

**St Botolph's Chronicle**  
**Update 21**  
**Week Ending**  
**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August**

**This week's Editor –**  
**Carole**

Dear Friends,

Growing up in the 50's & 60's I would hear the phrase "White privilege" sometimes but it was in connection to the civil rights conflicts happening in the USA and the evil that was the Klu Klux Klan. As a working-class girl, I had my own battles to fight, an educational path which many did not deem suitable for someone who would just "get married and have babies". I, of course, had other ideas. Not much better in the 70's when I was refused a hire purchase agreement without the permission of my husband; you can imagine my response!

Teaching in multi-cultural schools within London taught me a great deal over the years about racial prejudice and I admit, shamefully, in the early years I did not always react appropriately or call it out as I would do now.

Once my youngest son was a teenager the "white privilege" began to make sense. He would come home having been out with his friends (of various ethnic backgrounds) complaining about the police stop and search policy. His group would be out enjoying themselves, hurting no one, maybe loud as teenage boys can be; the police would stop them, and his black friends would be searched. Colin would ask "What about me, we've been together, anything they've done so have I". The answer "You don't fit the profile" to which Colin would reply "You mean I'm not black!" I saw first-hand the anger and resentment being instilled in the youth of the 90's as racial profiling became the everyday accepted behaviour of authority.



Now I am a very proud Grandma of a beautiful mixed-race baby boy. His father has never been stopped by the police because of the colour of his skin (white privilege) but his mother has and on numerous occasions when out with her brothers. We have displayed in our front window a "Black Lives Matter" poster. This does not mean that other lives do not matter but for far too long (hundreds of years) black lives have not mattered so this needs redressing.



Recently we have seen black men being killed on the streets by white police officers in the USA. In the UK black people are being stopped for no other reason than the colour of their skin. That is why the BLM movement was formed to give a voice to those black victims of racism. No one should be judged purely on their skin colour. As Christians we know that every one of us is precious to God, every life matters to Him. I want Marley to grow up in a world where God's message of love, acceptance and tolerance is recognised on Earth as it is in Heaven.

Carole

Do not forget the Helpline number if you cannot get through on our usual numbers  
07592 065567

**Prayers** – a prayer for the week ahead

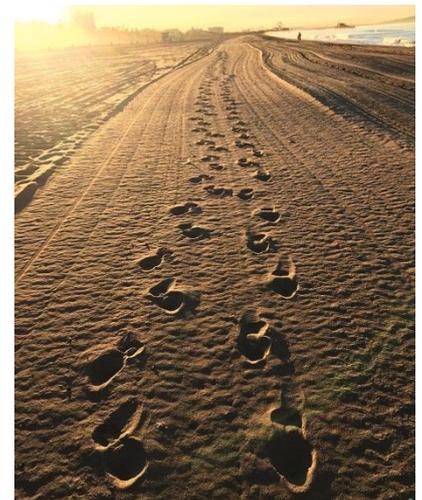
One night I dreamed a dream.  
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.  
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.  
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,  
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me,  
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.  
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,  
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,  
there was only one set of footprints.

This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.  
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,  
You'd walk with me all the way.  
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,  
there was only one set of footprints.  
I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you  
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.  
When you saw only one set of footprints,  
It was then that I carried you."

We pray Lord, at this time of continued uncertainty and stress, that you will carry every one of us. Amen



## Foodbank Urgent Request for Food

**Sleaford Larder are very low on food, toiletries, nappies, etc.**



**If you are able to help in any way, please drop your items off to New Life Church between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday**

(if you have contributions but are unable to get out please contact Carole (01529 307781) who will arrange for collection

### **Photo Gallery**

We are creating a gallery of images from this time of Lockdown. We are hoping to show what, as a parish, we are creating or observing. Why not join in? Please have a look at <http://quarringtonchurchsleaford.co.uk> . You can send your photos (jpegs please) to [stbquarrington890@gmail.com](mailto:stbquarrington890@gmail.com)

### **A Song of Gladness by Michael Morpurgo**

I've been talking every morning to blackbird, telling him why we are all so sad at the moment. He sits on his branch and listens.



It was blackbird's idea. He sang out this morning at dawn from his treetop in the garden, to fox half asleep behind the garden shed. She thought it a good idea too. It was a wake-up call. Fox was on her feet at once, and trotting through Bluebell Wood, where she barked it to deer who ran off across the stream. Kingfisher was there, otter and dipper too. They heard, and piped it on, and swallow swooped down over the meadow, and passed it on to cows waiting to go into their milking, and to sheep resting quietly under the hedge with her lambs in the corner of the dew-damp field.

And they all agreed, bleating it out to bees already busy at their flowers, to weaving spiders, and grasshoppers, and scurrying mice. Trees heard sheep calling too, the whole flock of them, and waved their budding leaves in wild enthusiasm; and high above, the clouds wandered through the skies driven by wind, and wind took blackbird's idea over the cliffs across heaving seas, where gulls and albatross cried it out, and whales and dolphins and porpoises heard it, and wailed and whooped it down into the deep, where turtles listened, and they too loved the idea. So did plankton and

every fish and crab and sea urchin and whelk, they all whispered that it was a fine notion, the best they ever heard.

