

NEWS & VIEWS

APRIL 2026



Delivered to homes in Caythorpe, Frieston, Fulbeck, Normanton on Cliffe, Carlton Scroop, Sudbrook, Hough on the Hill, Brandon, Gelston, Ancaster, Willoughby and more

The 
Red Lion

Caythorpe

DISCOVER A NEW LEVEL OF TASTE



Locally sourced produce • Dog Friendly • Vegan/Vegetarian Options

Whether it be a drink or a meal, sit back and relax and we will take care of everything

May Bank Holidays

4th & 25th May

Whether you're out for a catch up, a family meal, or just fancy treating yourself over the long weekend, we'll be serving food from 12pm-3pm.

A perfect way to break up the day and enjoy some great food!

Easter Weekend

Easter is all about good food, good company, and making the most of the long weekend.

A great excuse to gather with family or friends and enjoy a relaxed meal.

Serving food

Easter Sunday 12pm - 4pm

Easter Monday 12 - 3pm.

Get in touch to book your table in advance



Red Lion Quiz

Join us for Quiz Night on the last Monday of every month!

Gather your team, test your knowledge, and enjoy a fun evening of friendly competition.



62 HIGH STREET, CAYTHORPE,
LINCOLNSHIRE, NG32 3DN

07450 448073
WWW.REDLIONCAYTHORPE.COM
HELLO@REDLIONCAYTHORPE.COM

Distributed to all homes in Caythorpe, Frieston, Fulbeck, Normanton on Cliffe, Carlton Scroop, Sudbrook, Hough on the Hill, Brandon, Gelston and more.

General Information	3
Useful Contacts	4
Calendar of Events	5
Carlton Scroop PC	23
Caythorpe Garden Club	27
Caythorpe Pre School	11
Church Corner	19
Church Services	20
Environment Blog	25
Farmers Leaflet	29
Mansell Beard Article	15
Scouts	17
Workhouse Article	31

Welcome

Dear News & Views Readers,

That's 12 months of putting together News & Views and it seems to have settled down to an enjoyable routine, although the timing becomes a bit of a problem sometimes.

I'm sorry that I don't always get the dates right and that can be confusing and thank goodness Karen, my wife, manages to filter out most of the errors I make prior to sending the edition to Westgate for printing.

Robert Prabucki

You can have a digital copy of News & Views to read on your devices. Request an email copy or download it from the parish Council website

The newsletter is produced using software called Affinity. It is free to obtain for both Mac and Windows computers. and is very comprehensive and well recommended. I'm happy to help you to learn the software. If you would be able to use it to help me produce the newsletter please get in touch.

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Advertising and Contributions Deadline

for May Edition

15 May 2026

News & Views is produced in association with Caythorpe & Frieston Parish Council

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Magazines are delivered free to every home. A pdf version can be emailed.

If you would like to donate to our costs pay by Bank to

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News & Views is produced and distributed by a team of volunteers. All advertisements are taken in good faith, we cannot accept responsibility for any legal enquiries resulting there from. Submitted articles do not necessarily reflect our views. We reserve the right to not print submitted articles.



Caythorpe Spar Opening Hours
 Mon - Sun 07:00 - 21:00

Post Office Opening Hours

Mon - Fri 09:00 - 16:30

Sat 09:00 - 12:00

Caythorpe & Ancaster Medical Practice

Caythorpe Surgery: 01400 272215 Opt I for Dispensary

Ancaster Surgery: 01400 230226 Opt I for Dispensary

Surgery Hours

Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm

Dispensary 8.30am to 6pm

Closed Saturday and Sunday

Bin Collections

April 2026						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

April 2026						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



Lincolnshire Mobile Library Service April

Caythorpe The Church 12-12.45 Monday 20th

Frieston The Green 11.30-12.00 Monday 9th **

Fulbeck Hare & Hounds 10.30-11.00 Monday 9th **

Gelston The Green 12.15-13.00 Monday 9th **

Ancaster Ermine Street 15.00-16.00 Tuesday 14th

** April & May appears as no service on the LCC web site, presumably Bank Holidays.

Useful Contacts

Emergency Services

Police, Fire or Ambulance	999
Police Non Emergency	101
NHS Non Emergency	111
Lincoln Police	01522 532 222

Doctors

Caythorpe	01400 272 215
Ancaster	01400 230 226

Household Emergencies

Electricity/Power Cuts	105
Water & Leaks	03457 145 145
Floodline	01522 782 082

Personal Support

Rev'd Canon Geraldine Pond	07930353316
Samaritans	116 123
Citizens Advice	08082 787 942
Childline	0800 1111

Defibrillator Locations

Brandon	Telephone kiosk on corner of Church Lane & Hough Lane
Carlton Scroop	Charity Street on wall before Golf Club entrance Wall at Village Hall, Newark Lane
Caythorpe	Village Hall High Street Hammond Pavillon, Old Lincoln Road Old Chapel, Chapel Lane
Frieston	On wall of 35 Hough Road between Top and Bottom Green
Fulbeck	On wall, Main Door Village Hall
Gelston	Village Green in Telephone Kiosk
Hough	Telephone kiosk on High Street opposite Church
Normanton	Telephone Kiosk Main Road
Sudbrook	Telephone Kiosk

Caythorpe & Frieston Parish Council

Clerk Mrs D Manderfield 07351690496
clerk@caythorpeandfriestonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Carlton Scroop with Normanton Parish Council

Clerk Florence Hill clerk@carltonscroopnormanton-pc.gov.uk

Fulbeck Parish Council

Clerk Dermot Daly 07778 351935 clerk@fulbeck-pc.org.uk

Sudbrook Parish Council

Clerk Christine Myers 07594 295457 sudbrookeparishcouncil@gmail.com

Leadenham, Fulbeck, Caythorpe, Frieston, Normanton-on-Cliffe,
Carlton Scroop, Sudbrook, Hough on the Hill, Brandon, Gelston, Ancaster,
Willoughby and beyond!

