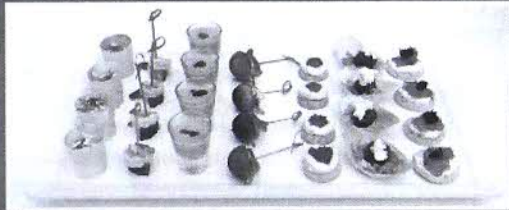


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*From the Revd Nikki Mann
(Curate of All Saints' Stamford)*

Hi and Goodbye!

It has been such a pleasure to spend time taking services in your wonderful village churches, each has its own beauty and character and all have been so welcoming. Although I am at All Saints in Stamford, I came from a rural group of churches in Romney Marsh, Kent. It was in one of these churches that I first heard God calling me to be a Priest. The small village church encouraged and supported me and gave me generous space to try out some rather interesting ideas!

The parish church has always been a valuable part of village life, where prayers of generations have been said, life's poignant journeys have been marked through baptisms, confirmations, weddings and funerals. They are a place of prayer, a place of hope, where God's presence can be sought and felt. There is a solidness, a security, a serenity about them and just in case that all sounds rather antiquated, they are places too where Gods living spirit flows and calls to His-Her people today!

Our churches are places of faith, hope and love. Three simple words with such depth. Three attitudes, behaviours, values that are personally and collectively transforming. Imagine a world where these three things are integral to everyone's life. Where everybody is each other's neighbour, with no exceptions or exclusions. When we come together as one which village life lends itself to well God smiles, angels rejoice! We blossom and cause others to blossom too.

So with that lovely summer image I say goodbye and thank-you as I move on to become vicar to a rural group of parishes near Newmarket.

Love & Blessings,

Nikki

BARHOLM WITH STOWE

Barholm Gift Day will be held on Saturday 8th July in the Church Porch from 11am – 12 noon. Everyone welcome for Coffee, Cake and a chat.

WILSTHORPE

The next Service at St Faith's is Holy Communion at 10.30am on Sunday 2nd July 2017. Please do come along and join us, where you will be made most welcome.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 28th July – Pimms & Plants evening, a time to relax, enjoy a beautiful garden and buy plants with a glass of Pimms and canapes at Willowcroft, Wilsthorpe PE9 4PE 6.30 to 8.30pm. Entry £2.50. All proceeds including donations for Pimms and soft drinks will be shared between St Faith's Church Wilsthorpe and Age UK. Car parking signposted in the village. If further information required, please contact Di Holden on diholden4@hotmail.com or Susan Burgoin 01778560720

Saturday 6th August – Coffee Morning at Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Village Hall, which will include delicious homemade cakes, raffle, stalls and games for the children. All proceeds for St Faith's Church Fabric Fund.

Also any offers of help cleaning the church, arranging flowers [just an hour or two a month!] and churchyard maintenance would also be greatly appreciated. Please contact Peter, Church Warden at Wilsthorpe Cottage or Susan, Treasurer at Corner Cottage.

A range of paperback books are still available at the church, 50p each or 3 for a £1 (a bargain!). The collection is regular refreshed.

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