

Holton le Clay Village Hall

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To View The Hall Contact Eddie 07711 511 559

or Helen 07707 550 518

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HOLTON NEWS

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JUNE 2015

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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: jennyt63@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
We aim to nurture faith and help all to experience God's joyful and vibrant life.

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Tel. 01472 824082
- CHURCHWARDENS:** **MRS. MARGARET WILKINSON**
10 Mount Pleasant, Holton-le-Clay.
Tel 01472 590896 DN36 5ED
MRS. SUE MERRIMAN,
25, Ashby Close, Holton le Clay
Tel 01472 591539
- OUR WORSHIP:** **1st Sunday: 9.30** All age service
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(subject to availability of clergy)
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by the **20th** of each month.
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Thought for June 2015

Move when the Spirit says MOVE!

The Tories have won a majority and been able to form a new government against all the odds it seems. The political landscape though has changed decisively and it may not favour the old adversaries for much longer. In allowing the Scottish referendum the Tories may have disabled Labour by emboldening the SNP for the present but have let the genie out of the bottle. The NO vote was won only by making many concessions and the vote could have backfired nevertheless with the dismantling of the Union. Who knows what the future holds with a question that is unlikely now to go away rather than being silenced.

Whilst I am not a fan of UKIP, I have to agree that it is grossly unfair that a party that polled 10% of the votes only got one seat and a party that polled only 36% gets to govern when 64% voted against them. The old two party system worked well with first past the post but that has been swept away and I am loath to say it but proportional representation has now to be a fairer system under this changed political landscape. The Lib Dems were punished for it, but proved that a coalition can work well, as many PR countries testify. Power is already having to be handed back to the regions, more will have to follow if we are to keep the union together.
Having sown the wind let's not reap the whirlwind

The disciples were ineffectual after Jesus ascended but were energised when the Holy Spirit came. Jesus said "The wind blows where it wills, so it is with the spirit" John 3 vs 8.

With blessings, Rev'd Chris Woadden.

JUNE 2015 DIARY

Mon 1 st	7.30 PCC Meeting
Sat 6 th	Pop-In 10.00am – 12.00
Sun 7 th	Sunday after Trinity 9.30 Morning Service 6.30pm Deanery Confirmation Service at Riby
Tues 9 th	Afternoon Tea at the Village Hall 2 pm until 4 pm.
Sat 13 th	2pm Wedding
Sun 14 th	2nd Sunday after Trinity 9.30 am Holy Communion
Sun 21 st	3rd Sunday after Trinity 9.30 Morning Service
Sun 28 th	4th Sunday after Trinity 9.30 am Holy Communion
Baptisms 19 th April	Teagan Orla Griffin
17 th May	Atticus Harry Jack Krogh and Aurora Nelle Louisa Krogh



SMALL ADS

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

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

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John Pulford & Co Ltd, 21 Picksley 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**

TEA SHOP & TAKE OUT at **THE BAKE HOUSE,** Peaks Lane New Waltham. FABULOUS CAKES! & FILLED ROLLS **TEL: 07786304907**

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. Coms, callus, verrucae, nail cutting etc please call **07968 286 968 / 01472 870 755**

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

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

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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.flirtyfroxx.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, Thursdays during term time. 9.30-11.30am. Juice & biscuits, coffee/tea and craft activities included in price. Holton le Clay Sure Start Children's Centre, next to the 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 7.30 pm
Thurs 11th June Charity bingo night with prizes. 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 Village Hall, Pinfold Lane. Contact **01472 882680** if interested.

