

InHouse

the Journal of the Lincoln Cathedral Community Association



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Our new Dean

Elaine Johnson

The Chapter House was full of anticipation on the morning of Friday, 27th May, where we had been invited to hear 'an important announcement'.

Most people had guessed what it might be and everyone was delighted when the Bishop announced that the Queen had approved the appointment of the Venerable Christine Wilson as Dean of Lincoln and introduced her to the assembled throng.

Christine, who has been Archdeacon of Chesterfield in the Diocese of Derby since 2010, spoke of her thrill at being offered the post of Dean of Lincoln and said how much she was looking forward to working with everyone.

Originally from Brighton, East Sussex, Christine contributed to youth and children's ministry within her local parish and the wider diocese for ten years before her ordination as deacon in 1997 and priest in 1998.

She served her title as curate of Henfield, Woodmancote and Shermanbury in the Diocese of Chichester and was then appointed Team Vicar of St John the Baptist, Hove, in 2002. This was an inner-city parish whose church faced closure due to a dwindling, mainly elderly congregation and the challenge of building maintenance and a lack of funds.

Within five years, the church had grown and diversified, a number of significant grants had been awarded for major building works, and the parish had developed an outward facing



vision of welcome and hospitality to the wider community. Christine had also participated in a number of community development projects in partnership with various sectors within the city.

Appointed Vicar of St Mary and St Lawrence, Goring-by-Sea in 2008, she was recruited as Archdeacon of Chesterfield in 2010 before going to Derby, where she has developed and delivered strategies for mission, ministry, recruitment, finance and property, and led on a significant project in developing and reshaping the deaneries as a key strategic structure in the mission of the diocese.

"I was thrilled, and a little daunted, to be offered the post of Dean of Lincoln," said Christine.

"Recently I have begun to build associations with Lincoln, and the fabulous opportunity to lead a world-class cathedral in inspiring worship, ministry and mission is one that I will, with the help of God, and of the whole community, be delighted to undertake."

Christine is married to Alan, a retired head of compliance for a division of an international bank. She is a keen gardener, particularly of organic vegetables and also enjoys theatre and dance, making her own clothes and hosting parties.

We are all very much looking forward to Christine's installation as Dean at a special service on 22 October 2016, at 5.30pm, after which she will be styled The Very Revd Christine Wilson.

A word from the editors

Elaine Johnson and Margaret Campion

At the time of going to press, our Editor, Muriel Robinson, is delayed in Rome where her husband is recovering from a heart attack. Consequently, this issue has been edited by Elaine and Margaret.

We all wish a speedy recovery and return to Lincoln for Muriel and Richard.

The most exciting news is, of course, the appointment of our new Dean and we all welcome Christine Wilson to our community and look forward to her in-

stallation in October.

Visitors to our Cathedral often bring with them stories which give us a glimpse into the distant and more recent past. Two such articles have been contributed to this edition: one describing the martyrdom of Anne Askew in 1546 for reading the Bible in Lincoln Cathedral and the second describing what was probably the first attempt at flood-lighting the Cathedral. Memories such as these are always very interesting – so

please, stir up your own memories and put pen to paper and share your stories with the rest of us!

The death of Linda Tilbury was a shock and we are grateful to Christopher Laurence for writing a short piece to her memory.

Finally, you will notice that Jesus Christ Superstar has been omitted from the list of future events. This is because every seat was sold within 24 hours of tickets of being on sale.

Fields, fens and fellowship

John Harker

A sunny Saturday morning in Potterhanworth in early May saw thirteen walkers and two dogs starting their leisurely seven mile circular Spring Walk via Dunston and Nocton. The walkers enjoyed panoramic views across the fields and fen and bluebells and other wild flowers in Potterhanworth Wood. Happily a gentle breeze and walking through the woods provided refreshment and shade.

Worshipping on a Sunday morning provides little opportunity to exchange other than a polite "good morning" to others and even coffee in the Chapter House seems hurried. However, walking alongside someone for a few hours in the countryside at a gentle pace is much more conducive for everyone to share views, anecdotes, find common interests and get to know each other better.



The route included

- Expansive views across the fen whilst following the Car Dyke (constructed by the Romans in the second century).
- Watching a team of mobile sheep shearers - skilled craftsmen - shearing a sheep and harvesting the wool in one piece in less than two minutes.
- Passing the well-tended Nocton allotments where one gardener had a novel approach to raised beds – using a real bed frame.
- Crossing Mr James Dyson's land using the public footpaths.
- Lunch at the Red Lion, Dunston where good reports about the new chef proved accurate and the menu and prices seemed to suit everyone.
- A short path through a wooded copse full of wild garlic and its gentler aroma before reaching Nocton Hall.
- The fire ravaged Nocton Hall built in 1530 on the site of a 12th century Priory. More recently, from 1947 to 1983 the Hall was utilised as a hospital for RAF and locals.
- Walking past several sequoias – with their trademark red bark. In California these giant redwoods grow to 250 feet tall with a diameter of 30 feet, and whilst their Nocton cousins (due to climate) are maybe half that size, they are still impressive and fairly rare trees.
- Saving a mallard and her ten ducklings by guiding them away from the busy main road through Nocton.

