



# St. Mary's Dalton Holme Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 9

July 2018



## Church Wardens

The Lord Hotham 01430-810771  
Mr. Giles W. Peacock 01430-810254  
Mrs. J. Creaser 01430-810662

## Services for July

1st	Fifth after Trinity	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
8th	Sixth after Trinity	9.30 am	Holy Communion
15th	Seventh after Trinity	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
22nd	Eighth after Trinity	9.30 am	Holy Communion (Rev M Craggs)
29th	Ninth after Trinity	9.30am	Morning Prayer

## Thoughts from Rev. John McNaughton

My dear Friends,

Good news is my speciality and I'm glad it keeps me busy. We're apt to think there's not enough of it, but we don't have to look very far to discover that it is literally endless. It's a miracle that we exist at all. Modern science has shown that the very slightest variation in the six fundamental forces which shape our universe would have exploded or imploded it with a very destructive big bang!

Modern scientists are still puzzled about where life came from. Some suspect that it came from outer space! Yet among the hundred billion galaxies, each with billions of stars, only planet earth seems properly finely tuned for the emergence of life. How did it come about? How did it develop a mind? We could go on like this for a long time. Science has developed a lot since the days of Charles Darwin, and goes on asking more and more fundamental questions. I can't help thinking of the old Psalmist of thousands of years ago who wrote: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made, and that my soul knoweth right well" (Psalm 139).

Clearly he had a religion. Everyone has. It is our own vision of our existence. Atheism is a religion which requires blind faith and nothing else! Sadly I heard of an atheist religious instruction teacher who advised pupils to follow the same way! I'm sure that all parents would like their children to follow the fifth commandment: "Honour thy father and thy mother..." Obedience to the sixth would make the world a happier place: "Thou shalt do no murder".

Christ's own great commandments could make the world even happier: "Love thy neighbour as thyself". Again the wise old Psalmist got it right: "Rejoice in the Lord and be joyful all ye that are true of heart". Let's do just that. There's plenty of good news. Even this succession of Trinity Sundays reminds us of the infinite love, stemming from the eternal, loving mind of our Father in heaven, who allowed his only son to come into our world in sacrificial love, to open our lives to the inspiring influence of his Holy Spirit to lead us into his Kingdom of peace, joy, beauty, truth, goodness and so much more for us to explore and enjoy.

Just one more piece of good news: The Reverend Michael Craggs will be with us on the fourth Sunday of each month. Let's bid him a warm welcome.

## **August Issue**

The closing date will be **Thursday 12th July** Articles should be sent to me in **word format only** at [rac.pfl@btinternet.com](mailto:rac.pfl@btinternet.com)

Robert Coates 01430-810504

## **South Dalton Ladies Club**

### **Thursday 7th June**

Mike Loughlin spoke about 'His life and times (1946-now) or The Asylum!!

He described his early life from joining the Royal Signals, then training as an electrician to training as a nurse. Mike accompanied his talk with photographs and some of the ones depicting the early hospitals for those with mental health problems, learning difficulties or young women who became pregnant outside marriage were extreme in the starkness of the wards and facilities and attitudes of those 'caring' for them.

Mike went on to Hull University for three further years and became a lecturer in Sociology and Social Administration in Wales. He moved back to Sheffield to become a tutor and then to Rotherham where he was Tutor in Charge for 30 years before attending Salford University to become a Clinical Psychologist.

We all sat for nearly two and a half hours as Mike described the gradual change of attitude over many years to people with mental health disorders. There is far more understanding of their difficulties but funding is a major problem and constrains further progress.

Mike managed to convey some quite grim facts with such a sense of humour and positive outlook that we can only hope will prevail with the authorities that provide resources.

**Next meeting will be on Thursday 5th July - details yet to be arranged**

Jan Nettleton

## **South Dalton Playgroup (Preschool)**

On the 6th June 2018 the playgroup was inspected by Ofsted, the governing body for education and early years provision in the UK. We are delighted to announce that we were awarded an "**outstanding in all areas**", this is the highest accolade that can be awarded by Ofsted.

The playgroup is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.00am to 2.00pm. Limited places are available for September 2018.

Please call 01430-810151 during opening hours for more details.

## DUNKIRK

This small French port on the English Channel is forever associated in the English mind with one of those peculiar miracles of escape that they tend to celebrate as victories. It is always given the English spelling too, rather than the French Dunkerque, as if it was a small fishing village, perhaps in Scotland. It is, in short, a muddling sort of place – if indeed “Dunkirk” is a place at all, when it is actually a nostalgic idea.

Winston Churchill made his famous “We shall fight on the beaches” speech on 4 June 1940 to celebrate the escape of 338,000 British and French troops from the beaches there, but even he warned that “wars are not won by withdrawals”.

But if the English could not quite snatch victory from the jaws of defeat, the point about Dunkirk was that – at great loss, among the rear-guard and the rescuing ships- a small defeat was snatched from impending disaster. It did look as if the entire British army, and all its tanks and equipment, would be captured or destroyed by the sudden Nazi advance, leaving the nation horribly exposed to invasion.

What made Dunkirk possible was Hitler’s controversial Halt Order of 22 May, which stopped the advance of his tanks from crossing the defensive canals, and handing over the task of finishing off the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) to Goering’s Luftwaffe. The order was sent uncoded and was picked up, so Churchill and the British government knew they might have time to build defences, pull back their troops behind the barrier and into the town, and organise some kind of rescue.

The naval planners believed they might have been able to rescue 25,000 men. In the end, over a period of a week, and thanks to the sacrifices of the Highland Division and the French rear-guard, over 800 ships of all sizes managed to take off most of the BEF and a sizeable number of French troops, most of whom were transferred to Brest to carry on what turned out to be a hopeless defence of France.

The troops left by wading out to neck height in the waves and waiting all day, and they left minus their equipment. It was the little ships which captured the imagination, from pleasure steamers to fishing boats and cabin cruisers from the Thames- one of the yachts captained by the senior officer from the *Titanic*, C.H.Lightholer, and many like him. It was somehow an English solution, by English heroes, and a symbol of the success of people power over an establishment which had failed so miserably to either prevent or prepare for war.

In the generations to come, when the problems become bigger and the institutions we deal with less human, the English may still look back to Dunkirk and the little ships, and think – Ah yes that’s what we truly are. There was something self-revelatory about Dunkirk, or at least there appeared to be to the English – the brilliant organisation, the individual flair, the popular uprising by small-boat masters, the anarchic pulling together, the snatching of consolation from disaster. It was, in the end, all very English.

### Dunkirk Statistics:

Troops evacuated from Dunkirk between 27 May and 4 June 1940: 338,226

Number of ships of allied nations taking part: 933

Number sunk: 236

Number of guns left by BEF in France: 2,472

Number of tons of ammunition left: 76,097

Men of the BEF captured or killed during the retreat and evacuation: 68,111

Number of French troops taken into captivity when Dunkirk fell: 40,000

Merchant seamen who died during the evacuation: 126

Number of days Winston Churchill had been Prime Minister: 16

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*(On 4 June 1940 my father, a member of the BEF and wounded in the rear-guard action, was one of the last soldiers to be evacuated from the beach. At home on that day I celebrated my 4<sup>th</sup> birthday.)*

RAC



### Prize Winning Caption Competition. No. 3.

The winner is Mr J Wright of Beverley for "Time for service?"

### Caption Competition No. 4

As previously, submit a caption in no more than six words by 15th July.



