

The Herald

Telling you all you need to know in our Benefice August 2019



I've been asked by Val to tell the story of how I came to be a priest! In many ways the story is not so much that I have been called to be a priest but how God has led me, and indeed leads all those who follow Him. I am sure that if we sat down together over a cup of coffee we would all have stories to tell of how He has shaped and led our lives, often to our surprise. I was working as a primary school teacher in Hull, and that was my 'new' career after time in IT and accounts. The Bishop of Hull (who was Tessa's boss)

would say to me whenever he saw me that he thought I should look at ordination, as I had been involved in leading a fresh Expression church plant in Beverley. After the third time he suggested this to me, he added – 'I may be a bishop but it doesn't mean I can't hear from God! So I felt it was only right to listen to him and give it a go.

I had always been involved in church leadership in some capacity and knew that I had been called to serve the church, but as a vicar?! I pushed the door – and went for the BAP (Bishops Advisory Panel – a three day interview...) and before I knew it I found myself starting

three years of theological training at St John's College, Nottingham. Our sons were still at school and Tessa was working in Hull so I stayed at college for two nights a week and was at home for the rest of the time, employed as a Parish Worker at a small Anglican church in Beverley.

My experience of God's leading is that He shows me enough light for the next step, not usually beyond that. He also provides as He leads, and we have certainly experienced that. I believe for a big change we need to have several confirmations of His guiding - from the Bible, from other people confirming what we feel God has said to us through what they in turn have heard God say, prophetic words and pictures, or even chance conversations, and, of course, through common sense. I am very much looking forward to discovering with you His leading for St Nicholas Church and the way forward as we seek Him together.

Anthony

Home Holy Communion

Do you have, or do you know, somebody who is house bound and would like to receive Holy Communion in their home. If you would like this for them, please contact Colin Johns in person or on telephone No.01572 812221



I am not sure how to say 'Thank You' for the overwhelming feelings I had on Sunday 7th July when I was called forward by Anthony in church, for people to pray over me.

Not only that, but very kind things were said, regarding the ministry that I have given to the Benefice as a whole.

Sadly that role, due to health problems, must be curtailed up to a point.

My feelings have always been that it is both a pleasure and a privilege to serve the God that sent His Son to save a person like me – which I'm sure anyone that has received Jesus into their hearts feels as well.

I should also like to say a sincere thank you for the very generous garden token which I was given. It goes without saying that I feel humble that you

think so much of the ministry that I have given – but one that I will continue to give, in a more minor role.

All God's blessings Colin Johns

Faith, Food and Fun - and Tearfund.

Faith, Food and Fun at Cottesmore this year was a later act of worship with a BBQ to follow and a St Nicholas Quiz to fill any gaps. Many thanks to all who provided food, and especially to Jim Kelly, master barbecuer, and also to Val for sourcing all the extras.

An 11.30 service was led by Anthony, with Jill at the piano. The Bible reading centred on Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan. Anne's talk reminded us not only that our neighbour is anyone who needs our help, but also of our motive for helping others in need: "... we love, because he first loved us".

Here is the link for Beauty for Brokenness:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kVHKuldZyw>. This song was written by Graham Kendrick for Tearfund's 25th anniversary. It was influenced by a visit that the writer/singer had made to India and his perception of the contrast between Indian poverty and Western affluence.

Cottesmore Church again plans to support Tearfund's national Big Quiz this year. Please save the date, time and place now:

Tearfund Big Quiz: 16th November 2019 at 7.30 in Cottesmore Church.



Greetham Church Fete

I am delighted to tell you that the fete on Saturday 13th July raised £3500 for church funds. As well as being a financial success, the day was full of fellowship and fun for the whole village with a few bargains and prizes thrown in, not to mention Morris Dancing as well.

A very big thank you comes from the church PCC for all who helped and contributed in any way. And thank you for coming!

Temporary Closure of Greetham Church

We are delighted to tell you that the work to replace the nave roof of the church will begin in September. The church will be closed from Sunday 18th August to allow us time to sort out the interior before the scaffolding is erected. **Please be assured that services will still take place in Greetham but at the community centre and all are welcome to join us. All services will start at 9.30am (the only exception is 29th September which is a Benefice communion at Stretton starting at 10.30am and there will be no service in Greetham on that day.)**

Harvest celebrations will take place on 15th September with a service at 11:15 and a two course lunch at 12:30.

We hope to be back in church for Remembrance Sunday on 10th November if not before.

Anyone seeking solitude or prayer can go to one of our sister churches at Cottesmore, Exton, Clipsham or Stretton and the church yard will remain open, only please take care around any trip hazards.

We will be happy to answer any questions you may have about the work which is being managed for us by architects Stimpson Walton Bond of Northampton

Thank you to all who contributed to the roof fund and supported our events. The response was truly heart warming and we could not have raised the funds without you.

