

Holton le Clay Village Hall 'The Hornets Nest'

Pinfold Lane, Holton le Clay, Lincolnshire, DN36 5AP
Reg. Charity No. 1139650
www.holtonleclayvillagehall.co.uk

Available for a Variety of Classes and Private Functions
To Book The Hall Contact **Maureen 07568 197 914**
To View The Hall Contact **Eddie 07711 511 559**
or **Helen 07707 550 518**

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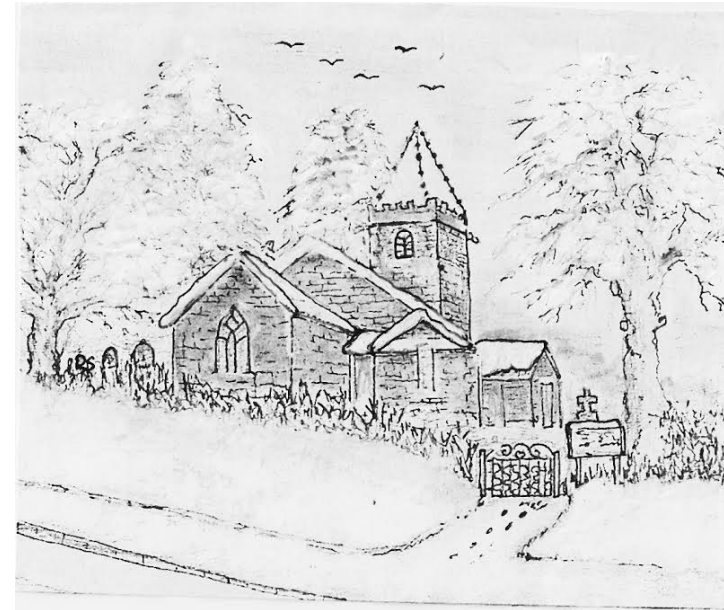
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HOLTON NEWS



MARCH 2015

Have you seen the website? <http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/HoltonleClay>

SPAR 
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Tel: 01472 812196

ATM

SPAR SHOP TETNEY
THERE FOR YOU - 7 DAYS A WEEK
MONDAY TO SUNDAY 6.00 AM TILL 10 PM

ST PETER'S CHURCH

The Mission of St Peter's Church Community at Holton-le-Clay

We are a worshipping community committed to including all in God's love

We aim to spread the message of Jesus' Good News to all those we encounter

We aim to nurture faith and help all to experience God's joyful and vibrant life.

AT YOUR SERVICE:

VICAR: **REV. CHRISTOPHER WOADDEN,**
The vicarage, Church Walk,
Holton-le-Clay
Tel. 01472 824082

CHURCHWARDENS: **MRS. MARGARET WILKINSON**
10 Mount Pleasant, Holton-le-Clay.
Tel 01472 590896 DN36 5ED
MRS. CELIA HADDON
119 Louth Road, Holton-le-Clay.
Tel. 01472 239380 DN36 5AD

OUR WORSHIP: **1st Sunday: 9.30** All age service
Following Sundays: 9.30 am
Wednesdays: 10.30 am Holy Communion
(subject to availability of clergy)

VESTRY HOURS: Mondays from 7-7.30 in the Vestry in Church. Arrangements for Publication of Banns or Baptisms can be made by meeting either the Vicar, one of the Churchwardens or the Parish Secretary.

HOLTON NEWS: Items of news should be sent to:
MRS. JENNY TURNER at: jennnyt63@hotmail.co.uk
Or: 10 Edinburgh Drive, Holton-le-Clay, DN36 5DF by the
20th of each month.

ADVERTISING: Contact **Carol Woodcock** (small ads) 599818
Evelyn Wilson (large ads) 823891

Thought for December, 2014

A Child of Hope!

