

## February 2013

Happy New Year everyone.

With the change of year comes new hopes, dreams, and for some maybe new year resolutions. It's often a time we look ahead, but also look back, reflecting on past events and activities.

Looking back, when I joined you in April 2012, my vision for my short time with Christ Church was to "*Value what existed, Strengthen what there is, and Grow together for God's Kingdom.*" I feel that in some measure we have been able to realise some of this vision. We have been able to start a new afternoon service CC@4, which explores faith and church in a relaxed way, we've started regular weekly prayer and bible studies, we have grown the home communion ministry and developed a pastoral team, we have strengthened the community programmes with the wonderful help of Mike Mills. Through all this we have seen growth in our attendance, with Christmas services in particular being well supported. It's has been a time of stability, growth, and getting ready, all of which could not have been done without your support and help, so let me say thank you, and in particular thank you to our Church Wardens, Dawn, Mike and Jane, and of course all those who help behind the scenes in so many ways.

Looking ahead, 2013 will be a season of transition, as I look beyond my own Curacy, and seek to become Priest-in-charge of my own parish somewhere in Lincolnshire. Plans are being worked out for my replacement, and in the fullness of time I will let you know details. But in the mean time we can start to pray and prepare for what God has planned here in this community, seeking to grow in our own walk with Christ, and seek to grow His Kingdom here in our community. With any looking ahead we can sometimes be side tracked, but my encouragement for us all as we plan and prepare for 2013 is to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, since it is His Kingdom come, and His will be done. May we grow together, love together, learn together, and make Jesus known together.

I pray for you all that you will have a blessed 2013, and grow in love for Christ.

*Rev. David.*

# March Magazine

Could all entries for the above edition of the magazine be given to Rev. Jane Calderin by **Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>** for publication on Sunday, **Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>**. Items can be emailed to: janecalderin@hotmail.co.uk.

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## Parish Registers

### Baptisms

25 <sup>th</sup> November	Reece Trevor Francis Collings Charlie Ray Sinclair
20 <sup>th</sup> January	Rosie Warnes

### Funerals

4 <sup>th</sup> January	Arthur Whittington
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## Collections

	Open Plate	Env/Gift Aid	Env. (NTP)
<b>November :</b>	£383.84	£1317.17	£190.93
<b>December :</b>	£639.14	£1514.50	£109.63

HMRC tax refund: £3073.63.

The accounts for 2012 are now ready for external examination with a closing bank balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 of £22336.21.

I will be ordering the weekly giving envelopes shortly and if anyone would like to join this method of giving, PLEASE give me a call. It is handled in a very confidential manner and if you are a tax payer, then Christ Church are able to claim the tax back - GOOD NEWS!

*Gail.*

# *100 Club*

Draw result for December,

1<sup>st</sup>: No. 88, 2<sup>nd</sup>: No. 67

The January draw will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> (weather permitting DC to open!) and the February draw on Wednesday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> during Day Centre meetings.

We are desperately in need of new members to join the 100 Club. At the moment there are around 80 members who 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 and remember half of all monies raised goes to help fund the annual Grand Draw as well as other needs of the church.

After all you have to speculate to accumulate!!

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## *Electoral Roll*

From January 6<sup>th</sup> until February 24<sup>th</sup> 2013 we at Christ Church are renewing the Electoral Roll.

This means that all people on the electoral roll in 2012 are required to reapply to go onto the electoral roll; also any new members must apply to go onto the electoral roll. You must have attended Christ Church for the last six months and be over the age of sixteen. Application forms are in the foyer or from me.

The forms should be returned to me when completed. Thank you.

*Peter Wise. Christ Church Electoral Officer.*

4 Sutherland Way, Stamford. PE9 2TA. Tel: Stam. 751789.

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## *Bits and Pieces*

### *Christmas*

We hope most members of our congregation managed to get to church at some point over the Christmas period and enjoy the wonderful floral decorations (as well as the services of course!) The church looked beautiful and our thanks go to the ladies and gentleman who spent long hours transforming the church. Thanks also to those who made donations to the flowers.

New ladies and gentlemen, are desperately needed to join the Flower Rota so think on about helping out and speak to Dawn Field if interested.

### *Illness*

Several of our church family and friends are ill at this time. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all and we hope it won't be too long before they are well enough to be able to rejoin us in church (hopefully once all this snow and freezing weather has gone!)

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## *Church Flowers*

A discussion over coffee led to the idea that members of the congregation might like to remember the anniversaries of their loved ones, give thanks for the birth of a new family member or celebrate an occasion by donating something towards the flowers that week. An announcement in the weekly notices would mention what the flowers were donated for and by whom, unless this was not wished.

If you are interested in donating flowers in this way please get in touch with Dawn Field or Gill Stafford.

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## *Fundraising*

Firstly, we wish to thank the 17 friends who came along to the Festive Fun Afternoon in December. A lovely time of friendship and fun was had by all and £63 was raised.

