

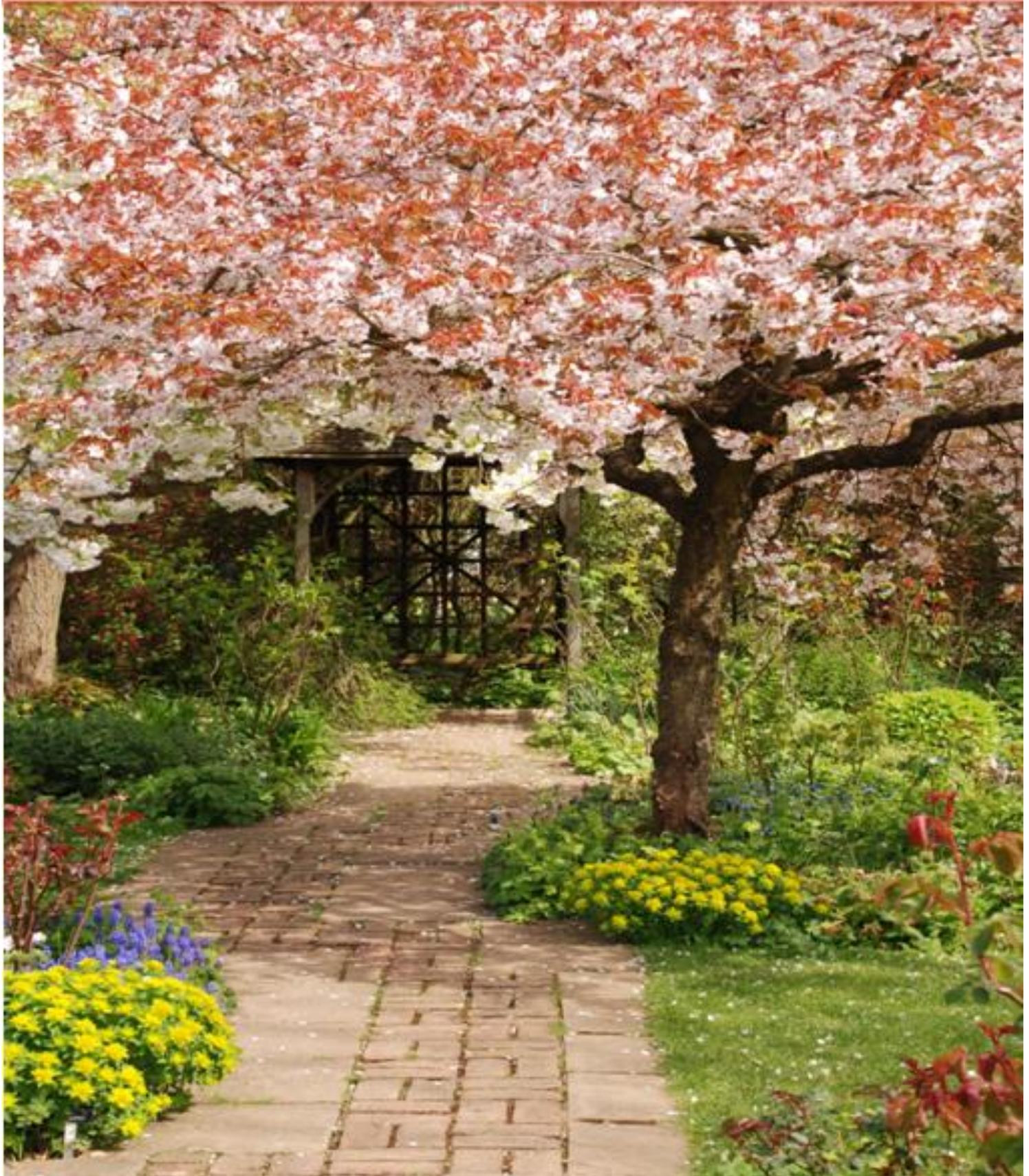
priory news

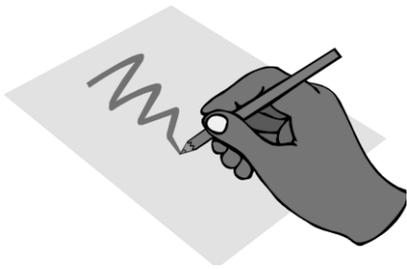
Deeping St James Parish Church Magazine

50p

www.dsj.org.uk

April 2021





From the Vicar

As I was contemplating this piece, the opening words of a song by Thomas Morley came into my mind – ‘April is in my mistress’ face’. Ahh! I thought. How romantic. I wonder if I can make something of this in my vicar’s bit. So, I looked up the words *.

April is in my mistress’ face,
And July in her eyes hath place.
Within her bosom is September,
But in her heart, a cold December.



Well, that escalated quickly!

It all started so well. April, with its hints of sun shining, full of life and promise, newly blossoming beauty; July in the full dazzling brightness of a summer sun, warmth and joyfulness. And September... what’s happening here? A sense that something is fading, going, but perhaps lingering – a last little burst of an ‘Indian Summer’... And then... December. The icy heart, a frozen personality. All our words are negative – icy, frigid... There is an image of something wonderful on the surface, but, scratch that surface, as one gets deeper, there is another story.

It reminded me a bit of the CS Lewis story of Narnia, as told in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. You may recall that the land of Narnia is ruled by the White Witch, and she has turned the whole land into a frozen winter-land. And, significantly, it is described as a land that is always winter, but never Christmas. Any warmth or life has been leached from the world, and there is no hope in the darkness (please excuse the mixed metaphors). Into this land come the 4 children, Peter, Edmund, Susan & Lucy, who are the harbingers of the arrival of Aslan – the one who came to die in the place of the one condemned, but who subsequently bursts through the chains of death, and brings life to those who have been turned to stone, and freedom for his people. Sounds familiar somehow!

