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#### The Magazine of Barkston, Belton, Honington and Syston

Rural Dean: Rev. Sonia Barron

Revd. Stuart Hadley Associate Priests: 01476 575854

> Revd. Lilian Hall 01400 250729

Reader: Mr R O Wall 01400 281133

Editor: Mrs Wendy Card 01400 250462 (alan.c.card@btinternet.com)

Issue 317 Jan/Feb 2015

#### **Barkston and Syston Village Hall Regular Bookings**

Monday: Parent and Toddler Group, 10.00-11.30 a.m.

Short Mat Bowls 2.00—4.00 p.m.

Tuesday: Dance class 12.00—4.00 p.m. Wednesday: Dance class 12.00—9.30 p.m. Thursday: Yoga 10.00—12 noon

Short Mat Bowls 2.00—4.00 p.m.

Saturday: Dance class 9.00—4.00 p.m.

Rainbow, Brownies and Guides meet weekly, more information is

available at girlguiding.org.uk

Cardiac Group meet every second Tuesday of month 2.00 -3.00 p.m. Macular Society, WEA Courses and Lincs Trust for Nature

Conservation

The Hall is available for hire for, children's parties, family parties, wedding receptions and christenings.

Bookings—Carol Bradford 01400250744

#### **County Council Representatives**

Ray Wootten is County Councillor for Barkston, Belton and Syston Parishes. (Tel: 01476 400183 or e-mail cllrr.wootten@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

#### Post Office, St Nicholas Close, Barkston

Mondays and Thursdays

9.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.

Contact Tel No: 01636 704516

#### **Mobile Library dates**

The library will be in West Street between 11.00 p.m. - 11.30 p.m. on the following Monday January 19th, February 16th.

#### Items for inclusion in the next issue of 'In Touch'

Please send to Wendy Card by February 20th 2015, on Telephone 01400 250462

or e-mail alan.c.card@btinternet.com by 20 Feb. 2015

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#### **Not From the Rectory!**



First and foremost the Barkston & Hough group of parishes would like to record their thanks to the Reverend Alan Littlewood for his time as priest in charge, a role which he accepted as an addition to his duties as rector of the Ancaster & Wilsford benefice – albeit a role which was rather more demanding than the 'job spec' had indicated. We pay tribute to his ministry among us and wish him well on his retirement to that well known Roman city for the retired of Lindum Colonia – Lincoln to you and to me!

I am penning these words just before we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany: on Christmas Day, Ian Hislop spoke on BBC Radio 4 of how with regard to the visit of the three kings he had asked an Archbishop of Canterbury, which one he didn't say, whether it was true: True – responded the archbishop – it's far more important than that! Certainly for St Matthew, the only one of the four evangelists to record the event, it was something he intended us to take seriously. The writer is trying to put into words the wonder that is experienced by those who meet Jesus of Nazareth.

In a way parallel to that of the magi who looked up to the heavens and followed a star that lead them to Jesus, we too can follow the light to its source. We will prepare for this journey as the magi prepared their camels; taking adequate provisions for what lies ahead but also taking with us a gift: if I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb, if I were a wise man I would do my part, yet what I can I give him, give my heart, as Christina Rossetti put it.

Let me leave you with the following three line 'haiku' on the Epiphany for you to make of what you will:

Star showing the way

Serious men travel far

Seeking enlightenment

With all good wishes for 2015, Stuart Hadley [Associate Priest]

#### **Barkston and Syston Parish Council**

The Parish Council met on Monday 10th November 2014. All Members of the Parish Council were present together with one member of the public.

During the public forum, a member of the public again drew attention to the continuing problems with flooding on the A607, near The Stag. During the recent heavy rain a "Flood" sign had appeared, and the flooding had stretched over the road and path, bringing about a dangerous situation both for road users and pedestrians. Several Members mentioned that cars travelling south swerved onto the northbound side to avoid the flood, and that this was probably why the "Flood" sign had appeared.

Highways matters were discussed, and the Council received an update with regard to matters on which action had been promised. The Clerk was asked to chase action on outstanding issues, in particular with regard to the flooding on The Stag corner, given the danger to all road users. A meeting with the Area Surveyor and Environment Agency was proposed to discuss the flooding at the garage and the Hough Road corner. It was suggested, and agreed, that the Clerk request the Area Surveyor to agree to a "walkabout" to point out and discuss the various highway issues which had been raised. The request for a reduction of the speed limit on Hough Road had been acknowledged, but the Area Surveyor had said that the criteria for limits were being re -examined and a decision would not be made until April 2015, when all submitted applications would be reviewed.