Helen and Jackie

Church wardens, St Mary's Greetham

When things go right we are pleased and even say “Thank you Jesus”. When things seem to go wrong are we equally pleased? Sometimes of course it is our own fault but at other times we just think our luck is out. So what does Jesus mean when he says “As many as I love I rebuke and chasten”? (Rev 3.19) Those of us who are parents will have at some time told off our children when they have done silly things. If we reckon God as our father, then surely he will tell us off similarly. And that telling off can sometimes be painful. He says “My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord nor faint when thou art rebuked of him; for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth” (Hebrews 12.5 and 6). We claim him as a parent every time we say “Our father” in church on Sundays. So perhaps we ought to be equally pleased with discipline as it confirms he loves us.

Being tempted is not wrong. We are all tempted to do things and Jesus himself was “tempted in all points such as we are yet without sin”. Of course he does not tempt us. This is made quite clear when it says “When tempted, no-one should say God is tempting me for God cannot be tempted by evil nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when by his own evil desires he is dragged away and enticed. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and sin when it is full grown, gives birth to death”. (James 1 vs 13-15)

So in a way it is like when your child first tries to ride a bicycle. You hold the bike for the first few pedals. Then you let go. You do not do this at the side of a motorway but try to choose a nice grassy place where the almost inevitable fall will not cause injury. You are there to pick up and encourage the child to try again and give correcting advice. Loving that child is not holding on to the bike forever. That way the child would never enjoy the freedom of cycling. That is why it says “Blessed is the man whom God corrects, so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. For he wounds, but he also binds up; he injures but his hands also heal” (Job 5 vs 17,18).

Sometimes God even takes things away from us. They could be nice things. Some people have used the word catharsis which means making better by taking bits away. We do this to some plants when we prune them. Then they can flower or even produce fruits. Such process can be painful at the time. God knows what is good for us but sometimes it is hard to see his hand at work. “Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear

him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembers that we are dust” Psalm 103.
14 So keep praising all the time. *A benefice parishioner*



Kairos is a Christian mission which goes into prisons to show the transforming love of Jesus Christ to inmates. The mission is a five day programme which explains and demonstrates the Christian faith in action. Through the Bible, personal testimony and unconditional love, inmates come to understand that they can be forgiven, accepted and transformed through encountering Jesus. The impact of Kairos on inmates is miraculous and reoffending rates in prisoners who have been on a Kairos programme are almost non-existent. The impact is so significant that prison authorities and the government are now actively inviting Kairos teams into UK prisons to work with groups of inmates. Last year a team went into Stocken Prison and at the end of the week 16 inmates made a commitment to Jesus and their lives were visibly transformed. In October a team of 25 of us are returning to Stocken to work with another group of men. One of the ways in which love for the men is shown is by people on the outside baking cookies. We have committed to baking 14,000 cookies this year to support and 'feed' the mission. Although you may not feel called to go into the prison, you can show your support by baking a batch of 35/40 cookies using a simple recipe. We really need your help in backing this mission and this is a way of putting faith into action and reaching out to the lost, the last and the least in our society, just as Jesus would do. I was so grateful to all those of you who baked last year and would be delighted if you felt that you could offer support again this year. Please contact me if you would be prepared to bake for Kairos and I will send you recipes and other guidelines? Cookies would need to be delivered to 3, Great Lane, Greetham on:-

- Saturday 5th October between 2 and 6pm
- Sunday 6th October between 11am and 1pm

Many thanks and every blessing,

Cathy Dyson

cathydyson@outlook.com

01572 812497 / 07970568305

DOES GOD EXIST?

- YES
- NO
- PROBABLY



**The next Alpha Course begins in Greetham
5th September 2019 7.30pm at 3, Great Lane**

The 12 week Alpha Course is a fun, friendly way to find out what the Christian faith is all about. ALL are welcome.

It is not heavy, not preachy, not pressured in any way.

It is relaxed and really interesting.

Are you, or is someone you know, interested in finding out if God really does exist?

To find out more or to book places,
please contact
Cathy Dyson

01572 812497 07970568305

cathydyson@outlook.com

A good old fashioned

JUMBLE SALE

**Saturday 7th September
1.00 – 3.00pm**

**At St Nicholas Church
COTTESMORE**

30p admission, children free

**Clothes, jigsaws, books, toys, household goods,
bric-a-brac etc**

Refreshments

Proceeds in aid of Cottesmore and Thistleton Church Funds

If you have any sellable items to donate please bring them to the church between 1st – 6th September.