For Christians, Christmas is a time of hope, renewing our wonder at what is called the Incarnation: God becoming one of us, both fully human and yet fully divine. It is something that people have argued about from the word go in order to understand how this can be. But isn't something that is provable like a maths problem, although we speak in metaphor as though it is, it's much more something like a relationship, some thing that feels right. It's not exactly measureable but it is observable like a mothers love. Christmas is about observing the love of God in action and then recognizing it in ourselves.

For Christians, Christmas is also a time of sadness in that it has become associated with a time of much greed, excess and selfishness. Yes, we all want to celebrate but it should be about love. Charity (a Greek word we translate as love) does get a bit of a look in but mostly as an afterthought as we pass by street collectors tins. There is so much hype about Christmas it's no wonder we often find it rather hollow despite the good works of many.

To have a child should be a wondrous thing but the pressure is on to go back to work as soon as possible and leave the care to someone else at the most formative and precious time. The bond between parent and child is forged in those early years and we seem to go all out to ruin it. Parenthood is THE most important and valuable job in the world. Yet Governments don't really value it and we wonder at the breakdown of communities and the behaviour problems in schools and beyond. We just don't see the link. We don't build people or communities by setting targets but by giving of ourselves to others. Jesus said "Love one another as I have love you." Jn 15 vs12

With Christmas blessings, Rev'd Chris Woadden.

FEBRUARY DIARY

Mon 1st “Messy Christingle” 6.00-7.30 in Church

Sun 7th ADVENT 2

9.30 am Service of the Word; Choir Cantata

Sun 14th ADVENT 3

9.30 am Holy Communion Service

Mon 15th “Messy Nativity” 6.00-7.30 in Church

Please support this children’s event

SUN 21st ADVENT 4

9.30 am Morning Service

24th CHRISTMAS EVE

6 pm Nativity Service for Families/Children

11.30 Midnight Mass

25th CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00 Service of Carols

Sun 28th CHRISTMAS 1

10.00 am Joint service at Tetney

FROM OUR REGISTERS

Baptisms

28th September Albert Eli McMullen

19th October Benjamin Joseph Turner

RIP

13th November - Frances May Smith

13th November - Barry Crawford

SMALL ADS

Curtain making Curtains, roman blinds, cushions, pelmets, and curtain alterations, Your fabric or mine, Marilyn Barton 816389..

Southview Joinery. Building Contractors. Make use of your loft space. The dormer bedroom specialist. Call us now for a FREE estimate. P. Lovelock Tel **07977 019 966**

Raquet stringing Tennis, Squash, Badminton. Ring Chris on **01472 597140**

Auto electrician Electrical fault finding. Code reading, h/free kits, reversing sensors etc. fitted. Call **Mark Hill**

P. J. W. Fab & Eng Ltd. Mini digger with licensed driver for hire. Tel **01472 823638**

Mob 07838 194 714

Senior Citizens Home Hair-dressing Service. 01472 **591640**

Grahams Handyman Services No job too small. All types of work undertaken. Wressell, 38 Holton Mount Tel **827611** or **07712 290528**

Larry Bignell Chartered Financial Planner for all your financial needs. **01472 329479**

Edwina’s Clothing alterations, repairs etc Ring **827570**

Chartered Accountant – over 25 yrs exp. Small business specialist including limited companies.

John Pulford & Co Ltd, 21 Pick-sley Cres Tel **826630** email

John.pulford@ntlworld.com

Mobile hairdresser. All aspects of hairdressing. 10 yrs experience Tel **07979 526 050**

Mark Long Painter and Decorator Interior/exterior Free estimates Tel **826029**

J Byatt – Local Joiner. For all your joinery needs. No jobs too big or small. Free quotes.