The general conclusion from the day was an enjoyable walk, joyful conversation and fellowship, blessed with good weather. The next walk is planned for the Autumn.

In the footsteps of St Benedict

Micky Philp

For the second time in a year, several folk arose at 4am to make a bus journey to an airport.

This time it was a party of some 40 who made their way to Stansted, negotiated the endless queues to allow them to embark, just about made it to breakfast and then took off for Rome Ciampino.

Another bus awaited as the armed police looked on and we went to our accommodation in central Rome. After lunch, my sister and I whizzed off to see Trevi. Later we all went to Santa Maria in Trastevere, spectacular in a busy square. We sang there, to the astonishment of the local entertainers, moved on to San Benedetto, a peaceful Romanesque church with a condottieri priest, booted and almost spurred, taking mass, then had dinner, all of us in a restaurant, wonderfully served and cooked.

First thing in the morning, a quick trip to nearby Piazza Navona, followed by a bus ride through the amazing mixture of ancient and modern, which is Rome, to see the catacombs. A guided party is essential as they are a maze of dark tunnels, frescoed and full of coded pictures. Lunch in the magnificent Anglican Centre, an erstwhile palazzo, then more Romish streets to San Paulo, a baroque monster, roman pillars and huge mosaics, but with a beautiful peaceful Romanesque cloister. We sang there.

Then off to Subiaco, remote in wood muffled hills, birthplace of the Benedictine order and Gina Lollobrigida and home of the Borgias; very Italian. We stayed in the monastic guesthouse, lovely with stunning views across to the Borgia home! We visited the cave where



St Benedict spent time; saw the monastery, welded into rock and full of frescos, guided by an erudite, kind and amusing monk. Later, he took us round St Scholastica's monastery which backed onto our guest house. This was an amazing jumble of styles, housing beautiful manuscripts, including one by Alcuin, a Saxon monk.

Friday, up and away across wild country, down to the plain and a day spent at Hadrian's huge villa, magnificent even in ruins; then the Villa D'Este with its many fountains. Saturday: we packed up and went across amazingly wild hills, rocky tracks and scrub land to Fossanova, the

abbey where Thomas Aquinas died. We saw his small simple room. A wedding was taking place, fun to observe, and we visited and lunched by the abbey. Then off to our hotel, passing Monte Cassino high on a huge wooded hill.

Sunday was devoted in the morning to a tour of the abbey with all its resonances from WW2. We saw the wildly ornate, baroque church, but had our service in a quieter chapel. The Abbot came out to meet us all, a great event. The afternoon was spent at the Commonwealth war cemetery, a very moving experience; lots of Lincoln Regiment there.

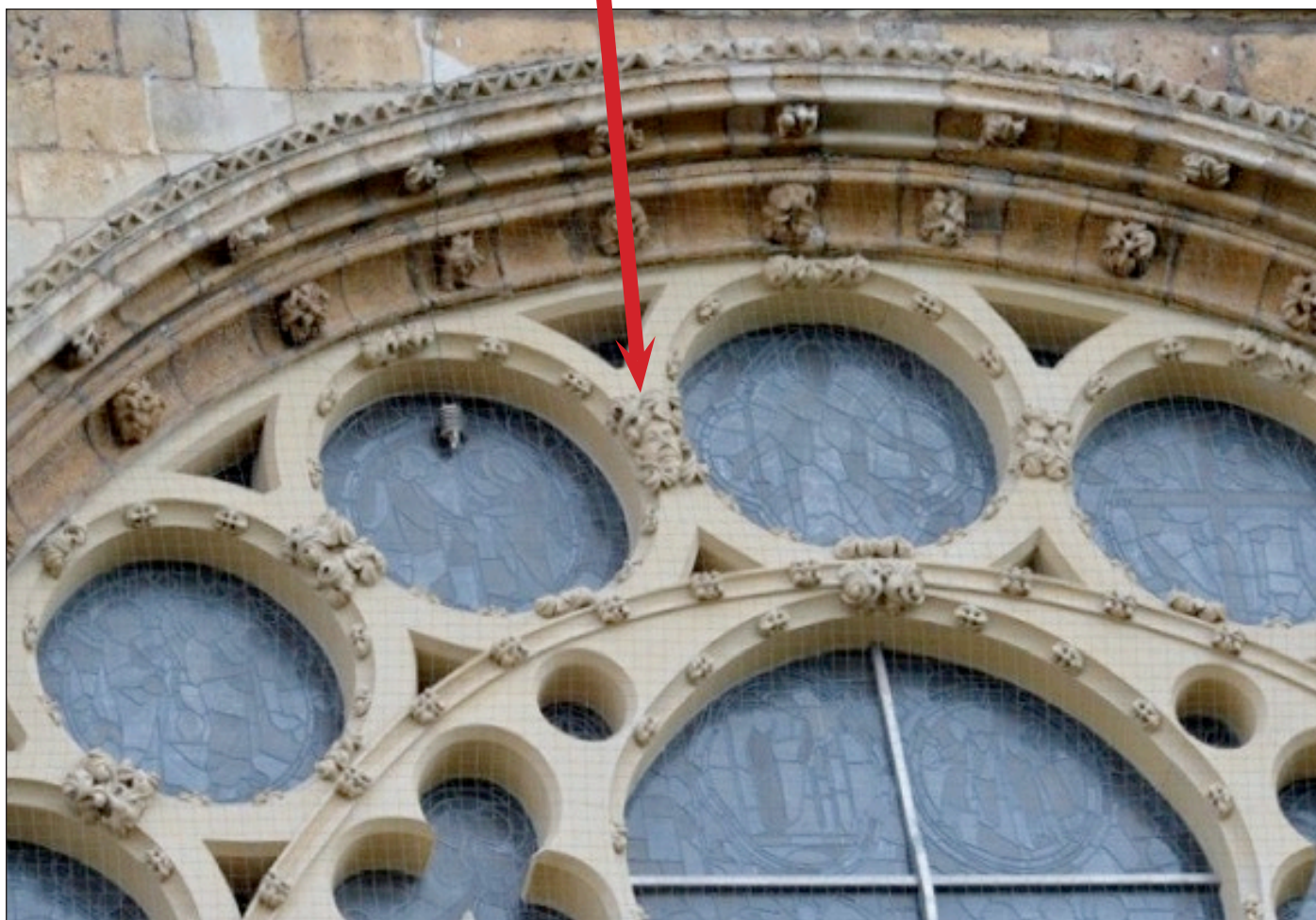
Our last full day we went on a perilous route to a really remote house up in the hills. The bus driver had to get out three times to see if he could take his bus between the houses en route in a tiny ancient village. He managed. We cheered. We spent time up there at Trisulti, returning via a splendid transport café on the motorway; then to Casamira, a Romanesque gem set in gardens, with

