

St Mary's Church News



Messages from Revd Adam and Bertie

Dear Reader,

I hope all is good and peaceful with you.

I apologise for not writing myself, but so many of you have stopped Bertie on our walks recently that he has insisting on writing to you.

Enjoy!!

All Blessings
Adam (Vicar)

Dear Friend,

If you know me well, or even if you've only ever seen me in passing, you'll know what I love the most... yup – a tennis ball! I like chasing all tennis balls but my favourite is a Wilson one. The vicar says he won't buy me any more of those as he says, "they're far too expensive to be wasted on you, Bertie, as you keep losing them in the field or in a hedge somewhere!" I must admit I do lose them sometimes. I get distracted by a good scent or a squirrel to chase. But I'm not the

only one who loses stuff. Did you hear about the vicar? It was the talk of the villages for a whole week or two! He went out, you see, with the usual stuff in his pockets; door key, doggy bags, and that thing that so many of you are attached to all the time, what he sometimes calls a *dog and bone* although I have no idea at all what he's going on about there; it's not like any dog or bone I've ever seen! Something to do with something called 'cockney rhyming slang' he says when I look at him all perplexed. Anyhow, there we were, having a good old session with the ball, and I had chased and fetched it, fetched and chased it all around the fields and back home again, when he put his hand in his pocket and realised that he had lost something... yup, his phone!

Now the thing is, when I lose a ball I have a good old sniff here and there for a few moments, but then I give up as there's always another tennis ball that appears. You would think the vicar would take a leaf out of my book, but he didn't at all. Instead, he went into full-on obsessive mode! First, he made me walk back round where we'd been. People saw him looking in the long grass and weeds. Many of them were very kind and asked him what he was up to. And when he told them he'd lost it, they joined in looking too!! This went on for days. Every time we went out, he didn't bother chucking me the ball and instead he carried on searching for that which he had lost. After a week of searching, he was speaking to the owner of one of my mates who had this weird contraption thing he lent him. It was a pole with a box on the top and a circular thing on the bottom (like the plastic discs that get chucked around on the beach). Off he dragged me for over three hours while he walked the same walk all over again, very slowly wafting this thing side-to-side as he went. It was most strange. Every so often it would make this loud beeping noise and the vicar would poke around in the undergrowth a bit and then carry on wafting. People kept on asking him "Are you looking for treasure?" and one bloke laughed asking "Are you bomb disposal?" (I'm sure that might mean something to you, it was lost on me!) Anyhow, after two-and-a-half weeks of slow walks around the same boring route in the torrential rain (which gave him a proper cold) and then the hot sun, he finally gave up looking for it and got a new one!

It got me thinking a bit. I've heard the vicar telling stories of a lost sheep and a lost coin. Have you heard them before? He says Jesus told them first. How this shepherd and this lady went looking for that which was lost, how they didn't give up until the shepherd found his sheep and the lady her coin. The vicar says these stories show just how faithful and never-ending God's love is for each of us and how he never gives up on anyone, no matter how lost they might be. Having seen the vicar looking for his phone, perhaps I can see that!

I guess there are many other ways in which we can become 'lost' as we go on our walks in life. Have you felt that? Do you feel lost now? Or do you feel that you have lost something or perhaps even someone? The vicar says that God can find you wherever you are (unlike his phone). For when we are lost God comes to find us... when we are in despair he walks beside us... when we feel we've lost something of ourselves or someone else, God reminds us that he loves us. That sounds pretty good to me. Perhaps it does to you?

The vicar says that many of us are feeling loss or a bit lost at the moment. That's why he's been saying how good it is that we can remember God finds us when we get together at the outdoor services put on for our villages in Dunholme churchyard on a Sunday morning. (You should give it a try; it's made really safe and we're not restricted by the lack of space indoors. We can even

sing together too which is ace... although my voice is a little rough!) Perhaps you might like to come along and see what or who you might find?

Anyhow, I guess I ought to go now. It's time to hunt out a tennis ball or two and bark at the vicar until I annoy him enough to throw it!

Have a great month of July!

Woof! Woof!

Bertie the Vicarage Dog



Light Up St Mary's

St Mary's church will be specially lit up in July as follows:

- ♥ 23rd July: **Edith Everett.** "In loving memory of Edith Everett, a wonderful Mum and Gran, whose birthday it would have been today. You are ever in our thoughts and hearts. From the family, with all our love."

If you have any special memories that you would like to mark or an upcoming event that you would like to celebrate in a special way, why not sponsor the floodlights of your church? For a donation of £10, you can have St Mary's floodlit just for you! Call Peter Everett on 01673 861253 for further details.

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During July, St Mary's, St Chad's and St Germain's churches in our benefice will be praying for Welton streets as follows: Eastfield Lane, Eastfield Close, Musgraves Orchard, Owls End and Dovecote Drive.

If you would like to join us as prayer triplets or would like to know a bit more before you make up your mind, please contact Glyn on 861907 or Dave on 860986.