Tel **232697** or **07734 729642**

Julie Hall MAFHP Foot Care Practitioner. Treatment solutions for all aspects of foot health in the comfort of your home. Corns, callus, verrucae, nail cutting etc please call **07968 286 968 / 01472 870 755**

Garden Services All garden work undertaken. Also hedges/ dykes flailed, paddocks topped, rolled, harrowed and fertilized. Good rates **01472 592654 Mob 07979 290 940**

Fascia, cladding, guttering inc. seamless aluminium. Doors, windows & replacement glass units. Full roofs, flat & leaking roofs, roof repairs, no job too small. Contact Daz on **01472 347347** or **07855 790 302**

Gardening services Lawns and hedges cut, drives power washed. Reasonable prices.

Patrick Mulligan **01472 232 404**

Wedding photography by experienced photographer. Quality at affordable prices. All areas. Also available for parties, Christenings, birthdays, portfolios. Call **David** **01507 602012** anytime.

Lizanne home and mobile hairdresser welcomes new and existing customers. Tel **01472 591356 / 07847 826 909**

Mistabit Lady Painter and Decorator. Call for free quote. Special rates for OAPs 07711 523 028

Mistabit2010@hotmail.co.uk Humber Heating Services Plumbing, heating installation service and repair. Gas safe reg’d. Call **01472 429 500**

Roy Street DIY for all your DIY needs. Free quotation. No job too small. Tel **01472 590805** Mob **07811 873 331**

Clive the Skyman for all your Sky, TV, Aerial and digital requirements. All work guaranteed. Free quotations. Call **07973 186 455**

Jettaway Drive Clean for quality cleaning. Patios, decking, block paving incl weed killing and re-sanding. Contact Chris on **01472 803304**

All makes of cars serviced and repaired. Specialist in Volkswagen, Audi, Skoda, Seat. Servicing, brakes, tyres, MOTs.

Courtesy car/ door to door collection. Lincs VVA, Station Road Tetney. Will Toyne **01472 812130**

Gray’s Heating Services – Plumbing, Heating, Gas & Oil Boiler Installations, Service & Repair. Bathrooms / Showers & Renewable Energy.

Fully Insured and Gas Safe Registered. **70 Louth Road HLC** Tel: **828086 / Chris 07583263813**

Flirty Frox Prom & Evening Wear Holton Le Clay **www.flirtyfrox.co.uk**

Tel: **01472 824388**

KIM’S CUTS Mobile Barber. Over 20 years experience. From £6 kids/oaps...£8 adults. Tel **07790 996562**

ST PETER'S CHURCH

The Mission of St Peter's Church Community at Holton-le-Clay

We are a worshipping community committed to including all in God's love

We aim to spread the message of Jesus' Good News to all those we encounter

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Arrangements for Publication of Banns or Baptisms
can be made by meeting either the Vicar, one of the
Churchwardens or the Parish Secretary.
THERE WILL BE NO VESTRY ON: 30th March, 6th April
- HOLTON NEWS:** Items of news should be sent to:
MRS. JENNY TURNER at: jennyt63@hotmail.co.uk
Or: 10 Edinburgh Drive, Holton-le-Clay, DN36 5DF
by the **20th** of each month.
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Thought for March, 2015

Scripture, Tradition and Reason!

Traditionally Lent is a season of discipline, and that can sound a negative thing, as we often connect it with punishment but discipline is about learning, Jesus' disciples were learners as are all Christians and other people of faith because they were learning how to live out their faith, intellectually and practically. However a fan is different, as to follow a person or something doesn't mean that you become a better person, just because you know all the words to 'Agadoo' or 'The Sound of Music.'

It is important when learning not only to receive the lesson but to test it - to see if it stands up to scrutiny and then put it into practice. I heard that Stephen Fry is an atheist as he doesn't believe in the capricious God of the Old Testament or that a God would inflict such disease and suffering on the world. I don't believe a God like that either but I'm not an atheist. The problem of pain is a difficult issue for all people of faith (and of none) but it doesn't mean that there cannot be a good God.

The God of the Old Testament is multifaceted and dependent upon the culture and understanding of the particular writer. There is a development in understanding of the nature of God that continues into the New Testament and beyond. Just because people have a faith doesn't mean they leave their brains behind - rather the opposite. Lent isn't about confirming our prejudices but often challenging them.

