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IN TOUCH



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

Acting Rural Dean:	Revd. Alan Littlewood (<i>lovedendeanery@btinternet.com</i>)	01400 231468
Associate Priests:	Revd. Stuart Hadley	01476 575854
	Revd. Lilian Hall	01400 251590
Reader:	Mr R O Wall	01400 281133
Editor:	Mrs Wendy Card (<i>alan.c.card@btinternet.com</i>)	01400 250462

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From the Rectory

Apart from being the shortest month, the start of noticeably longer days and the (unrelated) prospect of snow, what else does February offer? If this were a question on the BBC quiz show 'Pointless', no doubt the most popular answer would be 'Saint Valentine's Day'. I wonder what 'The Presentation of Christ in the Temple' (celebrated on the 2nd of February) would score? In the gospel according to Luke, we read that Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem 'to present him to the Lord.' There they met an old man, Simeon, who had been promised by God that he would live to see the Lord's Messiah. Simeon pronounced that Jesus was destined to be the long-promised Messiah, to be a sign that would be opposed. He also told Mary that, 'A sword will pierce your soul too.'

Little did we know as we celebrated the Presentation last year that shortly afterwards, on St Valentine's Day, Monica and I would be told of her terminal cancers, experiencing that piercing sword through the soul for ourselves. When it happens to you, it brings home like nothing else the pain suffered, for all kinds of reasons, by so many others. We understood the unanswerability of the question, 'How can a loving God allow it? We were fortunate to find comfort in the knowledge that God shares our suffering and holds out the possibility of overcoming it, of passing through the darkness to receive wholeness, healing and new life. Should you be suffering any kind of hurt, may you too find comfort in such knowledge and not find it pointless.

With every blessing,

Alan

Rev Alan Littlewood

01400 231145
ancaster.rectory@btinternet.com

County Council Representatives

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

Chris Farrar is County Councillor for Honington Parish.
 (Telephone 01522 789125 or e-mail cllc.farrar@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

Both will be happy to deal with any matters of concern.

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Friends of Barkston Church

We had a most successful concert at the beginning of December. The collection raised £180, and we sold all the tickets for two Duncan the Donkeys, so a cheque for £280 was sent to the Rainbow Children's Hospice. We thank everyone who helped in any way towards this wonderful cause.

BINGO

Our annual Bingo evening will be held on Friday 28 February at 7 p.m. prompt. Tickets are £5 for adults and £2.50 for children—please bring your own drinks and we will provide refreshments. There are boxes in the Centre and Church for prizes for which we are most grateful. Get your tickets from the Garage, Jill Hawkins or me before they all go.

Margaret Elnor 01400 251886

Food Bank Appeal

We recently had a collection of food which we sent to the Boston Food Bank to help the victims of the recent floods in that area.

I would like to thank everyone who so generously donated and helped with this,

Joy Bristow

St Nicholas Parochial Church Council

The AGM of the PCC will be held in church on 23rd April at 7.30pm. We would like to extend a warm invitation to you all on this occasion. We need new ideas and better use of our Church to ensure we do not lose it. As I have lived in the village a long while I can remember when we had a Chapel and a Church with several services every week. Let us try to change the trend and join together to celebrate each week.

Easter Bonnet

Ladies, show how creative you can be. Enter the Easter Bonnet competition at Syston Church on Sunday 20th April. Entry £1.00.

Contact Joan Wilkie at 01400 250529 for details.

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17th March. 14th April

West Street: Tuesdays, 10 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.
25th March. 22nd April

Old School House, Syston: Tuesdays, 10.45 a.m. - 11.15 a.m.
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Items for inclusion in the next issue of 'In Touch' to Wendy Card

Telephone 01400 250462 or e-mail alan.c.card@btinternet.com

by Wednesday 23rd April, please.

Easter Sunday at Syston Church

We have a service of Holy Communion at 9.30am followed by tea/coffee and Simnel Cake to which all are very welcome. From 2.30pm to 4.30pm there is an Easter Egg Hunt for children aged 10 years and under, and accompanied by an adult, (clues will be in the church, the old part of the churchyard, and in part of the grounds of Moatlands) and a chance for everyone to look around the church. Again refreshments will be available. We look forward to welcoming you.

Maryan Nussey. Syston PCC.

