



# *From the Curate*

**The Reverend Sonia Marshall**

Dear Friends,

As I write the brief heat wave of June/July has passed and we are beginning to experience the cooler days and shorter evenings of autumn. For some, the passing of the summer will be a cause for regret but September is equally an exciting time of new beginnings and different styles of activities.

With the appointment of a parish priest we enter a new phase in the history of the Priory Church and we hope to make the announcement in the next issue of *Priory News*. Our children make a welcome return to Sunday's worship and we look forward to hearing again news of their studies and projects each week. The much-needed work on the Corpus Christi chapel is nearing completion and how much brighter it looks with the rot-infested panelling removed and a fresh coat of lime wash applied!

The weekend of 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September promises to be a busy and entertaining one. There will be an [exhibition of quilts](#) in church on Friday and Saturday, showing how this traditional craft is developing in modern times. Saturday is also the day of Lincolnshire Churches' Trust Bike and Stride event which aims to raise much-needed funds for repair of churches throughout the county. Please do support it by either cycling or walking between churches or sponsoring those taking part. On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> the Parish Council are organizing a '[heritage weekend open day](#)'. The event will begin with a short talk on the history of the Priory Church and be followed with a walk around the village, led by Councillor Judy Stevens. These are just some of several ways to make the most of the days between summer holidays and Christmas.

As we journey on in time our Sunday worship stands out as being the focus of all our activities ... an all important time, freeing us from the sameness of modern existence and giving us the opportunity to recognize that all life is lived in the perspective of the saving power of God through his Son Jesus Christ. As you live through each season may you deepen your experience of him and grow each day more like him.

With every blessing,

*Sonia Marshall.*

# Parish Directory

<b>Assistant District Dean</b>	The Reverend Peter Garland	<a href="mailto:peter@stjohnsspalding.org">peter@stjohnsspalding.org</a>
<b>Curate</b>	The Reverend Sonia Marshall	<a href="mailto:curate@dsj.org.uk">curate@dsj.org.uk</a>
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Tony Masters Adrian Hallam John Worthington Doris Bellairs	<a href="mailto:churchwarden@dsj.org.uk">churchwarden@dsj.org.uk</a>
Assistant Churchwardens		
<b>Parochial Church Council</b>		
Chairman	Martin Fisher	<a href="mailto:chairman@dsj.org.uk">chairman@dsj.org.uk</a>
Vice-Chairman	Adrian Hallam	
Hon. Secretary	Roger Bridgeman	
Hon. Treasurer	Simon Marshall	<a href="mailto:treasurer@dsj.org.uk">treasurer@dsj.org.uk</a>
Covenant Secretary	Peter Wilde	
Electoral Roll Officer	Kim Hallam	
<b>Synod Members</b>		
Diocesan Synod	Canon Niccy Fisher <i>The above plus</i>	
Deanery Synod	The Reverend Sonia Marshall Simon Marshall Cled Bennett	
<b>Choir Master</b>	John Worthington	<a href="mailto:music@dsj.org.uk">music@dsj.org.uk</a>
<b>Temporary Organist</b>	Philip Spratley	
<b>Organisations</b>		
Bellringers	Richard Muspratt	<a href="mailto:ringers@dsj.org.uk">ringers@dsj.org.uk</a>
Bible Study Group	The Reverend Sonia Marshall	
Church Hall Bookings	Bill Flegg	<a href="mailto:churchhall@dsj.org.uk">churchhall@dsj.org.uk</a>
Church Ladies' Fellowship	Anthea Wray	
Church Coffee Group	Carole Mills Margaret Flegg	
Church Flowers	Pauline Brooksbank Christine Masters	
House Group	Doris Warner	
Rose & Sweet Pea Show		<a href="mailto:roseandsweetpea@dsj.org.uk">roseandsweetpea@dsj.org.uk</a>
<b>Youth Group</b>	Richard Gamman	<a href="mailto:youth@dsj.org.uk">youth@dsj.org.uk</a>
<b>Junior Church</b>	Andrea Gamman	<a href="mailto:juniorchurch@dsj.org.uk">juniorchurch@dsj.org.uk</a>
<b>Priory News</b>		
Editor	Bet Washbrooke	<a href="mailto:priorynews@dsj.org.uk">priorynews@dsj.org.uk</a>
Advertising	John Marsh	
Printing	John Worthington	
Distribution	Doris Bellairs	
<b>General Information</b>	John Worthington	<a href="mailto:info@dsj.org.uk">info@dsj.org.uk</a>



## In This Month's Priory News ...

Dear All,

After last month's bumper issue, we have a much slimmer edition this month. That is hardly surprising, in view of the summer holidays and, hopefully, things will pick up again in October.

