

priority news

Deeping St James Parish Church Magazine

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September 2026



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From the Vicar



Today (as I write – 27 August) is the feast of St Monica. The C of E prints the following*, which has some delightful observations. *Monica was a citizen of Thagaste, North Africa, and a Christian from childhood... A*



devout and strong-willed woman, Monica prayed continually for the conversion of her three children, whom she brought up as devout Christians. However, her eldest son caused her most grief, rejecting the faith at the age of 17. Grieved by his behaviour and company she would ban him from the house. However, after a conversation with a priest, Monica ceased hounding her son to become a Christian and instead prayed continually for his conversion. When the son left Thagaste for Italy (in the middle of the night so as to avoid his mother), she followed him, travelling through Carthage and Rome, eventually catching up with him in Milan, all the time praying for his conversion... Her wayward son was Augustine, who would become one of the most influential and significant Christian theologians in the history of the Church. [That is Augustine of Hippo, not the Augustine who came to Anglo-Saxon England].

I love the idea of Monica waking up to find him gone, and chasing him across the sea and up what is now known as Italy – having the faithfulness to continue praying for what seemed a hopeless cause. The ‘patron saint’ of parents who are concerned about their children.

The final Sunday of this month is celebrated as Back to Church (B2C) Sunday. The idea is to pray and ask God for a name to be put onto our hearts to pray for, and to invite them to come (back?) to church. By far, the most successful of routes into the church is personal invitation – for someone not only to invite, but also to offer to accompany and support. And pray for them! As Monica found, it may not be immediate... it may appear hopeless... but continue in prayer. Who knows what God might do!

**Extract from Saints on Earth: A biographical companion to Common Worship by John H Darch and Stuart K Burns*

Mark



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

Parish Directory

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In This Month's Priory News



Dear Readers,

I begin with a riddle: Which song, sung famously by Gene Kelly in a 1952 film, begins, “Doo-dloo-doo-doo-doo”? Hint: originally sung by Doris Eaton Travis in 1929. Got it? Now what brought that on? Well, as I sit here gazing out of the window I realise that something is different – rain, rain, rain!

This month sees the beginning of Autumn (*Sept 1st: meteorological calendar; Sept 23rd: autumn equinox to be precise.*) which means a new school year and, for some, leaving home for the first time to attend university. Mind you, as an ex-teacher, it's the return to the unexpected new rules and moving goal posts that I miss the most. (*Not!*)

You will find an interesting report of a trip to Shetland in this issue and this brings me to plead once again for others to share their holiday experiences in future pages. I've often moaned about the difficulty in trying to find something new and interesting to write on this page each month, but, believe me, once you have an idea it's quite easy to produce something out of nothing (see above!) and if you've enjoyed even a day out (to Cleckheaton, perhaps?) then surely you'd like us all to know about it!

Our deadline for items for October's magazine is **Monday, Sept 21st** please.

John

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Margaret has yet another mouth-watering recipe for us – pork tenderloin and lemon, no less.	The puffin photograph on the front cover was taken by Rachel and complements the Shetland report from her and Chris. Thank you Rachel.
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Prayer for the month

This month's prayer is the official C of E collect for the feast of St Monica, as mentioned in my opening article.

St Monica is a great example for us of faithfulness in prayer, especially when hope seems far away.

The prayer reminds us of God's power at work in Monica, especially in her patient endurance. However, it does not remain a 'second-hand' faith, because we ask God, in a similar way, to give us that patience and endurance too.

It ends with a reminder that we should pray for others to find their faith in God. That might be our children, our friends, our neighbours, our work colleagues...



"Praying Hands"
Pen & Ink drawing (1508) - by Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528)

*Faithful God,
who strengthened Monica, the mother of Augustine, with wisdom,
and through her patient endurance encouraged him
to seek after you:
give us the will to persist in prayer
that those who stray from you may be brought to faith
in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.*

Rev Mark

Registers for August 2026

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

August 16th Barney Grant, son of Ben & Lucy

August 23rd Madison Parker, son of Jozef & Jenny

Thanksgiving for the birth of a child:

August 15th Fallon Brodie, daughter of Luke & Danica

Reports & Forthcoming Events

Church Ladies' Fellowship

On September 3rd we shall hold our Opening service in Church. We are looking forward to seeing all our members after our break. Please bring a plate of food for our Faith supper.

Margaret Flegg Chairlady.

