

NEWS

Release



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Spire celebrates its birthday in style!

The celebrations of the 500th birthday of the graceful spire that crowns the Parish Church of St James came to a dramatic climax on Sunday with a series of events ending with a spectacular firework display from the church itself.

On Sunday morning members of the regular congregation were joined by a number of visitors – including a group from Williamsburg Virginia whose visit reflected the long links between Louth and what are now the eastern states of the USA. At the service the Bishop of Grimsby preached a sermon that drew on the place of the church as being at the spiritual heart of the community and rededicated the spire as the crowning glory of a building that has been at the centre of Louth for many centuries. During the afternoon many visitors made their way into St James and the bells were rung – pealing out over the town's Victorian Market.

The evening's celebrations started with the choir of St James' leading a service of Festal Evensong where the Rector of Louth, the Rev'd Nick Brown, spoke of the role of the church both as a place of prayer but equally as a place from which people go to try and serve the needs of the wider community – making real the transforming hope that is at the heart of the Christian message in whatever way they could. The evening continued with music from a local recorder group, together with Morris dancing on Westgate and concluded with a firework display that was viewed by a crowd on Bridge Street and the Green that exceeded all expectations.

The Rector of Louth commented that 'the firework display brought to an end a day of celebration as people from across the community came together to celebrate the 500th birthday of the church's spire. Our thanks go to the businesses and individuals who through donations and sponsorship made these celebrations possible – their generosity in supporting this event are a significant sign of the affection with which the church is held by so many people, and a wonderful gift to those who were able to take part. St James' has been at the centre of our community for well over a thousand years and continues to be a place of prayer and reflection for everyone in the town. It was wonderful that so many people were able to join in the celebrations and be a part of this memorable event.'

Whilst the Sunday's events were the climax of the church's celebrations there are some events still to come, including a concert given by local musicians on 17th October and the annual concert by Louth Choral Society at the end of November.

For more information please e-mail: nick.brown@teamparishoflouth.org.uk

ABOUT THE PARISH OF LOUTH

The Church of England Parish of Louth seeks to serve the needs of the communities of Louth and some of its surrounding villages. It includes eleven congregations who meet for worship in its five Parish Churches and at Trinity Centre.

These, together with the spiritual needs of the wider community, are served by a Ministry Team led by the Rector of Louth. This team includes other priests, lay readers, community workers and a wide range of people who make possible the Church's work across the whole parish.

There is a particular focus on our ministry to visitors at the Parish and Civic Church of St James on Westgate, and there is a wide range of community work taking in place in and from the Trinity Centre in Eastgate.