

# FRAMPTON PARISH STUDY 1992

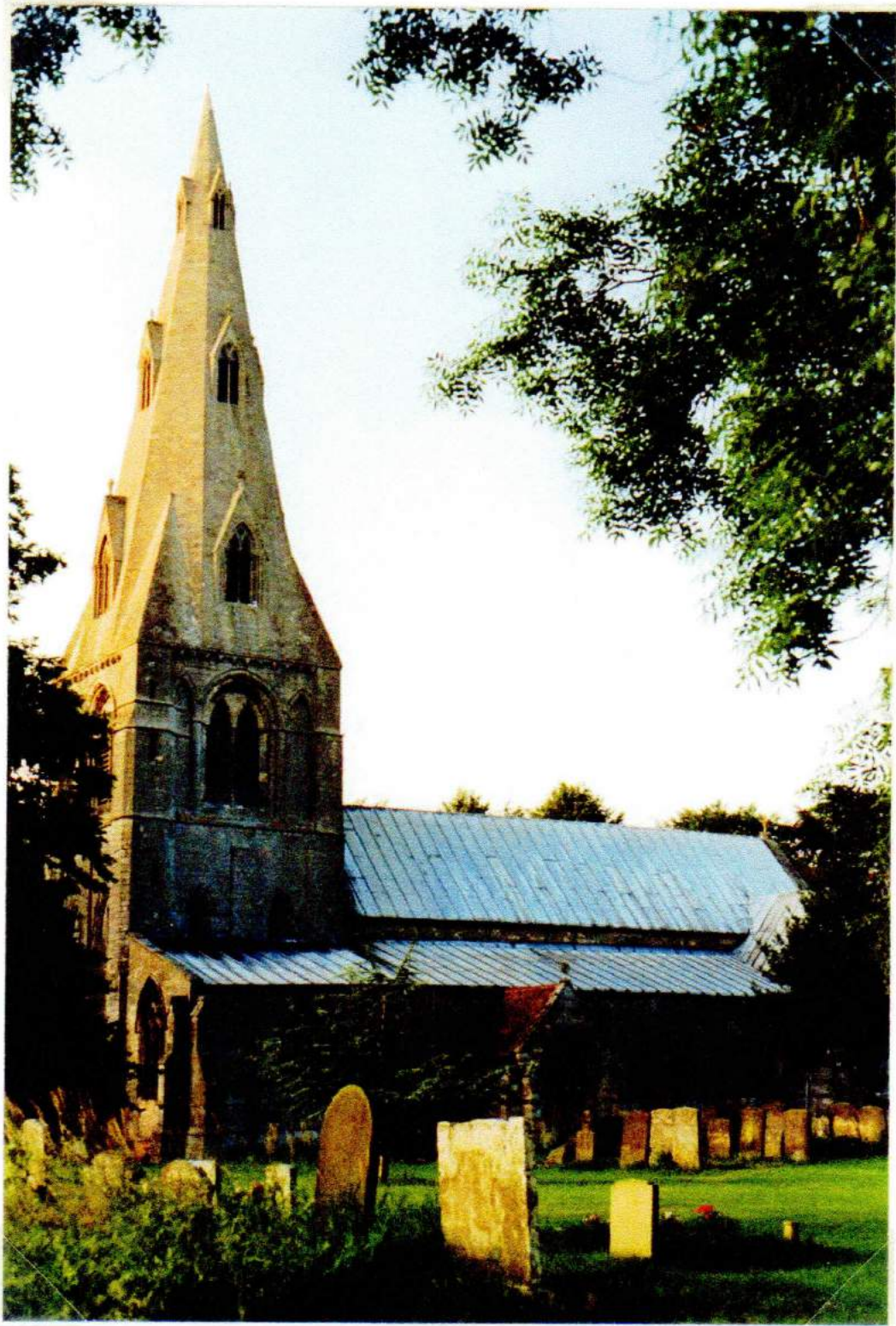
## The Church and Community

By John Marshall

*“So by indirect ways, crooked ways, we reached Frampton, an out of- the -  
world village, a spot where one might go in search of peace when weary of  
men’s voices and their tread of clamouring bells and whirl of wheels that  
pass.*

*It seemed a place so very remote from the busy haunts of men. It impressed  
us with its restful calm...”*

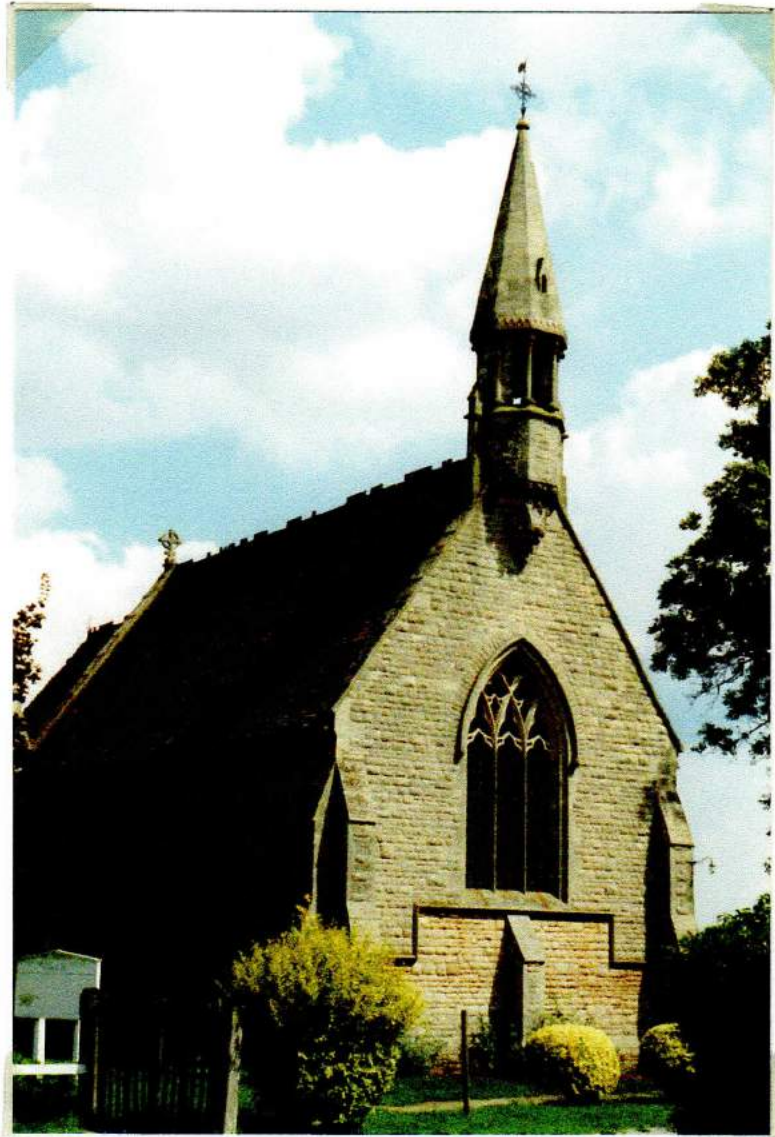
Extract from Over Fen and Wold – James John Hissey.



CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN - FRAMPTON

A SUMMER EVENING      JULY 1992





CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

A SUMMER AFTERNOON JULY 1992

### HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION.

The Parish of Frampton has been in existence since Anglo Saxon times. A settlement was founded between 650 and 800.