Mission Matters

Recently Mission Matters donated £200 to Care Zone (Peterborough) which runs a furniture bank and recycling project providing good quality furniture, household items and baby equipment at no cost to families and individuals in need. We are pleased to be able to welcome a speaker from Care Zone on September 20th to speak about their work at our 10 o'clock service. Should you wish to donate to this charity a plate will be at the door after the service.



Victoria

♥ Deepings Pantry Update ♥

Since opening in April, Deepings Pantry has continued to support an increasing number of local individuals and families each week. We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing generosity of our local churches. Every donation, no matter how small, helps us provide essential food and support to those in our community who are facing difficult times.

As demand continues to grow, we would be so thankful if you could add **just one extra item** to your shopping. Every donation helps.

Suggested non-perishable items include:

- Tinned meat, fish, fruit or vegetables
- Soup, beans and spaghetti
- Pasta, rice and noodles
- Breakfast cereal and porridge
- Tea, coffee and long-life milk
- Pasta sauces and cooking sauces
- Jam, honey and peanut butter
- Biscuits and crackers
- Rice pudding or custard
- Toiletries such as toothpaste, shampoo, shower gel and deodorant

Even a small treat can brighten someone's day and remind them that their community cares.

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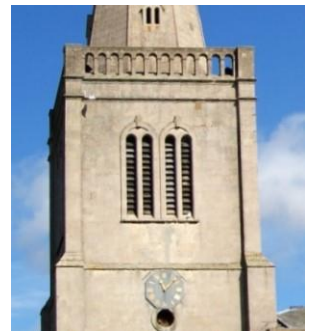
Thank you to everyone who has supported Deepings Pantry through donations, prayers and encouragement. Your kindness and compassion are making a real difference, and together we can continue to care for our neighbours when they need it most. ♥

Many thanks.

Mark

News from the Tower

We continue with our practice night on Fridays with help from our friends in Glington, Langtoft, Baston and Rippingale. We are managing to ring for the Sunday services albeit with reduced numbers some weeks owing to holidays and other



Three of us, Richard, Geoff and myself, attended an Association of Ringing Teachers' course held at St Guthlacs Church in Market Deeping in July. We have started to teach a prospective ringer the elements of ringing a bell. You might have heard this on a Friday evening where just one bell is ringing*.

In June at the Rose and Sweet Pea Show we had our Golfing Circles competition and the Fuchsia raffle and this year we also had trips up the tower to see the bells and learn about the history of the bells.

Our social events this year have included a BBQ in July for friends and family at the lovely garden of Judy in Langtoft. A successful afternoon - weather was just right, sunny but not too hot with delicious food and great company. Then in August we went to Tolethorpe to see **One Man, Two Guvnors**. A very entertaining and funny play.

Hilary

**(Editor: Please see back cover for details of an exciting 'Taster' bellringing session.)*

Coffee & Cake

This month's Coffee & Cake morning will be held as usual on the last Saturday of the month – Saturday, September 26th, from 10.00 am. *(Unfortunately we didn't have enough space for Philip's usual colourful poster – sorry Philip; Ed.)*



1st September to 4th October

The symbol for the 2026 Season of Creation 2026 is a church surrounded by water. The call is for transformation – that Christians would be immersed in the living water flowing from the throne of God- stepping in deeper and deeper, inspired by the Spirit of God, working together for the renewal of Creation. (taken from CofE website).

This summer has seen many more weather records broken with soaring heatwaves, devastating wildfires and a prolonged drought, but as I write the rain has come at last. What a relief for the parched earth! How prepared are we for these dramatic changes in our climate? Do you feel fully informed?

The People's Emergency Briefing is an eye-opening and hard hitting 50-minute film bringing together nine leading UK scientists and experts with the latest evidence and why it matters for things like:-

 Extreme weather  Food security  Health  Cost of living

This will be followed by a discussion on the issues raised. During September there are several opportunities to see this film locally.

- Saturday 13th – 1.30pm. During the **Wild About Cambridgeshire Festival** at Nene Park, where there will be many other family friendly activities highlighting what is already being done locally to protect the environment;
- Friday 25th -7pm to 9pm - Peakirk Village Hall;
- Saturday 26th - 6pm. Holy Spirit Church, Bretton;
- Saturday 26th -- 6pm – Friends' Meeting House, Peterborough;
- Wednesday 30th September -7pm- St Marys Church, Ketton.

Further details can be found on the **People's Emergency Briefing** website. I hope that some of us will be inspired to attend one of these showings.

The **Fairtrade Stall** will be back in Church on 20th September, please support it if you are able.

