

# *priority news*

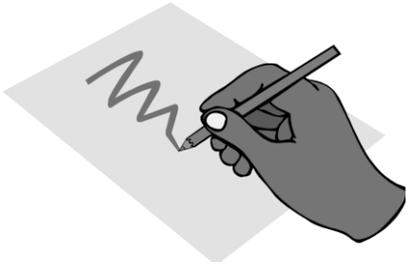
Deeping St James Parish Church Magazine

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January 2021





# *From the Vicar*

## **Happy New Year!**

Last month I started the letter in the same way – referring to the church’s New Year which starts at Advent.

We are now at the ‘normal’ New Year, and it’s already been a bit of a shock. We were all happily ready to wave goodbye to 2020, and look forward with hope, vaccines and all of that... but 2021 seems to have started where 2020 left off, with another lockdown, and the decision to go back to online services. We could be forgiven for feeling rather negative.



A recent meme (which is a pithy message, usually attached to a picture, on social media), however, encouraged us to look again. Social media has a reputation for being very destructive at times, but it can also be a force for good. Unfortunately, I can’t find this specific meme now, but these are some things identified by various sites.

- Perhaps most significant, we managed to develop safe vaccines in less than one year.
- We have learned how significant and important previously undervalued workers are.
- We have been awed by the dedication and self-sacrifice of so many, ranging from NHS workers to elderly fund raisers. They have been truly inspirational.
- Air quality has improved in many cities, due to a record drop in carbon emissions.
- People have thought deeply, and reassessed their priorities, including a work-life balance.
- Africa has been declared polio-free (4 years of no cases).
- Serious work is now starting to happen about deeply ingrained institutional racism.
- Crayola introduced new racially diverse skin-tone crayons for children.
- Scotland became the first country in the world to provide free access to period products.

- Work patterns were re-evaluated, and we realised that, for many, it was possible to work from home.
- We could hear more bird-song.
- People have developed new ways and habits of keeping in touch with one another.
- Beavers have built their first dam in England for 400 years.
- The first new coral reef has found in 120 years.
- The UK has had a record coal-free run of 67 days – the longest run since the Industrial Revolution.
- An enzyme has been discovered that eats through plastics.
- And there's a baby boom – for elephants!

(Sources: Wired, Huffington Post and Glamour).

Some of these may appear trivial. Some wouldn't have happened if not for the virus, and we might argue that we'd rather not have the virus! Perhaps you might see some as wishful thinking, or clutching at straws. But it is always important to have a sense of perspective, a sense of the wider picture. It is far too easy to be focussed on the negative, on what the media want to shock us with, or on the preoccupations of a limited world-view.

As Christians, we need to learn to see the ultimate 'big picture' – that the earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it (Psalm 24). This is both a great hope, and places on us a great responsibility. The Psalm continues... *The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully. They will receive blessing from the LORD, and vindication from the God of their salvation. Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.*

We are exhorted to *Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in. Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.*

We do not know what 2021 will bring, but we can be sure that we will face it with the Lord of Hosts, the King of Glory on our side. And He will never leave us or forsake us.

*Revd Mark*

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Church Flowers	Pauline Brooksbank Christine Masters	
House Group	Doris Warner	
Rose & Sweet Pea Show	Nick & Kate Drewett	<a href="mailto:priorynews@dsj.org.uk">priorynews@dsj.org.uk</a>
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Dear Readers

As we begin the third lockdown of the Covid-19 pandemic once again we are back to an online-only magazine this month. As I write there is again considerable confusion with regards to what can and what cannot take place but Rev Mark gives elsewhere the proposed pattern of public worship for the time being. Sunday services will continue whenever possible to be streamed on our Facebook page and I know many of you have found this, together with Mark's letters on the website, to be of great encouragement during these difficult times.

Undoubtedly the best place to keep up to date with any church announcements is on our Facebook page which can be accessed from [here](#) or from the website Homepage.

So, understandably we have limited content in the magazine this month but it does give us the opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year and do avail yourselves of the Covid Vaccine which we all hope will be with us very soon in the Deepings.