The Domesday Book survey lists a church and priest in Frampton in 1086. (*see Appendix 1 - Frampton Chronicle*) Frampton comprises an area of about 5350 acres of land. Of this 1260 acres was known as the fen and 500 acres were reclaimed or enclosed from the marshes. Apart from the land, the Domesday book listed 15 salt works by the sea shore, where salt was obtained by evaporation of sea water until the discovery of rock salt in 1670.

The parish is a quiet rural area of about 7 miles in length (curved) and about 1 mile wide - running from north-west to south-east. It lies about 3 1/2 miles south of the port of Boston. It is bordered to the east by The Wash, with Kirton to the south and Wyberton to the north. The hamlets of Kirton End and Kirton Holme lie to the west. (*Appendix 2*)

Historically the parish was dependent upon agriculture with rich fertile land for both arable and sheep farming. Today there are only a few people directly employed in the agricultural industry, the majority of those living in the village working in nearby Boston. The population consists of a mixture of retired people and families, many of whom have moved out of the town or who have come into the area because of their work. There are currently 1098 adults registered on the parish electoral roll.

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The population has been maintained and increased due to a new housing estate adjacent to Middlegate Road.

This includes sheltered accommodation for the elderly.

Frampton is so close to neighbouring Kirton, that whilst driving through the housing estate, it is impossible to discern any form of boundary between the two parishes. Thus the two communities have in many respects become one.

The older part of Frampton has managed to retain some of the peace and tranquility of past centuries. It has no obvious focal point or centre. Unlike Kirton there is no Village Green. The parish church of St. Mary The Virgin, stands about two miles from the marshes, on Middlegate Road. The vicarage is close by and across the road, is a public house/ restaurant known as the Moores Arms.

A short distance away stands Frampton Hall, which is occupied by the family of Quentin Davies - member of Parliament for Spalding and Stamford. There are a few cottages along that part of Middlegate Road and on the corner of Rabbit Lane, towards the marsh.

In the opposite direction less than a quarter of a mile away, stands a small memorial to the fallen of the 1914-1918 war.

#### AMENITIES.

About a mile from the church stands a small but well used village hall, with playing fields to the rear of the nearby old school building. For more amenities it is necessary to go into the village of Kirton.

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There is a modern junior school and the Middlecott Senior school in the village. The parish church is surrounded by the hustle and bustle of a busy village centre.

It has a 'high church' tradition but also works in partnership with the local Methodist Church.

Stores include: bakery, butcher, 2 small supermarkets, cycle shop, hardware store, newsagent, pharmacy. There is a public library, health centre, dentist, 3 banks, 2 hairdressing salons, barbers, 3 public houses, launderette, chinese takeaway, betting shop, agricultural engineers..etc.. In fact Kirton has its own Police office, Fire station and 'Town Hall'. It has the facilities of a small town - whilst retaining the character and appearance of a village, though the contrast with Frampton could not be more marked.

#### TRANSPORT.

There is a bus service passing through part of Frampton, for people travelling into Boston but most people in the village rely on the private motor car for transport.

A new road was built in 1991, along the site of the old east coast railway line, which used to carry passengers and freight to Peterborough and London. The new road links the A17 at Algarkirk and provides a quick route into Boston.

The road is busy and noisy and has to be crossed to travel from Frampton east to west. I can still visualise from childhood, the steam hauled locomotives that used to run through Frampton and not far from my home in Wyberton.

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I used to cycle all around the lanes of Frampton and spend many Sunday afternoons walking down to the marshes and along the banks, with my grandfather. There were much less motor cars and lorries on the quiet country roads than now. I also remember calling for sweets, at the Post Office and shop - which is no longer there.

#### THE CHURCH IN FRAMPTON.

In spite of the changes that have taken place, Frampton still has a living community and a distinct character of its own. Evidence of this can be found in the life and worship in the two churches of St. Mary The Virgin and St. Michael and All Angels. A glance at copies of the Parish Magazine, circulated free to all parishioners, (*Appendix 3*) reveals a wide variety of activity from each centre of worship.

#### THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN.

It is thought that the earliest recorded church was of wooden construction. It was eventually replaced by a Norman stone built church of which only the hidden foundations which support the present pillars of the nave and the Font Bowl remain. The existing tower and Broach Spire were built c.1250 as part of a third (early English) church.

The present church was built c.1350 and suffered the ravages of the Reformation period, during the 16th and 17th centuries. Despite this and subsequent alterations, the church retains much of its beauty. As with many parishes, the building suffers from 'old age' but in recent years some modest improvements have been made.

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The church is now warmer in winter - due to the installation of a gas fired warm air heating system. A kitchen area and toilet have been added in an unobtrusive manner. A modest sound amplification system has been installed - especially welcomed by some of the hard of hearing, who can now hear even the quietest of people and children reading from scripture.

#### LITURGY AND WORSHIP.

Sunday services offer a variety of worship. Holy Communion and Morning Prayer are mainly celebrated with the use of the Alternative Service Book. The Book of Common Prayer is used occasionally. There are over 120 people on the church nominal role. Attendance at the main service is regularly between 50 to 80 persons - some from neighbouring parishes.

Worship is usually lead by the present incumbent - the Reverend Neil Russell. He is supported by a Diocesan Reader - Mr Alan Kemp and myself as a Reader in Training, who along with the Church Wardens Mr Geoffrey Bailey and Mr Neville Cooper are licensed to Administer Holy Communion. There is no shortage of Sidesmen, of whom three are usually on duty at each of the main services. Members of the congregation form a rota and read from the Old Testament, Epistles and the Gospel, mostly according to the Lectionary readings for the day. Music is usually provided by the church organ played by young Mr Bob Adcocks (80yrs). Ancient & Modern hymn books are used most frequently - but Mission Praise is also now used with the Vicar sometimes playing guitar.

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Unfortunately there is currently no choir at Frampton, though a group do sing together on an ad hoc basis for special services or festivals.

#### TEACHING.

Baptisms are usually conducted during regular services, when new members are welcomed into the church. Confirmation classes are held for adults and young people, in the Spring - Summer period, with a service being held in October each year. The venue of the Confirmation service alternates between Frampton and Wyberton, with close co-operation between each parish.

There is a Sunday school during most of the main services, although the attendance is currently small.

An older youth group (10-18yrs) met during the winter and has had considerable success in winning the Diocesan Youth Quiz a number of times.

A house bible study group met for a time but was then superceded by a group of 8 who recently completed the 2 year Bishops Certificate Course.

A course in Christian Basics was held from January and continued through Lent during 1992.

Lent study groups are held each year and a workshop for young people is held on Good Friday, which concludes with a service of worship. Guest preachers were invited during the Lent - Easter period of 1992.

Reverend Russell goes into the local school on a regular basis to talk to the teachers and children and lead worship in school assembly. He is also a regular visitor to the Frampton Playgroup.

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Several members of the church are involved in parent teacher associations, school support groups, scouts, brownies etc.

I have already mentioned the parish magazine. This has been published by the Vicar for 7 years and supported by donations and distributed by volunteers. It contains information about life and worship in the parish, as well as details of local events. The Vicar's letter usually contains a Christian message to those in and outside the church.

#### ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS.

The church was built in 1863 for the Reverend J. Tunnard. It was built of Ancaster stone and the architect was James Fowler from Louth. Much smaller than St. Mary's church, the building consists of a nave, chancel and semi octangular apse, with an organ chamber and vestry. It was apparently designed to accomodate 200 persons.

#### LITURGY AND WORSHIP.

Although only situated about 2 miles from the parish church, the life and worship is noticeably different in this intimate little church. There is a small but regular congregation and close co-operation with members of St. Mary's church, ensures that all are welcome at either church. As well as family Communion, St. Michael's provides the venue for Evening Prayer, as well as a 'Pram' Service and monthly informal worship, with the use of organ or keyboard, guitar and tambourines - combined with music from Mission Praise and recently the Spring Harvest Song books.

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The little church is also more suitable for the small gathering of two or three people, who meet for a short meditational mid-week morning prayer meeting.

#### ADMINISTRATION.

The Parochial Church Council is well supported, with the work of Secretary, Treasurer, Stewardship Recorder and Verger, being done voluntarily. St. Michael's church have their own committee but with members forming part of the Parochial Church Council.

Three members of the PCC are active members of the Deanery Synod, which has been particularly important, during the recent discussions concerning Pastoral Reorganisation, with a proposed reduction in the number of Clergy in the Deanery, from 8 to 5 incumbents.

Reverend Russell is a member of the Deanery Standing Committee and part-time Agricultural Chaplain.

Where possible, the PCC draws on the knowledge and experience of those within the congregation. Recent examples being in relation to the design of the gas fired heating system and a security survey of the church building and contents.

The church benefits from good stewardship in financial terms, with a large percentage of the congregational giving supported by deed of covenant.

#### OUTREACH.

The church in Frampton has a busy social calendar. This provides the opportunity, for the congregations of St. Mary's and St. Michael's to get together with friends.

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It is also a good opportunity to introduce new members to the family of the church.

In September, members of St. Michael's church, host the annual Harvest Supper in their church hall.

In December an informal Carol service is held in the village hall - with additional entertainment provided by those present, in between mince pies and coffee, to start off the Christmas season of celebration.

On Christmas Eve St. Mary's church is candle lit and helps to provide a warm welcome and atmosphere to those who perhaps only join us for the major Christian festivals.

In February the annual Candlemas supper is a popular event in the village hall. The supper is followed by entertainment in the form of a half hour pantomime. The performers sneak off after their meal, to change into their costumes. Those taking part are approached in January and sworn to secrecy, not to reveal their identity until the performance - to the surprise and delight of all those present at the supper, who realise their friend or partner has disappeared and turns up on stage!

St. Mary's is a popular venue for visiting choirs and orchestras during the year, as well as bell ringers from the surrounding area.

In 1992, a flower festival was held in July. This brought many visitors to the church and parish.

The church was beautifully decorated with flowers as you would expect but many other skills were exhibited.

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There were various displays of work by members of the community, showing the diversity of hobbies and interests of members of the church and parish of Frampton. (*Appendix 4*)

A mid-summer Barbecue proved to be a successful addition to the social events of the church in 1992.

Each of these social events raises money for the church but is not used just to support St. Mary's and St. Michael's. Money is allocated to charities on an annual basis and other fund raising events are held to support specific projects. In 1990 and 1991 for example a Quiz & Faith Supper raised money for a local Romanian relief project. Several of the major Christian charities are supported by envelope collections.

#### THE FUTURE.

Pastoral Re-organisation may result in many changes to the pattern of life and worship in the churches of Frampton and the surrounding area. It is likely that Frampton may have to share a Priest with either Kirton or Wyberton. At present the future seems uncertain but whatever happens, I am sure that the life and worship of the church in Frampton will continue, whether in the same or a different form.

It will be necessary for each community to recognise even more, the ministry of Readers, Church Wardens and others within their churches - with greater use of individual gifts of preaching, teaching and pastoral care. Several members of the congregation are already involved in visiting the sick or bereaved.

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The loss of the parish priest may be disappointing to many but this has been the reality for many churches for a long time.

On the positive side - there are potential benefits to both parishes. With clergy and laity forming a group or combined ministry, the opportunity will exist to provide even closer links with those in the church and community and hopefully serve to strengthen Christian unity.

*L Marshall*



APPENDIX

READING AND SOURCES OF REFERENCE:

A History of the Church and Parish  
of Frampton in the County of Lincoln.

George Jebb M. A.

FRAMPTON CHRONICLE.

1066. Norman Conquest. Lands of Adestan - son of Godran, transferred to Guy De Creon; those of Edwin, son of Algar to Alan, Earl of Brittany and Richmond. Guy De Creon replaces the wooden church by one of Stone.
1170. The Richmond property sold to the Multons.
1189. The De Creon property sold to the Huntingfields.
- c1220. The Chapel of St. James founded by Dame Margery Multon.
- c1250. A third (early English) church replaced the Norman Church.
1277. Death of the first recorded Rector of Frampton - Philip De Eya.
- c1350. Fourth (present) church built.
1373. Last De Multon died.
1377. Last Lord De Huntingfield died. Manor of Earls Hall lapses to the Crown.
1386. Sale of Advowson to Durham Abbey.
1387. Appropriation of Rectory and Ordination of Vicarage.  
First recorded Vicar Ds. William Coke.
1460. Manor of Multon Hall purchased by Bishop Waynflete and conveyed to Magdelene College, Oxford.
1534. Valor Ecclesiasticus: Frampton Rectory £26. 5s 4d.  
Vicarage £18. 19s 4d.
1540. First surrender by Durham Abbey to King Henry VIII.
1544. Second surrender by Dean and Chapter of Durham to Henry VIII. Frampton confiscated.



1583. Bronde's Charity founded.
- 1586/7. The Plague took 130 souls from Frampton.
1589. Broughton's Charity founded.
1609. King James 1 sells Frampton Rectory and Advowson.
1612. Townland Charity (afterwards called no. 2) founded.
1631. Coney's two charities founded.
1647. Parliament suppresses church services.
1657. Rev. Samuel Coney - Vicar dies (No fresh appointment until 1698)
1662. Church services resumed.
1670. Bells rehung.
1681. Four charities - Bronde's, Broughton's, Coneys and Coney's combined.
- c1720. Frampton Hall built.
- (1734 Frampton Rectory and Advowson purchased from West's  
-1779) Representatives by Tunnard.
- c1740. Frampton House built: Workhouse built in churchyard.
1744. Manor of Earls Hall sold by Duke of Newcastle.
1767. Enclosure Act (7. George III)
1780. Townland Charity (afterwards called no. 1) founded.
1784. Allotment Act (24. George III)
1801. Population 542. Fifth Church bell added.
1812. First benefaction of Queen Anne's Bounty.
1816. Second benefaction of Queen Anne's Bounty.
1818. Elementary school founded from charity monies.
1819. Third benefaction of Queen Anne's Bounty.
1834. Old Workhouse re-conveyed to Vicar and Churchwardens.

