

July/August 2014



Hello I'm your new vicar!

My name is Nikki Bates, my husband is Tony and we will soon be coming to join you at Christ Church!

For the past three years I have been assistant curate of the Coastal Cluster in Holland deanery. I have been working with two vicars and a large ministry team across 6 rural churches in the parishes of Frieston, Butterwick with Benington and Leverton, Old Leake, Wrangle and Friskney. Prior to this Tony and I spent two years at Trinity College Bristol where I trained for ordination. I was ordained deacon in June 2011 and priested the following year at Lincoln Cathedral. Before moving to Bristol Tony had been the manager of a potato factory and I had a small hairdressing business in Swineshead. We go back to the village regularly as both our parents still live there.

I grew up in Oxfordshire, Tony is a Lincolnshire lad. We have been married for 22 years. Tony has two grown up sons and we have 2 grandsons with another due in August. We also have three rescued Persian cats – Freddy, Myrtle and Alfie!

Tony and I come to you as a team; a sort of buy one, get one free! Tony has many gifts and skills - he is a parish worker/local minister and house husband extraordinaire We both share a passion for Jesus, and God's hospitality, and we look forward to sharing this with you!

We are really looking forward to getting to know you all, and excited about getting involved in all that God is doing in Christ Church, your parish and the town of Stamford.

Please do hold us in your prayers as we prepare to leave Old Leake and the Coastal Cluster, and be assured that you are all in our thoughts and prayers as we prepare to join you in loving service through our Lord Jesus Christ.

See you soon!

Revd Nikki and Tony

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### *Parish Registers*

#### *Baptisms*

|                            |                                            |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>May 25<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Eloise Swann</b><br><b>Imogen Swann</b> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|

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Collections

	Open Plate	Gift Aid	Non Gift Aid
May:	£197.00	£735.00	£509.00

Nigel.

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## *September Magazine*

Could all entries for the above edition of the magazine be given to me by Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. Publication will be on Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup>.

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

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## *100 Club*

Draw result for June,

1<sup>st</sup>: No. 9,    2<sup>nd</sup>: No. 92

The next draw will take place on Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> during the Day Centre.

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## *Church Wardens Request*

### **Church Spring Clean, Saturdays 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> July, 9.30 -1.00pm**

We have decided to have a Spring Clean of our church so it looks its best before Nikki arrives. Let's all pull together on this to show off Christ Church in all its glory!

There will be many jobs to do over the two Saturdays so there will be 'something' for everyone to help with.

Please put your name on the list in the entrance hall for the week/weeks you are able to help.

Remember many hands make light work!

### **Licensing of Rev. Nicky Bates**

This will be held on Tuesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. As yet we do not know the time but once it is announced details will be in the weekly notice sheets and on the church website: [christchurchstamford.com](http://christchurchstamford.com).

*Dawn and Brian.*

## *Fundraising*

It's arrived at last! The sun has been making regular appearances lately so it must mean that summer has arrived and it's time once again for our **Strawberry Tea Afternoon!** This will take place on **Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 4pm.** Fresh homemade scones with jam, fresh cream and 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 plenty 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!

We are also planning for our **Market Stall on Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>.** We will be having a Tombola and selling cakes, pastries, preserves etc. Donations of items which are suitable for the tombola (unwanted gifts, toiletries, groceries which must be in date!) will be very welcome and can be brought to church from now onwards. A box will be placed in the entrance for you to put any donated items in. Cakes etc. can be brought to church on Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup> between 6.00 and 7.00pm or down to the stall first thing Friday morning.

Don't forget to come along and support us on the day. Let's hope the sun shines on us! All proceeds to church funds.

## *Fundraising Committee.*

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CC@4

As the lunch which CC@4 arranged earlier this year went so well we have organised two more events. If you require more details feel free to speak to any CC@4 member or one of the church wardens.

Dates for your diary:

CC@4 is having a bring-your-own picnic on **Stamford Recreation Ground on Sunday 20th July from noon to 2pm.** We have been given the use of the Shack, which has some kitchen facilities and will provide

cover if the weather is poor. We would like to invite the whole church to join us. Further details will be available nearer the time, including arrangements for transporting people who need it.

CC@4 is also planning a walk on **Wednesday 23rd July** for as many as are available and feel up to it! We will meet on **Stamford Meadows at 6.30pm** and head for Easton on the Hill where we will have a break at The Blue Bell Inn before returning by a different route. It should take about 45 minutes each way, with the total time being dependent on how long we remain in The Blue Bell, which we can decide at the time but it would be impolite not to sample its refreshments whilst we are there!

Do feel free to invite friends, family, dogs etc.

Paul Darley.

StartaFresh/Befrienders

Hi everyone!

We had a lovely trip to Ferry Meadows recently. It was a lovely day. We enjoyed hot-dogs with salad followed by fresh fruit at our light lunch on Friday, June 20th. Games of Bingo followed and a good time was had by all.

