

BOSTON DEANERY PARTNERSHIP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER MARCH QTR 2024



Christmas and New Year are now over and suddenly, here we are at the start of another year. Soon the days will be longer, the bulbs will be showing through the soil, and everyone will be planning how to lose those extra pounds before donning their holiday clothes in the summer!

Our featured churches for this issue are from the Brothertoft Group of Churches, with thanks to Marilyn Creasey for a very informative and interesting write up.

I hope you all enjoy reading it as much as I did.



FOCUS CHURCHES FOR MARCH QTR 2024

BROTHERTOFT GROUP OF CHURCHES

An overview:

The Brothertoft group of Churches lies on the fringes of the West Fen, the last fen to be drained. We have previously described ourselves as 'Five in the Fen', which is quite apt. The extremely rural nature of the area has meant that a very dispersed settlement pattern has arisen, and this has led to the usual scenario of losses, schools, churches, poor infrastructure, ageing and decreasing populations.

The Brothertoft Group can be quite proud that it has always managed to keep active, with only the loss of Amber Hill, some years ago. The reason for this is that we have always been resilient in facing the many changes it has had to deal with. In 2024 I will have been a member of St. Peter's Church, Wildmore for 50 years. During that time, we morphed into the Brothertoft group, which joined with Swineshead, sharing a priest. Subsequently we left them and are currently aligned with Sibsey and their group of churches. We have also endured some very lengthy interregnums, and this is where the word 'resilient' comes into play. We learnt to be independent and focused on keeping all the five churches looked after, with the same pattern of services and care in our communities. Sometimes it made for hard decisions which were not always welcome, but we are still here proclaiming our 'faith in the fens' and that can only be good.

The individual churches in alphabetical order.

Brothertoft – St. Gilberts.

Dedicated to St. Gilbert of Sempringham, historically the church was part of the chapelry of Kirton, in the early 19th century and was owned by the Lord of the Manor. It was rebuilt in the early part of the 19th century and named in honour of St. Gilbert in 1922. Set in lovely parkland it is located behind the Brothertoft village hall – just off the B1192. It is the oldest church in the Brothertoft group, constructed of stone with a slate roof and bell-cote. The roof construction of oak timbers is in the form of a ship's keel. The East window with its stained glass is particularly attractive. There are pews in the nave and a gallery, seating 120 people. The delightful aspects of this church make it an attractive and popular choice for weddings.

Holland Fen – All Saints.

The church is a Grade 11 listed building, built in 1812. At first a 'Chapel of Ease' it was dedicated as a Parish Church in 1924. The architecture is attributed to Jephtha Pacey but there is no confirmation of this. However other Fen churches notably Wildmore, Langrick, Carrington and Frithville are known to be his work and there are so many similarities. Built of brick it has a cupola. The chancel was built on in

1880. The pulpit has fluted pilasters and the gallery at the West end of the church is supported on iron shafts. The other item of note is the Coat of Arms hanging on the wall, which is that of George 3rd. It was restored at one point due to its significance. It is built adjacent to the North Forty Foot drain.

Kirton Holme – Christ Church.

The presence of an Anglian church in Kirton Holme is quite remarkable and that one survives today is due to the tenacity of parishioners of the village. The first churches are recorded as being held in people's homes, a barn and a mission hut before services finally ceased. In 1962 the Methodist Chapel closed, and it and the school room were offered to the Anglican church. It was subsequently purchased for the sum of £800 and re-construction started 2 years later. All the work was done by local builders and supervised by the vicar. On Wednesday 15th July 1964 'Christ Church', Kirton Holme was dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, Kenneth Riches. The village people subscribed to the purchase, others donated interior fittings and it was truly a church for the people of Kirton Holme to be proud of and since has become the focal point for villagers to celebrate national events.

St. Margaret's of Scotland, Langrick and St. Peter's, Wildmore.

