

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 2 June

First Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family Communion

Celebrant and Preacher:

Bishop of Lincoln, the Rt Revd
Stephen Conway

12.30pm Parish Lunch

Tuesday 25 June

Armed Forces Parade

11.00 am in the Marketplace;
Refreshments in church

Sunday 30 June

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family Communion

*The fortieth anniversary of Revd
John Bennett's ordination as a
priest.*

4.30pm Afternoon Tea

*Farewell to John & Mary
Bennett*

6.30pm Evensong

Vicar: The Revd John Bennett 01775 719668
jdbennett@gmail.com

Reader: Sue Slater
Churchwarden: Jean Hill

The Parish Office is open Monday to Wednesday & Friday
9.30am to 12.30pm at 1 Halmer Gate, Spalding, PE 11 2DR
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Notes from the Parsonage

April/May 2024

EASTER HOPE

The results of a survey declared recently that the UK is the second most miserable country in the world (only the people of Uzbekistan are less happy).

The cost-of-living crisis, lack of trust in political leaders and relationship breakdowns (especially among younger people) all contributed to a result that left us lower than even Ukraine.

To dispel misery, we need hope. When things feel bad, we need to believe they will get better, or we will sink deeper into despair.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the source of our hope for all the world. God raised Jesus from the dead. The life and love within the Son of God burst open the tomb and trampled on the forces of violence and cruelty. Light crushed darkness. Good triumphed over evil.

The Resurrection is a sign and a promise that however many twists and turns it takes before it gets there this is where the story ends.

British people don't mind a bit of a moan and a grumble. We bond with one another by sharing our dismal experiences and agreeing how dreadful things are.

In our hearts, though, we long for peace, joy, and life that really is life. Easter reminds us of why we have hope.

ASCENSION DAY

Holy Communion
at 7pm
for **Ascension Day** in
church on
Thursday 9 May.

CHOIR CLUB

We offer choir club to the youngsters who sing on Sunday mornings and evenings after school every Wednesday in the Vista Hall.

There is enough space for those who need to let off steam running around playing football or basketball and for quieter more creative pursuits.

I have really enjoyed getting to know the different boys and girls who make up our church choir(s). I am also a little bit proud that I have still not found anyone who can beat me at table football!

There is always a need for more volunteer helpers. If you would like to come and see whether it is for you, please let me or Nick Pitts know.

If you decide after you have experienced Choir Club a few times that you would like to help regularly then you will need to fulfil Safeguarding requirements.

LUNCHTIME CONCERT

On at 12 noon on 1 May
Wednesday there will be a **Concert & Light Lunch** in church, featuring renowned Bach pianist Jill Crossland.
There is no set charge but please make a suitable donation.



ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

The annual meetings will be held in church on Tuesday 7 May from 7.30pm.

The first meeting will be for the election of two churchwardens. Penny Adams will not be standing again, as she moved to Loughborough at the end of March.

I understand that Jean Hill is willing to continue, and I know there is one other person who has agreed to stand. The Churchwardens will take the lead during the vacancy, and to ensure that there are people to lead worship.

The Annual Report will provide the framework for the second meeting. There will be elections for membership of the Parochial Church Council. The PCC will have the additional responsibility of agreeing the "Parish Profile", which describes the church and the parish and what sort of person they would like to lead them into the next stage of the church's mission and ministry.

I will also, in "Vicar's Remarks", look back over the last year and thanks those who have contributed significantly.

SPALDING FLOWER PARADE

We will be serving refreshments on the Saturday of the Flower Parade, 11 May. Please respond to the requests for baking and to help on the day itself.
You won't need to miss the parade when it goes by!

PENTECOST SUNDAY

We will be joined on Sunday 19 May by the Archdeacon of Boston, Justine Allain Chapman, who will preach at Family Communion.

As she will be involved in supporting the church through the vacancy and with the appointment of my successor, it will be a chance to get to know her better and to talk with her about any concerns you have.

'DUNVICARIN'

We expect to complete the purchase of a house in Bridlington at the beginning of April. We are going to pick up the keys and visit it to continue working out where our furniture will fit and how much more we need to give away.

It will be the first time in the forty-three years that Mary and I have been married that we will have lived in a house we have owned. It feels like a big step towards the next part of our lives.

*John Bennett,
Vicar*