

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

Ermine, Lincoln

Thoughts, notices and reminders

1 August 2010

We have all had moments
when an experience of nature,
or a baby's smile,
or a piece of music
or an encounter with death
has produced in us,
at least for a few moments,
a profound stillness
and a sense of oneness with everything, allied
to a conviction that all is well.
These are timeless moments.
They are a taste of being with God.

From "From the bottom of the pond" by Simon Small

Please feel free to contact Fr. Stephen at any time,
but please remember that his usual day off is Saturday.
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THE PRAYER PAGE Aug 1 to 7

Saint's Day	Prayer in the parish	Prayer in the diocese
Sunday Trinity 9	Our parish and people Residents of: Allandale Close, Allandale View, Amble Close, Apley Close	Crowland Revd Charles Brown
Monday	Fr Stephen, John Clark, Melanie Jackson and their families Residents of: Asterby Close, Aubourn Avenue, Aylesby Avenue, Bain Street	Cowbit and Weston Hills Rev Charles Brown The Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage 2010 Aug 2-6
Tuesday	Our Lady of Lincoln church and school Fr Colin, Sister Stephanie, the clergy and people; the staff and pupils of Our Lady Primary School Residents of: Barkston Gardens, Bassingham Crescent, Bilsby Close, Blankney Crescent	Deeping St James Revd Sonia Marshall Christian Listeners
Wednesday	Ermine House Residents of: Brattleby Crescent, Broxholme Gardens, Buchanan Street, Burnside Close	Market Deeping, St.Guthlac Revd Philip Brent Revd Stephen Hearn
Thursday St Oswald, King of Northgumbria	Our parish visitors; parent and toddler group Residents of: Burwell Close, Cabourne Avenue, Carlton Grove, Carlton Walk	The Ness Group of Parishes Revd Canon Janet Beadle Revd Michael Howard
Friday	Prayer group, tape ministry and flower arrangers Residents of: Chatterton Avenue, Clarendon Gardens, Clarendon View, David Avenue	The Deanery of Graffoe Revd Nick Buck
Saturday	Staff and users of the church hall Residents of: Dunholme Court, Dunston Close, Edendale Gardens, Edendale View	The Withamside United Parish Revd Nick Buck Revd Alison Jones Revd Jim Smith

Give thanks for:	The Walsingham youth pilgrimage this week
Special prayers this week for:	Students awaiting exam results; holiday play activity schemes for young people
People in need:	Jack Ashton, Ann Gray, Colin Gray, Beryl Grout, Jan Hunter, Elizabeth Nixon.
Rest in peace:	Dorothy Rawlinson

THE PRAYER PAGE Aug 8 to 14

Saint's Day	Prayer in the parish	Prayer in the diocese
Sunday Trans-figuration	Guides and Brownies Residents of: Edlington Close, Epworth View, Ermine Close, Escombe View	The Graffoe Group of Parishes Canon Kathryn Windslow Revd Susan Williams Revd Clifford Knowles
Monday Mary Sumner, Founder of Mothers' Union	Our charity for this year The Jacaranda project Residents of: Fiskerton Drive, Garfield Close, Garfield View, Gayton Close	Waddington Revd Roland Parker
Tuesday St Lawrence, Deacon at Rome	Bishop Grossteste College Dr Muriel Robinson (principal), Carolyn James (chaplain), staff and students Residents of: Glynn Road, Glynn View, Greenholme Close, Greyling Close	Skellingthorpe with Doddington Revd Richard Billingham Revd Erica Crust
Wednesday St Clare of Assisi	St Francis School; Enterprise House Ann Hoffmann (head), staff, pupils and governors Residents of: Greyling View, Hackthorn Place, Hardwick Place, Harmston Close	Retired Clergy in the Graffoe Deanery
Thursday	Ermine Primary School Residents of: Harpwell Road, Hatcliffe Gardens, Hawkshead Grove, Haydor Avenue	Thorpe on the Hill, Eagle, North Scarle, Swinderby Revd George Goalby Revd Paulette Walker
Friday Jeremy Taylor Bishop of Down and Connor	Ermine West Methodist Church Residents of: Ingleby Crescent, Jesmond View, Keddington Avenue, Kershaw View	Hykeham Team Ministry Revd Canon Richard Eyre Revd Jo Reid Revd Michael Frere
Saturday	Ruckland Court Residents of: Langdale Close, Langton Close, Laughton Crescent, Laughton Way	The Branston, Potterhanworth and Nocton Group of Parishes Canon Bryan Barrodale Rev Les Whitfield

