

March 2014

Dear Friends,

I don't know why it happens, perhaps it is because I'm getting older, I mean of course time flying by. We seem only just to have forgotten Christmas and now we find ourselves in Lent. You may remember that not very long ago I went on a sponsored slim during Lent. I don't intend to do that again but I am wondering what I should do for this Lent. We often try to give up things. I suggest that we might try and add something to our individual Christian programmes.

I sometimes find myself wondering what I waste most time on. I guess it is slumped in a comfy seat watching TV. So this year I am going to do extra reading. I am going to read St John's Gospel through a number of times. I think about three or four times during Lent at about three chapters a day. Why don't you join me? We might even meet say once a fortnight to find out what we have learnt.

In other ways we are facing lots more changes. By the time you read this letter, I expect we will have the name of our new Associate Vicar and new Operations Manager. We have been fortunate to have funding for these posts from the Diocese. It may be some months until the new Vicar moves in. I look forward to maintaining the services we have for this period.

My thanks to all the Readers who have appeared to look after so many services and give some good sermons. But I would especially like to thank the Churchwardens who have really risen to the task. Dawn and Brian have done really well over the last year, ably assisted by Jane Richardson. Thank you very much. When for a while, many years ago, I was a churchwarden, I was told by someone that in the first year as churchwarden you learnt the job. The second year you did the job and the third year you began to have new ideas which you could put into practice. Please remember this at our Annual General Meeting.

Yours, seven times retired,

Peter Hart

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## **April Magazine**

Please could all entries for the above edition of the magazine be given to me by Sunday, March 23rd. Publication will be on Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Jane Calderin.**

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Collections

	Open Plate	DD Giving (Bank)	Env. Giving
January:	£200.00	£900.00	£430.00

Nigel.

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### **200 Club**

There was no draw this month. The draws for February and for March will take place on Wednesday, March 19 during the Day Centre.

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Important Bits and Pieces

Vacancies for Parish Priest & Operations Manager

We are pleased to advise that interviewing went well on Monday 24th February and that we have offered positions for both our vacancies. As soon as we are able to share further information an announcement will be made.

Martyn, Brian and Dawn

Date for your diary

The Churches AGM will be on Sunday 23rd March after the 10.00 service please come along and support this event.

Sunday 16th February Lunch Invitation from CC at 4

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people involved with the lunch; the food and the company were very enjoyable.

Dawn

Foodbank

This month the Foodbank requires:

Instant mash, sponge puddings/crumble mixes, cereals (no porridge please) shampoo and shower gel. Thank you for all your support.

Christians Against Poverty

There will be a money course run by Christians Against Poverty at Christ Church on Thursdays 13th, 20th and 27th March at 7.45 for 8.00pm. If you would like to book a place or might be interested in doing so, please contact Carl Fender on 07740766561 or by email at ['carlfender@icloud.com'](mailto:carlfender@icloud.com).

Drivers needed for the Car Scheme

We urgently need new drivers for the Car Scheme so if you have some free time and can help with driving vulnerable people to doctors, hospital, dentist, hairdressers, shopping etc, please call Sandy on 01780 482380. It could be as little as half a day a week and you get your fuel costs reimbursed. You would be helping the local community and find it very rewarding and enjoyable

Ian Collis

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## **Mothers Union**

The next M.U. Holy Communion Service, followed by the meeting, will be held at St George's Church on Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at the usual

time of 10.00am. All are welcome.

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Telephones

We are very pleased to inform you that the phone system at Christ Church has been upgraded. We now have faster broadband, remote access and enhanced security. In addition, we are rationalizing the phone lines to improve efficiency and try to ensure that all messages are handled promptly, as in the past there were several different numbers and some lines were not utilized much (or at all in some cases).

In the future, please note that the only number to be used for Christ Church will be **01780-766446**. Although this is a single number, there will be several lines so more than one call can be taken at any time. If this number is called, then you'll hear a menu of options to access the various activities and programmes. The menu is as follows:

- (i) Church (for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Pastoral Care, Room Bookings and any other matters).
- (ii) Day Centre.
- (iii) Startafresh.
- (iv) Teenzone.
- (v) Transport Scheme.
- (vi) Christians Against Poverty.

If the extension is not answered by someone, messages should be left at the appropriate extension, and the corresponding voice mails will be checked by the staff regularly. For a very limited time, the other phone numbers (756212, 767641 and 761930-9) will all still work and will feed through to the menu of options. **But these numbers will soon be discontinued, so please would you try to get into the habit of phoning the main number, 766446.**

The one exception to this will be 01780-482380. This number will stay in use for the clients of the car scheme who want to call in to make bookings for trips.

Thanks for your help in making the new system work well as planned!

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## Bishop of Lincoln's Letter for March

Dear Friends,

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, traditionally seen as a time for prayer and penance in the church; a time for drawing aside and reflecting on our Lord's journey to the Cross and our own journey as Christian people.