Reach all of these places by placing an advert or article in the Double
Award Winning News & Views

Calendar of Events

April

- 5 Caythorpe Village Hall Breakfast
- 7 Hough on the Hill Church Coffee Morning
- 1 Handicrafts Club
- 3 Fulbeck Over 60's Club
- 3 St Vincents Coffee Morning
- 4 Carlton Scroop Bingo
- 11 Fulbeck Car Boot
- 11 Fulbeck Sports Club Bingo
- 14 Caythorpe Garden Club
- 17 Fulbeck Over 60's Club
- 17 Caythorpe Chill & Chat
- 18 Cider Tasting
- 30? Carlton Scroop Books & Butties
- 30 Carlton Scroop Community Lunch
- 25 Fulbeck Sports Club Bingo

If there is an event you would like to publicise then please let me have the details and it can be included in our News and Views monthly edition which is delivered to 1400 homes.

Caythorpe & Frieston Parish Council

Full Minutes of Meetings can be found on our website:

<https://caythorpe.pariah.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>

Any issues arising please contact the clerk at

caythorpeandfriestonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Caythorpe & Frieston Sports & Social Club

The Hammond Pavilion, Old Lincoln Road



Membership is not essential but there are several benefits for those who pay the annual fee. These include: Free wifi, Free Sky Sports and Free seasonal activities for children

Opening Times:

Thursday 7pm - 11pm

Friday 7pm - 11pm

Saturday 5pm - 11pm

Sunday 2pm - 9pm

Please come and pay a visit to this welcoming Village Amenity. Enjoy a drink with family and friends, as well as joining in the various events.

Membership Family £15 Individual £10

Caythorpe Village Hall Breakfast

09:00-11:00

Full English £8.00

Bacon Bap £4.00

Sausage Bap £4.00

all including

Tea/Coffee



Chill & Chat

Caythorpe & Frieston Village Hall

Cake & Drink £2.00

Friday 17th April

10:00am - 12:00pm

Come and Join Us!

Timetables for Caythorpe Children's Centre are now available via the link below:

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/directory-record/62593/caythorpe-children-s-centre

We have a new session every Wednesday morning 10-10.45

Early Talkers 0-5 yrs

Please check regularly for dates and times of sessions as these change due to holiday times.

**All sessions
Free of Charge**



High Street, Caythorpe, NG323DR Tel: 01400 279285/E-mail: CaythorpeCC@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Fulbeck Coffee Club Village Hall

Every Thursday
10.00 to 12.00

Join us for
Coffee and Cakes
Donation £2
All welcome



Many thanks for the donations for the Foodbank. If you would like to donate there are collection boxes inside the Caythorpe church and Ancaster COOP.

Donations of food, pet food, laundry products, cleaning products and personal hygiene items are always welcome. Please ensure that items are within their sell by/use by dates.

All donations are welcome no matter how small e.g. small tin of beans or soup.

Current shortages reported are: JARS OF PASTA SAUCE, TINNED FISH, TINNED FRUIT, JARS OF COFFEE, BOTTLES OF SQUASH, TOOTH PASTE, SOAP BAGS FOR LIFE (IN GOOD CLEAN CONDITION)

Monetary donations are accepted on the Grantham Foodbank website; <https://grantham.foodbank.org.uk>

Handicraft Club

Ladies who meet up for crafting on the 1st Wednesday of the month at Caythorpe Pavillion, is open to anyone. We start at 2pm and cost is £2 pp

You don't have to be a crafter - you can join us for a chat and tea/coffee.

In March we made Easter Wreaths. In April there will be a Spinning Wheel demonstration.

For further information contact Angela Turner
01703838811



Carlton Scroop & Normanton Social Club

Saturday 4th April

7:30pm for eyes down at 8:00pm

Fulbeck Sports Club

Saturday April 11th and 25th

7:00pm for eyes down at 7:30pm



FULBECK SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

Over 60's Club

1st & 3rd Friday every month

2-4pm

Opening Times:

Friday 5:30pm to 8:00pm

Sunday 12:00pm to 4:00pm

Open for Pool Team Fixtures on
Tuesday 7:00pm - 11:00pm

FULBECK AND DISTRICT

ART GROUP

Mondays, 10:15 am – 3 pm

at FULBECK VILLAGE HALL

Fulbeck, NG31 3JN

(near the Hare and Hounds by the A607)

We welcome new members at any skill level in any medium. No formal instruction but friendly advice on offer. Drop in and see us or

Tel. 01400 275 051

Email: nettrawler@hotmail.com

Carlton-le-Moorland and District Art Group

We are a friendly group who meet on Thursday mornings from 10am-12.30pm at The Village Hall, Brigg Lane, Carlton-le-Moorland. LN5 9HP

Saturday 2nd May 10am-3pm

A pastel workshop with Vic Bearcroft.

Saturday 1st August

Paul Talbot-Greaves

A workshop in watercolour.

