

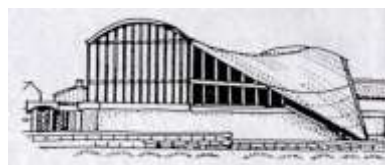
# The Parish Church of St John the Baptist

Ermine, Lincoln

## Annual report



A celebration  
of St Johns in 2008



**THE PARISH CHURCH OF St JOHN THE BAPTIST**  
**with St John the Evangelist,**  
**Ermine Lincoln**

**ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING**  
**Sunday March 29 2009 at 11:30am**

1. Opening prayers and apologies
2. Election of two churchwardens

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**  
**Sunday March 29 2009 at 11:35am**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous annual meeting
3. Vicar's address (given as the sermon earlier)
4. Reports

*The reports are not individually listed in the agenda, but will follow the alphabetical order in which they appear in the body of the annual report.*

5. Election of four members for the PCC
6. Election of treasurer
7. Election of sidespersons
8. Appointment of external examiner for the accounts
9. Matters arising from the previous annual meeting minutes
10. Date of the APCM in 2010 (*Suggestion: 27 March 2010*)
11. Any other business

*Please note that if you intend to raise any issues under this heading that the chair is to be informed 3 days before the date of the meeting*

12. The grace

## **Fr Stephen writes**

1958 was a very important year for St Johns. On January 1 of that year, the parish was established a separate parish from St Nicholas, Newport, and became fully independent. In May, fundraising for the new church building began, whilst at the same time, money was also being raised to complete the community centre on Ermine West which opened in December. In July the Mothers' Union branch was set up. 1958 was clearly a time in which many foundations were laid for the development of the parish and the parish church, foundations that were both spiritual and practical. If you would like to find out more about this, do have a root through the copies of the Ermine News which are held in our archive in the porch.

50 years on, we have much to thank the people of St Johns in 1958 for. Their vision gave us the striking parish church building we still use for worship. Their coming together as community of faith and a community of practical assistance (look at the photograph of ordinary people clearing the ground for a lawn to be established around the church, Ermine News July 1958,) helped to establish the estate and the facilities that are now taken for granted. Lots of ideas and lots of energy were needed to achieve the vision, and we are the heirs and inheritors of their foresight. It was also clearly a very exciting time in the fledgling life of the parish of St John the Baptist and its parish church.



And 50 years on, we have much to mark out 2008 as a special year in the history of the parish. It was a year in which God brought to us new ministries. We welcomed Melanie Jackson as our non-stipendiary priest and Stephen Crosby to join our team of readers, and following their time of study on the Parish Foundation Course, five people became lay pastoral assistants (licensed in 2009). We now have a depth of formal ministry to celebrate at St John's, but we do not forget to celebrate all those other ministries that are carried out day by day by many members of the congregation which are the heart beat of the church and help to build its body. During the year, we also established a formal visiting scheme (ratified by the PCC in December), an initiative which arose out of our discussions at our Parish Development day in October 2007. We also celebrated in 2008 Mavis Daley's 25 years as a server and 10 years as verger, years of hard work and dedication for which we all give thanks.

In 1958, there was a lot of effort put in to fundraising. Last year saw us undertake a successful stewardship campaign, and we were delighted to welcome both the Bishop of Lincoln (to launch the campaign) and the Bishop of Grantham (to our stewardship meal), each in their own way encouraging us in our efforts. I am immensely grateful to everyone who supported that campaign, which has once again helped us to stabilise our finances, and to all those people whose faithful and constant efforts throughout the year in putting on and hosting

fundraising events enable us to pay our parish share in full, and to give us wonderful social events to come together in fellowship. Coffee mornings, quiz nights, concerts, the Christmas Fair and many other events are not only enjoyable, but give us a way of getting to know each other more deeply. We always have a full programme of events here at St Johns, with something happening every month, but we are also aware that all this action and energy needs to be grounded in faith and prayer.

In 1958, there was an article in the February edition of Ermine News, which said: "Do not wait for a crisis in your life before you begin to pray. Begin with the small things because, after all, they are life". If the ministry of the people each and every day is the heart beat of the church, then our prayer life, individually and corporately, is the life blood of the church. We are fortunate in having a small but faithful prayer group that meets week by week in church praying for our community, our parish, national and international issues, people in need, and we are very grateful that this group meets. We give you week by week a page of prayers in our weekly sheet for you to use in your private prayer time, and in 2008 we held two Novenas of Prayer which hopefully encourage people to not only take time to pray, but also to do it regularly. Last year a group of 15 went to Southall to spend a quiet day at the Sacrista Prebend retreat house; led by me, we meditated on and explored the riches of the 23<sup>rd</sup> psalm. Regular prayer, one off events such as quiet days and retreats, novenas, and the daily prayer offered by people in and around the church for, in and with our community – these are some of the most important things that we as a faith community can do because it is our life.

