

InHouse

the Journal of the Lincoln Cathedral Community Association



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A fond farewell

Judi Jones



"A wonderful calm presence"; "He has reminded us of the importance of prayer"; "An exceptionally able and effective administrator"; "His erudite sermons always make me think and I enjoy his poetic references"; "He has been a steady hand at the helm"; "He

and Linda have been brilliant ambassadors for our cathedral".

These are just a few random, but heartfelt, comments about our Dean, the Very Reverend Philip Buckler, and his wife Linda, made by members of the congregation after the 9.30am Eucharist a few

Sundays ago. The most common sentiment of all, uttered many times, was how much we will miss them both. So January 31st 2016, the day that he retires, will be a sad one for our congregation and the cathedral as a whole.

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Farewell, Mr Dean

Judi Jones

Speaking to Philip last month, I asked him what his concerns were nine years ago, before he took up his new role as the 83rd Dean of Lincoln.

He confided that, coming from the busy and exciting St Paul's Cathedral, he wondered if the pace of life might be different. Yes, in many ways it is different, but it is still relentless! He had also been anxious about the standard of our music, for throughout his ministry, he had always been fortunate in having the support of talented professional choirs. He said that, of course, he need not have worried and he delights in the exceptionally high standard of music which Aric Prentice and his colleagues unfailingly produce.

An aspect of his life which is very important to him is the support and comradeship of the other Residentiary Canons and he particularly welcomes the fact that they all treat the saying of the daily offices as of high priority. He sincerely believes that "It is the key to what we do". Between them, the College of Canons at Lincoln Cathedral recite the psalter every day and this practice, combined with the daily reading of the obits means a great deal to Philip. It is a reminder of the inheritance of faith and that we are part of a much larger family. Listening to the obits one learns about interesting characters and it helps people gain a sense of proportion, for the church continues through all different ages and there is nothing new in conflict.

I asked the Dean about the challenges he had faced in 2007. He explained that he was aware of the rifts in the past and that, although Alec Knight had done wonderful work in healing these wounds, he himself needed to build on this and bring back the cathedral as an important presence in the county and diocese. Money too would always be a concern and the cathedral has been greatly helped through legacies. Philip felt then, and still feels now, that it is paramount that our cathedral should deserve such legacies so that people wish to support it in life as

well as in death.

Both Philip and Linda have loved their time in Lincoln and feel that they have been supported in so many ways by able colleagues, fine administrators, an amazing Works Department, wonderful music, hardworking vergers and a huge army of loyal volunteers.

When I asked him about some of his most memorable moments he talked of his feelings when Peter Moore, the Iraq hostage, came in early 2010 to blow out the candle which had been burning throughout his captivity. The daily prayers which had been said for him for over two and a half years in the cathedral had not been in vain. This feeling of overwhelming gratitude was heightened the next year with Terry Waite's visit. Of course, all the services and celebrations surrounding the anniversary of the Magna Carta have been most memorable and Philip is pleased that his work in America has borne fruit. The Society of American Friends of Lincoln Cathedral is up and running and its members are keen to support us. Highlights of his last year have been the quality of the Magna Carta lectures, the stupendous Magna Carta Dinner, the production of Jesus Christ Superstar and the Halle concert. He was keen though to point out that he had failed in two of his aims. Namely....the sound system....(as a member of the audience of the Tennyson evening I can vouch for that!)...and also in heating the cathedral. However we still owe him a huge debt.