For more information about the workshops please call
01522 810511

Caythorpe and Frieston Village Hall
FILM NIGHT

Friday 1st May 7pm

Doors Open 6.15pm



Yesterday - A feel-good romantic comedy

After waking up in an alternate reality where The Beatles never existed, Jack a musician, discovers he's the sole person on Earth who still remembers and plays their music. Yesterday everyone knew the Beatles. Today, only Jack remembers their songs.

This is our last film night until September

Come and enjoy a great night out.
Everyone will receive a **FREE** glass of wine,
Prosecco or a soft drink!

Admission is FREE

There's a single prize draw of £6 per ticket in order to fund the event

Wine, Beer and Ice Cream on sale plus a Raffle

To book a place please scan the QR code

or call 07824 874959

Caythorpe Pre-School



Dear All, Happy Easter to you!

Springtime has been one of our topics during the last term. The children have been learning about what the season of spring means here in our lovely village and the surrounding countryside. The birth of all the baby animals, learning their names, planting seeds and vegetables including the potatoes at Denises' that we will watch grow and pick later on in the year. The weather for some time, has been quite miserable but this has given the children plenty of opportunity to practise putting on their own coats, hats and gloves before going outside. We've had fun on the obstacle course, ridden our bikes, pushed the babies around in their buggies and used the construction equipment to build and mix.

We have been learning about all the ways to stay healthy and look after ourselves, eating good foods, getting lots of fresh air and exercise. We bought the children new toothbrushes and a tube of toothpaste to encourage them to brush their teeth regularly, supporting good oral health.

Chinese New Year In February we celebrated Chinese New Year, the Year of the Horse and we made a dancing dragon and lanterns. Our role play area became a Chinese restaurant where we used chopsticks to eat our pretend noodles and stir-fry. They were very tricky to use but we gave it a good try! At snack time we ate real noodles and sauce but we used a fork which made it much easier.

World Book Day 2026 is the National Year of reading. For World Book Day the children dressed up as their favourite storybook character and brought in their Special books to share with us all. We visited "Big School" and joined together with the reception class to sing songs and tell stories. One of our priorities and aims at Pre-School is to promote and encourage a love of books including shared reading which enables children to flourish and thrive.

At Pre-School we have a dedicated cosy reading area with cushions and a varied range of accessible books that children can select independently. We read and share stories with our children every day, both in groups or individually using props and puppets to bring the stories to life, encouraging greater interest, focus and participation. We appreciate that in Early years at Pre-School, children are not yet able to read, but just spending precious time together, looking at the pictures and having a conversation about them is invaluable for future communication, language and literacy skills.



Easter We will be having an Easter egg hunt, matching the numbers and patterns and taking part in an egg and spoon race. Not with real eggs, wooden ones! We're not that brave!

We return to Pre-School on Tuesday 21st April to start our Summer Term. Now might be the time to think about bringing your child to our lovely Pre-School to play, make friends and experience all the great resources and activities we have to offer. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook where you can see all the things we get up to!

Please get in touch, we will be happy to show you around.

Email caythorpepreschool@googlemail.com

Alternatively give us a ring on 07356 074 749

Best Wishes from the children and staff at Caythorpe Pre-School

We need a volunteer to take the lead in organising this year's Fulbeck Village Fête. It is a big role but there are people with experience and our past records to help. The work is hugely rewarding and exciting, especially on the day when the village comes together with a wonderful atmosphere.

If you think you might be interested, please contact Vic Rice (01400 273680) or Peter Hughes (01400 273941).



We are planning to hold an Open Garden on Sunday 28th June from 1200 to 1700. All proceeds will go towards helping fund a number of village projects. It doesn't matter what size your garden is or whether you have it to the standard you would wish - people are always interested in your plans and thoughts. We still need a few more gardens so why not support the event and support your village and open your garden.

Contact Tim Almond at gardenopening@outlook.com for more information

**CALLING ALL LOCAL RESIDENTS, PAST PUPILS &
VILLAGE HISTORIANS!**

Do you know anything about the history of the school in Caythorpe?

Please get in touch via email on enquiries@caythorpe-cit.co.uk

We plan to use this information to help mark this momentous milestone in our community — potentially with exhibitions, a time capsule project, displays and celebrations! Thank you — your memories help keep Caythorpe's history alive!

British Legion Poppy Appeal 2025

Again, Caythorpe and Frieston villages have shown their incredible generosity for the British Legion Poppy Appeal. Also, their kindness towards the collectors who are all volunteers.

Monies raised include;

Collection boxes	£824.54
Donations for wreaths of wreaths	£160
Church coffee morning and remembrance service collection	£278.50
School	£82.24

Giving the grand total raised for 2025 to be £1345.28

Many thanks to the door-to-door collectors, those business and organisations who hosted events, collection boxes and those who purchased wreaths. Finally, a big shout out to all who contribute to this worthy cause.

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Meeting House Lane, Brant Broughton LN5 0SH

We meet each Sunday at 10.30 am for an hour of mostly silent worship followed by coffee in the Barn next door afterwards. All are welcome. Have a look at our website:

www.brantbroughtonquakers.co.uk or phone 07745417637 for more information

Grantham Journal,

SATURDAY, April 18, 1867.

TRIAL TRIP ON THE GRANTHAM AND SLEAFORD RAILWAY.