And the whisper went over the sea on the curling waves to the shores of Africa, where



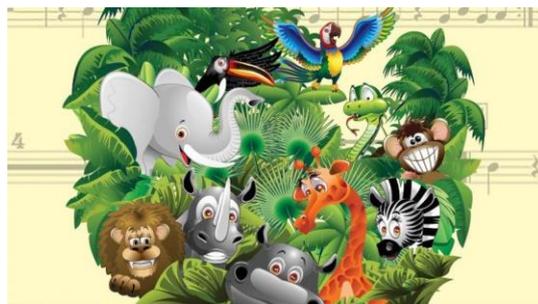
lions roared their approval, and elephants trumpeted it, leopards yawned it, water buffalo belched it; wild dogs yelped it. Wildebeest murmured it out across the savanna; and storm lifted the idea up over rainforests, where rain took it and poured it down on gorillas in the mist, on chimpanzees in their sleeping nests. Howler monkeys and gibbons echoed their calls loud over all the earth – they are that loud; and then from far up high, sun

heard it too and shone it down over deserts where oryx stamped her foot impatient to be getting on with it and doing it – she loved the idea that much. Even camel, who rarely joined in anything, thought this was the best and most beautiful idea he had ever heard.

Back in the garden, blackbird waited till everyone was ready. And then he began to sing. And the whole carnival of animals, every living thing on this good earth joined in, until the globe echoed with the joy of it. And blackbird was very pleased.

But I was still lost in sadness, as I heard the earth singing around me. It was a song of forgiveness. I knew that. So, I asked blackbird if I could join in. And he sang his answer back to me.

“Why do you think we are doing this, you silly man? We want you and yours to be happy again. Only then will you treat us and the world right again, as you know you should. Only then will all be well. Sing, silly man, sing, sing. Our song is your song, your song is our song.”



So, I sang, we all sang, sang away our sadness. In every house and flat and cottage, we clapped and sang, in every hut and tent, in every palace and hospital and prison. And they heard and we heard our song of gladness echoing all together, in glorious harmony across the universe.

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• *Michael Morpurgo founded the Farms for City Children charity.*

Thanks to Tim Conning for submitting this very relevant story

### **Parish News**

The opening of the church continues to go well and will be open for private prayer on Fridays 11-12noon and on Mondays 1-2 pm. **In order for this to run smoothly two people are needed each session to act as stewards, if you are able to help with this please contact Al.**

## **Church clock**

Oh dear! Just when we thought all was well with the clock there was a thunderstorm and the church was struck by lightning! Luckily, the lightning conductor did its job so there was no fire but unfortunately the clock mechanism was not so lucky. It has been taken away by the clock repairers and the insurance company informed. Meanwhile the Just Giving page has reached a wonderful total just over £900, many thanks to all who have contributed.



## **QUIZ GIRLS' NAMES**

Each of the words below has a group of letters missing, and each group of missing letters is a girl's name. Can you supply the girls' names to complete all of these words?

1	BIG***	
2	***AKS	
3	ARM***	
4	****CEN	
5	SUM****	
6	DIL****	
7	T****FUL	
8	BAND****	
9	****CITY	
10	SAT****T	
11	A****BLE	
12	PREG*****	
13	SPH*****L	
14	HAR*****	
15	VA*****TE	
16	PARA*****L	
17	UNIVER*****	
18	DEC*****TION	
19	****NAC	
20	PLE*****	

**Any articles, pictures or suggestions please send to**

[Carolesheard@icloud.com](mailto:Carolesheard@icloud.com) or phone 01529 307781/07970748983 if you would like something collecting

**During August it has been decided there will be just two editions of the newsletter so the next issue will be week ending 28<sup>th</sup> August. The frequency of issues will be reviewed in September**

## **Mission and Ministry events for August 2020**

The following events will continue through August

### **Ministry**

Morning Prayer – each weekday (Monday to Friday) at 9.30am on Zoom

Private Prayer in Church - Monday 1pm to 2pm and Friday 11am-12 noon

### **Mission and Support**

Coffee and Chat every Tuesday at 11am on Zoom

Pastoral Team meeting every Wednesday at 2pm on Zoom

### **Events which are on furlough until September!**

Tiddlywinks

Bible Study

The Mission and Ministry Team wish you all a blessed summer.

## **Giving During the Lockdown**

If you wish to donate by cheque, or set up a regular gift through the bank by standing order, then please give to the following account: -

### *By bank transfer*

Bank: HSBC. Account Name: St Botolph's Church, Quarrington.

Sort Code: 40-42-07

Account No 21515403

### *By Cheque:*

Please send any cheques made payable to "St Botolph's Church Quarrington"  
to Mr D Pursell, St Botolph's Church Treasurer, 75 London Road, Sleaford, NG34 7LL

### *Via the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)*

PGS receives regular giving on our behalf via the direct debit system and then passes it on to us, including the Gift Aid on behalf of taxpayers. More details from our treasurer

Please do not hesitate to contact David Pursell on 01529 306448 or by e-mail at [jndpursell@hotmail.com](mailto:jndpursell@hotmail.com) to get information or advice about any aspect of our giving. And thanks again for your continued support.