Kate

Colours of the Day

A world without colour would be literally monotonous! Colours set the mood of the time: they reflect emotions, feelings of calm or joy, regret or sorrow. In the Church they are echoed in the dress of the clergy and in the furnishings of the altar.

The system of liturgical colours only emerged gradually. In the early days there was no distinction between the dress of ordinary people and the garments of the clergy; both wore the dress of Roman citizens. However, St Jerome in the fourth century said that clergy should not go into the sanctuary just as they pleased with ordinary clothes defiled by the usage of common life, but with a clear conscience and clean garments to handle the sacraments of the Lord. To begin with people simply wore the best they had for worship but it soon became customary for clergy to wear a long white tunic, the alb, for the liturgy. By the Council of Carthage, 398, the alb had become obligatory. In civil life rank was denoted with coloured strips of material and this came to be adopted by the clergy as a stole worn in distinctive ways by bishops, priests and deacons.



The Council of Ratisbon in the eighth century ordered that chasubles, derived from an outer cloak, should also be worn over the alb for the liturgy, further confirmed by Pope Leo in the ninth century. Various colours were in use in the Carolingian Empire; they tended at that time to be selected for their quality and beauty and availability of dyes but gradually shades took on meanings, bright or dark according to the mood of the service.

It was in the papacy of Innocent III (1198-1216) when colours became standardised: white or gold in celebration for Easter and Christmas, red denoting fire and blood for Pentecost, Holy Cross and Martyrs, green for ordinary time expressing hope and growth. Black was initially used for the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent as well as funerals but by the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries it was superseded by Violet or Purple. Blue was also associated with feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary and in some areas it was also used for Epiphany and Ascensiontide. Rose was used for Laetare and Gaudete Sundays in Lent and Advent.

The Reformation brought a rejection of colour by the more Protestant churches, a black preaching gown over dark clothing being the standard adopted. However in the Church of England the use of the alb for divine service was authorised in 1549 but by 1552 this was changed to the surplice, a looser, shorter garment than the alb, so called because it had been designed originally to go over the fur coats customary in cold, northern churches.

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the use of colour was still maintained by those following the approaches of the Laudian school and Non-Jurors. In the nineteenth century the Oxford Movement revived the use of liturgical colours. After a reaction by low church Evangelicals it settled down into a compromise whereby nearly all clergy adopted a coloured stole over the surplice for the Eucharist with others accepting a complete set of colours and hangings. The combination of a range of colours and appropriate symbols now enables a heightened sense of the change in the seasons and significance of the worship undertaken.



Sonia

Church Awayday

In his letter 'From the Vicar' last month Rev Mark posed questions including the following: "what are we coming to church for?", "what do we expect to get from it?", "what, on earth, are we as a church doing here?" and "what is our mission?" He mentioned a church awayday was being planned for anyone interested "in the direction we should be moving in as the body of Christ in this place". This will be held at Edenham on Saturday, September 19th between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm. Please let Mark know if you are interested in attending.

Cooking with Margaret Lemon Pork	
	
Ingredients: 1 oz butter medium onion peeled and diced 1 lb pork tenderloin cut into ½ inch rounds rind and juice of Lemon ½ pint of chicken stock 1 oz brown sugar 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce 1 oz sultanas 1 tbs of cornflour (mixed with enough water to make thin cream) 6 spring onions trimmed and sliced	Method: melt butter in large frying pan and cook onions gently for 5 mins add pork and brown on both sides add stock, lemon rind and juice, sugar, Worcestershire sauce & sultanas and simmer for about 15 mins. stir in cornflour liquid and lastly spring onions cook for further 5 mins and serve with creamed potatoes and green vegetables. Serves 4. Enjoy. Margaret

Rotas for September

Flowers

6th	Jan Fisk
13th	Eileen Day
20th	Christine Masters
27th	Chris Pearce
Oct 4th	Harvest Flowers
11th	Harvest Flowers

Coffee

6th	Liz & Chris
13th	Rob & Kerri
20th	Lin & Kate
27th	James & Elizabeth
Oct 4th	Carol & Abi
11th	Jan & Victoria

Sidespersons

6th	Rosemary & Liz
13th	Adrian & Kim
20th	Roger & Carol
27th	Tony & Christine
Oct 4th	Trevor & Ann
11th	Carol & Jan

Intercessions

6th	Rev Mark
13th	Bet
20th	Paul
27th	Nick & Kate
Oct 4th	Revd Mark
11th	Niccy

Wildlife across Lincolnshire (9)

It is already September meaning that we are running out of months of the year for me to take you around some of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust ("LWT") reserves. With nearly 100 sites to choose from I can be selective – so this month I want to tell you about two sites which are quite different from each other, but which similarly both contain very different areas of habitat within them, making for some fascinating nature spotting.