On Tuesday last, April 14, Geo. Robt. Stevenson, Esq., C.E., with Mr. Harrison the resident engineer, Mr. Knight, of the firm of Smith & Knight, contractors for the railway, accompanied by H. Ingram, Esq., M.P. for Boston, chairman of the railway, T. Parry, Esq. of Sleaford, F. Simmonds, Esq., of the Great Northern Railway, and several friends made an inspection of the whole line between Grantham and Sleaford. The party were taken to the Junction with the Great Northern Railway by one of their engines under the care of Mr. Wilks, superintendent of the locomotive department at Grantham, where the train was met by Mr. J. Knight with the contractor's engine and conducted along the new line. The district through which it passes is a most interesting one. On the right of the Junction is seen Syston Hall, the seat of Sir John Thorold. Bart, and an extensive prospect extending from the vale of Belvoir northward to the left. Leaving the pleasantly situated village of Honington to the right, you are brought close to Sudbrook Hall. Passing through Ancaster cutting, which was thickly studded with hardy navvies, the inspectors were heartily cheered. At the end of the cutting is the place chosen for the Ancaster Station; this neat village, formerly a Roman fortification on the Ermine Street, Roman Road, being a little to the right. From thence the line passes by the celebrated Wilsford Stone Quarries, where a beautiful white and durable freestone is found, commonly called Ancaster Stone, considered to be the finest for building purposes in the kingdom, and of which most of the magnificent structures in Lincolnshire are built. The village of Wilsford with its fine Gothic Church and Hall, situated on the banks of a rivulet is seen to the right, and after passing a few miles through a splendid open country, the line approaches the north side of the market town of Sleaford, close to the moat and remains of the old Castle, built by Alexander Bishop of Lincoln, more than 300 years ago. A massive piece of the wall at the N.E. angle is all that remains of the ancient structure which was once one of the greatest ornaments of the town. Mr. Stevenson, the engineer, expressed himself pleased with the satisfactory state of the line which was passed over without the slightest interruption, and he intimated that notice might be sent any time to the Board of Trade so that government might inspect the line previous to opening it to the public. The Company on their return from Sleaford were loudly cheered by those who were privileged to witness the departure of the first train.

They alighted at Sudbrook, and proceeded to the Hall, where a magnificent repast, provided by Mr. John Knight, awaited them. On the opening of this line the inhabitants of Sleaford and the district through which it passes will no longer be shut up, as it were, far away from all those improvements by which the present age is characterised. Whilst anticipating the benefit which must result to the inhabitants of a populous agricultural district on the completion of this project, one cannot feel regret at the apathy manifested by the landed proprietors who will be so materially and mainly benefited thereby. It is notorious that the scheme has been fostered and carried out solely by gentlemen whose only object is the benefit of the country. We believe it will not be too much to add that, had it not been for the enterprise and vigorous businesslike qualities of the honourable member of Boston, this beautiful agricultural district would not have been intersected by a useful line of the railway. On the opening of this line, another portion of the Ambergate and Boston Railway, the works in continuation to Boston from Sleaford will be commenced, and when completed will form a communication with East and West Lincolnshire.

Mansell Beard

Celebration at Beckingham Church

You may have seen on television recently that the number of pipe organs in churches is rapidly declining. There's thought to be only about 15,000 left in the country. All the more reason to celebrate Beckingham's newly installed organ! **You are invited to come to All Saints Church, Beckingham for 'Songs of Praise' on Friday 24 April 2026 at 7pm, to celebrate the Pipe Organ.** It was donated to the Church by St Helen's Church, Burgh on Bain. Our friend Brian West, who procured the organ for us, will be playing the organ. The installer and some folk from Burgh-on-Bain will also be with us, to see what their organ looks like in its new home. There'll be refreshments half-way through with hot drinks, wine, nibbles and cakes. No charge, but donations welcomed.

Orange Crumb Salmon

Serves 4

85g fresh breadcrumbs
2 tbsp olive oil
finely grated rind and juice of 1 orange
4 tbsp chopped fresh parsley
4 salmon fillets
3 tbsp mayonnaise
new potatoes and veg to serve

Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan oven.

Mix together breadcrumbs, oil, orange rind and half the parsley; season. Place salmon fillets on a baking sheet lined with lightly oiled foil. Press the orange crumbs on to each fillet. Bake for 15-20 minutes until salmon is cooked and topping is golden.

Stir the remaining parsley into the mayonnaise and thin with orange juice until it has the consistency of single cream.

Serve with new potatoes and veg.

**Fulbeck
Carboot
is back
11th April**



Save the date

Saturday 5th Sept

— ★ —
Caythorpe
village

GALA

— 2026 —



Church Corner

St Vincents Caythorpe

Flower Rota The Flower Guild

Sidespersons for April

12th Mr & Mrs Dorey

19th Mr Scott & Mr Prabucki

50:50 Coffee Morning

Friday 3rd April

10.00 to 12.00

for Epilepsy Action

St Vincent's Church Prayer Group

We believe that we are called to be persistent in prayer, both for ourselves, those in need, our community and the world. The church is open every day if you would like to find a quiet space and a time to pray or you are most welcome to join us in the Church. **Please contact Jude on either scott,truck@live.co.uk or call 01400 272974 for our next meeting.**

Specific prayer requests can be left in the box by the votive candle stand - you may like to light a candle as a focus for the prayer you offer. You can also send your prayers to loveden.deanery@lincoln.anglian.org marked as St Vincent's Prayer Group.

The various parish services have to be organised in a schedule to enable them to take place in each of our churches. If you would like to attend any service we can provide transport for you. Please contact either Jo Russell or Judith Scott.

