



THE BANSFIELD BENEFICE

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CHURCH NEWS



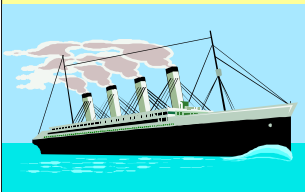
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August 2006

Dear friends,

The Ark and the Titanic: two boats with very different stories. One survived a world-wide flood, the other sank in a calm sea on its maiden voyage, having struck an iceberg; one's cargo was an extended family and a floating zoo, the other's many



passengers included some of the world's wealthiest.

The humble Ark was built by Noah in response to God's instructions; the opulent Titanic, the biggest ship ever made, was constructed for the glory of humankind and the White Star Line shipping company, whose Vice-President boasted that "this ship is unsinkable".

Confidence in human capability led to complacency. There were over a thousand tons of caviar on board, but few binoculars for the lookouts: as the ship travelled proudly at nearly full speed of 25 miles per hour through that fateful Atlantic night, it was impossible for the naked eye to look ahead into the freezing wind. Meanwhile the Captain

enjoyed a leisurely dinner, with iceberg warnings passed on to him that very evening, tucked away in his pocket till later.

The Ark's Captain, Noah was a righteous man, obedient to God in both building and boarding his boat. The Titanic looked the sturdier option for the ocean, but it set sail towards death under man's direction; the Ark headed for life under God's protection.

In the Gospels Jesus stresses that he needs to be at the helm of our lives if we are to enjoy an enduring destiny in God's presence. Our destiny, Jesus says, does not arise from powerful deeds done in God's name, but in acts of obedience to the Son's call. We are not measured by the impressiveness of our activity for the kingdom, but on whether we are getting to know, and allowing ourselves to be known by, the king.

Jesus warns us not to be "cowboy builders" in the kingdom. We need to base our outer lives on



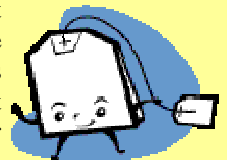
an inner relationship with him. This means following what he has called us

to do, and listening for his guidance, rather than relying on our own ideas and agenda, even if we find we are doing things differently as a result. What counts is our relationship with Jesus. It is not sufficient to say, "I don't know the Lord, I just work for him", for such work will not have eternal worth in the Kingdom of heaven.

What we are like under the pressure of life's storms will reveal the degree to which we have invested our stability and security Christ, rather than in what we do in his name. Do we dare to let God really be in charge, or do we prefer to call the shots, even when it comes to doing his work? The most impressive structure will fail if the foundations are not strong.

It's sometimes said that Christians are like tea-bags: it's when they're put into hot water that their real flavour emerges.

Can others taste the fragrance of Christ in us when the heat is on?



Rev. Ian Finn

CHURCH & VILLAGE EVENTS : August 2006

- Saturday 5th 10.00am–noon Traidcraft coffee morning in the Benefice Hall
7.00pm Shakespeare in the Garden–Wickhambrook (see over for details)
- Saturday 12th 6.00pm Village BBQ in Lidgate, the Old Bakery
- Saturday 19th Stansfield Village Fete
- Sunday 27th 5.00pm Stradishall church PCC meeting
- Thursday 31st 10.30am Stansfield church PCC meeting
- Saturday 2nd September Traidcraft Coffee morning



Benefice Services for August 2006

August 2006	St. Nicholas DENSTON	All Saints STANSFIELD	St. Margaret STRADISHALL	All Saints WICKHAMBROOK	St. Margaret COWLINGE	St. Mary LIDGATE	St. Peter OUSDEN
Sunday 6 th TRINITY 8 ransfiguration	10.30am Matins BCP Fiona Evans	9.30am Matins BCP John Dennis		9.30am HC CW IMF		10.00am family David Stoneham	
Tuesday 8 th							
Thursday 10 th							
Sunday 13 th TRINITY 9			10.00am Benefice HC CW IMF				
Tuesday 15 th							
Thursday 17 th							
Sunday 20 th TRINITY 10	9.30am HC BCP IMF	8.00am HC CW IMF	6.00pm Evensong BCP IMF	9.30pm Family Paul Bevan	9.30am HC ext David Stoneham		11.00am HC BCP IMF
Tuesday 22 nd							
Thursday 24 th							
Sunday 27 th TRINITY 11						10.00am Benefice HC CW IMF	
Tuesday 29 th						10.00am HC	
Thursday 31 st		10.00am HC					

STANSFIELD VILLAGE FETE

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST

12:30PM START

AT THE VILLAGE HALL

NEW THIS YEAR

LITTLE EGYPT MORRIS DANCERS
"SENSATIONS" MAJORETTES

PLUS

FAMILY SPORTS ~ DOG SHOW ~ CHILDREN'S FANCY DRESS
PIRATES & WET SPONGE FIGHTS ~ TREASURE HUNT
5 A SIDE FOOTBALL ~ COMPASSES V QUEEN'S HEAD
SIDESHOWS & GAMES FOR ALL AGES
CLASSIC CARS ~ EXHIBITION & PHOTOS OF OLD STANSFIELD
PRIZE DRAW ~ TOMBOLA ~ AUCTION
CAKE STALL ~ BBQ, TEAS & REFRESHMENTS
TRADE & CRAFT STALLS & MORE ATTRACTIONS TO BE CONFIRMED
PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR VILLAGE HALL & CHURCH

SHAKESPEARE IN THE GARDEN

'The Merchant of Venice'

(The Outspoken Theatre Group)

Saturday 5th August 2006

7.00pm

(gates open at 6.00pm)

Bring picnics, chairs, drinks.

Doctor's Barn, Wickhambrook.

Tickets £7 in advance
or £10 on the gate

01440 821120



Shakespeare

LIDGATE VILLAGE BARBECUE

SATURDAY 12th AUGUST 2006

The Old Bakery

From 5.45pm

Steak £3.00 Beef burger £1.50 Sausage £1.00
Vegetarian Burger or Sausage £1.00

Prices include salad and sauces.

Soft drinks available

RAFFLE

Bring your own: Wine/beer & glasses, cutlery.



**BANSFIELD
BENEFICE**

Saturday 5th August 2006

10.00am—12 noon

In the Benefice Hall, Wickhambrook.

A full range of Traidcraft produce for sale.

Coffee morning too!