As we seek to move forward together as a faithful, confident and joyful diocese, Lent provides an ideal opportunity for us to clear away some of the clutter that can get in the way of that making those things a reality in our own lives. Lent gives us a structured framework in which to stop, to pray, and to reflect on the things that stand between us and God; between us and each other; between us and the best of who each of us is.

That is not always an easy thing to do. It can take us to uncomfortable places as we uncover things about ourselves that we would rather remained hidden, or are reminded of the broken-ness and cruelty that mar God's world.

On Ash Wednesday many of our churches will hold services which include the imposition of ashes. If you have the opportunity to attend one of these services, I encourage you to do so. The ash is also a

symbol of what is left when everything else has gone and things are laid bare. Their imposition on our foreheads is a powerful reminder of our own vulnerability and of the ways in which we fall short of all that God intends for us.

But Ash Wednesday is only the beginning of the Lenten journey. Jesus' journey to the Cross will be transformed into the Easter joy of the resurrection – a transformation which shows the world that God's power is made perfect in weakness.

That possibility of transformation is the basis of our hope as Disciples of Christ. It is the light that shines even when all seems darkest in our own lives and in the life of the world. We need not fear: the God who endured the pain of death on the cross is the same God whose love and forgiveness are freely offered by God to each one of us.

We are not alone; the light shines in the darkness.

**+Christopher Lincoln.**

Christ has penetrated into the depths of darkness,  
loneliness, rejection, agony and fear,  
in order to touch the depths of darkness  
in each one of us and to call us to belief,  
to call us to walk in this world of darkness,  
loneliness, rejection, agony and fear -  
hoping, trusting in the resurrection . . .

So do not turn aside from your own pain,  
your anguish and brokenness,  
your loneliness and emptiness,  
by pretending you are strong.  
Go within yourself.

Go down the ladder of your own being  
until you discover - like a seed  
buried in the broken, ploughed earth  
of your own vulnerability the presence of Jesus,  
the light shining in the darkness.

And there, offer yourself with Jesus  
to the Father for the life of the world.

*Jean Vanier*

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Day Centre

It was with sadness that we said 'Goodbye' to another of our long standing members, Kath Flynn. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this sad time. Another long-time member Martin Cox has moved to Grantham to live in a shared house; he has settled in very well, he is even going swimming. We miss him very much and hope that he will be happy in his new home.

Last month, February we had Queen Eleanor School sing for us; everyone enjoyed it. Alex also entertained us with his singing and playing on the organ. We managed to get some of the members up to dance; a good time was had by all! We also had quizzes and bingo and lots of fun. Carolyn came to visit us; we were all very pleased to see her. We hope she will call again soon.

We will have Communion on March 5th, which is Ash Wednesday. All are welcome to attend; the service starts at 11:15 am.

Also on March 5th Jane Calderin will give an illustrated talk about her bird watching trip to The Gambia; the following week, March 12th Jeremy will sing for us.

The Foot Health Practitioner will be at the Centre on April 9th.

The Day Centre has spaces for more members. If anyone would like more information please contact Catrina Batey 07949605217

Catrina and Barbara

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### **Start-a-Fresh / Befrienders**

Hi Friends,

How lovely to see some sunshine! During the storm we had a trip to Corby for some lunch and shopping. The R.A.E. course is going well and being enjoyed by all participants. The light lunches on a Friday once a month are well attended and enjoyed. On display in the church is a knitted blanket in various colours of glittered yarn. The blanket is to raise money for Start-a-Fresh and The Day Centre. Please support this initiative by buying a square for 50p. A board on which to sign up is 'on display' with the blanket.

God Bless. Love to all,

**Befrienders**

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Toddlers

Hi Everyone!

Last week we made booklets about Adam and Eve, (The Creation). Our young ones really enjoyed colouring in the pictures. We are enjoying a large friendly group of toddlers and their mums, and also the occasional dad! I was very happy to share my birthday cake with everyone with its musical candle!

Lots of Love, Nanny Ruthie and the Toddler Gang,

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## Cat's Tails

Hi Family!

I have enjoyed the sunshine! It makes a change from having damp fur! I've lost a tooth and I didn't even have to go to the dentist! Sophie has been feeding me during the holidays. She knows just what I like. Enjoy the sun while it lasts.

Luv's to everyone. MD

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A Letter to God

Dear Sir;

Forgive me writing but we're in need of your aid.

We've got a mounting problem with the land that you made.

'Lord' is your rightful title, and no doubt this land is yours,
But we have got some issues. Can our landlord find the cause.

The sky above is leaking and we're wallowing in mud.
The torrent just keeps coming and each week brings a new flood.

I know you live above us with your angels and good souls.
Can I prevail upon you to inspect your pipes for holes?

We're living on the ground floor; You are in the penthouse suite.
The plumbing joints are leaking where our two apartments leak.

