

June 2013

Dear friends, the other Sunday marked a significant event in the life of the early Church, the coming of the promised Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, the presence and power of God upon His people, enabling them to go out and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to those in Jerusalem and the rest of the known world. On that day the church was born and we are the result of this historical event some two thousand years later.

Looking back on historical events can fill us with awe and wonder, but there can be a danger that we leave those events only in the past, as something that happened then, but not relevant for us today, simply looking back with nostalgia rather than a determination for the same thing to happen in our time.

I want to encourage us that God is the same God then, as He is today, and will be forever. The same Holy Spirit is promised for all believers, and the same commission to go and make disciples of all nations still stands for all those who call themselves followers of Jesus Christ. Can we do it without the Holy Spirit? No, and neither could the disciples, it was only when they received the Holy Spirit could they speak boldly about their faith, and God drew the people to them to hear. May we likewise be a church that gathers together to pray, a church that seeks the same outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us, so that we also go and proclaim the great and wonderful deeds of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Every rich and wonderful blessing in Christ,

Rev. David.

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### *July/August Magazine*

Could all entries for the above double edition of the magazine be given to me by Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Publication will be on Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. Remember all items/events in August will need to be included!

Just to update my email address is: [jane.richardson222@talktalk.net](mailto:jane.richardson222@talktalk.net)

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Parish Registers

Funerals

April 26th
May 9th
May 10th
May 17th

Henry Wiggett
Joy Thompson
Thomas Bills
George Knighton

Collections

The collection totals for the month of April have not been submitted for entry into this magazine so will be included in next months.

100 Club

Draw result for May: 1st: No.65, 2nd: No.7

The next draw will take place Wednesday, June 19th during Day Centre.

We are still desperately in need of new members to join the 100 Club. You pay £1 per month and are entered into the draw to win a share of the monthly prize money. If you would like to join please have a word with Dawn Field who will arrange everything for you.

Christian Aid Collection

Christian Aid Week ran from Sunday May 12th until Saturday May 18th. With help from some people from our neighbouring parishes who joined our regular collectors we raised £491.06 which is well over our last year's total of £306.25p.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped collect; you did a great job. I would also like to thank Chris Thorley for his dedication and commitment over the past years in his capacity as Christian Aid co-ordinator for Christ Church; thank you Chris for all your hard work.

Jane Calderin.

Parish Foundation Course.

Following the success of the 2011-2012 Parish Foundation Course the Deanery is arranging its second course to start in September 2013 on **either** Tuesdays **or** Wednesdays. As many early applications as possible will be sought so that the preferred day can be determined by 30th June. There will be posters and fliers available in parishes to this effect during June. People may still apply after 30th June but obviously only for the chosen day.

The course consists of 17 evening sessions at fortnightly intervals. It may be taken as a free standing course or as preparation for further training towards Lay Ministry. Sessions included are concerned with the Bible, Worship, Anglicanism, the local community, being a Missionary Church, Gifts and Skills, God's Call, and Developing as a Church. The course is designed to help any of us broaden our knowledge and think through the story of our faith and how that relates to ourselves, our church and society. The first session is an introductory or taster evening.

8 sessions will take place from September to December, then 7 from mid-January until just before Holy Week with the final two after Easter.

The Tuesday dates would be 3rd Sept - 10th Dec;
14th Jan - 8th April;
29th April and 13th May.

The Wednesday alternatives would be simply one day later.

Rev. David Oxtoby

Bits and Pieces

Minibus on Sundays

As many of you know on a Sunday morning the Christ Church minibus collects parishioners from their homes and brings them to church for the 10.00am service. Currently we have three drivers and their assistants, who we are most grateful to, but we are in urgent need of more drivers.

If you feel that you may be able to help, or know someone who could, please speak to Mike Mills, Dawn Field or Brian Stephens.

Church Spring clean, Saturday, June 8th from 9.00am

We desperately need your help to spring clean the church which has not been done since the redecorated in 2011! There are a variety of jobs to do so please talk to either church warden if you need any other information. Please sign up on the list in the foyer if you are able to help or come along on the day for as long as you can. We look forward to seeing you and remember "many hands make light work"!

Sainsbury's, Friday and Saturday, June 14th /15th

We are 'promoting' Christ Church and the work of the Social Projects at Sainsbury's store on Ryhall Road. This will be with the help of information display boards explaining our 'mission' as a church in the community and will incorporate all the projects and groups that meet here in the hope of recruiting more volunteers for the projects and encouraging people to come along to church and find out about all aspects of church life.

