

February 2012

Dear Friends,

A very happy New Year to you all. But I wonder if it will be happy, for you, this year. There is so much gloom about. Many people are deeply affected by the economic situation. Some have been made redundant, others have been put on short time working and others fear that their jobs might be ended without warning. There is a sense in which as Christians we can sympathise with those in difficulty and provide help if that is needed, but also we believe in a God who knows our situation, who can do mighty things and has promised through Jesus to “never leave us nor forsake us.” He also tells us to “Rejoice at all times in the Lord.” So will we have a happy New Year? Perhaps you could tell me at the end of the year!!

It is hard to believe that I started at Christ Church over a year ago. I am told that we are hoping to appoint a resident priest to look after Christ Church, as soon as Martyn hears from the diocese about funding. I have as much idea about when this will be as you have; so no certainties. I must admit that I am too busy to be able to carry on much longer without some sort of a rest. I reckon that at the moment I am doing about 18 hours a week at Christ Church. That is time spent at the computer, in meetings, or preparing and taking services. In many weeks I spend even longer if we have Funerals or Baptisms. It also takes no notice of the time I spend at home preparing sermons or planning services. I am not complaining and I do love my work, but I feel in need of a rest!! I am having two weeks off in March and then I'm back for Easter and so it goes on. Please pray for me and pray too for our churchwardens and for Jane. We are all volunteers, as are many people who help with the car scheme, befrienders, teenzone, toddlers and the day centre and we all need your prayers.

I hope this doesn't sound too gloomy. There is some very encouraging news amid the gloom. Our Parish share for 2011 was paid in full. Thanks to the fundraising committee, who not only achieved this but also raised money for the refurbishment and decorating of the church. We are all to be congratulated on what has been achieved. This year is also an important time for money. The Parish Share remains the same as for this year and we are hoping to do the planned work on the toilets and extra office space. (See plans in entrance to the church.) Other encouragement is that the numbers at worship have not declined in fact there has been some growth and the arrival of Kings Café from St George's school has

enabled a Sunday School to be started. It is early days yet but I hope they will be able to stay with us for the future.

Once again I wish you all a very happy New Year.

Yours in Christ, *Peter Hart.*

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*Parish Registers*

*Renewal of Marriage Vows*

**10th December      Della and Brian Clarke**

*Funerals*

**9<sup>th</sup> December      John Donald Graham**  
**19<sup>th</sup> December      Florence Wilson**  
**20<sup>th</sup> December      Mary Dutton**  
**29<sup>th</sup> December      Stanley Notley**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> January          Mary Noble**

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Collections

	Open Plate	Env/Gift Aid	Env. (NTP)
November	:£241.72	£874.50	£246.10
December	:£319.76	£992.50	£126.00

HMRC Tax claim £1282.75 received.

Parish Share for 2011 was paid in full £22913. Thank you to everyone for your financial commitment.

Parish Share for 2012 is to remain at £22913.

The minibus costs from 2012 will now be monitored and controlled by Geraldine Crowley through the Community Transport Scheme (car scheme) - rather than as a PCC cost.

The 2011 closing balance for the General Funds is £1963.31 - subject to external examination later this month.

Gail.

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### *March Magazine*

Could all entries for the above edition of the magazine be given to Jane Calderin by **Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**. Publication will be the following Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup>.

For those who email their entries to me please continue to do so for now.

*Jane Richardson.*

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200 Club

How about the chance of winning £20?

You could do this by joining the 200 club. The cost is £1 per month which can be paid annually (£12) or half yearly (£6). You will be given your lucky number and then each month, generally on the third Wednesday at the Day Centre, two winning numbers are selected.

Please speak to Dawn Field if you would like to join. Forms are in the entrance hall for you to fill-in and then pass the completed forms to Dawn along with you money. Good Luck!

Draw result for December, 1st: No. 10, 2nd: No. 31

Draw result for January, 1st: No. 1, 2nd: No. 94

The next draw will take place on Wednesday, February 22nd during the Day Centre meeting.

Bits and Bobs

Parish Meeting

I know that Martyn Taylor would like to have a meeting to gather thoughts about what is happening at Christ Church with regard to services especially.