As we work our way through this Holy Week, we walk the journey with Jesus, and experience the total desolation of Good Friday – betrayal, torture, abandonment, and death. We spend a day in the coldness and emptiness of the grave. And this is important, because this is the lived experience of millions round the world... thousands in this country... perhaps our loved ones, our family or our friends.

But that is not the end. The cold and darkness of death cannot hold him. The grave bursts open, and... He is not there. The table cracks, and Susan and Lucy cannot at first see the lion Aslan. Until, suddenly, he is there, and joy and wonder fill their souls.

When Aslan subsequently storms the White Witch's stronghold, he breathes life back into the creatures turned to stone. Gradually, like fire burning paper, the colours of living flesh replace the dead grey of stone. December turns back, through September, right back to April – the hope and promise of New Life, life in all its fulness.

And so, I wish you all a Happy Easter. Not just a happy Easter Day, but a burning sense of the love and power of the resurrected Jesus in your lives every day.

* If you are interested in a performance, you can find one at

www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4vE2IZWZVU

Rev Mark

• *Church Opening (update)*

We are delighted that we are now able to run public services with some confidence. And just as I was about to write this note, we learned that we were able to return to a small (risk-assessed!) choir within those services. We are also able to have congregational singing outdoors – which we did earlier today (Palm Sunday), and hope to repeat on Easter Day, weather permitting! From now on, most services will be 'hybrid' – both in person in church, and online, for those unable to make it in person. We will be livestreaming a service at 10.00am on Sundays, and at 6.00pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

• *Holy Week & Easter Services*

Please note that we shall be observing government advice regarding the use of face-masks, hand sanitisation and social distancing at each of these services.

