 10th Poetry readings – talks – children's workshops – guided walks – folk music – a visit to Great Casterton – refreshments – booksellers - exhibitions
Sunday 11th Festival service

Saturday 10th at 7:00pm in the Marquee at John Clare Primary School

John Clare and the Music of What Happens

Poet, Malcolm Guite, and jazz poetry collective, Riprap,
explore the contemporary resonances of John Clare's poetry.

Tickets: £10 and £8 (concessions)

Full details on www.johnclare.org.uk or from Revd. Ron Ingamells **01480-811608**

If you decide to attend the above festival, you might find time to visit John Clare's Cottage. It is well worth a visit for its imaginative presentation of Clare's life and poetry. I have been twice and look forward to going again. It is currently running an art exhibition. For further details, please visit the Clare's Cottage website (www.clarecottage.org).

Bet Washbrooke.



Please, keep them stamps rolling in!

Thanks to you for bringing in your unwanted postage stamps. £15 has been raised for 'Stamps for Evangelism' during the last year. That means we've raised over £68 in three years! Not bad at all.

If you know anyone who might be interested in buying world stamps, please let me know. I would simply show them what we have collected and they would give me a donation. Clearly, some of the stamps you have brought in are collectable.

Paul Boswall.

Animal Magic!

A couple of weeks ago I was privileged to come face to face with two otters, a couple of meerkats and a llama. Was I in a safari park? Of course, not. Perhaps you have guessed my location. I was visiting the Exotic Pet Refuge, having a personal guided tour with Pam Mansfield, the joint founder and owner.

As we wandered around the

extensive grounds, accompanied by eight large, bounding dogs, Pam told me that the refuge had started over 30 years ago, when she and her husband, Mel, lived in Etton. Someone came to them one day with a small injured bird and it all snowballed from there. In 1996 they moved to their present location in Station Road, Deeping St James.

Pam knows every inhabitant by name and told me that because many had been pets, they could never be returned to the wild. Some had been mistreated; others had become too large or aggressive for their owners to keep them.

I was struck by how healthy and happy the animals looked, and how imaginatively their habitats had been created. I lost track of how many creatures I saw, and was astounded when Pam told me that



Otter. (Picture courtesy of Bet Washbrooke.)



Ring-tailed lemur. (Picture courtesy of the Exotic Pet Refuge.)

she had forty-six more living in the house with her, many needing individual care.

Pam emphasised that the Refuge is not a zoo; it is a registered charity and depends solely on donations, grants and fund-raising activities to meet the £4,500 per annum running costs.

You can visit the Exotic Pet Refuge on of the six open days each year. The next three open days are: 18th July, 5th September and 3rd October. For more information, please visit their website (www.exoticpetrefuge.org.uk).

Bet Washbrooke.

Cooking with Margaret

Gooseberry Crumble



Ingredients

- 75g butter
- 75g plain flour, sieved
- 75g wholemeal flour
- 75g Demerara sugar
- 25g walnuts, chopped, optional

Filling

- 675g gooseberries
- 75g sugar
- 2 table spoons water



Margaret Flegg.

Method

Pre-heat oven to 180°C, 350°F, gas 4, middle shelf.

1. Grease a medium sized 850ml pie dish.
2. Rub the butter into flours until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Stir in sugar and walnuts if used.
3. Top and tail gooseberries.
4. Place prepared fruit in pie dish and sprinkle each layer with sugar and water.
5. Place crumble mixture over gooseberries to cover completely .
6. Bake in pre-heated oven for 40-50 minutes until fruit is cooked and crumble is golden brown.

The same quantity of apples or plums can be used if preferred

From the Archives: July 2000

From the Vicar

The dry rot attacking the north side of the main aisle at present is unsightly and, if left unchecked would eventually destroy the whole building. It is certainly not being left unchecked! There are two aspects to the way we are dealing with the rot: we are taking action to end the attack and repair the damaged parts of the building and meanwhile we are continuing to worship and serve God positively and without allowing the rot to deflect us from our mission.

I should like to use this as a metaphor for the life of the Church as an organisation. There are many senses in which the Church is under attack by various forms of "rot" which, if left unchecked, could do serious damage to it, and which meanwhile constitutes an ugly blot on an organisation which is supposed to reflect God's glory.

We need to respond to this spiritual rot in the same way as to the physical rot in our building, both by taking action to end the attack and repair the damage and also to carry on regardless in our task of worshipping and serving the God who has given us new life in Christ. No matter what negative influences you may detect inside or outside the Church, our task as Christians remains unchanged. Whether we like the building, the worship book, the music, the priest (!) or any other aspect of Christian life we are called to membership of Christ's Body, the Church, and we are called to work for the building up of his kingdom of love, peace and justice. Allowing any negative aspect of Church life to deflect you from that would be to allow the rot to spread.