He plans to put forward ideas at the 10.00am Service on Sunday, February 5th and again at Kings Café on the same date. He has suggested that we leave a week's gap and he proposed that we should have a meeting of the congregations at 11.15am on the following Sunday 12th February.

Please do try and be present on the 12th, especially if you have something you would like to say.

Quiet Time!

Many of you will have noticed that I sat in the congregation on the second Sunday of the month and I hope to do so every second Sunday. It reminded me of the time when I first came to Christ Church before I had permission to officiate as a deacon in England.

The main difference for me was the noise level before the service. One doesn't notice it unless one is sitting down trying to prepare oneself to receive Communion. I can understand that we want to catch up with each other after being apart for a week or more but I was wondering if we could contain ourselves for just a little longer and talk after the service.

There is a little saying that used to be printed on the notices in a church in Miami:

'Before the service talk to God, during the service listen to God, after the service talk to each other'.

I was wondering if we could adopt this idea thus allowing those who wish to be quiet before the service (I believe there are a number who do) the opportunity to do so. I am not saying that one should not greet those who come to sit beside you, but we could try to keep the week's news until later. I am hoping that you will give it a try. Thank you.

Life Church Project

The Community Church that meets at Queen Eleanor's has joined with a church in Peterborough and is now called the Life Church. They are running a project with the purpose of capturing the many faith, moral and ethical questions the people living in Peterborough, Stamford, Oakham and the surrounding villages are asking. They then plan to run a mini-series in March to address the four most prevalent questions.

There are postcards in Christ Church for you to fill out if you would like to take part in this project. If you have a question you would like to submit please fill out a card. You do not need to attend the mini-series to participate. Further information will be available on the Christ Church notice board.

Jane C.

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## *Outreach Activities Honoured!*

At the end of 2011, Rutland Radio invited members of the public to nominate programmes and individuals for special recognition as contributing particularly to the local community and services.

Christ Church scooped two of the five awards made: the Befrienders Programme was selected as the community programme of the year, while Ali Rigby was selected as the young person of the year. Ali accepted the award personally from the Rutland Radio presenter at a small ceremony held just before Christmas, while Mike Mills accepted the award on behalf of all of the members of the Befrienders' group. In both cases, the awards consisted of a signed certificate and also a lovely glass trophy. The Befrienders' certificate is already on display in the church foyer, and the glass trophy will also be displayed soon.

It's great to know that the outreach work of Christ Church is so well appreciated, and thanks to all those members of the public who voted for us!

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Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Update

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is an award winning charity that offers a free debt counselling service. They provide professional debt advice and practical assistance regardless of individuals backgrounds. The Bible speaks very clearly about looking after the poor and in 2012 CAP's work is an extremely practical demonstration of Christian love to those who are suffering in our communities.

CAP have opened a centre in partnership with St Georges Church with its office based at Christ Church. Simon Jary is the Centre Manager and I, Lisa Garwood am the debt coach. We both work 2 days a week and began seeing clients in mid November. Since then we have been almost fully booked, both seeing one new client a week. At the time of writing we have 10 clients. The clients are from Stamford, Oakham and Bourne and we have seen a range of ages, family situations and circumstances. The client receives 3 home visits where the debt circumstances are established, a plan is devised by CAP HQ based in Bradford and then the household is supported and encouraged to combat the isolation many clients say they feel when they coped alone. We then provide ongoing support in their journey to being debt free and seek to demonstrate God's love for them. Already we have seen remarkable answers to prayer and people being truly blessed.

We would love to see our Christ Church family becoming involved in this ministry. If you are able to offer prayer support or are interested in joining the befriending team supporting Simon and myself please contact us on CAP Stamford mobile nos: 07952 845542 or email stamford@capuk.org or speak to me in church.

The freephone number for potential clients to be referred and book an appointment is:

0800 328 0006

Simon and I would both like to thank you all for the warm welcome we have received since starting to work here.

Lisa Garwood.

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# *Fundraising*

*Thankyou! Thankyou! Thankyou!*

Your support last year in helping us to raise funds for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the general church fund was so very much appreciated by all on the committee. We know it's an old cliché but we really could not have raised the money for all we achieved without you! We still intend to replace the carpet in the church hall and this will be done, possibly during the summer, once building work on the new office and refurbishment of the toilets has been completed.