The application for the erection of a bus shelter had been submitted, and the closing dates for comments had now expired. It had not yet been decided whether or not the application would be submitted to the SKDC Development Control Committee. If the application was approved, the next stage would be to apply for a licence to erect the structure on the highway footpath.

The Clerk updated the Council in regard to the proposed

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#### **LETTER FROM BISHOP CHRISTOPHER**

2015 is the Year of Discipleship – well, at least for us here in the Diocese of Lincoln!

I have chosen to make discipleship our focus this year because as we develop and deepen our discipleship, so we grow in our confidence as followers of Jesus Christ; and, as you know by now, I want us all to be faithful, confident and joyful disciples.

I have already written to every parish in the diocese to share my hope that all of us will engage with the Year of Discipleship in some way, and everyone – either as an individual or as a church community – will take up at least one of the opportunities on offer.

Here are just some of the ways in which you might enter into our Year of Discipleship: Join in with one of the services or bible studies based around our values of faithful, confident and joyful if they are offered in your parish

- There are lots of courses available to help you think more deeply about your own discipleship, whether you're new to church of have been attending all your life. Why not think about having one of these at your church? The Church of England's new discipleship course, called Pilgrim, is an excellent place to start
- Look out for the Diocesan Lent course for 2015, Confident Discipleship, running near you. It is an excellent follow up to this year's 2014 Advent course and gives us a further opportunity to reflect on our individual discipleship journeys
- Look out for more information on the 'discipleship days' being planned for various locations around the diocese this year
- Finally, keep your eye on Facebook and Twitter: the discipleship team will be using social media and keeping a blog through the Year of Discipleship. Remember, too, that there will be new resources and information coming on-stream all the time on our new-look website www.lincoln.anglican.org

I pray that God will bless our endeavours in the year ahead as we seek to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ, and I am already looking forward to joining together with many of you at a diocesan service in Lincoln Cathedral towards the end of the year to celebrate God's blessings through the year. Keep an eye out for more details coming soon. I wish you a happy and blessed new year.

**Bishop Christopher** 

Neighbourhood Plan for Barkston and Syston. Councillor Scott (SKDC) suggested that there could be changes to the system next year, and after a discussion it was agreed to defer further consideration until after the elections in 2015.

Councillors Card and Rowell volunteered to remove dead trees and trim dead branches off trees in the Burial Ground. This offer was received with thanks by the Council.

Thanks were expressed to Councillor Jackson and Mr Peter Wheeler for their fund raising efforts via the scrap drive, which had now closed.

The presentation in regard to the provision of a defibrillator was noted for the meeting in January 2015.

The next meeting is on MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015 at 7.45 pm at the VILLAGE HALL.

Malcolm Hall Clerk to the Council

#### **RAINBOWS CONCERT**

Thank you all who supported and contributed to the Barkston Christmas concert for RAINBOWS, the charity which runs the only hospice in the east midlands for young people dealing with 'life limiting' illnesses and their families. It was particularly good to have a Rainbows Ambassador, Robert Child, to speak to us at the start of the evening and tell us a little of the history behind RAINBOWS and of the work they do. From the proceeds of the three teddy bear raffles and from the money in the carboy at the concert we have sent £338 to the charity RAINBOWS. Many, many thanks for your support.

Stuart Hadley

We appreciate gifts of refreshments, the Christmas Tree, the support of Barkston School, the organist and all the help on the night by the performers and the catering team.

Pat Haynes & Margaret Elnor

#### PLAYING FIELD CHILDREN'S CORNER

The Barkston and Syston Parish Council Members are legally adopted as the Trustees of the playing field, which is actually owned by the parishioners of Barkston and Syston having originally been purchased by public subscription. With regard to the functioning of the playing field on a daily basis, an annually elected Management Committee exists to undertake this task.

The Management Committee has two main sources of income: the sports clubs, which use the playing field facilities, are self-financing and pay the playing field committee either an annual rental or a fee on a per match basis; and an annual grant provided by the Parish Council, raised as part of the precept funded through the Council Tax, to cover the community aspects of the field.