All Saints Hough on the Hill



Coffee Morning

1st Tuesday every month 10.30-12

The coffee morning held on Tuesday 3rd March raised a total of £ 750 for research into the eye condition Aged Macular Degeneration (AMD) . Very many thanks to all who helped to raise this fantastic amount.

Jill Lewis.

LINCOLN DIOCESE: CENTRAL LOVEDEN GROUPOF CHURCHES
APRIL 2026SERVICES

Date	April 5th	April 12th	April 19th	April 26th
Sunday	Easter Day	Easter 2	Easter 3	Easter 4
Colour	Gold/White	Gold/White	Gold/White	Gold/White
Welbourn				10.30/LB Holy Communion
Caythorpe		10.30/LB Holy Communion	10.30/ Holy Communion	
Marston	06.00/CS Easter Sunrise Service (Bacon Butties/Hot Drinks and Easter eggs to follow!)			
Brant Broughton			10.00/JH Morning Service	
Fulbeck				
Hough on the Hill	10.30/TT Holy Communion			09.45/JK Morning Service
Hougham	15.00/BCP/CB Evening Prayer			
Beckingham		9.30/GG Morning Service		
Stragglethorpe				
Brandon		10.00/CB Morning Prayer		
Leadenham	10.30/HR Family Service			
Carlton Scroop Normanton				

Caythorpe: Saturday 4th April Easter Vigil and Holy Communion 19.00/TH

Welbourn Weekday Holy Communion Wednesday 1st April 10.00/LB

ABBREVIATIONS: BCP - Book of Common Prayer, H/C Holy Communion All other services are Contemporary Language

OFFICIANTS Clergy - GP – Rev Canon Geraldine Pond: VR – Rev Canon Valerie Rampton: TT- Rev Tony Tucker:

GK- Venerable Gavin Kirk: LB- Rev Les Batty: SH- Rev Stuart Hadley: TH- Rev Trudy Hobson

Lay Readers - CS – Clare Sauer: NK- Nick Kerry

Authorised Lay Ministers - CB – Dr Christopher Brightman: EB – Emma Brealey: GG – Gillian Green:

HR – Canon Henrietta Reeve: JH – Jennifer Harvey: JK – Julian Knight: TK – Tony Kingston: Caythorpe Team

Authorised Lay Ministers – Jo Russell, Judith Scott, Susanne Wills

Palm Sunday March 29th

10.30 Hougham
Holy Communion

Monday 30th

19.00 Carlton Scroop
Compline

Tuesday 31st

19.00 Brant Broughton
Compline

Wednesday 1st April

10.00 Welbourn
Holy Communion
19.00 Brandon
Compline

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

18.00 Beckingham
Holy Communion and
Stripping the Altar
18.00 Caythorpe
Holy Communion and
Stripping the Altar

Good Friday 3rd April

10.00-12.00 Brant Broughton
Family activities and short service
10.30-12.00 Leadenham
Family Activities
14.00 Caythorpe
The Final Hour
19.00 Fulbeck
Dressing the Cross

Good Friday 3rd April

19.00 Caythorpe
Easter Vigil with Holy Communion

Easter Sunday 5th April

06.00 Marston
Easter Sunrise Service (with refreshments)
10.30 Hough on the Hill
Holy Communion
10.30 Leadenham
Family Service
15.00 Hougham
Evening Praise

Holy

Week

Services

Victoria Sponge Cake and Resurrection

I used to love taking School Assemblies! Over the years I have taken services in most of the primary schools in our group. I liked the children to have fun, whilst also learning something about the Christian faith. There was one assembly that was specially dear to me that I liked to include towards the end of the school year, in the hope that the school leavers would remember it and one day find it useful.

Here's how it went. I took with me a Victoria sponge cake. I held it up and asked the children to suggest what the cake would feel about itself, if it had feelings. Pupils said things like 'I think I'm a good looking cake', or 'I'm very tasty'. Though at one school a lad said that he would be worried about what I was going to do with it! He was right to be worried!

The next thing I did was to suddenly break it all apart with my hands and drop the bits on to the plate. It was a shock! There were wide open eyes and a collective gasp! I asked the children what they thought the cake would feel now. You can imagine what they said. I asked if they thought that the cake could ever be put back together. They shook their heads. Then I said to them, that's what sometimes happens to us in our lives. We feel life is OK, then something comes along that devastates us; we feel broken, and we know that life can never be put back as it was.

But, I claimed, all is not lost! I dropped the broken pieces of cake into a bowl. I asked them what came next? No answers. Then I tipped a tin of raspberries on top of it. The children looked puzzled. As I followed that with a tin of custard, some of the pupils got what was happening! I asked what came next? 'Cream'. Then what? 'Strawberries'. And there we were, we had a trifle! At one school a boy of about eight or nine impressed me by immediately claiming that he knew what I was going to say. So I asked him what it was. He got it right! When life seems broken, there's always a chance that something good can be made out of the bits. I congratulated him and added that when we feel broken into pieces, then with the help of friends and with God's help, we can build a new life from the pieces, something different, but good.

And that is Resurrection. That is what Easter is all about. The life of Jesus was broken, but from that death came a new life that all can share in. No longer the physical presence, but a spiritual presence that will never leave us and will always be there to help us rebuild our lives; never back to what they were, but lives that can be good in a different way. May we, with all those school Leavers, find this to be true, in the days ahead.