*John*

Sausage Cassoulet is Margaret's recipe for us this month. Don't you just love a dish like this when winter is upon us?	At the open air carol singing after the carol service in December, Jo Astle took the picture which appears on this month's 'virtual' front cover. Thank you Jo.
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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](mailto:priorynews@dsj.org.uk)**  
 Please let us have your contributions for the January issue of Priory News **BEFORE the deadline of Friday 22nd January.** Thank you.

- *Services and Church Opening*

*Services update:*

Currently services will be online only until further notice. We will be livestreaming a service at 10.00am on Sundays, and at 6.00pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month.

## Registers for December

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

1<sup>st</sup> December      Margaret Mann

## *Reports, News & Dates For Your Diary*

- *Christmas Flowers*

Pauline and I would like to thank the ladies who helped us decorate the church this Christmas time. It is very much appreciated as it is a busy time of year. The church is looking really lovely, and hopefully, it brought some Christmas brightness after what we have been through this year. I am thankful we have a great team of talented flower arrangers.

Thank you once again.

*Christine*

- *Milk Bottle Tops*

Thank you to everyone who has collected plastic milk bottle tops for me during 2020.

I have delivered large bags of them to the drop-off point in Bourne from where they are collected to raise funds for the Notts & Lincs Air Ambulance. Please continue to save them for me and drop your bags over my wall, near the smaller gate, at 3 Church Street, DSJ. It's next door to Black Cab Studio. Thanks.

*Jill Gibb.*

## ● *Monuments in the Priory Church*

### *The Rev'd John George (1817-1898)*

The Rev'd George was the Priory's longest serving vicar to date with an incumbency of 57 years, covering the greater part of the reign of Queen Victoria.

The son of John and Elizabeth George and baptised in a June 1817, he attended Uppingham School and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, gaining his BA in 1840 and MA in 1843. He was ordained deacon in Lincoln in September, 1840 and in October became curate at Deeping St James. It had been a time of transition for the Priory Church, a previous vicar, Rev'd Tryon, leaving to found a Baptist Chapel in Deeping St James. When Rev'd Tryon's successor, Rev'd John Wilson, left to become vicar of Quadring and chaplain to the House of Correction at Folkingham, John George became vicar of the Priory on 6th June 1841 at the age of 25. He was fortunate in moving into the new ( and present!) vicarage house, the building of which Rev'd Wilson had overseen in 1839, in place of the previous 'mud and stud' construction.

Rev'd George was, as clergy returns reveal, a conscientious vicar, fulfilling all his duties and beyond. Concerned for the education of poor children in the parish, together with the patron of the living, Sir Thomas Whichcote, he planned a new infants school. It was opened in 1849, a room originally 41x 21 feet with a slate roof and bell turret (which still can be seen today). A house next door was also built for the schoolmistress. Pupils paid just 1d a week, though this was not enough to cover the running expenses which were made up by the vicar. The schoolroom was extended in 1873 to cater for girls as well as infants. In 1876 a Schools Board was inaugurated with Rev'd George as its chairman. Under a reorganisation of schools in the village the Vicar's schoolroom was closed, the room then serving (as now) as a venue for the Sunday School and a hall for the Church and Village.

In 1867 Revd George also oversaw the enlargement of the parish organ. His incumbency also witnessed the formation of a parish choir and the removal of the gallery at the west end of church, a growing trend throughout the Church of England.

In 1891 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination a stained glass window was erected by his parishioners. The window depicts preaching (St Paul at Athens), celebration of holy communion (St Paul presiding with Eutychus sleeping on a windowsill) and baptism (Christ's charge to his disciples).

Revd George never married; a housekeeper, a maid and a manservant/gardener took care of his domestic needs. In his final years a curate, the Revd Samuel Skene, was appointed to assist the by now frail vicar. He died on 31st March 1898 having served 57 years in the parish.



*Sonia*

# Cooking with Margaret

## Sausage Cassoulet



### Ingredients

450g Lincolnshire sausages  
1 Onion, peeled and sliced  
6 Rashers of Smoked streaky  
bacon, chopped  
400g Can Chopped tomatoes  
425g Baked beans  
1 Pork or Ham stock cube,  
crumbled  
Salt and pepper to taste.