Barkston and Syston Village Hall

The following are regular bookings for the Hall -

Monday -

Parent and Toddler Group, mornings

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 info is available at girlguiding.org.uk

Cardiac Group meet every second Tuesday of month 2.00-3.00 p.m.

Macular Society

WEA Courses.

Lincs Trust for Nature Conservation

Barkston and Syston Parish Council

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 13th January 2014. All members of the Parish Council were present. Two members of the public attended, together with Neil Chadwick (HQ Co-ordinator for LIVES), and Chris Townson (Member of the newly formed Barkston LIVES Group).

The meeting commenced with the public forum, during which a member of the public drew the attention of the Council to the recently submitted application for an Environmental Impact Assessment for the Temple Hill Turbine application, and also to a further application for 13/14 turbines on Fulbeck Airfield.

The two LIVES representatives then made a brief presentation to update on the Group's progress. There were 5 members of the group currently, all trained to level 2, and fully equipped, including with a defibrillator. The operating area was within 2 miles of Barkston, and the ideal would be a 24/7 coverage, although at the moment it was less than that in an average week. Finances were mentioned, and it was noted that the group were relying on the Parish Councils in the area, and others, and it was hoped to eventually move to self-financing. It was intended to undertake local publicity via a leaflet drop, which would include an envelope for donations. It was intended to approach the School to ask them to make LIVES their chosen charity. The group would probably need £1,000 to function, for example it would cost £350 to kit everyone in the group out with appropriate uniform, which added to the credibility of the group, as well as being practical. Running costs – 2 oxygen cylinders cost £168 per year and defibrillator pads £25 per time. In addition, LIVES HQ took 30% for HQ funding. A request was made for £1,000 for each of the next two years.

Highways matters were discussed, and the Council were advised that in regard to the footpath in front of the Bedehouses, nothing further had been heard. Councillor Wootten undertook to pursue this with the Area Surveyor. On a related matter, the Clerk and Councillor Wootten agreed to refer the very uneven and potholed surface of Church Street and Honington Road to the Area Surveyor for urgent action.

Work to reinstate the double yellow lines at the A607 end of Church Street had still not taken place, and the Clerk was asked to again remind the Area Surveyor. The order to install double yellow lines around the Church corner on Church Street/Honington Road would be processed in the next batch

Witham. The matter rests with the Trust/Highways.
Flooding Five Gates Road at Alma Road End. R Wootten reported to Highways.
Dangerous state of road from Belton to Five Gates, Clerk to write to Highways.

Correspondence: Planning Permission given for change to outhouse at Vine Cottage, Washdyke Lane, Belton.

The next Parish Meeting (AGM) will be held on May 15th 2014 at Belton Village Hall starting at 7.00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Barkston War Memorial Cleaning **Scrap Metal Fund Raising**

The Parish Council recently decided that as part of the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the 1st World War the Barkston War Memorial should be cleaned. The cleaning works have to be undertaken professionally to prescribed specifications, with the consequent costs involved, provisionally estimated at around £1000.00.

For a year or so Pete Wheeler, Arthur West and myself have been collecting odds and ends of scrap metal, washing machines, tumble driers, electric motors, cookers, cable, batteries and gates—indeed anything metallic other than fridges and freezers and taking the collection into the scrap metal yard and raising money for local organizations. To date St Nicholas Church Restoration Fund and the newly formed LIVES group have both received contributions.

Our current focus is to raise money towards the cleaning costs of the War Memorial. We have a target of £100.00 in mind. To date we have £25.00 in the kitty. That will not go far!

If you can help by donating any metallic items to the cause please don't hesitate to either contact one of us, if the item is too heavy for you to deliver personally, or simply drop the bits and pieces onto my driveway at Derwent, Church Street, Barkston.

John Jackson 01400 250021

Belton and Manthorpe Parish Council

The Parish Council met at Manthorpe Village Hall, on Thursday 13th February 2014. Five Councillors, a member of the public and County Councillor Ray Wootten were present.

Matters pertaining to Belton were as follows:-

Belton Old School—Village Hall : The work is completed but the car park is in a poor state at the moment. National Trust has a plan to resolve the situation and lay the car park out as per the planning permission. However the roadway remains very muddy in the current weather conditions.

Crime Levels: Nothing to report. R Wootten informed the Parish Council that there is a new Beat Manager for Manthorpe and (he believes) Belton, Pete Nettleton. Public can log onto www.police.ukbeatmanager with postcode to find out what the crime levels are in their area.