As Sonia says in her letter, September should prove an interesting month. Several activities are on offer and you can find details of these in this edition.

I expect that you are as eager as I am to find out who our new parish priest will be. Be sure not to miss next month's issue!

Warmest wishes,

*Bet.*

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Tony's informative account of a visit to St Olave's in London. <a href="#">Wardens' World</a> . (P6)	Don't miss the opportunity to see the <a href="#">Exhibition of Quilting</a> in the church and hall. (P8)
Make a date in your diary for the <a href="#">Heritage Open Days Walk</a> . (P8)	Free entry to the <a href="#">Exotic Pet Refuge</a> this month. Well worth a visit. (P7)
Pamper your palate with Margaret's <i>Plum and Almond Cake</i> . <a href="#">Cooking with Margaret</a> . (P9)	Please help the <a href="#">Priory Church Coffee Group</a> to continue their excellent fund-raising. (P8)
How you can help our entry for next year's <a href="#">Deepings in Bloom</a> . (P10)	<b>Cover picture:</b> The Deepings Raft Race 2010. [ © Peterborough Today, who kindly provided the photograph for our use. ]

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, pictures, comments, reminiscences and anything else you'd like to share. *NB: pictures containing recognisable children must be accompanied by authorisation to publish from their parents or guardians. We will not publish the names of children pictured unless specifically requested to do so by their parents or guardians.*

Please send copy to:  
[priorynews@dsj.org.uk](mailto:priorynews@dsj.org.uk)

*Please let us have your contributions for the **October** edition of Priory News **BEFORE** the deadline, **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September**. Thank you for your help.*

# Church Calendar September 2010

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thursday	9:30am 7:45pm	Holy Communion followed by Home Communion Church Ladies' Fellowship opening meeting and supper
<a href="#"><u>Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, 604</u></a>			
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Friday	<i>Practice Night:</i> 6:45pm 7:30pm	Choir Ringers
4 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	1:00pm	Wedding of Michael James Turner & Rachel Linda Cliffe
<b>THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 18)</b>			
5 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>SUNDAY</b>	10:00am 6:00pm	Sung Eucharist ( <i>Junior Church and Just People resume</i> ) Evening Prayer
6 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	7:30pm	PCC Meeting preceded by Holy Communion at 7:00
7 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	11:00am	Clergy Chapter at St. Mary & St. Nicholas, Spalding
8 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday		<a href="#"><u>The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary</u></a>
9 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	9:30am	Holy Communion
10:00am - 4:00pm <a href="#"><u>Exhibition of Quilting</u></a> (see page 8)			
10 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	<i>Practice Night:</i> 6:45pm 7:30pm	Choir Ringers
10:00am - 4:00pm <a href="#"><u>Exhibition of Quilting</u></a> (see page 8)			
11 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday		Lincolnshire Churches Trust: Bike Ride & Stride
<b>THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 19)</b>			
12 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:00am 10:00am 6:00pm 2:30pm	Holy Communion Sung Eucharist with Holy Baptism Evening Prayer <a href="#"><u>Heritage Open Days Walk</u></a> (see page 8)
13 <sup>th</sup>	Monday		<a href="#"><u>John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, 407</u></a>
14 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday		<a href="#"><u>Holy Cross Day</u></a>
15 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday		<a href="#"><u>Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, Martyr 258</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Ninian, Bishop of Galloway, Apostle of the Picts, c. 432</u></a>			
16 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	9:30am 7:45pm	Holy Communion followed by Home Communion Church Ladies' Fellowship
<a href="#"><u>Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, Visionary, 1179</u></a>			
17 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	2:00pm <i>Practice Night:</i> 6:45pm 7:30pm	Wedding of Stewart Hill & Jessica Louise Jellis Choir Ringers
18 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	1:30pm	Wedding of Christopher Joseph Brown & Rebecca Louise Hamilton