Just to catch up on events which happened after the December magazine was published. Firstly, the stall at the Stamford Christmas Market, sadly, did not materialise due to unforeseen circumstances. However, we did manage to raise £1190 bag packing for two days at Waitrose just before Christmas! Many thanks to everyone who came along to help at what is a very busy time of the year for all of us! We hope knees and backs weren't too painful over the Festive period! The church Christmas card raised £194 in donations which was brilliant. The social evening on December 15<sup>th</sup> was not well supported at all with only a hand full of people coming along but £25 was (somehow) raised and the raffle for the knitted blanket, donated by Ruth Lock, raised £5 and was won by Katie Blay.

So on to a new year, hopefully a little 'quieter' than the last one! As yet we haven't held a meeting to plan any fundraising although several things are 'in the pipeline' so watch this space and let's hope for another successful year!

*Fundraising Committee.*

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Befrienders

Everyone is very happy for things to be back to normal as we all miss our meetings. I did hold weekly lunches at my house over the Christmas/ New Year break where everyone was welcome. It was just like at church with lots of laughs and chat and I hope all who came enjoyed it – I certainly did!

Recently we have made truffles, under Kitty's guidance. The 'Y' course with David Oxtoby has finished but we hope to start another course or a Bible Study soon and Chris (Thorley) is giving us some interesting history talks and we look forward to a visit to Exton church very soon.

Lisa continues to guides us in making delicious Monday lunches!

Kind regards and love to all,

Ruthie.

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### *Day Centre*

We were saddened to hear of the death of Day Centre Members, Mary Noble and Pat Fitchett shortly before Christmas. Mary was a longstanding member who until her recent illness had only ever missed one Wednesday meeting and with whom we had great pleasure in celebrating her 101<sup>st</sup> Birthday last May. We extend our thoughts and prayers to both families at this sad time.

On a lighter note, we look forward to welcoming back Tony Bates from Bourne with his wonderful collection of Wildlife Slides on February 8<sup>th</sup> and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Jill Collinge will give one of her fascinating talks of local interest.

The Foot Health Practitioner will **not** be with us during February.

The next Day Centre Communion takes place on February 1<sup>st</sup> at 11.15am.

The Day Centre will be closed on February 15<sup>th</sup> for one week over the half-term break.

*Amy & Carolyn.*

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We make a living from what we get.

We make a life from what we give.

Mothers Union

The next M.U. Holy Communion Service, followed by the meeting, will be held at St. Mary's Church on Thursday, February 2nd at the usual time of 10.00am. All are welcome.

Toddlers

Good to be back after the Christmas hols! The little ones were excited over the presents they received.

We have, so far, made bead bracelets and weird and wonderful shapes with Play dough.

Granddad Brian is not back with us at the moment and we hope his wife, Della, will be better soon. We also hope Auntie Barbara's poorly back will trouble her no more!

Love to all,

Granny Ruth and the Gang.

Don Graham

Joan, Bob, Alison and all the family would like to thank everyone who sent cards and messages of sympathy on the death of Don, a much loved husband, father and grandfather. He will be greatly missed.

A very special thank you to Rev. Jane Calderin and Rev. Peter Hart for a wonderful and moving service and for all the time they spent with us before the funeral.

We would also like to thank Gill Stafford, Barbara Morley and Joyce Beal for organising the refreshments and to anyone else who helped in any way.

Bishop of Grantham's Letter

Dear friends,

For many years I have sat in the same seat on the Kop at Sheffield Wednesday and, during my time as a parish priest just up the road from the ground, I would be asked by many members of the Sunday school and youth club whether they could come to a game with me and my family. On many occasions, I would be sat with a group of seven or eight football mad youngsters and would get vicarious enjoyment from their excitement. On one such occasion, the match was going well! Sheffield Wednesday were winning, the crowd were singing and all seemed well in the world. Suddenly, the opposition equalised via the superbly struck volley of the opposing team's striker and I was surprised to see the young boy next to me, a young black boy of African extract, rise sharply to his feet and make his way to a steward. A few words were exchanged, and then a man sat just behind us was forcibly removed by a gaggle of stewards. Unbeknown to me, my young friend had heard a racist comment directed at the black striker who had scored the superb goal and decided he would act: I've not seen the ejected and dejected fan ever since. That young boy, now a strapping man with a first class honours degree in sports science and himself a successful cage-fighter, often reminds me to this day of that incident long ago.