Looking ahead to 2013 and as yet not much has been organised in the way of fundraising as we only have tentative dates for events so watch this space! Any ideas for fund raising gratefully received as well as any new members to join our very friendly committee!

We had some wonderful news in December when we heard we had been successful in our application for funding from the Church Lads Trust. We had asked for funds to enable us to purchase new 'small tables' for the hall and thanks to their generous donation of over £800 we will be able to purchase them in due course. Many thanks to the Church lads Trust.

## *Fundraising Committee.*

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### *Befrienders / StartAfresh*

Hello everyone! Holidays are over so it's back to normal and despite the snow on Monday, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> 19 people attended for our Prepare and Share lunch. On our first Monday back, 7<sup>th</sup>, we were 22 in number.

The R.A.E. course has resumed although Linda our tutor was ill so no course held on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> but a quick alternative of a game of Dominoes and a chat over coffee was enjoyed by all. Bingo and Dominoes were enjoyed when a trip to St. Martin's Church had to be cancelled because of the weather.

Monday lunches, Thursday R.A.E., Chris's church history and Ruth (Mawdsley's) Friday Fun will continue throughout February.

Keep warm and take care,

## *Befrienders.*

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### *Day Centre Membership*

As we are all well aware prices are increasing as the poor economic situation continues. Here at the Day Centre we are aware of the problems this causes particularly for the elderly but occasionally difficult decisions have to be made.

The Committee has decided that from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, to keep the Day Centre running as you would wish Members will now be asked to pay for Membership based on a 41 week year regardless of whether or not they are able to attend each week. Of course, we will not charge Members for any week we are unable to open due to bad weather or other circumstances beyond our control.

This may seem unfair to some but we would rather introduce this now and keep Membership at £8 a week which is considerably less than many Day Centres. You will know that this includes coffee and biscuits on arrival, two course hot lunch, entertainment, tea and cake and transport to and from the Day Centre as required. To stay with the current scheme we would have to increase the weekly cost to you considerably!

The Committee hopes you will understand this decision. We are sure you will appreciate that weekly expenses for us remain the same regardless of attendance levels.

Our main concern is to keep the Day Centre running as smoothly as possible for many years to come.

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## *Day Centre*

We hope you all managed to stay safe and warm during the recent spell of bad weather. The snow certainly disrupted the Day Centre but is only to be expected at this time of year.

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, we welcome back Phil Rudkin with his wildlife slides and on the 27<sup>th</sup> we will hold our first painting competition which was postponed from last month.

The next Day Centre Communion will be on **Ash Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>** at 11.15am and the Foot Health Professional will visit on February 27<sup>th</sup> from 10am.

We will be closed, for one week on February 20<sup>th</sup> for the half term holidays.

*Amy and Carolyn.*

Over the past few weeks many people have been busy raising funds for the Day Centre. Around 16 people took part in the Santa Fun Run and most of the (almost) £1000 raised has been donated to Day Centre funds. Amy and Carolyn spent an extremely cold, snowy Friday, just before Christmas, on Stamford Market running a Tombola stall and raised £90 as well as running another stall at Morrison's in early January raising £196.

We thank everyone who donated prizes for both these stalls and to those volunteers who helped 'man' the stalls and for braving the elements!

St. Mary's Medical Centre sells donated books and money raised (£260 so far and counting!) has been given to the Day Centre. Thanks go to Barbara Morley for organising this.

All these fund raising activities take time to organise and run and we are very grateful to everyone who took part in whatever way. Thank you all!

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## *Toddlers*

Despite the weather we had some new members join us on Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> including my 2 day old grandson, Thomas Bailey born on 15<sup>th</sup> at 6.20am weighing 6lb 2ozs! He looks like a lovely little doll – so doesn't take after his nanny!

Enjoyable times have been had making messy shapes with squidgy Playdough, lovely sing-a-longs and story times. Mums enjoy a cuppa and a catch up.

New members are always welcome, every Thursday, 9.30 -11.00am.

Enjoy the snow, kiddies!

Love to all,

*Nanny Ruth and the Gang.*

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# *Mothers Union*

The next M.U. Holy Communion Service, followed by the meeting, will be held at St. Mary's Church on Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at the usual time of 10.00am.

All are welcome.

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

### *For January (because we're still in Epiphany!)*

When I lived in central London, as I did until moving to Lincoln just over a year ago, the pace of life always seemed hectic. We seemed to be constantly busy, struggling to be heard over traffic noise, battling past thousands of people on every street. What a contrast to life in much of the Diocese of Lincoln.

There are many good things about living in the Diocese, but one of them which still has me catching my breath at times is the sky. I marvel at its bright, azure blue; I'm captivated by the wide open expanse of it – something you never see in the centre of a city. Most of all, though, I am in awe at the sheer wonder and the beauty of the night sky filled with countless stars. In the city, of course, you never glimpse the stars because of the street lights.

