Happy New Year to You All.

All Saints, Nocton

Parish Magazine

January 2011

Churchwardens:
Liz Murray  01526 323357
Chris Hewitt  01526 320645

Treasurer:
Chris Howard  01522 791217

Community Spirit: The years 1861/62 witnessed the building of our great church. 150 years later we are about to undertake the biggest facelift it has had, hopefully in time for its 150th anniversary in Dec 2012. We are determined to pass it on through another six generations to reach its 300th anniversary. We won’t be here, but our legacy surely will.

However, it is but a building, a very grand one at that, but a building none the less. The true church of God is the body of people who worship there, whether weekly and regularly or maybe just at Easter or Christmas, or for other ceremonies such as Baptisms, Weddings, Blessings and Funerals.

So over the Cold Christmas Weekend it was a great delight for all of us to see over two hundred different faces attend the four services we had scheduled. That is around one quarter of the population of Nocton. Despite the intense Cold!!! We also had a fantastic response on Nocton Park to our Carol Singing, raising £125. The Cottage put on a well attended trip through the musicals at the village hall, a packed social club saw Santa distribute presents, and the village came together to decorate trees for the tree festival in the church. Well done Nocton, Community spirit is alive and well, right here! (Photo: 1st Dec 2010)
The Conversion of St Paul - 25th January

Saul of Tarsus was an educated Jew with Roman Citizenship. He detested the very early Christians (Some who actually knew Christ) and he used all the facets of the law to capture and punish all those who belonged to the WAY, men or women (acts 9). However to our Churches of today he is anything but a persecutor. What happened?

While travelling on the road to Damascus he had a blinding encounter with the risen Christ. The supernatural experience itself, the aftermath of being blinded for three days and then a meeting with disciple Ananias in Damascus, convinced Saul that he and all the Jewish leaders of the day were wrong in their persecution of Christ's followers. He vowed to make amends. He was immediately baptised, broke with the past and changed his name to Paul. He set about his task given by God to show that Jesus was the Messiah, a message that must be taken to Jews, Gentiles and Kings.

Over one third of the writings contained in New testament are from Paul. He used them to guide the new churches in Corinth, Galatia, Thessalonica and Rome, through open letters to their leaders. He wrote other more personal letters to Timothy and Titus on their personal development as Church leaders, and finally while in prison awaiting execution himself he carried on writing letters to other churches and individuals. He died around 65AD under Nero’s sword.

Here was a man who had no intention of following Christ, quite the opposite, but the Lord chose him for a task for which most would say he was superbly inappropriate. From him and his works the Church of Christ took root, laid its surest foundations and grew strong and it still is growing!

None of us knows what role God does or does not have for us, or when we will be asked to carry it out. There will probably never be such an influential conversion again, but it is up to all of us to find God and Gods work in our everyday lives and give thanks for it.

We have just celebrated the Birth of the Christ Child, lets not forget who and what he was and of course, still is. Look for the ways we can continue the work of St Paul, and grow the church of Christ in ourselves and our communities

A thought for 2011:
*MORE people still go to Church than to Football matches during a week. Does that mean football is also no longer of National Importance??

Happy New Year

How we, ‘the community’ in Nocton helped others in 2010

Christian Aid, Appeal Week - £330
Royal British legion - £67
MIND, carol singing - £65
Children’s Society, Christingle - £163
Save the Children, Haiti Appeal - £313
Help for Heroes, Frankie Martin - £266
Dunston Silver Sounds Band - £100

That's a grand total of:
£1304
from The Nocton Registers

Interrment of Ashes
Ethel Saunby - 3rd November 2010

Funeral Service and Interrment
Antony Gordon Pygott aged 72
15th December 2010
(Rev. Les Whitfield officiated on both occasions)

The Cottage Residential Home - Christmas Show

Those of you who made it to the village hall recently and were entertained with a fantastic trip through the musicals, including the Wizard of Oz, Oklahoma, Grease, Chicago and much, much more. There was a really strong audience turnout and the majority of the staff took part. It’s great to see people are still able to laugh at themselves, life doesn't have to be too serious all the time. Thanks to all the staff who took part as performers but especially those who arranged and organised the event.

More next year please!!!

Church Oil Theft
Many of you will by now know the church had its oil stolen and tank vandalised during December, in the middle of our Tree Festival. Thanks to Chris Howard for getting it repaired and sorted within a day. However with oil at such crazy high prices at the moment we should all keep a look out for opportunist thieves.

