

December 2013 / January 2015

Dear Friends,

It has been a busy few months for Tony and I. We are happily settling into parish life and my thoughts are turning towards our first Christmas at Christ Church.

Once again we look forward to celebrating the birth of the Saviour, the Prince of Peace, who came some two thousand years ago. But when we look at the news, clearly the world still needs saving. It seems like the Prince of Peace has been elbowed out by all the conflict in the world.

So what are we actually celebrating?

One word keeps coming to me – compassion. Sure we know what the word means, and most of us will know what it feels like. Compassion for me is the key to Christmas. It is not simply feeling sorry for someone; it's more about being alongside them and knowing what they feel like.

But still there is a barrier - how do we really know? People talk about walking a mile in someone else's shoes, but what if we could get inside someone's life Then we would really know.

Christians use the word 'Incarnation' to describe how God did this. Incarnation means that in the life of one individual, God gets an inside take of what it is to be human. It's not just curiosity though. It's about transformation! Jesus actually changes what it means to be human. He sets a pattern in how to live compassionately. Jesus makes change a real option for us – because in giving, we will receive; in putting ourselves last, we are really first; and in dying, we are really alive.

How many therapists does it take to change a light bulb? One, but the light bulb has to want to change. It's the same with us! If we don't want to be saved, God won't force us. If we are stuck in our anger and resentment, the Prince of Peace won't stop us fighting. But if we want it, then God will change us, and the benefits will be felt all around. I believe God will eventually persuade all of us that change does make sense.

So, have a really peaceful and happy Christmas and unending blessings in the New Year.

Revd. Nikki and Tony.

February 2015 Magazine

As no-one has yet come forward to take over the magazine please continue to send all entries to me for the above magazine by Sunday, January 18th. Publication will be the following Sunday, 25th. Further information will be announced in church and on the weekly notice-sheets.

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### *Parish Registers*

#### *Baptisms*

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Mia Grace Sinclair**

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Collections

The collections for October will be published in the February magazine along with the November and December figures.

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### *100 Club*

Draw result for November,

1<sup>st</sup>: No.3, 2<sup>nd</sup>: No. 14

The December and January draws will take place on Wednesdays, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> and Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> during the Day Centre.

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Church Christmas Decoration

The church Christmas tree will make its appearance next week, December 8th (weather behaving itself!) and will be decorated over the following days in readiness for the Christmas parties and services.

The 'flower ladies and gentlemen' will be in church on Saturday, December 20th from 9.30am. Extra help is always needed so if you are 'free' do come along on the day to lend that 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.

Dawn Field.

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## *Christmas / New Year Events*

This Christmas Day we are having a Christmas Day Tea from 4-8pm here at church. There is a list up in the entrance to sign if you would like to attend as well as a request for food etc.

Then on New Year's Eve there will be an evening of entertainment including a quiz and 'We've got Talent' show. Everyone is welcome at this event.

More information will be on the weekly notice-sheets so keep a look out!

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Love in a Box

A huge thank you to everyone involved with Love in a Box, from those who have generously donated money and items, filled boxes, given freely of their time and namely Gill and Phil.

There were 126 boxes in total collected from Christ Church on Monday 10th November. This is 16 boxes more than last year, but does include 10 from Stamford Free Church who use us as a drop off point.

This couldn't happen without YOU!

If anyone has free time to knit scarves, hats or mittens or socks, PLEASE speak to me and I will get the wool to you. We don't expect you to be out of pocket.

Also, if anyone can offer a little storage space for empty shoeboxes which are collected all year round, this would be wonderful...again, please speak to me.

The children who will receive these boxes have nothing, they live a very poor life which we cannot imagine but if we give them the gift of love through their shoebox AND give them the opportunity to walk with God - what better present is there?!

Happy Christmas to you and your family.

Gail, Gill and Phil.



Friends of Christ Church

On Saturday, October 18th we held our first AGM. It was an exciting occasion as we welcomed a number of our members and discussed what we hoped to achieve in the next twelve months. High on the list was the wish to increase our membership and to further this I issued a challenge to all members to recruit one new member to The Friends by Christmas. Those of you who were unable to attend the AGM, please take up this challenge. There are membership envelopes in the church entrance hall with all the information needed for enrolment but if you would like to talk to us before joining please speak to Dawn, Gail, Mike Mills or myself, Jane C. A big thank you to those who have already met the challenge; we have six new members already! Thank you for joining us and welcome to The Friends.