This article is about saying farewell to a well loved couple, and I am afraid that I have not allotted enough space to properly express our thanks to Linda, who, without a fuss or a huge fanfare, works tirelessly for the cathedral. Amongst other duties, for example, she cheerfully helps run a stall at the Christmas Market and takes her turn serving coffee after the Sunday Eucharist. The Dean pointed out that "I owe an enormous debt to Linda for the support that she gives me personally and for all the work that she

does behind the scene." She told me that she loved living in their house and has been happy entertaining guests there on behalf of the cathedral. She has made this huge property both stylish and welcoming, although I have to say that when I visited them on a cold winter's day I was glad that I was wearing warm clothes! She wanted me to point out that she is very grateful for the help and friendship she has received from Sue and the Coffee Shop girls when she is catering for large numbers. An accomplished cook, she has risen to the challenge of organizing and catering for the staff party (we are talking about 120 guests) but has also fed and extended hospitality to smaller numbers of guests, from many different backgrounds. She pointed out to me that she is delighted that her large dining table will fit into their new home.

This new home is in Suffolk, near the historic community of Lavenham, and they are looking forward to the next exciting chapter of their lives. However, before that, they have another thrilling event; the wedding of their daughter Susannah to William on 16th January. Although Susannah was studying at Durham University when they first came to Lincoln and is now working as a lawyer in London, whenever she is here she always enters wholeheartedly into cathedral life. As well as attending services, helping out generally and supporting her parents, she also sang for some years in the Cathedral Consort. She, too, will be sadly missed.

I will leave it to our Subdean, John Patrick, to sum up how we all feel:

" Philip has made a huge contribution to life in Lincoln Cathedral. His clarity of mind and dry sense of humour will be sorely missed. It is with a very real sense of sadness that we say goodbye to a friend, a leader and a companion. He leaves a strong legacy built on Alec Knight's foundation and has enabled Lincoln Cathedral to speak to the county and beyond. All this is grounded on a love of God, the source of the man that he is."

A word from the editor

Muriel Robinson
LCCA Executive Chair

As you will have seen, we have decided to move the editor's column away from the front page this time so we can lead with a more significant story. (It would be good to get feedback on this and any other matters, as ever.)

That lead story is of course the impending departure of Philip and Linda Buckler, who will be much missed for all they have brought to the life of the Cathedral. We wish them a very long and happy retirement in their new home in Suffolk and our gratitude and prayers go with them.

By the time you read this, Christmas will be over, yet as I write it Advent has just begun, and this is a time of new beginnings for our LCCA committee too. Following the AGM we have two new committee members, John Proud and Marguerite Reith, and we have said

goodbye and heartfelt thankyou's to several who have completed their term of office (Helene Jackson, Josie Moreton, and Anne Thompson). We have also set up a small social sub-committee, led by Ken Brown, and I know they are keen to involve more of you in planning our social events. In particular we'd like feedback about this year's AGM- how can we encourage more of you to come? Should we move away from combining the meeting with a social gathering and revisit the idea of a separate autumn social evening, perhaps the Harvest Supper of former years? We will soon be advertising our annual Shrove Tuesday evening (February 9th this year) which will be very much like last year's in format, with the added attraction of entertainment by Canon Jeffrey Heskins, so do put the date in your diaries and buy tickets!

Elsewhere in this edition you will see an article explaining how your cup of coffee or tea gets to you on Sundays and what we do with the money. Although we are already able to donate around £1500 a year to Nomad, you will notice that we serve on average around 100 cups a Sunday and take around £50 a week in donations. You might like to think about where else you could get a cup of real coffee or fresh tea (and a biscuit) for 50p these days and consider how your typical donation matches with prices elsewhere? The more you give, the more we give..

Please do keep sending us stories or ideas for the next edition, and don't forget if you sign up for the electronic version you get colour images as well as the first sightings of each edition!

With all good wishes from all of the committee for a happy and holy 2016.

Cathedrals don't have curates

Elaine Johnson

Which is why Deacon Philippa became our Succentor when she was ordained as a priest.

The cathedral has had Succentors before, but not recently. The term literally means 'second singer', as opposed to the Precentor, who is the 'first singer'. Some cathedrals have them; some don't. When looking for a new title for Philippa, it was agreed that the Precentor's duties at Lincoln Cathedral are many and varied and, as such, an assistant would be valued; hence creating her Succentor. Among his other duties, the Precentor is responsible for composing the service sheets and Philippa is now contributing to that. The first full service she composed was a memorable thanksgiving for the performance of Jesus Christ, Superstar, during the summer. From time to time she is also the Cantor during Evensong.

