

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH DONISTHORPE

GRAPEVINE

JULY 2022



HARBOUR LIGHTS

Long ago, before ships had radar or sonar to guide them into safe waters sailors used to rely on landmarks during the day and special lights at night.

A merchant ship was struggling to find its way into a strange harbour after weeks at sea. The master of the ship was called Walter Bates, and his uncle owned the shipping line.

Some people said that the only reason Walter had been made master was because of his uncle.

The ship had been forced off course by bad weather and was sailing towards the harbour sheltered by the wind. Night falling, the navigator with his charts warned them of many rocks and they needed to find the entrance to the channel which would lead them into the harbour

Either side of the channel, there would be a light, a beacon, kept burning every night to guide them through.

Walter stood on the deck straining his eyes, feeling the forces of the wind in his face looking for the lights.

Suddenly the wind gathered strength and the mate, Barnabas Nye, shouted to the men to haul tighter on the ropes to keep the ship on course.

Channel ahead called the lookout. Walter peered through the rain and saw two lights glimmering in the distance. He realised with a shock that the ship had veered off course.

Walter shouted the order to go ten degrees to port. He sensed the sailors muttering around him that he was new to the job.

Sir begging your pardon sir, said a voice of an old sailor.

Yes, what is it? he answered

Somethings wrong sir

Walter thought the sailor was insulting him and said there's nothing wrong, the channel is clear ahead.

Sir the sailor said I was raised here, and I know these waters, the lights are wrong, the channel is to the starboard, I know it. Walter was alarmed, if the sailor was right the ship was heading straight for the rocks.so what do you think Barnabas? Get back to work said Barnabas.

Then Walter had a snap of conscious and called to the old sailor, why do you think the lights are wrong, who would change them, a voice came back in the dark, 'Wreckers'.

Now he didn't know what to do who should he trust?

So, he shouted out for the ship to change course and the ship was saved.

Sometimes we must change course in life and in church and believe God has us in his hands.

We may have choppy waters ahead but like that old sailor lets trust in the one who knows.

Think about Mathew 24:1-14 is Jesus trying to distress his disciples, or to protect them? How can we help each other to be faithful to the end?

Blessings

Rick

WORSHIP/FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS



LUNCH LIGHT our group that supports folk who are bereaved, is scheduled to meet again in church on **Friday 29th July between 12.30pm – 2.00pm**. So, if you have lost a loved one and would like some company, a chat and a bite to eat, why not drop in to St. Johns on the 24th. You will be made welcome. There is a charge of £3.

COFFEE AND CHAT@CHURCH meeting this month is planned for **Tuesday 5th July between 9.30 and 11.00am**.

ENJOY AFTERNOON TEA AT SAINT LAURENCE CHURCH, MEASHAM - Thursday 28th July 2.00 – 4.00 pm - £4.00

JULY & AUGUST SERVICES ACROSS THE WOODFIELD TEAM.

We are still not able to open all of our 8 churches every Sunday, and so continue to move around on a rota basis. June & August's services look like this: **(all starting at 10am unless otherwise stated)**.

Sunday July 3 rd	Measham & Snarestone (HC), Swepstone (MP)
Sunday July 10 th	Donisthorpe (MP) , Packington & Normanton (HC)
Sunday July 17 th	Donisthorpe (HC + Baptism) , Appleby (HC + Baptism), Measham (MP),
Sunday July 24 th	Packington & Swepstone (HC), Norton Juxta Twycross (MP)
Sunday July 31 st	Deanery Service at Christchurch, London Road Coalville LE67 3JA at 2pm
Sunday August 7 th	Normanton & Snarestone (HC), Norton Juxta Twycross (MP), Appleby Baptism.
Sunday August 14 th	Donisthorpe & Swepstone (HC), Measham (MP & Baptism)
Sunday August 21 st	Appleby & Norton Juxta Twycross (HC), Normanton (MP)
Sunday August 28 th	Donisthorpe (MP) , Measham (HC + Baptism), Packington (HC)

SHAPED BY GOD: MINSTER COMMUNITIES UPDATE - from Rev'd. Rick Tett

As you may already know, the Woodfield Team has been selected along with 12 other churches surrounding Coalville to be part of a pilot scheme.

So far, we have had two meetings of representatives from across our parishes and the Diocese Parish Transition team, one online the other in person, to look at how we start to have conversations that will shape what a minster community here might look like.

The next meeting to be held will be at the end of June where we will begin to look at where we are now. Our collective task over the summer is then to come back to our churches and reflect on our current strengths, as well as any areas where we think it might be beneficial to work together. We will be asked to consider our existing assets, our vision and mission, and what this process means for us.

Many of us may feel daunted or uncertain as to where this may take our team, others may be feeling positive and hopeful for beneficial changes that will grow our churches and perhaps even our personal faith. Both are

natural responses as we try to discern our way forward as members of our own church, the Woodfield Team, and the new minster community we are figuring out. Please join us with open hearts and in prayer for guidance and wisdom as we journey together:

A PRAYER FOR SHAPED BY GOD – TOGETHER

Eternal God, you call your people to fullness of life in you and promise to be with us in all the changing scenes of life: may we be shaped by you in our lives and communities to refresh the Church, transform the world, and build the Kingdom, as with thanksgiving for the past, we step out in hope and trust into your future. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

'Minster Communities – Pilot Scheme' was discussed by PCC at it last meeting and minuted as follows:

An invitation to the Woodfield Team to join a discussion towards forming a Minster Community with parishes in Coalville area had been received with a response required by 30th May 2022. The invitation had been circulated to the PCC and it had been agreed that this PCC wished to join the discussion, with the provisos that the whole team agreed to this and that the team could withdraw from the discussions at any point.