And some really exciting news - Rowan Williams, the previous Archbishop of Canterbury, has agreed to be a patron of The Friends of Christ Church!!! This is truly wonderful news.

We have also come up with two ways to support The Friends without spending any money! One is by saving your used stamps, particularly your Christmas stamps but any used stamp is fine. There will be a box in church for you to put them in or I will collect them if you give me a ring. The second way is to save your old clothes. The sort of thing you would put in a charity bag. When you have a pile just give me a ring and I will arrange to collect them. You can encourage your friends and neighbours to give their stamps and clothes too.

A date for your diaries: on 14th February next we will be celebrating Valentine's Day with a sponsored sing-a-long. You will be asked to

sponsor a hymn or song around the theme of Love. This will be followed by a light supper. More details to follow after Christmas.

Thank you for your support and if you have not signed up to be a Friend please do consider it.

Jane Calderin. 754290.

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## *Fundraising*

### *Church Bazaar and Grand Draw*

This is to thank all of you for your support in making the Bazaar and raffle a huge success. The bazaar stalls raised £891.50 and the Grand Draw raised £347.50 together making a total of £1239.00 which was a 125% increase in the money raised from last year. It is not possible to name everyone individually but thanks to all of you, who donated items, made cakes etc, 'manned' the stalls and kitchen, sold Draw tickets to your families, friends, neighbours and work colleagues. Also many thanks for the lovely prizes that so many of you donated to me.

I must also thank the many shops and businesses who supported us:

|                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Northfields Garage,         | Hindmarch & Co,       |
| Wilko's,                    | Morrison's,           |
| Britannia Take Away,        | Green Lane Stores,    |
| Edinburgh Woollen Mill,     | Vicky at Westide Gym. |
| Andy Stretton Photographic, |                       |

The Christ Church Christmas card has once again proved popular and £150.00 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.

We will be taking a break from fundraising over the next few months so all that's left is to wish all members of our church family and friends a wonderful Christmas and a New Year full of happiness and good company!

*Fundraising Committee.*

## *Befrienders*

Hi everyone!

We are into our Christmas activities with Christmas decorations, with the Pelican Trust, on December 1<sup>st</sup> and then chocolate making on the 12<sup>th</sup>. We also have a trip to Corby for last minute Christmas shopping on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> and a trip to Waterside Garden centre on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Our Christmas lunch is on Monday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> and our end of term party on the following Fri. 19<sup>th</sup>.

We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing our members joining us at our Christmas services.

Love to you all,

*Ruthie.*



## *Day Centre*

It has been a busy November! We have had bingo, quizzes and a solicitor come to talk to us. On Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> we held a Tombola stall at Morrison's and raised £330.38 for DC funds. Amazing! Thank you to everyone who donated items and supported us on the day. We have also raised £84.00 by raffling a Breakfast Set kindly donated by Arthur and Janet Ingram. Our grateful thanks go to them for donating this gift.

In December we are looking forward to having Roger and Betty entertaining us on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Alex Naylor singing and playing the organ on the 10<sup>th</sup> and our Christmas party on the 17<sup>th</sup> – which is our last meeting of this year.

We would like to welcome our new members Ernie Tyers, Kathleen Mears, Doris Booth and Mary Squires and hope they will be happy with us. We ask for your prayers for those who are unwell at this time: Doris Davies and Joan Frost (fall and broken hip), Brenda Jeffs and Ronette.

On Sunday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> two of our volunteers are taking part in the Santa Fun Run to raise funds for the Day Centre. If you would like to sponsor us please have a word with Barbara or sign the form which is in the entrance hall.

The Foot Health Professional will be with us on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10am and our Communion Service will take place at 11.15am on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> before our Christmas lunch and party.

We return in the New Year on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.

We would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

*Catrina and Barbara.*

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StartaFresh

StartaFresh is getting ready to take part in the Santa fun run at Burghley Park on the 14th of December.

