

## **St Clement's Church News November 2017**

The Heritage Lottery Funded restoration project is progressing well. The timbers on the north and south aisle roofs have been repaired, and the zinc roofing is being put in place. The wall blocking the entrance to the south porch has been removed and has revealed two arches from different periods of the church's history. The Grainthorpe Heritage Group are presently working on the production of the new church guide and website with Ian Marshman of Heritage Lincolnshire. As part of the "Maker's Mark" project in September we ran a "Felted Picture" workshop with textile artist Sue Hawkmoon, it was great fun and the ladies attending produced some lovely work. Look out for more workshops in 2018!

**Festival of Art:** St Clements was not available as the venue for the exhibition this year, but with the help of Lee Baker, restoration works foreman, Ian Marshman of Heritage Lincolnshire and our churchwardens we were able to invite visitors to the festival to view the progress with a "Hard Hat Tour" and over 358 people had a look. Visitors were also invited to contribute to the graffiti on the church path inspired by the graffiti in the old lead from the north aisle roof which was on display. The pavement art looked stunning at the end of the weekend.

**Community Pom-pom Christmas Tree:** Visitors and volunteers at the Arts Festival helped us to launch the project and started making pompoms for the Christmas Tree. Over a 1000 will be required to cover the 8ft structure! There has been an outbreak of pompom making throughout Grainthorpe, and we would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to be involved. On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November there will be a "pompom and cake" drop in session 1.30-3.30 in the village hall so we can assess progress – do come along if you wish to join in.

**Memorial Organ Fund:** The memorial organ has been restored, and will soon be reinstalled in St Clements; it will require retuning several times over the next few weeks before it settles back into its home. The PCC are delighted with the response to the "Sponsor a Pipe" appeal, and there are still pipes available for sponsorship – contact Richard Drinkel if you are interested on 01472 388825. It will be fantastic to have the organ back in its full glory for Christmas! There will be a service of rededication in 2018.

**Christmas Wreath Drop-in Workshop.** This event is taking place on Saturday 16<sup>nd</sup> December in the village hall from 11.00am-2.00pm. Come and make a wreath for your door, the bases, greenery and ribbon will be provided, but you could provide extra decorations to make yours more individual! The fee is £20, and this will include refreshments. The completed Christmas Pompom tree will be on display in St Clements during the day

### **Church Services**

November 19<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion 11.00am in village hall

December 17<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion 11.00am back in St Clement's Church

December 24<sup>th</sup> – Crib Service – 4pm

December 31<sup>st</sup> – Benefice Service – 10.30am

### **Who was Mary Doe?**

There is an intriguing gravestone near the entrance gate of St Clements – that of Mary Doe, who died in 1912 at the age of 79, after spending 69 years in bed. Why was she in bed for 69 years? Was she a jilted bride? In fact she had a terrible accident on a swing when she was about 10 years

old, and lived a life of pain as a result of her injuries. She did undergo surgery – can you imagine what that would have been like in 1830? She was well looked after by her family, and wrote poetry, much of it rather sad and full of suffering, and “Verses composed by Mary Doe of Grainthorpe” were published and printed in 1855 by E Squire, printer of Eastgate, Louth, when she was 22 by her friends and family.

As part of the St Clements Heritage Lottery funded project Ian Marshman of Heritage Lincolnshire is going to produce educational materials based on the life of Mary Doe – She was bedridden throughout the whole of the Victorian and Edwardian eras – what changes did she see in Grainthorpe during that time? Her medical treatment would have been fairly barbaric in 1830, how would it be different today? Had she not been born in a relatively well-off family what would her life been like, she could have ended up dependant on the parish or even in the workhouse!

In 2000 a Mrs Kirstine Drinkell wrote to the vicar of Grainthorpe about her great, great, great aunt, Mary Doe. Her relatives, Ernest and Edith Searby, whose grandfather was Mary’s brother Edward, had died the previous year . Mrs Drinkell had taken the trouble to type out all the poems from her copy of the book. Does anyone know Kirstine Drinkel or any of Mrs Searby’s family? We would love to get in touch with her, and find out more about Mary Doe, and see a copy of the book of poems. Please contact Mary-Anne if you have any information on 01472 388825 or [r-  
ma@canalfarmcottages.co.uk](mailto:ma@canalfarmcottages.co.uk)