We need 'people' to give an hour or so of time to hand out leaflets at the store explaining all that happens at Christ Church and answer any questions people may have. All the social projects are taking part so if anyone is able to give some time to this worthwhile venture please have a word with Dawn. There is a list in hall for you to sign up to if available.

PCC Members

We thought it would be helpful for everyone to know who the current serving members of the PCC are, as elected at the AGM, so here is the list:

Rev. Martyn Taylor	Chairman
Lisa Garwood	Secretary
Nigel Harvey	Treasurer
Dawn Field	Church warden
Brian Stephens	Church warden
Jane Richardson	Deputy Church warden
Mike Mills	Operations Manager
Paul Darley	Lay Reader
Ron Macey	Lay Reader
Catrina Batey,	
Nigel Garwood,	
Barbara Morley,	
Ruth Lock,	
David Wise.	

Dawn and Brian.

*2013 Visitation Service at Lincoln Cathedral
and taking of Churchwardens Oath*

Each year Church wardens have to take an oath shortly after they have been elected at the AGM. This normally takes place locally and in 2012 took place in All Saints Church Stamford. However, this year we were invited to the service which took place in Lincoln Cathedral on May 8th at 7.30pm. We were invited to take our staves and were privileged to be able to process with other Church wardens representing over 600 Parish Churches in the Diocese of Lincoln. This procession took over 20 minutes to enter the Cathedral and once we were all seated the service began.

The service started with Bishop Christopher Lowson greeting everyone and this was followed by a greeting from the Sub Dean. Following the singing of 'The Lord's my Shepherd' there were two readings, Philippians 1.3-11 and Mark 10.35-45. All Church wardens were asked to stand as 'The Commissioning & Admission to Office of Church Wardens' took place which was where we had to make our solemn promise that "With the help of God, we will faithfully and diligently execute the office of Church warden according to the best of our skills and knowledge". The service then continued with the hymn, I the Lord of Sea & Sky, which was followed

by the Prayers of Intercession led by the Archdeacons. The service drew to an end with the hymn 'To God be the Glory' and the blessing.

Both of us feel honoured that you have elected us to serve you for the following year as your Church wardens.

Every Blessing,

Dawn.

New Electoral Roll Officer

I resigned from the post of Electoral roll officer for Christ Church at the last AGM. Leah Oliver has agreed to take on this post and she was elected at the last PCC meeting. So Leah is the new Electoral Roll Officer for Christ Church. Thank you Leah!

Peter Wise.

We would like to thank Peter for the sterling work he has done as Electoral Roll Officer over the years. Your dedication and commitment to maintaining this important Roll is very much appreciated Peter!

Dawn and Brian.

Minibus Celebration and Dedication

In the last magazine I gave the exciting news of the arrival of the new Christ Church Minibus. On Friday, May 17th we had the honour of providing the venue for Brian Sumner's first official engagement as the new mayor of Stamford. In a ceremony in which he handed me the keys of the minibus, he and his wife chatted informally to many of the thirty or so invited guests. The photos show the Mayor handing me the keys and Sandy Jackson (Transport Scheme Manager) and Nina Lightfoot (LCC) cutting the cake with a picture of the minibus on icing.



Martyn Taylor said a prayer of dedication for the minibus, Mike Mills welcomed the guests and briefly described the Christ Church Programmes and I described the Community Transport Scheme and explained that the minibus is for the whole community not just the four churches represented at the event. A representative from the Swayfield Bus Group (who uses the minibus to come to the market on Fridays) thanked us on behalf of their members and other minibus users. Mark Warwick (Rural Dean and Vicar of All Saints) closed the proceedings and Father Christopher of St Augustine's gave thanks for the buffet.

Anyone at Christ Church is welcome to hire the minibus. You may want a family and friends outing, you may need it for a wedding or a christening or a group of your work colleagues may need it for an outing. Please contact me on 07771 566533 or ian.collis@christchurchstamford.com if you would like details and costs.

The Transport Scheme urgently needs volunteer car drivers. You would be taking elderly or disabled people to the doctors, dentists, hospitals, shopping, hairdressers or to visit family or friends. It need not be a big commitment, a couple of hours a week would be a great help. Please contact Sandy Jackson on 01780 482380 or me if you think you might be interested.