Reserve: Kirkby Moore

Location: Moor lane, Kirkby-on-Bian, Woodall Spa, Nearest postcode LN10 6YY





Kirkby Moor is a surreal and unexpected landscape. From the roadside parking you walk through a large area of open heathland covered in pinky heather (in the late Summer), of a type which feels more synonymous with upland moors in the Peak District or Yorkshire. This is an example of the Lincolnshire, lowland version of heath, of a type that was once extensive across Woodhall district. Kirkby Moor is now the largest remnant of this landscape in the county. Along the path which runs through the middle of the site, you can see just how sandy the soil is, which makes you feel like there's a beach just around the corner. This type of soil comes from sands and

gravels deposited in the last ice age – it's incredible that such ancient geological happenings are so evident in the landscape today. Instead of a beach, what you get to is a beautiful, wooded area at the lower, southern end of the site and, by way of a short woodland path, to a peaceful lake (Kirkby Gravel Pits). So, within the space of not very many metres you have travelled from moor to beach, and on to forest and then lake. It's quite surreal. There is also a much photographed fallen pine tree, bleached white from the sun and elements adding to the sense of otherness about the place.



This diverse set of landscapes is set within only 75 hectares (185 acres) and enables the site to boast a huge diversity of plants and animals. LWT has recorded around 250 plant species, together with 275 moths, 20 butterflies and 11 dragonflies. On top of this about 60 species of bird breed are identified at the site in most years and over 100 different species have been recorded in total. The woodland is predominantly oak, birch and pine along with some rowan, hawthorn and alder.



(continued on page 17)

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

2nd	Wednesday	1.00 pm 7.30 pm	House Group PCC meeting (preceded by Holy Communion at 7.00)
3rd	Thursday	9.30 am 7.30 pm	Holy Communion (said) Church Ladies' Fellowship: Opening Service & Supper
4th	Friday	11.00 am 2.00 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm	Welcome Space at the Bell Tavern Crafternoon (for venue 'phone 343860) Choir Practice Ringers' practice
6th	SUNDAY	TRINITY 14	
		9.00 am 10.15 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion (said) Pet Service Choral Evensong
7th	Monday	1.00 pm	Liz Bridgeman's Funeral
9th	Wednesday	1.00 pm	House Group
10th	Thursday	9.30 am	Holy Communion (said)
11th	Friday	11.00 am 6.45 pm 7.30 pm	Welcome Space at the Bell Tavern Choir Practice Ringers' practice
12th	Saturday	Ride and Stride 2026 (Historic Churches Trusts)	
13th	SUNDAY	TRINITY 15	
		10.00 am	Holy Communion
14th	Monday	Holy Cross Day	
15th	Tuesday	Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, Martyr, 258	
16th	Wednesday	Ninian, Bishop of Galloway, Apostle of the Picts, c432 1.00 pm	House Group
17th	Thursday	Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, Visionary, 1179 9.30 am 7.30 pm	Holy Communion (said) Church Ladies' Fellowship: Monologue: Trevor Harwood

18th	Friday	11.00 am	Welcome Space at the Bell Tavern
		2.00 pm	Crafternoon (for venue 'phone 343860)
		6.45 pm	Choir Practice
		7:30 pm	Ringers' practice

19th	Saturday	10.00 am- 4.00 pm	Church Awayday at Edenham
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20th	SUNDAY	TRINITY 16
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9.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am	Holy Communion (Order 1) with Care Zone speaker

21st	Monday	Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
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23rd	Wednesday	10.30 am	Fabric Committee
		1.00 pm	House Group

24th	Thursday	9.30 am	Holy Communion (said)
		2.30 pm	Meeting with DAC in church

25th	Friday	Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester, Spiritual Writer, 1626	
		11.00 am	Welcome Space at the Bell Tavern
		6.45 pm	Choir Practice
		7:30 pm	Ringers' practice

26th	Saturday	10.00 am-noon	Bellringing Taster Session
		10.00 am	Coffee & Cake

27th	SUNDAY	TRINITY 17	Back to Church Sunday
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10.00 am	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
6.00 pm	Café Church

29th	Tuesday	Michael and All Angels
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30th	Wednesday	1.00 pm	House Group
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October 2026

1st	Thursday	9.30 am	Holy Communion (said)
		7.30 pm	Church Ladies' Fellowship: Ross Greenwood (Open Meeting)

