

## Parish News August 2020

**The Rector**            The Revd George Goalby    800240  
   Mobile    07923 546599  
   Email    rectorwhc@hotmail.com

**Parish Office @St John's**    Steve Townley    825920  
(Office open weekdays from 9am to 12 noon)

**Safeguarding Co-ordinator**    Lorna Bayes    790852

**Lay Reader**                            Margaret Hardy 398147

### Church Wardens

*St John's Washingborough*    Jonathan Clark    07879 475189  
   Colin Ward    07780 731101

*St Thomas' Heighington*    Ann Crust    790005  
   Mick Bowbanks    790866

*All Saints' Canwick*                    Geoff Willoughby    529806  
   Sue Kelley    513650

### From the Rector

The phrase "things are getting back to normal" doesn't really sum up what has been happening in the last few weeks. There is familiarity, but what was normal is so longer and there is a new "norm" which may be with us for some time. Some form of distancing, the use of masks, hand washing, restricted activities, and the threat of a surging "r", all make normality an aspiration rather than a reality. Fear of redundancy, home working, breaking the isolation whilst remaining safe, all remind us of the impact this pandemic has had upon us. We have had to learn quickly about new ways of both doing and being. In our Churches we have learned about zoom, live streaming and new ways of staying in touch. As a nation we have learned how to set new priorities, support aspects of our social and economic common life, and about acting responsibly so that others who are vulnerable might be protected. This new normality has taken us all on a quite steep "learning curve".

For the disciples and the early church, their learning curve was also very steep. With the coming of the Nazarene carpenter, normality was changed forever. Religion was no longer about rules and regulations, fear was replaced by love, and they became increasingly defined by their care for the vulnerable and the powerless. They were shown a new way of living, overcoming evil with goodness not by starting a vendetta, and learning to have a new humility that allowed them to reach out to everyone regardless of their status or position in life. Their new normality enabled them to turn their world upside down. May our new normality help us to make changes for the good of all, and overturn those beings and doings that for too long have brought injustice and unfairness to our daily lives.

George

## Coming back to life at St John's and St Thomas

Since the middle of March we've not been able to meet at church in person but we've not been idle.

A WhatsApp group has kept us in touch and it's been busy everyday with chat, shared music and jokes, thoughts, prayers and even a quiz. We've been meeting online with Zoom to hold services and run our Psalm and Bible study groups. It's been amazing to see how well everyone has come to terms with technology.

At first, we closed the churchyard at St John's but as things began to ease we were able to unlock on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday for a few hours each time. The churchyard is kept well maintained by one of our members.

We often get people visiting the churchyard looking for relative's graves. We keep in church the burial register from about 1962 onwards. Our records go back to 1564 and list over 8000 burials and these older records can be seen at the Archives or through one of those family tree websites.

A few weeks ago we were able to open the church for private prayer. Quite a few people have taken advantage of this and anyone is welcome to call in even if you just would like a few moments of peace and quiet. Opening times are the same as the churchyard and can be found on the church website – search for Washingborough church.

On Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> of July we managed to hold a church service at Washingborough again. A lot of thought went into how we could do this safely. We can't give out hymn books or orders of service so we now project the words onto a large screen. Even more impressive is the way we've been able to live-stream our service out for anyone to join.

We hope in the very near future to be able to open St Thomas church for private prayer. Because it's a smaller building we're limited to how many people can be accommodated but we hope we can eventually move to holding services there too.

Latest news St Thomas Church will be open on Saturday morning from 10 – 12 noon for private prayer.

As a Church we pay tribute to two people who have recently died, Keitha Archer and Pat Constance. We thank God for their lives and their friendship, to so many in our Churches, and our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends. Covid has meant that for so many funerals have been restricted, but we light our candles to remember them, say our prayers and look forward to that time when the danger is passed and we can offer memorial services for families in our Churches - a real opportunity to remember and celebrate those who are special to us all and have touched our lives by the way they have lived theirs.

Do keep an eye out for the times of our services as we re-open our churches for Sunday worship. We shall have restricted numbers to be confident that all are safe, and you will probably need to book in for a place. Steve Townley our administrator is now back working and a call on 820925 should find his dulcet tones answering any enquiries you may have.

We are going to have a **Gift Day** on August 30<sup>th</sup> when you can bring a gift of money to St Johns. This Covid time has been tough on every aspect of our economy, and we as a Church have been hit financially as have so many firms and charities. We would appreciate anything you can give and warmly invite you to come and help us to meet our financial obligations in these difficult times.

**\*\*Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August St John's Gift Day\*\***

### **NOTICES**

#### **100 Club Draw winners**

£50.00 John Maughn Washingborough

£25.00 Ann Applewhite Washingborough

£15.00 Liz Morgan Heighington

£10.00 Joyce Martin Heighington

#### **Children's Society**

At this time of year I would be preparing to empty the Children's Society boxes but I am waiting for instructions and paperwork for that. However carry on collecting and as soon as we can I'll contact you all. Hopefully we can re-arrange a speaker to tell us more about the work of the Society.

Jenny Wells

#### **Christian Aid**

#### **Mothers' Union**

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August is Mary Sumner Day when we were planning a Cluster Songs of Praise. We will be able to celebrate this day at one of our services here and possibly meet up with each other later in the week. It is time to order M.U. diaries and calendars and look at the Christmas cards and items in the catalogue when it is available.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Hazel Constance following the death of her husband Patrick.

#### **St John's Church Care Group**

Now the church is open we need to re-establish our rota for this, usually the last Friday of the month. If you are able to help please contact Margaret Saunders 793164 or the Parish Office.