

December '13/January '14

Dear Friends,

I am pleased that so many people managed to stay behind after the morning service on November 24th to hear about the preparations going on to recruit a new Associate Vicar for Christ Church.

The Parish profile is very nearly ready to be sent off for the diocese to approve so that we can advertise the position very early in the New Year. We hope that the right candidate will be available to start shortly after Easter. As it says in the profile, our hope is to recruit someone who in time will become the incumbent of Christ Church as they lead the church towards a position of being able to self sustain. We are looking for a mission leader who will help all of Christ Church to grow as followers of Jesus and who will help us to introduce new people to Christ as we continue to share God's love in the local community. I am looking forwards to working alongside a new colleague and encouraging them in every way that I can. I know the staff team at St George's will also be willing to support the new Associate Vicar, particularly with Children's and Youth Ministry.

Please pray for the Wardens, PCC and myself as we seek God's will over the right person to come as Associate Vicar. Please pray for the new person as well!

Blessings,

Martyn.

~~~~~

## *February 2014 Magazine*

Could all entries for the above edition of the magazine be given to Jane Calderin by Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> 2014. If emailing the address is: [janecalderin@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janecalderin@hotmail.co.uk).

Publication will be the Sunday following, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

~~~~~

Parish Register

Funeral

November 12th

Elsie Cunnington

Collections

October :

Open Plate	£ 206.00
Envelope Gift Aid	£ 168.00
Direct Debit Gift Aid	£ 630.00
Envelope Non Gift Aid	£ 143.00
Direct Debit Non Gift Aid	<u>£ 557.00</u>
Total	£1704.00

200 Club

Draw result for November,

1st: No. , 2nd: No. 3

The December draw will take place on Wednesday, January 8th and the January draw on January 22nd both during the Day Centre meetings.

We still need new members for the 200 Club so please encourage family and friends to join. If you are interested but require more information speak to Dawn Field. For just £1 per month you will receive a number which will be entered in the draw that usually takes place on the third Wednesday each month.

Bits and Pieces!

The Bible TV Programme

THE BIBLE is an epic 10-hour mini-series that brings to life the dramatic tales of faith and courage in the most widely-read book of all time. From

Genesis to Revelation, THE BIBLE series is a five-part programme that dramatises some of the most famous stories ever written and some of the most iconic characters: from Noah's Ark, the Exodus and Daniel in the lion's den to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

Originally aired in the US on The History Channel, it attracted over 13 million viewers compared to entertainment show 'American Idol', which was watched by 12.8 million. The drama was produced by three-time Emmy Award winner Mark Burnett, who is responsible for 'The Voice' and 'Survivor'. British-born Burnett said he was partly inspired to create the show because of a growing "Biblical illiteracy" among young people. He went on to say that attracting a "new generation" of viewers to the Bible was his "greatest hope" when creating the series.

The Bible starts on Saturday 30th November at 9pm on Channel 5. Visit <http://thebibleuk.org/> for trailers and more information.

Christmas Services

Flyers are now available listing all the Christmas Services. Do take some and give to relatives, friends and neighbours. It would be wonderful to have the church overflowing with people at these special celebrations. (Details are also printed on the back of the Christ Church Christmas Card)

Christingle Service

This is on Sunday, December 15th at **6.00pm**. Please note the different start time to cater for families coming along with young children.

We will be making the Christingles on Saturday morning, December 14th at 10.00am at Ruth Lock's home (church and basement in use with Children's Party!) If you would like to help please have a word with Ruth at church.

Dawn, Brian and Jane.



Friends of Christ Church

Recently, as many of you know, we launched 'Friends of Christ Church' with the purpose of providing support for the church. As one or two of you have mentioned you are already friends of Christ Church as you support the church with your time, talents and treasure. However we are trying to widen that support and encourage others who don't necessarily worship at Christ Church to become a 'Friend'.

A big 'Thank You' to all of you who have already responded so generously. We are very grateful. I ask a favour of all of you; could you encourage your family, friends and neighbours to become a Friend. You can pick up a brochure from church which explains everything. If you would like a letter to go with it, let me know but a personal letter or explanation would probably be more effective.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with a member of the committee. They are Gail Burnham, Jane Calderin, Dawn Field and Mike Mills. (The fifth member John Jeffery is not a parishioner. He joined us to help with the constitution and legal side of things and has been a great asset.)

