



## *From the Curate*

The Reverend Sonia Marshall

Dear Friends,

For some months now the most frequently asked question I and the churchwardens have had to respond to has been ‘is there any news yet?’, the ‘news’ being of someone to minister in this parish following the departure of Mark Warrick in January.

The way forward is a complex process. Following the inclusion of Deeping St James, Market Deeping and the Ness Group of parishes in the Elloe Deaneries, a new Mission Area Plan had to be embarked upon for the 37 parishes of the deanery. The Joint Standing Committee of the Deaneries then appointed a working party to produce a report on the principles of allocating posts and making recommendations on existing and forthcoming vacancies.

On 16<sup>th</sup> June there was a joint meeting of the East and West Elloe Deanery Synods at which the working party presented their interim report and its recommendations were voted upon. The recommendation regarding this parish which was passed was as follows:

‘Subject to agreement with the Diocesan Board of Finance on the financial implications, a priest should be appointed on a five-year term with a specific brief:

- To minister to the parish of Deeping St James
- To build up authorised lay ministry across the south of the deaneries
- To build up links with other Anglican churches (Market Deeping, Deeping St Nicholas and the Ness Group) and ecumenical partners, and
- To develop work with children and young families (bearing in mind the findings on hr age profile of residents in the parish’s recent self-evaluation).’

Two things must be emphasized. Firstly, the report is an interim one and could be subject to further refinement. Secondly, the recommendation regarding Deeping St James is subject to agreement with the Diocesan Board of Finance on the financial implications.

From this you will see that while things can be said have moved on a little there is still some way to go. Please continue to be patient and to hold our parish in your prayers that God’s will may be done and his kingdom continue to grow in this place

*Sonia Marshall*

# Church Hall update

As everybody will know by now the United Charities has pledged £50,000 to upgrade the toilet area of the hall and for other works to maintain the premises.

Planning permission has already been granted for the extensions and alterations to the hall. However, now that money has been made available to modernise the toilets detailed plans have been drawn up of this area and submitted to South Kesteven Council for building regulations approval.

The plans show four unisex toilets accessed through a door to the left of the door into the hall. The works include a new insulated roof with a sky light. The door at the rear of the hall that currently provides access to the ladies toilets will be sealed off. This will mean that the toilets can be directly accessed from the main door without interrupting hall users.

Quotes have been sought from three local building firms that it is considered have sufficient manpower and expertise to complete the work to a tight schedule as the hall will be closed for as short a time as possible.

It is currently envisaged that building work will commence on or around 15th July 2009 and last about 6 weeks. However, the hall will be closed until 1st October to allow for slippage in the contract, additional works and for cleaning.

It also means that there will be no toilet facilities available to church users for the duration of the closure of the hall.

So apologies for any inconvenience caused to parishioners and hall users – but the results will be worth it!

Any further work to the hall will have to be undertaken in bite sized chunks as and when funds become available. Currently there are thoughts of modernising the kitchen and, in particular, buying a cooker and a commercial dishwasher capable for handling, respectively, batch cooking and the washing of plates in short time. It is understood that some groups have started raising funds for this. Updates will be provided on this as fundraising progresses.

Finally, our thanks to all those who have fundraised towards the works undertaken to the hall so far and those who have given time for practical work such as painting or contributed in some other way.

*Susan Marsh for the Church Hall Renovation Committee*

## News of the Fundling Campaign

Now that most of the changes to our Planned Giving have been received, we are able to report the result of the campaign held earlier in the year – and I'm afraid it's somewhat mixed news.

In 2008, a total of nearly £23,000 was pledged in Planned Giving. Of this sum, over £4,000 was received from members of the congregation who have since died or left the parish. Effectively, therefore, we began 2009, with a total of about £19,000.

The Planned Giving campaign has increased this figure by about £5,000 to a new total of just under £24,000. £2,000 of this has come from new members of the scheme and the remaining £3,000 from those who reviewed and increased their giving - the average increase from this group was nearly 30%! However, roughly one third of the income remained unchanged.

We are very grateful to those who have joined the scheme, and to those who have responded generously to the campaign. We also fully understand the difficulties that face people in today's difficult economic climate.