<b>THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 20)</b>		
<b>19<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>	10:00am Sung Eucharist 6:00pm Evening Prayer
10:00am - 5:00pm <a href="#">Exotic Pet Refuge Free Open Day</a> (see page 7)		
20 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	<a href="#">John Coleridge Patteson, first Bishop of Melanesia, and his Companions, Martyrs, 1871</a>
21 <sup>st</sup>	Tuesday	<a href="#">Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist</a> <i>International Day of Prayer for Peace</i>
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Wednesday	8:00pm Worship Committee Meeting
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Thursday	9:30am Holy Communion
24 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	<i>Practice Night:</i> 6:45pm Choir 7:30pm Ringers
25 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	<a href="#">Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester, Spiritual Writer, 1626</a>
<b>THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 21)</b>		
<b>26<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>	8:00am Holy Communion 10:00am Sung Eucharist 6:00pm Evening Prayer
27 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	<a href="#">Vincent de Paul, Founder of the Congregation of the Mission (Lazarists), 1660</a>
29 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	<a href="#">Michael and All Angels</a>
30 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	<a href="#">Jerome, Translator of the Scriptures, Teacher, 420</a> 9:30am Holy Communion
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Friday	<i>Practice Night:</i> 6:45pm Choir 7:30pm Ringers
2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Saturday	10:00am - 1:00pm <a href="#">Deepings in Bloom Plant Sale</a> (see page 10)
<b>THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 22) (HARVEST FESTIVAL)</b>		
<b>3<sup>RD</sup> OCT</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>	10:00am Sung Eucharist 6:00pm Festal Evensong for Harvest



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



## Wardens' World



The timber panelling in the Corpus Christi Chapel has now been removed and I am sure we are all pleased to see the end of the rampant dry rot it was harbouring. The adjacent walls have also been repaired and lime-washed. Further refurbishment of the chapel will follow, its extent to be decided by the PCC.

Some time ago I mentioned that I had been reading a biography of [Samuel Pepys](#) and browsing on the Internet his famous, amusing and sometimes scandalous diary. Christine and I decided to have a day in London and visit Seething Lane, close to the Tower of London, where Pepys lived, worshipped at his parish church and attended his place of work in the Navy Office.

His church, [St Olave's](#), is the parish church of [Trinity House](#), the ancient and peculiar organisation responsible for coastal safety in England and Wales and the licensing of deep-sea pilots. This connection is of particular interest to me since years ago I was involved with Trinity House after a ship collided with their lighthouse structure on the Dowsing Sands about 12 miles off Mablethorpe.

This project involved a few rather alarming helicopter journeys – a lighthouse structure looks an impossibly small landing area from the air, much smaller than an aircraft carrier, and the structure had been weakened by the collision – but I digress, back to St Olave's which was once described by John Betjeman as 'a country church in the world of Seething Lane.'

Considering its location in the City, it does have a remarkably peaceful location combined with a fine interior, sympathetically restored after the extensive damage it received at the hands of the Luftwaffe in World War Two. Much of the original masonry was used in the reconstruction but almost all the glass and woodwork is new. The small churchyard was in 1666 completely filled with the bodies of victims of The Black Death, which Pepys lived through and survived.



St Olave's: Monument to Elizabeth Pepys.  
*[Photo courtesy of Tony Masters.]*



St Olave's: One of the East windows showing St Clement, the patron saint of Trinity House.  
*[Photo courtesy of Tony Masters.]*

In the church there is a memorial to [Elizabeth Pepys](#), Samuel's wife who died in 1669, and a Victorian monument to the diarist himself. There is also a Restoration Stone, laid by King Haakon VII of Norway, next to which is a fragment of soapstone from above St Olave's tomb in Trondheim. Olav, the patron saint of Norway, is credited with saving London from the Danes in 1013. Now with all this

history and patronage, and situated amongst the wealth of the City of London, you wouldn't expect this church to be short of a bob or two and sure enough it gives the impression of being well-heeled and cared for. I don't know how many attend on a Sunday though – I shouldn't think many people actually live nearby, practically everyone near Seething Lane on a Sunday is a tourist visiting the Tower or looking for somewhere to eat.