But in all this, it is also vital that we have vision. 1958 saw a lot of vision and hope for the future. 2008 saw us begin to get to grips with the discussions we had had at the parish development day the previous October. From that we agreed to put together a parish visiting scheme and to explore some informal midweek worship for families (the former is now in place, the latter we hope to begin in 2009), but we also put together a report that we called "Moving On". "Moving On" helped us to identify our mission as a church that worships within the Anglo-Catholic tradition of the Church of England, and to suggest ways in which that mission might best be expressed. It is remarkable that in a very short time since the report was agreed by the PCC, we have already achieved so much of what we aspired to do at the beginning of the year.



For example, "Moving On" challenged us to apply to become an Eco-Congregation. We did so, and the award was formally made to us in October. Dorothy Clark received the award on our behalf from the Archdeacon of Stow and Lindsey. This was a terrific achievement as we became the first church in the diocese to receive the award and the 111th church in the whole country and we are rightly proud of this. The award comes with conditions though, and the PCC are actively engaging with this challenge; we have already delivered the "Earth our home" course which was enjoyed by a number of people in the early autumn. We also undertook to become a Fairtrade church, and have made a number of moves towards this; we anticipate this award being made in 2009.

We became part of "Back to Church Sunday" in September, and a small group spent some time preparing for this service at which we invited some friends "Back to church". We are hoping to engage with this again in 2009. The PCC reviewed our Baptism practice and policy in a report from Jackie Howell and in September Sue Brennan set out ideas for the development of our healing ministry. Our website really came into its own in 2008, largely due to Daniel Holt's imagination and technical expertise and it is now the prime source of information about the parish and parish church. The site received thousands of hits throughout the year and is extensively used by local schools. We are exploring making our archive material available on the internet.

These are just a few of the things we set out to do during 2008, and I am very grateful to everyone who helps to make these things happen, and who additionally help us to be a church that is moving on, that is one, that is holy, that is catholic, and that is apostolic.

In 2008, I was personally very touched to find my 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as parish priest here marked by a wonderful surprise presentation and impromptu party in May. Your gifts to Sheila and me on this occasion were, and are, so much appreciated. 10 years on, there is still so much to do for God both in the church and in the community. Last year, I was heavily involved with the merger of the infant and junior schools, with community meetings on the estate looking at the development of the Centre, Ermine Community Group and the new estate website and I feel, and I know that many of you do, that this involvement by the church in the community is vitally important. I have also been in demand to offer spiritual direction to people, and have run quiet days and spoken at diocesan training events.

In 1958, there was vision, energy, practical assistance and faith very much in evidence. 50 years on, I hope that we remain faithful to that original vision of God working in and on the estate in a very special way. We are grateful for the inheritance we have received and I pray that we will be able to hand on to future generations the same energy, vision and faith. Thank you for 2008 and for all that everyone did to make it a memorable and special year. May God continue to work in and with us for his glory and may our hearts be full of praise for all that He has done for us and all that He will do for us.

Every blessing

## **IN MEMORIAM 2008**

Margaret Cole

Jean Goodacre

Ron Hills

Breta Pearson (2009)

Doreen Rhodes

Phyllis Wright

Rest eternal grant unto them  
O Lord and let light perpetual  
shine upon them



## **REPORTS**

### **CHILDRENS SOCIETY**

In the annual report for 2006, I expressed the hope that in 2007, we would breach the £400 barrier for the first time. This we did and it gave me immense satisfaction. Imagine my great joy when I totalled up our collections for 2008 and we surpassed even my wildest hopes. We collected a grand total of £535.13. It never ceases to amaze me how such a small number of boxholders can generate such sums of money. My thanks to all the boxholders at St Johns for their generous and loyal support for such a worthy cause. I am not taking bets on how much we can raise in 2009, but if anyone would like to have a box at home in which to put odd bits of change, then who knows?! If you are interested, please have a word with me.

