

SEPTEMBER 2010

City of Lincoln Group of United Reformed Churches

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Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

There are many people in history who have shown great courage, and a high percentage of those will have inspired others to greater things. There are those who have decided in an instant to risk their own lives to save another. There are those who like the pilots in the Battle of Britain in 1940 went up again and again to fight against the odds and win. There are those whose courage was recognised by medals, or their stories written down for posterity, and of course there are the countless acts of devotion, courage, giving and not counting the cost, which are no longer remembered once those who knew them themselves have passed away; but the world was a better place for their selfless acts.

Every so often there is an act of courage and inspiration which stands out in an extraordinary way. This morning I read the obituary of Piper Bill Millin who has just died aged 88. I knew of his story, but read it again as though it was the first time, and if his story brings a tear into your eye, you are not alone. For those for whom his story is

not familiar, Piper Bill Millin was the personal piper to Lord Lovat on D-Day and piped the invasion forces on the shores of Normandy.

Millin was in the TA, before joining the Cameron Highlanders, and then met Lord Lovat while training to be a commando in 1941. The War office had banned pipers from leading soldiers into battle after terrible losses in the 1st World War. Millin still agreed to be Lord Lovat's personal piper after Lovat told him, "Ah, but that's the English War Office, you and I are both Scottish so that doesn't apply!" Millin was the only piper at the D-Day landings. When Millin boarded the landing craft bound for France, he stood in the bow playing "*Road to the Isles*" as they went out into the Solent. Someone relayed the music over the loud speaker and troops on other transports heard it and started cheering.

On landing on the beach he played "*Hieland Laddie*" as those around him fell in the hail of enemy fire. Lovat ask him to continue playing, which he did, striding up and down the beach, stiffening the resolve of all those who could hear or see him. Although called "a mad bastard" by one, Millin provided a unique boost to morale. A Tom Duncan said many years later, "It is hard to describe the impact it had. It gave us a great lift and increased our determination. As well as the pride we felt, it reminded us of home and why we were fighting for our lives and those of our loved ones."

Millin piped in many dangerous places, including on the road up to the Pegasus Bridge, which was under sniper fire.

In the late 1950's Millin trained as a mental nurse and worked in three hospitals in Glasgow.

It is hard, if not totally impossible, to imagine what it took to continue to lift the spirits of his fellow countrymen, playing the bagpipes while thousands died around him. Others either dug in, or kept moving as fast as they could; but Millin would have been a target not just for seconds, but for a long time. His guardian angels must have been working overtime.

Although a commando who fought alongside his comrades, Millin had that unique understanding when the bagpipes would provide more than ever his rifle could. What is also remarkable is that he was only 22 years old. He followed in the tradition of many a piper in Scottish Regiments over the centuries.

Perhaps that understanding and selfless courage and inspiration which drove Millin on the beaches of Normandy, helped him to understand those he nursed many years later.

There is another story, which speaks of deliberate selflessness, courage and inspiration; a story which leaves even the story of Piper Bill Millin in the shade, that is the story of Jesus.

Hope you've had a good summer.

Yours in His service,

Hamish

The animals went in two by two...

For those of you who have a good memory, in the July/August edition there was an article "*the animals went in two by two...*" and I promised that I would give you the answers at a later date. Well, here they are

aardvark; beaver; cow; dove; elephant; flea; goat; hamster; iguana; joey; kangaroo; lion; nightingale; ostrich; pig; queen bee; rabbit; stoat; tarantula; unicorn; vole; wolf; fox; yaffle; zebra.

'Sankey Sing Along'
Ruskington Methodist Church

'Sankey Sing Along' will be held at Ruskington on Saturday 18th September commencing at 7.30pm. Further information can be obtained from Muriel or Danny Walsh on L.685634

St. Columba's

Saturday Lunch, 18th September

Just a reminder that Saturday lunch is being held at St Columba's on 18th September, commencing at 12.30pm, and the cost is £4 per head. To book contact Sue Anderson on L.851170.

Greenland Ladies Club
Meet between 2.00pm and 4.00pm

Tuesday 14th September Trading Standards
Tuesday 12th October Stems Florist by Chloe

Brant Road Over 50's Club

Wednesday 22nd September Visit to Stamford
Wednesday 17th November Visit to Downtown, Grantham

Both trips leave St Columba's at 10.00am and return at approx 4.00pm. Cost for visitors £5. *You do not have to be over 50 to come on these outings.* Contact Cathy on L.874728 if you wish to attend.