The overall result therefore is an increase in Planned Giving of only about £1,000 (from £23,000 to £24,000) and this will mean real difficulties for our budget in the coming year. The PCC will be considering urgently what we do next.

*Martin Fisher*

## News from the PCC

The first meeting of the new PCC (following the elections at the Annual Parish Meeting in April) was held on 18 May and one of its first decisions was that a summary of its discussions would be reported in *Priory News* after each meeting. So here is the first such report!

- New Officers were elected – myself as Chairman, Adrian Hallam as Vice-Chairman, Roger Bridgeman as Secretary and Simon Marshall as Treasurer.

- Sonia has already written an article about the old Vicarage – but it was confirmed that arrangements are now complete for the use of the garden for Church events this year.
- CRB checks for Children’s Group Leaders were now complete and the PCC was able to confirm their appointment.
- Another “Back to Church” Sunday will be held in the autumn and further announcements will be made nearer the time.
- We have paid £4,000 so far this year in Parish Share (last year at this time we had paid £9,000). Heat and light are costing much more than in previous years and the Churchwardens have made adjustments to the heating in an attempt to reduce the cost.
- A watch is being kept on the dry rot in the Corpus Christi Chapel and advice from the Diocese is being sought.
- St James’s Day is Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July. This will be celebrated on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> and it is hoped that there will be festive refreshments after the 10 o’clock service.
- The recent Craft Fair raised £470 towards funds for Mission.

The rest of the meeting covered matters related to the Vacancy. The Bishop has “suspended presentation” – this means that any priest appointed to the parish will be “Priest-in-Charge” rather than “Vicar”. This is very common in the Church these days and has little impact on day-to-day matters.

The “Parish Profile” was agreed. This is a document describing the village, the Church, our worship patterns and organisations. It also identifies the key areas of experience which we would like to see in a new priest. Much of the content of the Parish Profile came from the work done at the last Parish Conference. This document now goes to the Deanery.

Our discussions with the Deanery continue about the appointment of a new priest. Little specific can be said about this at the moment because the Deanery’s Mission Area Plan (by which the Deanery makes its decisions about the deployment of clergy) is not yet complete. We have of course made contributions to the development of this Plan and once it is complete we should be able to tell you more.

If you have any questions about the work of the PCC, please do not hesitate to ask me, or any other member. If you don’t know who we are, we will shortly be putting up a display at the back of Church with our photographs!

*Martin Fisher*



## News from the Tower

Why not join our lively team of ringers on Friday evenings between 7:30 and 9:00pm at the Priory Church?

**Contact Richard, Brenda or Mike.**

## News from Children's Church

Junior Church members have been busy preparing artwork for the Rose and Sweet Pea Show.

Look out for a full report in next month's edition.

Explorers (7 - 11), Climbers (5 - 7) and Scramblers (under 5) meet every Sunday morning (except during the summer holiday period) at 9:50am in the church hall. They join older worshippers in church for their blessing, final hymn and refreshments. New members are always welcome.

**For more details, please contact:  
Andrea (Climbers & Scramblers)  
or Ian (Explorers).**

## Tales of the Church Hall

*(continued from the June issue)*

It was a time of change in the world. Very soon a new century would dawn, in England a new reign would herald in a new era and in Deeping St. James a new Vicar settled in at the Vicarage with his wife and family. He was the Rev. Samuel

Warren Skene, whose father and several brothers were also clergymen. He renamed the Hall, calling it the Vicarage Schoolroom. He encouraged a band of parishioners, mostly ladies, to help in the running of the Church by organising social events in the village. They were known as the Church Workers Guild, of which Lady Exeter, the Dowager Marchioness who lived at the Manor, was a valued patron and benefactress. By holding Whist Drives and other events in the Hall they raised money to bring the Church up to date by furnishing the Altar and providing frontals and linen and to robe the choir. The Vicarage Schoolroom was the only venue for social gatherings so it was the hub of parish life and was used in a great many ways. A full sized billiard table was housed in the smaller room for the use of the young men.

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

Every year in August there was a Garden Fete and a Grand Horticultural Show was staged in the Vicarage Schoolroom. Everyone had a garden which was cultivated to provide vegetables, men worked hard in their spare time to grow crops to be proud of.