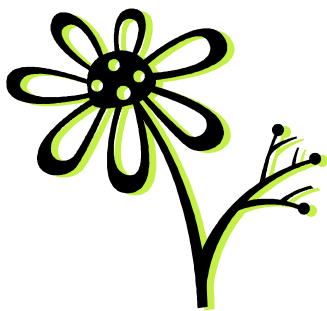
Following our visit to the church we strolled along westwards to view the Monument, marking the spot in Pudding Lane where the Great Fire of London started in 1667, and finished our day in St Paul's Cathedral. The crypt is, of course, the resting place of many of our nation's greatest, most notably, Lord Nelson, but it seems a pity that Sir Christopher Wren's own tomb is rather tucked away. Typical this of every age, you flog yourself to death for a difficult client and, for your pains, you are pushed into a dusty corner. Still, as the inscription points out, Wren's true memorial surrounds him. The crypt is also a great present day refuge and meeting place, somewhere to sit and watch the visitors munching sandwiches, looking for friends, chiding their children, puzzling over maps, or just easing tired feet, dozing and sheltering from the rain.

We had hoped to cross the Thames by the Millennium Bridge and browse round Tate Modern but time was against us - perhaps that is where we will start our next visit.

*Tony Masters.*



St Olave's: Part of the interior of the roof.  
[Photo courtesy of Tony Masters.]



## ▲ Thank You from Anne

Anne Smart is now home from hospital after her recent operation, in good spirits and feeling much stronger. Anne has asked me to thank everyone for their wonderful support through prayers, good wishes and cards, which have been a source of great comfort and strength. She is now awaiting news of further treatment. I'm sure that everyone will join me in sending Anne our love and warmest wishes.

*Bet Washbrooke.*

## Exotic Pet Refuge - Free Open Day

When Deeping St James United Charities were approached by the Exotic Pet Refuge to help with the unexpected and astronomical electricity bill incurred last year, they were keen to help. But, mindful of the restrictions on the Refuge to open to the public only on a limited number of occasions during the year, they had the novel idea of sponsoring a private open day for the residents of Deeping St James only - as it is in the remit of the charity that they must help only local residents! So,

on Sunday 19th September, take your kids, your grandkids or just the kid inside and go and talk to the animals, admire the meerkats, chatter with the monkeys - you'll be pleased you did! The Refuge will be open from 10-5. Just take a utility bill with you to prove you live in DSJ!

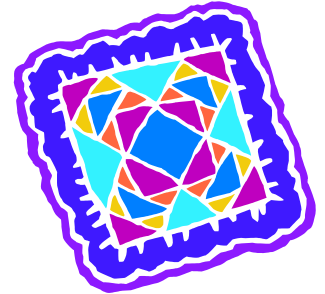
*Judy Stevens.*

## Quilting

On Friday 10th and Saturday 11th September there will be an exhibition of Quilting in the Priory Church and Church Hall. Doors open 10:00am till 4:00pm both days. Refreshments will be served in the hall.

If anybody is available to assist, please ring for more details.

*Bill Flegg.*



## Priory Church Coffee Group

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> August the Priory Church Coffee Group raised £246.00 for funds, at the afternoon tea. Thank you, everybody that supported the event, especially the kitchen staff.

On Thursday 20th September there will be a Coffee morning in the Church Hall. Tickets will be on sale early in September but just

turn up. ALL welcome.

*Margaret Flegg.*

## Heritage Open Days Walk

Every year, the Parish Council organise three walks on the Parish paths to make sure that they are kept open - the popular walks end with snacks paid for by the Council at a local hostelry. Not only are they a pleasant walk through open countryside but they are also a great way to get to know fellow parishioners. In the last two years they have also been extended with a Teddy Bears' Picnic at the Nature Reserve. Look out for them advertised in June and July.