Currently we have 16 people taking part this year and we are still looking for people to join the team. 9 of our members have signed up to take part and are looking forward to raising some money for StartaFresh.



If you would like to join us to take part or just like to give a donation to the team please contact Geraldine on 07950464093 or you can find a sponsor form in the church foyer. For those who wish to donate over the internet we have set up a link to localgiving.com so just type the link below into your search engine.

Please do what you can to support the members of StartaFresh, it is important we encourage and celebrate their achievements.

<https://localgiving.com/fundraising/startafresh>

Regards, *Geraldine.*

Mothers Union

The next M.U. Holy Communion Service and meeting will be held here at Christ Church on Thursday, December 4th at the usual time of 10.00am. Our January service will be at All Saints Church on Thursday, 8th at 10.00am. All are welcome.



Teenzone / Christmas Cards

Teenzone are selling Christmas Cards to raise money for their youth provision! The cards, which were designed by four young people who attend regularly, are priced at £2.00 for a selection of 8 cards. Not only will the cards be sold to members of the congregation, Teenzone and the general public, but Day Centre Members and the Transport Scheme have already ordered over 50 packs!

They can be ordered by writing your name on the order form on the kitchen doors in the foyer of the Church.

We at Teenzone are once again hosting the Stamford Children's Christmas Party for some of the most deserving children in Stamford and we are very much looking forward to doing so! We have held a 'bag pack' at Morrison's which raised well over £520 towards the party so thank you if you supported this or helped out!

The Christmas Party will be held on Saturday 13th December at Christ Church.

Ali.



Toddlers

Hi everyone,

Christmas will soon be upon us so we will be making cards and decorations in the coming weeks!

Our Christmas party will be on December 18th when we hope Father Christmas will be making a visit.

We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and hope to see you at our church services.

Love to you all,

Granny Ruth.

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*Bishop of Lincoln's Letter.....*

I write to you just after Remembrance Day this year, which was for many was particularly poignant in this year as we marked the outbreak of the First World War 100 years ago. Already, the symbols of remembrance that have been around us have given way to signs that Christmas is on its way. Even the television advertisements have started, designed to encourage us to dig deep in search of the perfect Christmas.

Christmas advertisements are fast becoming a television genre in their own right. Many have taken a familiar approach - 'tis the season to spoil yourself,' we're told in one - but one supermarket chain has, more controversially, used the trenches of the First World War as the setting for its Christmas advert. It is unsurprising that this has generated much comment in the media. Despite its endorsement by the Royal British Legion, the advert is seen by some as an unashamed (and inaccurate) romanticisation of the horrors of the grim and bloody battlefields of Northern France, with one commentator describing it as a "dangerous and disrespectful masterpiece".

However, the advert does remind us of the remarkable moment when unofficial truces were spontaneously declared at Christmas in 1914. In the weeks leading up to Christmas Day, soldiers from both sides heard each other singing the same carols until, on the day itself, they laid down their weapons and climbed out of the trenches, met each other, exchanged gifts, buried their dead and, famously, played football together. Some stopped for worship together.

Those truces began with the singing of Christmas carols, songs that celebrate the birth of Jesus, the one who is the Prince of Peace. If you catch sight of that advert on television this Christmas, pause for a moment and give thanks for the birth of the Prince of Peace. The birth of Jesus is our ultimate hope and vision for a world founded on love, marked by

compassion, and governed by the true and lasting peace of which the angels sang, and for which we long.

I wish you a happy and a holy Christmas.

**+Christopher Lincoln.**



### *Cat's Tales!*

Hi Family!

Mummy Ruth has kitted me out with fresh soft furnishings and clean exterior insulation. Winter is fast approaching but I'll keep warm in my very posh 'des. res'!!

I had a little hedgehog visit me the other Sunday evening. I hope he gets a warm bed for the winter as he looked a 'little un'.

Have a wonderful Christmas holiday, love one another and see you in 2015!

