

Parish Records – June 2011

Old Brampton

- **Holy Baptism**
 - 5 June Oliver George Dean
 - 19 June Anya Rose Cotterill
 - 26 June Jessica Holly Longson
 - 8 June Zacharias James Clements
- **Wedding**
 - 11 June Mark Beer & Rebekah Ford
 - 18 June Joseph Cattée & Anna MacDonald

Barlow

- **Wedding**
 - 29 June Michael Abberley & Nicola Booth
- **Funerals**
 - 3 June John Hallam
 - 20 June Marcia Hunt (interment)
 - 20 June Alan Williams
 - 22 June Peter Ross (crem only)
 - 28 June Kathleen Barlow (crem only)

Loundsley Green

- **Funerals**

Regular Services (these may change during the vacancy)

Old Brampton Sunday services

- 08.00 Eucharist (2nd Sunday at Barlow; 5th Sunday at Cutthorpe)
- 09.30 Family Service 1st; Eucharist 2nd and 4th; Morning Worship 3rd and 5th
- 18.00 Evening Prayer or Special Service (1st Sunday only)

Barlow Sunday services

- 08.00 Mass (2nd Sunday only)
- 11.00 Sung Mass

Loundsley Green Sunday services

- 09.45 Eucharist 1st and 3rd Sundays; Morning Worship 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays
- 18:00 Eucharist (2nd Sunday only)

Weekday Masses

- Tuesday, 9.30 Loundsley Green
- Wednesday, 10.00 Barlow (1st Wednesday only)
- Thursday, 9.45 Old Brampton (not in August 2011)

Coming Up:

17-Aug: Barlow Wells Celebrations, Service at 6:00 p.m.

Weddings, Baptisms, appointments

I'm available without appointment most Tuesday evenings 5 pm – 7 pm at the Rectory 01246 558112, 25 Oldridge Close, Holme Hall, S40 4UF; other times by appointment.

Contributions to Rambling Rector

Would you like to open a topic for discussion in Rambling Rector ? If so, please contact Fr Stanley: - Tel. : 01246 558122
e-mail : stanley.monkhouse@btinternet.com



Contact Fr Stanley on 01246 558122 e-mail stanley.monkhouse@btinternet.com
25 Oldridge Close, Chesterfield, S40 4UF

St Peter & St Paul, Old Brampton St Lawrence, Great Barlow Loundsley Green Church Rambling Rector Issue 33, July 2011



Church of Ireland: lessons for the Church of England?

The Church of Ireland is *not* the Church of England in Ireland: it is the Church of Ireland. It is ancient. Links between ancient Irish monasteries and those of Brittany, Cornwall, England, Scotland, and Wales (Lindisfarne, Iona etc) are well-known. St Patrick might even have been a Cumbrian: why is Patterdale church dedicated to St Patrick? Irish diocesan boundaries reflect monastic fiefdoms and bear no relation to county boundaries or to 20th century partition. Originally there were over 30 dioceses, but over the centuries these have been merged, reflecting the fact that Anglicans in Ireland are in a minority. It was opposition to the reduction in the number of Irish dioceses, proposed in the 1832 Reform Act and perceived as a secularization of the church, that provoked a 19th century Anglican revival. Since then, there have been more diocesan mergers and disestablishment. Now there are 12 dioceses and 12 bishops, 7 in the province of Armagh covering roughly the area north of a line between Galway and Drogheda, and 5 in the province of Dublin. Portlaoise is in the Dublin province and in the diocese of Leighlin which is joined under one bishop with Cashel, Waterford, Lismore, Ossory and Ferns: Cashel and Ossory for short. His patch covers the whole of south-eastern Ireland, roughly the size of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire combined. If you want to know more, go to <http://cashel.anglican.org/> then drop-down menu: Information, diocese, maps. I wonder if the merging of dioceses is the way forward for the CoE where there are at present over 40 dioceses and more than 80 bishops. What are they for? What use are they?