This year, for the first time, the Parish Council are staging a Heritage Walk around the old part of the village as part of *Heritage Open Days*. The Walk will start at 2:30 at the Cross on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September and will include a tour of the Priory Church with The Curate, Sonia Marshall. The leisurely walk around the Church Walk and Church Street will include Church Hall Gardens and reach as far as High Locks and hostelries past and present will be pointed out by John Bloomfield of Deepings Heritage. The walk will finish with a showing of archive photographs of the village in the Institute. Refreshments will be available in support of *Deeping St James in Bloom 2011*.

*Judy Stevens.*



# Cooking with Margaret

## Plum and Almond Cake



### Ingredients

- 50g ground almonds
- 175g softened butter plus a little for the tin
- 175g caster sugar
- 3 eggs
- 175g self-raising flour
- grated rind and juice of one lemon
- 500g plums, mirabelles or any other
- icing sugar for dusting



*Margaret Flegg.*

### Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4.  
Butter and line the base of a 20cm cake tin with baking paper.
2. Place in a mixing bowl the almonds, butter, sugar, eggs, flour, lemon juice and rind and mix for 2-3 minutes until the mixture is light and fluffy. Alternatively, whiz the ingredients in the processor.
3. Using a sharp knife, halve the fruit and remove the stones. If using large plums cut into quarters. Spoon half the cake mixture into the prepared tin and level. Evenly scatter half the fruit and then spoon over the remaining cake mixture. Level the top and scatter with the remaining fruit.
4. Bake for 50 minutes to 1 hour or until golden brown and firm to touch. Cool in the tin for 5 minutes, then turn out and cool completely. Dust with icing sugar before serving.

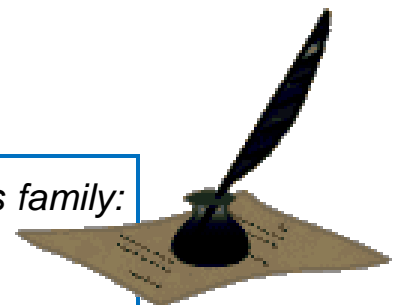
## Registers for July

**BAPTISMS:** *We welcome into the Lord's family:*

11<sup>th</sup> Ryan Marley Wilson

**WEDDINGS:** *We congratulate:*

3<sup>rd</sup> Carl Bradshaw and Sally Greatrex



## Plant Sale, Coffee Morning and More!

The result of *Deeping St James in Bloom 2010* will only be known this month. But as far as the community effort in community involvement - it has already been a great success! As with all things, entering DSJ into *East Midlands in Bloom* has been a learning curve to say the very least and the value of having extra funds available has been apparent this year. So we are kick starting the essential fund-raising with a Plant Sale and Coffee morning in the Priory Church Hall on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October between 10:00 and 1:00pm. The organisers would be very appreciative of any plants that you may have spare as you tidy up the garden, produce or preserves and all those of you who kindly knitted the 300 teddy bears that have been sent off to help children abroad - if you could carry on knitting for the next few weeks but this time for bears to help Deeping bloom! And then, of course, we would love you to come on the morning of the sale to have a chat about our plans for next year, buy a plant or two or a bear (what better to have peeking over a Christmas Stocking!) and of course to have a coffee! We look forward to seeing you!

Please email [judy.stevens1@btopenworld.com](mailto:judy.stevens1@btopenworld.com) to arrange collection.

Judy Stevens.

## Rotas for September

		Servers	Sidespersons	Intercessors
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Simon Marshall Chris Halley	<b>Team F:</b> Doris Bellairs, Christine Masters, Val Wilde	Sonia Marshall
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am	Geoff Armstrong	George Knowles Ken Rimmer	
	10:00 am	John Sellars Simon Marshall	<b>Team A:</b> Doris Bellairs, Mary Hamilton, Vivien Hamilton	Martin Fisher
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Paul Boswall Chris Halley	<b>Team B:</b> Joy Cunningham, Ann Meekings	Bet Washbrooke
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am	Geoff Armstrong	George Knowles Ken Rimmer	
	10:00 am	John Sellars Simon Marshall	<b>Team C:</b> Cled.Bennett, Adrian Hallam, Tim Hitchborn	John Marsh
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	10:00 am	Paul Boswall Chris Halley	<b>Team D:</b> Kim Hallam, Graham Hardy, Trevor Harwood	Niccy Fisher
	6:00 pm	John Sellars		