With blessings, Rev'd Chris Woadden.

MARCH 2015 DIARY

Sun 1st	Lent 2 9.30 Service of the Word
Mon 2nd	PCC Meeting 7.30 pm in the Vicarage
Tues 3rd	Afternoon Tea In the Village Hall 2- 4pm scones, cakes, tea, coffee
Sat 7th	"Pop-In" in Church Extension 10.00-12.00 50p inc refreshments
Sun 8th	Lent 3 9.30 am Holy Communion
Sun 15th	Lent 4 9.30 Service of the Word
Sun 22nd	Lent 5 9.30 am Holy Communion with baptism
Sun 29th	Palm Sunday 9.30 Service of the Word



SMALL ADS

Curtain making Curtains, roman blinds, cushions, pelmets, and curtain alterations, Your fabric or mine, Marilyn Barton 816389..

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Church Lane Cattery, a holiday home for your feline friend. Heated, with outdoor pens, Tel:321912 or visit www.churchlanecattery.co.uk.

Gardening services Lawns and hedges cut, drives power washed. Reasonable prices. **Patrick Mulligan 01472 232 404**

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Brookdale Tree Surgery Fully trained. All tree work. Free Quotation Call 01472 507584/ 07880 715164

Mistabit Lady Painter and Decorator. Call for free quote. Special rates for OAPs 07711 523 028

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Flirty Frox Prom & Evening Wear Holton Le Clay www.flirtyfrox.co.uk **Tel: 01472 824388**

WHAT, WHEN, WHERE

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Rainbows: Girls 5-7 Tues 6-7pm
Community Centre £2.00
Brownies: Girls 7-10 Tues 5.30-7pm
Community Centre £2.00
Guides: Girls 10 + Tues 7pm
Community Centre
For Further Information or to register your Daughter please visit:
www.girlguiding.co.uk

NURSERY/PLAY SCHOOLS

LITTLE MONKEYS

(Parent & Toddler Group) 0-pre-school. £1 per family 1st visit free. Thursdays during term time. 9.30-11.15am. Juice & biscuits, coffee/tea and craft activities included in price. Holton-le-Clay Community Centre (behind Junior School, Picksley Crescent, HLC. Call **Leanne 07751 985112** for further details.

RAINBOW CORNER

DAY NURSERY & KIDS CLUB.

26 Pinfold Lane.

To register a child or for more information ring

599009 (Nursery) or 826162 (Kids Club). Out of hours **822199**

HOLTON LE CLAY PRE-SCHOOL

GROUP (Under 5's) Please contact us on **07963148326** for further information or to register your child

VILLAGE GROUPS

TAI CHI Mon and Thurs 10-11; Wed 7.30-8.30pm all in the New Village Hall. £4 per session
Tel Ann Lee 01472 329951

MESSY CHURCH

All-age family fun in St Peter's
Monday 6 – 7.30 £1
Contact Carol Woodcock 599818

HOLTON LE CLAY

TWINNING. Interested in visiting and receiving a French family once a year? Monthly social meetings.
Contact Jeff or Ros on 841939

HOLTON LADIES' GROUP

Meet in Village Hall
Thurs 12th 12th March Citizens Advice Bureau. Pam James 878922

KNIT AND NATTER GROUP meets in the Church Extension every Monday from 2-4pm. All welcome.

H.C.C.A. Bookings 2015

Please contact **The office on 827707 Mondays between 6.30-9pm and Wednesdays 6.45-9.15pm**

HOLTON LE CLAY CRICKET CLUB.

Tetney Lane. For all your special occasions. Want to know more? Contact **the Club** on 451511 **after 7.30pm.**

HOLTON LE CLAY WHIST

PLAYERS. Community Centre 7.30pm Wednesdays. All welcome
Adm. £1 incl. refreshments

HLC CAMERA CLUB meets 1st **Tuesday** of the month **7.15pm** at Community Centre. Contact **01472 882680** if interested.