Excess Water on A607: R Wootten reported that the order to get the grips done to stop the excess water on the A607 has been out for some time but it is not a priority and will be done when possible.

Parking Problem in Belton Main St: R Wootten wrote to Mark Heaton of Highways and emails were sent by Michael Coney trying to find a solution to the problem. Highways felt that the only form of enforcement that would be effective and recognizable to all motorists was the use of yellow lines.

Eventually it was agreed to further pursue with Highways the possibility of use of 50mm primrose double yellow lines from the Witham Bridge as far as Towthorpe Farm entrance possibly with parking bays. The National trust are aware of the situation and intend to do their best to alleviate parking problems at the Old School and Belton House. Michael Coney would like Councillors to have an on-site meeting with Bryan Gault, the Area Officer from Highways to discuss the proposal. Clerk to write to Mr Gault and arrange for him to contact Michael Coney. Copy of letter to be sent to Alec Gordon, National Trust.

Any Other Business: Flooding in Belton between Belton House entrance and the A607. Ray Wootten had obtained a reply from Highways that they

After the road was resurfaced. The County Council had advised that they were looking into various alternatives to avoid damage to the wall of Pear Tree Farm. The Clerk said that local businesses had been made aware of the problem, and asked to take appropriate action in regard to any of their own vehicles, or visiting vehicles.

ea Surveyor had promised gully emptying and jetting to improve the flooding on the Stag corner. The Clerk was asked to remind the Area Surveyor that the flooding really started with blocked drains further up the A607, where soil and leaves washed down from the fields to the east. Repair work to The Close was programmed for the next financial year. The undergrounding of overhead cables in Syston had been referred to Western Power although a response had not yet been received.

Other issues discussed were flooding at the garage and on Hough Road, surfacing of River Lane, Syston, and the repair of the long-damaged “School” sign on Honington Road were mentioned for referral to the Area Surveyor

The new plan of the Burial Ground had been prepared, and the agreed small changes to the operating rules had been notified to local Funeral Directors. The Clerk’s changes to the Burial Grant form to require next of kin to be responsible for the maintenance of memorials were discussed, and the Clerk was asked to research the definition of next of kin as applied to this issue, and also the average cost of headstone repairs.

It was agreed that, as part of the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the 1st World War, in addition to the cleaning of the Memorial, research would be undertaken into the history of the names. The Syston Memorial also to be researched.

The Council agreed a precept of £9,050 for the year 2014/15. It was also agreed to make a contribution to LIVES from the Charity Account in the sum of £1,000 in the current year, and to consider a contribution in a similar amount at the Charity distribution for 2014/15 later in the year.

The next meeting is on MONDAY 10th MARCH 2014 at 7.45 pm at the VILLAGE HALL.

Malcolm Hall
Clerk to the Council

Church Services for March— April 2014

Date	Barkston	Belton	Honington	Syston
2nd March 1st before Lent	10.30 am RW Morning Prayer	11 am JC Holy Communion		9.30 PC Morning Prayer
5th March Ash Wednesday	7.30 pm SH Holy Communion			
9th March Lent 1	11 am SH Holy Communion			
16th March Lent 2				9.30 JC Holy Communion
30th March Mothering Sunday	At Honington	At Honington	11 am Family Communion	At Honington
6th April Lent 5	10.30am RW Morning Prayer	11am JC Holy Communion		9.30am BG Morning Prayer
13th April Palm Sunday	11 am SH Holy Communion			
17th April Maundy Thursday	7.30 SH Holy Communion			
18th April Good Friday	Noon-3pm Quiet Prayer			
20th April Easter Day		11am JC Holy Communion		9.30am SH Holy Communion
27th April Easter 2	11 am JB Family Service			

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 Thursdays, 13th March and 10th April.
Joy Bristow (01400 250339)

Prayer and Praise

Prayer and Praise at the home of Joy Bristow, 38 West Street, Barkston, (01400 250339), will be held on Mondays, 3rd March, 17th March, 7th April, 14th April. 4 p.m.
Joy Bristow (01400 250339)

St. Nicholas Knitting Circle, Barkston

Our next Knitting Circle meetings will be on Mondays, 24th March and 28th April 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.
Joy Bristow (01400 250339)

Holp Baptism

Belton. On 29th December 2013—Ethan Luke Brister

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