a library of 70,000 books, the cloisters so peaceful but sadly no guide book available.

We returned to Stansted the next day full of sights, rich experiences of the places we saw and the topography we drove through, the prayers and services we had taken part in. It has been an amazing time, valuable visually and spiritually, thanks to the careful preparation of prayer, address and services by Dean Jane and Archdeacon Gavin. These lent a very special dimension to the pilgrimage. On the way home, on the A 46, I finally saw the only Ferrari of the trip, scarlet and beautiful. Perfetto!

Stories behind the stones: The Winking Dean

Margaret Campion



The Dean's Eye Window was inserted into the north transept of Lincoln Cathedral in 1220 and, apart from a few efforts of restoration, has remained in situ for over 700 years until it was decided on a major restoration project of both glass and surrounding masonry in 1990.

It turned out to become one of the most expensive restorations ever undertaken in Lincoln – and probably in the whole of Europe!

The glass was removed first and conserved separately but when the supporting masonry surrounds and supports were closely examined, it was clear that the whole of the tracery was failing and needed to be replaced. The original

stone had come from our own quarry in Lincoln but there was now no stone left of sufficient depth, so stone had to be imported from Auxerre in France.

The tracery had to be cut 'like for like' but the sculptor stonemason, Alan Mickelthwaite, wanted some original touches left for posterity and came up with the idea of recording the then current Dean, Alec Knight, not just as a 'head' but with a joke – the 'Winking Dean'. First however, he contacted Sheelagh Knight, the Dean's wife to ask if her husband had a sense of humour! Having been reassured on that point, he proceeded to photograph the Dean and work thereon using the photograph for reference.

Dean Knight says that he was honoured to be immortalised in the stonemason's traditional way – including the joke!

Later he confessed to being nervous when he saw the tracery – including the Winking Dean – set out on the floor of the north transept before the final insertion because he doubted if it had actually had the permission of the Fabric Advisory Committee!

Not to worry – they either didn't notice or decided it was fun and traditional because Dean Knight is certainly there, as you can see from the photo, although you need field glasses to see him properly from the ground!

Lincoln Cathedral priests harass female Bible reader!

Anne Askew (Ayscough) 1521 - 1546

Margaret Crompton

On 16th July 1546, Anne Askew, aged 25, was burned at the stake in London. She had been interrogated twice. Although appallingly injured by torture, she remained faithful to her beliefs. Both torture and execution were illegal. Her account was published posthumously by John Bale as *The First Examination* and *The Latter Examination*.

After interrogation about reading the Bible in public in Lincoln Cathedral, she wrote:

Then he rebuked me, and said, that I should report, that there were bent against me, three score priests at Lincoln. Indeed (quoth I) I said so. For my friends told me, if I did come to Lincoln, the priests would assault me and put me to great trouble, as thereof they had made their boast. And when I heard it, I went thither indeed, not being afraid, because I knew my matter to be good. Moreover, I remained there six days, to see what would be said unto me. And as I was in the minster, reading upon the Bible, they resorted unto me by two, and by two, by five and by six minding to have spoken to me, yet went their ways again without words speaking.

This defied the 1543 *Act for the Advancement of True Religion* which restricted reading the Bible to higher class males, except that: Every noble woman and gentlewoman may read to themselves alone and not to others, that is, silently and in private.