2nd	Friday	11.00 am	Welcome Space at the Bell Tavern
		2.00 pm	Crafternoon (for venue 'phone 343860)

6.45 pm Choir Practice
7:30 pm Ringers' practice

4th	SUNDAY	TRINITY 18	(Harvest Festival)
		9.00 am	Holy Communion (said)
		10.15 am	First Sunday Praise
		12 noon	Harvest Lunch
		6.00 pm	Choral Evensong

Readers and Readings (September 2026)

		Reading 1	Reading 2	Reader	Psalm	Gospel
TRINITY 14						
6th	9.00	Exek: 33: 7-11	Rom 13: 8-end	John Worthington	Ps 119: 33-40	Mt 18: 15-20
	10.15	James Forrester				
TRINITY 15						
13th	10.00	Gen 50: 15-21	Rom 14: 1-12	Niccy Fisher	Ps 103: 1-13	Mt 18: 21-35
TRINITY 16						
20th	10.00	Jon 3: 10-4.end	Phil 1: 21-30	Helen Williams	Ps 145: 1-8	Mt 20: 1-16
TRINITY 17						
27th	10.00	Ezek 18: 1-4,25-end	Phil 2: 1-13	Ted Fisk	Ps 25: 1-8	Mt 21: 23-32
TRINITY 18 (Harvest Festival)						
Oct 4th	9.00	Duet 8: 7-18	2 Cor 9: 6-end	Victoria Worthington	Ps 65	Lk 12: 16-30
	10.15	Trevor Harwood				

Safeguarding of Children

To comply with Safeguarding Policy, submitted pictures of recognisable children must be accompanied by written consent to publish from their parents or guardians. In addition, we will not publish names of any pictured children unless specifically requested by their parents or guardians. Editor: John Worthington, Cranmore Farmhouse, PE6 8RN. Tel: 01778 343860; email: priorynews@dsj.org.uk

(continued from page 13)



The key principles around which the site is managed focus on maintaining the important heathland and encouraging more heather and wetter conditions. This requires the control of the bracken and scrub which would otherwise cover the site and out-compete the heather. Much of this site management is achieved by having sheep grazing on the reserve, as well as by mowing.

What's also noticeable about Kirby Moor is that, if you do visit, you are very likely to be the only person there. As such, you can enjoy a terrifically peaceful walk around the two marked trails on the site taking in the different landscapes on offer.

Reserve: Snipe Dales Country Park and Nature Reserve

Location: Lusby. Spilsby. Nearest postcode PE23 4JB

Snipe Dales country park and nature reserve is located just outside Lushby at the southern tip of the Lincolnshire Wolds, a ten-minute drive from Horncastle. The reserve landscape is in two distinct halves – on one side it opens out into wildflower meadows criss-crossed by streams, whereas the other is a sloping area of mixed woodland. It is a lovely reserve to visit at any time of the year, but the Summer brings a wide pallet of colours and plenty of birdsong, while the variety of trees makes it particularly stunning during Autumn.



The name, Snipe Dales, comes from the noise of the drumming snipe which used to be a recognisable feature of the landscape. That soundtrack is a rare accompaniment of a visit now, as populations have dramatically declined in recent years. The common snipe is now a rare breeding bird in the region, but can sometimes be found overwintering in the wet grassland of the reserve.

The woodland within Snipe Dales (Periwinkle Wood) is young having only been planted in 1965, by the Forestry Commission. It consists mainly of Corsican pine, with a few Scots pine, larch, beech and other deciduous trees. The pine and larch are gradually being thinned out and replaced with ash, oak, alder and other native broadleaved species. This change is something you might have noticed in other forested areas. As one example, during a trip to Galloway, Scotland last year, it was explained to us that the non-native spruce, fir and pine forests around a particular loch were being felled and replaced with forests of mixed, native trees. It's strange to think that a type of landscape we think of as synonymous with a place are actually relatively new, with the non-native Scottish forests often dating from post-World War One, having been planted in response to post-war timber shortages. With the growth in understanding of the importance of biodiversity and native species for wildlife there is more of a drive to increase the proportion of our woodlands which comprise of indigenous tree species. This is one of the things which is happening in Snipe Dales.



One area of the reserve (Peasam Hill) is regularly fenced off to allow grazing to be restored to help encourage plants that like short grass. Without grazing, denser vegetation takes over and can shade out the more sensitive plant species. Wildflowers which benefit from this type of active management include the common spotted orchid, ragged robin, and lady's smock. In the wetter areas of the reserve, water avens, watercress and water figwort flourish. Flowing water is an important aspect of the

reserve, not just for flowers. Spring water flowing through the reserve supports species such as kingfisher, brown trout, common mayfly and emperor dragon fly, before it flows out to the Wash at Gibraltar Point.