Dick Rooke

### **CHOIR**

This has been a year of steady progress for the choir, which has an established four part membership. We try not only to lead the congregational singing but also to make our own contribution to the act of worship. This year has seen the introduction of Malcolm Archer's Lincoln Mass setting to add those we already use. We have been gradually adding more choral music which, we hope, enhances services and also engages the interest and extends the skills of the choir members. One development which has involved the choir has been the occasional service of Evensong. This is a very welcome move, as it is an Anglican service of beauty and depth. We hope more people might be tempted to come and support this service. Many thanks to all the members of the choir for their loyal support, and also to Sue Young who manages to double as organist and alto! We are also indebted to the flute quartet who, once a month, add their own distinctive sound to the Sunday service.

Terry Millward

## **CHURCH HALL**

It was a very busy year for bookings in the Church Hall. We lost the keep fit class on Monday evenings in May but a second toddler group has been using the hall twice a week since September and the Guides are now meeting on Tuesday evenings after the Brownies. The primary school have been using the hall three times a week for PE lessons as the temporary accommodation did not give them sufficient space for the whole school to access PE. The charges for the hall did not increase last year. Janet Ashton still remains the highest hall user but this year the fees paid by her were less than half the hall takings. I am not sure this has ever happened before. The dancing group were once again very generous in donating their Christmas/New Year raffle money of £121.00 to the hall. The hall website is now being used by quite a few people to check the availability, making it much easier for ballet exam provisional dates to be worked out. Thank you to Daniel for all the work he has and is doing on this. The hall is in fairly good condition except for the paint work in the main hall. It really is in need of decorating when funds are available. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dorothy, David, Fr Stephen and Sheila for their kind offer to help whilst I am away visiting New Zealand, it is much appreciated.

Liz Straw

## **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LINCOLNSHIRE**

Churches Together is an Ecumenical group that aims to get churches from different denominations together and work with each other to put together events in the city. This year whilst attending Churches Together Meetings, I realised that they don't have a website. I thought they should so I offered to set one up for them, on the site ([www.CTLD.org.uk](http://www.CTLD.org.uk)) you can use the find a Church in Lincoln tool that gives you the address with map of the Church, contact details and a link to their website if they have one. It is also intended that distribution of minutes and agendas will be able to be performed electronically, saving both money and paper. If people are holding an ecumenical event and wish to advertise it, they should send me the details e.g. poster so that I can place this on the site too. In the future the site should contain details about the kind of work that different groups do in the city e.g. Prisons Chaplin and Street Pastors. I have also been asked to be a member of the standing committee, this is so that I can bring and take away issues with the site easily. I hope that the following year brings lots of interesting topics to light so that the different denominations in Lincoln can bring their thoughts and experiences together.

Daniel Holt

[webmaster@ctld.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@ctld.org.uk)

## **DEANERY SYNOD**

A new cycle of Synod meetings began in 2008, and at our meetings it was very much a case of learning about the deanery and its needs, and saying thank you to the retiring Rural Dean, Canon Tim Thompson. Discussion has focused around the previous MAP group and its role and whether a similar group would be of benefit to the deanery. It was thought that a MAP group following the same format as the original group was not possible or viable. It was decided that a Ministry and Mission group would be set up with only a few people to represent each area rather than including someone from every parish. This was thought to be more manageable and therefore more productive. This group has been formed and is a subcommittee of Deanery Synod. While some of its role and remit is still being discussed and agreed, some of its responsibilities have been established. Its terms of reference include ecumenical and collaborative ministry, pastoral and mission needs of the Deanery including fresh expressions as well as looking at the staffing and training needs of the Deanery. After looking at these areas the group would need to feedback and discuss these issues to be agreed by Synod. The next Deanery Synod meeting will be focused on the finances of the Deanery and Max Manin (Diocesan Chief Executive) will be available to take questions so if you have any questions for him you can pass them, in writing, to any of the Deanery Synod representatives. We are grateful to David Rudeforth who served as one of our representatives up to last year, and who stepped down from this role in 2008.

Tabitha Holt and Gill Clayton-Hewson

## **ELECTORAL ROLL**

This past year has seen 4 people removed from the electoral roll. The roll now stands at 84.

David Fleshbourne

## **FABRIC**

Work has been done on the church and the church hall during the year. On the church hall some of the brickwork above the fire escape door had to be replaced. Some coping slabs are loose on the church perimeter wall and need to be mended. The two pools have been cleaned. The rear wall of the church has been repainted. Inside the church there is a new radio microphone. Some work still needs to be done inside the church. Flooding has been a problem in the vestries, but the work on this problem is to be carried out shortly. In fact this work will be well on the way to completion by the time you read this report! There are some cracks in the windows and the outside porch light above the front church entrance has been broken. Of course building work is never finished. There are always jobs to be done because of wear and tear, accidents or vandalism.