Those with expertise were jealous of their success in producing the earliest potatoes, the largest marrows, the longest beans, the straightest carrots, most succulent peas or the plumppest gooseberries. The choicest specimens were lovingly entered in The Show. After the judging everyone flocked into the Hall, eager to see if anyone had wrested the Cup from its usual winner.

The Hall was looking at its best, being aglow with colour and fragrant with the scent of banks of choice flowers. Later in the evening a dance would be held to make the appropriate end to a special date in the yearly calendar of the Vicarage Schoolroom.

In 1918 the Rev. William Pain followed Rev. Skene as incumbent of Deeping St. James. He was a bachelor with private means. He lived with his mother, looked after by a housekeeper. He was a gentle, aesthetic and caring vicar who relied on the Church Worker Guild to keep the social activities well organised. The Sunday School carried on all the time.

Miss Minnie Charity, who also taught at the Infants School, was the Superintendent. She lived with her bachelor brother in Bridge Street. She was frugal but kindly, wore shapeless black clothes and was usually armed with a faded, ancient umbrella. She carried the Sunday School registers in a black satin draw-string bag hanging from her wrist. Almost everyone had allegiance to either Church or Chapel, and there was a measure of intolerance between the two, but each had a thriving Sunday School, at which regular attendance not only ensured a thorough knowledge of Bible Stories and hymns but also entitled the child to participate in the Christmas treat and the Summer Outing, the only holiday the majority of children had. On Sunday afternoons the Vicarage Schoolroom was crowded with children who sat in groups on either side of the hall. Day school teachers helped Miss Charity and instructed the older pupils while other ladies and teenage girls were in charge of the younger ones.

Sometimes an exciting entertainment would take place in the Vicarage Schoolroom, when a missionary on furlough came to give an illustrated talk about his work and experiences in China or Africa. The gas lights went out and the audience, on rows of forms, gazed in amazement at the pictures flickering on the makeshift screen, projected by a magic lantern. On the same theme, the Vicar presented missionary plays in the Vicarage Schoolroom. It was strange to see him, a revered and reserved figure, made up as an Indian and the teachers wearing improvised saris with their hair down in plaits

*To be continued.*

*Nancy Titman*

# 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 Richard Gamman	<a href="mailto:churchwarden@dsj.org.uk">churchwarden@dsj.org.uk</a>
Assistant Churchwardens	John Worthington Roger Bridgeman	
<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	Richard Gamman	
<b>Synod Members</b>		
Diocesan Synod	Canon Niccy Fisher <i>The above plus</i> The Reverend Sonia Marshall	
Deanery Synod	Simon Marshall Cled Bennett Ian Templeton	
<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 The Reverend Sonia Marshall	<a href="mailto:ringers@dsj.org.uk">ringers@dsj.org.uk</a>
Bible Study Group	Bill Flegg	<a href="mailto:churchhall@dsj.org.uk">churchhall@dsj.org.uk</a>
Church Hall Bookings	Anthea Wray	
Church Ladies' Fellowship	Carole Mills Margaret Flegg	
Church Coffee Group	Pauline Brooksbank Christine Masters Doris Warner	
Church Flowers		
House Group		
Rose & Sweet Pea Show		<a href="mailto:roseandsweetpea@dsj.org.uk">roseandsweetpea@dsj.org.uk</a>
<b>Junior Church</b>		<a href="mailto:juniorchurch@dsj.org.uk">juniorchurch@dsj.org.uk</a>
Explorers	Ian Templeton	
Scramblers & Climbers	Andrea Gamman	
<b>Priory News</b>		<a href="mailto:priorynews@dsj.org.uk">priorynews@dsj.org.uk</a>
Editor	Bet Washbrooke	
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>