The history of these two churches, the remaining ones in the Brothertoft group are so entwined that initially they should be discussed together to avoid repetitiveness. Both churches are 'Fen Chapels', brought about by the drainage and enclosure of the East, West and Wildmore Fens in the early 19th century. Lying about midway between Coningsby in the north and Boston in the south, this land was periodically inundated by the sea and continued to be like this until the end of the 18th century. Before drainage they were used for summer grazing for the villages and parishes bounding the fens with fishing, fowling and reed cutting in the peaty meres of the East fen. When drainage did take place, the land was divided and allotted to these parishes.

An act of Parliament was passed in 1788 and commissioners were appointed for this drainage work, but little was done until 1800, when an able engineer, Mr John Rennie, submitted his plans. His first report, dated April 17th 1800, estimated the cost of draining Wildmore Fen alone at £29,702; the total outlay, for that and adjoining fens, being put at £215,000. By 1812 these operations were completed, but more than a third of the land had been sold to pay for it all, and those lands were made into new parishes such as Midville, Eastville and Frithville. Provision of parish churches for them was made under an Act of Parliament 1812. The architect appointed for 5 of these 'Fen Chapels' was Jephtha Pacey, who I mentioned earlier in relation to All saints at Holland Fen. St. Peter's, Wildmore and St. Paul's Carrington were built in 1816, St. Peter's Midville in 1819, St. Peter's, Frithville in 1821 and finally St. Margaret's, Langrick in 1828. The sixth, and a totally different design by

C. J. Carter was St. Pauls at Eastville in 1840. All these churches (Fen Chapels) were built of brick and on Fen Chapel Estates land.

St. Peter's at Wildmore could supposedly seat 200. It had a very plain utilitarian interior, as all of these churches did. The benefice was valued at £100 a year, is in the gift of the Bishop of Lincoln, and by order in council, dated 26th August 1881 was consolidated with the chapelry of Langrville; the two being united with a yearly value of £320. The first vicar overseeing both was the Reverend W. Fitz-Harry Curtis who resided at the Rectory at Langrick.

A good school and Master's house were erected in 1880, by the School Board of Wildmore Fen at a cost of £1,200 to accommodate 168 children, which is quite incredible!! The school is still in use.

The Ecclesiastical Commissioners, to whom the Fen Chapel Estates were transferred in 1876 still have large responsibilities for the external maintenance of these churches and oversee them with regular visits.

St. Margaret's and St. Peter's are both in locations that are not in villages at all, and standing almost isolated has meant that numbers attending services over the years has dwindled. However, both have very active churchyards which are still used and visited on a regular basis. St. Margaret's has a beautiful spring churchyard full of flowers from early snowdrops through to Ox-eye Daisies in May/June.

All the churches of the Brothertoft Group, with perhaps the exception of Kirton Holme, reach out to the communities in the parishes in which they stand and do receive good community support. Kirton Holme being in the centre of that village is able to use its church hall to provide more activities than the others including weekly coffee mornings, a club for the more senior members of the community and other special interest groups. Activities in all of the parishes range from music evenings, quizzes, bingos, strawberry teas, harvest suppers, country fairs, flower festivals and the necessary fund-raising events.

St. Peter's has always maintained a link with New York school and that still continues with an 'Open the Book' team visiting on a monthly basis and also engaging in other Christian activities.

A weekly service is held in one of the 5 churches by alphabetical order. The core of the congregation travelling to wherever the service is, with others attending when the service is in their own particular location. We are fortunate that we have a retired priest willingly to lead worship, a Licensed Reader and ALM. We have good support from our deanery and are at the present time sharing a Curate with the Sibsey group. We are thankful that we have always supported the Deanery by paying our Parish Share, demonstrating our commitment. Our strength as a group must stem from a willingness to share resources, especially the people who have talents and offer them, whether it be cleaning, cooking, gardening, secretarial or leading worship, which has given us the resilience to serve our communities and the Lord.