In today's world, it all seems so antediluvian when we hear of such racist incidents but, sadly, we do not have to go too far to be reminded that, as proscribed and publically despised as racism now is, it still lurks just beneath the surface.

This reality has, both, come to light recently in the case of the Liverpool footballer Suarez and the subsequent racist barracking of an Oldham player by a Liverpool supporter and also in the intimate revelations about the nature of racism during the trial and conviction of the two men found guilty of Stephen Lawrence's murder. In both these cases, the institutions involved-a football club in one case and the police in the other-have taken all the right steps to try and ensure that such prejudiced behaviour is not systemic and inherent in them. However, the horrible truth is that, in the heat of competition or in the bravado of a deeply disturbed young person's hateful tirade, the evil of racism still lurks and it is not far from us all.

Such racism was not unknown to Jesus: we are told that he stood at the well with the Samaritan woman; a woman from a race despised by some

simply because they chose to worship God in another Temple other than that in Jerusalem. Jesus cleverly extracts from this 'hated' foreigner the knowledge that he is the source of eternal life and the eagerly expected Messiah. On their return to the well, even Jesus' disciples join in the unconscious and implicit racism, being 'astonished' that he was speaking with her.

In William Shirer's seminal book on The Third Reich, one is struck by the matter of fact way in which the cremators for the killing fields of the concentration camps were ordered from the manufacturers: as simple as ordering a microwave for the kitchen. Such ordinariness combined with horror is rightly named 'the mundanity of evil'. My young friend in the football match was right to challenge that thoughtless and cruel barb by a fellow supporter for there must be a link between these small, mundane, acts and the kind of racism that leads to violence and loss of life?

In the end, the real tragedy of racism is that it de-humanises those we parody and to whom we attach simplistic prejudices. It was the 'hated' foreign woman at the well who saw the deep mystery of Jesus and his divinity: when our eyes are clouded by colour, class or creed we fail to see and enjoy the true beauty of the person underneath.

+Tim Grantham

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### *Cat's Tail!*

Hi Family! I did miss you all during the holidays!

I have some new, fluffy blankets in my 'des res' but only one problem – they're PINK! But they are very warm and cosy. I've also had some new carpet fitted to my outdoor 'rest area'. Very 'up market' I'm becoming.

Many meows to you all,

**M.D.**

# Calendar

## February

|                                                         |           |                                                             |                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday                                               | 1         | 9-3<br><b>11.15</b>                                         | Day Centre<br><b>Holy Communion</b>                                                       |
| Thursday                                                | 2         | 9.30<br>1-3<br>7.30                                         | Toddlers<br>Twinklets<br>Horticultural Society                                            |
| Friday                                                  | 3         | 1-3<br>4.30                                                 | Befrienders<br>Teenzone Glee Club                                                         |
| <b>Sunday</b><br><b>Third before Lent</b>               | <b>5</b>  | <b>10.00</b><br><b>11.30</b><br><b>6.30</b>                 | <b>Holy Communion</b><br><b>Kings Cafe</b><br><b>Evensong</b>                             |
| Monday                                                  | 6         | 1-3<br>5.30                                                 | Befrienders<br>Teenzone Dance                                                             |
| Tuesday                                                 | 7         | 2.30                                                        | Fun and Fitness                                                                           |
| Wednesday                                               | 8         | 9-3                                                         | Day Centre                                                                                |
| Thursday                                                | 9         | 9.30<br>1-3                                                 | Toddlers<br>Twinklets                                                                     |
| Friday                                                  | 10        | 1-3<br>4.30-5.30                                            | Befrienders<br>Teenzone Glee Club                                                         |
| <b>Sunday</b><br><b>Second before Lent</b>              | <b>12</b> | <b>10.00</b><br><b>10.00</b><br><b>11.15</b><br><b>6.30</b> | <b>Holy Communion</b><br><b>Sunday school</b><br><b>Parish meeting</b><br><b>Evensong</b> |
| <b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup></b> |           |                                                             | <b>No Meetings as Half-Term</b>                                                           |
| <b>Sunday</b><br><b>Next before Lent</b>                | <b>19</b> | <b>10.00</b><br><b>6.30</b>                                 | <b>Kings Praise</b><br><b>Holy Communion</b>                                              |
| Monday                                                  | 20        | 1-3<br>5.30                                                 | Befrienders<br>Teenzone Dance                                                             |
| Tuesday                                                 | 21        | 2.30<br>7.30                                                | Fun and Fitness<br>PCC Meeting                                                            |
| <b>Ash Wednesday</b><br><b>Start of Lent</b>            | <b>22</b> | <b>9.30</b>                                                 | <b>Holy Communion (Said)</b><br><b>(Half hour service)</b>                                |
| Thursday                                                | 23        | 9-3<br>9.30<br>1-3                                          | Day Centre<br>Toddlers<br>Twinklets                                                       |