THE PRAYER PAGE Aug 15 to 21

Saint's Day	Prayer in the parish	Prayer in the diocese
Sunday The Blessed Virgin Mary	The Centre Residents of: Laughton Way North, Lenton Gardens, Manton Road, Midville Close	Metheringham, Blankney, Dunston Revd Alan Greenhough Revd John Tyrell
Monday	Pam, Jackie, Stephen and Sue, our readers; Housebound communicants Residents of: Millbeck Road, Minting Close, Moorby Close, Natal View	Washingborough with Heighington, Canwick Revd Stephen Jones-Crabtree Revd David Baker
Tuesday	Health care services on the estate; Social Workers Residents of: Nene Road, Nocton Drive, Pietermaritz Street, Pietermaritz View	The Bishop of Lincoln The Rt Revd Dr John Saxbee The Bishop's Chaplain & Personal Assistant Revd Canon Michael Silley Secretary to the Bishop of Lincoln Jackie Saxbee
Wednesday	JJs; Pathfinders Residents of: Pine Close, Queen Elizabeth Road, Queen Mary Road	The Bishop of Grimsby The Rt Revd David Rossdale Secretary to the Bishop of Grimsby Heather Heard
Thursday	The PCC and Parish officers Sue and Peter, David, Ian Young, PCC members Residents of: Ravendale Drive, Redbourne Drive, Retief Close, Retief View	The Bishop of Grantham The Rt Revd Dr Tim Ellis Secretary to the Bishop of Grantham Jane Leighton
Friday St Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux	Community Police and Neighbourhood Watch PC Andy Balding, PC Andy Woodcock, community beat managers, Lance, Amy, Pete and Stephanie, community support officers Residents of: Ridge View, Riseholme Road, Riverton Close, Riverton View	The Archdeacon of Stow and Lindsey The Venerable Jane Sinclair Secretary to the Archdeacon Angela Wilson
Saturday	Lenton Green and Cathedral View Court Residents of: Rolleston Close, Rothwell Road, Roughton Court, Ruckland Avenue	The Archdeacon of Lincoln The Venerable Tim Barker Secretary to the Archdeacon Michelle Lees

THE PRAYER PAGE Aug 22 to 28

Saint's Day	Prayer in the parish	Prayer in the diocese
Sunday Trinity 12	Yarborough School; Yarborough Leisure Centre; Youth Matters Project Residents of: Rusland Close, Rushlip Close, Sanders Close, Sanders View	The Dean The Very Revd Philip Buckler Secretary to the Dean Lynn Snelson
Monday	Organist, Choir, vergers and servers, the social and fundraising group Residents of: Scopwick Place, Searby Road, Sedgebrook Close, Stainton Gardens	Diocesan Chief Executive Max Manin PA to the Chief Executive Jennie Kuhnel
Tuesday St Bartholomew	United Reformed Church Revd Hamish Temple; the elders and people of the church Residents of: Stapleford Avenue, Steeping Court, Sturton Close, Sudbrooke Drive	The Deanery of Grantham Revd Canon Chris Andrews
Wednesday	The Estate Managers and council workers; postmen Residents of: Swaby Close, Tangshan Court, Tetney Close, Thoresway Drive	Barrowby, Great Gonerby Revd Peter Hopkins
Thursday	Sure Start; the Women's refuge Residents of: Thurlby Crescent, Torrington Road, Trelawny Crescent, Troutbeck Close	Grantham, St Wulfram Canon Christopher Andrews Revd Anne Jablonski
Friday St Monica, Mother of Augustine of Hippo	Readers, sidespersons, chalice assistants and intercessors Residents of: Waddingworth Close, Welbourne Gardens, Welland Road, Welton Gardens	Grantham, Manthorpe Revd Jill Potts Revd Canon Bob Bailey
Saturday Augustine, Bishop of Hippo	Mothers' Union; our website Sheila and the members of our branch; Daniel Holt Residents of: Wellingore Road, Wickenby Crescent, Willingham Avenue, Winster Close	Grantham, Harrowby with Londonthorpe Revd Chris Boland Revd Andrew Jablonski