David Rudeforth and Sue Fleshbourne

## **GUIDES**

2008 was a very special year for 3<sup>rd</sup> Lincoln Guides as it was the guide company's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The guide company was formed in 1918 and we are the longest running company in Lincoln, of which we are very proud. The guides decided to celebrate this achievement by holding a celebration party during the summer months. In January the girls worked towards their interest badges and they held a talent competition showing their various skills in acting, singing and dancing. We certainly have some talented girls! In February the guides were set a "Thinking Day challenge". Thinking day is when we think of other guides in the guide movement all over the world. We celebrate this on February 22<sup>nd</sup> as this is the joint birth date of Lord and Lady Baden Powell, founder of the scout movement and president of the Girl Guide association. The girls all chose a country and produced food, displays, costumes, flags and prayers in honour of each nation. In March we held a "bodyshop" party enabling the guides to sample products and learn the values of the bodyshop organisation. A wonderful evening was had by all. We also held a special evening to talk about the "Guide Baden Powell Trefoil Award" to encourage the girls to work towards obtaining this. Before the Easter break the guides were set an Easter themed challenge, to make an Easter bonnet. The results were fabulous with many beautiful creations. During April we took part in the St. Georges Day parade held at the Lincoln Cathedral. We joined other guides, scouts, brownies, and cubs from the Lincoln area and paraded through Bailgate towards the castle grounds. In June we held our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party. We invited guides, leaders and friends whom had been involved with 3<sup>rd</sup> Lincoln Guides both past and present. The guides took part in a "fashion parade" wearing the uniforms of brownies, guides and leaders from the past 90 years. It was a brilliant show and a memorable occasion. To mark this the guides released some 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary balloons. During this month we also attended a district campfire at Sudbrooke Campsite where they sang campfire songs and had a barbeque. In July we joined the 10<sup>th</sup> Lincoln Guides for a "cookout" at Sudbrooke. The girls built fires and used them to cook their own meals achieving their "outdoor cook" badge. We also enjoyed a "spooky" evening when we took part in Lincoln Ghost Walk and as a special treat we finished off the evening with a chip supper. Our last guide night of the term turned out to be a "washout"! We had planned to do a quiz around the Newport and Bailgate area but due to the unpredictable summer weather we had to cancel. We hope we have better luck this year! In August one of the guides was lucky enough to have the opportunity to join guides from other units and attend the International Poacher Camp held on the Lincolnshire showground. She was able to take part in many activities and still talks of the fantastic time that she had. After the summer break some of our older guides had to leave us but fortunately we had some new girls join. We held several enrolment parties to welcome the new guides to our group. In September and October the guides worked hard to gain their Guiding Traditions and Craft badges. In November the guides took part in a "Pamper Evening". This was part of the "Glamourama Go For It" challenge. They painted nails, had facials, massages and bathed in foot spas, all very relaxing! As a very special treat we had a chocolate fountain too! In December we concluded our eventful year and joined the 22<sup>nd</sup> Lincoln Brownies for a Christmas party. This was the first time we have been able to do so as we now also hold our guide evenings in St. Johns church hall. It was very successful and a nice way to finish our busy guiding year. At present we have 12 guides so we still have

vacancies for new guides between the ages of 10-14 years. We meet between 7pm – 9pm on Tuesday evenings in St. Johns church hall. Please contact Vanessa Nicholson on 01522 543305 if you know of anyone interested in becoming a guide.

Vanessa Nicholson

### **HOSPITALITY AND FUNDRAISING**

2008 was a good year for fundraising. Our usual events and parish meals have been well attended. The Christmas and Easter raffles were well supported both by the church and the community; we are very grateful for this as it is a very important part of our fundraising. The table top/car boot sales have also been quite successful, although poor weather led to a low attendance in October. The coffee mornings are held once a month, most of them now held in the church or church hall. They have been very well supported. I would like to say a big thank you to those people who were able to hold a coffee morning in their homes and hope that they might think about holding one in 2009. As a group we decided to take up running a raffle again at the coffee mornings and these will begin again in March. The Bingo and Coffee afternoons are always fun. We enjoy a game of bingo and conversation and it is always a very sociable afternoon and we would like to continue with this for as long as possible. We do not raise a lot of money but a donation is always made to church (in 2008 this amounted to £395). The games evening was a new idea we tried for the first time and was very enjoyable; we look forward to holding this again as we do the quiz night and parish meal out. Our hospitality group has been very busy catering for numerous occasions in 2008 and we are looking forward to seeing what 2009 asks of us. I would like to say a very big thank you to all who have helped out, as hospitality and fundraising group things can be very hard work and your support is very welcome.