A Prayer
Almighty God
Who caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout your world through the preaching of your servant Paul.
Grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion, may follow him in bearing witness to your truth. Amen
The Hobarts

From the Dashwoods, Nocton passed (in about 1767) to the scarcely less flamboyant George Hobart (1731-1804), later (1793) third Earl of Buckinghamshire. A distant cousin of the Ellys family, Hobart was ‘exceedingly fond of dramatics, and was for a time a conductor of the operatic entertainments in London’: indeed, he celebrated his arrival at Nocton Hall with ‘a grand masquerade’, and frequently performed plays there in subsequent years. His wife Albinia Bertie of Branston (1738-1816), was a compulsive gambler and devotee of the game of ‘faro’. ‘When she won, she went abroad in her sedan chair, attended by gorgeous lacheys, to scatter largess among the poor’: but when she lost, the Nocton estate had to be mortgaged (1786) to pay her gambling debts.

Perhaps because of such goings-on, the Hobarts thought the ancient parish church of St. Peter ‘too inconveniently close to their mansion’. Though they had no legal right to do so, they demolished it in 1773. Only the Ellys monument and a medieval font in All Saints’ Church remain. The old churchyard is marked by a rise in the ground south-west of the present Hall, covering the remains of over 20 generations of Nocton parishioners.

To replace it, the Hobarts built an entirely new Georgian church much further from the Hall, on the site of the present church. Later described as ‘a small mean structure’, it was consecrated in 1775, and old pictures (there is a drawing in the nave) show that it was built in the currently fashionable Classical style, with a small bell-turret. The interior was filled with unvarnished deal box-pews, and had a raised gallery at the east end.

The third Earl drastically ‘improved’ the Nocton estate, draining its fens and enclosing its common land. Most of his time, however, was spent in ‘smart London society’, his two sons Robert and Henry being left at Nocton in the care of Katherine (‘Nanny’) Field, the steward’s wife. A touching memorial to her can be seen in All Saints’ vestry: it was erected by Henry Hobart ‘in full recollection of her Kindness, Care and watchful Attention over him during the first ten years of his life’.

This ‘Honourable and Very Reverend Henry Hobart’ (1773-1846), whose own much more elaborate monument stands near All Saints’ entrance door, was the third Earl’s younger son. Appointed Vicar of Nocton in 1815, in the following year he also became Dean of Windsor. He was thus in effect a personal chaplain to the Royal Family, and in his later years this ‘strange old gentleman’ grossly but quite unintentionally offended the young Queen Victoria: for on the birth of her eldest son (the future Kind Edward VII) he attempted to congratulate her on ‘thus saving us from the incredible curse of a female succession’!!!

To be continued next month........

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the Parish Council meeting on 7th December a number of issues were discussed, including:

**Felling of trees at The Rose Garden, The Avenue** – councillors were unanimous in expressing their disappointment at the District Council’s decision to ignore the Parish Council’s earlier objection and to allow the felling of a significant number of trees at this property, including the large willow on the boundary with the playing field. Our District Councillors will be asked for advice on how we might retrieve the situation.

**Dog Warden** – it was agreed to employ the services of a Dog Warden for two hours a week for a trial period of three months.

**Village Play Area** – it was noted that discussions with school governors were continuing regarding the possible siting of a play area for young children on the school playing field. Councillors reaffirmed their previous decision that this should be the only development on that site.

**Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy** – a response from the Parish Council to the formal consultation has now been submitted.

**Nocton Hall** – noted that English Heritage had now agreed to fund the Options Appraisal for the future of the Hall. This is an important development and work on it will start in early January 2011.

**Nocton Dairies** – at the time of the meeting the plans had not been validated by the District Council. Since the meeting, however, validation has taken place and the deadline for comments on the Planning Application, both in support of and against the proposal, must be with North Kesteven DC by 11 January 2011. Members of the Parish Council will also be meeting informally on 23rd December to consider their initial response to the revised plans. This will, of course, be available before the 11th January deadline.

In addition, arrangements have now been made for the Parish Council to host a meeting between Nocton residents and representatives of Nocton Dairies (ND) in the Village Hall on 19th January commencing at 7.30 pm. The meeting will provide an opportunity for residents to question ND on its revised plans for its “Super Dairy”.

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Village Hall on 11 January at 7.00 pm.