Her involvement with the Minster School and the choristers has increased.



She recently took an instructed Eucharist with the pupils, explaining what she was doing and why, as they went through the service. She is also in charge of the pastoral care of the choir which includes liaising with Fiona Howick, the matron of the forty young choristers, on a regular basis.

Two young members of the choir have been prepared for admission to communion, although they are not yet confirmed. However, their committed faith and readiness for communion has been recognised and met, Philippa putting together an appropriate service using Common Worship material. She will also help with the confirmation course when it is delivered again.

As well as assisting the Precentor with his duties around liturgy and worship, Philippa continues to do her pastoral duties, such as visiting and working with the Subdean and Assistant Canon Pastor to ensure pastoral support. She also runs the faith@lincolncathedral discussion group. As an ordained priest she can now also celebrate communion, bless marriage, bless baptismal water and give absolution. Becoming Succentor has increased and extended her role and responsibilities, contributing even more to the richness of life in the Cathedral, the community, the city and beyond.

A welcoming community for coffee and chat

Elaine Johnson

'I have several times been told by visitors that we are a welcoming community,' says Alan Campion who undertakes the not-always-easy task of compiling the volunteers' rota for the post-9.30 service coffee session. According to stalwart volunteer, Margaret Phillips, coffee has now been served for about thirty years, but it was not without objections when it first started. However, the need to eventually move from its initial home in the coffee shop to the Chapter House because of numbers, demonstrates its popularity and success. 100 – 150 cups are served every Sunday.

People tell Alan that they enjoy the opportunity for a chat and coffee after the service, a chance to discuss and digest issues raised in the sermon and even to question the preacher upon some point or other. The coffee service provides valuable space for this mingling and is also a chance to welcome visitors and new faces to worship.

Alan never formally took on the rota management. Several years ago he was asked by the lady who originally did it, if he could produce an electronic copy from her handwritten list, which she then photocopied and distributed. He obligingly did so, then found himself stuck with the entire job after she moved away, as people just kept on giving him information. This is the third year he has kindly been doing it.

Email is a big advantage. In the past people have swapped dates and not told him. Occasionally, the person on duty didn't turn up, which meant Alan and his wife, Margaret, stepping into the breach. If they weren't in church that morning, it depended on the goodwill of others. Now he asks the volunteers, of whom there are about thirty, to let him know of any changes and he emails out an amended rota. With illness, holidays,



family commitments etc there is still potential for things to go wrong; the fact that it doesn't is largely due to the willingness of the volunteers.

Alun Jones is quartermaster in charge of supplies. He buys the necessary coffee, tea and biscuits (chocolate and plain) and takes them to the cathedral during the week, keeping a week's stores in hand, in case of emergency. All the supplies are Fair Trade and include two packs of ground coffee, percd through the urn, seven packets of biscuits and two cartons of orange juice each week. Seven tea bags go into the pot, then, from time to time there is orange squash, sugar, cups, filter papers, washing up liquid etc. The volunteers bring six pints of milk each Sunday, often kind-

ly donating it. The Community also gives the vergers two packets of biscuits each week and the same to the choir for their practice on a Saturday. Several hundred pounds are spent over the year, with the surplus going to Nomad. Last year the income from coffee was £2243, of which £725 was spent on supplies, allowing us to donate over £1500 to Nomad.

Post-9.30 coffee is clearly an important, much appreciated community facility which relies on volunteers to continue. The more volunteers the less frequently your turn comes around, so if you can spare some time to help, please speak to Alan. Very grateful thanks must go to all the volunteers, but especially to Alan and Alun, unsung heroes, who keep the coffee flowing.