Sue Fleshbourne

### **JOHNS JUNIORS**

Johns Juniors to date has 1 Leader and 4 helpers, with Sam and Mel Mather attending with their children Jacob and Brandon, on a weekly basis. To date the children attending J Js each week is 13 on a regular basis. Our themes have been centred in the past around usually the Lectionary reading in church, and of late we have been rehearsing, as you know, the play we did at Christmas. Although with little ones that we had we did struggle a little, but we got there in the end, thank you to those who gave your support, and praised us at the end of that service for our patience and persevering. Thank you to everyone who helped for all their support. We have 4 new members of JJs who were recently baptised and we are delighted with this. We are currently still following the Lectionary when it is possible. We now continue to meet in the church hall on a weekly basis as we out grew the vestry, which is a positive move forward. Pam has now resigned from JJ's but is willing to support us construct some sessions in the future to help new starters who wish to learn how to lead our young children.

Paul Cartwright

## **LUNCH CLUB**

We continue to provide a lunch for, on average, 30 to 40 people each month. From the comments we receive, these meals, and the socialising that goes on, are much enjoyed (some wish they were more frequent!) Our small team of dedicated workers are much appreciated; thank you to all, and long may they continue.

Pat Taylor

## **MOTHERS UNION**

The theme for the Mothers union this year has been relationships. Relationships with God, the church our families and the wider community. I hope our meetings have reflected this and have enabled us to share our feelings and thoughts on wide and varying topics. We have had fewer speakers this year but those we have had have given us a great deal to think about and in some cases challenged our ideas. Living with and supporting young people with emotional and behavioural problems was something we were all challenged with by our speaker from STRUT. The way that family relationships are challenged by the behaviour of some of these youngsters was quite moving and hopefully made us more mindful of the support such families need. The mortality of others and ourselves was talked about by Margaret Saunders as she told us about her work as a Hospital Chaplain with bereaved families. Exploring the Jewish faith with Stephen Griffiths Lay Leader of Lincolnshire Jewish Community was a big learning curve for us all and helped us to understand where our own faith had originated from. With so much to discuss we hope to have Stephen back to talk to us again. A similar experience was had when we welcomed Zuba Vawda Prison Chaplain for Muslim inmates. We shared our faith, our fears and some preconceived ideas about Zuba's role within the prison which all amounted to a greater understanding of his work and his beliefs. We were once more entertained by John Campbell as he related stories about life in the Cathedral and earlier in the year we relaxed and enjoyed food and wine offered as part of a talk and taster evening by Waitrose. The branch have met and shared Eucharist and fellowship with the other branches in the Deanery and continue to support the work of St. Benedicts by serving teas and coffees. Although the numbers in our branch have remained steady this year we have had fewer people attending our meetings which make it difficult when asking speakers to come. We have arranged for three evening meetings in 2009 hopefully to accommodate our members who work but also to encourage members of the congregation to join us in our exploration of our theme for this year. We have seen a change nationally with the new publications that have come out and we are being challenged to look at ways which we can encourage others to support and value the work of the Mothers Union worldwide whether that is through regular meetings, via the internet or through regular mailings. We do need to remember the aims and objectives on which Mothers Union is founded whilst exploring ways that we can reach out to others. We would encourage people to join us at our meetings or to ask our members about the projects Mothers Union is involved with world wide. We start the year with our collection for the Women's Centre and we hope to build stronger links with the centre as it moves into the parish.

Sheila Hoy

## **PATHFINDERS**

Pathfinders to date have 7 Members. We have had up to 10 members. We have 1 leader Pam Beattie, and Assistant leader Paul Cartwright and helper/ leader Jessica Howell. Jessica has been a great asset to the team and has brought with her inspiration, talent, and insight. Her knowledge of other faiths, and her interest in matters concerned with the Holocaust has enlightened us, and alerted us about looking outside ourselves, and embracing other cultures. We are looking forward to speakers from the Congregation coming to us to share their varied experiences, and also we are planning our African theme for songs of Praise on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May. (Get your colourful clothes at the ready). Our older members have now begun their Bishops Youth achievement award programme, and you will have noticed them in their serving roles at present. Please do encourage them and ask them any questions. We have lately introduced a few other things, and we are applying for a grant to help us to achieve certain goals for the group that our young people are aiming for in order to reach beyond themselves to other young people on the estate. We will update you as we go along. Please watch the notices for other information and if you are willing to help out with our youth group do let us know, or ask Father Stephen for more information.