Valerie Rampton (07785 791436 and valerie.rampton64@gmail.com)

Please only get in touch with me if you wish to respond to this note. For baptisms, weddings, funerals or help with other church matters, please contact the Churchwardens or the Acting Rural Dean. Contact details elsewhere in the magazine.

What's happening in Carlton Scroop & Normanton

Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 16 March 2026. Councillors discussed a lot of local issues at the meeting.

The Parish Clerk can be contacted on Parish Council matters at clerk@carltonscroopnormanton-pc.gov.uk Follow us on Facebook: [Carlton Scroop and Normanton on Cliffe Parish Council](#) or visit our website: www.carlton-scroop.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk

The **Annual Parish Meeting** will take place at 6.00pm on Monday 11 May in the Village Hall, followed by the **Annual Meeting of the Parish Council**, starting at 7.20 pm Both meetings are open to all residents. Please come along to the meetings to gain a better understanding of what has happened in the Parish and to express your views on what you would like to see happen for the future.

Highway issues in the two villages

County Councillor Ken Banford attended the last meeting to update parish councillors on progress with highway issues following a visit by the area highways manager and a representative from the Lincolnshire road safety partnership on 11 December. Residents continue to be concerned about the way some motorists, particularly the heavy goods vehicles (HGV's) are cutting the sharp corners at Normanton and between Carlton Scroop and Honnington, causing a hazard to other motorists travelling through the Parish. The new kerbing on the bends appears to be making the position worse. The speed signs in Normanton are still not working properly. The County Council is introducing a new area-based solution to fixing potholes in the county. A broken footway light on the A607 still needs to be replaced by SKDC.

Finance Matters

By the time you read this article, you will have received your Council Tax Bill for next year. The Parish Council considered its budget for the next financial year based upon the challenges faced in 2026/27. The Council wanted to continue with the excellent level of grass cutting in the Parish and ensure that the dog bins are emptied on a regular basis. The Jubilee Field and cemetery need to be maintained. There may also be a need to replace the existing Speed Indicator Device (SID) which is reaching the end of its life. Taking these points into account along with a number of other issues that need addressing, the Parish Council felt that it needed to increase the precept by £400 next year, which would increase its element of the Council Tax by 3.4%. This is the first increase for some years.

Planning Matters

South Kesteven District Council refused a new planning application for the Traveller site at Carlton Scroop. The applicant has appealed against this decision, which currently is being considered by an independent planning inspector.

Jubilee Field/Cemetery

The dog bin in the Jubilee Field is being moved to stop indiscriminate disposal of household waste. A new digital plan of the cemetery has been prepared and new burial plot markers installed.

Other Community Issues

The Parish Council is organising a “Big Parish Spring Clean” event on the weekend of the 9/10 May. Residents from the Parish are encouraged to come and help tidy up the Parish. Refreshments will be provided in the Village Hall after the event.

The Parish Council hope to obtain a new commemorative seat from the County Council to be placed on the Viking Way.

Howdale Lane in Carlton Scroop (part of the Viking Way) still remains partially blocked. This was discussed with the County Council on 11 December.

Councillor David Balfe has tendered his resignation as a councillor for personal reasons. Councillors thanked David for his significant contribution to the Parish over many years. If you are interested in becoming a councillor, please contact the parish clerk at the above address.

Florence Hill, our current clerk has tendered her resignation to move onto pastures new from May. The Parish Council has been fortunate in recruiting a replacement, who is Jackie Britten-Crooks.

Village Hall & Social Club

Please visit the extensive book library at the Village Hall – open most Saturdays from 11.00am

The **Village Hall** at Carlton Scroop is available for hire by individuals or groups. Please contact carltonscroopvillagehall@gmail.com if you want to hire the Hall.

The cosy **Social Club** in the Village Hall is open on a Friday 7.30 pm to 10.30 pm – all welcome.

Look out for Bingo and Quiz dates on a Saturday evening in the Social Club.

Environment Blog

The world's first global Conservationist



Few of us will be unaware of the effects of environmental degradation. Locally, we have witnessed the steady decline of green spaces, especially in urban centres, corrupted soil fertility, pollution from greenhouse gases, and much more. Globally, we are witness to massive deforestation, melting of the ice caps, and relentless desertification in arid areas. I suspect that far fewer of us will have heard of a man who, many decades ago, not only predicted all this but also dedicated his life to doing something about it on a world scale, principally through the promotion of tree planting. His name was Richard St. Barbe Baker, now referred to by current environmentalists as 'the first global conservationist' – a David Attenborough of his time.

So, who was this man, what did he do, and what were the impacts of his actions?

Richard, or St. Barbe as many of his associates referred to him, was born in October 1889. Though his father wanted him to enter the ministry, he became fascinated by botany and forestry at a young age. These interests took him to Canada. Working briefly as a logger he quickly became aware of the wanton waste of timber and of agricultural practices like the razing of natural scrub trees that led to soil degradation and increased aridity on the prairies. In the 1920s he became conservator of forests in Kenya and Nigeria, an international forestry adviser, popular lecturer and best-selling author (he wrote over thirty books about trees and conservation). He became the founder of The Men of the Trees, now the International Tree Foundation, which has been responsible for the planting of billions of trees around the planet. In 1936 he launched Trees which is considered the oldest environmental journal currently being published.