DEANERY NEWS AND EVENTS

READER VOCATIONS DAY

Saturday 17th February 2024 Edward King House Lincoln 9:30-3pm.

Might God be calling you or someone you know to explore Reader ministry?

<http://www.lincolnreaders.org/events.htm>

EVENTS AROUND THE CHURCHES

COASTAL CLUSTER

The services in the cluster for Easter are:

Palm Sunday - Sunday 24th March

11am Fishtoft Church Holy Communion

10am Freiston Church Holy Communion - with walk with the donkey

11am Wrangle Church Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday - Thursday 28th March

7pm Freiston Church Last Supper

7pm Friskney Church Holy Communion

Good Friday - Friday 29th March

2pm Fishtoft Church Hour before the Cross

2pm Butterwick Church Hour before the Cross

9.30am Old Leake Church Stations of the Cross

2pm Friskney Church Hour at the Cross

Easter Sunday 31st March

5.30am Sunrise Service at Freiston Shore followed by breakfast in Freiston Church

11am Fishtoft Church Holy Communion

10am Butterwick Church Easter Communion with Coastal Community Choir

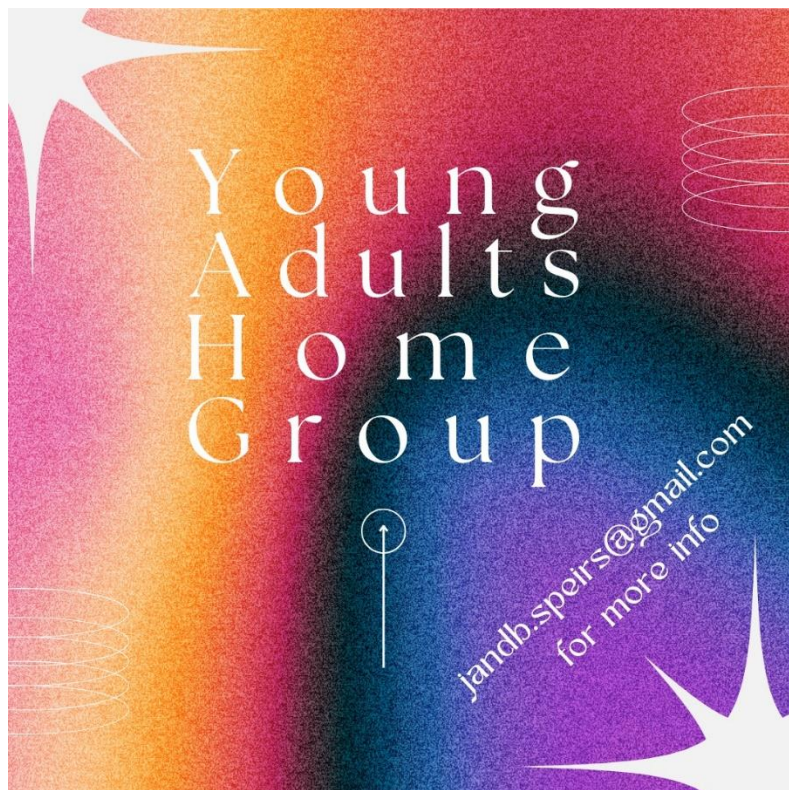
10am Leverton Church Easter Communion by extension

9.30am Old Leake Church Easter Communion

11am Wrangle Church Easter Communion by extension

9.30am Friskney Church Easter Communion by extension

SIBSEY ST MARGARETS



KIRTON HOLME



FRIDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2024

7.00pm start

£6.00 per person

Including Refreshments

Bring your own drinks & glasses.