Pam Beattie

## **PCC**

The Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting were held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2008. David Rudeforth and Sue Fleshbourne were re-elected as churchwardens. Four new members were elected to the PCC: Chris Priestley, Peter Sherlock, Cay Sherlock and Sue Young. David Fleshbourne was re-elected as the named treasurer, and Tabitha Holt and Gill Clayton-Hewson were elected as our representatives at the Deanery Synod. The members of the PCC were Fr Stephen Hoy, Tabitha Holt, Daniel Holt, Peter Sherlock, Cay Sherlock, Chris Priestley, Sue Fleshbourne, David Fleshbourne, David Rudeforth, Rosemary Rudeforth, Liz Straw, Jackie Howell, Sue Brennan, Paul Cartwright, Pam Beattie and Sue Young. The first meeting was on 20<sup>th</sup> May. The PCC discussed the Development Day and how the church might attract people of various ages. It was felt that the church had moved on since the Development Day and more people were coming from the church from outside the parish. There might be ways of attracting people through contact with baptism families and non-communion services. The meeting also agreed to accept Melanie Jackson as a non-stipendiary priest. This meeting also had a report from the treasurer on the Stewardship Campaign. 68% of the target had been reached. On July 15<sup>th</sup> Melanie Jackson was welcomed to the PCC. She automatically becomes a member because of her role as a non-stipendiary priest. Jackie Howell talked about the baptism policy and how she meets baptism families and explains the baptism service to them. She told the meeting that she meets with varying degrees of interest and understanding of baptism and the church. The meeting thought that our present baptism policy was working well. There was some discussion about how the baptism families might be drawn more into the life of the church. Ian Young was accepted as the new secretary of the PCC, taking over from David Rudeforth. On 16<sup>th</sup> September Ian Young took up his post as secretary. Stephen Crosby, as a lay reader in the parish, was also welcomed as a new member. Sue Brennan gave

a talk on the healing ministry. She talked about the healing of body, mind and spirit and said that prayer for healing was not meant to be a substitute for medical care. The meeting had a discussion and members talked about their own experiences here and elsewhere. Fr. Stephen suggested that lay people might have a greater role to play in this ministry. The meeting discussed the role of lay pastoral ministers and agreed to approve the application of some members to become lay pastoral ministers in this parish.

The meeting also discussed the possibility of putting the church archives on line. The project would be led by Andrew Jackson who has a special interest in local history. The church may be asked to contribute to the cost of the project. On November 11<sup>th</sup> the PCC discussed the Eco-congregation award and agreed that the plaque should be mounted on the wall above the server. There was some discussion about ways of saving energy in the future such as cavity wall insulation and other ways of reducing heat loss. Some ideas may not be feasible because of the design of the building and others may be too expensive, but the church will need to go on looking at various ways of reducing our carbon footprint. This meeting also heard from the churchwardens about the Churchwardens' Conference they attended in October. Some of the issues raised were keeping the church free of clutter and health and safety. Insurance against fire and other damage will need to be discussed at future meetings. The final meeting of the year was on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Terry Miller came to talk about reducing our use of energy by various methods of insulation and heating that the church might adopt. He gave an estimated cost of the methods under consideration. He said that there might be grants available to cover at least part of the cost. David Fleshbourne is hoping to go into the ordained ministry. This was discussed and voted on by the members. The PCC voted to support David in his application. There have been some interesting and important issues discussed during the year and many of these will be of ongoing interest and will no doubt be given further consideration by the new PCC to be elected in March.

David Rudeforth and Sue Fleshbourne

### **PRAYER GROUP**

This small group meets regularly on Friday mornings for quiet prayer and contemplation, holding in our thoughts so many "happenings" in our parish, and the wider community, as we can remember, bringing them all to God and praying for His love and wisdom to be our guide.

Pat Taylor

### **St ANNE'S HOSPITAL**

The highlight of the year was the visit of Revd Canon Dr Sam Ndimbo in June. I had asked if we could have a longer visit from Sam this year so that we could take him to the Wilberforce Institute in Hull and have a short visit to the Lake District – both places he had asked about when I was in Liuli in 2005. So we were given the opportunity of having him here for five days. He gave talks here, at St John's Bracebridge Heath and St Cuthbert's Brattleby. The theme of his talks was the need for training for the staff at the hospital. The problem in the past has been that, as soon as staff have finished their training, they leave to find jobs in