Lincoln Cathedral had held two Bibles since 1541, in obedience to Thomas Cromwell's 1538 Act. Although she was intentionally

breaking the 1543 law, Anne Askew's challenge in the Cathedral met only with the priests' muted, and mainly mute, disapproval.

The incident was, however, remembered, reported to the interrogators in London, and used in evidence against her. She was asked:

'if there were not one that did speak unto me. I told him, yes, that there was one of them at the last, which did speak to me indeed. And my lord then asked me, what he said? And I told him, his words were of so small effect, that I did not now remember them.'

Anne Askew was born in Stallingborough and brought up in South Kelsey. When her enforced marriage to Thomas Kyme (her dead sister's fiancé) ended she left her home and two daughters. In London she was entrapped by political plotting against Queen Katherine Parr and condemned because she declined to implicate the Queen or her Protestant associates, or to acknowledge the doctrine of transubstantiation.

470 years after her silent witness in Lincoln Cathedral, Anne Askew challenges the casual indifference which meets our hard-won, universal freedom to read the Bible in English.

Further reading:

'Lamentation' Clive Sansom 2014 Mantle [a 'Shardlake' novel]

'The Examinations of Anne Askew' ed Elaine V Beilin, 1996 Oxford University Press

Searchlights!

David Pallister

By the time you read this I shall have "celebrated" my 73rd birthday, so I have no memories relating to the Second World War whatsoever.

However, I do remember when I was seven or eight Dad taking me down to Broadgate one Sunday evening, sometime before Christmas, to look at a large Army Searchlight standing on waste ground on the south corner of Broad-

gate and St. Rumbold Street, where now stands the BT Telephone Exchange.

As I recall it was a massive piece of equipment, together with its own generator, and it was beamed onto the Centre Tower of our beloved Cathedral. If I remember right, it was only in position on Sunday evenings, presumably to celebrate Christmas.

Where the searchlight was based I am not sure, although the father of one of my friends at the Westgate School was Care-

taker of the Old Army Barracks (now the Museum of Lincolnshire Life) on Burton Road, and there was a lot of equipment housed there – tanks, trucks, guns etc. etc. so maybe a searchlight could have been included? But what I do know is, when the Army personnel that were based there went to camp for two weeks during the summer, about ten of us from the class at Westgate spent most days of the fortnight in the barracks playing cow-boys and Indians. Those were the days!!!

Forthcoming events

Exhibition 'War: Past, Present to Reconciliation'

May-September / Free entry. Morning Chapel and St James Chapel

Discover the story of war through the ages and the history of the iconic poppy. View the 'Books of Remembrance', listing every soldier from Lincolnshire killed during World War One who is listed on known war memorials across the county. The books contain 18,124 names of soldiers who lost their lives during WW1 including 948 soldiers who previously had no Lincolnshire memorial. Normally stored in the Cathedral's Wren Library, this fascinating insight into the lives lost is usually only available to view on request.

Poppies will also be available for people to write the names of those who have been affected by all wars and conflicts around the world. These poppies will then be released during the two minute silence on Sunday 13th November, in the Nave, during the Service of Remembrance.

Exhibition by Toni Watts, Artist in Residence

Saturday 3 – Friday 30 September Chapter House

Toni's exhibition will be inspired by the manuscripts, art and architecture of the medieval period. As Lincoln Cathedral's artist in residence, she has re-created some of the Cathedral's own medieval illuminations so that they might be seen by a wider audience. She is also creating a new series of illuminated pages inspired by the building itself, the people she has met and biblical texts. Toni specialises in the creation of contemporary and traditional designs using 24 carat gold and hand-made paint using skills dating back to the medieval era.

Come and see Toni at work, creating these beautiful pieces in the Library, throughout the months of May-August.

Lincoln Mystery Plays

Wednesday 3 August – Saturday 13 August

Open-air theatre rooted in a novel, dramatic way for the ordinary medieval man in the city's street to make sense of the mysteries of scripture. Through their humour and humanity they make for an entertaining evening under the stars.

Tickets: £15, £13 and £49 for a family available in person at Lincoln Cathedral Shop.

Halle

Friday 23 September

Lincoln Cathedral is delighted to welcome back the Hallé. For the first time, tickets for the Hallé Orchestra performance will be sold with reserved seating. Seats will be allocated from the front, giving best available seats at the time of booking. Tickets from £12.00 and are now on sale.

Sir Mark Elder, Conductor and Elena Urioste, Violin

Programme:

Dvorak The Golden Spinning Wheel (27')

Glazunov Violin Concerto (21')

Beethoven Symphony No.6 'Pastoral' (40')

Handel's Messiah

Saturday 19 November

The Lincoln Cathedral Choir will be performing Handel's Messiah featuring the Hallelujah Chorus, with the Lincolnshire Chamber Orchestra. The Cathedral will also be running this event with reserved seating.