Jane Calderin

Santa Fun Run *Sunday, December 15th*

This annual event (funny how it's always at this time of the year!!) is gearing up to be the best supported yet by Christ Church. Geraldine Crowley and Mike Mills will be coordinating and facilitating the entries for the 'Christ Church Santa's team' so if you would like to take part please speak to either of them (or one of the church wardens) for more information.

So if you can (a) walk, (b) jog, (c) run or even (d) sprint (!!!!) around a one-mile track (you can go up to three times round if you like!); if you want to have some fun with lots of friends and supporters; and if you want to help

to raise some money through sponsorship for the Christ Church programmes, PLEASE do consider joining us.

There is now a sponsorship form in the entrance hall for those who do not feel as energetic as to take part so please be as generous as you are able.

Hopefully, the entire group of CC Santa's will come along to church on the morning of the run so you'll be able to give them a cheery Christ Church wave-off!

Church Christmas Decoration

The church Christmas tree will make its appearance next week (weather behaving itself!)

The 'flower ladies and gentleman' will be in church on Saturday, December 21st from 9.30am. We would love extra help so if you are 'free' do come along on the day to lend an extra pair of hands!

If you would like to donate towards the Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one please give your donation to Dawn as soon as soon as you can. If the money could be placed in an envelope that would be much appreciated.

Last year it was suggested that as the cost of fresh flowers at this time of the year gets increasingly expensive we should purchase silk flowers to intersperse with the fresh ones. This 'interspersing' was very successful received by you all and, as we still have the silk flowers, they will be making another appearance this year!

And an urgent request! We are desperately in need of new ladies and gentlemen to join the flower Rota. If you are interested in joining, please, have a word with me at church or on Stamford 753645.

Dawn Field.

Fundraising

Our Autumn Bazaar which was held on Saturday, November 23rd was quite well supported and it was nice to see so many friends come along on the day. All the stalls were well stocked so we hope everyone managed to find a bargain or three!! All together the stalls raised £616.17.

The committees thanks go to all who 'manned' the stalls, served in the kitchen or helped in any way. We really could not put on the bazaar without your help!

Sadly, the Grand Draw was not as well supported as previous years. This being partly due to the fact that we were not able to sell tickets in Waitrose or Morrison's like other years. It did, however, raise £306.00 and we thank all businesses and friends who donated prizes. In total the day raised £922.17 for church funds.

The Christ Church Christmas card has once again proved popular and £137.00 has been donated by church family members to have their Christmas messages printed in the card. Our thanks go to all who have supported the card.

As those of you who are 'eagle-eyed' will have noticed we have 6 new tables in the hall. These have been purchased with money raised by sales of the Anniversary tablecloths and donations made by friends as well as a very generous gift from the Church Lads Trustees Management Committee. They are extremely durable so, with reasonable use, should last many years.

This has been a really busy year as far as 'happenings' at church go so fundraising will be taking a break for a while.

We wish all members of our church family and friends a wonderful Christmas and a New Year full of happiness and good company!

Fundraising Committee.

~~~~~

## *Day Centre*

It was with sadness that we saw Carolyn leave us after 26 years volunteering at the Day Centre. We wish her well with her studying for her University Degree.

We would like to welcome Catrina to the Day Centre who has taken over the organiser's job from Amy.

On Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> we (hope!) to have Roger and Betty coming to do a 'sing-a-long'. This is also the day that the Foot Health Professional will be with us from 10am.

On Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> we will have our Christmas party. There will be Communion at 11.15am as usual and we would like everyone to go into church so we can get the hall ready. In the afternoon children from Bluecoat School are coming along to sing to us. This is the day we break for Christmas. We restart on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

On behalf of everyone at the Day Centre may we wish you all a happy Christmas and New Year.

*Barbara. (Morley)*

~~~~~

Volunteer Drivers Urgently Needed!

We are looking for drivers to help collect and return the Day Centre members. This is worked on a rota system which works out about 2 hrs. each month. Of course, the more drivers we get the less often the job!

If you can help we would be very grateful so speak to Catrina Batey, Barbara Morley or Mike Mills.

~~~~~

## *Mothers Union*

The next M.U. Holy Communion Service, followed by the meeting, will be held here at Christ Church on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at the usual time of 10.00am.

On January 2<sup>nd</sup> the service and meeting will be held at All Saints Church, again at 10.00am.