But what were some of St. Barbe's big projects? He spent many years in Africa where he witnessed the impacts of desertification on the everyday

lives of ordinary people. This set him on a mission to visit all the nations bordering the Sahara Desert in an effort to persuade heads of state to plant trees to stem the encroachment of this huge desert. He had some success in this but could see that it would be a long-term venture. Many years later, it is interesting to note that from 2007 African nations have been collaborating in a project called the Great Green Wall (GGW). This massive project involves planting a 15 km-wide 'green river' of trees and vegetation spanning the Sahel, bringing together over 20 countries, including Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Somalia – covering a distance of 8,000 km! The initiative aims to sequester 250 million metric tons of carbon, create 10 million green jobs, and improve food security by 2030. What a legacy! At the local level it will also make weather patterns more conducive to the growth of vegetation, improve soil fertility and enhance biodiversity.

St. Barbe can be seen not only as a man of action but also as what might now be termed 'an influencer'. His advocacy and campaigning work took him to North America. Over eight years he was involved in setting up a 12,000 acre state park to help protect the endangered American redwoods. These precious trees were otherwise at risk of being decimated by a plan to construct a huge highway that would have destroyed them. In the 1960s he was instrumental in persuading the state and national government to save the redwoods in California. He considered the redwoods as the supreme achievement of tree growth in the world and set goals to ensure their protection for future generations.

There are countless other examples of his influences. In 1929, at the request of the High Commissioner of Palestine, he established a tree planting programme and 42 nurseries, bringing together religious and civic leaders. In Canada, he lobbied for shelterbelts to protect prairie soil from erosion. In New Zealand, he successfully lobbied for the protection of the native forests like the giant kauri. Everywhere he went he was committed to involving indigenous people in tree planting. The list goes on.....

St. Barbe was a man of great vision. His work was underpinned by a set of beliefs and values that recognised the many interdependencies between the environment and human life. He seemed to thrive on serendipity – being at the right place, at the right time, with the right people who could influence or directly change things for the better. His stamina was legendary, his charisma compelling, and there were few pauses in his lifetime of unrelenting conservation work. He died in 1982, aged 92.

A riveting and detailed account of his life and work can be found in Hanley, P. (2018) *Man of the Trees: Richard St, Barbe Baker*. Canada, University of Regina Press. **Anon.**

Caythorpe Garden Club

At our March meeting we welcomed Karen Pepper and Gordon Grant from the Caythorpe and Frieston Allotment Association to talk about allotment gardening. The allotments, located on the edge of Caythorpe, were opened in 2015. They are on land owned by the diocese, rented by Caythorpe and Frieston Parish Council and administered by the Allotment Association committee. Originally the land was a grass field that had not been cultivated for many years, but hard work and a lot of manure has resulted in greatly improved and productive soil.

Gordon has been involved on some research into allotment gardening, and learned that there are at least 330,000 allotments in the UK, despite constant threats of losing the land to development. Amid the statistics on time spent, inputs of fertiliser etc, it emerged that allotment gardening is valued as much for the social contact and physical and mental health benefits as for the satisfaction of growing ones own food.



In general allotment soil is in better condition than farm land, and 2 new techniques are gaining ground. The first of these is 'No Dig' cultivation. This maintains soil structure and the huge diversity of beneficial organisms that live in it. Weeds are smothered by a layer of cardboard placed on the ground and covered with an organic mulch, and planting holes are made leaving most of the ground undisturbed. The other innovation is the use of biochar, a special form of charcoal that retains water and nutrients, and as it does not break down it only needs to be applied once. Many thanks to Karen and Gordon for a most interesting and thought provoking talk.



World Cinema Group
 For those who enjoy films from around the world

Saturday 4th April
 Doors open 7pm for 7.30 pm start

The Guilty
 Denmark
 (Danish language with English subtitles)

A police officer assigned alarm dispatch duty enters a race against time when he answers an emergency call from a kidnapped woman.

Caythorpe and Frieston Village Hall

Please bring your own drink and nibbles!
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There will be a single prize raffle of £5 per ticket in order to fund the showing of the film and our village hall licence.

For further details call Paul on 07793 583748

John Scott, Church Warden at St Vincents, was preparing the Old School Room for sale and came across some wartime documents relating to the formal Caythorpe Invasion Committee set up in 1942. One of the items was a leaflet that was planned to be distributed to all farmers in the UK if a German Invasion was imminent.

Another document contained a response stating that no properties in Caythorpe were attached to a domestic water supply as they all had their own wells.

The leaflet for Farmers is overleaf.



Farmers!

WHAT TO DO IF THE INVADER COMES

★ The general public has been told "should the invader come, stand firm." On farms the first duty of farmers and farm workers is to go on producing all the food possible.

This means that, unless military action in the immediate neighbourhood makes it impossible, farmers and farm workers must go on ploughing, cultivating, sowing, hoeing and harvesting as though no invasion were occurring. Some of our Kentish people have worked unperturbed in their fields with shells screaming over their heads. So can we all—and we must.

★ You need your tractors and other motor driven vehicles to carry on with your job. But such vehicles would also be very useful to the enemy if he could capture them; tractors would be especially useful to him in coastal areas where landings may be attempted.

It is, therefore, your duty to put your vehicles out of action if they are in danger of capture by the enemy. You will probably receive orders from the police, A.R.P. wardens, or the military; but, whether you do so or not, you should in any case disable your vehicles when there is an obvious risk of their being captured.

To put your vehicles out of action, remove the distributor head and leads, and either empty the tank or remove the carburettor; in the case of diesel engines, remove the injection pump and connection. The parts removed must be hidden well away from the vehicle.

