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IN TOUCH



The Magazine of Barkston, Belton, Honington and Syston

Rector

Revd. Stuart Hadley
(rectorsouthcliff@outlook.com)
www.southcliffchurches.uk

07398390549

Editor:
Advertising:
Issue 352

Mrs Wendy Card
Mr John Jackson

01400 250462
01400 250021

February/March 2021

Barkston and Syston Village Hall Regular Bookings

<u>Monday</u>	Parent and Toddler Group	10-00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
	Short Mat Bowls	2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.
<u>Tuesday</u>	Dance Class	Noon - 4.00 p.m.
<u>Wednesday</u>	Dance Class	Noon - 9.30 p.m.
<u>Thursday</u>	Yoga	10.00 a.m. - Noon
	Short Mat Bowls	2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.
<u>Friday</u>	Move it or lose it	9.30a.m—10.15 a.m
<u>Saturday</u>	Dance Class	9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides meet weekly. For more information contact girlguiding.org.uk.

The Lincs Trust for Nature Conservation meet every second Friday of the month (Oct - April) 7.00 p.m. - 10.00 p.m..

Bookings for private functions - Carol Bradford 01400 250744

County Council Representatives

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

Post Office, St Nicholas Close, Barkston

Mondays 9.00am—3.00pm Thursdays 9.00 a.m. - 12 noon
Contact Tel No: 01636 704516

Mobile Library dates

The library will be in West Street between 2p.m.—2.45p.m. on the following **Tuesdays**: 16th February, and 16th March for pre-ordered books and returns. Covid restrictions apply at the moment .

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

Please send to Wendy Card by **15th March 2021**
Telephone 01400 250462
or e-mail alan.c.card@btinternet.com

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Sam & Mike welcome you to THE STAG

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South Cliff Villages Group
NOT FROM THE RECTORY



Not from the Rectory – which tells of day when the rector ‘aspired’ to greater things!

Professor Jonathon Vam-Tam has become something of a Lincolnshire hero with his use of metaphors to explain the situation we find ourselves in at the start of this new year. As well as drawing on his evident fondness for Boston United for his football analogies he has also used the analogy of waiting for a train to describe the process of a vaccine being developed:

We can imagine him standing on Grantham station as he speaks of it as being wet and windy but down the track two lights appear and it’s the train with the vaccine but it’s a long way off as it awaits the results of the trials .

But now the train has slowed down to enter the station and the train has stopped. Initially the doors don’t open as the guard has to make sure it is safe to open the doors – that’s the regulator [MHRA] giving its authorisation – but then the doors do open and there is a need for people to get on board that train and travel safely to their destination.

But despite the vaccine becoming available we still face some ‘hard winter months....where people must continue to follow the guidance’ for the vaccines are not an instant ticket out of trouble. However, Professor JVT concluded that the future was hopefully much brighter though we may have to be patient until maybe late spring [2021].

It was on a not dissimilar day when the rector stood on Grantham station [wet and windy] and looked south for the lights of the approaching ‘Cathedrals Express’. In truth it was the humble East Midlands Railway [EMR] service linking East Anglia to Merseyside linking the [Anglican] cathedral cities of Norwich, Ely, Peterborough,

Sheffield, Manchester and Liverpool as well as the Catholic cathedral cities at Nottingham, Sheffield and Liverpool – but which brought to mind the 1957 branded Western Region ‘Cathedrals Express’ service from the cathedral cities of Hereford and Worcester to London Paddington

On this occasion the train conveyed the present writer the short distance from Grantham through Nottingham and on to Chesterfield via the Erewash Valley Line: it was but a short walk up hill from the train station to the church of St Mary and All Saints – perhaps better known as the ‘Crooked Spire’ church

The town was home to a Roman fort built about 50AD and grew in prosperity to be granted its Market Charter by King John in 1204 and shortly after this the east end of the present church as well as the pillars which support the tower were built. In 1887 the church was said to be ‘fast going to decay’ although this situation was remedied by George Gilbert Scott who re-ordered the church and added more glass. Nonetheless the interior of the church is dark [albeit on the particular occasion was lit by the lights of some 160 Christmas trees] though there is a grandeur towards the east end where there are five chapels; under the central tower there stands a nave altar and the baptismal font – dated to before the Norman Conquest – stands in the south transept.

Light floods into the nave through the Anniversary window installed in 1984 with its bright colours tracing the history of the town from the 11th century to the present.

The shape of the spire is said to originate from when the devil, flying between Nottingham and Sheffield, took a moment to rest on the spire. However, the smell of the incense drifting up so irritated him that he gave a violent sneeze and flew from the tower but in doing so his tail caught the top of the spire and twisted it! Perhaps it is more probable that the spire was built using unseasoned timber which split and allowed the lead plates laid in herring-bone fashion to twist the spire

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8								7
3	6		4		2		9	5
	1		3		5		7	
		4				8		
	3		8		6		5	
7	4		2		9		3	8
9								6

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into the shape which today identifies not just the church but the town as well.

There was time before the return train to step into the town's museum and learn something of its industrial past and the manufacture of iron, pottery and glassware – but most significantly of the coal which lies near the surface and the mining of which was developed during the 1700's and expanded with arrival first of the Chesterfield Canal [1777] to link to the River Trent and secondly with the coming of the railways from the 1840's .

The exhibition 'Down t'Pit' highlighted the dangers inherent in this coal mining heritage with some moving verses penned on the occasion of the Grassmoor Colliery Disaster of 19th November 1933:

Upon a drear November morn/ On yon pit head with faces worn

The relatives and friends stood there/ Of men who've passed beyond
all care

They went to work unconscious all/ Of the dread thing that was to fall

And ere the night shift was complete/ They'd gone to rest at Jesu's
feet.