Sounding the Seasons

The Succentor introduced us to this poem by Malcolm Guite, from his "Sounding the Seasons" book (Canterbury Press, 2012). It feels particularly appropriate given how many unseen heroes keep our cathedral running. We thank them all!

A Last Beatitude

And blessèd are the ones we overlook;
The faithful servers on the coffee rota,
The ones who hold no candle, bell or book
But keep the books and tally up the quota,
The gentle souls who come to 'do the flowers',
The quiet ones who organise the fete,
Church sitters who give up their weekday hours,
Doorkeepers who may open heaven's gate.
God knows the depths that often go unspoken
Amongst the shy, the quiet, and the kind,
Or the slow healing of a heart long broken
Placing each flower so for a year's mind.
Invisible on earth, without a voice,
In heaven their angels glory and rejoice.



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Lincoln Cathedral Events

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

Saturday 23 January, 1.10pm-2pm

Lincoln Hears Syria

A concert by several Lincoln music groups and choirs to raise funds for UNICEF's appeal for the Syrian refugees.

EXHIBITIONS

9 February to 31 March

Passion in Paint

Exhibits from the Methodist Collection of Art, with Lent reflections and study guide (available from the Diocese of Lincoln or Methodist Circuit)

4 - 9 April

Lincoln East Art Group

Exhibition comprises watercolour, acrylics, oils and pastels.

OTHER EVENTS

Saturday 12 March, 7pm

Passiontide Concert

Bach St John Passion

Performed by Lincoln Cathedral Choir

Saturday 14 May, 7pm

Organ Concert (Nave)

Saturday 4 June, 7pm

Organ Concert (Nave)

Saturday 11 June, 7pm

Organ Concert (Nave and Choir)

Weds 3 August - Sat 13 August, 7pm

Lincoln Mystery Plays

Friday 23 September, 7pm

Concert

By the Halle Orchestra, with conductor Sir Mark Elder and violinist Elene Urioste
Dvorak: The Golden Spinning Wheel
Glazunov: Violin Concerto
Beethoven: Symphony No 6: Pastoral

For more information and to buy tickets please visit

WWW.LINCOLNCATHEDRAL.COM

or call the Box Office on: 01522 561 644

The Bells of Lincoln Cathedral

John Ketteringham

There wasn't a tower capable of holding bells when in about 1175 "two great and sonorous bells" were given to the cathedral by the titular Bishop, Geoffrey Plantagenet.

A substantial wall was found a few years ago at the Cathedral and could be the remains of a detached tower. These first bells were probably hung in the detached tower and on completion of the two western towers they were transferred to Ashby Puerorum. The largest of the Plantagenet bells had become known as 'Great Tom', in honour of St Thomas Beckett the murdered Archbishop who had recently been canonised. A new bell was cast for the north west tower and also became known as 'Great Tom'.

In 1610 this bell was recast and hung in the central tower. In 1834 it was recast by the Whitechapel bell foundry together with two quarter bells and hung in the central tower. Apparently all three bells were hung with fittings for full-circle ringing! In 1880 two more quarter bells were donated to the Cathedral so that the 'Cambridge Quarters' could be sounded. These four bells are still heard daily, with Great Tom joining in at each hour.

There were bells in the south west (St Hugh's) tower from an early date but the only record of this is the recasting of the third bell in 1592. By the early eighteenth century there was a ring of eight bells with a tenor weighing about 17 cwt. In 1834 these bells were rehung and in 1913 it was decided to replace them with a new ring of eight bells with a tenor weighing almost 24 cwt. The old tenor and seventh were retained and hung in the north west tower. Within ten years, ringing of the new bells had to stop because of the state of the tower. In the 1920s in addition to strengthening the tower and rehanging the bells it was decided to add four trebles. The ring of twelve bells, all of which had been cast by the Loughborough bell foundry, was



dedicated on 28 April 1928. An additional bell to provide a light ring of eight bells was added in 1947.