# CHURCH CALENDAR

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thursday	9:30am 2:30pm	Holy Communion Clergy Renewal of Vows in Lincoln <i>(Junior Choir practices cease until September)</i>
4 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	1:00pm 7:00pm	Wedding of Nicky Stuart Collins and KatieLouise Shrimpton Music on the Lawn
5 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>SUNDAY</b>		<b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
		8:00am 10:00am 6:00pm	Holy Communion Sung Eucharist Evening Prayer
6 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	7:30pm	PCC meeting, preceded by Communion at 7:00pm in the Choir Vestry
8 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	10:30am	Clergy Chapter, Spalding
9 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	9:30am	Holy Communion, followed by Home Communions
10 <sup>th</sup>	Friday		Practice Night
		6:45pm 7:30pm	Choir Ringers
11 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	2:30pm	Bellringers' Striking Competition
12 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>SUNDAY</b>		<b>THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
		8:00am 10:00am 6:00pm	Holy Communion Eucharist with Holy Baptism Evening Prayer
14 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday		John Keble, Priest, 1866
15 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday		Swithun, Bishop, 862

## How Lucky Are We?

I saw a robin the other day.  
 "Nothing strange in that",  
 You're heard to say.  
 But what of our friends  
 Who just cannot see?  
 Think about it: how lucky are we?

We can see the spring lambs  
 And the May blossom too  
 And the cherry tree all  
 Pink and white,  
 And the flowers all a-new,  
 A new born babe,  
 Not just its cry,  
 And a beautiful kingfisher  
 And a dragonfly.

The myriad colours of a butterfly,  
 The fluffy white clouds  
 That drift on high,  
 The Lord gave scent to  
 Those who cannot see;  
 But I say again:  
 "How lucky are we?"



NPD

# FOR JULY 2009

16 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	9:30am	Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury, 1099 Holy Communion
17 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	6:45pm 7:30pm	Practice Night Choir Ringers
<b>19<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>		<b>THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:00am	Sung Eucharist
		6:00pm	Evening Prayer
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Wednesday		Mary Magdalene
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Thursday	9:30am 2:00pm	Holy Communion Church Coffee Group on the Lawn
24 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	6:45pm 7:30pm	Practice Night Choir Ringers
25 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	1:00pm	James the Apostle – [transferred to 26 <sup>th</sup> ] Wedding of Andrew John Redhead and Katharine Emma Meadows
<b>26<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>		<b>JAMES THE APOSTLE - PATRONAL FESTIVAL</b> (transferred from 25 <sup>th</sup> ) [ <i>Seventh Sunday after Trinity</i> ]
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:00am	Sung Eucharist – refreshments served after the Service
		6:00pm	Evening Prayer
29 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday		Mary, Martha and Lazarus, Companions of Jesus
30 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	9:30am	William Wilberforce, Social Reformer, 1833 Holy Communion
31 <sup>st</sup>	Friday	7:30pm	Practice Night ( <i>Next Choir practice: September 4th.</i> ) Ringers

## Making a Difference

Warmest congratulations to Margaret Flegg and Richard Gamman for their well-deserved recognition in the recent *Making a Difference* awards.



# READINGS FOR JULY

5 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>		
	Morning	Ezekiel 2: 1-5	2 Cor 12: 2-10
12 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>		
	Morning	Amos 7: 7-15 (8:00am only)	Ephesians 1: 3-14
19 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>		
	Morning	Jeremiah 23: 1-6	Ephesians 2: 11-22
26 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>JAMES THE APOSTLE (TRANSFERRED FROM 25TH JULY)</b>		
	Morning	Acts 11: 27- 12: 2	2 Cor 4: 7-15
2 <sup>ND</sup> AUG	<b>THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>		
	Morning	Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15	Ephesians 4: 1-16



# REGISTERS FOR MAY

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

10 <sup>th</sup>	Phoebe Rose Hubbert
	James Glen Foot



## HOME GROUPS

All are welcome

**The Bible Study Group:**                      Fridays, 10:00am

**House Group:**                                      Wednesdays, 7:30pm

## ROTAS FOR JULY

		Servers	Sidespersons	Intercessions
5 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	Geoff Armstrong	Bet Washbrooke	
	10:00am	Simon Marshall Chris Halley	A	Bet Washbrooke
12 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	Paul Boswall	Jane Thompson	
	10:00am	Simon Marshall John Sellars	B	Tony Masters
19 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	Geoff Armstrong	Noreen Scattergood	
	10:00am	Paul Boswall Chris Halley	C	Richard Gamman
26 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am	Geoff Armstrong	George Knowles	
	10:00am	Simon Marshall John Sellars	D	Martin Fisher
2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	8:00am	Geoff Armstrong	Jessie Turner	
	10:00am	Simon Marshall Chris Halley	E	Nicky Fisher