Ian Collis.

Fundraising

We're hoping 'it's' going to show its face sometime soon as it has jobs to do! We know 'it's' up there somewhere but maybe 'it's' shy!

So let's hope **the sun** actually begins to make regular appearances in the sky, giving out heat to ripen the strawberries in readiness for our

Strawberry Tea Afternoon.

This will take place on **Saturday, June 22nd from 2 – 4pm**. Fresh homemade scones with jam, fresh cream and lots of strawberries and as much tea (or cold drink) as you can drink will be available for the cost of £2.50. There will be a raffle and lots of time to sit and enjoy a good chat with friends.

We hope you'll come along and join us, bringing friends, relatives and neighbours with you. We look forward to seeing you there!

Dawn, Helen, Jane H. and Jane R.

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## *Befrienders*

We have recently had trips to 'Fairy' Meadows and Tickencote Church. The latter was a lovely little old church made very interesting by an historical quiz given by Chris Thorley.

Seven of our volunteers, including our own Geraldine and Ali from Teenzone, have taken a Mentoring Course. We hope this service will be up and running soon.

We have a course on healthy eating on July 2<sup>nd</sup> which will include a healthy 'lite' lunch.

Our annual trip to Skegness is on July 31<sup>st</sup> and we still have a few seats available. If you are interested in joining us please have a word with Ruthie for more details.

Love to everyone,

*Befrienders.*

## *Day Centre*

After discussions with some of the volunteers the Day Centre Committee has decided that the Day Centre will now be open for five extra Wednesdays this year. We will now be open on the first and last Wednesdays of August for the first time as well as the half term in October and an extra week in December. We know this will be a popular decision with Members.

On June the 12<sup>th</sup> a representative from Cummins will give a talk on the National Trust and on the 19<sup>th</sup> Jane Calderin will talk about her recent trip back to America.

The Day Centre Communion will take place on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 11.15am. and the Foot Health Professional will be with us on June 12<sup>th</sup> from 10am.

*Amy and Carolyn.*

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## *Mothers Union*

The next M.U. Holy Communion Service, followed by the meeting, will be held at St. Georges Church on Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at the usual time of 10.00am.

All are welcome.

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## *Toddlers*

We have enjoyed 'Playdough' and puzzles just lately. We have also made some lovely jewellery using the very colourful beads which were donated to us. Even our little tots made bracelets and necklaces for mummy or big sister! We are a very happy band of mums, dads and tots!

Our annual trip to Wickstead Park is on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

*The Toddler Gang.*

# Thank you!

*I would like to thank everyone for their good wishes, cards and plants on the occasion of my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. I had a lovely celebration after the service on the Sunday (May 12<sup>th</sup>) when lots of friends stayed behind to share a piece of cake and a cuppa.*

*In lieu of gifts £315 was raised for Gt. Ormond Street Hospital, London.*

Thank you all, **Kath. (H-D).**



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Bishop of Lincoln's Letter.....

As I write this letter we are emerging from what seems like a very long and harsh winter.

At last, we're now enjoying warmer weather. As I drive around the diocese, it seems as though all of a sudden I am surrounded by wonderful vibrant shades of green in our fields, and flowers finally springing forth in all their spring and summer glory in our gardens and along the roadsides. It is a wonderful sight and I thank God for the natural beauty we can all enjoy.

I'm also aware, though, that the vagaries of the weather have made this last year a particularly tough one for all those who farm in our diocese.

In Lincolnshire, perhaps more than most places in the country, we are very aware of being at the mercy of the weather. I'm reminded that the Bishop of Ely was once approached by a group of farmers and asked to pray for rain because the ground was so parched and their crops were

suffering. Several weeks later, the same farmers were back at the Bishop, asking him to pray for the rain to *stop*, since it had fallen incessantly since their last visit and their crops were in danger of being ruined. We need to be careful what we pray for!

This month, many of us will be going to the Lincolnshire County Show, one of the country's largest agricultural shows. It's a timely reminder of our reliance on the land and our dependence on good weather – for work, for play and for the food we eat.

Take time to stop and notice the beauty of our natural environment this month. And as you do so, spare a thought for those who work on the land in our diocese and provide food provide for our tables, and thank God for them.

+Christopher Lincoln.