Coming up this week:

Sunday 1 Mass Setting: Archer	10:00am 12:00pm 6:00pm	Eucharist Baptisms Service of prayer for healing
Wednesday 4	9:30am 10:30am	Eucharist Eucharist at Ruckland Court
Thursday 5	12:00pm	Lunch Club in the Hall
Friday 6	7:00pm	Eucharist
Sunday 8 Mass Setting: Rizza	10:00am	Family Eucharist - Transfiguration

Coming up soon:

Wednesday 11	9:30am 7:30pm	Eucharist Choir Practice
Thursday 12	2:00pm	Mothers Union – CANCELLED
Saturday 14	11:00am	BBQ at Tabitha and Daniel's
Sunday 15 Mass Setting: Rizza	10:00am	Eucharist – The Blessed Virgin Mary
Wednesday 18	9:30am 10:30am 12:00pm	Eucharist Eucharist at Ermine House Lunch Club in the Hall
Thursday 19	1:30pm	Bingo and Coffee in the Hall
Friday 20	6:00pm 7:00pm	Pathfinders quiz evening Eucharist
Saturday 21	3:00pm	Wedding in church
Sunday 22 Mass Setting: Archer	10:00am	Eucharist
Wednesday 25	9:30am 7:30pm	Eucharist with prayer for healing Choir Practice
Thursday 26	2:00pm	Afternoon Tea at the Vicarage
Saturday 28	2:00pm	Renewal of Marriage Vows
Sunday 29 Mass Setting Rizza	10:00am	Eucharist
Wednesday 1	9:30am 10:30am	Eucharist Eucharist at Ruckland Court
Thursday 2	12:00pm	Lunch Club in the Hall
Friday 3	6:00pm 7:00pm	Pathfinders Eucharist
Sunday 5 Mass setting: Murray	10:00am	10:00am Eucharist 12:00pm Baptisms 6:00pm Songs of Praise – Mothers' Union

DIOCESE OF LINCOLN LADIES' CHOIR

Evensong at 6.30 pm on Sunday, 26 September in Stow Minster to celebrate the inauguration of Diocese of Lincoln Ladies' Choir, of which Zoe Clayton is a member. Evensong and Launch Party. Join together for worship, then drinks, light music and socialising.

Please support Zoe as she did extremely well to be given a place in this choir. If anyone would like me to organise transport please let me know as I realize not all members of the congregation have transport. If anyone is going by car and has spare seat/seats please let me know so that I can co-ordinate. See you there.

Sue Young

BULLETIN

Please note that there will only be one bulletin for August, instead of one every week. If you have any requests for prayer, please ensure that Peter Sherlock is told and he will make sure those offering intercessions are informed. However, in this case, names will not appear in the bulletin.

9th ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

To mark the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks in 2001 in New York, we are keeping the church open all day for a prayer vigil for the peace of the world. This will start at 10:00am and finish at 6:00pm on Friday September 10th. We would like prayer to continue throughout the day, so if you could spare an hour or 30 minutes on September 10th to offer your prayer, that would be much appreciated and a real contribution to the day. Please sign up at the back of church to let us know which time slot you can do. It would be wonderful to have the whole day covered.

VICTIMS OF CRIME SUPPORT TALK

Many apologies to everyone who turned up for the talk on Tuesday. Unfortunately, we did not find out until late in the afternoon that the speaker was indisposed and unable to come and it was not possible (because we did not know who would turn up!) to let everyone know. Hopefully we will be able to rearrange the talk for later in the year.

PLACEMENT

From October to December, we will be hosting a reader on placement with us. Nigel Panting is from Ruskington and is currently exploring the distinctive diaconate (this means that he is hoping to be ordained as a permanent deacon). More information about the placement later in the year.

MOTHERS UNION

Due to a number of people being unavailable, our August meeting/meal has been cancelled. Please keep an eye out on the bulletin as we will be rearranging our annual meal for later in the year. Please have a word with Sheila or Sue for more information. In September, the Mothers Union will be offering their Songs of Praise service on September 5th, followed on September 9th by a talk from the Children's Society. The deanery service for the Mothers Union will take place at St Johns on Wednesday September 15th.