For further information and to book your tickets please visit www.lincolncathedral.com or tickets can be purchased over the telephone or in person through the Cathedral shop: 01522 561644

The Lost Lady of the Jerusalem Temple

Lincoln Theological Society, 14th June, 2016, Dr. Margaret Barker

John Davies

Was there a huge cover up and/or re-writing of Hebrew Old Testament Scriptures to exclude an original worship of the female principle – the Lady, Queen of Heaven – from the Jewish religion of Yahweh/Elohim?

Dr. Margaret Barker, a distinguished independent scholar, thought there was. Her examination of Hebrew texts led her to believe that small changes with huge effects had been made.

She traced a now-suppressed cult within Israel's first worship (that before the Babylonian Exile) which she thinks was nevertheless preserved and which is found in the female figure of Wisdom in Proverbs 1 and 8, in the Queen of Heaven denounced by Jeremiah (Jeremiah 44) and, in Christian literature: in Revelation 12, the woman clothed the sun and with familiar elements of the Nativity story in Luke and Matthew. (The association of the Sun with the Lady, Dr. Barker establishes from various texts and inscriptions.

The lecturer considers that her thesis is supported by correctly read or reconstructed Scriptures, and by archaeological evidence.)

It was a very interesting and challenging evening. Was the Lady an intruder into Israel's strict monotheism, as Jeremiah seems to have thought? Or was she a Person or hypostasis in the Godhead, the Holy Spirit in fact, recognised in the worship of the first temple, that of Solomon? Was our very learned lecturer proposing a rediscovery or a heresy? And if there were among the audience (many of them clergy) those who can read Hebrew, why did no-one challenge Dr. Barker's findings? Why are the great churches of eastern Christianity, including one in the Kremlin and the great basilica of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople/Istanbul, dedicated to the Holy Wisdom? What is the relationship between the Holy Wisdom, present at the creation, and Mary Theotokos, the mother of Jesus? Whose voice, from within the

Trinity so to speak, is heard at the baptism and transfiguration of Jesus? Is it the Father's or the (feminine) Holy Spirit?

I found myself baffled at the evening's end. The lecture had been stimulating, challenging – but I was in no position to judge the evidence or the use to which the lecturer put it. Perhaps I should read one or more of Dr Barker's 17 books. Her interpretation of imagery has apparently cast enormous light on liturgical symbolism and practice, on the weekly placing of the Communion as not quite the new Passover but something else. I have long loved the (female) figure of Wisdom in Proverbs and at the lecture personally enjoyed the picture of Wisdom and Mary as weavers, or makers of textiles who appear in texts, the woven witness to creation as weaving. But the opposition of Jeremiah to the Queen of Heaven troubles me. Could the prophet have got it so wrong or has his text been edited – I am tempted to say monkeyed with – too?

Linda Tilbury RIP

Christopher Laurence

Her many friends and acquaintances will have been shocked to hear of Linda's sudden and unexpected death, in her sleep, after an operation, on May 30th. She had retained her vitality until the day she went into hospital.

Linda had been one of a bright constellation of lecturers at Bishop Grosseteste College (now University) until taking early retirement. She was an energetic promoter of local cultural events such as the Lincoln Music Festival and the Lincoln Mystery Plays. She was a Blue Badge lecturer about great houses in the area and a volunteer at Doddington Hall.

She was an expert on the Bloomsbury Group and recovered for public appreciation the Blaise Chapel, with its mural by Duncan Grant, in Lincoln Cathedral. (She went to stay with Paul Roche, the model for the Good Shepherd in that painting).

Her contribution to the cathedral community has been enormous. She was once its Visitor Officer and trainer of guides, and continued to man the information desk. Of wider interest was her expertise in the Lincoln Magna Carta and its travels. She had herself travelled with it and had many stories to tell of experiences during its expositions in North America.

Greater than all these achievements, her wide range of friends will treasure the memory of her gift of friendship, in pursuit of which she would travel great distances, often to sickbeds. These friends will remember, not her erudition, but her warmth and sense of fun.

At the time of writing her funeral is to be private. No doubt the cathedral community will want to pay honour to her memory in its own way.

The realities of the refugee crisis

Bob Harvey

Bob Harvey has spent 3 months in Greece as an independent volunteer. He initially worked as part of a small team serving up to 800 hot meals every day to refugees. The police closed down that operation and a succession of other projects that all sought to make refugee life more bearable.

A comfortable, professional family are caught up in a civil war, and their home, their neighbourhood and most of their town are all flattened. Having annihilated much of the region, the planes now drop devices comprising small-sized bombs attached together in clusters. These are designed to detonate in the future, maybe tomorrow, maybe next week. Meanwhile, the children pick them up and start to play with them. It is a swift death.

This family is desperate to find a safe place to live. They sell everything that they cannot physically carry or drag along the road, and head west, out of Syria and across the width of Turkey, until they reach the Mediterranean. Fifty refugees are crammed into an inflatable designed to carry 15. They are sold fake life-jackets, which will absorb water and quickly drown the passenger. The smugglers put just enough fuel in the outboard motor to take them half-way to Samos, Lesbos or Chios. When the motor splutters into silence, the vessel drifts and the passengers wave desperately to the volunteers who are waiting to haul the boat the final metres onto the beach.