KIRTON HOLME CHURCH HALL

RAFFLE

Booking Essential

Mick 01205 290575

Proceeds to Christ Church

HOLY TRINITY BOSTON

Explore the letter to the Romans

Join *The Romans Course* at Trinity

Date: 18th January onwards

Time: 7.15pm

Venue: Church Lounge

HOLY
TRINITY
BOSTON



From the same team that produced the Bible Course, this is a chance to go deeper into a book of the Bible that has influenced many great Christians over the centuries. **Starting in January 2024**

Register on our website now for a place on this eagerly awaited course or contact Rev Lis Ward or Rev Ian Ward

Weekly Events:

Wednesdays in term time: Trinity Tots, a toddler group for under 5's parents and carers 9:00 am to 11:45 am

Wednesdays in Term time: Milkshake Shack a drop in after school 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm



Thursdays every week: Trinity Café 11:30 am to 3:30 pm serving drinks, snacks and light lunches.



ST BOTOLPHS & ST THOMAS, BOSTON

First Saturday of each month - LEGO CLUB 10.30am – 12 noon

A vibrant red poster for a LEGO Club. At the top, it says 'THE PARISH OF BOSTON' and 'St Botolph's Church | Boston Stump'. The words 'LEGO CLUB' are in large, bold, yellow letters. To the right, a yellow speech bubble with a blue outline says 'FREE!'. Below the title, there's a small image of four LEGO minifigures. A dark red box contains the text: 'Do you love Lego? Fancy a challenge? This club is for you!'. Below this, it says 'First SATURDAY of each month between 10.30am - 12noon'. Further down, it explains: 'Each month our Lego Club will meet with a different theme to inspire us to build something unique. We will also have some free time to be creative and build whatever we want before sharing our creations with the group.' The final line states: 'Lego will be available to use in St Botolph's, no need to bring your own!'. At the very bottom, contact information is provided: 'Tel. (01205) 310929 | Address. 1 Wormgate, Boston. PE21 6NP. | Email. admin@parishofboston.co.uk | Website. www.parish-of-boston.org.uk | Facebook. @bostonstump | Twitter. @Stump_boston'.

Tuesdays

9.30am – 11.15am



11.30am – 2.00pm



St Thomas' Senior Social

10.00am - 12Noon

A close-up photograph of a pile of wooden dominoes. The dominoes are light-colored wood with black dots (pips) on their faces. They are scattered in a disorganized manner, showing various faces with different numbers of pips. The background is dark and out of focus.

Half term fun at St Botolphs on Thursday 15th February 2024 -10.30am – 2pm.

Come along and join in with free arts and crafts, garden games, Lego, Duplo parachute games and lots of fun!

Bo the Boston Church Mouse would love to show you his interactive trail too...just ask at the Welcome Desk.



BOSTON *Sinfonia*

CONCERT

Artistic Director and Principal Conductor
Nigel Morley

**St. Botolph's Church,
(Boston Stump) Boston.**

Sunday, 25th February 2024, 3:30 pm.

Haydn - Seven Last Words - Sonata IV.

Mozart - Violin Concerto No 4 K218.

**Mozart - Rondo Concertante for Violin and
Orchestra.**

Soloist, Anne Harvey- Nagl.

Haydn - Symphony No 82 "The Bear".

Boston Sinfonia Ltd
www.bostonsinfonia.org.uk
Registered Company No: 10946667
Registered Charity No: 1104515

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW AT THE STUMP SHOP

£12 in advance, £15 on the door and under 18's free.



Thank you to everyone who has supplied information – it is really lovely to see all the wonderful activities that our Deanery Family are providing for the local communities.

Please continue to let me know what is happening so that I can populate the next newsletter, when hopefully, it will be an awful lot warmer, and those holidays are much closer!

Thank you.

My email is Jayne.maddy@parishofboston.co.uk

or

telephone 01205 310929

Mon-Thur 9am – 2.30pm

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE OUT DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 2024.

THIS EDITION WILL COVER ALL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR

APRIL, MAY AND JUNE 2024



Please let me have your items for inclusion by Friday 22nd March 2024

Ps. Hope you like the new photo!