### Topping

50g fresh white breadcrumbs  
25g Butter, melted  
1 Garlic clove, peeled and crushed  
1 tbsp chopped parsley.

### Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4. Melt the butter in a frying pan, add the sausages and cook over a medium heat until they have browned. Remove from pan and place in a casserole dish.

Add the onion and bacon to the pan and cook for 5 – 7 minutes, until the onion starts to soften. Stir in the tomatoes, baked beans and stock cube. Season to taste taking care not to add too much salt if the bacon is salty. Pour the mixture into a casserole dish.

To make the topping, tip the breadcrumbs into a bowl and stir in the butter, garlic and parsley. Sprinkle the topping over the sausages and then bake in the centre of the oven for 50 minute-1 hour until the topping is golden in colour. Serve the cassoulet with a fresh green salad with a mustard dressing.

### • *Twelfth Night*

Usually a major feast in the Church is kept for eight days (the octave), but for Christmas our celebrations continue for twelve days up to the feast of the Epiphany (6th January), the showing of Christ to the world, as represented by the Magi coming to worship him. There is a certain confusion as to whether Twelfth night is the 5th or 6th January as some communities take 26th December as 'the first day of Christmas' rather than the 25th, Christmas Day itself. Whenever you keep it, it is the day for taking down Christmas decorations, as in the poem by Robert Herrick:

Down with the rosemary, and so  
Down with the bays and mistletoe;  
Down with the holly, ivy, all  
wherewith ye decked the Christmas hall.

The exception (in church at any rate) is the Christmas Crib which we keep until 2nd February, Candlemas Day, the feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

In our Advent group we discussed whether Christians 'took over' secular celebrations and adapted them or whether they were of long standing and in some cases predated secular interpretations. The song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas", for example has Christian interpretations which I list below.

A partridge in a pear tree	stands for Christ crucified (the partridge feigns injury to deflect attention from her nestlings);
Two turtle doves	The live of God shown in the Old and New Testaments;
Three French Hens	the virtues of faith, hope and love;
Four calling birds	the Four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John;
Five Gold Rings	the five books of the Pentateuch;
Six Geese a laying	the six days of Creation;
Seven Swans a swimming	the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit;
Eight Maids a milking	the Eight Beatitudes;
Nine Ladies dancing	the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit;
Ten Lords a leaping	the Ten Commandments;
Eleven Pipers piping	the Eleven faithful disciples;
Twelve Drummers drumming	the twelve articles of the Apostles Creed.

The feast of the Epiphany in past generations had its own celebrations including a special cake (sometimes decorated with gold leaf). At the Chapel Royal at St James' Palace the Bishop of London still presents gold, frankincense and myrrh on behalf of the Queen. On the Sunday after the Epiphany the village plough was blessed prior the return to work, a custom we still like to keep at Deeping St James though of course our post service communal meal is not possible this year owing to anti virus precautions.

Nevertheless, a happy and blessed New Year to you all!



*Sonia*

## Sidespersons' Rota - January

3rd	10.00 am	Trevor Harwood, Ann Meekings, Juliet Mills
	6.00 pm	Nick Drewett, Kate Drewett
10th	10.00 am	Margaret Merchant, Helen Williams, Val Wilde
17th	10.00 am	Juliet Mills, Nick Drewett
	6.00 pm	Juliet Mills
24th	10.00 am	Nick Drewett, Jan Fisk, Ann Meekings
31st	10.00 am	Trevor Harwood, Ann Meekings, Juliet Mills
Feb 7th	10.00 am	Juliet Mills, Nick Drewett
	6.00 pm	Kate Drewett

## Readers' Rota - January

3rd	Caroline Herron
10th	Niccy Fisher
17th	Lisa Goodchild
24th	Geoff Armstrong
31st	Matt Billyard

## Flower Rota - January

3rd	Christmas Flowers
10th	Christmas Flowers
17th	Eileen Day
24th	Christine Masters
31st	Margaret Flegg
Feb 7th	Joan Dyke

## Intercessions Rota - January

3rd	Bet Washbrooke
10th	Tony Masters
17th	Niccy Fisher
24th	Nick Drewett
31st	Ted Fisk
Feb 7th	Jo Astle