With every good wish,

Stuart Hadley [Rector of the South Cliff Benefice]

FROM THE REGISTER

May they rest in peace

BELTON

7th December 2020 Barbara Aileen Woods

14th December 2020 Esther Wilde

BARKSTON AND SYSTON PARISH COUNCIL

A virtual Meeting of the Parish Council was held on 11th January, via 'Zoom'. Eight members of the Parish Council were present, Councillor Evans sending apologies. District Councillors Ian Stokes and Mrs Rosemary Kaberry-Brown sent apologies and County Councillor Ray Wootten was present later in the meeting. There were no members of the public present.

The Clerk, as usual, updated members on the progress with various matters in connection with roads and footpaths, which had been raised at previous meetings, and reported that some of the items raised had been dealt with. Of particular concern had been the damaged BT inspection cover on the A607 opposite the Village Hall, which had only been repaired following a number of calls from local residents, the Clerk, and finally following intervention from County Councillor Wootten.

The Minnetts Hill/Church Street area was still a problem, and another request had been made after recent flooding in front of the Almshouses, and following concern expressed by a local resident. This had been referred to Councillor Wootten. Following a site visit a works programme had been put forward for the next financial year for a design solution to cover both the flooding in the Bedehouses area and the blocked drains on Minnetts Hill.

There was still considerable concern at the parking situation at the extreme end of West Street, as a result of the increasing use of the area for leisure purposes, with the consequent damage to verges. Inconsiderate parking was also an issue, including the use of passing bays and the farm drive, blocking access for farm vehicles. Councillor Wootten had advised that he had been successful in securing action via the Lincolnshire County Council 'Councillor calls for action' procedure, which it was hoped would result in action to provide parking places. The Parish Council agreed to support this initiative.

The Community Speedwatch was still paused Countywide, at the direction of the Road Safety Partnership.

In relation to the bus stop clearway proposals in Church Street,

CHRISTMAS ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

Thank you so much to everyone who donated Christmas items and their time to the decoration of The Green for Christmas, also to the Parish Council for their financial support. It was fantastic and we will do it again next year, with the aim of it becoming an annual event. Next Christmas it is hoped that The Stag will be running as normal bringing extra light and life to the area. We have a whole year to think about what we can do.

I have the sleigh, paint, baubles and lights stored. If anyone needs any lights for anything please ask as you are more than welcome to borrow them as they belong to the villages.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Wishing you all a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Rachel and Les Metcalfe



ADDITIONAL TO CHURCH SERVICES

In addition for those unable to return to church because they are shielding or in some way vulnerable we offer the Sunday Eucharist on our Facebook site at <https://www.facebook.com/Southcliff-Benefice-100279404991720/>

Churches across the Benefice are also open for Individual Private Prayer as follows:

St. Nicholas Carlton Scroop - Every Sunday
St. Nicholas Normanton on Cliffe - Every Day
St. Nicholas Fulbeck - Every Wednesday 10.00 to 16.00

Ash Wednesday arrangements—provisional (check the website at www.southcliffchurches.uk for up to date information)

17th February 2021—Ash Wednesday
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (with ashing in mind) at Caythorpe
19.00 p.m. Holy Communion by Facebook



Barkston, the Clerk said that there had been local concerns raised, and these were read to the Council, together with the LCC response to the concerns, from which it appeared that the concerns had been dealt with and the clearway orders would be made.

In regard to the use of the Communal Room at St Nicholas Close for the Outreach Post Office, the Clerk said that SKDC were of the opinion that the risk of infection was too great at the present time to open any of the Council's Communal Rooms, and the Parish Council's request could not be agreed. The situation was, however, being kept under review.

Councillor Maryan Nussey was appointed as the Parish Council's representative on the Barkston Educational Foundation following John Jackson's resignation.

It was noted that none of the three fly tips reported at the last meeting had been cleared, and the Clerk was asked to remind SKDC.

The Council received a report from the Clerk on the budget for the next financial year, and after a lengthy discussion it was agreed to submit a precept of £12,500 to SKDC, this being a reduction for the fifth year in a row.

The next meeting is on MONDAY 8th MARCH 2021 at 7.45 p.m..

Malcolm Hall
Clerk to the Council

THESE SERVICE DEPEND ON CLOSURE BEING LIFTED

THE SERVICE ROTA SOUTH CLIFFE VILLAGES GROUP

Village	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday	5th Sunday
Date	7th Feb	14th Feb	21st Feb	28th Feb	
BARKSTON		10.30 a.m HC/SH			
BELTON	10.30a.m HC/SH				
BRANDON	10.00am MP/CH				
CARLTON SCROOP with NORMANTON					
CAYTHORPE				10.30 a.m HC/SH	
FULBECK			10.30 a.m HC/SH		
HONINGTON					
HOUGH ON THE HILL		09.00 a.m HC/SH		10.00am MSW/JK	
HOUGHAM	17.00 EP/CB			09.00a.m HC/SH	
MARSTON	9.00 a.m HC/SH		10.00a.m MP/CS		
SYSTON			09.00a.m HC/SH		

1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday	
7th March	14th March	21st March	28th March	
	10.30am HC/SH			
10.30 a.m HC/SH				
10.00am MP/CB 1				
		09.00a.m HC/SH		
			10.30 a.m HC/SH	
		10.30 a.m HC/SH		
	09.00a.m HC/SH		10.00am MSW/JK	
17.00p.m EP/CB			09.00 a.m HC/SH	
09.00 a.m HC/SH	10.00am FS/CS			

In Addition: see church notice boards or web site www.southcliffchurches.uk