Councillor Ian Goldsworthy (id.goldsworthy@hotmail.co.uk)
December as you would expect has been a very busy month for us. The number of services increased from two to five, including a Christingle and Midnight Mass on Christmas eve, we held a Christmas Tree Festival over two weekends, and in freezing temperatures we braved the cold and went carol singing on Nocton park. Unfortunately due to predicted icy conditions we took the decision to cancel the evening Choral Society Concert on Health and safety grounds.

**Christmas Tree Festival**

Trees were decorated by Nocton Cricket Club, Nocton Social Club, Nocton Primary School Gardening Club, Branston Community Academy, Nocton WI, The Cottage Residential Home, St Andrews Potterhanworth, the Bellringers and ourselves. Much effort was put in by all the groups and we offer them a big thankyou for taking part. The event was sponsored by Glew & Smith (Architect and Surveyor) and we thank the company and specifically David and Chris for their support.

The event was aiming to raise funds for our roof repairs and the Dunston Silver Sounds Brass Band, who played fantastically on the 11th and 19th for us. Other events included a 2 hour organ recital by our organist Jill Shepherd and a quarter peel from the bell ringers. The weather being very icy and cold did stop many people visiting but we did make enough money to donate £100 to the Band.

Our thanks also to all those who manned the church over the four days. It was a little cold on a couple of occasions especially after the oil was stolen!!! That did put a slight dampener on our spirits, but thanks to Chris Howard the repairs were soon carried out and the heat returned.

Left: Jill Shepherd, trying to keep warm. Middle: the tree from Branston Community Academy. Right: the tree from Nocton Social Club. Pictures of the other trees are available via the Blog site.
**Christmas Services**

There come times when instead of having a shortage of priests we have a most welcome abundance. So it has been this year which has enabled all the churches in our benefice to have their own Midnight Mass and Christmas Day services.

**Christingle**

After a break last year we returned again to the theme of Christingle to raise funds for the Children’s Society. At 4pm on Christmas around 140 people braved the cold to sing carols, have a little fun, hear a couple of serious stories about the Children’s Society and parade Christingles around the church. Thanks to Max, Freddie and Emily Howard, Georgie and Lizzi Hewitt, and Hermione Dickinson for reading or leading the prayers. We raised £163 for the Children’s Society - Thankyou. (Led by Chris Hewitt)

**Midnight Mass**

Even though this service was being held simultaneously in Branston and Potterhanworth we still had 45 people come to worship on this most Holy of Nights. The Service commenced with the lighting of the final candle in our advent wreath to represent the light of the new born Christ. (Led by Canon Tim Thompson, readings Ruth Eagle).

**Christmas Day Eucharist**

It seems we cant get enough!!! To our surprise we still had 25 turn out on Christmas morning, again with services also taking place in Potterhanworth and Branston. At the beginning of the service Rev Les Whitfield blessed the Crib — part of our nativity tableaux (Led by Rev Les Whitfield, readings Liz Murray).

**Boxing Day Family Carol Service**

Only 9 souls braved this one and the heating was off again. Thanks to Les for leading this.

We take real heart that over a quarter of the villagers of Nocton attended church over the Christmas weekend.

**Roof Restoration Project**

It’s a year since we discovered EH would aid the restoration of the roof. All the tenders have now been gathered and submitted and the final paperwork is now being assessed by EH. Some of the quotes are higher than expected but we are in discussions with EH and other grant awarding bodies over that. The window for the works has been pencilled in as 1st Jul - 30th Nov 2011. We need to keep fundraising and a new round of ‘Supporter of Nocton Church’ appeals will start again next month. Thanks to all who have worked on this project over the past year, whether as Project Managers, Organisers, Architects, Fundraisers, Caterers. Each role is critical in its own right, we need all for success.
Village Diary

**Tue 11th Jan** - ‘**Parish Council**’ meeting at Nocton Village Hall. Public questions from 7pm.

**Wed 19th Jan** - ‘**Public Meeting**’ between residents of Nocton Dairies and residents of Nocton. Commences at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

**Fri 28th Jan** - ‘**Quiz Night**’ at Nocton Social Club. Starts around 8pm.

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**Santa sat in his Grotto**

It’s all over now for 2010 but the ‘Big Man’ himself paid his second pre-Christmas visit to Nocton, with a visit to the Social Club on Sunday 19th Dec. A full Club and lots of excited children were there to see him as he gave out a few early presents.

I wonder….did the little boy who asked him for the ‘IPod shuffle’ get his wish on Christmas day??