The future

People who visit 'my' present churches are surprised to hear that there are still services every week. They expect a church to have maybe one service a month, or even to be closed. You can see why: small churches up and down the land are in groups looked after by one vicar, falling congregations, expensive to maintain. In the Eden Valley where I grew up, the Vicar has nine churches. Two or three have services every week, though none has a Eucharist every week. In about half, the service is monthly. In 'my' three parishes, most parish residents seem disinterested in the churches. Some are hostile. Up to the 1990s there was a nucleus of folk-Christianity in people's minds. There was some chance that adults would have been taught the Lord's prayer at school, if not at home, and maybe even could recall one of Jesus' parables. They had some idea that churches were on the whole a force for good in society. All that has gone. Come to a funeral or a wedding and you will see that hardly anyone under 60 knows the Lord's prayer, or hymns, or when to say *Amen*, let alone knows what it means. In non-Church schools, it often seems that other religions are accorded more respect than Christianity. Even in Voluntary Controlled church schools (such as Barlow), the local vicar has no right to *impose* anything, and there is no requirement that staff must be practising Christians. As for churches being a force for good, they are just as likely these days to be associated in the minds of the ignorant with abuse, or finger wagging. That's why it's important for clergy to be seen out and about, engaging with what people do and listening to how people think.



Contact Fr Stanley on 01246 558122 e-mail stanley.monkhouse@btinternet.com
25 Oldridge Close, Chesterfield, S40 4UF

When I say this to church people in order to get them to try and see what the church is up against, they look at me as if I had three heads. It is not just that churches do not register on the minds of the unchurched, the truth is that they don't care. Churches are 'shops' for a those with a peculiar hobby, and it's difficult to get across to middle-aged and elderly churchgoers just how peripheral their 'hobby' has become, because they can not, or will not, see things from anyone else's point of view. They do not want to be challenged to think in a way that might alarm them. And it is alarming if your view of church is the maintenance of a set of rituals in a particular building for an hour a week, much like going to a football match, or to WI, or the golf club. Stadia and shopping centres are the cathedrals and pilgrimage places of today. Meadowhall and the Trafford centre even have domes.

Some people are not prepared to support the church at all, but still expect it to be available when they happen to need it (Remembrance, Christmas, Easter if there is nothing better on TV, the odd funeral). Perhaps they think that their taxes pay for the C of E. They need a kick up the backside to realise that unless there is the kind commitment seen in the Hindu and Islamic communities, churches will certainly close.

Machines and imagination

Rant alert. I have just returned from the surgery. Blood was taken two weeks ago. I was told today that I would need to make another appointment (the third, therefore) to have blood taken for a test that should have been done but wasn't. I said 'why don't you take the blood now?' Not allowed. I said 'give me the needle and I'll do it myself, here and now.' I've done that often enough before, and I have veins that are easy to find – indeed they positively invite the needle to jump in. The nurse was horrified. So the system requires me to make an extra trip. If I had to take time off work, I would be in difficulty. As it is, being a clergyman only working one day a week, I have all the time in the world. If I had a physical struggle to get to the surgery, think of what an extra trip might mean. The lady in the surgery said, 'I'm only doing my job.' I left feeling that I had not been heard.

'I'm only doing my job' is increasingly how we relate to each other. We are not people any more, only cogs in a machine. It is not good. It is the trap that catches all of us who must tick boxes in order to put bread on the table. The unhealthiness of the work culture in which we live. Listen to Psalm 115: 'They have mouths, and speak not: eyes have they, and see not. They have ears, and hear not: noses have they, and smell not.' That was written about statues and images, and it seems to me that we are now treated as inanimate statues, unthinking lumps. Whatever happened to the idea that we might relate to one another as people who have opinions and feelings? Rules and regulations kill relationships. The institutional church has too many rules and regulations, but I try and sit as light to them as I possibly can. Jesus talked to people as individuals, and went out of his way to pour scorn on institutions and regulations and jobsworths.

Like a good gossip?