1846. Frampton Hall passes to the Moore family under the Will of Thomas Tunnard.
1851. Population 801.
1863. St. Michael's church built of Ancaster Stone by Rev.J.Tunnard. Architect James Fowler from Louth - for accomodation of 200 persons.
- 1865/8 Mr Jebb acquired two enclosures of land from the sea marsh.
1867. Stubb's Charity founded.
1871. Primitive Methodist Chapel founded at Hubberts Bridge - for accomodation of 200 persons.
1874. Enclosure from sea marsh by Lord Willoughby De Broke and Magdalene College.
1877. Mission Room built for residents of Kirton Holme - but in the Parish of Frampton at Bakers Bridge.
1878. Benefaction to Vicarage by private contributions and Ecclesiastical Commissioners.
1889. First Order by Charity Commission.
1891. Church re-dedicated after restoration.
1901. Population 777. Wesleyan Chapel built - for accomodation of 80 persons.
1903. Frampton House property sold to W. Dennis.
1904. Church house built.
1906. The Friths included in Frampton.
1907. Robinson Charity founded.
1909. Advowson settled so as not to be saleable. Benefaction by the Ecclesiastical Commission. Organ built for £256. Dedicated by the Bishop of Grantham - 31/3/09.
1912. Vicarage House built.







OPPORTUNITY FOR CHRISTIAN STUDY

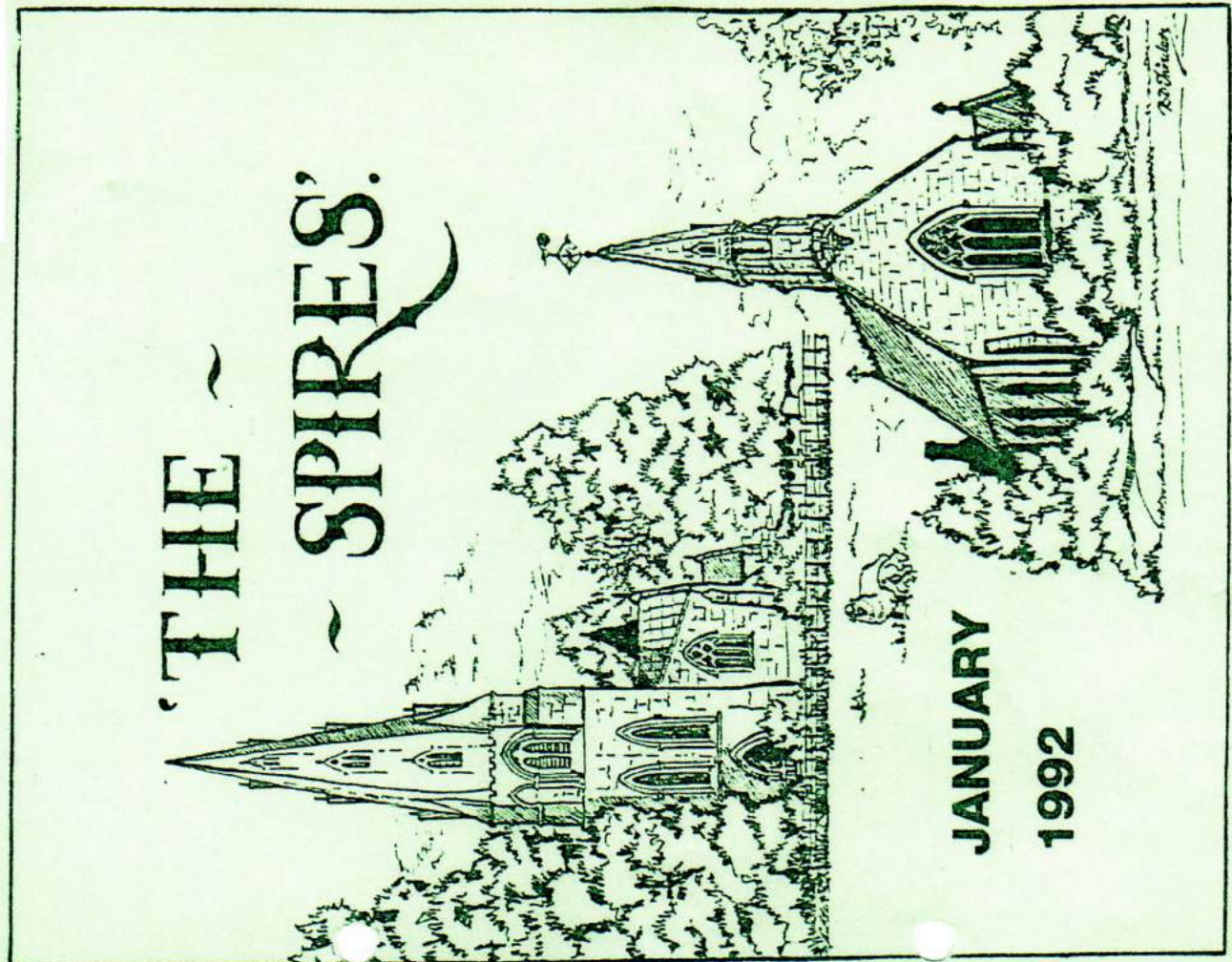
A course in the basic principles of Christian Belief will begin on Friday the 31st January. This course will appeal to all who wish to understand more about their faith and it will continue through Lent 1992. To find out more contact the vicar.

A confirmation service will be held in St Mary's church in October this year. I would be interested in talking, informally, to adults and young people who are considering confirmation. *N.R*

**JANUARY CALENDAR**

- SUN 5 CHRISTMAS 9-30AM FAMILY COMMUNION (Mi)  
2 11-00AM FAMILY COMMUNION (Ma)
- Mon 6 7-30pm Mothers Union Party (Mi)
- SUN 12 EPIPHANY 8-30AM HOLY COMMUNION (Ma)  
1 11-00AM BLESSING OF THE PLOUGH (Ma)  
3-00PM EVENING PRAYER (Mi)
- Tue 14 2-00pm Pram Service (Mi)
- Fri 17 7-00pm PCC Standing Committee
- SUN 19 EPIPHANY 9-30AM FAMILY COMMUNION (Mi)  
2 11-00AM FAMILY COMMUNION (Ma)  
6-30PM INFORMAL WORSHIP (Mi)
- SUN 26 EPIPHANY 8-30AM HOLY COMMUNION (Ma)  
3 11-00AM FAMILY SERVICE (Ma)  
3-00PM EVENING PRAYER (Mi)
- Fri 31 7-30pm Study Group

Ma = St Mary's Mi = St Michael's





Donations towards the production costs of 'THE SPIRES' in Nov/Dec amounted to £35-00 for which we are most grateful. Donations, small or large, enable us to distribute the newsletter free of charge and can be given to the Vicar, distributors or church members.

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**VICAR'S LETTER**

Dear Friends,

In late November, the Bishop of Lincoln issued a report to his diocese entitled 'New Times, New Ways.' It outlines a challenge which faces the diocese in 1992 and beyond as a result of financial pressures and the shortage of men and women offering themselves for the ordained ministry. It calls for a reduction of 34 in the numbers of paid clergy, from 316 to 282. In our own

**PLOUGH SUNDAY - 12TH JANUARY**

On the 12th January at 11-00am in St Mary's Church our family service will include the Blessing of the Plough. This is an annual service during which we ask for God's blessing on the work of the farmers in the parish. We hope you will join us.

**ROMAN WEEKEND**

Blackfriars Arts Centre are to organise a 'Roman Weekend' in Frampton in the summer. Anyone interested in helping with this event is invited to a public meeting in the Village Hall on Thursday the 16th January at 7-30pm.