The highlights of Snipe Dales can be taken in by three different marked trails – ranging from 30 minutes to two hours in length.

Rachel

Sources: Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, *Wild Lincolnshire: Discovering Lincolnshire wildlife and wild places* (2022); and www.lincstrust.org.uk; and plantlife.org.uk (accessed various dates).

Poetry Corner

Silent on the shore

I seek a sea change,
Knowing the waves are restless
As I am.

Constant battles,
Like the surge of sea against the land,
Have eroded me.

Spirit of God,
Teach me the patience
That comes from stillness.
Teach me the value
Of listening, not babbling.

As the rivulets of water
Play around my toes
Teach me the joy
Of presence in the moment;
Of the blessings that surround me.
Release me from all I fear,
That I may flow freely with the tide:
Renewed; redeemed; sanctified.

Bet Washbrooke June 2017

Geoff's Journeys: Ripon Yarns (part two)

(parental advisory – contains drugs references)



Oh goody, another year, another trip. The plan this time was to see why even in the 1970s my Nan still dreaded ending up in the workhouse and took some time convincing that The Laurels wasn't such a place. Then it would be further exploration of the Cathedral and old Court House Museum if time, and as it didn't appear to be signposted, last time I'd had to give up trying to find the old Leper's Chapel.

However, by chance I'd just caught one of those Canal Journeys TV shows where the presenter ended his exploration at Ripon Canal, and I thought that there on the waterfront looked like a nice place to eat my packed lunch if it wasn't too far from the Cathedral.

Boarding the coach here in Deeping, the front passengers were two teddy bears sharing a single seatbelt. I wasn't sure about the legality of this, but what the heck, if we got stopped it would be the bears who'd get done, not the driver or coach company.

Hours later, pulling into Ripon Bus Station I followed the signpost downhill towards the workhouse, as an ageing old boy from the Fens, I'm not used to going uphill but can just about manage the other way. (Been going downhill for quite a while now.)

Disappointingly, a large portion of the ageing building was closed for renovation though expected to re-open in July, handy if you keep your tickets which allows re-entry for a year from the day of purchase. Meticulous research has revealed original paint schemes and while this upcycled faux distressed furniture seems all the rage, I was a bit distressed myself to notice that someone deemed it necessary to similarly treat some old cupboards there.



Still, more than enough still to explore where the unfortunate inmates would be "welcomed", de-loused, bathed, issued itchy uniforms and set to such meaningful labour as breaking rocks or chopping wood to earn a few ounces of bread and cheese and a meagre bowl of gruel for a couple of days before being moved on to a continuous treadmill of more of the same in the next town. I hummed a few bars of 'Food Glorious Food from' Oliver! and 'It's a Hard Knock Life' (Annie) before perusing Ye Olde Gift Shoppe. This time I managed to get a pocket-sized book explaining something of the history of Ripon in old photographs. None of the expensive books on workhouses were specifically the Ripon one so I thought I'd do as well getting a nicely hard backed and gold embossed cheap edition of Dickens back at TK Maxx in Peterborough.

Puffing and panting back uphill I spied a blackboard advertising canal trips 200 yards (I think I'm supposed to call it a 'chalkboard' now due to apparent politically incorrect racial connotations. Can someone please explain that?). Several hundred yards later I was lost and not a soul around to ask directions. Was it some sort of ghost town? It put me in mind of an old western movie where the streets have been cleared for the impending gunfight. All that was missing was a tumbling tumbleweed. Eventually I spied a local who directed me to go through a snicket. I explained I was from Lincolnshire and whatever a snicket might be, we

don't have them there, but he seemed at a loss for an alternative and I wished I'd bought that joke Yorkshire dialect dictionary back at the gift shop.