Sunday 28th March, Palm Sunday

10.00 am Holy Communion

Monday 29th March - Wednesday 31st March

7.30 pm Evening Prayer & Meditation

Thursday 1st April, Maundy Thursday

7.30 pm Holy Communion,
Stripping of the Altars, followed by Vigil

Friday 2nd April, Good Friday

2.00 pm Last Hour Meditation

Saturday 3rd April, Holy Saturday

4.00 pm Meditation

Sunday 4th April, Easter Day

10.00 am Holy Communion

6.00 pm Evening Prayer

- *Lent Course*

The last Zoom meeting in our series for Lent will be on Maundy Thursday. We will meet between 2.30 and 3.30ish pm.

The Zoom details are:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8109399155?pwd=STVVTU44RzJxTFFHbTY1MnI0bjJ2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 810 939 9155

Passcode: 1w2C9a

Registers for March

Funerals: We commend to God's keeping:

11th March John Richardson

24th March Bronwen Parr

Burial of Ashes:

24th March Gwen Parsonage

Parish Directory

Vicar	The Revd Mark Williams	vicar@dsj.org.uk
Curate	The Revd Sonia Marshall	curate@dsj.org.uk
Churchwardens	Caroline Herron Nick Drewett	churchwarden@dsj.org.uk nick.drewett@outlook.com
Assistant Churchwarden	John Worthington	priorynews@dsj.org.uk
Parochial Church Council		
Chairman	The Revd Mark Williams	vicar@dsj.org.uk
Vice-Chairman	Canon Niccy Fisher	
Hon. Secretary	Martin Jones	
Hon. Treasurer	Simon Marshall	treasurer@dsj.org.uk
Covenant Secretary	Vivien Hamilton	
Electoral Roll Officer	Barry Fisher	
Safeguarding Officer	Ted Fisk	safeguarding@dsj.org.uk
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Diocesan Synod	The Revd Mark Williams Canon Niccy Fisher The Revd Sonia Marshall Canon Niccy Fisher Simon Marshall	curate@dsj.org.uk
Organist & Director of Music	Chris Brown	music@dsj.org.uk
Organisations		
Bellringers	Hilary Gentle	
Church Hall Bookings	Nick Drewett & Jan Fisk	churchhall@dsj.org.uk
Church Ladies' Fellowship	Juliet Mills	
Church Flowers	Pauline Brooksbank Christine Masters	
House Group	Doris Warner	
Rose & Sweet Pea Show	Nick & Kate Drewett	priorynews@dsj.org.uk
Junior Church	Vicki Billyard	
Friday Knights	Ted Fisk	safeguarding@dsj.org.uk
Holy Chaos	Kate Drewett	nick.drewett@outlook.com
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In this Month's Priory News ...

Dear Readers,

Hopefully this month's Priory News will be last of our online-only issues as we are now back to being able to open the church for services albeit still under certain Covid-19 restrictions. It is so good to be back in church for Communion on Sunday morning, isn't it? Nevertheless I suspect it will be a while before we can give up the (now usual) practice of waving to one another at the Peace! Actually it is quite easy to recognise faces not seen for some time, in spite of face mask disguises! (It's a little more difficult to see whether people are smiling or scowling though!) We'll be back to coffee and biscuits soon I hope.

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As I write we are in Holy Week and this year we will be able to meet, almost normally, in church for services through to Easter Day and beyond. You will find full details following Revd Mark's letter above and also on the 'Services' tab of the website. Speaking of which, did you know that Revd Mark has now written no fewer than 120 email letters during the past twelve months! Do check them out via the Home page of the website.

John

Our recipe this month is another taken from the many which Margaret has contributed over the years - a mouthwatering Apricot and Orange Cake.

Over many years, before moving to the south, John Marsh submitted many wonderful photographs one of which, taken in 2014, we have chosen for our 'virtual front cover'. Thank you, John. (I have a sneaky feeling John and Sue still read Priory News online!)

Thanks to those who have sent in articles for Priory News. Please keep them coming. ***Please note: 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.***

John Worthington, Cranmore Farmhouse, DSJ - Tel: 343860 priorynews@dsj.org.uk
 Please let us have your contributions for the May issue of Priory News **BEFORE the deadline of Friday 23rd April.** Thank you.