**CANDLEMAS CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

Our Christingle Service this year will take place on Sunday the 2nd February at 11-00am in St Mary's Church on Candlemas Day. It will be incorporated in our service of Family Communion and gift envelopes will be available at the back of the churches. We look forward to welcoming you.

**BINGO!**

A weekly Bingo session is starting in the Village Hall, the first one taking place on the 21st January at 7-30pm (doors open 6-30pm). All cash prizes (admission limited to those over 18).

**THE SPIRES**

As we begin our 7th year of publication I would like to express my grateful thanks to all who help to produce and distribute the newsletter. Without their voluntary help it would be impossible to continue. Thank you also to all who so generously gave donations during the year to cover the production costs. *M.F.*



Grateful thanks for all donations for Easter and Christmas flowers at St Michael's Church. J. Skate.

Many thanks for all the many Christmas cards, gifts and messages of goodwill which we received at the Vicarage from you all this Christmas. They were very much appreciated. N.R.

Thank you also to all who contributed to making Christmas in Frampton such a special time. As usual, both churches were beautifully prepared and decorated and we are grateful to all who played a part in those preparations. All services were well attended and we thank all who took part in them. N.R.

#### COMING ATTRACTION

*The 21st Candlemas Supper and Panto 'Way out West' will be on Tuesday 4 February at 7-00pm in the Village Hall. Tickets £6-50 each from David Langley at 722547. Proceeds will be for church funds.*

#### PRAYER

At the beginning of December the prayers and thoughts of many were on the imminent release of the Western hostages. In Sunday School we decided to start a prayer board. Newspaper cuttings on the hostage theme were displayed. A Prayer was written giving thanks for the release of Terry Waite and also asking for the release of the remaining 5 hostages. Soon followed the release of the 3 Americans. The 2 German hostages still need our prayer support.

As well as world issues there are everyday events that concern us all (God wants us to share everything with Him in our prayers). We would like you to use the prayer board. A loose-leafed notepad is available for anyone to write out a prayer that they would like others to share in.

Please support us in this. Heather Marshall.

deanery (a sub area of the diocese), Holland West, we must reduce our numbers from 8 paid clergy to 5.

This will have implications for the ministry of the church in this parish. Frampton, inevitably, will be asked to share a vicar with another parish or parishes in future years. This change will not take place immediately because reductions will only occur through what is now known as 'natural wastage' (what a horrible phrase to use for people!) but we must begin NOW to reflect on what God is calling us to do in this parish in response to the report.

The Bishop, in the report, sets out the progress that this diocese has made in implementing various forms of lay ministry and unpaid ordained ministry. God's work in Frampton will continue but we must consider how many of the tasks previously undertaken by the vicar can be delegated to unpaid volunteers. Thank God, lay involvement in the work and ministry of the church in the parish is already extensive and our task is to formalise and co-ordinate this work. Your Parochial Church Council will be considering, over the coming weeks, how this can be most effectively done and I would ask you to remember them in your prayers as they undertake this most important task.

There are three different areas of ministry which I hope that the PCC will consider in their discussions. The development of all or some of these forms of ministry may provide the key to an effective proclamation of the Christian Gospel in Frampton.

Firstly, all of us should think about the particular gifts God has given us and how those gifts can be exercised in the church. Each one of us has something to offer, for example in the areas of teaching, administration, pastoral and counselling skills, leading worship, practical skills, music - the list is endless! I am sure that we are not yet taking full advantage of the tremendous range of skills that are available in the parish.



Secondly, we are fortunate in being able to call on Alan Kemp, a lay Reader in the parish, to lead worship regularly. Readers can conduct worship other than communion services, perform baptisms and take funeral services. They are comprehensively trained and may also be able to offer a range of pastoral skills to assist a priest. John Marshall is currently training to become a reader and will be licensed, God willing, next year. There may well be other people who would like to consider this kind of ministry. I would like to hear from them.

Lastly, a number of ordained clergy are able to serve the church whilst earning their living in a secular job. I was first ordained as an unpaid deacon, then priest, having trained in my spare time. Only after 2 years did I decide to join the ranks of the paid clergy. I firmly believe that many parishes, like Frampton, could be served very well by a non-stipendiary (unpaid) clergyman or woman. Perhaps, as you read this, you may think God is asking you to explore this form of ministry. If so, do please get in touch with me.

We must look positively at this report and see, in it, a means by which the spiritual lives of our congregations in every community in the diocese can be sustained. I know that I, as one of a declining number of paid clergy, must be prepared to radically rethink my ministry. I can only do that with your encouragement, support and prayers and with God's help.

May 1992 bring you all many blessings.

Yours sincerely,

*Nice Henry*

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### BAPTISM

29 Dec Victoria Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Kent.

We welcome her into the Lord's family.

### FUNERAL

5 Dec Doris Mabel Halgarth, aged 87, service at St Mary's followed by cremation and burial of ashes in Kirton cemetery.

We extend our sympathy to her family and pray that God will strengthen them in their sorrow.

## CONGRATULATIONS

To Bob Adcock, organist at St Mary's church, who celebrated his 80th birthday on the 28th December. (Note: The editor is also pleased to hear of special anniversaries which could be included in 'The Spires')

### THANK YOU

Dorothy and I would like to thank you all for your kindness in remembering our 50 years of marriage. The many good wishes, cards, flowers and presents we received were quite overwhelming; as was the service in St Mary's church where so many joined us in thanksgiving for those many years we have shared together. It is something we shall remember for the rest of our lives. Thank you again to both St Mary's and St Michael's churches for your wonderful support. H.F.C.

### SOME MORE THANK YOUS.....

To all of you who contributed to our UNICEF appeal this Christmas. At the time of going to press the total collected is £168 - a marvellous response. N.R.