Gardens and Grounds

1. Green Shed (aka The Garage) and Cummins' Ground Force Teams!

Many of you have probably noticed the garage/shed has had a makeover, along with the adjacent fence round the 'Garden of Dreams' and the boundary fence backing onto Christ Church Close. A generous coat of Sadolin wood preservative was used. The shed guttering has also been repaired again and cleaned out so the rain water is more efficiently collected in a water butt for plant watering. The garage/shed roof was also cleaned to try and help prevent the gutters from blocking. This was an overdue maintenance job; the garage has not been painted since it was erected when Bob was in office.

The garden area has also been tidied, so we are looking posh, almost an RHS showcase at least until the latest wind and rain!!

Mike Mills and Mike Hobbs from Cummins got the ball rolling with a special task force. The work was completed by a group of volunteers from Cummins who worked hard and really enjoyed doing something constructive for their local community. They were surprised with some of the social projects that Christ Church offers and this added to their

enthusiasm. They nearly got carried away with their enthusiasm when I asked them to trim the suckers off the lime tree at the Southwest corner of the car park by the Christ Church Close road sign. I was busy working at the opposite end of the gardens, more of this anon, and when I came to look they had cleared all the debris to the left of the tree that had blocked the gap! Thanks to Mike Mills and his trailer these huge piles were taken away and Pam tells me that Mike has been sending smoke signals ever since with the bonfires!! I could never have managed this on my own so a massive thank you to Mike Mills and Mike Hobbs from Cummins for organizing this and to the two groups of volunteers from Cummins who worked so hard. Many thanks to Brian Stephens for all his help and for co-writing the first part of this article.

2. Gardens Update

Firstly I must apologize for not keeping you up to date with current plans and progress for this is my first article for a bit; I will try and keep it brief! Though we seem to have been in the grip of winter for a long time there were encouraging signs earlier with the snowdrops, cowslips, crocus, daffodils cyclamen and hellebores that the plants were able to cope better with the vagaries of the British weather than we were! They may not have flowered when expected and some suffered more than others but by and large there were displays of colour in different parts of the gardens most of the time and I even spotted some bluebells recently!.

The Eucalyptus Gunneri by the left hand entrance to the car park was a casualty and so I had to cut it down with my trusty pruning saw and bow saw recycling the wood in the Log Pile of the Wild Life Garden behind the church. I then planted a Rowan and a Sambucus Nigra in the space. That Island bed behind the east end of the church is well stocked with a variety of shrubs and flowers. Though I do have a tendency to overplant at times but I prefer to see colour and foliage in an informal natural setting rather than a more formal and regimented arrangement.

There will undoubtedly be some thinning out to do at times and I have already made a start but there is quite a large area to cover, so it was a real bonus to have the help of the volunteers from Cummins!

I have always hoped that we would be able to fence the area by that Lime tree at the corner of Christ Church Close and thanks to Cummins that space is now clearly defined! It would only need 2 or 3 panels to continue the existing fence to the tree and I hope that funds can be made available

or I may have to consider launching a new sponsorship scheme etc. Of course there may be somebody out there who could help in some way!

The Front Memorial Garden is thriving with the roses by the path coming into bud now, the Yucca has regrown, there are a number of shrubs there that are starting to make their presence felt and their progress will be monitored closely.

Over the recent months I have planted over a hundred shrubs at different times, largely thanks to the offers at Wilkos in the High Street! They include several rowans, a willow or two, a climbing rose, five flowering cherries, four evergreen shrubs, many purple berberis, dog roses, hawthorns, quickthorn etc.

The latest project is continuing to develop a Wild Life Meadow on the North side of the church in that narrow strip to the left of the entrance ramp. I have planted shrubs down the side with the car park there that should form the mixed hedge for wildlife that I have mentioned in earlier articles. They will provide both habitat and food for a wide range of insects, birds and mammals whilst the longish grass will be haven for amphibians etc. In the long term I hope to grow wild native flowers and have made a start by creating a few beds in the grass. I have also planted bulbs and scattered seeds in the beds to help create a year round wild life environment that wraps around the church. At the end of this strip I have planted a rowan teasels and other wild flowers and on your right is the Wild Life Garden behind the metal fence completing the wild life circle. It has been largely left alone recently though I have shown one or two people as well as some of the Cummins volunteers. I did plant an apple tree and a cherry tree near the Butterfly Corner to provide fruit to attract insects.