other parts of Tanzania, where they can earn more money, with the result that there is a shortage of 3 doctors, 6 assistant medical officers, 6 clinical officers, 2 nursing officers, 24 grade B nurses, 2 laboratory assistants, 1 pharmacist, 1 radiographer and 1 dental officer. The situation is serious and I asked how the hospital could stop the loss of trainees to other, better financed hospitals. Sam's plan is that training will only be made available after trainees have signed an agreement to work in Liuli for at least five years after completing their training, so that situation should see a big improvement. The cost of a nurse's training is £200 a year and we as a church have agreed to fund the training of a nurse. We hope that some of the trainees will write to us to let us know how they are getting on and I have asked Sam for some photographs if possible. The charity's treasurer has asked me to pass on his thanks for the donations he has received so far. In addition to the financial support, a large van load of supplies will be going down for sorting and packing to be sent to Tanzania by sea. Thank you for all the knitting you have done and for the supplies for the hospital, school and community. For some of the people of Liuli, it will actually save lives; for others, it will provide opportunities for a better standard of living. Thank you.

John Clark

### **ST. JOHN'S SINGERS**

In June 2008 St. John's Singers gave their annual concert during the Patronal Festival. This was well received. The S & J Productions organised a concert in November to raise money for another microphone for church, and members joined Rev Melanie Jackson, Imogen Jackson, Pam Beattie, Sue Brennan and Jackie Howell in the Young's version of "Eleven little Ermine Maids." We are now practising for the July 2009 concert. Members have given their suggestions for this year's programme. Look forward to seeing you then.

Sue Young

### **SERVERS**

We are all pleased to say we are now able to have a full set of servers on a Sunday morning. Members of Pathfinders have joined us as they work towards their Bishop's Award. All are doing very well, and we hope that they enjoy it as much as we do. Many thanks to all the servers for their hard and dedicated work over the past year.

Mavis Daley.

### **STEWARDSHIP**

This has been a successful year. The stewardship campaign turned out to be very beneficial although the full benefits of it will not be felt until the end of this year (2009). At the beginning of the year there were 23 envelope givers who gift aided; 22 envelope givers who didn't gift aid and 4 direct debit gift aiders, 49 regular givers. We ended the year with 27 gift aid envelope givers, 18 ordinary givers, 10 direct debtors who all gift aid and 1 gift aid cheque giver, a total of 56 regular givers. This does not appear to be a huge increase in numbers but I am pleased with this increase. It should also be remembered that many of the existing givers increased their weekly contributions. The amount of gift aid that we are able to claim has

actually decreased but for the time being we receive transitional protection which means that we don't really see any difference to the amount of Income Tax refund we get. HMRC never seem to make things easy! It's difficult to compare this year's giving to that of 2007 because it's not really like for like due to the stewardship campaign but some giving figures for the year are shown below.

| <b><u>2008</u></b> |           | <b><u>2007</u></b> |                     |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Gift Aid           | £7913.99  | £5764.10           | <b>Up £2149.89</b>  |
| Ordinary           | £2814.06  | £2985.20           | <b>Down £171.14</b> |
| TOTAL              | £10728.05 | £8749.30           | <b>Up £1978.75</b>  |

Jackie Howell

### **TAPE MINISTRY**

At present there are 2 of us who take the tapes out to our elderly and housebound, this is on a weekly basis. We have to date 21 people on the list. Christine Priestly and I visit, and take a tape of the service, which has been recorded each week by myself with the help of Peter Sherlock who switches the tape on. Christine and I also take a weekly bulletin, the service sheet and have a chat, when we visit. Unfortunately we have recently had some bereavements and we no longer visit Ermine house with the tapes, so if you know of anyone who would benefit, or would like to receive a tape and a visit do let us know. We also call and see 3 people who don't receive a tape, but enjoy seeing us each week. You can obtain a tape from the back of the church if you wish to listen to a recording again, this will be a recording from the previous Sunday. These are situated at the back of the church next to the candle stand. This ministry is happy to receive any donations that you wish to make, these can be passed on to Paul Cartwright or Christine Priestley, or Father Stephen.