HOLTON LE CLAY YOUTH CLUB

meets at the Community Centre 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm Fridays Age – 10 (Year 6) upwards Admission 50p website www.hlcyc.org.uk/

HOLTON LE CLAY PARISH COUNCIL.

Parish Clerk: Lucy Waller
opening Hours MON, WED, FRI 10.00am-12 noon
TUE THUR 12.30-2.00pm

NORTH THORESBY PRACTICE.

Tel. Numbers:
N. Th: 01472 840202
HLC : 01472 828546
Distr. Nse :01507 601160
Hlth.Vis. : 823229

Louth Rural Policing Team

PC Ian Clark 07939 887685
PCSO Justin Mekkaoui 07939 312881
PCSO Mick Dannatt 07500 920318
PCSO Sally Read . 07939 312767
Alternatively you can email the team on:
louthrural.npt@lincs.pnn.police.uk
Follow us on Twitter: @LouthPolice
In an emergency always call 999 – for non-emergency please call 101

Age UK Lindsey offers a home support service provided by fully insured, caring staff. For further information please phone **01507 524798.**

'SLIM AND SHAPE UP'

Weight Management and Fitness Options 4U
Local good fun classes
Tel Mary 825193

MARCH NEWS

THANK YOU FROM CARE Four and a half large boxes of groceries were collected in Church and passed on to the CARE charity for their food bank. This is half a box more than last year, so thank you to everyone who contributed, CARE were very grateful indeed.

Messy Mothering Monday 16th March

Once again, Messy Church will be celebrating Mothering Sunday on the following day, with their usual range of crafting activities, this time featuring flowers. Please meet at the usual time of 6-7.30 pm, if you haven't joined us before but might be interested, please ring Carol Woodcock on 01472 599818 or m.woodcock1@ntlworld.com

POP IN There will be a "Pop - in" on March 7th, 10 - 12noon. Tombola, Bring& Buy, 50p entrance includes drinks & biscuits. Please support us. Thank you, Margaret



FLOWER FESTIVAL This year the theme is "All Things Royal", and the Festival will be held on the weekend of May 2-4. Flower displays will be in Church with Aladdin's Cave in the extension, but this year refreshments will be served in the **Village Hall** along with the usual stalls i.e. plants, tombola, cakes, raffle etc.

A coffee morning to raise funds for the Festival refreshments is to be held in the **Church Extension** on March 21st, with a raffle, tombola and cakes. Entrance £1, to include tea/coffee and hot cross bun. Donations for any of the stalls will be gratefully received, cakes on the day please, items for raffle/tombola can be earlier. Please ring Sue on 591539 if you need anything collected.

In Focus is a publication which can be accessed online; their aim is to help you keep in touch with the activities of the National Church Institution. <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2170296/infocusmarch15.pdf>

URGENT APPEAL FOR HELP WITH DELIVERIES OF HOLTON NEWS

Please help us out (and keep fit at the same time!). We are needing people to deliver the magazine to 51 houses in Tetney Lane. If you can help, please contact Evelyn Wilson (823891). Any help would be appreciated.

LADIES' GROUP Please see **What When Where** for details of meetings.

AFTERNOON TEA The next Afternoon Tea at the Village Hall will be held on **Tuesday 3rd March at 2 pm until 4 pm**. All villagers are invited to share good company and conversation along with the usual selection of scones, cakes, coffee and tea.

**SOME FACTS WHICH YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT YOUR CHURCH**

- 1) For several years now, also during Lent, our vicar Chris, and a lay reader, Kevin make and sell soup on Fridays outside of the CO-OP/Post Office, the proceeds of which are sent to the LEPROSY MISSION.
- 2) The education of several Indian children is sponsored by members of the P.C.C. who sponsor two children, members of the Church Choir who sponsor one child and some members of the congregation also sponsor a child. THE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME has been running for ten years.