~~~~~

StartaFresh / Befrienders

Hi everyone. Christmas approaches so we are looking forward to our visit to Baytree Garden Centre on Dec. 2nd.

We have had a lovely session on Encaustic Art, given by Jane Dee and are looking forward to a similar session next term on 'glass painting'. We are also having a painting session by a lady from Cummins shortly which we are looking forward to.

'Prepare and Share' with Pam Mills is enjoyed by two members once a month to learn about all aspects of hygiene and preparing a simple meal.

We have our Christmas dinner on Monday, Dec. 16th. We will have a 'free' raffle, Christmas music and play 'pass the parcel'. We will then have our end of term celebrations on Friday, Dec. 20th.

We return in the New Year on Monday, Jan. 6th. On Thursday, Jan. 9th we start a 15 week course with R.A.E. on personnel hygiene and diet.

During the winter, once a month, there will be a warm, light lunch on Friday afternoons.

Enjoy a wonderful Christmas. We'll be pleased for anyone to join us at any of the church services over Christmas. God Bless you all,

Ruthie and all Befrienders.

~~~~~

## *Toddlers*

We will have our Christingle Service and party on Thursday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. Father Christmas is expected to join us too!

We have been making Christmas decorations, cards and BIG posters which you can see in the hall. The children love making and sticking things! We are going to decorate gingerbread shapes on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>.

We thank 'Alternatives' for bringing baby and toddler clothes for us to choose from (giving a donation) as it is very kind and very useful.

We finish this term on Thursday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> and restart on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>.

We wish a merry Christmas to all our friends at Christ Church.

## *Granny Ruth.*



## *Teenzone*

"How has the year passed so quickly? There is certainly a winter feel outside now, which means that Christmas will soon be upon us, and so will the Stamford Children's Christmas Party for some of the most deserving children in Stamford. Teenzone are hosting the party again this year, and we are very much looking forward to doing so!

Our Christmas Party will be held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December at Christ Church and we are having two parties this year for varying ages. The first party will be between 11am to 1pm for the younger children, and the second party will be between 2pm to 4pm for the older children. We have an hour in between the two parties for set up for the second party, and there will be a certain amount of setting up pre-parties and clearing up post-parties. The parties will both consist of games, entertainment, music and a finger buffet.

However exciting and activity-packed these parties are, without the assistance of volunteers donating their time towards making sure the children have a fun time, there would be no Christmas party. Therefore, if you would like to help us create a successful party for these deserving

children, or know of anyone who would like to help, please speak to Ali Rigby (Teenzone), email [gemma.rigby@christchurchstamford.com](mailto:gemma.rigby@christchurchstamford.com), or speak to a member of the church leadership who will be able to pass on details.”

*Ali Rigby.*

~~~~~

Love in a Box

WOW!!!! What a fantastic response to Love in a Box this year.

We filled 110 boxes, which are destined for Swaziland.

The generosity of gifts, donations and time is greatly appreciated as we couldn't do it without all of this support. Thank you so much!

On the downside, we must point out that we are **NOT** allowed to send second hand items or hand knitted toys. Knitted scarves, gloves, mittens and socks are acceptable and very much needed, but all toys must have the "CE" mark clearly on them.

The best bit is.....the regional organiser of Love in a Box has offered to come to church and talk to us about what happens once the boxes leave church on collection day - this is so exciting and will be a wonderful opportunity for everyone to come and see/hear how these little boxes make such a difference to children across the world. Look out for details of this in the New Year.

If you would like to know more or help in anyway for 2014 please do not hesitate to contact Gill, myself or any of our many helpers: Ruthie, Jane R, Amy, Jean, Denise, May, Jacqueline, Shirley and 'U know who U R'.

THANK YOU!

Gail, Gill & Phil; (our fantastic shoe box wrapper!)

PS. (1) A big thank you to Jane Calderin for storing all the covered boxes and bags of items at her house before filling. Much appreciated.

PS. (2) We **desperately** need double knitting or Aran wool for knitting mittens. If you have any please let Gill Stafford have it to distribute to our happy band of knitters!



Bishop of Lincoln's Letter for December

Dear Friends,

At its meeting at the end of September, the diocesan synod agreed that we should move forward together as a faithful, confident and joyful diocese.