Here, I find the night sky endlessly fascinating. Sometimes illuminated by the moon and planets, sometimes not; sometimes constellations I recognise, sometimes not. But always, I am struck by the contrast between light and darkness.

You and I live in a world which can seem very dark at times, whether through war, illness, relationships under stress, worries about work and paying the bills. In Jesus, the greatest light of all has come down to earth to shine in the dark places of our lives and in our world. He has come among us as the light which no darkness can ever put out.

The season of Epiphany reminds us that, in Jesus, God revealed himself to the world. He made himself known in Jesus so that you and I have a

glimpse of the true nature of God, and have a way of encountering and overcoming darkness in our lives.

Epiphany is also the time when we remember the Wise Men, who risked much as they followed the star in the night sky. Like them, you and I are called to follow that light, to go wherever it may lead, and to look for glimpses of God's presence, so that the love of God might forever shine bright in the darkness places of our world.

"When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flock,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among people,  
to make music in the heart." *Howard Thurman*

### *For February.....*

The Christmas decorations have been down for weeks and the turkey leftovers are but a distant memory. It is easy, therefore, to forget that in the church we continued to celebrate the season of Christmas right through January - until February 2<sup>nd</sup>, in fact, the Feast of Candlemas.

Candlemas is a festival about light. Coming as it does at the end of the Christmas season; it is a time to give thanks for Jesus coming among us as the light of the world. As a sign of this, many churches bless the candles which will be used in church in the coming year, so that the light which shone out from the stable will continue to shine long after the shepherds have gone back to their fields and the magi have returned home.

Candlemas also commemorates the presentation of our Lord in the temple when, in accordance with Jewish custom, the infant Jesus was taken by Mary and Joseph to the temple forty days after his birth. As they did so, they were greeted by the aged Simeon who, the Gospels tell us, had been promised that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's

Messiah. When Simeon saw the infant Jesus, he took him in his arms and said the words which became known as the Nunc Dimittis:

*'Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace; according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people: to be a light to lighten the gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel.'*

Most of us don't need to try very hard to think of dark places in our world – or, for that matter, in our own lives. There are signs all around us – war, famine, unemployment, illness, bereavement, loss - the list is long and can seem overwhelming.

But present, too, are signs of the presence of the Light of the world – care, kindness, concern, love, friendship. These are all signs that God continues to be with us. The one who came as a light in the darkness is with us always. The light from the stable continues to shine and the dark places of our world are forever changed because of it. As St John's Gospel tells us, *'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.'*

**Christopher Lincoln.**

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*Cat's Tails*

Hi Family!

So pleased to see you all back – I've missed your company. Not sure about the snow though but my Des. Res. is kept refreshed with dry insulation, a pillow and a blanket! Only problem is my water keeps freezing! Gives me a healthy appetite this cold cold weather.

Take care of yourselves and keep warm.

Luvs you all, **M.D.**

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# Calendar

## February

Friday	1	1-3	Befrienders
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10.00</b> <b>4.00</b> <b>6.30</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> <b>CC@4</b> <b>Evensong</b>
Monday	4	1-3 8.00	Befrienders Bible Study Home Group
Tuesday	5	6.30	Spanish Lesson
Wednesday	6	9-3 7.00 7.30	Day Centre Informal Prayer Meeting Gospel Choir
Thursday	7	9.30 1-3 7.30 7.30	Toddlers Twinklets Prayer Meeting Horticultural Society
Friday	8	1-3	Befrienders
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10.00</b> <b>4.00</b> <b>6.30</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> <b>CC@4</b> <b>Evensong</b>
Monday	11	1-3 8.00	Befrienders Bible Study Home Group
Tuesday	12	6.30	Spanish Lesson
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>13</b>	9-3 <b>11.15</b> 7.00 7.30	Day Centre <b>Holy Communion</b> Informal Prayer Meeting Gospel Choir
Thursday	14	9.30 1-3 7.30	Toddlers Twinklets Prayer Meeting
Friday	15	1-3	Befrienders
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10.00</b> <b>4.00</b> <b>6.30</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b> <b>CC@4</b> <b>Holy Communion</b>

## Half Term Week – Most groups having a break

Monday	18	8.00	Bible Study Home Group
Tuesday	19	6.30	Spanish Lesson
Wednesday	20	7.00	Informal Prayer Meeting
		7.30	Gospel Choir
		7.30	PCC
Thursday	21	7.30	Prayer Meeting
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
		<b>4.00</b>	<b>CC@4</b>
		<b>6.30</b>	<b>Evensong</b>
Monday	25	1-3	Befrienders
		8.00	Bible Study Home Group
Tuesday	26	6.30	Spanish Lesson
Wednesday	27	9-3	Day Centre
		7.00	Informal Prayer Meeting
		7.30	Gospel Choir
Thursday	28	9.30	Toddlers
		1-3	Twinklets
		7.30	Informal Prayer Meeting

See weekly notice sheets for 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.

## Basement

### Regular term time Programme for the Basement

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

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