This arrangement has worked very successfully for a number of years, thanks principally to the small but dedicated band of volunteer Management Committee members who give freely of their time and expertise to ensure a well maintained, secure and safe environment for the users of the field especially the children.

However the passage of time has led to the deterioration of the children's corner play equipment. Some items have already been removed having been deemed unsafe at annual Health and Safety inspection and those remaining are close to suffering the same fate.

The Parish Council and the Management Committee undertook a joint exercise to fund a major revamp of the play area through grant aid. This bid, although gaining the support of the County Council and the Lincolnshire Playing Fields Association was scuppered by the National Lottery – their principal reason being that their resources were being focussed on urban projects!

Where do we go from here?

The Management Committee is requesting the support of the Parish Council in providing one multi-purpose piece of equipment complete with a subsurface which complies with current safety standards. With installation it is estimated that this project could cost in the region of £18,000 to £20,000 +

**Precept:** The precept for 2015 was discussed and it was decided to request the same figure of £750 as previous years.

**Larkfleet Development at Manthorpe:** Full planning application being presented in 3 months time. Residents wishing to object should object individually as they see appropriate, once the application has been presented.

#### **Any Other Business:**

A LIVES presentation was given before the meeting. The Parish Council decided to support the Charity with a donation of £300, to be reviewed on an annual basis.

Parish Council Website now up to date.

Sally Thompson reported dog fouling still occurring in Belton. She had personally picked up 3 lots. Owners should be responsible and use the bins. Cyclists working at Autocraft Industries are using pathway up to Chandlers. This is understandable as the A607 is a very busy and fast road but they do not appear to show any respect for pedestrians. Clerk to write to Autocraft to ask the employees to show more consideration to pedestrians using the path at the same time.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55.pm

T Hopwell

#### **CHRISTMAS BINGO EVENING**

Once again a very good time was had by all, and much needed money raised for Barkston Church. We should like to thank everyone who helped in any way with prizes, refreshments and coming on the night.

The Friends of Barkston Church are no longer operational; however we do hope to continue Bingo at Eastertime. Needless to say we would be glad of any support, and thank everyone for coming to our past events.

Pat Haynes & Margaret Elnor

### BARKSTON, SYSTON, HONINGTON, BELTON AND CARLTON SCROOP ANNUAL PRODUCE AND CRAFT SHOW

At our AGM in November we decided to donate £100 to the Defibrillator which will help with the annual running costs.

Vicki Strawson

#### BELTON AND MANTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Village Hall, Belton on Thursday 27th November 2014.

**Attending:** Chairman Councillor M. Coney, Councillors John Beaty, R. Gibson, T. Hopwell, S. Thompson, K. Gibson, County Cllr R. Wootten, J. Fountain Parish Clerk.

Two members of the public also attended.

#### Matters pertaining to Belton were as follows:-

Belton Old School – Village Hall & Parking in Belton: Car Park is now finished and in use. Volunteers also using parking provided in Belton House. The Chairman has contacted Brian Gault, and Mark Heaton LCC Highways and proposed primrose yellow lines and parking bays. Some residents have expressed concerns re increased parking outside other properties. The plans will be discussed with people of the village before anything is settled.

**Speeding through Manthorpe & Belton.** Reactive signs have now been ordered. Siting arrangements to be finalised for Belton. Final agreement still needed.

There is still a strong feeling that there should be a 50mph speeding limit on the A607 from Manthorpe, past Belton and as far as Barkston. This to be pursued.

**Pot Holes in Belton**: There is a large pot hole on Five Gates Lane, on the left going into the wood from Belton. Michael Coney has reported it. Cllr Wootten has since taken this up with LCC Highways who have agreed to repair.

**Smoke Pollution in Belton**. Bonfire smoke pollution in Belton has reduced but fires still being lit, on six occasions by the National Trust since September on land by the lake in the grounds, four occasions on consecutive days. NT is also reported to be burning in the wood yard. Clerk to write to Property Manager re concern over the fires being lit in the pit on the Lakeside Walk and in the Wood Yard burning of wet leaves etc.

Flooding outside 8 Main Road, Belton and Coach House. Drains checked and water is running away. Michael Coney to investigate further as resident of no 8 cannot enter/ exit her property through her garden gate due to flooding outside in heavy rain.

VAT. The Parish Council as owners of the equipment are eligible to reclaim the VAT.