THANKS

To Cay and Peter for organising a very enjoyable parish meal out at the Lincolnshire Poacher the other week. It was a very happy occasion and much appreciated by everyone who went.

CHARITY VOTING

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to vote for our charity for the next 18 months. For the second round of voting, 26 people voted (half the number for the first round) with the following results:

Care for abused girls in Swaziland	13 votes
Hearing dogs for deaf people	5 votes
Smile train	8 votes

The Jacaranda project is therefore our charity for the next year, read the interview with Sister Carol below.



JACARANDA – OUR CHARITY FOR THIS YEAR

In this interview from 2006 Sr Carol talks about her religious life and about the Jacaranda project

“We live by faith – we have never been without enough money

My interest in the religious life was awakened when, by coincidence, I found myself teaching at St Hilda's Prep School (now closed) in Whitby, near to St Hilda's Priory, where I had spent time when I was a student.

I felt I wanted to be more involved in the Order of the Holy Paraclete, which was originally founded as an educational order in Whitby. I often have to explain that Paraclete is Greek for Holy Spirit.

Religious orders are not dying: we have about 60 Sisters in the Order, including five novices; two in England, and three in Ghana. But we are all part of the mother house in Whitby.

As Sisters, we do not hide from the world — we certainly see life. I spent time working in various parishes, some in incredibly deprived areas. But we do always wear our habits to identify ourselves.

I went to Swaziland in 1999 because I was asked; we take vows of obedience. I originally went to work for the Anglican congregation at the university, but, when I was there, I started to look around to see where my ministry should be.

It became clear to me that a safe house for abused girls was needed. Since I had arrived in the country, I was really struck by the work of SWAGAA — Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse. We had no money. But a Roman Catholic community there offered me the use of one of their orphanages in Manzini, Swaziland's second city, and the project was born. They were so supportive, and within a week had sent some US soldiers to help renovate it. And a local hotel donated money from a golf tournament. We have been blessed right from the beginning.

Jacaranda is a blossom. We chose that name as it creates a purple haze all over the city as you come in. It is an easy name and so appropriate as we watch the girls blossom as they live here. There are many child-headed families in Swaziland because of AIDS. We took in three girls at once: sisters aged six, eight, and ten. They had been hiding; their mum had died, and their dad was in prison for rape. We had been told about them. I can remember the oldest coming ragged out of the bush. She is now 17 and delightful.

We insist that the girls get an education; they go to the local school just like ordinary children. Some girls come to us pregnant through rape. The babies generally get adopted if the mums cannot cope. There is an organisation called Abandoned Babies for Christ. When they move on from us, we rent them a room for six months. We encourage their independence, and help them find a job. We stay in touch. All our girls are referred to us by the police or from charities or social welfare.

We have never had a moment without enough money, even when we had to buy a second property. Funding is by donation. We live by faith. The sisters are supported by the community, but we take no money from the project for ourselves. We would like another house. We usually have about 30 girls, and we have now moved our work to Bulembo, known as the Valley of Hope, based in an old mining village run as a Christian organisation. All the girls are with us.

Day-to-day work is busy. We —Sister Karan and myself — say four Offices a day, and make time for Bible study and prayer. On top of this, there is all the admin of running the home. We now have a cook, but by lunchtime the girls are all home, and we like to spend time with them. For the first time, we have a gap-year student from Whitby, who is going to medical school. We would love churches to support us more in a practical way by sending volunteers to help in our houses. Prayer and donations are always welcome, though.

HIV/AIDS is such a big problem here. There is a myth that if you have sex with a virgin then you will be free from HIV. Nearly 50 per cent of the population have HIV/AIDS. It is very high in the 15-30 age group; so there are a lot of grandmothers bringing up their grandchildren.

At the Priory, I remember being particularly struck by a book, *Casting Off*, by Ruth Scott. To relax, I enjoy anything by Rosie Thomas. The girls have an English library at Jacaranda. It was shipped over by friends of mine from the UK. I am very close to my family, as they support me and allow me to live out my vocation. My mother needs 24-hour care, and my family — I have a brother and sister — are very supportive; otherwise I would not be here. I was home recently, and of course keep in touch.
As a child, I wanted to be a children's nurse. This sort of career did not figure at my school. I would have liked to marry and have children, but I have chosen this path.