Mobile Butcher's Shop
10.00 – 3.00pm outside
Louth Rd Shops
Every Wednesday
LINCOLNSHIRE MEAT
From Fairfield Farm

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.hlccy.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

JUNE NEWS

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone who helped to make our Church look so beautiful during our Flower Festival. The skilful arrangers interpreted the theme "All Things Royal" in many different ways, but how obliging of Princess Charlotte, the Queen's first Great Grandchild, to decide to be born on the first day of our festival!! A big thank you to Sue Merriman for heading-up the team of arrangers and everything which that entails, and also to the Church sitters who covered our opening hours by welcoming our visitors, handing out programmes and answering questions regarding the flower arrangements and regarding our old Church. Aladdin's Cave was a great success again this year, our experiment of moving the Tombola to the Village Hall, to give more room in the extension, worked well. Many thanks to Sue Borman and her team who looked after that for me. As for me, I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to my friends (and friends of friends) who collected every item from my home and arranged it all for me on the Thursday because I was too ill to do anything that day. I recovered enough to be there for the actual festival, but was looked after by the people selling the bargains who spent more time than they had planned, because of their concern for me. What would I have done without you? We raised just over £800. Thank you also to everyone who donated all the items for the Tombola and Aladdin's Cave. I am now collecting good quality clothing as well, so watch out for future notices. Many thanks. Margaret.

POP-IN There will be a "**Pop - in**" on **June 6th**, 10 - 12noon. Tombola, Bring & Buy, 50p entrance includes drinks & biscuits. Please support us. Thank you, Margaret

THANK YOU. On behalf of Rose, Kathleen and myself, a huge thank you to everyone who helped and supported us with the catering during the Flower Festival weekend. Thanks also go to those who kindly donated items of food. It was a successful and enjoyable weekend in our new Village Hall. Pat Mellor



LADIES' GROUP Please see **What When Where** for details of meetings. Family and friends are very welcome to this month's Charity Bingo night.

TUESDAY 9 JUNE - Afternoon Tea at the Village Hall - 2 pm until 4 pm. All villagers and their friends very welcome at this pleasant social occasion. Tea and coffee available and, as always, a fine selection of scones and cakes to enjoy.



HLC MERC (the Village Hall committee) invite all villagers to a **Public Meeting** at the **Village Hall on TUESDAY 9 JUNE at 7 pm**. Eddie Coulbeck, Chairman of HLC MERC, said "the hall has now been open for a year and used for a wide range of activities. We are pleased with the success so far but we invite all villagers to attend this meeting so that they can express their points of view on the running of the hall and make suggestions as to its future development".

Churchwarden As many of you know, I have resigned as Churchwarden after a tenure of six years (not long compared to Margaret's 30 plus years) owing to increasing deafness. On May 11th this year the post officially passed to Sue Merriman. I should like to thank all of you who have given me help and advice, particularly to Margaret Wilkinson, who has steered me through my efforts with kindness, wisdom, laughter, and coffee. We are extremely fortunate to have Sue as our new Churchwarden with her gifts of diligence, flair, straight-forwardness, practicality, humanity and humour. I hope you will join Margaret and myself in wishing Sue a happy and rewarding wardenship. Celia Haddon

CEILIDH (BARN DANCE)

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped prepare for this event. It was a really popular evening with a great band and an excellent caller. Everyone enjoyed the dancing and the supper so much that there will be another, probably in October.

AND FINALLY... Sue Merriman would like to thank all who helped with the flowers in Church, especially Jan Harrison for the loan of her husband Ray!

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 10th June and 8th July.

9.00 am-1.00 pm and 2.00 pm-4.00 pm.

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.)

Need some Friendly Financial Advice?

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

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www.hansonwealth.co.uk/lbignell

COUNCIL NEWS - PARISH COUNCIL

WEBSITE: <http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/HoltonleClay>
TEL: 01472 234566 EMAIL HLC.PC@BTCONNECT.COM

DOGS FOULING

8 Acres field and the old railway line, we ask all dog holders to be responsible and clean up after their pets. If anyone witnesses dog fouling they are to report it to the ELDC on 01507 601111 and ask for Dog Warden or text DOG to 07781481328.

Reminder – if you do not clean up after your dog, you could incur a £75.00 on the spot fine with a maximum penalty of £1000.00.

AMENITY GRASS CUTTING DATES

W/C 1st, 8th and 22nd June 2015 (weather permitting)

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Wednesday and Friday 10.00 am to 12.00 pm.

Tuesday and Thursday 12.30 pm to 2.00 pm.

Monday,

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.