The Team Vicar (Rev. Rick Tett) had been asked whether there was a consensus across the team and whether a response to the invitation had been given. The reply is awaited.

If the team were to join the discussion, there would be a small working group developing the proposed new Community and the team would need representation on it. The team's plans were not known, but it was agreed that we would like to become involved. Norma Morris-Chapman offered to join the working group if that were appropriate. The team vicar was to be asked how he saw the way forward.

SEA SUNDAY

Over many years the 2nd Sunday of July has been kept as Sea Sunday, with a special focus on prayer for all seafarers. The Mission to Seafarers supports the work of sailors facing difficult waters, piracy, and separation from loved ones for long periods at sea.

However, we can also experience storms in our own lives. In Acts 27 we read how Paul was being taken as a prisoner to Rome, when he was caught in a storm off Crete. After 14 days they were shipwrecked on the island of Malta.

Paul had warned the crew that it wasn't a safe time of year to sail: *"I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives."* However, Paul's words were ignored, and the ship sailed into a violent storm. By the third day they *'finally gave up all hope of being saved.'* How do we face up to storms in our lives? Do we worry and panic? God doesn't necessarily prevent storms from taking place, but we can trust His purpose through them.

Paul urged the sailors to *"keep courage, because not one of you will be lost, only the ship will be destroyed."* His confidence rested on an angelic promise: *"Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you."* Only the sovereign God, who created the wind and waves, can promise to save people from a storm. What does this mean for us in our circumstances today? *'Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come. Grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.'* (Amazing Grace: John Newton).

TEAM ADMINISTRATOR

Our new Team administrator, Ruth Salt, has now started in her new role. The first few weeks will be spent setting up systems, lists of contacts and learning the protocols needed for telephone and Email enquiries.

Ruth will endeavor to make contact with members of the Ministry Team, Church Wardens, PCC Secretaries and Magazine editors as soon as she is able and hopes to get to know as many people in the team as is humanly possible.

Ruth can be contacted by Email at: woodfieldteamoffice@gmail.com or on the office phone: 07928 103850.

These contact details should be used for initial enquiries about baptisms and weddings as well as for general enquiries. Alternative contact arrangements will be made for holiday periods.

We are sure Ruth will be a great asset to the Team and we hope that we can be of help for her in her Christian journey.

Brian Abrahams

WILMA'S LICENSING AT ST BARTHOLOMEW CHIPPING



On Monday 13th June, 6 of us from the Woodfield Team, and Vivien, travelled to the tiny village of Chipping, near Preston, to see Wilma licensed to be their new vicar. She now has 1 church, 2 pastoral assistants and 4 wardens! She has a lovely vicarage with views over the rolling countryside.

The church was full for the service, which was conducted by Bishop Julian of Blackburn.

There were refreshments afterwards in the village hall.

We are sure Wilma and Noel will be very happy, the only drawback being that you have to travel down very narrow lanes to get there as there is no real direct route from anywhere!

Also Wilma has sent her thanks to us all –

Apologies for this being late but with all the upheaval I missed the deadline for the June magazine. I just wanted to say a big thank you for my beautiful leaving gifts, and a thank you to all those who came to my leaving service, all those who stayed for lunch and to all of you who have shown me such kindness and support during my three years as Assistant Curate to the Woodfield Team. You are all in my prayers and I wish you all the best on your own journeys. God Bless Rev'd Wilma



PROJECT HEART

The Jubilee field day last Friday was a wonderful opportunity to exhibit the details of our Project Heart to completely reorder the interior of St Johns church.

We developed the exhibition to use at local community events but they have been few and far between because of Covid restrictions. We have only used it 5 or 6 times to date. The latest and without doubt the most successful event has been the Jubilee which was attended by upwards of 2000 people mostly from the immediate local area.

Interest was so high that we had to double man the stand.

We collected questionnaires from almost 40 people and many more took brochures explaining what our objectives are.

We were most encouraged with the enthusiasm expressed by the public visiting the show and we are going from strength to strength in fundraising.

Currently we have fourteen active grant enquiries progressing and we await their decision. We have received notification from Severn Trent who disappointingly felt that they were unable to support our application to Severn Trent had been turned down. Please hold our fundraising in your prayers.

It was agreed by the PCC at their last meeting to restart our regular Group Prayer Meetings and a session concentrating on funding Project Heart and other major issues facing St. Johns at the moment, was set for Sat 2nd July 2022 at 10 am. in church. **Chris Keeley**

A sports headline spotted recently

'MAN. CITY WANT £50M FOR JESUS. ARSENAL ARE NEGOTIATING'

Strange I thought cos if you really want Jesus you can get Him for free.