It's easy to gloat at the downfall of *News of the World*. It's interesting to wonder how far the tentacles will extend. To wonder about the connexions between that organisation and political parties, the reasons why daily papers might shift their allegiance from one party to another, the reasons why people like us buy those papers. At least page 3 is clean. So I'm told. *A note from Susan: At school, when asked which daily papers my parents took, I replied 'Guardian and Sunday Times'. Why was I embarrassed to confess the truth: Daily Mirror and NotW? Perhaps because I was a perceptive child who recognised the scandal sheet for what it was. Perhaps.*

Economics

Some of my parishioners have lost their jobs. 1500 jobs lost recently at one firm in Derby. Many see the bit of their pensions that has not disappeared into the bowels of bankers and their cronies now wafting gently over the rainbow. Others are striking because their public sector pensions are under threat. Some people earn more in a day than others in month, even a lifetime. Life is not fair. There is nothing in Holy Scripture that says it is. There is nothing in Holy Scripture that says we can expect equality, which is maybe a good job since if there were, we should all have to come to terms with the fact that most people in the world are worse off than

even us poor souls whose pensions are threatened. Holy Scripture enjoins us to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly, mindfully, with our eyes and hearts open.

Oremus invicem – let us pray for each other.

Fr Stanley

01246 558112

25 Oldridge Close, Chesterfield, S40 4UF

stanley.monkhouse@btinternet.com

Addendum to the surgery story

There were traces of protein in my urine. In the absence of symptoms I was not at all concerned, but curious. I said so to Susan. She reminded me that for the specimen pot, having forgotten to get a proper one from the pharmacy, I'd used a marmalade jar that I'd washed out the previous night. Let that be a lesson to us all.

Child-rearing

- Tom Daley made an impact in European diving competitions when he was 9 years old. A 13 year old climbs Mount Everest. A 16 year old climbs some of highest peaks in the world. Boys and girls in cathedral choirs deliver a standard of musicianship that is envied by many professionals. What are those parents doing?
- A child of three has been found vandalising cars in a street near his home. Primary school children make teacher's life hell. Jamie Oliver says the UK is not doing enough to tackle the current child obesity 'epidemic'. What are those parents doing?
- Why might a government minister imply that employers choose young foreigners over young British young people?
- Love-licence-laxity. Discipline-structure-encouragement. Mothering-smothering-oppressing.
- How can a young bird fly if it's kept in the nest? How can it deal with falling? How can our immune systems learn to cope with microbes if we are always scrubbed clean? Let them eat dirt.
- Jesus' ministry was about enabling people to take charge of their lives, not controlling them. 'Be who God intended you to be and you will set the world on fire' *St Catherine of Siena. (It was Catherine of Alexandria who gave her name to the Catherine wheel. Had it been her, Catherine of Siena might have regretted saying that).*

'Leviticus as Literature' by Mary Douglas

- The Hebrews are forbidden to eat certain things not because they are unclean, but because they are special.
- When an animal was slaughtered in the Temple, it was on its back with its feet in the air. The belly was slit open. The organs on top (liver, guts, etc) were saved for the Lord—the apex of the entrails. The Hebrews are forbidden to eat offal and drink blood because they are a gift to the Lord. On only one day a year was the High Priest instructed to eat blood and guts mixed with vinegar. Jesus on the cross drank vinegar. Are these connected?

This is a fascinating book: scripture read by an anthropologist.

Weddings, Baptisms, appointments

I'm available without appointment most Tuesday evenings 5 pm – 7 pm at the Rectory 01246 558112, 25 Oldridge Close, Holme Hall, S40 4UF; other times by appointment. His last working day here is 17 August 2011.

Contributions to Rambling Rector

Would you like to open a topic for discussion in Rambling Rector? If so, please contact Fr Stanley: - Tel. : 01246 558122

e-mail : stanley.monkhouse@btinternet.com

Contacts in the Vacancy

- Weddings: Barbara Stringer 01246 620314, email: roundway.down@hotmail.com
- Baptisms at Old Brampton: Sally Knight 01246 568004
- Baptisms at Barlow: Julie Ferreday 01142 890436
- Baptisms at Loundsley Green: David Riley 01246 274837