• *A New Way to Give*

I'm sure that by now you will all be familiar with those strange-looking patterns which frequently appear in magazines and elsewhere looking similar to the one on the right. These are QR codes. Wikipedia tells us, "A **QR code** (abbreviated from *Quick Response code*) is a type of matrix barcode (or two-dimensional barcode) first designed in 1994 for the automotive industry in Japan." So now you know! Try pointing your smartphone camera at the code on the right and then follow the instructions on your 'phone. Surprised? It's really easy.



Why this is so relevant to us is that we have now set up a new very easy way of donating to church funds electronically. You will notice that a similar QR code appears on your service sheet. It looks exactly like the one on the left. If you point your smartphone at *this* one you will be taken straight to a page on the website, "Give a Little", which has been set up to make it easy to give either a set amount or a sum of your own choosing. You can also Gift Aid your donation if you are a tax payer. The money goes straight into the church account. If you don't have a smartphone you can still access the "Give a Little" website page by clicking the relevant link on the Home page of our website.

Our church, like all other churches, has suffered considerable financial loss during the past twelve months of the Covid pandemic largely owing to there having been no weekly offertory plate or fund-raising activities whilst the church has been closed. In view of this, if you feel that you would like to make a donation towards church funds we should be pleased if you could use this very easy method. Please make sure to scan the second code above (the one on the left) as the one on the right will take you to the wrong place! Thank you.



John

Cooking with Margaret

Apricot & Orange Cake



Ingredients

115ml Cointreau
115ml Freshly squeezed orange juice
225g Ready to eat dried Apricots, finely chopped
115g Sultanas
175g Butter, softened
3 tablespoons Honey
4 Eggs, separated
175g Self raising flour
2 teaspoons baking powder

Method

Sieve together the flour and baking powder
Place the Orange liqueur, orange juice, apricots and sultanas in a saucepan and bring to boil
Remove from the heat and leave to cool
Cream together the butter and honey until well blended
Beat in the egg yolks
Fold in the flour and baking powder mix and then gradually mix in the fruit
In a clean, grease-free bowl whisk the egg whites until stiff; fold into the cake mixture
Spoon the mixture into a greased and lined 20cm round cake tin; smooth the top
Bake in oven at Gas 4/180°C for 1-1¼ hours until it is pale golden in colour and springy to the touch
Leave to cool completely in the tin.

• Poetry Corner

THE RISEN SON

Now is the time of quietness and healing.
Almost imperceptibly, like summer's lengthening days,
Peace of mind returns.
Hope, shrouded so recently in darkness,
Rekindles like a flickering flame.
The heart that was burdened with weariness and sorrow,
Beats to a lighter tempo
As the Risen Son brings healing in the dawn.

(We are again grateful to Bet Washbrooke who this month has sent in one of her own poems)

• *Eco Church News*

As we come out of lockdown thoughts are turning to what the future will hold. The Climate Emergency has woken us up to the fact that change needs to happen quicker than we had first thought, and the Church should be one of the forces for change. The Church of England have committed to reaching Net Zero in carbon emissions by 2030. At the Priory Church we have already achieved an Eco Church Bronze award and are now turning our thoughts towards the next steps we as a church need to take to move to a silver award.

At a recent PCC meeting it was agreed to introduce more wildlife friendly habitats into part of our churchyard. We are planning to leave the area behind the church to grow wild apart from a strip nearest the church for access purposes. Meadowing the area in front of the side of the hall on the left - hand side of the path from the car park to the church was identified as a place to start. However, when we did a survey, we learnt that the soil is too rich for Meadowing with wildflowers due to constant grass mowing with the clippings not collected. It would be very labour intensive.

It was suggested that another option would be to plant pollinator friendly perennial plants to attract bees and other wildlife and a couple of shrubs that would create a wildlife corridor between the oak tree in the car park and the trees along the northern perimeter of the churchyard. This has already been started by the planting of snowdrops along the fence which we will keep and extend. It is planned to dig out three planting beds with the shrubs in between.