The bell from the submarine HMS Tasman was presented to the Cathedral (c1960) to hang in the Seamen's chapel as a memorial to George Bass

(1771-1803). He was born at Aswarby near Sleaford and discovered Bass Strait which is between Van Diemens land and mainland Australia. The bell is inscribed HMS/Tasman /1945.

In a framework on the North East pillar of the central tower is a bell given in 1953 by Robert Godfrey former Clerk of Works. It came from one of the gates at Sudbrooke Holme, and is used as a signal that the cathedral is about to close for the night.

If you are interested in the complete history of the bells there may be a few copies of my book *Lincoln Cathedral : A History of the Bells, Bellringers and Bellringing in the Cathedral Shop*.



LCCA walk

Alison Eagleton

A walk in the countryside in October? Surely wellingtons, waterproofs, hats, scarves would be required, but as we assembled at Kirmond Le Mire we could see that the weather forecasters were right and we were going to be blessed with a beautiful autumnal day for the Community Association Walk.

Cars were parked in the layby just below St Martin's church and we set off at a gentle pace along the footpath at the bottom of the hill towards the lakes where the fisherman were already settled in for the day. Watching them casting for a few minutes, we then climbed up towards the farmhouse where we were met by a loud and enthusiastic guard dog in the shape of a young Jack Russell terrier who looked as if she would have loved to have accompanied us further on our way but was brought to heel by her master who wished us a cheerful 'Good Morning'.

Up on to the fields above the valley we stopped and looked back towards Lincoln to admire the views and marvel at the acres of agricultural land spread out in all directions. A break for coffee, bananas, Mars bars etc gave everyone a chance to regroup and, with reference to the GPS, to work out when lunch would be due! Binbrook was our destination and we soon saw the site of the



old airfield and the village nestled in a fold of the land. Along the road towards the pub a lovely wooden seat caught the attention of the lead walkers. The new black paint and replaced slats were admired but it was suggested that there might have been trouble with metric v imperial measurements as there were several drill holes in the wrong place!

The parish church of St Mary and St Gabriel is on the right hand side, an unusual dedication but in Domesday there are two churches mentioned, St Mary's and St Gabriel's. The present church was built on the site of the old St Mary's church in 1869. The medieval cross in the churchyard is one of many treasures.

The Plough was a welcome sight and

we dined extremely well with generous portions and friendly service! Then the final stages of the circular route and we soon found ourselves walking back up the hill at Kirmond Le Mire. As we gathered together for our farewells we had time to admire the nearby derelict farmhouse and outbuildings. A bit of research has revealed that Manna House requires major renovation but is architecturally important and is mentioned in Pevsner's The Buildings of England. Does anyone fancy a project?

A wonderful day with great company. Many thanks to Barbara Wilson and Jeannette Davies for all their hard work in organising the walk. See you all again next year!

Lincoln Cathedral Retired Volunteers and Staff Group

The group meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 10.30 in the Lincoln Cathedral Centre. All retired volunteers and staff are very welcome. The group held its first meeting in January 2015 when Linda Tilbury was the speaker. We have had talks on various subjects and visits to Lincoln Castle and Geddington. We look forward to meeting you all, old and new members at our meetings.

Rita Simpson

New poetry collection

Our published poets, Michaela Philp and Roy Bentham, have done it again- a new book of poems, 'Where Earth and Heaven Meld', is available to purchase for a donation to Cathedral funds.

This time the poems are all villanelles, a challenging form with a real charm, so do look out for a copy - on sale at coffee time after the 9.30 Eucharist, or ask Micky.



Lincoln Cathedral Consort at Grimsby Minster

Alison Eagleton

On the 25th October the Lincoln Cathedral Consort were privileged to be invited to sing at Grimsby Minster for the Sunday morning Eucharist service. The great church of St James, which was given Minster status in 2010, was bathed in brilliant sunshine as we gathered in the new choir room, where we were greeted by the Organist and Director of Music, Steven Maxson. This multi-purpose area was completed with the aid of Regional and EU Grants together with Lottery Funding, the Minster being the first Parish Church to receive such an award.