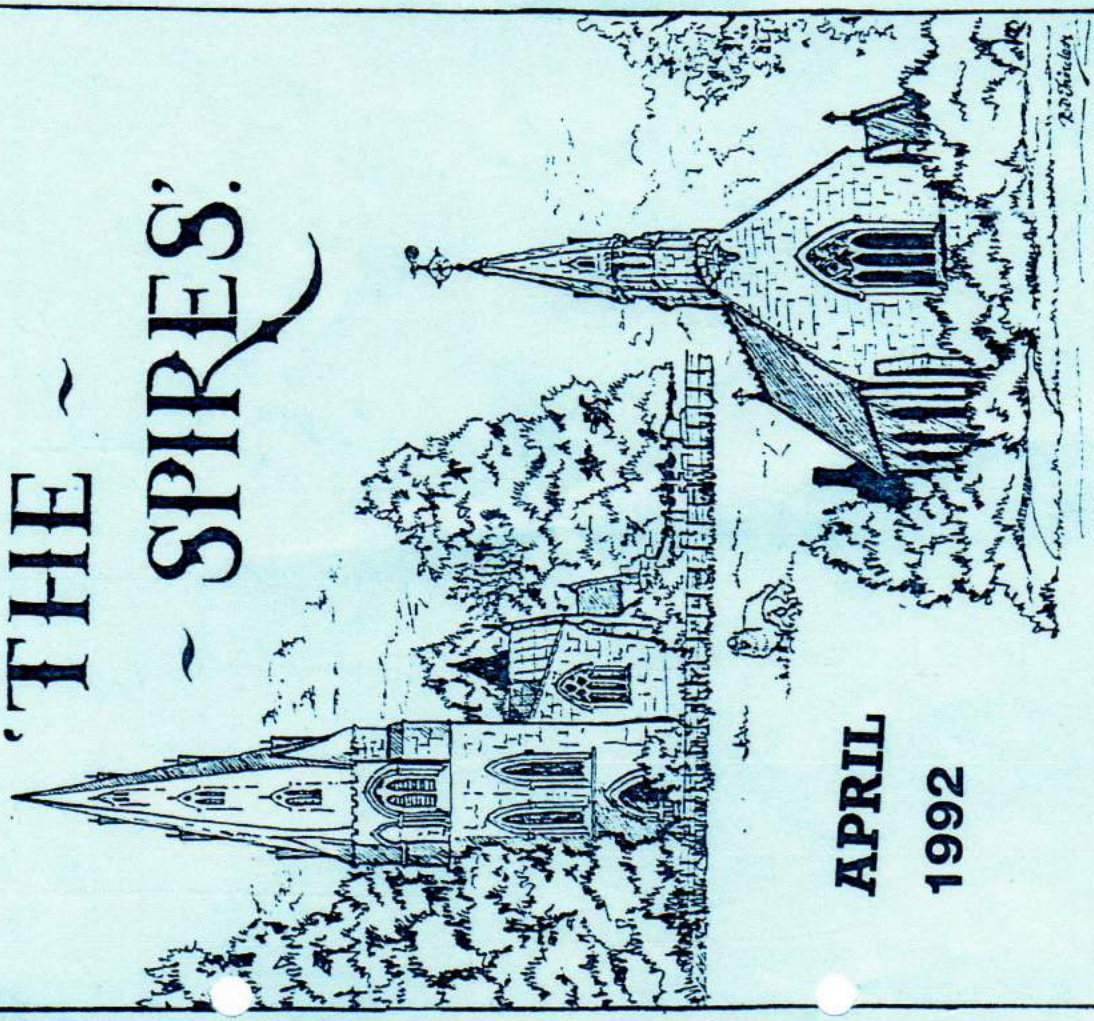


APRIL CALENDAR

- Fri 3 7-00pm Jumble Sale (Mi)  
 Sat 4 2-30pm Wedding of Robert Fletcher and Louise Fountain
- SUN 5 LENT 5  
 9-30AM FAMILY COMMUNION (Mi)  
 11-00AM FAMILY COMMUNION (Ma)  
 (Preacher Rt Revd R. Cutts)
- SUN 12 PALM SUNDAY  
 8-30AM HOLY COMMUNION (Ma)  
 11-00AM FAMILY SERVICE (Ma)  
 3-00PM EVENING PRAYER (Mi)
- Tue 14 2-00pm Pram Service (Mi)  
 8-00pm Meditation and Compline (Vic)
- Thu 16 MAUNDY THURSDAY  
 7-30PM HOLY COMMUNION (Ma)
- FRI 17 GOOD FRIDAY  
 9-00AM MORNING PRAYER (Mi)  
 12-00PM YOUNG PEOPLE'S LUNCH (Mi)  
 2-00PM FAMILY SERVICE (Mi)  
 7-15PM CONCERT (Ma)
- SAT 18 HOLY SATURDAY  
 7-30PM LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE (Mi)
- SUN 19 EASTER SUNDAY  
 8-30AM HOLY COMMUNION (Ma)  
 9-30AM FAMILY COMMUNION (Mi)  
 11-00AM FAMILY COMMUNION (Ma)
- Sat 25 2-00pm Wedding of John Clawson and Tracy Dickson
- SUN 26 EASTER 1  
 8-30AM HOLY COMMUNION (Ma)  
 11-00AM FAMILY SERVICE (Ma)  
 3-00PM EVENING PRAYER (Mi)

Ma = St Mary's Mi = St Michael's Vic = Vicarage

# 'THE SPIRES'



APRIL  
1992



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VOL7 NO4

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The Revd Neil Russell, The Vicarage, Frampton, Tel: 722294.

Diocesan Reader

Mr. A. Kemp, Amberley, West End Road, Frampton, Tel: 723603.

Churchwardens

Mr G.I. Bailey, Hall Lane Cottage, Frampton, Tel: 722259.

Mr N.F. Cooper, Line Tree Farm, Frampton, Tel: 722239.

Deputy Churchwarden

Mr C. Hawkesworth, 15 Woodhall Close, Boston, Tel: 362392

Secretary of the FCC

Miss J. Mills, 49 Middlegate Road, Frampton, Tel: 722784.

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Mr P. Copeland, The Lodge, Frampton Hall, Frampton, Tel: 722091.

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Stewardship Recorder (Planned Giving)

Mr A. Stratton, 34a Garfitts Lane, Boston, Tel: 365028

\* \* \* \* \*

**VICAR'S LETTER**

Dear Friends,

On the 27th March I 'Traded Places' with Mrs Penny Vine, and became a school nurse for the day. It was, in one sense, a bit of fun, a novel way of raising money for a very worthwhile charity. In another sense, though, it was an opportunity to stand in someone else's shoes, to see life from a different perspective.

the Guide Movement, please contact me at home or drop in to a meeting.

Alison Austin (Brownie Guider)  
Cherry Tree Cottage, Low Road, Wyberton  
Telephone 368351

**ARE YOU INTERESTED.....**

...in attending 'Spring Harvest' this year at Butlins in Skegness? This annual post Easter Christian Festival is very popular and we hope to organise a group to attend. More details can be obtained from John Marshall on 723097.

We hope, also, to plan a parish ramble soon after Easter, possibly on either the 2nd or the 9th May. In order to gauge interest would you please contact the vicar if you think you would support this.

**FLOWER FESTIVAL**

Arrangements are well under way for the flower festival in St Mary's church from the 10th to the 12th July. If you can help in any way please contact Margaret Graves on 722531. Volunteers will be needed to man stalls and to steward the church.

**CONFIRMATION**

In April those young people and adults who have expressed an interest in being confirmed will begin their training. I would still like to hear from anyone who is still undecided but might wish to talk about what is involved in confirmation. The confirmation service will be on Sunday the 18th October at 11-00am in St Mary's Church. N.R.



answer queries. The Parish Council AGM is to be held on Thursday 2 April at the Village Hall at 7-30pm and representatives from all local village organisations have been invited to attend.

### 1ST FRAMPTON BROWNIES

Brownies is the section of the Girl Guide movement for girls aged 7-10. Although Brownies can be considered to be all about helping people and having fun, any child should be able to find plenty within the varied programme to interest and stimulate her.

In Frampton we like to think we have a thriving unit. During the last year we have been swimming, visited and entertained the residents at D'Eynecourt E.P.U., been to London Zoo by train (and underground), made flower arrangements for the Flower Festival in St Michael's Church, held a coffee evening for many of the local community and in August 1992 will be off on Pack Holiday to Dersingham in Norfolk. Besides all this, Brownies have worked for badges and have joined with other Brownies and Guides within the Boston area for special occasions.

The pack is first and foremost for the young people of Frampton, but in the past 18 months we have taken in more children from the surrounding villages in order to keep the unit viable. In particular, we are taking children whose local Brownie Pack is oversubscribed, but Frampton children will always have priority here.

If your daughter is aged 7 and would like to join Brownies, there are a few vacancies immediately, I am always very happy to put younger children's names on the waiting list so that I can plan ahead.

