

# THE EDGE

Welcome to the November edition of The Edge, the Newsletter for the Benefice of Easington with Skeffling, Keyingham, Ottringham, Patrington, Welwick and Winestead parishes.

If you have anything that you would like to share with us all through the newsletter, then please get in touch with any of the Church Wardens or let Alisdair know about it.

## Christmas Live!

Christmas Live! an outdoor Nativity Play that offers a great opportunity to make the Christmas story real for people in South Holderness. The play will be held in the village of Easington on 21 December commencing at 7pm.

We now urgently need volunteers to manage and assist with:

- Stewarding
- Acting and Narrating
- Costume making
- Lighting and transport
- Publicity Refreshments

***Please contact Philip as soon as you can with offers of help.***

Email: [philipwest@pwwest.karoo.co.uk](mailto:philipwest@pwwest.karoo.co.uk) or  
phone: 01964 603199



## St Patrick's Christmas Market

By popular request, a return of St Patrick's Christmas Market is planned this year, over the weekend of 27th-28th November. There will be a wide range of attractive Christmas stalls selling local goods and produce to entice all-comers. The doors open at 10am, trading until 4pm. Refreshments available.

We hope and pray that circumstances will allow this seasonal event to proceed. Visitors will be requested to observe any Covid advice at the time, showing respect for stall holders and other customers. Please do not be deterred, we wish only to make your visit as pleasant as possible so you and your families may enjoy a very happy Christmas this year.

## WORDS FROM THE LAIRD

How are you fixed to cope with the coming winter? The clocks have gone back, the wind is in the leaves, the world is teetering on the brink---hopefully of real action and determination to minimise climate change---and in the Deanery of South Holderness there are soon to be just two full-time clergy. Changes all around!

But, in the midst of all that, and probably more, how are you fixed to cope with the coming winter? I hope you will be warm, properly fed, and able to enjoy the company of family and friends.

That's what I hope, but the reality may be different. More people than usual may find this winter hard to bear, with rising prices all around, public services stretched, and predictions that this winter may be a cold one.

How ever we find ourselves placed, may we keep an eye out for our neighbours, be willing to offer help where we can, and be willing to ask for it and receive help if we need it. Some of the churches may be in a position to provide warm spaces for people to come for a coffee and chat, but all of us can work with others in the community to make sure that people are not left alone or miserable.

'The Church' has never really been about buildings or rituals. At it's heart is the heart of God and the practice of love.

*God's peace be with you, and may God's love guide us.*

*Alisdair*

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## SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

There are services in each of our six churches during the month and everyone is welcome at any of them. We have a number of volunteers who will provide transport to get you to a service, so if you are in need of a lift do get in touch with your church contact. You will find their details at the end of The Edge. They will be only too pleased to help.

### **St. Nicholas, Keyingham**

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> – 10.00 – Remembrance Service followed at 11am with the Act of Commemoration in the Churchyard

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> – 10.30 – Holy Communion

### **St. Wilfrid, Ottringham**

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> – 10.30 – Holy Communion

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> – 12.00 – Remembrance Commemoration at the War Memorial

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> – 10.30 – Holy Communion

### **St. Germain, Winestead**

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> – 9.00 – Holy Communion

### **St. Patrick, Patrington**

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> – 11.00 – Holy Communion

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> – 10.30 – Remembrance Service

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> – 10.30 – Morning Prayer

### **St. Mary, Welwick**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> – 11.00 – Holy Communion

## All Saints, Easington

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> – 9.30 – Holy Communion

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> – 11.00 – Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> – 9.30 – Holy Communion

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### A QUESTION OF CHANGE

The nine questions from York have dominated some of our thinking for a few months now. A few of the questions were fairly difficult to explain to church members. As an institution, we can begin to talk in jargon within our theologically tuned hierarchy and assume an understanding on the part of those with whom we are trying to communicate. That is, the ordinary people who go to church week in, week out, who watch the local news on TV but don't read the Church Times.

But I found it quite affirming and encouraging that the overall results were broadly similar to those views expressed in our discussion meetings.

The exercise was not as difficult as I feared, and this made me think about our natural reactions to change. It is interesting to read in the national press how some lobbying has started, based on the fear of change.

The reports have mainly cited the facts, that churchgoing has suffered a serious decline and articles mention shortage of clergy, lack of financial resources and the closure of buildings. But there is also a polarisation of some reactive views from within the church establishment which sets "Save the Parish" against such newfangled ideas as "Fresh Expressions" and, I assume, the fear is that money can be spent by the church only in one direction at the expense of another.

This is a fallacy. There are many different ways in which the church can grow and develop and to settle for one way as opposed to another, whilst it might be tempting, demonstrates a closed mind rather than an open one, and a reluctance to acknowledge the myriad of ways in which the Holy Spirit can work amongst groups of Christians. So let's resist the temptation to set one way for change against another.

But, in order to embrace change, Peter had to learn to get out of the boat.

I have been thinking a lot recently about the expression "playing the violin on the deck of the Titanic". I do have some sympathy with the violinists. Like a state of the art ocean-going liner, the institution of the Church of England is well organised, comfortable, with rigorous routines, traditions and disciplines. It is a huge organisation, respected and loved by many. It has always had national credibility and validation.

Outside of this incredible comfort zone, the waters are icy, cold, dark. The lifeboats seem small, insignificant and exposed. Decisions to leave long held, dearly loved traditions behind are just like the decision to leave the ship and head for the boats.

But when Peter wanted to meet with Jesus and follow Him, he was asked to leave the safety of the boat. This was in order for Jesus to enable him to walk on the water. When he looked away at the storm, instead of reaching out, he began to sink.

So, instead of fighting tooth and nail to hang on to the structures we think are as important as the gospel which we subscribe to, let's hope that in this time of change we can be helped to keep our eyes on Jesus, keep reaching out to Him and overcome the prevailing elements of apathy and unbelief.

Lois and Ian Rutter

## **CONTACT!**

**Vicar** – Revd. Alisdair Laird – 01964 630327

**Assistant Curate** – Revd. Janice Sharp – 01964 612548

### **Keyingham**

Sue Dughan - 01964 626587 or 07814 398121

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### **Ottringham**

Audrey Clark - 01964 622873 or 07598 105197

Sarah Camm – 07730 614786

### **Winestead**

Nick Hildyard - 01964 671084

David Snaith - 07793 710160

### **Patrington**

Angela Hamilton - 01964 630631 or 07730 399814

Chris Unwin - 01964 630313

### **Welwick**

Jean Wilkin - 01964 630556 or 07423 271146

### **Easington**

Lois & Ian Rutter - 01964 650535