We sang the Missa Brevis by Anthony Caesar and the unaccompanied anthem 'Oculi Omnium' by Charles Wood. The Swell Trumpet stop on the organ at the beginning of the 'Gloria' was a wonderful opening, very impressive as was Steven's appearance at the choir organ, only, it seemed seconds after being at the manual of the organ up in the gallery at the west end of the Minster.

The great pride that Grimsby has for



its shipping fleet is acknowledged during the Intercessions as there is always a prayer offered for the trawlers going to sea. One in particular is named every week, it was the 'Jubilee Pride' that Sunday.

After the service we were invited to join the congregation for tea and coffee. We were glad of the opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation for the generous welcome we received and the chance to sing in such a wonderful

setting.

A visit to Grimsby had, of course, to include fish and chips for lunch and we now have a new tongue twister – plaice and peas please!

Our new black music folders, kindly donated by the Cathedral Community Association, are much appreciated at such events when we are representing the Cathedral and thanks are also due to Steven Maxson and the Consort's Director Hilary Punnett.

Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed in the articles in this edition of InHouse are those of the authors of those articles. They do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Lincoln Cathedral Community Association Committee, the Editors of InHouse, the Cathedral Chapter or any other contributors to InHouse.

Editor and Editorial Policy

The current editor is Muriel Robinson, supported by Elaine Johnson and Margaret Campion and with photographs supplied by Jim Newton and authors.

Decisions on content are made by the editors for each edition of InHouse. Submissions of short articles is welcomed though it may not always be possible to use all pieces as space is limited; articles are also commissioned to address identified issues. We reserve the right to edit submitted articles.

Copy for the next edition should be emailed to the Editors at murielr@btopenworld.com by March 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!

General Synod - a view from a new member

Muriel Robinson



In November 2015 the newly elected General Synod of the Church of England met for the first time in its five year life. Every diocese elects lay and clergy members, the electorate being the deanery synod members for laity.

All diocesan bishops are there too and there are some elected suffragan bishops. As many of you will know, there are three Houses (Bishops, Clergy and Laity) who all meet together to debate and make policy decisions, some of which become the law of the land.

For those of us who were there as new members, this felt like a huge responsibility and we paid careful attention during our training day, trying out our fancy electronic voting gadgets

and trying hard to learn the protocols (never speak without starting with your name, diocese and Synod number; never leave the chamber while someone is speaking; stand to be called to speak - so much to learn!).

Archbishop Justin emphasised the key role of Synod as a place to disagree with courtesy and respect and we heard several times that the word Synod means 'walking together'. The Paris attacks were much on people's minds and we were exhorted by the Archbishop to 'overwhelm extremism, not by other extremes, but with hope and love'. He reminded us that it was time to shun an 'inward-turning, self-indulgent frame of mind'.

This first session was very short in terms of formal business, yet there were some significant debates on the refugee crisis, on church buildings and on the recent report 'Talking Jesus'. We also had our fair share of ceremony, with a formal Eucharist in Westminster Abbey attended by the Queen and Prince Philip and an opening address from the Queen afterwards in Church House.

As a new member I came away with a head full of so many experiences: the odd feeling of being back in Freshers Week, the friendliness and support of everyone I met, the high quality of the training, the formality of the debates, the prayerfulness, the singing! The key lesson for me was that this is a political environment and one in which every member has to take their commitment seriously.

Lincoln diocese has nine members of General Synod: Bishop Christopher, 4 clergy and 4 lay members. Our cathedral family is well represented as the Precentor was re-elected and I was lucky enough to secure a place in the House of Laity. One of our jobs as members is to engage with the diocese so that we share what we hear from deaneries and Diocesan Synod about the concerns and views of the Church at large.