Paul Cartwright

### **TREASURER**

See accounts at the back of this booklet

### **22<sup>ND</sup> LINCOLN BROWNIES**

We have twenty-one Brownies in the pack, and four Leaders. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Lincoln Brownies have had another busy year. From March – June the Brownies successfully completed challenges on the 'Brownie Lincolnshire South International Badge'. The various challenges included learning about housing around the World; different cultures; Fair-trade Evening; speaking French; and WAGGGS (this stands for World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts). I can assure you that WAGGGS is nothing to do with football! At the Celebration of Achievement Service in June, the Brownies sang 'He's Got the Whole World in his Hands'. We presented the Brownies with the International Badge at this event. In April, the Brownies started working on the 'Wildlife badge'. This included a visit to the Church Hall from the Weirfield Wildlife Hospital and a Barn Owl accompanied them! The Brownies were delighted by this. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Lincoln

Brownies took part in the St George's Day Service at Lincoln Cathedral held on 20 April 2008. Three Brownies were chosen to be in the 'Colour Party'. It was raining and cold, but the Brownies made the best of it – and it was a memorable occasion. The Brownies were busy making various different crafts throughout the summer term. Several of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Lincoln Brownies joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Lincoln Brownies on their Pack Holiday to Trusthorpe at the end of June 08. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 08, a North West District Camp Fire was held at Sudbrooke Campsite. This was attended by Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. The food was delicious! Some great camp fire singing took place too! A good time was had by all. On 8<sup>th</sup> July 08, we ended the Summer term with a fundraising evening, raising money for unit funds. Parents were invited to attend this. The Brownies also completed the 'Hostess' Badge on this evening, and had previously made a table decoration for the event. A quiz night took place, raffle, bric-a-brac sale and refreshments. A sing-song finished off the evening. On Sunday 29 July 08, several of the Brownies attended the 'Poacher Taster Day' at the Poacher International Scout and Guide Camp 2008, held on the Lincolnshire Showground. It was a boiling hot day! The theme for the Taster Day was 'Around the World in Seven Hours'. Brownies had to visit different sub-camps and complete challenges, and make different crafts, getting their passport stamped each time. The Brownies enjoyed the bouncy castle, and especially the chocolate marshmallows from the chocolate fountain at the end of the day! Each Brownie and adults received a badge. Brownies started back in September, and started working on the 'Artist' badge. They have had to know the primary colours; made a textured collage out of dried pasta, string and cloth; free choice of picture; and prayer cards – thanks to Jackie from Church who gave up her evening to talk to the Brownies on how to write prayers. In October we had a new leader, Rachel, start with the pack. For Bonfire Night, the Brownies designed their own bonfire picture. We had a pretend campfire, and of course a sing-song! The Guides have moved into the Church Hall on a Tuesday evening. They start as Brownies finish. It is good for the Brownies to see the Guides, and hopefully this will make the transition from Brownies to Guides a lot easier. The Brownies also started to work on the 'World Guiding' badge. We are still completing this challenge – so far Brownies have had to choose a country which has Brownies and make a poster; and paper dolls. We also had a food tasting evening based on what a Brownie in a Commonwealth country might eat. The Brownies helped on the bric-a-brac stall at the Christmas Fair in November. The Brownies took part in the Brownies and Guides Carol Service on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. We sang 'Rocking Around the Christmas Tree', and rocked our way up the aisle! The Brownies made various Christmas crafts. We had a joint Christmas party with the Guides on 16 December. Lots of party games and food! Brownies started again on 6 January 09. The Brownies started off by making a mosaic out of old Christmas cards. Last week we held a 'Pow-wow' and the Brownies decided to work on the 'One Planet Earth Challenge' – and look at the World Wildlife Fund. They have to complete several challenges to receive a badge. Nine of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Lincoln Brownies are going on a District Pack Holiday to Trusthorpe in early February 09. Looking to the future – 2010 is the Centenary Year of Guiding!

Louise Thompson Brown Owl

## **WEBSITE**

Since setting up the website for St John's back in July 2006, it has grown and evolved considerably, with more people viewing and using it. During the year 2008 1831 hits have been recorded by people visiting the site by coming through the home page, when expanded to the whole site, this figure grows to 3247 unique visitors; this is around 3 times more than in 2007. The server on which the site is hosted has delivered 2 GB of data; this is around half a

DVD, this is approximately 6 times more data than was served in 2007. This year has seen the introduction of the Church Hall site, which Liz now uses to manage booking on an interactive calendar, this calendar can also be used by the public who may wish to book the hall to see if it is free; a booking can then be made using the downloadable forms. More information has been added to the site including information on Weddings, Baptisms, PCC meetings and services. The site has also been made more interactive and dynamic, which gives the user an easier site to use and also makes it easier for me to maintain. The site is still far from complete, in the following year I aim incorporate much more of the content found in the weekly news sheets on to the site, this will make it simpler to find out about upcoming events and church activities. Remember news sheets are put on the site every week and are archived for a year. If anyone feels like helping out with site, please speak to me as it is now getting rather large.

Daniel Holt

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