We are very grateful for the help we receive from the Frampton Charities. This unit is for your children, so please support it. (Helpers give their time voluntarily).

Frampton Brownies meet on Wednesday evenings during term-time in the Village Hall between 6-30 and 7-45pm. If your child is interested in joining or if you would like more information about any section of

I was reminded, as I prepared to exchange my dog collar for a nurse's uniform (albeit, I must add, merely a sweatshirt!), that we shall soon be re-enacting the Passion of our Lord.

Jesus died on the cross because he 'Traded Places', following the demands of the mob, with Barabbas. How surprised and relieved Barabbas must have been! he had been arrested for terrorist offences, including murder, and was facing a death sentence. He suddenly found himself released, whilst Jesus was unjustly condemned and executed. The Gospel writers want us to see the irony of this, and to see, in Barabbas, a picture of ourselves. In a sense, we are all under sentence of death because, as St Paul reminds us in his letter to the Romans '*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*' (6.23)

But we have a substitute prisoner! We are released and Jesus steps into our place; the guiltless in the place of the guilty. We are free because he sacrificed his freedom, '*For you know how generous our Lord Jesus Christ has been; he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich.*' (2 Cor 8.9)

But perhaps the word substitute is not the ideal word to use. Jesus stands in our place, not simply as one substituted for another, but, more exactly, as one who represents another. He is not simply 'Jesus of Nazareth', another individual in the human race: he is also the 'Son of Man', a representative of the entire race. He took, to the cross, the sin of the whole human race, including your sin and my sin.

It could have ended there, and we could have been left worshipping a dead hero. But death could not hold him, his resurrection became the ground for the hope that we have. And because we hope, we have no need to fear. The world of Jesus' day was a world in which hope was conspicuously absent. Our world is not much different - everywhere we find perplexity, boredom, fear. This



Easter, let us rejoice in the Living Lord and let him banish fear and replace it with his peace!

*The Lord is risen! and we are risen with him.  
The Lord is risen! and life eternal is ours.  
The Lord is risen! and death has met its master.  
The Lord is risen! and the way to heaven is open.  
The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

Yours sincerely,

*Newbury*

### FROM THE REGISTERS

#### BAPTISM

- 8 Mar Samantha, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Tooley  
22 Mar Kirsty Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs S. Craft

We welcome them into the Lord's family.

#### FUNERALS

- 12 Mar Joyce Mary Coles  
20 Mar Ivy Charrett  
26 Mar Robert Arthur Cook

We extend our sympathies to their families and friends and pray that God will strengthen them in their sorrow.

#### IMPORTANT CHANGE OF DATE

The concert by the Thurnscoe Harmonic Male Voice Choir has been postponed from the 30th May to the 10th October.

### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Details of all services are contained in the calendar on page 8. On Good Friday, young people are invited to come along to St Michael's Hall at 12-00pm to share a packed lunch. They will then prepare a short family service to which all are invited at 2-00pm.

Your attention is also drawn to the concert given by the Lincolnshire Youth Sinfonietta on Good Friday evening at 7-15pm. This includes an appropriate work, Haydn's 'Seven last words of our Saviour on the cross'.

At the beginning of the Easter Family Communion Service in St Mary's Church, we shall dedicate a Paschal Candlestick in memory of Doris and Samuel Caswell.

Donations for Easter lilies should be given to Mrs D. Cooper.

### HUBBERTS BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

A wine tasting night with a disco is to take place on the 18th April from 7-30 to midnight. Tickets, price £8 include supper and wine.

### FRAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL, NEWSLETTER NO 1

The Parish Council have had numerous communications with the Department of Transport regarding the A16 Boston to Algakirk trunk road. Requests have been made for lighting at the Middlegate junction as the Parish Council feel this crossing is very dangerous and our request is being considered. The Parish Council has also made representations to the LCC regarding signposts along this route. The Council have acquired 25 trees from LCC which will be planted at various sights within the parish to commemorate the Queen's 40th anniversary.

Meetings continue to be held on the last Thursday in each month and visitors are always welcome to come along and view at first hand what the Parish Council is doing for the community. The clerk, Mrs Lynne Wheatley (Tel 722417), will be pleased to give details or

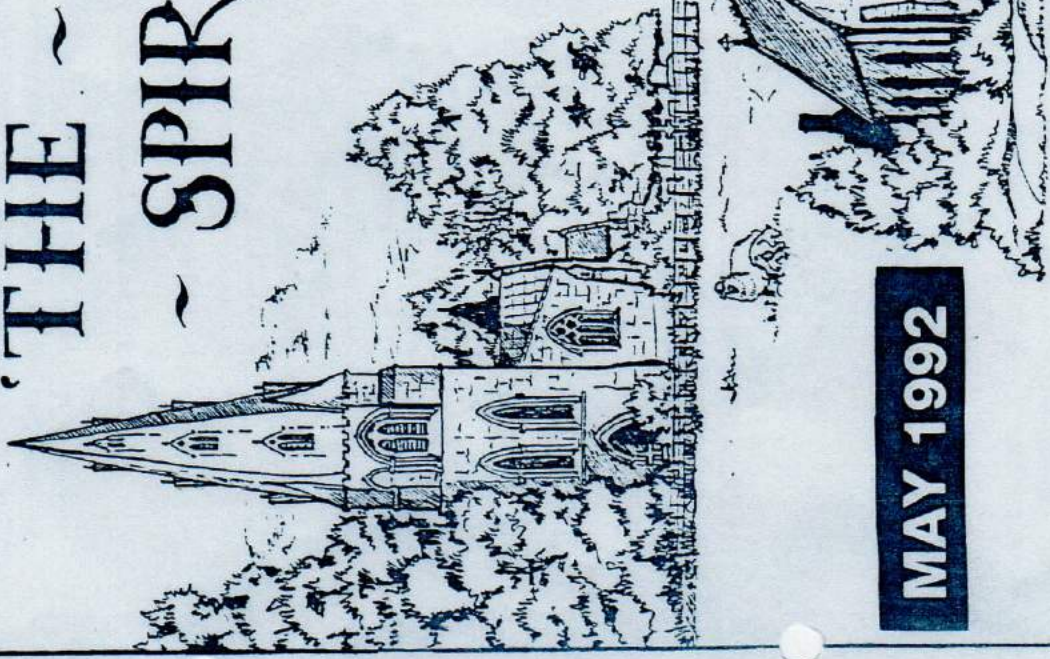


MAY CALENDAR

- SUN 3 EASTER 2  
9-30AM FAMILY COMMUNION (M1)  
11-00AM FAMILY COMMUNION (Ma)
- SUN 10 EASTER 3  
8-30AM HOLY COMMUNION (Ma)  
11-00AM SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR  
COMMUNITY LIFE (Ma)  
3-00PM EVENING PRAYER + BAPTISM (M1)
- Mon 11 7-30pm Archdeacon's Visitation
- Tue 12 2-00pm Pram Service (M1)  
7-30pm PCC (Vic)
- SUN 17 EASTER 4  
9-30AM FAMILY COMMUNION (M1)  
11-00AM FAMILY COMMUNION (Ma)  
1-30PM WEDDING OF TONY HALES  
AND JANE ASHER (Ma)
- Mon 18 7-30pm Deanery MU, Kirton
- Thu 21 8-00pm Healing Group (Vic)  
(Note change of day)
- SUN 24 EASTER 5  
8-30AM HOLY COMMUNION (Ma)  
11-00AM FAMILY SERVICE (Ma)  
3-00PM EVENING PRAYER + BAPTISM (M1)  
6-30PM DEANERY EVENSONG, FOSDYKE
- THU 28 ASCENSION DAY  
7-30PM HOLY COMMUNION (M1)
- SUN 31 SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION  
9-30AM FAMILY COMMUNION (M1)  
11-00AM FAMILY COMMUNION (Ma)  
6-30PM INFORMAL WORSHIP (M1)

Ma = St Mary's M1 = St Michael's Vic = Vicarage

# 'THE SPIRES'



MAY 1992



**Christian Aid**  
We believe in life before death



Donations towards the production costs of 'THE SPIRES' in APRIL amounted to £22-70 for which we are most grateful. Donations, small or large, enable us to distribute the newsletter free of charge and can be given to the Vicar, distributors or church members.