		Readers		Bread and Wine
		Old Testament	New Testament	
5 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	Trevor Harwood	Nicky Fisher	Doris Bellairs Christine Masters
12 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am		Simon Marshall	Christine Payne Anne Meekings
19 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	Cled Bennett	Peter Wilde	Dick & Anthea Wray
26 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	Martin Fisher	Jacob Boswall	Pat Feek Doris Warner
2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	10:00am	John Worthington	Tony Masters	Cled & Ann Bennett

	Sunday Coffee	Church Flowers	Church Cleaning	Brasses
5 <sup>th</sup>	Diane Templeton Johanna Jones	Vacant		
12 <sup>th</sup>	Bill & Margaret Flegg	Vacant	Janet Lill Marion Stevens	
19 <sup>th</sup>	Val Wilde Doris Bellairs	Sue Marsh		Sylvia Anderson Val Wilde
26 <sup>th</sup>	Liz Spratley Maureen Brown	St James' Day	Dick & Anthea Wray	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug		Noreen Scattergood		

# ENCOUNTER

I met Christ today  
As surely as I breathe.

“Callest thou me good?”

Well, I thought I was doing alright.  
Not of the highest echelons,  
But pretty fair,  
Doing my best -  
Humble servant, my brother's keeper,  
All that sort of thing,  
And then -

A saint crossed my path

(He didn't know it - giving - pure -  
Shining so bright, I couldn't look)

O God,  
I am humbled.

I cannot recall his exact words;  
I couldn't even look him fully in the face -  
But what he said - he offered -  
Was himself  
To role-reverse so another  
Could have his health, his strength, all his days ahead  
And he embrace the other's wounded world.

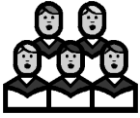
*Bet Washbrooke*

## Rhyme for Thanks

Thank you all for your good wishes  
Whilst, head down, at home I stayed  
Listening to news and football  
Doctor's orders all obeyed  
Knowing people cared, a comfort  
Many thanks to all who prayed.

If you stood-in to intercede  
Or on you extra readings fell  
Knowing you had volunteered  
Helped me more than I can tell.  
My thanks to one and all but more  
To Sue... for nursing me so well.

*John Marsh*



# Carol and Hymn Corner

## Jeremiah Clarke

To live in England 300 years ago would have been interesting and exciting. All sorts of things were happening or had just taken place. Above all the country had become much more settled although the war of Spanish Succession was waging. However John Churchill's (later the first Duke of Marlborough and Winston Churchill's ancestor) was making a real name for himself with his exploits. The troublesome and interfering French were posing no real threat thanks to the diplomacy and skill of King William (of Orange) and, at the time of his death in 1702, there was no possibility of another religious upheaval as had occurred with James II. This was because William's sister-in-law, Anne, was a staunch Anglican and on her accession all England rejoiced. Scotland accepted her and in 1707 came the Act of Union between England and Scotland.

At the beginning of Anne's reign excitement was growing with the impending completion of St. Paul's Cathedral. The old St. Paul's had been gutted in the Great Fire of 1666. Sir Christopher Wren had begun his masterpiece in 1675 during the reign of Charles II and in spite of many impositions and forced changes on him he had managed to outwit some of the clergy and keep to his own conception.



Services had been going on for some time and much of the music was in the hands of the youthful and immensely talented Jeremiah Clarke who was joint organist of the Chapel Royal with William Croft and vicar choral at St. Paul's. Clarke was well known for his theatre music, harpsichord pieces and anthems. We remember him regularly in our worship with hymn tunes to:

*The Head that once was crowned with thorns*  
(*St. Magnus*);

*Lord of all being* (*Uffingham*);

*Immortal Love* (*Bishopsthorpe, St Paul's*).

The last of these three hymns belies the tragedy to follow. Clarke fell in love with a lady, possibly a pupil. She may have been the daughter of a well known London family rather than a mature lady as it has been impossible to find the identity of this person. After realising or even being told that he was aspiring above his station and class Clarke went into the cloisters of the new cathedral

and shot himself through the head. He was probably no more than 35 years old.