Trinity

Our Future !!!!!

For some years now, we have been discussing the future of Trinity Church. How to draw in new members, what is our mission here in Lincoln. where are going, how will we survive financially?

At the recent finance discussion meeting, we went all over these matters yet again. My contribution to the debate, which it was suggested I commit to paper and contribute to 'Round Up', was that we have seen at least four new folk join us over the last year or so. Our lovely buildings, are used extensively including lettings to our neighbours, and are we not told to 'love our neighbours'. Many of our members are also actively engaged in outreach in many areas beyond the church.

None of us can see into the future so why worry about it. Why not just enjoy our Church, our Church friends, the activities and social times that are there for all to share, play our part in the life of the Church as far as we are able, give our time, talents and money and leave the future in the Lord's hands. He alone knows what our future will be, and we are in safe hands.

'Father we place into your hands, the way that we should go, for we know we always can trust you.'

'Father we love to walk with you and in your presence rest, for we know we always can trust you.'

S.L.Gilby

Humber Bridge Walk

Margaret Hammond thanks all who sponsored her on the `Walk of Hope` across the Humber Bridge on Saturday, 30th June which raised the sum of £250.

Margaret would also like to thank Helen Gray and Brenda Bucknall who walked with her. We had a lovely, eventful day.

I'm sure our efforts will enable Leprosy Mission to help the many people who suffer from this illness and on their behalf, may I thank you for your support.

Margaret

Harvest Lunch

Once again an invitation will be sent to all friends and members to join with us for a three course Harvest lunch on Sunday 3 October at 12.00 pm. There will be a small charge of £3 per person. The lunch is being organised by the Care group who would like all replies by the previous Sunday.

Vision 4 Life

In September this group will recommence and will meet in the coffee lounge at 1.00 pm on Fridays 3 & 17 September. Books on prayer can be found in the church and everyone is welcome to attend. These are very interesting & informative meetings

Evening services

Joint Evening Services will continue this autumn with Bailgate Methodist Church. The Methodist Church Officers have been in contact with our own minister and arrangements have been made for Bailgate to attend our evening communion service on Sunday 5 September at 6.30 pm and for Trinity to attend Bailgate Methodist evening service on Sunday 3 October at 6.00 pm. Please note these dates and arrangements and give your support. Thank you - Frances Caldwell - Church Secretary.

Report from Elder's Open Discussion Meeting on Finance - 14 July

The meeting felt that although the Church should be aware of trends in the financial reports it was important to focus on the life of the Church and its place in Lincoln.

The Church Secretary reported to the meeting that the treasurer had reluctantly written a letter of resignation due to pressure of work and also for personal reasons. An interim treasurer would be sought until a new one can be appointed.

Alan Gilby reported to the meeting that the tenant at No.8 has written a letter giving a month's notice and intends to leave the property on 7 August 2010. Once the property has been vacated it will be possible to make an assessment of any necessary work and gain an idea of the sum required to be spent on it. It was noted that considerable time has been spent on this property and that its sale would provide a "buffer" in the church finances. Valuations would be sought from local estate agents and a decision about selling would be made at the Church Meeting in September. It was noted that Synod will be aware of Trinity's capital spending.

The meeting felt that the capital spent on the improvements to the church building had made a great difference and enabled those who have difficulty with mobility to access it so much more easily. The church is not "poor" and should look to help others in the community. We must seek to find our true mission and celebrate our blessings.

There was further discussion about parking, the sensibility of selling the site and starting again with a new building.

The minister suggested that after he retires in three and a half years' time the scoping for any new minister could be re-negotiated due to the number in the congregation thus bringing less of a financial commitment for Trinity. The difference could be made up from non-stipendiary ministers and lay people.

It was also suggested that the greater flexibility between denominations which is now apparent gives hope for the ecumenical future and that we should celebrate our differences.

For the moment it was agreed to be still, to listen for the word of God and enjoy being church and family together as part of the community and sharing with others in mission communicating God's love.