Pub gossip will insist that refugees are drawn to Britain by the magnet of social benefits, but, honestly, would you risk that journey, or perhaps hang under a freight lorry on a shuttle through the Channel tunnel to try and reach Britain? How desperate would you need to

be, to take risks like those? This is one of thousands of families who are just trying to escape, because their country has been destroyed - largely by foreign intervention - and there is no national or international force that will rebuild the infrastructure.

We are talking about refugees fleeing conflict, and migrants fleeing poverty. Where there has been conflict there is now only poverty. The legal position is clear: *"A refugee is someone who is fleeing persecution and has the right to protection under international law,"* furthermore: *"All migrants have the right to have their human rights protected. They have the right to seek a better life than the one they have."*

When you tire of Lincoln winters your "better life" might be to pack the golf clubs and go to live in Portugal. For an Afghan refugee, a "better life" could be his job as your local taxi-driver, conveying you and your luggage from your home in Lincoln to the airport, just like the man from the Afghan capital, Kabul, who took me to Lincoln station a few weeks ago on my way to Athens. Your rights, my rights and his rights are roughly identical in law.

I came out here to help where I could, and the full story is in my blog "In Search of a Better Life," at:

www.bobharvey5.blogspot.com

Like most volunteers, I have watched the police and the army systematically closing down any opportunity we

had to reduce human suffering. We were blocked from giving away food in the street and from delivering meals to some of the refugee squats. Right across Greece, volunteers have been prevented from working inside the detention centres, and children's play-groups have been shut down. Last week, a fully-stocked medical centre was bull-dozed, with hundreds of packets of medication churned into the mud.

The EU is doing nothing and none of the member states is breaking ranks and denouncing the brutal policies of Brussels. Just one generation ago, Britain took in the Ugandan Asians who were expelled by Idi Amin. In a single generation their efforts and industry have transformed the East Midlands with strong, integrated multi-racial communities.

My three months in Athens have awoken me to the bitter realities of how much and how little governments will do when they are scared that they might take unpopular action. I hold just a glimmer of hope for the Faith groups: like the "East Lindsey Area of Sanctuary" in Louth, who prepare to welcome Syrians and Afghans, when they finally start to arrive. The appointment of a new Dean of Lincoln Cathedral is the perfect opportunity for a local initiative. What can we do? How can we demonstrate compassion? How can we show Westminster and the world that we care? Please give us Christian leadership!

Safeguarding in the Diocese of Lincoln

Elaine Johnson

With so much about safeguarding in the news, it was interesting to talk to Debbie Johnson, Bishop's safeguarding advisor and safeguarding officer to Lincoln Cathedral, to find out how safeguarding policies and procedures are being implemented across the diocese.

Debbie has been the safeguarding advisor since March 2014 and has 26 years' experience in child and family social work. She is supported by Penny Turner who has been working for the diocese since November 2015 and has a history of working in both children and adult services. Both Debbie and Penny are professionally qualified social workers, registered with the Health and Care Professionals Council.

In the Church of England, the first safeguarding policy was a child protection policy in 1995 and, more recently, a safeguarding vulnerable adults' policy in 2006. Debbie's job is to ensure that these policies, which are regularly reviewed and updated, are understood and implemented. A large part of that job is ensuring that volunteers, staff and clergy receive appropriate levels of training and have an available source of support in Debbie.

Typically, Debbie answers questions about safer recruitment of volunteers and staff. She ensures that references and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are carried out in line with procedures. Where a DBS check comes back showing a criminal record, she is involved in a risk assessment of the information on the disclosure in relation to the role. People with complicated

histories often seek help and support from the church and inclusion of all is an important guiding principle in Debbie's role. Her job is to ensure the safety of everyone.

In terms of safeguarding and Christian principles, two important principles in our faith are justice and forgiveness. Key to Debbie's role is enabling the cathedral to hold true to these principles whilst complying with statutory safeguarding procedures. One of the examples Debbie uses in her safeguarding training is the Lord's

"The police have expressed their confidence in the Diocese of Lincoln's current processes"

Prayer where we ask God, daily, to be delivered from evil and not to be led into temptation. Risk assessment and risk management within a Christian context are about taking our responsibility in these areas seriously.

A particular example of Debbie's role is putting in place a safer church agreement where a person's behaviour has in the past harmed children or caused children to be harmed. The safer church agreement has a twofold purpose: primarily the purpose is prioritising the protection of children and vulnerable adults but also, and importantly, the agreement provides the basis for meeting the pastoral needs of those with

complex histories that involve the abuse of others.

Another aspect of Debbie's role is managing allegations and disclosures of harm within the cathedral context. If an allegation against a volunteer, member of staff or member of the clergy is made, Debbie's job is to liaise with the statutory agencies, ensure appropriate support for all parties is in place and facilitate any necessary investigations. Similarly, where disclosures of current or past harm are made within the cathedral context, Debbie offers advice and support to enable the disclosures to be responded to appropriately and issues of safety prioritised.