On Monday, July 7th we are going to Wittering for Ten Pin Bowling then on July 21st we are going to Burghley Park for a picnic.

Our annual trip to Skegness is on Monday, July 28th and we still have a few spare seats so have a word with Ruth if you are interested in joining us.

We return next term at the beginning of September but the actual date is yet to be confirmed. Have a lovely summer break, one and all!

God Bless, *Ruthie and all.*

Day Centre

We have had a very exciting month of June! We went along to see 'Singing in the Rain' at the Corn Exchange, both members and volunteers had a lovely time. Then we had a really relaxing afternoon when the Yaxley Handbell Ringers came along to entertain us. A big thank you to them for coming along. On another Wednesday members brought along their wedding photos and we all had great fun guessing who they were.

We have welcomed two new members to our Day Centre. Freeda Lambert, who is the sister of Brenda Hopkins, and Phillip Day, who used to be one of our drivers. We hope they will both be very happy with us. Over the next two weeks Maureen Clark and Ivy Dolby will be joining us. The latter contacted us after the piece in the Mercury about the Day Centre.

On July 9th Ian Collis (Transport Office) and his brother Jeremy are coming along to sing to us and then on July 23rd Edinburgh Wool Mill will be visiting us.

The Day Centre Communion will take place on July 2nd at 11.15am. The Foot Health Professional will be with us on July 9th, not the 2nd as previously mentioned, from 10am.

Advance Notice:

Day Centre Charity Stall, Stamford Market, September 5th. All day.

If anyone has any items they would like to donate to the stall, anything at all, please give to Catrina or Barbara. All items gratefully received. More details, speak to either ladies.

Catrina and Barbara.

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*A BIG 'Thank you'*

Members at the Day Centre would like to say a BIG thank you to Catrina for all the hard work she puts in to make their Wednesday's, and other days, as enjoyable as they are. The trips she has arranged to see shows are very much appreciated by all who attend. It takes a lot of time and

effort to organise these things and everyone is very grateful so thank you Catrina!

## *Day Centre Members.*

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### *Mothers Union*

The next M.U. Holy Communion Services followed by the meetings will be held at St. Mary's Church on Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> and here at Christ Church on August 7<sup>th</sup> both at the usual time of 10.00am.

All are welcome.

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### *Toddlers*

Hello everyone!

We have all been very busy lately. We've made Father's Day cards, pictures of Moses as well as books of 'Old Macdonald's Farm'. We enjoy playing and singing and meeting our friends – and mummies enjoy chatting to their friends too!

Our trip to Wicksteed Park is on Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup> so we are praying for a fine, sunny day.

Our new term begins early September, date yet to be confirmed. Have a good holiday!

## *Toddler Gang.*

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### *Cuttings from the Gardens*

It is great to be back, thank you for all your good wishes. I am doing my best to keep the gardens under some sort of control but it does take time!

The response to the new planting scheme in front of the new fence to the north of the entrance ramp has been very positive with one lady telling me how much it brightens up her day, which was very reassuring. Hopefully this will establish itself to provide interest, colour and scent throughout the seasons.

It will also encourage wild life providing habitats and food for insects like bees, butterflies, hover flies and lacewings. I have already seen all these on the plants and this will only increase. Beyond this will be a small area for native wild plants just before a natural barrier. At present this is a log & wood structure to deter people from taking a short cut but allow small mammals & hedgehogs to pass. This completes the 'Green Corridor' around the church and links directly with the Wild Life Garden at the back of the church. In time it will be replaced by shrubs like buckthorn, pyracantha and hawthorn that will form a natural barrier that will also encourage wild life.

Beyond this I hope that Cummins will erect another, lower wooden fence to enclose the whole strip. Inside this will run a native mixed hedge specifically designed to provide habitats for wild birds, which of course can feed on all those insects! The grass beyond the barrier will be deliberately kept longer (by strimming) as this provides different habitats for wild life. On a similar theme I was very pleased that the white clematis at the entrance to the Wild Life Garden has come back with a vengeance and has covered the metal fencing along with the purple clematis, Polish Spirit.

Excellent news for the wild life but what about the two legged users of the church? The roses on the way into the church continue to draw favourable comments for their colour, form and scent as do the memorial roses to the left of the entrance ramp. In the Garden of Dreams by the garage one arch was damaged so I have retrained the shrubs to grow on the fence behind the garden bench. I have managed to keep the grass cut thanks to the efforts of Brian our church warden who repaired the lawn mower; many thanks Brian for all your help.

I hope to keep on top of the gardens though we will be on holiday in Wales during the summer.

*Chris.*

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Bishop of Lincoln's Letter.....

I imagine that many of you reading this letter are preparing to take a summer holiday.