If you want to know more, the Church Times always publishes very full accounts of each session or you can even follow it live on the webcam; the website <https://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod.aspx> also has an amazing amount of detail and there is even a free app now (just search for General Synod). Or for a more personal view, just catch up with me after coffee one Sunday!

Hidden gems of Lincolnshire

Margaret and Alan Campion

One day when the sun shines and you feel like a little outing, pack a picnic, take the dogs (if you have them) and set off up the A15 to one of the northernmost outposts of the diocese and visit the little village of Horkstow.

There is much to interest you in the village and in the church but there are also lots of walks, up the Drovers Lane onto the limestone cliffs, down to the lovely suspension bridge to... well, nowhere these days... except to the New River Ancholme where there are well cared for foot paths to either South Ferriby where there is a pub, or in the opposite direction along the river path back to Saxby All Saints and Horkstow. The churchyard is pretty and well maintained and admirably suited to picnics on a summer's afternoon.

But first enter DN18 6BG to your Satnav, which will aid navigation, and let me explain Horkstow: it is one of five villages strung out along the B1204 which itself is on the line of an ancient Drove road leading to the Humber Banks. Each of these villages are roughly oblong in shape; all back onto the chalk cliffs and the houses below the cliff follow a spring line and below the road you see meadows, drained in the 17th century with the development of the New River Ancholme but which were once water meadows and salt marshes. Away beyond you can see the ancient Ermine Street leading to the Humber.

In Horkstow during the Romano British period there was a very grand Roman villa. This was discovered during extensions in 1796 to Horkstow Hall – itself a very grand building at the extreme edge of the village – but it was covered over and remained hidden until further excavations in 1927 when a Roman mosaic pavement was uncovered and this is now residing in some splendour in Hull Museum. It is considered to be one of the best examples of such a pavement in the country.

The Knights Templar had a cell here attached to the priory at Willoughton and the bumps and humps in the meadow facing the church are thought to be the remains of this cell. It is thought that the unusual dedication of the church to St. Maurice (one of only eight such dedications in England) is perhaps owing to Templar influence although it could also be connected with an early Christian owner from the Roman Villa.

In the 1630s it was decided to create a new course for the New

River Ancholme in order to drain the meadows and salt marshes which then opened up the town of Brigg for commerce via the river. Later in 1836 a suspension bridge was built over the river to enable workers from Horkstow on the east bank to cross the river to reach the brick kilns on the west bank. These brickworks closed down leaving the bridge in place but going exactly nowhere! However, today the footpaths from the bridge in every direction on both sides have been opened up and maintained for walkers and off road cyclists.

In 1756 George Stubbs came to the village to a 'remote farmhouse' belonging to his patron, Sir John Nelthorpe but today there is some doubt – and perhaps some competition – to claim that any one of several houses could have been the one he used!



Back to the greatest treasure in Horkstow, which is the 13th century grade 1 listed church on the very edge of the village and built into the limestone cliff itself. Borrow the key from the cottage almost next door and prepare for a surprise! The original church actually forms a natural amphitheatre and about twenty years ago it became clear that this village of some one hundred souls simply could not raise the money both to keep the church in

repair and also to pay the diocesan quota, so drastic action was needed. This consisted of transforming the church from simply a place of worship into both a sacred space and also a community amenity where theatre, concerts and lectures could be accommodated and even sermons on the monthly Family Service! It is a lovely light building with no coloured glass to obstruct either the quality of the light or the view from the chancel windows of the lovely grassy slopes of the cliffs. The areas cleared of Victorian pews and choir stalls now display their pretty Victorian floor tiles and at the lower level provide space for trestle tables and chairs for refreshment with the bell tower now equipped with kitchen units, hot water and electric points. The old vestry has been converted into a spacious toilet with cupboards for, presumably, the vicar's vestments.

It is a lovely and elegant re-ordering of a beautiful church and the charm of the village, with its history stretching back to pre-Roman times plus the many walks from the village make it a perfect place for leisurely summer visit. We feel sure you will not be disappointed.