### PARISH DIRECTORY

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### VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Yesterday morning, in glorious sunshine, I walked along part of the Ridgeway, the long distance footpath on the Berkshire Downs. With cowslips at my feet, the hedgerows bursting into leaf and blossom and songbirds heralding the arrival of Spring, God was retelling the

# CHOOSING THE TEAM

FRANK was well into middle age but quite young at heart. He indulged in the fashion of wearing rugby jerseys on casual occasions. He was also very keen on folk dancing and one evening turned up for practice wearing an England jersey.

You didn't play for England, did you? one lady asked. 'Oh yes I did,' protested Frank, keeping a straight face. The lady was unconvinced. 'It must have been a long time ago,' she remarked. Some weeks later he was sporting a New Zealand All Blacks jersey so he was asked to explain himself.

'Well,' he said, 'it was eventually decided that I would be more useful to England if I played for the All Blacks.'

Those of us who have witnessed children picking teams for football or rounders must have felt sorry for the ones who always seem to be left until last - the ones neither captain really wants. And it has to be admitted that some of them probably would be more useful to the opposition than to their own team.

The New Testament tells us about Jesus picking his team. Many of his enemies might have thought that he had had to settle for the ones nobody else would have wanted.

It is true, of course, that the disciples didn't exactly cover themselves in glory while he was with them in the flesh - but look what they became! A team of champions for the Christian Faith!

Jesus is still calling disciples today. Children who know they are not very good at games often stop listening and fail to hear their names when a captain calls them. Wouldn't it be sad if we so lost confidence in our potential that we stopped listening and failed to hear the Master when he called?

NORMAN BODICOAT

Ascension Day is May 28.





## FROM THE REGISTERS

### WEDDING

- 4 April Robert Fletcher and Louise Fountain

We ask for God's blessing on those whom he has joined in Christian marriage.

### FUNERALS

- 2 April Audrey Bonshor Short, aged 59  
16 April Peter Grant, aged 63.

We extend our sympathies to their families and pray that God will strengthen them in their sorrow.

### CONGRATULATIONS....

To Mr and Mrs Stan Southwell who celebrated their Ruby Wedding on the 3rd April.

### ST MICHAEL'S JUMBLE SALE

The Jumble Sale raised the sum of £111-25 for church funds. Many thanks to all who helped and supported the sale.

### TRADING PLACES

The amount received in sponsorship by the Vicar and Penny Vine was £335 which will be used for research into breast cancer. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this generous response.

### LENT AND EASTER 1992

*This was a time of growth in many ways for us in Frampton. The sermons during Lent proved to be stimulating and challenging and the preachers were supported by good congregations. One family even travelled from Grimsby each week to be with us! The*

*Lent study group also gave food for thought to those who participated.*

*The highlight of Holy Week was undoubtedly the concert given by the Lincolnshire Youth Sinfonietta on Good Friday in which we were able to meditate on the Seven Last Words of Christ on the cross.*

*Easter Day saw large congregations in both churches and, despite the initial difficulty in lighting the newly dedicated Paschal Candle in St Mary's(!), we were able to share joyful worship together in the presence of the Risen Lord.*

*Many thanks to all who contributed to this important time in the Christian calendar - to those who worshipped in church and house groups, those who assisted with worship, those who cleaned, polished and decorated the churches for the Easter Festival, those who tidied the church surrounds, those who gave so generously for Easter flowers and those who supported our appeal for USPG. How fortunate we are in this parish to have such a large and dedicated Christian family! May God be praised!*

### NEW SHOP

Have you visited the Scout Aid shop in Kirton yet? To raise much needed funds for the cubs, scouts and venture scouts a shop has been opened selling nearly new clothing, bric-a-brac and books. Please support the shop.

### CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Christian Aid Week this year is from the 11th to the 16th May. Envelopes will be distributed with this newsletter and collected during the week. In case of difficulty, your envelope can be given to any church member or the vicar. New collectors are always welcome and should ring the vicar as soon as possible. He will



be contacting all collectors during the next few days. Last year we collected a record £337-42 in Frampton.

#### NEW RURAL DEAN

Following the resignation of the Revd David Osbourne as Rural Dean of Holland West, the Revd Jonathan Thacker has been appointed as his successor. He will be commissioned by the Bishop of Grantham in Amber Hill Church on the 6th May. Please pray for him.

#### PLEASE JOIN US...

For a special Service of Thanksgiving for Community Life on Sunday the 10th May at 11-00am in St Mary's Church. In this service we shall come together to praise God for the community of which we are part and to thank him for the work of all who serve the varied needs of our village. The church, its building and its people, is the living body of Christ at the heart of the community, and, through our baptism, we are all members of that body. Let us, in friendship, in fellowship and in faith, worship together in St Mary's Church as Christians have done for over 800 years.

Please share this invitation with members of your organisation.

#### DEDICATION OF KNEELERS

Some more completed kneelers will be dedicated during the Family Communion service in St Mary's church on the 17th May.

#### INFORMAL WORSHIP

The next service will be in St Michael's church on Sunday the 31st May at 6-30pm and there will be no service in June. We shall resume the normal pattern of the 3rd Sunday in the month in July.

creation story and I found no difficulty in believing that He was speaking to me in what I saw and heard.

Once again, this Easter, doubts about what really happened on that first Easter morning have been raised. These doubts were fueled by the BBC's *Heart of the Matter* in which two Anglican priests and a United Reformed Minister denied that Christ's Resurrection was a physical Resurrection. These doubts are shared by many who were in church on Sunday, and many more who were not in church.

Just as I have no difficulty in believing in a creator God when I have spiritual experiences like the one on my walk yesterday, so I have no difficulty in believing that God raised Jesus from death and that he lives today in the hearts and minds of his followers. I can believe these things because I do not try and reduce the bible to a literal historical document. Understanding the bible is a delicate exercise in textual interpretation and this exercise cannot be reduced to the simple issue of 'what actually happened'.

Religious truth, such as the truth of the Resurrection, is not scientific or historical truth. It may be of some interest, to some people, to speculate about the literal truths of the bible but they will not find there the answers to their doubts. Religious truth is a kind which expects a personal response, and it is this response, witnessed in the lives of countless Christians over many centuries, which convinces me that Jesus Christ is Risen!

In trying to understand the story of creation our attention must move from Genesis to the living world; in trying to understand the Resurrection our attention must move from the empty tomb to the living Lord.

Yours sincerely,

*Nice bunny*