Do you have any questions? If so, please ring Margaret, telephone 01472 590896 and I will try to find answers for you.

U3A Have you heard of the U3A? This is a national, non-political and non-denominational organisation for anyone who is retired or semi-retired and is interested in sharing knowledge from art to writing via walking, singing, Pilates, reading and many more between. There is a branch in Louth which meets at Nichol Hill in the afternoon of the second Tuesday of the month for group news and a speaker. Currently there are 37 different interest groups. It costs £10 per year to join the Louth branch of the U3A. You will be most welcome to come along to find out what we do.

More details can be found at <http://lincolnshire.gov.uk/louthu3a> or telephone Ray on 01507 606880.

EAST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL (ELDC)**ELDC WARD COUNCILLORS SURGERY – 3rd WEDNESDAY**

The two Holton-le-Clay Ward councillors hold a surgery. Why not take the opportunity to meet your District Councillors? The date of your local ELDC Councillors' surgery at the Parish Offices is:

Wednesday 18th March 2015 2.00pm-4.00pm

GREEN WASTE COLLECTION – Sign up is now open for 2015/16 register at www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/greenwaste or by phone on 0800 08 55 037 alternatively you can register and pay by cheque at the Parish Council Office during the ELDC Facilities Day. (Service not available at any other time.)

LOUTH HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE, FAIRFIELD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE**OPENING TIMES**

Open- Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday

Hours– 9am – 4pm

Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day

Need some Friendly Financial Advice?

For ALL Aspects of your Finances
Including INVESTMENTS, PENSIONS & PROTECTION
Both BUSINESS & PERSONAL

LARRY BIGNELL

CHARTERED FINANCIAL PLANNER
Hanson Wealth Management

Please call for a confidential review of your situation
Office 01472 329479 Mobile 07768 960 586
www.hansonwealth.co.uk/lbignell

COUNCIL NEWS - PARISH COUNCIL

WEBSITE: <http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/HoltonleClay>

TEL: 01472 825467

NEW PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10.00 am to 12.00 pm.

Tuesday and Thursday 12.30 pm to 2.00 pm.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN- DO YOU WANT A SAY IN FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN HOLTON-LE-CLAY? WHY NOT JOIN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN GROUP AND HELP IN THE PRODUCTION OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN? Contact the Parish Council for further details.

PHOTOCOPYING – Photocopying is now available to residents at the Parish Council Office, during opening hours, at a charge of 10p per side mono & 30p per side colour.

SALT- There are 2 Tonnes of Salt at The Parish Council Office for personal use by Members of the Public during icy weather. The Public may help themselves, during opening hours, to reasonable amounts for personal use.

PARISH GARDENS-Some Parish Gardens have become available, please contact the Parish Council for further details.

DATE OF NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS – 7.00 PM

The next two Full Council meetings will be Monday 16th March and 20th April.

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES As at 30 Jan 2014. General Account £61153.22 and Burial Account £6873.12 (General Reserve £18,417.00 PWLB Loan Repayments).

EAST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL (ELDC)

EAST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL – MONTHLY FACILITIES DAY

A District Council Customer Services representative visits Holton-le-Clay on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The dates of the forthcoming ELDC Facilities Day are 11th March & 8th April 2015: 9.00 am-1.00 pm and 2.00 pm-4.00 pm.

BULKY ITEMS OF WASTE

If you need to dispose of bulky items of household waste, i.e. refrigerators, freezers, cookers, beds, etc., please contact East Lindsey District Council on **01507 601111** to arrange collection. The fee is £15.00 for up to 4 items.