The Christmas Eve Draw and the New Years Eve Disco and Karaoke were two other well attended events,

Thanks to all the organisers, it takes time, but in the end it’s all worth it.

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**Useful Nocton Contacts:**

- **Nocton Parish Council:**
  - Chair - Elaine Storr
  - Clerk - Doreen Green 322323

- **Village Hall:**
  - Bookings - Lorna Storr 322074

- **Cricket Club:**
  - David Glew 321756

- **Womens Institute:**
  - Doreen Green 322323

- **Editor** - Chris Hewitt 320645

- **Nocton Park Management Committee:**
  - Chair - Neil Faulkner 07799 296161

- **Police - Community Beat Manager**
  - PC 298 Andrew Brown 07939896212
  - Incident Report: 0300 111 0300

- **Nocton Social Club**
  - Club Bar 323588

- **NKDC:**
  - Cllr Bill Chambers 320217
  - Cllr John Rose 321569

- **Lincs CC:**
  - Cllr Marianne Overton 01400 273003

- **Arts Group & Village Trail Association:**
  - Editor - Chris Hewitt 321923

- **Nocton Primary School:**
  - Chair - Neil Faulkner 07799 296161
  - Headteacher - Nick Dowler
  - School Administrator - Diane Powell

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www.allsaintsnocton.org.uk 8 www.nocton-church.blogspot.com
Dunston Silver Sounds Brass Band

The Silver Silver Sounds Band is a small local group who have performed a number of times in Nocton recently to really positive acclaim. They encourage and give the opportunity for young brass players to develop their skills, playing with those of many years experience. All Saints, Church was pleased to be able to support them through our Tree Festival.

For more band information:
Either hiring or playing with them,
Please contact:
Helen Duncan
01526 323860

The Band Playing at All Saints, Nocton - 19th Dec 2010

Church Access
Via the Churchwardens and Treasurer;
Ann Kennedy - 01526 322739
Doreen Green - 01526 322323
Additionally you can call at ‘Hawthorn House’, Main St.
Or ‘Nutwood’, The Green..

Next issues cut off date
16th Jan

Nocton Social Club

Quiz Night

Friday Jan 28th 2011
Starts around 8PM

Normal Opening Times

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
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On Sunday, families with children are allowed in the main bar.

Annual Membership of the club runs from 1st Oct to 30th Sept.
Annual Membership Fees are: Age 14-18 £2; Adults £5; Seniors £1.
For further details contact the club on 01526 323588

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Nocton Post Office  
Monday 9am - 2pm  
Tuesday 9am - 2pm  
Wednesday Closed  
Thursday 9am - 2pm  
Friday 9am - 1pm  
Saturday Closed  
Sunday Closed  

Mobile Library  
Visits every 4th Friday between 12.30pm and 1pm in the Village Hall car park. Next visit Fri 28th Jan 2011  

While we haven’t got a Vicar  
For Pastoral support, Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals  
please contact:  
Revd. Les Whitfield  
01522 791195  
rev.les@tiscali.co.uk  

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Village Hall — Coffee Morning
10am–Midday
Wed 12th Jan 2010. Free Tea & Coffee Raffle

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Services For January 2011

Sunday 2nd Jan - Epiphany
Branston 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Potterhanworth 9.30am Holy Communion
Branston 11.00am Morning Prayer

Sunday 9th Jan - The Baptism of Christ
Nocton 9.30am Holy Communion
Branston 11.00am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 16th Jan - 2nd Sunday of Epiphany
Branston 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Potterhanworth 9.30am Holy Communion
Branston 11.00am Morning Prayer

Sunday 23rd Jan - 3rd Sunday of Epiphany
Nocton 9.30am Holy Communion
Branston 11.00am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 30th Jan - 4th Sunday of Epiphany
Nocton 9.30am Group Eucharist

Sunday 5th Feb - Presentation of Christ (Candlemas)
Branston 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Potterhanworth 9.30am Holy Communion
Branston 11.00am Morning Prayer

HAVE YOUR SAY……..
Contributions to the magazine are always welcome. If you wish to contribute an article, photograph or advertise an organisation or event in or around Nocton, please send the details to the editor. (Charges apply for some advertisers)
Produced & Edited by: Chris Hewitt - email: cwhewitt@btinternet.com or tel: 01526 320645
(Externally submitted articles are not necessarily the views of the Editor or Nocton PCC)