This project is still in the planning stage and so comments, suggestions and offers of help would be welcomed. It would also be good to begin conversations with the community about why this is important to us.

The diocese is hosting a series of online seminars “Building back Better” about issues to do with Climate Change and reducing our carbon footprint, and how churches need to be taking a lead. <https://www.faithenvlincs.org/> is the website link where there are a number of resources to help us think how we can all contribute to our care of God’s creation for the benefit of all. I urge you to take a look.

Kate Drewett

(Rev Sonia tells me that this is the final article in the series, "Monuments in the Priory Church". We should like to thank Sonia for all her very informative articles over the past months and I think there is likely to be a booklet some time in the future which will include all of them. We look forward to this.)

• *Monuments in the Priory Church*

Revd Samuel Warren Skene.

Revd Samuel Skene was the eldest son of Revd Samuel Skene sometime vicar of Langham. He was one of seven brothers, all of whom were ordained.

He studied at Trinity College, Dublin, gaining his B.A. in 1893 and his M.A. in 1898. Ordained deacon in 1892 and priest in 1893 in Wakefield diocese (founded in 1888 from Ripon and dissolved in 2014 on becoming part of Leeds), he served his first curacy at Hanging Heaton, and his second at St Thomas, York. He then moved to Deeping St James in 1896 to assist the now elderly Revd John George. He became vicar in 1898 following the death of Revd George.

Revd Skene ministered to a population then around 1500, most of whom were farmers, labourers or employed by the railway. He began the Parish magazine and took services out to the workers living near the railway station. He oversaw the Parish Sunday School of nearly 100 children and six teachers and the men's club with some 59 members. He took an interest in the history of the parish and saw through the alterations to the chancel (the raising of its level and the introduction of a new altar and reredos). He supervised the parish's donations to missionary work and their part in war work.

In April 1918 Revd Skene resigned his temporary commission with the Lincolnshire Volunteers. Later that year he left Deeping St James having accepted the living of St Michel and All Angels, Dalton, near Southport, and was succeeded by Revd Pain.



Revd Sonia

Flower Rota - April

4th	Easter Flowers
11th	Easter Flowers
18th	<i>Vacant</i>
25th	Joan Dyke
May 2nd	Ann Bennett

Intercessions Rota - April

4th	Jo Astle
11th	Tony Masters
18th	Bet Washbrooke
25th	Niccy Fisher
May 1st	Nick Drewett

Readers Rota - April

4th	Geoff Armstrong
11th	Matt Billyard
18th	Tony Masters
25th	Victoria Worthington
May 2nd	Kate Drewett

Sidespersons Rota - April (Holy Week)

Monday (7.30 pm)	Nick & Kate Drewett
Tuesday (7.30 pm)	Jan Fisk, Val Wilde
Wednesday (7.30 pm)	Nick & Kate Drewett
Maundy Thurs (7.30 pm)	Nick & Kate Drewett, Jan Fisk, James Forester
Good Friday (2.00 pm)	Juliet Mills, Margaret Merchant
Holy Saturday (4.00 pm)	Nick & Kate Drewett

Sidespersons (Easter onwards)

4th (10.00 am)	Nick & Kate Drewett, Trevor Harwood, Jan Fisk
4th (6.00 pm)	Juliet Mills, Val Wilde
11th	Trevor Harwood, Jan Fisk, Val Wilde
18th	Nick Drewett, Margaret Merchant, Juliet Mills
25th	Trevor Harwood, Ann Meekings
May 2nd	Margaret Merchant, Helen Williams, Val Wilde

- *And finally . . .*

Just a couple of amusing pictures to help to cheer you up:

Very disappointed that the daffodils I planted last year turned out to be Marigolds :(



*(our thanks to Jo Astle for these - where **do** you find them, Jo?)*