In the Bible, I love the Psalms; they express so well life's ups and downs.

I do get angry when I feel one of our girls is about to blow it and jeopardise her future. I am very protective of them. I am happiest when we are all celebrating something.

I would like to get locked in a church with Archbishop Sentamu. There is something very different about him

SPONSORED BIKE RIDE

The annual sponsored bike ride and stride will take place on September 11th this year. This is held in aid of the Lincolnshire Churches Trust and any money raised is shared

between the Trust and the parish. If you would like to go on a sponsored ride or stride, please feel free to organise this; however, we do also need to people to man the church for the day and to welcome visitors. We are hoping to hold a coffee morning to co-incide with this, but more details available later in the month.

EDENHAM REGIONAL HOUSE

DAYS OF REFLECTION AND RETREAT

September 2010

'In returning and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength'
Isaiah 30 v15

Thursday 2nd September: 11-30 am – 4.45 pm

Bishop John Saxbee – '**What happens when we pray?**' - a last visit to Edenham by Bishop John before pastures new. Suggested contribution £12.50, includes lunch – please notify the house of any special dietary needs 01778591358 or athawes@tiscali.co.uk.

FROM THE DIARY

St Oswald was King of Northumbria from 634 until his death at the Battle of Maserfield in 642. He is venerated as a saint for spreading Christianity within his kingdom.

Mary Sumner is commemorated on the anniversary of her death on 1921 aged 93. She is best known as the founder of the Mothers' Union. Born Mary Heywood she married George Sumner who became a priest in the parish of Old Alresford in Hampshire. They had three children. In 1876, on the birth of a grandchild, she was inspired to call a meeting of mothers in the parish to offer mutual support. In 1885 she was invited to address a meeting in Portsmouth which inspired other women to organize similar groups. By 1892 there were 60,000 members in 28 diocese and in 1896 the Mothers' Union Central Council was formed with Mary Sumner elected the first President.

St Lawrence was one of seven Deacons of ancient Rome until he was martyred during the persecution of Valerian in 258.

St Clare of Assisi (1194 to 1253) was one of the first followers of St Francis. She founded the Order of Poor Ladies, renamed in her honour after her death as the Order of Saint Clare, commonly referred to as the Poor Clares.

Jeremy Taylor (1613 to 1667) was a clergyman in the Church of England and an author during the Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell. He is best known for 'The Rule and Exercises of Holy Living' written in 1651. He later became the Bishop of Down and Connor in Ireland.

St Bernard (1090 to 1153) was Abbot of Clairvaux from 1113 to 1128 and later was a major player in the Church of France helping to smooth troubled waters. He was canonized in 1174 by Pope Alexander III and Pope Pius VIII bestowed upon him the title of "Doctor of the Church".

Augustine (354 to 430) was Bishop of Hippo Regius. He was a latin speaking philosopher and theologian whose writings were influential in the development of Western Christianity. His mother **St Monica** (331 to 387) wrote extensively of her virtues and his life with her in his Confessions. She is the patron saint of those who have difficult marriages.

Christian Listeners

Nicodemus, who is remembered today in the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox Churches, has been suggested as the 'Patron Saint of Listening'.

Like Nicodemus, we have the opportunity to go apart, out of the limelight, and truly listen to one another. In public forums, we can suggest, as Nicodemus did, that everyone be heard, be given the opportunity to speak without interruption or disdain.

Listening is three dimensional:

- listening to others,
- listening to ourselves
- listening to God.

Listening to others improves the quality of relationships in the home, church and workplace, learning to listen to ourselves helps us to grow in wholeness, and learning to listen to God helps us to deepen our spirituality.

Please pray for Christian Listeners and especially for the group of people from various churches and walks of life, who in May of this year successfully completed the Acorn Christian Listening 'Called to Listen' course; for God's help and guidance in leading them to use their newly learnt skills to help others in our churches and communities.

"Listening is the highest form of hospitality... not to change people, but offering them space where change can take place" Henri Nouwen