Reaching the beautifully restored Ripon Canal Basin I enquired how long a canal cruise lasted as I had a coach to catch. "Are you from Lincolnshire?" asked the young lady, "So is this man." With well over the required 30 minutes to spare, my fellow passenger and I opted to sit on the uncovered aft end of the craft, showing off my extensive knowledge of navel terms gained from HMS Belfast, and eat my sandwich al decko. At this point I began to wonder if it had somehow bypassed me that it was 'bring your cuddly toy to work day' for there in the cabin was what looked like the doll from Playschool (I would tell you a funny story about her but I know John won't print it!). My new sailing companion's riveting conversation mainly consisted of yes, no, some in-between chuckling and too much incoherent rambling seemingly concerning a train journey that I never did get to the bottom of. Disembarking I attempted to put some distance between us by diverting back into the ticket office to buy a Magnum (that's the ice cream, not Dirty Harry's most powerful handgun in the world. Though come to think if it....). Anyway, there in the ticket office sat two more cuddly toys. Apparently, they were Rosie and Jim. I'm probably showing my age now but personally I'm more your Bill and Ben flowerpot man and to this day can still speak fluent Flobadobalop, though as I approach maturity it occurs to me that the constant references to "Weed" may have had hidden connotations. Honestly, the things my parents let me watch! There was a rabbit on Magic Roundabout who seemed to be permanently stoned. As for Zebedee, what was the creator of that using?

But I digress. A scenic riverside walk over the rustic wooden bridge led me back to the Cathedral where unfortunately there was now only time for a mad dash to the souvenir shop. I'd hoped to get more information on St Wilfrid so was delighted to find a companion piece to my previous trip's guidebook, this one dealing with the story of Wilfrid and how his crypt and now lost original church were constructed and influenced by his travels to Rome. Wilf was an ardent devotee of the Roman rather than the Celtic tradition so I figured my Roman Catholic mate wouldn't be too conflicted by a birthday gift of a bottle of Wilfrid's Golden Ale.

Needing to spend a further penny I popped into the little boys' room back at the Bus Station.



Who should be in there but my fellow matelot regaling his captive audience with a tale of a train trip which continued to 'entertain' us all as we prayed for speedy return of the coach to relieve us.

Now, if you pay attention to Revd Mark's sermons or Prof. Worthington's articles, those two well known wordsmiths will tell you that some once-innocent words now have a different meaning. Thus, at

this point it occurred to me that it might not be my best idea to write a feature about cruising and how we met up again later in a toilet!

The coach driver told me the teddy bears have their photos taken on all the exciting excursions they go on. It's not just me then.....

Geoff

PS (serious). I keep forgetting to tell you that while sorting my late Father's clothes for charity shops I held onto a large man's warm coat which appeared unworn. If anyone is or knows someone in need of such, please contact me, in confidence if desired. Our clergy have permission to give out my phone number.

Summer Fun in Shetland

Packing list: gaffer tape, string, torch, first aid kit...

No, this was not us preparing for some impending disaster nor criminal endeavour. This was the beginning of our Summer holiday preparations.

In July, after a seven-year hiatus, we headed back to Scotland with our tent and for the first time went all the way up to the Shetland Islands. We know that regular readers of the Priory News will have read about John and Victoria's trip to Shetland and Orkney earlier in the year, so we wanted to offer you a different perspective on what we agree with them is a fantastic place to visit.



We have been to Scotland a number of times and previously enjoyed (or at least endured) camping in the Borders, Highlands, Outer Hebrides and Orkney. Some memorable moments have included taking down our tent while engulfed by swarms of midges, a middle of the night emergency evacuation due to high winds and rain, and water ingress from both above and below during one particularly damp episode. This is not to mention the multiple broken tent poles. What's a holiday without some element of survivalism to it, I say.

Shetland, therefore, seemed a logical next step and one that has long been on Chris' bucket list. It might still be in the UK, but after more than nine hours of driving and a 14-hour overnight ferry we certainly knew that we were a long way from the 30 plus degree heatwave we've been having in Lincolnshire. That said, when we arrived in Lerwick at 7:30 am the sun

was shining and despite not having the best night's sleep (tip: book early if you want a cabin. We didn't) we were excited to start exploring.

Our first location was about 30 minutes south of the capital, Lerwick, at Levenwick, where we camped for three nights at a community run campsite with excellent facilities. From this base we did our best to explore the area. We took a boat over to the island of Mousa and explored the Mousa broch which is the tallest such construction in the world, standing at over 40 feet. Despite being an iron age construction, it is still



possible to climb the stone stairs between the inner and outer walls and take in the views over to the main island. We also walked over to, and around, the famous St. Ninian's Isle which offered our first of many views of perfectly aquamarine blue water and white sand. St. Ninan's is well known for its tombolo – a natural sand causeway, with sea on both sides.



Another day was spent exploring the sites of Jarlshof and the recently discovered Scatness. Both of these sites reveal evidence of settlement from neolithic times, through the iron and bronze ages, followed by Pictish and Viking dwellings, right up to the seventeenth century. It was fascinating to see how waves of different settlers built on the existing infrastructure and how the building styles developed

over the millennia.



