

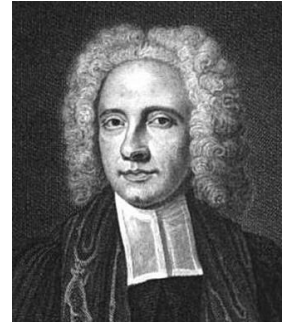
# Glad Tidings



The Newsletter of the United Episcopal Church of North America

Ascension 2023

## DANIEL WATERLAND 1683-1740



One of my favourite places in my home county is the Walesby old church at high above the village on the Lincolnshire Wolds. It is a mediaeval building which still has some of its mediaeval furnishings, but it is little used having been replaced by an Edwardian Church down in the village. It is familiarly known as 'The Hiker's Church' being a landmark on the Viking Way long-distance footpath, and the churchyard commands quite a view over the Ancholme Valley with both Lincoln Cathedral and Scunthorpe Steelworks visible on a clear day, but apart from the beauty of the spot there is something else for which Walesby is notable.

It was in the nearby vicarage that Daniel Waterland, the most notable Anglican theologian of the 1700s, was born. His father was Vicar of Walesby, and he was born in on 14th February 1683. Like many another local parson's son of the period he was sent to Lincoln Free School, housed in the old Greyfriars monastery since 1581, and from there he progressed to Magdalen College, Cambridge. Lincoln Free School had strong links to that institution, and Waterland graduated BA in 1703, and MA in 1706 acting as a conscientious college tutor in Arts and later in Philosophy. He became Master of Magdalene in 1713 just before he graduated as Bachelor in Divinity (which outranks the modern PhD at the University of Cambridge) and Doctor in Divinity 1717 by which time he was engaged in his life's work – the defence of Christian Orthodoxy.

Rationalism hit England during the reign of Queen Anne with major figures such as Sir Isaac Newton, and Dr. Samuel Clarke espousing erroneous views of the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Couple this with popular polemical works like the Pantheist John Toland's 'Christianity not Mysterious' (1695) and it must have seemed as though the whole of orthodox Christianity was under assault. Although Waterland was too young to play a part in the Toland controversy, by the time Samuel 'Arian' Clarke published his 'The Scripture Doctrine of the Trinity' which taught a form of subordinationism in which the Son and the Holy Spirit were not equal to the Father, Waterland was the rising star of Cambridge Divinity. Clarke's views fell afoul of both the Athanasian Creed, which teaches the equality of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost within the Godhead, and of the Thirty-nine Articles to which all Anglican Clergymen, including Clarke, had subscribed at the time of their ordination. Waterland defended Trinitarian orthodoxy on Scriptural, Patristic, and historical grounds in his 'Vindication of Christ's Divinity' (1719) which was followed by the 'Critical History of the Athanasian Creed' (1724) in which he made the case for it having been composed by St Hilary of Arles c.435AD.

Waterland's successful defence of the doctrine of the Holy Trinity was followed by works against Deism, then on Baptismal Regeneration (1740,) and the Real, Spiritual Presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper (1737) both books maintained the High Church positions of the day. He died of complications following surgery on an ingrowing toenail on the 23 December 1740. He held a Canonry at St George's Chapel, Windsor, and was Archdeacon of Middlesex at the time of his death. Waterland's significance as a theologian can be seen in the fact that his works reprinted in the 1820s in a scholarly edition produced by William Van Mildert, the then Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford, and are extensively quoted by 19th century Anglican theologians such as E. Harold Browne, T. P. Boulton, and Christopher Wordsworth. Although very much a man of his own time, Waterland lay in the tradition of Richard Hooker (1554-1600) defending Anglican Christianity by the appeal to Scripture as the supreme source of authority in the Church, assisted by the witness of the Early Fathers, of History, and of common-sense. It was this tradition that emerged triumphant against the radicals of the 1500s, the extreme Puritans of the 1600s, and the rationalists of the 1700s only to abandoned in the late 19th century in favour of Higher Criticism of the Bible, and modern Liberalism.

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## CLERGY NEWS

### The Missionary Diocese of the South and Ozarks:

- The Rev. David Milam transferred to the Anglican Province of America on January 26, 2023.
- The Rev. Matthew Joyner, presbyter, was received into the diocese from the Reformed Episcopal Church on February 3, 2023.
- The Rev. Richard Ball was ordained presbyter on February 19, 2023 at St. Bede's Anglican Church, Tucson, Arizona.
- God willing, the Rev. Anthony Cirilla will be ordained presbyter on May 21, 2023 at St. Joseph Anglican Church, Branson, Missouri.
- God willing, the Rev. Clarence Novess III will be ordained presbyter on June 11, 2023 at St. Bede's Anglican Church, Tucson, Arizona. He will continue to serve All Saints Anglican Church (independent), Green Valley, Arizona.

### Other Notes

- The Missionary Diocese of the South and Ozarks will hold an abbreviated annual Convocation by Zoom web conference on Saturday, September 16, 2023, at 10 a.m. Fellowship activities will be consolidated with the UECNA General Convention in October.

### Elsewhere in the UECNA

#### Transfers

The Rev. Ryan Underwood from the Missionary Diocese of the East to the Reformed Anglican Church, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

The Rev. Matthew Joyner from the Missionary Diocese of the South and Ozarks to the ACNA Diocese of All Nations – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

#### Ordinations

By the Most Rev. Peter D. Robinson, Missionary Bishop of the East and Presiding Bishop at Good Shepherd Anglican Church, Waynesboro, AZ on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023:

The Rev. Justin DeVantier as deacon on the title of Assistant Curate of Holyrood Anglican Church, Smithfield, NC, and

The Rev. Dwayne Ricks as deacon on the title of assistant minister of Paul's Chapel Reformed Church, Lexington, NC

**2023 GENERAL CONVENTION will be held in October 4-6 in Waynesboro, Virginia.**