Debbie is currently working in partnership with the police because a detailed file review of past cases has highlighted past failings in the management of allegations. Both the Police and the Diocese are striving to ensure that truth and justice are sought for all those whose lives have been impacted upon by past abuse or by poor handling of past allegations.

Within the cathedral Jackie Croft is the first point of contact, 01522 561601 or 561602. Debbie offers professional support and advice to Jackie on a daily basis but can be contacted directly on 07712321361 or 01522 504081.

It is very reassuring to know that the police have expressed their confidence in the Diocese of Lincoln's current processes and that any survivors, or those with information about church-related abuse, should always feel able to come forward with the confidence that Lincolnshire Police and the Diocese will treat them seriously and sensitively.

New - or fairly new - faces: Nicky Ott

Margaret Campion

To put Nicky into the Cathedral context, she attends the 9.30am Eucharist and sits on the north side just behind the choir and is usually accompanied by her husband, Martin and their two children, Sophia and James, who are members of the Sunday school. Martin Ott was interviewed in an earlier edition of InHouse so now it is Nicky's turn!

Nicky comes from a farming family and had a conventional country life in Holton le Moor before going to university in London to study German Language and Literature and French. Her first job was working in Dillon's: a big London bookstore which is now subsumed into a larger chain.

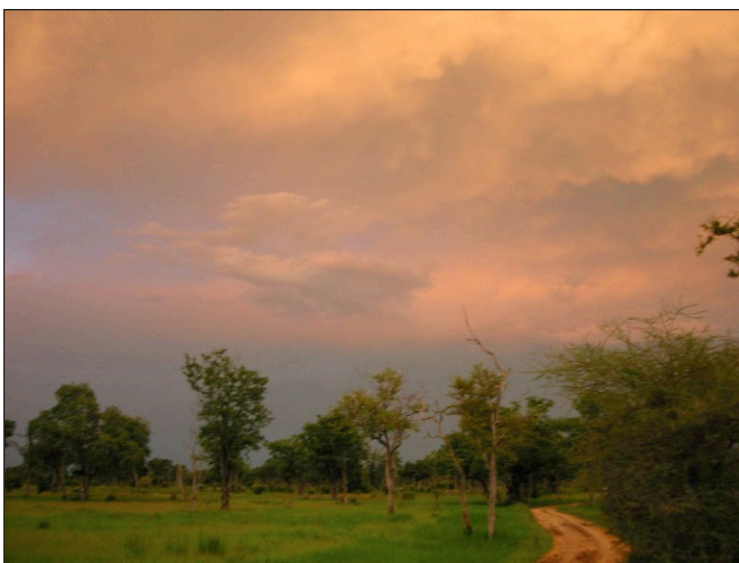
After a year or two she moved on to be a PA to a literary agent. Here she worked with some well-known authors including Peter Ackroyd, Paul Greengrass, Sue Townsend and Fay Weldon, whose short stories it was her job to sell to various women's magazines and most importantly to negotiate her fees! She took a 'sabbatical' from this job travelling, including a lengthy stay in India. But after her return she realised that bargaining for the best financial deals for authors was not her greatest strength and so, when the opportunity arose, she moved to an Oxford company who published educational books for schools in Africa and the Caribbean. Here she was an assistant editor and had to travel to Africa and the Caribbean to interview writers and teachers who were developing textbooks which were relevant to African schools. Previously most school books were textbooks from England but modern Africa wanted their books to show African children in African villages with African surroundings.

When she moved on to work for another publisher in Oxford, she was initially posted to Ghana for 15 months, where she set up author workshops and also travelled into remote villages and townships with a photographer who photographed every detail of local life so that the illustrators back in UK could make accurate drawings with the right background: mango trees and banana plants rather than apple & pears, huts not houses and so on. One key project was the publication of

local languages textbooks. The manuscripts were written in English, which was the only language which worked across all the writers and teachers, and she had to make sure the basic educational material was the same in all the books but with the correct mother tongue for the different regions! Here she had to recruit help and writers from the Institute of Languages who could sort out the text and check that text and pictures were correctly matched. It was intense and rather lonely work compounded by the fact that she contracted malaria twice, the second time being wrongly given a double dose of quinine which made the cure rather worse than the illness!

After her stint in Ghana, she returned to the UK as commissioning editor for social science books in Africa which again in-

involved travelling to various parts of Africa. On a short visit to Tanzania she met Martin who was there on a visit from Malawi, where he worked at the university, and later married him – twice in fact! First a civil ceremony in Zomba (Malawi) and secondly a church wedding at Holton le Moor. She gave up work at this point and went to live with Martin first in Zomba and then for seven years in the capital of Malawi: Lilongwe. It was there she had Sophia – although she



was actually born in Lincoln – and here also that they made the decision to adopt James who made their family complete.

In 2009 Martin was posted to Senegal, a French speaking country, where they lived in a town called Zinguinchor in the Casamance, close to the border with Guinea Bissau. With a delightful Senegalese nanny for the children, Nicky was able to teach English to French speaking Senegalese children and found that she really enjoyed both the teaching, the children and the country and it was with some regret that, after two years, Martin's contract ended and they returned to Lincoln where of course they still live.