Sumburgh Head was our final walk in this part of our holiday. It houses an important wildlife reserve, centred around a Stevenson lighthouse. It was here that we saw our first puffins of the trip. They are such a colourful delight and terrifically photogenic, being apparently unconcerned with people being close by. We spent a long time watching them waddle in and out of their burrows, flying off to catch sand eels before returning to feed hungry, fluffy pufflings.

We next moved on to the north of the Shetland Islands and spent three very remote feeling days in Unst, during which we partook of the most northerly pub in the UK and the most northerly café. They know their USP. Getting to Unst involved driving up the entire length of the main island, a ferry to Yell,

another drive north and then a final ferry to Unst. Despite these complicated sounding logistics the ferries are regular and like clockwork, in terms of timing, without the need for reservations, so it was all very easy. Our first walk on Unst was a slightly over-ambitious walk around the south east peninsular. It wasn't so much the distance that got us, but the roughness of the terrain – boggy and covered in heather and without any clearly marked tracks. But it was very beautiful in a desolate kind of way, something which was exacerbated by the complete absence of trees. At one point we sat down for a drink and sandwich and two wild Shetland ponies cantered up to us. They were hugely inquisitive and sniffed our bags and boots. They didn't seem particularly interested in what we were eating, just curious about these two novelties in the landscape.



Our final location was on the west coast of the main island. After the remote quietness of Unst we were a bit disappointed to find we were in a much busier campsite, somewhat battered by the wind and worsening weather. We had planned to spend three nights here but, instead, after one night and a 4:30am start (to get the tent down before the rain set in) we treated ourselves with two nights in a hotel in Lerwick, only surprised that we had enjoyed the good weather for so long.



As well as offering a comfy bed, Lerwick gave us a bit of a chance to have a break from so much walking. Rather than tramping across heather, we spent a number of hours at the excellent museum, as well as the textiles museum and Shetland's only distillery, which will start working on its own single malt this coming October (the first bottles expected to be on sale in about 8 years' time). We also took a boat over to Bressay and enjoyed more walking, cliffs and puffins, as well as spotting some very languid seals.

After the boat back to Aberdeen, we broke up the drive with a final night under canvas in Kielder, Northumberland, before heading home to get back to the on-going hot weather and depressingly brown grass. I miss the greenery and the feeling of life and vitality it brings – even if it does mean that Summer is enjoyed whilst wearing woolly hats and waterproofs. Reflecting on our trip, I would highly recommend Shetland to anyone who wants a touch of the Nordic outdoors, with a bit of British familiarity. It was great: a lovely and relaxed place with quietly, friendly people and beautiful, rugged scenery. I would happily go back any time. Really.

Rachel and Chris

Pet Blessing Service

The Priory Church, DSJ

Sunday 6th September at 10.15am



Some Future Dates

October 20th: James Dixon (Singer Songwriter from Cornwall) in concert

October 22-25th: Art at The Priory

November 14th: Soke Big Band concert

November 27/28th: Winter Fair

December 5th: St Peter's Singers Christmas concert

December 12th: Mission Matters hosts Upton Ukulele Band

And Finally...

Thank you to Deeping St James Parish Council for the painting and refurbishment of the telephone box in front of the church hall car park. *(Thanks for the photo, Jan.)*



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Tue 27 Oct from £51.50

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Wed 28 Oct from £37.50

Guided Tour of St Paul's Cathedral
Fri 30 Oct from £72

Christmas at Chatsworth
Mon 9 Nov or Thur 12 Nov from £62

Remembrance Day Guided Tours
Wed 11 Nov from £48

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Fri 13 Nov from £68

Norfolk Broads Christmas Cruise
Tue 17 Nov from £47.50 **mince pies**

Ely Cathedral Christmas Fair
Thur 19 Nov from £40.50

York Christmas Festival
Fri 20 Nov from £38

Helmingham Hall Illuminated Gardens
Thur 26 Nov from £50.50 **mulled wine**

Melton Market & Gates Garden Centre
Fri 27 Nov from £25

Christmas at Hever Castle
Tue 1 Dec from £55.50

Christmas at Kew
Thur 3 Dec from £69 **adults only**

Lincoln Cathedral Christmas Market
Fri 4 Dec from £30

Xmas Movie at The Kinema in the Woods
Wed 9 Dec from £40 **lunch included**

Pie & Pud at the Lights of Abraham
Thur 10 Dec from £66

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Tue 15 Dec from £64

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Sat 19 Dec from £52

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