While I hope that these three things – faith, confidence and joy – will help us to shape our common life as we discern God's will for our diocese in the years ahead, they also seem to me to be very relevant for the season of Advent.

In Advent, we prepare for the great gift from God that is coming: the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, through whom we receive redemption from our sins and fullness of life.

This gift, freely given by God, is the source of our hope and the ground of our faith. It is also a sign of God's faith in humanity, who loves us with a love that is far beyond anything we can imagine. In the life of Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, that we see that love come down to earth and made manifest in ways that we can begin to understand.

In all the glitz and glamour of the Christmas season it can be easy to miss this.

It is this faith in humanity, summed up in the birth in the stable in Bethlehem, from which we can take confidence to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, walking in his way and following his example. In him, the love of God is there for all to see. Through him, God has shown us the pattern for our lives.

May God inspire us with joy as we await the coming of his Son, Jesus Christ, and may I wish you a blessed and a holy Christmas.

Bishop Christopher.



Cat's Tails!

Hi Family!

It's getting colder but mummies Jane and Ruthie make sure I'm well looked after!

I am looking forward to my Christmas dinner – can't come soon enough! I shall miss you all during the holidays. I bet baby Jesus felt cold in the manger!

Merry Christmas everyone, luvs you all, *M.D.*

~~~~~

## *Calendar*

### *December*

|                        |          |                                            |                                                                                         |
|------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Advent Sunday</b>   | <b>1</b> | <b>10.00</b><br><b>4.00</b><br><b>6.30</b> | <b>Service of the Word</b><br><b>CC@4</b><br><b>Advent Readings with Holy Communion</b> |
| Monday                 | 2        | 9.30<br>1-3                                | Team Meeting<br>Befrienders                                                             |
| Wednesday              | 4        | 9-3<br>3.00                                | Day Centre<br>Day Centre Committee Meeting                                              |
| Thursday               | 5        | 9.30<br>10.00<br>7.30<br>7.30              | Toddlers<br>M.U. Communion Service<br>Prayer Meeting<br>Horticultural Society           |
| Friday                 | 6        | 1-3                                        | Befrienders                                                                             |
| Saturday               | 7        | All Day                                    | Children's Holiday Club                                                                 |
| <b>Sunday Advent 2</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>10.00</b><br><b>4.00</b><br><b>6.30</b> | <b>Holy Communion</b><br><b>CC@4</b><br><b>Evening Service</b>                          |
| Monday                 | 9        | 9.30<br>1-3                                | Team Meeting<br>Befrienders                                                             |
| Tuesday                | 10       | 7.30                                       | PCC                                                                                     |
| Wednesday              | 11       | 9-3<br>11.15                               | Day Centre Christmas Party<br>Holy Communion                                            |

|                                               |           |                    |                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday                                      | 12        | 9.30               | Toddlers Christingle and Party                      |
|                                               |           | 7.30               | Prayer Meeting                                      |
| Friday                                        | 13        | 1-3                | Befrienders                                         |
| Saturday                                      | 14        | 10.00              | Christingle making at Ruth Lock's                   |
|                                               |           | All day            | Stamford Children's Parties                         |
| <b>Sunday<br/>Advent 3</b>                    | <b>15</b> | <b>10.00</b>       | <b>Service of the Word</b>                          |
|                                               |           | <b>4.00</b>        | <b>CC@4</b>                                         |
|                                               |           | <b><u>6.00</u></b> | <b>Family Christingle</b>                           |
| Monday                                        | 16        | 9.30               | Team Meeting                                        |
|                                               |           | 1-3                | Befrienders                                         |
| Thursday                                      | 19        | 7.30               | Prayer Meeting                                      |
| Friday                                        | 20        | 1-3                | Befrienders                                         |
| Saturday                                      | 21        | 9.30               | Floral decoration of church                         |
| <b>Sunday<br/>Advent 4</b>                    | <b>22</b> | <b>10.00</b>       | <b>Holy Communion</b>                               |
|                                               |           | <b>4.00</b>        | <b>CC@4</b>                                         |
|                                               |           | <b>6.30</b>        | <b>Lessons and Carols<br/>by Candlelight</b>        |
| <b>Christmas Eve</b>                          | <b>24</b> | <b>4.00</b>        | <b>Family Crib Service</b>                          |
|                                               |           | <b>11.30</b>       | <b>Midnight Mass</b>                                |
| <b>Christmas Day</b>                          | <b>25</b> | <b>10.00</b>       | <b>Holy Communion with Carols</b>                   |
| <b>Sunday<br/>1<sup>st</sup> of Christmas</b> | <b>29</b> | <b>10.00</b>       | <b>Holy Communion<br/>(No other services today)</b> |

**Please Note:** Refreshments are served after the morning services on the first and third Sunday of every month and also after the first Sunday evening service each month.