Mark Warrick.

ROTAS FOR JULY

		Servers	Sidespersons	Intercessors
SUN 4TH	10:00 am	John Sellars Paul Boswall	Team C: Cled Bennett, Adrian Hallam, Tim Hitchborn	Tony Masters
SUN 11TH	8:00 am	Geoff Armstrong	George Knowles Ken Rimmer	
	10:00 am	Simon Marshall Chris Halley	Team D: Kim Hallam, Graham Hardy, Trevor Harwood	Martin Fisher
SUN 18TH	10:00 am	Simon Marshall Chris Halley	Team E: Liz Bridgeman, Bill Flegg, Margaret Flegg	Tony Masters
SUN 25TH	10:00 am	John Sellars Simon Marshall	Team F: Doris Bellairs, Christine Masters, Val Wilde	Anne Smart
	6:00 pm	Geoff Armstrong		
SUN 1ST AUG	10:00 am	TBA	Team A: Doris Bellairs, Mary Hamilton, Vivien Hamilton	Nicky Fisher

		Bread & Wine	Sunday Coffee	Church Flowers	Church Cleaning	Brasses
SUN 4 TH	10:00 am	Peter & Val Wilde	Val Wilde Doris Bellairs	Vacant	John & Linda Sellars	
SUN 11 TH	10:00 am	Joy Cunningham Carole Mills	Pat Feek Doris Warner	Vacant	Janet Lill Marion Stevens	
SUN 18 TH	10:00 am	Doris Bellairs Christine Masters	John & Sue Marsh	Vacant		Val Wilde
SUN 25 TH	10:00 am	Diane Templeton Caroline Herron	Bill & Margaret Flegg	Vacant	Dick & Anthea Wray	
SUN 1 ST AUG	10:00 am	Cled & Ann Bennett		Vacant		

READINGS AND READERS

		Old Testament		New Testament		Gospel Reading
		Reading	Reader	Reading	Reader	
SUN 4 TH	THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 9)					
	10:00 am	Isaiah 66: 10-14	Niccy Fisher	Galations 6: 1-16	Peter Wilde	Luke 10: 1-11,16-20
SUN 11 TH	THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 10)					
	8:00 am	Deuteronomy 30: 9-14		Colossians 1: 1-14		Luke 10: 25-37
	10:00 am	<i>[Baptism]</i>			Cled Bennett	
SUN 18 TH	THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 11)					
	10:00 am	Genesis 18: 1-10	Jacob Boswall	Colossians 1: 15-28	Liz Spratley	Luke 10: 38-42
SUN 25 TH	THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY JAMES THE APOSTLE (PATRONAL FESTIVAL)					
	10:00 am	Acts 11:27-12:2	John Worthington	2 Corinthians 4: 7-15	Adrian Hallam	Matthew 20: 20-28
	6:00 pm	Psalm 94		Jeremiah 26: 1-15		Mark 1: 14-20
SUN 1 ST AUG	THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 13) LAMMAS DAY					
	10:00 am	<i>[Baptism]</i>		Colossians 3: 1-11	Graham Hardy	Luke 12: 13-21



Bishop's Letter

Dear Friends

"It's not on any map: true places never are"

(from Moby Dick)

Maps are marvellous. The current exhibition of maps at the British Library in London is attracting large crowds, and Mike Parker's Map Addict is proving to be a bit of a best-seller.

Why? What is it about maps which we find so compelling? Well in part the answer lies in the stories they tell about how people past and present have seen their world. They highlight the things that mattered most to previous generations, and today they facilitate travel and communications in ever more sophisticated ways.

But they remain artificial. They try to present in two dimensions what is essentially a three-dimensional world. Fascinating though they are, they only work when we apply to them our three-dimensional experience of the world around us so as to see in our mind's eye the hills and valleys on the flat map as they really are.

Adding a further dimension to what we see, hear, feel and touch day by day is what faith in God is all about. So many people lead two-dimensional lives with little sense of that something more which transfigures reality and transcends what is otherwise ordinary and everyday.

Rudolph Otto, a famous theologian of the last century, used the word "numinous" to describe that idea of the Holy which we discern with the eye of faith. Living by faith is three-dimensional living. Why settle for a mere map when you can experience the real thing? Why settle for life in two dimensions when Jesus offers us life in all its fullness (*John 10:10*)?

+ John Lincoln