Long term I hope to update the information boards and to paint mural scenes of wildlife but meanwhile I will continue to do my best to keep the grass cut, the weeds under reasonable control and all the other tasks that need attention on a regular basis. If you have any native wild flowers etc. that could be used please get in touch Stamford 752354.

Chris (and Brian!).

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PS Apparently, according to the experts, dandelions are extremely beneficial to insects and wild life and ivy is not only essential for the life cycle of the Holly Blue Butterfly but provides both habitats for wild life and is a vital source of pollen and nectar for Bees! So I don't count them as weeds, nor blackberry as it provides both food and habitat !

*Chris.*

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Cat's Tail!

Hi Family!

I told you all not to blink as you'd miss the sun. Now it's winter again, cold, wet, windy – proper miserable!! My friend Tabby doesn't like this weather either.

I've missed you all over the half-term. Been very quiet here so looking forward to seeing you all again soon!

Take care, luv to all!

M.D.

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### *Calendar*

#### *June*

|               |          |                                            |                                                                         |
|---------------|----------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>2</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>Evensong</b>                 |
| Monday        | 3        | 9.30<br>1-3<br>8.00                        | Team Meeting<br>Befrienders<br>Bible Study Home Group                   |
| Wednesday     | 5        | 9-3<br>11.15<br>7.00<br>7.30               | Day Centre<br>Holy Communion<br>Informal Prayer Meeting<br>Gospel Choir |

|               |           |                                            |                                                               |
|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday      | 6         | 9.30<br>1-3<br>7.30                        | Toddlers<br>Twinklets<br>Prayer Meeting                       |
| Friday        | 7         | 1-3                                        | Befrienders                                                   |
| Saturday      | 8         | 9.00                                       | Church Spring clean                                           |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>9</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>Evensong</b>       |
| Monday        | 10        | 9.30<br>1-3<br>8.00                        | Team Meeting<br>Befrienders<br>Bible Study Home Group         |
| Wednesday     | 13        | 9-3<br>7.00                                | Day Centre<br>Informal Prayer Meeting                         |
| Thursday      | 13        | 7.30<br>9.30<br>1-3<br>7.30                | Gospel Choir<br>Toddlers<br>Twinklets<br>Prayer Meeting       |
| Friday        | 14        | All Day<br>1-3                             | Sainsbury's<br>Befrienders                                    |
| Saturday      | 15        | All Day                                    | Sainsbury's                                                   |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>16</b> | <b>10.00</b><br><b>4.00</b><br><b>6.30</b> | <b>Morning Prayer</b><br><b>CC@4</b><br><b>Holy Communion</b> |
| Monday        | 17        | 9.30<br>1-3<br>8.00                        | Team Meeting<br>Befrienders<br>Bible Study Home Group         |
| Wednesday     | 19        | 9-3<br>7.00<br>7.30                        | Day Centre<br>Informal Prayer Meeting<br>Gospel Choir         |
| Thursday      | 20        | 7.30<br>9.30<br>1-3<br>7.30                | PCC meeting<br>Toddlers<br>Twinklets<br>Prayer Meeting        |
| Saturday      | 22        | 2-4pm                                      | Strawberry Tea Afternoon                                      |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>23</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>Evensong</b>       |

|               |           |                             |                                                                                 |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday        | 24        | 9.30<br>1-3                 | Team Meeting<br>Befrienders                                                     |
| Wednesday     | 26        | 8.00<br>9-3<br>7.00<br>7.30 | Bible Study Home Group<br>Day Centre<br>Informal Prayer Meeting<br>Gospel Choir |
| Thursday      | 27        | 9.30<br>1-3<br>7.30         | Toddlers<br>Twinklets<br>Prayer Meeting                                         |
| Friday        | 28        | 1-3                         | Befrienders                                                                     |
| Saturday      | 29        | 7.30-10.00<br>All Day       | Men's Breakfast<br>Stamford Festival Float Parade                               |
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>30</b> | <b>10.00</b>                | <b>Family Communion</b>                                                         |

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See weekly notice sheets for full details of all events.

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

Regular term time Programme for the Basement

Monday	3-7 7-9.30	Teenzone Teenzone sports @ QE
Wednesday	3-7 7-8.30	Teenzone Teenzone
Thursday	1-3 3-4 4-7	Befrienders Teenzone (Careers Session) Teenzone

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