~~~~~

January 2014

Sunday 2nd after Christmas	5	10.00	Service of the Word.
		4.00	CC@4
		6.30	Holy Communion.
Monday	6	9.30	Team Meeting
		1-3	Befrienders

Wednesday	8	8.00 9-3 11.15	Bible Study Home Group Day Centre Parish Holy Communion
Thursday	9	9.30 7.30 7.30	Toddlers Prayer Meeting Horticultural Society
Friday	10	1-3	Befrienders
Sunday Baptism of Christ	12	10.00 4.00 6.30	Holy Communion CC@4 Evening Service
Monday	13	9.30 1-3	Team Meeting Befrienders
Wednesday	15	8.00 9-3	Bible Study Home Group Day Centre
Thursday	16	9.30 7.30	Toddlers Prayer Meeting
Friday	17	1-3	Befrienders
Saturday	18	8-1.00	St. George's Leadership Day
Sunday 2nd Sunday of Epiphany	19	10.00 4.00 6.30	Service of the Word. CC@4 Evening Service
Monday	20	9.30 1-3	Team Meeting Befrienders
Wednesday	22	8.00 9-3	Bible Study Home Group Day Centre
Thursday	23	7.30	Prayer Meeting
Friday	24	1-3	Befrienders
Sunday 3rd Sunday of Epiphany	26	10.00 4.00 6.30	Holy Communion CC@4 Evening Service
Monday	27	9.30 1-3	Team Meeting Befrienders
Wednesday	29	8.00 9-3	Bible Study Home Group Day Centre
Thursday	30	7.30	Prayer Meeting

Friday 31 1-3 Befrienders

February

Sunday	2	10.00	Service of the Word.
Presentation of Christ		4.00	CC@44.00
		6.30	Holy Communion.

Please note: January calendar shows the basic weekly activities as that is all that was available when this magazine went to print. Check the weekly notice sheets for full information.

~~~~~

### **Basement: Regular term time Programme for Teenzone and Befrienders**

#### **Mondays**

|         |                   |                                      |
|---------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Café:   | Age 9 to Year 9   | 5 to 7pm                             |
| Sports: | Age 9 to Year 8   | 6.30-7.30pm (Q. Eleanor Sports Hall) |
|         | Year 8 to Year 11 | 7.30-8.30pm (Q. Eleanor Sports Hall) |
|         | Year 11+          | 8.30-9.30pm (Q. Eleanor Sports Hall) |

#### **Wednesdays**

|                      |               |          |
|----------------------|---------------|----------|
| Teenzone Café:       | Age 9- Year 9 | 5-7pm    |
| D*fused Dance Class: | All ages      | 5.30-7pm |

#### **Thursdays**

|                                          |               |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Befrienders                              | 1.00 – 3.00pm |
| 2*fused (Advanced Class and Development) | 5.30-7pm      |

See weekly notice sheets for fuller details of events.

Girl Guiding UK have units meeting each week here at Christ Church throughout term-time. For more information contact 01780 784091.

~~~~~



Localgiving.com is the UK's leading platform for small, local charities. Our goal is to make online fundraising easy for community groups and their supporters.

Christ Church is featured on the Localgiving.com website, to raise awareness and funds for our social outreach projects, supported by the church family. For supporters with internet access, this is a convenient and secure way of donating online.

Take advantage of the Grow Your Tenner 2013 Campaign.

Localgiving.com is giving away £500,000 as Grow Your Tenner returns for another match fund bonanza.

Sponsored by the Office for Civil Society, Grow Your Tenner 2013 will double all donations up to £10, so a tenner becomes £20, or £22.50 with Gift Aid.

And on monthly donations, we're doubling up to £10 a month for six months.

Visit the link below to find out how your donation can really make a difference

<http://localgiving.com/christchurchstamford>