For the future until the children have finished school they are likely to remain here but after – who knows? What is certain that for a local country girl Nicky's life has certainly been far from ordinary!

Embroidery from Lincoln UK in New York USA

Carolyn Kendall

New York was certainly the place to be in January 2016! Prior to the visit in mid-January by the Lincoln Choral Society [Page 10 Spring edition of 'In House'] Peter and I spent the first three days of this year in New York. We were transiting from Dripping Springs near Austin in Texas, after spending Christmas with our son and family, to Brooklyn for embarkation on Queen Mary 2 en route to Southampton.

Shortly before we left for the USA, Dilys Jones, leader of our Cathedral Needlework Guild, mentioned that back in the 1970's she had a commission for some work at St Thomas Church on 5th Avenue, New York, including an unusual altar frontal bearing the words "O God my heart is ready".

Having visited the city previously, done the city tour and 9/11 memorial, we decided to walk from our hotel in Times Square in search of St Thomas church. After a pleasant stroll we found the church a couple of blocks away, nestled between skyscrapers opposite some of the world's major fashion houses. The dark, quiet interior was welcome after the hustle and bustle of the city outside. We walked down the



nave towards the High Altar and there was the stunning, pristine red and gold frontal worked by Dilys all those years ago.

The curate on duty was delighted to hear about Dilys and learn of the link with the Cathedral and went on to explain that the wording on the frontal, taken from psalm 108, is the motto of the men and boys choir. We were allowed into the roped off sanctuary to

take photographs. Interestingly the altar cross was the only item to survive a fire, in 1851, which completely destroyed the original building.

After attending the lunch time Eucharist, we spent a pleasant afternoon soaking up the atmosphere of this vibrant and fascinating city. I am sure New York has many more links with Lincoln and our Cathedral just waiting to be discovered!

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We reserve the right to edit submitted articles. Copy for the next edition should be emailed to the editors at murielr@btopenworld.com by September 1st 2016 in Word format; accompanying photographs are also welcomed as JPEG files. Advice for contributors is available – please email for a copy. Regrettably it is not possible to accept hard copy as we do not have any secretarial resources. If you do not currently receive InHouse by email and would like to do so, please email your address to us at murielr@btopenworld.com. The electronic version has full colour photographs and is distributed ahead of the print version, so there are advantages!

Hidden gems of Lincolnshire

Margaret Campion

On a lovely sunny day in mid-November we re-visited Bigby, one of the many pretty villages hidden in the wilder regions of North Lincolnshire. We followed up the church visit with a five mile ramble, partly on the Viking Way, taking in another pretty church at Somerby, a vineyard and an 18th century obelisk!

Bigby is notable because it is a 'Thankful Village' - you will hear much more about these villages in 2018 when I understand they will be celebrated as part of the end of WW1 centenary celebrations. Thankful Villages sent their sons off to war and THANKFULLY they all came home - there are about seven of these villages in Lincolnshire and some 50 country-wide which are 'double thankful' having lost none of their sons in either world wars. Bigby, however, lost one son in WW2.

The 13th century church is dedicated to All Saints. One of Lincolnshire's oldest families, the Tyrwhitt family, has its roots here in Bigby and there are two notable memorials in the church, the first in the Chancel to Sir Robert Tyrwhitt and his wife Elizabeth and is dated 1581. They are surrounded by the 22 effigies of their children although I counted five babies in swaddling clothes which I believe means they were either stillborn or did not long survive. Imagine - 22 children! The poor lady would have been constantly pregnant - not a prospect many

women today would welcome!

There is a second memorial in the Sanctuary to another Robert Tyrwhitt, who had the temerity to secretly marry one of Queen Elizabeth's favourite ladies-in-waiting and was promptly thrown into the tower, where he became very ill. Both he and his lady died young - it did not do to upset Good Queen Bess!

These memorials have another interest - the crest of the Tyrwhitt family includes a Wild Man plus a flight of plovers and the feet of Sir Robert are supported by a Wild Man trimmed with feathers.

There are two more Wild Men upholding the shield above the tomb and another Wild Man on the crest of the tablet above the tomb of the young Robert and his wife. It is fairly rare to find one Wild Man in a church and most unusual to find four.

There are other interesting features in the church and stories to be discovered; the key holder, who lives two houses away from the church, is a mine of information and very happy to welcome visitors to the church.

If you decide, as we did, to then walk across the road and follow the footpath, climbing steeply to Bigby Top and Somerby Top, you will be rewarded with magnificent views.

Dropping down towards Somerby village there is a vineyard just below Somerby Church which can be seen from the road and which friends tell us yields delicious wines. The lovely little church is nestled in an immaculately cared for churchyard a short way above

the village itself. Sadly, this was closed but if you phone the key holder on 0786 6455410 you can plan your visit in advance but we, regrettably, were running out of time. We continued back to Bigby along the Viking Way passing the obelisk erected by Edward Weston in 1770 as a tribute to "29 years of conjugal happiness..." A very pleasant end to a lovely and interesting walk.