|                             |           |                             |                                         |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Friday                      | 24        | 1-3<br>4.30-5.30            | Befrienders<br>Teenzone Glee Club       |
| <b>Sunday</b>               | <b>26</b> | <b>10.00</b>                | <b>Holy Communion</b>                   |
| <b>First Sunday of Lent</b> |           | <b>10.00</b><br><b>6.30</b> | <b>Sunday school</b><br><b>Evensong</b> |
| Monday                      | 27        | 1-3<br>5.30                 | Befrienders<br>Teenzone Dance           |
| Tuesday                     | 28        | 2.30                        | Fun and Fitness                         |
| Wednesday                   | 29        | 9-3                         | Day Centre                              |

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

## Basement

### Regular term time Programme for the Basement

|           |                          |                                                                           |
|-----------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday    | 12.3-3.3<br>5-7<br>7-9.3 | Stroke Association (every other week)<br>Teenzone<br>Teenzone sports @ QE |
| Wednesday | 4-5<br>5-7               | Teenzone table tennis<br>Teenzone                                         |
| Thursday  | 1-3                      | Befrienders                                                               |
| Friday    | 5-7<br>7.3-10            | Rainbows<br>Teenzone                                                      |

- See weekly notices for details of all events

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Two Little Boys!

Two little boys, ages 8 and 10, are excessively mischievous. They are always getting into trouble and their parents know if any mischief occurs in their town the two boys are probably involved.

The boys' mother heard that a preacher in town had been successful in disciplining children so she asked if he would speak with her boys. The preacher agreed but he asked to see them individually. So the mother sent the 8 year old in the morning with the older boy to see the preacher in the afternoon.

The preacher, a huge man with a deep booming voice, sat the younger boy down and asked him sternly, "Do you know where God is, son?"

The boy's mouth dropped open but he made no response, sitting there wide eyed with his mouth hanging open. So the preacher repeated the question in an even sterner tone, "Where is God?!"

Again, the boy made no attempt to answer.

The preacher raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face and bellowed, "Where is God?!"

The boy screamed, bolted from the room, ran directly home and hid in his bedroom, slamming the door behind him.

When his older brother found him there, he asked, "What happened?"

The younger brother, gasping for breath, replied, "We are in BIG trouble this time! GOD is missing, and they think WE did it!"

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## *'Alternatives' Pregnancy Advice Centre*

### *Advisors needed*

Do you have a desire for helping others?

Are you free in the daytime for training?

Can you commit to ½ a day a fortnight once trained?

March 2012 will be the start of the next 'Called to Care' training course to be an Advisor for Alternatives Pregnancy Advice Centre in Stamford.

The course will be run in the daytime over 16 weeks: date and time to be confirmed.

If you are interested or would like more details, please contact:

Helen Leech on 01780 765853 on a Monday or Thursday or email:

[alternativesstamford2@btconnect.com](mailto:alternativesstamford2@btconnect.com)

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on the previous page and put it on your pin boards  
or next to your telephone so it's available to use.