Whether you're going away or staying at home, the summer months are often a time when we're able to change gear and slow down a little. They are an opportunity for some rest and relaxation.

It's easy to fall into the trap of thinking that we are only doing God's work if we are busy. It is true that our faith must be expressed in action, but should only ever be part of the story. That action must be informed by prayer and reflection. The gospels tell us that Jesus often got into a boat and took himself away from the crowds after busy times, so that he could spend time alone with God. Jesus knew how important it was to make the time to do that.

When we live at a busy pace, we need rest in order for our bodies to recharge and feel rejuvenated. But there's more to it than that. Finding time to rest is essential for a life that is balanced and healthy, emotionally and spiritually as well as physically. Rest gives us time to recalibrate, to reflect and to pray, to ask ourselves, 'Am I doing the things God wants me to do in my life?' Reflecting on that question might lead us to think about doing things differently, refocusing our lives so they are once again in tune with what God is asking us to do.

So wherever you may be this summer, I encourage you to find some time simply to rest in the presence of God. May you be blessed in your rest and relaxation, and in all that you do in God's name.

+Christopher Lincoln.

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### *Cat's Tails*

Hi Family!

The festival lorry for Teenzone was rather large and daunting so I played 'scaredy cat' and hid at the bottom of the steps to the garden. Mummy

Ruth and the girls shared their fish and chips with me one Saturday, well not the chips as a handsome chap like me has to watch his weight!

I will miss you all during the summer holidays but hope you all enjoy yourselves.

Luv, **M.D.**

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Calendar

July

Tuesday	1	7.30	Momentum
Wednesday	2	9-3	Day Centre
		11.15	Holy Communion
Thursday	3	9.30	Toddlers
		7.30	Prayer Meeting
		7.30	Horticultural Society
Friday	4	1-3	Befrienders
Saturday	5	2-4	Strawberry Tea Afternoon
Sunday 3rd after Trinity	6	10.00	Service of the Word
		4.00	Refreshments after service.
		6.30	CC@4
			Holy Communion
			Refreshments after service.
Monday	7	9.30	Team Meeting
		1-3	Befrienders
		8.00	Bible Study Home Group
Tuesday	8	7.30	PCC
		7.30	Momentum
Wednesday	9	9-3	Day Centre
Thursday	10	9.30	Toddlers
		7.30	Prayer Meeting
Friday	11	1-3	Befrienders
Saturday	12	9.30-1.00	Church Spring clean
Sunday 4th after Trinity	13	10.00	Holy Communion
		4.00	CC@4
		6.30	Evensong

Monday	14	9.30 1-3 8.00	Team Meeting Befrienders Bible Study Home Group
Tuesday	15	7.30	Momentum
Wednesday	16	9-3	Day Centre
Thursday	17	9.30 7.30	Toddlers Prayer Meeting
Friday	18	1-3	Befrienders
Saturday	19	9.30-1.00	Church Spring clean
Sunday 5th after Trinity	20	10.00 12-2.00 6.30	Service of the Word Refreshments after service. CC@4 Picnic on Rec. Ground Evening Service Refreshments after service.
Monday	21	9.30 1-3 8.00	Team Meeting Befrienders Bible Study Home Group
Tuesday	22	7.30	Momentum
Wednesday	23	9-3 6.30	Day Centre CC@4 meet on Meadows for walk to Easton. All welcome.
Thursday	24	All day 7.30	Toddlers trip to Wicksteed Park Prayer Meeting
Friday	25	1-3	Befrienders
Sunday 6th after Trinity	27	10.00 4.00 6.30	Holy Communion CC@4 Evening Service.
Monday	28	9.30 All Day 8.00	Team Meeting Befrienders trip to Skegness Bible Study Home Group
Tuesday	29	TBC	Licensing of Rev. Nicky Bates
Wednesday	30	9-3	Day Centre
Thursday	31	6-7 7.30	Church open for donations for Market Stall Prayer Meeting

August

Friday	1	All Day	Market Stall.
Sunday 7th after Trinity	3	10.00 6.30	Service of the Word. Holy Communion.
Thursday	7 th	10.00	M.U. Communion Service.
Sunday 8th after Trinity	10	10.00 6.30	Holy Communion Evening Service.
Sunday 9th after Trinity	17	10.00 6.30	Service of the Word. Evening Service.
Sunday 10th after Trinity	24	10.00 6.30	Holy Communion. Evening Service.
Sunday 11th after Trinity	31	10.00	Combined Sunday Services Family Communion.

Please note:

See weekly notice sheets for fuller details of all events.

Some of our groups are taking a well-earned break over the summer. Please remember them in your prayers.

Teenzone is running their Summer Programme of activities. See Ali for more details or the church website.

The August calendar shows the weekly services. These may change with the arrival of Rev. Nicky Bates so please refer to the weekly notice sheets for more updates/information nearer the time.

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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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