★ There would be some wastage of foodstuffs. Dislocation of transport, trampling of crops and enemy action make this inevitable. But farmers and farm workers can at least prevent wastage of perishable foodstuffs.

★ The dairy cow is the greatest problem. Cows must be milked, and many milkers belong to the Home Guard and may not be available. The Government's advice to farmers is to train at once their wives, their daughters—in fact, everyone on the farm—to milk well enough to carry on in an emergency. Do not delay, there is no time for that, and practice makes perfect. Let an efficient milker follow round behind the beginners to make sure the cows are stripped.

★ Road and rail transport may be dislocated. So you should be ready to sell—or give away if need be—as much milk as you can to people close by. Anyone who can make butter should plan to do so not only for himself but also for any neighbours who may lack the experience or appliances. Salt the butter so that it will keep; order in some salt now. The skim milk is useful food for children and grown-ups—especially troops and civil defence workers, as well as feed for calves and pigs. Throw nothing away.

★ Be ready also to dispose of perishable fruit and vegetables, by selling to those who can afford to pay and giving to those who cannot.

★ Keep your men, horses, and stock off the roads all you can. Try to arrange that your cows do not have to cross a road when coming in to be milked.

★ The place of farmers and farm workers is on duty every day and all day on the farm, producing every ounce of food they can, until other orders are received from the military or the police.

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Fulbeck Thursday Coffee Club – with occasional talks

The Southwell Workhouse

an overview of the times and development of the workhouse

On Thursday, 19th February, the Reverend John Thomas Becher once again time travelled from early 19th Century Southwell to educate the paupers at the Coffee Club with his assistant, Mary Abbott. This journey proved to be so arduous that Becher was forced to partake of some preparatory restoratives at the Hare and Hounds Inn, leaving Mary to ditch the dirt on her employer, much to the delight of her audience.

Born in Ireland during a time of economic and political change, the Reverend John Thomas Becher, after graduating from Oxford in law and theology, moved as a young priest to Southwell in 1792 where he had relatives. There he built Hill House in 1802, married and had two children and kept six servants. He was paternalistic but an excellent fundraiser.



In pre-Reformation England, there were usually a number of collegiate churches in each diocese which typically took responsibility for paupers and infirmaries, cared for by monks and nuns. The system was mostly abolished during the reign of Edward VI in 1547, as part of the Reformation. Southwell College survived until after the last canon died.

The Industrial Revolution was in full swing during the late 18th and 19th Centuries, with mass migration drawing on Church resources, both money and clerics, thus helping the poor became a real problem for parishes. Also, for example, the work of skilled frame knitters and weavers was transformed by industrial innovation resulting in mechanised and larger frames, smaller workforces, thus lower wages and unemployment.

Which brings in another of Becher's roles. In 1811 and 1812, angry and desperate workers formed the Luddite movement, during which hundreds of frames were destroyed and many people arrested. Partly through fear of the French Revolution coming to Britain, and indeed industrial unrest did spread widely, the riots were dealt with severely, extra military force being brought in and rioters being punished with transportation. The Reverend Becher was responsible for generating the local militia, but did speak on behalf of the weavers in the House of Lords.



A house of correction in Southwell existed from the time of Elizabeth I but, by the time of Becher, it was much in need of improvements. He commissioned a new building designed by the noted architect, Richard Ingleman, with a floor plan of central administrative area branching out and overlooking where the inmates lived.

Eventually, some 40 parishes were funding the new workhouse which was built in 1824 for 150, eventually housing over 200. The workhouse was based on an ethos of self-improvement, education and self-sufficiency, and was harsh but advanced for its time. Girls in the workhouse school were better educated than



more comfortably off women. Matron, provided care in the infirmary for the sick and dying with assistance from Mary, whose roles included staying with the dying.

Rev Becher adopted George Nicholls, a former sea captain whose ship had been burnt in the French wars, as overseer. After George Nicholls moved onto working at the Bank of England, he advocated (whilst criticising it!) for the cost effective Southwell workhouse model nationwide, with the new Poor Law of 1834 providing for a new system of care for the poor.

In tandem with this, there was a surge of interest in mental illness during the reign of George III largely because of the king's condition, resulting in the County Asylum Act in 1808. Based on Quaker ideals an asylum was established by the Rowntree Foundation in Snainton, Nottinghamshire which co-operated with Southwell Workhouse. One inmate, Sarah Godson, in Southwell with severe issues, including bedwetting, swearing, spitting and attacking another inmate, was eventually sent to the asylum (despite this being three times the cost). With much better care, especially nutrition, she recovered, although eventually she died from consumption. Unlike the workhouse, the asylum had no harsh rules and even took in private patients - including husbands sending in wives!!

Rev. Becher became a mentor to the poet, Lord Byron, noted for having rejected society's norms, when he was a young man attending school. At this time, he wrote playlets taking the romantic lead along with Julia Leacroft with whom he, aged just 17, embarked on an intense relationship. However, Byron was chased away by her brother when he was found to have been unfaithful. Although unable to help in this due to his gammy leg, Becher did insist Byron burn all his dirty poems!

For anyone interested in knowing more, there is a great deal of information about the social and political history of that time on the internet and Southwell Workhouse is well worth a visit.

And so is the Thursday Coffee Club, every week from 10.00am – 12.00 noon in Fulbeck Village Hall! All we ask is a £2.00 donation towards costs for tea, coffee, cake and biscuits.



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