		<b>Bread &amp; Wine</b>	<b>Sunday Coffee</b>	<b>Church Flowers</b>	<b>Church Cleaning</b>	<b>Brasses</b>
<b>Sun 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	Martin & Niccy Fisher	Ann Bennett Penny Hebblewhite	Vacant	Bill & Margaret Flegg	Bill & Margaret Flegg
<b>Sun 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	Pat Feek Doris Warner	Val Wilde Doris Bellairs	Eileen Day		
<b>Sun 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	Bill & Margaret Flegg	Johanna Jones	Christine Masters	Liz Spratley Sandra Jones	
<b>Sun 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	Peter & Val Wilde	John & Sue Marsh	Mary Hamilton		Sonia Marshall Nancy Titman
<b>Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	Cled & Ann Bennett	Cled & Ann Bennett	HARVEST	John & Linda Sellars	

## Readings and Readers for September

		<b>Old Testament</b>		<b>New Testament</b>		<b>Gospel Reading</b>
		<b>Reading</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Reader</b>	
<b>SUN 5<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 18)</b>					
	<b>10:00 am</b>	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	<b>Martin Fisher</b>	Philemon 1-21	<b>Bill Flegg</b>	Luke 14:25-33
<b>SUN 12<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 19)</b>					
	<b>8:00 am</b>	Exodus 32:7-14		1 Timothy 1:12-17		Luke 15:1-10
<b>10:00 am</b>	<i>[Baptism]</i>		<b>Roger Bridgeman</b>			
<b>SUN 19<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 20)</b>					
	<b>10:00 am</b>	Amos 8:4-7	<b>Liz Bridgeman</b>	1 Timothy 2:1-7	<b>Niccy Fisher</b>	Luke 16:1-13
<b>SUN 26<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 21)</b>					
	<b>8:00 am</b>	Amos 6:1,4-7		1 Timothy 6:6-19		Luke 16:19-31
<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Peter Wilde</b>		<b>Cled Bennett</b>			
<b>SUN 3<sup>RD</sup> OCT</b>	<b>THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (PROPER 22) (HARVEST FESTIVAL)</b>					
	<b>10:00 am</b>	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	<b>Adrian Hallam</b>	Phillipians 4:4-9	<b>John Worthington</b>	John 6:25-35
	<b>6:00 pm</b>	Psalm 65		Deuteronomy 8:7-18		2 Corinthians 9:6-15



# Bishop's Letter

Dear Friends

## **Giving for a Change**

Until recently, it had never occurred to me that for some people giving is just another form of purchasing. For example, some people are only persuaded to give to charity because they see long-term benefits for themselves in return. Perhaps this is what lies behind the claim that "Charity begins at home".

Then there are folk in our congregations for whom giving to the Church is simply a way of purchasing ministry for themselves rather than seeing it as a way of providing ministry where it is needed more, and funding is less easy to find. Sadly, people do sometimes write to tell me that they will stop giving to the Church because they no longer have a full-time Priest in their Parish. Clearly for them giving to God is simply a way of purchasing something for themselves.

But surely giving generously to God is our right and proper response to God's generosity to us. It is not subject to strict cost-benefit analysis. And the same goes for our giving to good causes. We give because we can - and because we can make a difference.

So I ask you to support as generously as you can my Harvest Appeal this year. Proceeds will go to support our on-going commitment to our friends caring for people affected by leprosy in our Link Diocese of Tirunelveli in South India. We will also channel proceeds through Christian Aid to help some of the poorest people in the world affected by drought in Burkino Faso.

These are practical projects designed to provide long-term solutions and not just short-term relief. Perhaps collections at Harvest Services this year could be channelled into this Appeal - and of course, personal donations will also be very welcome.

Please make cheques payable to "LDTBF - Harvest Appeal" and send to: Accounts Department, The Old Palace, LINCOLN, LN2 1PU

Thank you!

With every Blessing and all good wishes,

+ John Lincoln