Beryl Johnston & Frances Caldwell

Meeting Point

The next meeting the group will be on 14 September at 22 Staffordshire Crescent Lincoln at 7.45 pm. We will be discussing Buddhism and we invite anyone wishing to join with this fellowship group for discussion on this topic which will be followed by light refreshments at the home of Sheila & Alan Gilby

Margit Schmitt Gies

We were very saddened to hear of Margit's death, and our prayers are with her, her daughter Anna and all members of her family

With love from the Mite Scheme

Twenty-four years ago the Mite Scheme was launched, asking for a gift of five pence which could prevent a child dying from dehydration (usually following persistent diarrhoea. At that time 5.5 million children died each year from this preventable disease.

Just after we launched; Reform published a letter from me asking for help. That help came in ever increasing numbers. So much so that the Mite scheme has, to date, saved over 5 million children's lives. It is worth noting, not a single penny is deducted from what is given.

We have, in the last few years, seen many natural disasters like tsunamis, earthquakes, floods and droughts. Charities like the Mite Scheme, who rely on regular giving, were able to help within hours, not weeks. Imagine, a gift of 20p per week that can save the lives of around 300 children per year. (Money collected can be sent to 39 Trinity Close, Daventry, NN11 4RN - cheques should be made payable to UNICEF-UK which administers the programme).

This scheme began in the United Reformed church at Badby village in Northamptonshire, but is now supported by many different denominations. The modern world so often connects the word charity with money, but the true meaning and root of charity is love. We do not offer gifts in our name but in the name of Christ. In this letter I would like to thank the faithful and loving, who have honoured the name of Jesus Christ in their constant and loving giving.

The Sabbath, for many, is a very special day, but how much more special a day it becomes, when we ask him to bless the gift, offered in his name, to save the lives of beautiful, innocent children. For this is loving each other like he loves us.

Roy Barnett MBE, Mite Scheme Founder

Goodbye

Norman and I want to say a warm and sincere thank you to all for your friendship these last five years. You have certainly helped us to feel at home and for that we are very grateful. I know that there must have been times when you must have thought us a mixed blessing.

Norman was pleased to be your treasurer during all the building works and despite his lack of financial expertise, with your help we did a good job. As I said on Sunday, I have really enjoyed sharing in worship with you, both in the congregation and in the pulpit. We wish you well in the future life of the URC in Lincoln. Our new address is 11 Church Farm, WRENBURY, Cheshire CW5 8RA
Telephone: 01270.780609 email: yvoandnor@btinternet.com
Wishing you all God's blessing *Yvonne & Norman*

HERE AND THERE

A few thoughts on God....

"We regard God as an airman regards his parachute; it's there for emergencies, but he hopes he'll never have to use it." C.S. Lewis

"God gave you a gift of 86,400 seconds today. Have you used one to say thank you?" William A. Ward

"I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish that he didn't trust me so much!" Mother Teresa

"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us." St. Augustine

"I have discovered that when the Almighty wants me to do or not to do a particular thing, he has a way of letting me know." Abraham Lincoln

Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark.

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we're all in the same boat
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs
9. When you're stressed - float awhile.
10. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting

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And finally a few definitions.....

ACCURATE: a vicar's curate BIGAMY: the taller two girls called Amy ENDORSE: the last 'orse in the race EXACT: juggling with eggs EXCHEQUER: the one who counts the eggs FOREIGN: an umbrella ILLEGAL: an eagle that doesn't feel well

Service Details

29th August

Trinity - 10.30am Mrs H. Grierson
Ermine- 10.00am Revd H. Temple
St Columba's - 11.00am United Service

5th September

Trinity - 10.30am Revd H. Temple
- 6.30pm Revd H. Temple (HC)
Ermine - 10.00am Mr A. Bullen
St Columba's - 11.00am Ministry Team

12th September

Trinity - 10.30am Mr A. Bullen
Ermine - 10.00am Revd H. Temple (HC)
St Columba's - 11.00am Revd S. Cliff (HC)

19th September

Trinity - 10.30am Revd H. Temple
Ermine - 10.30am Group Service, Trinity
St Columba's -10.30am Group Service, Trinity

26th September

Trinity - 10.30am Mr J. West
Ermine - 10.00am Revd H. Temple (Harvest Festival)
St Columba's - 11.00am Revd H. Temple

3rd October

Trinity - 10.30am Revd H. Temple (Harvest Festival)
- 12.00pm Harvest Lunch
Ermine - 10.00am Mrs H. Grierson
St Columba's - 11.00am Ministry Team