**M. D.**



### *Calendar*

#### *December*

|           |   |            |                       |
|-----------|---|------------|-----------------------|
| Monday    | 1 | 9.30       | Team Meeting          |
|           |   | 1-3        | Befrienders           |
|           |   | 5-7        | Teenzone Drama        |
|           |   | 8.00       | Bible Study Group     |
| Tuesday   | 2 | 9-5        | Pinnacle People       |
| Wednesday | 3 | 9-3        | Day Centre            |
| Thursday  | 4 | 9.30       | Toddlers              |
|           |   | 12.30-2.00 | Pastoral Prayers      |
|           |   | 1.30       | StartAfresh           |
|           |   | 5.30-7.00  | Teenzone Dance        |
|           |   | 6.30       | Advent Course         |
|           |   | 7.30       | Horticultural Society |
| Friday    | 5 | 1-3        | Befrienders           |

|                            |           |                                                   |                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday<br/>Advent 2</b> | <b>7</b>  | <b>10.00</b><br><b>4.00</b><br><b>6.30</b>        | <b>Morning Service</b><br><b>CC@4</b><br><b>Evensong with Holy Communion</b>                                                                   |
| Monday                     | 8         | 9.30<br>1-3<br>5-7<br>8.00                        | Team Meeting<br>Befrienders<br>Teenzone Drama<br>Bible Study Group                                                                             |
| Tuesday                    | 9         | 9-5                                               | Pinnacle People                                                                                                                                |
| Wednesday                  | 10        | 9-3<br>7.30                                       | Day Centre<br>PCC Meeting                                                                                                                      |
| Thursday                   | 11        | 9.30<br>12.30-2.00<br>1.30<br>5.30-7.00<br>6.30   | Toddlers<br>Pastoral Prayers<br>StartAfresh<br>Teenzone Dance<br>Advent Course                                                                 |
| Friday                     | 12        | 1-3                                               | Befrienders                                                                                                                                    |
| Saturday                   | 13        | All Day                                           | Stamford Children's Party                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Sunday<br/>Advent 3</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>10.00</b><br><b>4.00</b><br><b><u>6.00</u></b> | <b>Holy Communion</b><br><b>Refreshments after service.</b><br><b>CC@4</b><br><b>Christingle Service</b><br><b>Refreshments after service.</b> |
| Monday                     | 15        | 9.30<br>1-3<br>5-7<br>8.00                        | Team Meeting<br>Befrienders Christmas Lunch<br>Teenzone Drama<br>Bible Study Home Group                                                        |
| Tuesday                    | 16        | 9-5                                               | Pinnacle People                                                                                                                                |
| Wednesday                  | 17        | 9-3<br>11.15                                      | Day Centre Christmas Lunch/Party<br>Holy Communion                                                                                             |
| Thursday                   | 18        | 9.30<br>12.30-2.00<br>1.30<br>5.30-7.00<br>6.30   | Toddlers Christmas Party<br>Pastoral Prayers<br>StartAfresh<br>Teenzone Dance<br>Advent Course                                                 |
| Friday                     | 19        | 1-3                                               | Befrienders End of term party                                                                                                                  |
| Saturday                   | 20        | 9.30                                              | Floral Decoration of Church                                                                                                                    |

|                                      |           |                       |                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday<br/>Advent 4</b>           | <b>21</b> | <b>10.00<br/>6.30</b> | <b>Morning Service<br/>Lessons and Carols by<br/>Candlelight followed by mince<br/>pies and mulled wine</b> |
| <b>Christmas Eve</b>                 | <b>24</b> | <b>4.00<br/>11.30</b> | <b>Crib Service<br/>Midnight Communion</b>                                                                  |
| <b>Christmas Day</b>                 | <b>25</b> | <b>10.00<br/>4-8</b>  | <b>Family Holy Communion<br/>Christmas Day Tea</b>                                                          |
| <b>Sunday<br/>The Holy Innocents</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>10.00</b>          | <b>Family Holy Communion</b>                                                                                |
| <b>Wednesday</b>                     | <b>31</b> | <b>8.00pm</b>         | <b>New Year's Eve Party</b>                                                                                 |

