



THE BANSFIELD BENEFICE

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CHURCH NEWS



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We support
Traidcraft

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Dear friends,

We often find ourselves reminiscing about things that happened quite a long time ago, or being forced to listen to people who are anxious to tell us about things that involved them when they were children.

We live in a nostalgic age, and we all know how boring that can be! Life can be full of reunions where folk can talk about shared experiences in the past. There is a magazine that caters for such things.

So no doubt people who had gone out to listen to Jesus would look back to events of 50 years before and say — “Do you remember...?” That is how the Gospels came into being — what is called the oral tradition — and from that sprang the writings that we ascribe to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

We can picture an old man telling how this vast crowd went out to listen to Jesus. How he walked about among them, talking, helping, healing. He couldn't have spoken loudly enough to be heard by everyone at once. He would have spoken to small groups, and later on when it dawned on everyone that they were hungry and far from sources of food he was the one who solved the problem. “We were hungry,” the old man would say. “Suddenly the disciples were passing food around, a little boy went



up to Jesus and gave him his picnic. The disciples even cleared up afterwards!” He would pause and then say: “It was a miracle!”

This story of the feeding of the 5000 (in St Matthew chapter 14) can be looked at in several ways. It can be seen as part of the creative power of God. Jesus is God, living in his world and therefore he has all the power of creation at his command. One of his first temptations was to use that power to feed himself (turning stones into bread). In this story people may see that now he uses that power to feed the multitude. This is what the Gospel writers accepted.

People can ‘demythologise’ the story. Jesus is the charismatic figure that creates in the crowd a desire to do good things. They are happy to share whatever they have. So he sits them down, says the blessing, and suddenly everyone seems to have food in their hands. It becomes a miracle of sharing.

Or this story can be seen as a parable about sacramental things — that God uses the ordinary things of life to feed us. Not only with bread or fish, but with bread and wine. The story can be to do with the presence of Jesus among us in the sacramental life of the Church. These are three ways — all quite valid — that we may adopt to make sense to us of what the Gospels describe as a miracle. You will know what helps you best.

The story of people being fed by Jesus brings home to us the fact that his ministry was involved in the everyday lives and needs of the folk around him.

This is what incarnation means — God being a human being, living in his world.

On the one hand there are the secular things that surround us: work, home, all the terrible things we see on TV — pain, sickness, death. Think of them as represented by our left hand. Yet on the other hand there is what we are involved with here: worship of God, prayers, reading of the Bible - being brought close to God in the sacrament of Holy Communion. If we take these two



sides of life and mesh our hands and fingers together we are putting our hands together in prayer. We are joining these two aspects of life - and we need to do so.

This can be a striking illustration — like bringing together the hunger of 5000 people with the person of Jesus who (as in this sacrament) took, blessed, broke and gave.

One hand on its own, the worldly side, cannot be sufficient, it needs the other hand, the person of God, to complete it. That is what sacraments tell us. We use the physical means of bread and wine to bring us the spiritual gifts that come from God. It is the joining of the material and the spiritual — the putting of the hands together as we do when we pray.

So the well-known story of the feeding of the 5000 can convey to us a variety of messages — perhaps the illustration of the hands joined in prayer can be one we take away with us today.

Rev. Ian Finn

CHURCH & VILLAGE EVENTS : October 2006

- Sunday 1st October HARVEST at Wickhambrook & at Ousden churches
- Wednesday 4th 7.30pm Cowlinge church PCC meeting
- Friday 6th 7.00pm Harvest supper at Lidgate Village Hall
- Saturday 7th 10.00am–noon Traidcraft coffee morning and stall in the Benefice Hall
- Sunday 8th Harvest at Denston and Lidgate
- Sunday 15th 5.00pm Denston church PCC meeting
- Tuesday 17th 7.30pm Lidgate church PCC meeting

ALL SAINTS DAY

- 1st November 10.00am Eucharist at Stansfield church with hymns—all welcome



Benefice Services for October 2006

October 2006	St. Nicholas DENSTON	All Saints STANSFIELD	St. Margaret STRADISHALL	All Saints WICKHAMBROOK	St. Margaret COWLINGE	St. Mary LIDGATE	St. Peter OUSDEN
Sunday 1 st TRINITY 16	10.30am Matins BCP Fiona Evans	9.30am Matins BCP John Dennis		9.30am HC CW IMF HARVEST	9.30am Morning Prayer Ann Jones		11.00am HARVEST SOP IMF
Tuesday 3 rd			10.00am HC				
Thursday 5 th							10.00am HC
Sunday 8 th TRINITY 17	10.00am Benefice HC BCP IMF HARVEST					6.00pm HARVEST SOP	
Tuesday 10 th						10.00am HC	
Thursday 12 th		10.00am HC					
Sunday 15 th TRINITY 18	9.30am HC BCP IMF	8.00am HC CW IMF	3.00pm Evensong BCP IMF	9.30pm Family Paul Bevan		11.00am HC ext CW Philip Draycott	11.00am HC BCP IMF
Tuesday 17 th	10.00am HC						
ST LUKE				10.00am HC			
Thursday 19 th					10.00am HC		
Sunday 22 nd TRINITY 15					10.00am Benefice HC CW IMF		
Tuesday 24 th							
Thursday 26 th							
Sunday 29 th Last after TRINITY			11.00am HC BCP IMF			9.30am HC CW IMF	

Elvis comes to Denston Village Hall

Saturday, November 11

"ELVIS NIGHT"

Elvis live on stage
8.30pm!
Doors open 8pm



Licensed bar * Dancing * Raffle
Tickets £5 in advance, £6 on the door
Contact Karen Fellows 01440 820310

PLEASE BOOK EARLY

Proceeds in aid of Village Hall funds

STRADISHALL CHURCH

Kneelers

We have a catalogue for church kneelers anyone who would like to buy one and spend some time doing this over the cold winter days please contact Tina Lee (Church Warden) on 820954 they are £29.00 each

Recipe Book

I would still like some more recipes for the book I still have a few places left to fill Please send them to Tina Lee High Acre Stradishall.

Could you help??

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HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

October

Sunday 1st 9.30am **Wickhambrook** Church

Holy Communion & Jam Club
11.00am **Ousden** Church
Songs of Praise

Sunday 8th 10.00am **Denston** Church
6.00pm **Lidgate** Church
(supper on Fri. 6th)



**BANSFIELD
BENEFICE**

Saturday 7th October 2006

10.00am—12 noon

In the Benefice Hall, Wickhambrook.
A full range of Traidcraft produce for sale.

Coffee morning too!

Visit our Benefice web site
www.stedmundsbury.anglican.org/bansfield