I'm told this problem happened long ago when times were dark.
At that time you told Noah he would have to build an ark.

I'm ready to start building if that's what we need to do.
But if I'm really honest I can't build a floating zoo.

Perhaps the easy answer to the problem we have now
Would be to find a plumber with some leak-stopping know-how.

If you can't find a plumber please feel free to let me know.
I'm sure somebody down here would be set to have a go.

I'm signing off this letter full of hope that when you are free
You'll rectify the problem before we're washed out to sea.

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## Calendar

### March

|               |          |                                            |                                                                                                 |
|---------------|----------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>10.00</b><br><b>4.00</b><br><b>6.30</b> | <b>Service of the Word</b><br><b>CC@4</b><br><b>Holy Communion</b>                              |
| Monday        | 3        | 9.30<br>1-3<br>8.00                        | Team Meeting<br>Befrienders<br>Bible Study Home Group                                           |
| Tuesday       | 4        | 12-2<br>7.30                               | Evergreen Lunch<br>Momentum                                                                     |
| Wednesday     | 5        | 9-3<br>11.15<br>5.30-7                     | Day Centre<br>Holy Communion (Ash Wed)<br>Dance (Teenzone)                                      |
| Thursday      | 6        | 9.30<br>1-3<br>5.30-7<br>7.30<br>7.30      | Toddlers<br>Start-a-Fresh Course<br>Dance (Teenzone)<br>Prayer Meeting<br>Horticultural Society |
| Friday        | 7        | 1-3                                        | Befrienders                                                                                     |
| Saturday      | 8        | 2.30                                       | Downes Support Group                                                                            |
| <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>Evening Service</b>                                  |
| Monday        | 10       | 9.30<br>1-3<br>8.00                        | Team Meeting<br>Befrienders<br>Bible Study Home Group                                           |
| Tuesday       | 11       | 7.30                                       | Momentum                                                                                        |
| Wednesday     | 12       | 9-3<br>5.30-7                              | Day Centre<br>Dance (Teenzone)                                                                  |
| Thursday      | 13       | 9.30<br>1-3<br>5.30-7<br>7.30-10<br>7.30   | Toddlers<br>Start-a-Fresh Course<br>Dance (Teenzone)<br>CAP Money Course<br>Prayer Meeting      |
| Friday        | 14       | 1-3                                        | Befrienders                                                                                     |
| Saturday      | 15       | 7.30                                       | Mad March Follies                                                                               |

|                         |           |                                                                          |                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>           | <b>16</b> | <b>10.00</b><br><b>4.00</b><br><b>6.30</b>                               | <b>Service of the Word</b><br><b>CC@4</b><br><b>Evening Service</b>                                   |
| Monday                  | 17        | 9.30<br>1-3<br>8.00                                                      | Team Meeting<br>Befrienders<br>Bible Study Home Group                                                 |
| Tuesday                 | 18        | 7.30                                                                     | Momentum                                                                                              |
| Wednesday               | 19        | 9-3<br>5.30-7<br>7.30                                                    | Day Centre<br>Dance (Teenzone)<br>PCC Meeting                                                         |
| Thursday                | 20        | 9.30<br>1-3<br>5.30-7<br>7.30<br>7.30                                    | Toddlers<br>Start-a-Fresh Course<br>Dance (Teenzone)<br>CAP Money Course<br>Prayer Meeting            |
| Friday                  | 21        | 1-3                                                                      | Befrienders                                                                                           |
| <b>Sunday</b>           | <b>23</b> | <b>10.00</b><br><b>11.30</b><br><b>2.0</b><br><b>4.00</b><br><b>6.30</b> | <b>Holy Communion</b><br><b>APCM (AGM)</b><br><b>Baptism</b><br><b>CC@4</b><br><b>Evening Service</b> |
| Monday                  | 24        | 9.30<br>1-3                                                              | Team Meeting<br>Befrienders                                                                           |
| Tuesday                 | 25        | 7.30<br>8.00                                                             | Momentum<br>Bible Study Home Group                                                                    |
| Wednesday               | 26        | 9-3<br>5.30                                                              | Day Centre<br>Dance                                                                                   |
| Thursday                | 27        | 9.30<br>1-3<br>5.30-7<br>7.30<br>7.30                                    | Toddlers<br>Start-a-Fresh Course<br>Dance (Teenzone)<br>CAP Money Course<br>Prayer Meeting            |
| Friday                  | 28        | 9-1<br>1-3<br>2-5                                                        | St George's School<br>Befrienders<br>Grantham Children's Centre                                       |
| <b>Mothering Sunday</b> | <b>30</b> | <b>10.00</b><br><b>4.00</b><br><b>6.30</b>                               | <b>Family Service</b><br><b>CC@4</b><br><b>Evensong</b>                                               |

See weekly notice sheets for details of all events.

## **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             |
|           | 4-7    | Teenzone             |

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