## *January 2015*

|                                                  |           |                                |                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday<br/>2<sup>nd</sup> after Christmas</b> | <b>4</b>  | <b>10.00<br/>6.30</b>          | <b>Service of the Word.<br/>Holy Communion.</b>       |
| Monday                                           | 5         | 9.30<br>1-3                    | Team Meeting<br>Befrienders                           |
| Wednesday                                        | 7         | 9-3<br>11.15                   | Day Centre<br>Parish Holy Communion                   |
| Thursday                                         | 8         | 9.30<br>7.30<br>7.30           | Toddlers<br>Prayer Meeting<br>Horticultural Society   |
| Friday                                           | 9         | 1-3                            | Befrienders                                           |
| <b>Sunday<br/>Baptism of Christ</b>              | <b>11</b> | <b>10.00<br/>4.00<br/>6.30</b> | <b>Holy Communion<br/>CC@4<br/>Evening Service</b>    |
| Monday                                           | 12        | 9.30<br>1-3<br>8.00            | Team Meeting<br>Befrienders<br>Bible Study Home Group |
| Wednesday                                        | 14        | 9-3                            | Day Centre                                            |
| Thursday                                         | 15        | 9.30<br>7.30                   | Toddlers<br>Prayer Meeting                            |

|                                          |           |              |                              |
|------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Friday                                   | 16        | 1-3          | Befrienders                  |
| Saturday                                 | 17        | 7.30         | St. George's Men's Breakfast |
| <b>Sunday</b>                            | <b>18</b> | <b>10.00</b> | <b>Service of the Word.</b>  |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</b> |           | <b>4.00</b>  | <b>CC@4</b>                  |
|                                          |           | <b>6.30</b>  | <b>Evening Service</b>       |
| Monday                                   | 19        | 9.30         | Team Meeting                 |
|                                          |           | 1-3          | Befrienders                  |
|                                          |           | 8.00         | Bible Study Home Group       |
| Wednesday                                | 21        | 9-3          | Day Centre                   |
| Thursday                                 | 22        | 7.30         | Prayer Meeting               |
| Friday                                   | 23        | 1-3          | Befrienders                  |
| <b>Sunday</b>                            | <b>25</b> | <b>10.00</b> | <b>Holy Communion</b>        |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</b> |           | <b>4.00</b>  | <b>CC@4</b>                  |
|                                          |           | <b>6.30</b>  | <b>Evening Service</b>       |
| Monday                                   | 26        | 9.30         | Team Meeting                 |
|                                          |           | 1-3          | Befrienders                  |
|                                          |           | 8.00         | Bible Study Home Group       |
| Wednesday                                | 28        | 9-3          | Day Centre                   |
| Thursday                                 | 29        | 7.30         | Prayer Meeting               |
| Friday                                   | 30        | 1-3          | Befrienders                  |

**Please note:**

See weekly notice sheets for fuller details of events.

Our groups will be taking a well-earned break over the Christmas/New Year period. Please remember them in your prayers.

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

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*Evergreen Care Trust*

## **- Evergreen Angels -**

### **Do you have a ministry to older and vulnerable adults?**

The Evergreen Care Trust has now launched the 'Day Angel Service' from 8am to 8pm 7 days a week 365 days a year.

### **We now wish to recruit couples for our 'Night Angel Service'**

We are seeking five couples who would be prepared to provide 'sleeping cover' from their own homes in Stamford.

This will involve working one week in four as our emergency call out service from 8pm to 8am over night for a period of seven nights

### **This post is paid and we will remunerate each couple £50 per night (£350 for seven nights)**

Each couple will be fully trained and equipped to support our members who require an emergency health call out.

You will be the first contact for members of the Night Angel Service and required to be in attendance on call out. Reasons for call out are limited to health issues only which may range from a fall and unable to get up to other health and welfare issues requiring assistance. You will not be required to administer drugs or provide support other than basic first aid, but you will be required to call for other assistance when this is required and inform next of kin.

Emergency contact will be made to you via a telecare service to a mobile phone supplied by Evergreen. In the event of telecare calling 999 in an emergency you will be the second contact after the emergency services and required to be in attendance and comfort the member until the emergency services have dealt with the matter.

**If you are able to offer yourselves for this essential service and would like to see a full job description please contact:**

**Bob Mackrill tel: 01780 765900**

**email: [angels@evergreencare.org.uk](mailto:angels@evergreencare.org.uk)**

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