Sometime in the middle of the 19th century someone extracted one of Clarke's harpsichord pieces called 'The Prince of Denmark's March' and published it under Purcell's name, most likely for marketing reasons. The situation was further compounded when Sir Henry Wood (of promenade concerts fame) made an arrangement of it still under the name of Henry Purcell. The error was rectified during the 1960's when the original was republished suggesting a trumpet for the solo line.

It is a strange twist of fate that, over the years, this music by a man thwarted in love has been played countless thousands of times when trembling brides would walk up the aisles to meet their soon to be husbands.

*Philip Spratley*



## The Priory Church Coffee Group

will be serving **Afternoon Tea** at the home of

Mr & Mrs J Cunningham

84 Church Street

Deeping St James

on 23<sup>rd</sup> July

3:00pm - 4:30pm.

£3.00 per person.

Everybody welcome.

Many thanks to Joy, who has kindly offered the use of her garden for this event because the Church Hall cannot be used due to maintenance.

## Music on the Lawn



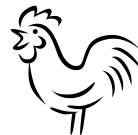
You are invited to a concert on the Priory Church Hall Lawn on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July. Enjoy the music of Vox Mondiale, a female harmony group with songs from across the globe, with Alan Bolt (vocals/guitar). Bring your own picnic, wine and candelabra. Evening dress is optional. There will be a raffle.

Tickets: Adult £6.00, Concessionary/Children £4.00, Family (2 + 2) £15.00, available from Linda, Johanna, Bill. Gates open at 7:00pm and the concert will start at 7:30pm. If wet, the concert will be held in the church.

*Bill Flegg.*



# Cooking With Margaret



## FLORIDA CHICKEN

### Ingredients

- Approx 12oz cooked chicken pieces cut small
- 1 medium tin of pineapple chunks,
- 6 – 8oz Sliced mushrooms
- 1 medium onion chopped
- 1 tin of condensed chicken soup
- 1 cup of salad cream
- For topping: grated cheese, crisps, flaked almonds

### Method

1. Mix all the ingredients except for the topping.
2. Place in ovenproof dish.
3. Cover with the crisps, cheese and almonds.
4. Cook for 40 – 60 mins in a medium hot oven.

*Margaret Flegg.*

## Church Hall Bookings

We regret that, due to construction work being carried out in the Church Hall, no bookings are being taken from 14th July until 1st October 2009.

*Bill Flegg.*

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, reminiscences and anything else you'd like to share.

**Please let us have your contributions for the August edition of Priory News BEFORE the deadline, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July.**



## *Bishop's Letter*

### **Where Respect is Due**

Deference has been in decline for some time, and most people these days would think that a good thing. For far too long, it is argued, members of the aristocracy, the legal profession, Doctors and even Bishops have enjoyed a degree of ex officio respect which is no longer appropriate. Although it is difficult to believe now, in the light of recent events, even Politicians could rely on respect as public servants and representatives of the people.

Now things are different. It is not usual to defer to someone simply because of the office they hold or their standing in the social pecking order. It would appear that everyone must now earn the right to be respected, and no one should expect respect as of right. Paying respect is basically payment by results and, as with the conferring of celebrity status, such payment can go up or down depending on prevailing perceptions and the popular mood.

And God has not escaped this deference deficit.

Until the relatively recent past, God was believed in and worshipped simply for being God. Most prayers began by affirming God's characteristics: almighty, everlasting, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, and so on. But with the dawn of the age of Enlightenment and the ascendancy of empirical sciences, results came to matter most and God was judged on performance. For example, does God deliver against agreed targets when it comes to the balance of good and evil in the world? What percentage of prayers are answered? Do believers lead better lives than other people?

Whether or not we would welcome a return to ex officio deference when it comes to how we relate to those who feature in Who's Who, we do need to re-affirm deference in relation to God. That is the essence of worship which honours God simply for being God, and it is the core ingredient of faith whereby we entrust ourselves and our interests to the reality, reliability and benevolence of God.

The season of Trinity invites us to concentrate on the Godness of God, and so find ourselves drawn to worship not out of deference alone, but out of sheer devotion to the one who was and is and is to come.

*+ John Lincoln*