HERE AND THERE

Mobile Library Service

Stop	Arrive	Depart	Day
Peppercorn Walk	10.45	11.45	Wed
Pinfold Lane*	12.30	13.30	Wed
Wold View	1.45	2.45	Wed
Louth Road	3.00	3.30	Wed



The Mobile Library no longer visits on Saturdays

Date	Sidespersons	Reader
Mar 1	Pauline Hall /Evelyn Wilson	Rose Hubbard
08	Ann Woadden /Kath Dennis	Bill Tubbs
15	Bill Tubbs /Sue Merriman	Margaret Wilkinson
22	Linda Walker /Joyce Pattison	Carol Woodcock
29	Carol Woodcock/ Evelyn Wilson	Jan Harrison
Apr 5	Pauline Hall/Kathleen Dennis	George Wilson

Altar Flowers

Mar 1	LENT
08	LENT
15	LENT
22	LENT
29	LENT – PALM SUNDAY
Apr 5	EASTER DAY

Holton Le Clay Parochial Church Council

Preliminary Income & Expenditure Summary

January 2015

	Income	Expenditure
Year to date on last report	£29,064.34	-£61,982.64
Adjustments	£285.94	
Income/expenditure 2014	£29,350.28	-£61,982.64
Income & expenditure Jan 2015	£1,924.71	-£1,001.71
Year to date at 31/01/15	£1,924.71	-£1,001.71

Note: On 20th March 2014 the PCC invested £37,000 into the Community Hall, which was its' net proceeds from the sale of the Church Hall.

LOUTH PLAYGOERS RIVERHEAD THEATRE

Victoria Road, Louth



MARCH

16th – 21st **Journey's End** by R.C. Sherriff. This is Louth Playgoers' production to mark the centenary of WW1. A stunning dramatic play.

27th **House of Ghosts** – inspired by Inspector Morse novels & presented by Baroque Theatre Company

28th **John Shuttleworth** – A Wee Ken to Remember !

You can now book your tickets online!!!!

Box Office 01507 600350 www.louthplaygoers.co.uk



Mary Magdalene's Story

I was one of the first people to witness the greatest miracle in history. That was a highpoint of my life. But my story didn't start there. If you had met me earlier in my life, you would never have believed God would choose me to play a special part in his plans. I guess you could say I'm proof that God really does change lives!

When I first met Jesus, I was a complete mess. They made my life miserable - they ruined my relationships with other people and with God. I But when I met Jesus, my life changed forever. He cast out the evil spirits and made me a new person. After that I followed Jesus wherever he went. was part of a small group of women who travelled with Jesus and gave money to support him and his disciples.

But after a while, things started getting tense. The religious leaders got really angry at Jesus. One awful night they had Jesus arrested and decided he should be killed - even though he hadn't done anything wrong! When they hung Jesus on the cross, many of his other followers left. Maybe they were scared or just didn't know what to do. But I wasn't going anywhere. I stayed right there with Jesus, near the cross.

I stayed there until he died, and I watched as he was buried. One Sunday morning, as soon as I could, I rushed to the tomb where they' placed Jesus' body, I was expecting to find him there dead. But it was the strangest thing – the big stone that covered the opening of the tomb was rolled back. The tomb was open! I peeked inside, but Jesus' body wasn't there. He was gone!

I was so upset. I went outside and tried to figure out what might have happened. I saw a man standing nearby, and I thought he might be the gardener. I asked him if he had taken Jesus somewhere. "Mary," he said. All at once I knew it was Jesus! He was alive!

Jesus had told us many times that he would be raised from the dead, but I didn't really understand it before. Now here I was, the first person to see Jesus when he came back to life. His resurrection was the biggest miracle in history.

I ran as fast as I could to tell Jesus' other friends what I had found out. Jesus was alive, and he chose me – a changed woman – to share the good news!

Tales from a Country Plumber - No 1 of an occasional series

One of my favourite jobs during my 50 years as a plumber, was installing mains water into houses which had either worked on a pump system or had had no water supply at all! I sometimes find it hard to believe that mains water supply only came to Holton le Clay in December 1947 and the first person to receive it was Mrs E Metcalf in Clay Lane. At that time the population of Holton was just over 1000.