The Parish Council has yet to debate this issue but budget decisions for the financial year 2015/2016 are to be made at the next Parish Council meeting scheduled for Monday, 12th January 2015 in the Village Hall at 7.45 p.m..

The Parish Council currently raises a precept upon SKDC of £9050 per annum. This sum is a charge of £34.47 on each of the 242.89 equivalent Band D properties and a £678 grant to cover the 26.11 equivalent Band D properties which under the Localised Council Tax scheme are deemed exempt.

If the Parish Council decides to support the Playing Field Management Committee's request for financial backing the cost of each £1,000 of "new money" raised through the Council Tax would be £4.12 per Band D equivalent household per annum. For example support of £5,000 by the Parish Council for each of the financial years 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 would cost each Band D equivalent household £1.82 per month for a two year period. The balance of funding for the project would be achieved by: utilising Management Committee and Parish Council reserves; seeking grant aid and the possibility of "Good Fairy" donations and fund raising.

Sixty odd years ago the parishioners of Barkston and Syston felt so strongly about providing a playing field that they: ousted from office at the local elections those Parish Council members who were opposed to the provision of one; took legal advice and achieved a compulsory purchase of the land following a public enquiry, and raised via public subscription the purchase price and costs. As a consequence of this fervour generations of children and grandchildren have enjoyed the play and sports facilities provided in a safe environment.

Parish Council members will have an important decision to make at the next meeting. Do they support and to what extent the provision of new play equipment or ignore the request and let the play area decline further?

Parish Councillors are elected by you to represent you, please express your viewpoint in writing or by email to a parish councillor.

Councillor John Jackson (jajackson101@btinternet.com)

#### Church Services for Jan—Feb 2015

Date	Barkston	Belton	Honington	Syston
4 January Epiphany	10.30 am RW Morning Prayer	11am JC Holy Communion		No Service
11 January Baptism of Christ	11.00am Holy Communion SH			
18 January Epiphany 2	11.00am Family Ser- vice JB/LH			9.30 am JC Holy Communion
25 January Conversion of Paul				
1 February Epiphany	10.30am RW Morning Prayer	11am JC Holy Communion		9.30am Morning Prayer
8 February Epiphany	11.00am SH Holy Communion			
15 February Epiphany	11.00am Family Service JB/LH			9.30am Holy Communion
18 February Ash Wednesday	7.30pm Ashing			
22 February 1st in Lent				

Please note Family Service at Barkston now 3rd Sunday in the month

#### **Services of Wholeness and Healing**

Wholeness and Healing services are held on the second Thursday of each month at St Nicholas' Church, Barkston at 7.30 p.m. These are quiet reflective services, where people have an opportunity to pray for any concerns, personal or of a wider nature. The service consists of two or three hymns, a meditation, prayers and opportunity to light candles, place written prayer requests on a Prayer Tree, receive the laying on of hands for oneself or for others, or simply to enjoy a time of peace and rest. Prayer is complementary to, and in support of the work of medicine and treatment.

St Nicholas' Church is warm and has toilet facilities. Refreshments are served after the service. The next services will be held on January 8th, February 12th

#### **Prayer and Praise**

Prayer and Praise at the home of Joy Bristow, 38 West Street, Barkston, (01400 250339), will be held on Mondays, January 12th & 19th. February 2nd &16th.

#### St. Nicholas Knitting Circle, Barkston

Our next Knitting Circle meetings will be on Mondays January 26th and February 23rd in the Community Centre, St. Nicholas Close, between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. We knit for The Jacob's Well Appeal, Beverley, Yorkshire. Come and join us for a Knit or just a Natter.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Coffee Morning we raised £245.90 for the Jacob's Well Appeal.

Joy Bristow (01400 250339)

#### KEY:

HC - Holy Communion FC - Family Communion FS - Family Service

**MP** - Morning Prayer **ES** - Evening Song **EP**—Evening Prayer

CS - Crib Service RS - Remembrance Service SP - Solemn Prayers

AL - Alan Littlewood SH - Stuart Hadley LH - Lilian Hall JC - John Cook

JB – Joy Bristow PC - Peter Coombs DF - Di Fairhead RF - Dick Fairhead

JL - John Lord BL - Ben Lyte SM - Sheila Mitchell AS - Angela Sims

**BG** - Betty Groves **DH** - David Hitchcock

RW - Bob Wall MT - Ministry Team (RS) - Richard Shireby (BW) - Brian West