DATE OF NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS – 7.00 PM

June to be confirmed, July- Monday 20th

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES As at 30th April 2015. **General Account** £70620.56 (including £29590 earmarked reserves and £12000 compulsory reserves) **Burial Account** £6909.52 (For Cemetery upkeep)

Weightwatchers meeting at the Community Centre every Friday at 10am, £10 for the first month, for more information contact Anna on 07706 458 185, all welcome



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
June 07	Pauline Hall/ Kathleen Dennis	Sally Osborne
14	Ann Woadden / Sue Merriman	Jean Graham
21	Bill Tubbs / Joyce Pattison	Sue Borman
28	Linda Walker / Carol Woodcock	Margaret Wilkinson

Altar Flowers

June 07	S Osborne
14	P James
21	S Borman / J Kinge
28	J Pattison / P Mellor

Thank you for donations for flowers from J. Cooper and Margaret Wilkinson.

Holton Le Clay Parochial Church Council

Preliminary Income & Expenditure Summary

April 2015

	Income	Expenditure
Year to date on last report	£7,165.16	-£5,683.85
Adjustments		
Income/expenditure to Mar 2015	£7,165.16	-£5,683.85
Income & expenditure Apr 2015	£1,957.46	-£5,093.53
Year to date at 30/04/15	£9,122.62	-£10,777.38

LOUTH PLAYGOERS RIVERHEAD THEATRE

Victoria Road, Louth



JUNE

- 5th & 6th** **'Start of Something Big'** Presented by **Steve Walker's Big Swing Band**
- 9th** **'April in Paris'** - Presented by **Reform Theatre & Harrogate Theatre**
- 18th** **'Company'** - Presented by **Lincoln Performing Arts Centre**
- 25th – 27th** **'The Pirates of Penzance'** - Presented by the **New London Opera Company**

You can now book your tickets online!!!!

Box Office 01507 600350

www.louthplaygoers.co.uk



EXAMS

Children in England are the most tested in the world. According to the *Times Educational Supplement*, it is estimated that they will undertake up to 105 tests and exams during their school years. These include SATs – optional and compulsory – GCSEs, NVQs, GNVQs, modular and vocational A Levels, etc. As a result of the pressure this creates, Childline estimates that it receives 800 calls a year from pupils suffering from exam stress. Also the annual cost of exams and tests has increased to more than

£200 million – a 50 per cent rise since 1997. And to make matters worse, after all the stress, anxiety, effort and sleepless nights, when the results come in, the media tell us that exams are getting easier!

Some people find exams easier than others. Here are some examples of real answers given by exam candidates who perhaps didn't do very well.

When you smell an odourless gas, it is probably carbon monoxide.

Dew is formed on leaves when the sun shines down on them and makes them perspire.

The moon is a planet just like the earth, only it is even deader.

The skeleton is what is left after the insides have been taken out and the outsides have been taken off.

Noah's wife was Joan of Ark.

What is a co-operative? It's a kind of shop that is not as dear as places like Marks and Spencer.

What is Britain's highest award for valour in war? Nelson's Column.

But do we really need all these tests and exams? Does being bad at exams make us failures? God clearly doesn't think so. The Bible has numerous examples of people having tests set by God, many of whom were abject failures.

Adam and Eve in Genesis 3 were tested by God in the Garden of Eden. They, of course, failed, but God didn't give up on them. Job was tested by Satan, he passed with flying colours. Jesus at the beginning of his ministry was tested by Satan and passed all three of his exams (Luke 4.1 – 13). In some of these examples, those who were failures went on to achieve greatness because they trusted in God and persevered. Above all, they tried. A college professor stood before his class of 20 biology students, about to hand out the final exam. 'I want to say that it's been a pleasure teaching you this term. I know you've all worked extremely hard and many of you are off to medical school after the summer holiday. So that no one gets their overall grades messed up because they might have been celebrating a bit too much this week, anyone who would like to opt out of the final exam today will receive a B for the course. There was much rejoicing among the class as students got up, passed by the professor to thank him and sign out on his offer. As the last taker left the room the professor closed the door and took attendance of those students remaining. 'I'm glad to see you believe in yourself,' he said. 'You all have A's.'