Any questions please contact Beverley on 01572 767341

THISTLETON



Monday 26th August

9.00am – 12.00 noon

**Sellers: 8.00am arrival for setting up
100+ pitches available. Field at east end of village.
No food stalls or livestock.**

**Admission: Sellers: £5 per car, £7 per van, £2 per trailer
Buyers: 50p per person – Children Free**

BBQ, Refreshments, off-road parking, loo

In aid of Friends of Thistleton Church, Registered Charity 1167538

**For more information email: fotc2016@yahoo.com
www.friendsofthistletonchurch.weebly.com**

What's on every week

Mon to Fri 08.00 <i>Every week</i>	<i>Morning Bible Study & Prayer, Greetham Church With a cup of tea</i>
Monday 10.30 Weeks 2 & 4	<i>Prayer Meeting in Cottesmore Church</i> <i>For more info please contact Di Toy on 812355</i>
Monday 14.30 <i>Weekly term time</i>	<i>Barrow Home Group Duncan Ball (812428) cduncanball@gmail.com</i>
Monday 14.30 <i>Weekly</i>	<i>House group meets every week in various homes. Contact Jackie Gauntley 868291</i>
Monday 19.00, <i>Weekly</i>	<i>Hand Bell ringing Cottesmore Church 7pm</i>
Tuesday 08.30 <i>Weekly</i>	<i>Morning prayer in Cottesmore Church</i>
Tues 09.30 - 11.00 <i>Term time only</i>	<i>Sparklers toddlers group</i> <i>ALL WELCOME</i>
Tuesday 19.30 weeks 1 and 3.	<i>Cottesmore house group</i> <i>Contact Dave Perrin, 01572 813662</i>
Wednesday 09.15 <i>Every week</i>	<i>Morning Prayer in Exton Church</i>
Thursday 08.30 <i>Weekly</i>	<i>Morning prayer in Cottesmore Church</i>
Thursday 19.30 <i>Weekly term time</i>	<i>Bible Fellowship Contact Anne Adamson on 812816 for more info</i>
Friday 19.45 <i>Weekly</i>	<i>An ecumenical house group open to everyone. Contact Cathy 01572 812497 07970568305 cathydyson@outlook.com</i>
Saturday 10.30 <i>Weekly from 6th April</i>	<i>Shattered on Saturday Relaxed chat...music, papers free tea & coffee and biscuits. All ages welcome.</i>
Saturday mornings <i>Weekly from 30th March, 10.00</i>	<i>Thistleton Church will be open for cake, coffee and soup</i>

For general enquiries please e-mail
cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com.

Members of the ministry team:-

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Colin Johns	email:bcjohns1@gmail.com
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Websites

Benefice: www.northrutlandchurches.org.uk

Greetham: www.greethamchurch.org.uk

Items for September Herald by Tuesday 20th August. Items for the October edition will need to be sent by 20th September. Thanks Val

Services in our Benefice, August 2019

Sunday 4th	0800	Holy Communion	Greetham
	0930	Morning Service	Cottesmore
	0930	Morning Worship	Greetham
	11.15	Holy Communion	Stretton
Tue 6th	10.00	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Court
Sunday 11th	0930	Morning Service	Cottesmore
	0930	Morning worship with 0900 breakfast	Greetham
	1115	BCP Holy Communion	Clipsham
	1115	Morning service	Exton
Tue 13th	1000	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Court
Thu 15th	1200	Church Café	Cottesmore
Sunday 18th	0930	Holy Communion	Cottesmore
	0930	Morning Praise	Greetham
	1115	Morning Service	Stretton
Tue 20th	1000	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Court
Sunday 25th	0930	Morning Service	Cottesmore
	0930	Holy Communion	Greetham
	1115	BCP Morning Prayer	Clipsham
	1115	Holy Communion	Exton
Tue 27th	1000	Holy Communion	Gainsborough Court

Following the success of the Armistice Commemorations, a Lieutenancy Committee was set up to plan for future events. We wanted to do justice to the military and to military commemorations without becoming too repetitive or risking people having decreased interest.

One thought that we had was that the military are very over committed during Armed Forces Week when they are supposedly celebrated. We have our Flag Raising Event which grew this year and we hope to grow year on year. It was a great success. However, there is little chance for anything else in Rutland during in that week. Our military are committed to celebrations across the East Midlands and leave is cancelled, personnel spend much time in uniform and see little of their families. We decided that it would be good to have an event at a different time which celebrated the military and the community and built bridges between the two, but where the military and their families could also have fun. So the thinking behind this party is to celebrate Rutland's considerable military and veteran community with an event open to everyone so that we can also celebrate the community.

**I do hope you will come and bring your families on
Sunday September 8th.**

We will be very pleased to see you.

**Dr Sarah Furness PhD
The Old Vicarage
Station Road
Whissendine
RUTLAND LE15 7HG**



*The Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland and the county
of Rutland invite you to a “thank you”
to the military and the Rutland community:*

***a Party in the Park,
Cutts Close, Oakham,
Sunday September 8th, Noon until 4.30pm***

*Barbeque, drinks, beer tent, military bikers and more
Supported by Oakham Town Council and Rutland County Council*

